

NEWCASTLE VILLAGE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July August Sept 2000

BOWMANVILLE

An Architectural & Social History of Bowmanville - has been published by the Municipality of Clarington in partnership with LACAC - the Municipality of Clarington's Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee. The author is Diana Grandfield - Research and Editorial Assistants were Mavis Carlton, Nancy Miller and Garfield Shaw - Photography, Design and Production was handled by Michael Wallace - with renderings by Clive Grandfield. The book contains an introduction by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Hilary M. Weston - greetings from Isabel Basset, Minister of Citizenship - and remarks by Mayor Diane Hamre of the Municipality of Clarington. The book marks the 25th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Municipality of Clarington and covers the period 1794 to 1999. Diane Grandfield will speak to us at our opening meeting on November 6th and we can all look to a very interesting occasion.

COLLECTOR'S ROLL

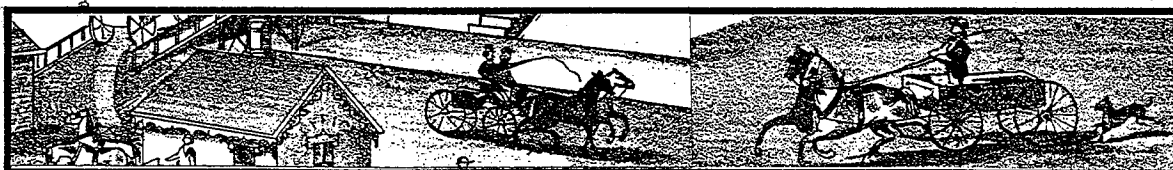
On the 25th of September of this year - Ron Locke - President of our Society - was presented with a copy of the "COLLECTOR'S ROLL" for the MUNICIPALITY of the VILLAGE OF NEWCASTLE for the YEAR 1888, by MAYOR HAMRE.

The Roll adds greatly to the understanding of our village at that time.

*** 1888 ***

The Newcastle Collector's Roll is dated December, 1888. At that time Sarah Stebbins Jacobs was 73 old. She had helped her husband George Ansley Jacobs run a hotel and sell lumber in Newcastle. They had bought the first village lot sold by George Strange Boulton, on King Street at the Mill St. corner. Sarah was a sister to Amasa Stebbins - the wife of William McIntosh the younger. He ran the flour mill on Mill Street at Bond Head Harbour. Six years earlier William McIntosh the elder had bought the Cradle property at Kingston Road and North Baldwin Strs. He was married to Elizabeth Stebbins. Twenty-eight Stebbins are found on the Internet in Ontario burial records - 4 buried at Lakeview Cemetery, Sarnia - 19 buried at Grand Bend Cemetery, near Sarnia - two at London Ontario - and 3 at St George's, Newcastle -- the three being Catherine, Elizabeth, & Sarah. Who were these Stebbins women who lived in Newcastle as the village was born?

Amasa Stebbins Jacobs died on Sept 7 1849 - sister Sarah Stebbins McIntosh died December 7th 1889 - 12 months after Charles Wright signed the 1888 Collector's Roll. Both these women are buried in St George's Cemetery.



The 1888 Collectors Roll gives us further details of the village we find described in the Ontario Gazetteer & Business Directory of 1886-1887.

NEWCASTLE VILLAGE

“A thriving village 47 miles from Toronto on the shore of Lake Ontario and on the Grand Trunk Railway, in Clarke Twp, Durham County, 22 miles west of Cobourg, the county seat. It is located on a small creek (which supplies power), was incorporated in 1857, and contains Episcopal, Presbyterian and Methodist churches and a public school with 225 pupils, a music hall seating 450, and a bank. Grain and produce are shipped. It has a splendid harbour but no regular line of steamboat communication. Stage daily to Orono and Leskard. Population, 1100. Telegraph, GNW. Express, Canadian. Mail daily. Thomas McClung, Postmaster.”

GET A HORSE

On September 21st 1893, Frank Duryea drove a one-cylinder car, 182 meters along a street in Springfield, Massachusetts. Many would say this was the birth of the motor car. However, horse and buggy - or horseback - was still the mode of transportation in our village in 1888.

While Misses Annie Allin and Minnie Beaman were taking their usual horseback ride one evening last week, the former was thrown from her saddle, but was not seriously injured.

- THE CANADIAN STATESMAN - August 8th 1888

There are 10 Allins listed in the 1888 Collector's Roll - William, the father - and his sons John, Henry, Thomas, Ernest and Frank. Missing from this list are other sons Richard, Charles, Norman and Mark as well as daughters Ada, Elizabeth and Annie who was thrown from her horse.

In 1888, William and the first sons mentioned were living on an 88 acre farm - Lot 27 Concession 2, in Clarke - which is to say that the Allin farm was north of the Newcastle Village park. Like a number of Clarke Twp families the Allins came from northern England, arriving here in the eighteen "sixties." William had a twin brother Charles who was a well known cabinet maker with a shop on North Street, Newcastle.

In the Collector's Roll, the Allin's 88 acres are valued at \$4440 - - \$50.45 per acre. That was a common value in 1888 for local farm land.

CLARKE TOWNSHIP - CONCESSIONS and LOTS

Land on the north side of King Street in Newcastle - the land that the Community Hall sits on for example - is in Concession 1, Clarke Township. Go one and one quarter miles to the north and you come to another road - and the land on the north side of that road is "Concession 2" Clarke Township. And farther north is conc.3 - conc.4 - conc.5, etc.

From Dr. McArthur's Dentist office to the Newcastle park is Lot 28. Lots are one quarter mile wide. The village park is in Lot 27 -- lot 27 is ¼ mile wide -- as are twp lots 26, 25, 24, etc. To the west of McArthur's - that is to the west of North Street - is lot 29 - and beyond is 30, and 31, etc.

LIVE POOR DIE RICH

The above was sometimes quoted in connection with farmers - and an inspection of the 1888 Collector's Roll, to some degree, illustrates the point. There were several farms inside the borders of Newcastle Village - three of the farmers being John Bellwood, Charles Baker and Asa Fobes Wallbridge.

John Bellwood had 5 vacant acres which were valued at \$250 - or \$50 each acre.

Charles Baker rented land that appears to have belonged to Asa Fobes Wallbridge, 64 acres valued at \$3200 - again \$50 each acre.

Asa Fobes was in a category by himself. He owned 159 acres, inside the Village, including the 64 rented to Baker. The 159 were valued at \$10,729 - or \$67/acre. The \$10,729 valuation was the highest in the Roll. And this brings us to the subject of wealth.

We noted that the Allin farm was valued at \$4440. It was not uncommon in 1888 for a farmer in Clarke Twp to own a 100 acre farm - meaning that the farmer owned land valued at approx $\$50 \times 100 = \5000 . This at a time when an important merchant like Mr Robert Barfett, on the south side of King Street, in the centre of Newcastle, rented a store building valued at \$2500. He also has personal property valued at \$600, the total equal to \$3100. His neighbour Rueben Bennet, "hotel keeper" of the Windsor Hotel, rented the hotel property, and it was valued at \$2400. Both sums are somewhat short of the \$5000 value of local farms.

We assume George A. Jacobs Senior still owned the SW corner of King and Mill Strs in 1888 - the old IGA corner - where RONA Hardware is today - but since the Collector's Roll was not interested in "income" we have no information. As mentioned at the beginning of this Newsletter, George A. Jacobs Sr was the first buyer of a village lot in Newcastle. In 1888 he was 69 years old and was to live to 74; he is buried in St George's Cemetery. In 1888 he lived in a house valued at \$400, on Mill Street, somewhere near where 401 is today. Total Value of his Real and Personal Property - and Taxable Income - was the value of his house - \$400 - for which he paid no taxes. His son, George A. Jacobs Jr, - who was to run the hotel in 1889 - owned a house at Edward and Beaver Streets, valued at \$200 and his taxes amounted to 0.15c for the County Rate + \$1.35 for the Village rate + \$2.00 special tax + plus a second special tax of 0.10c, equal to a total of \$3.60 for the tax year 1888. For the record we note that George A. Jacobs Jr got married in 1888 to Miss McCraney, of Oakville, on the Thursday prior to May 23rd, at the residence of the bride's father.

EVER ALERT

Newcastle had no fire department to speak of in 1888. In January of 1896 when all the buildings at the corner of King and Mill were burned - that is the Windsor Hotel and Royal Hotel, and all the shops in between - fire fighters came from Bowmanville at 3 o'clock in the morning - late - and unable to find sufficient water to fight the fire. Whitby - a larger community closer to Toronto had similar problems - but they had firefighters - an engine company of 25 men - and a hook and ladder company of 20 - ages 16 to 60. Their equipment was not of the best - so it was the custom - with serious fires - to send a rider to Oshawa to obtain a fire engine which worked better than the one in Whitby.

Then the Whitby hook and ladder company asked for uniforms, at \$5 a piece and the Council refused. So the hook and ladder company was disbanded. The engine was moved to new quarters - and when the next fire occurred the fire engine could not be found. This was a bad situation. And it forced the Council into doing something.

ENTER STEAM

The Whitby Council bought a new Merryweather Steam Engine Fire Fighting Machine - manufactured in England - tested in Montreal where it outperformed all rival machines. In 1872 it weighed 2500 lbs - and cost \$3000. This was progress.

Not only progress - but food for thought for all the Councils and Fire Fighters along Lake Ontario - including Newcastle - and Bowmanville. And so the age of the steam engine was introduced into Southern Ontario. In one test in Whitby - the local Fire Department with their new Steam Engine - drew water through a hose from a "far distant well" - 800 feet away from their Fire Engine, and were able to shoot a stream of water over the top of Whitby's All Saints' Anglican Church. Not only over, but "15 feet over" the top of the steeple. The "Merry weather" was then known to be a "remarkable machine."

UPRIGHT & HORIZONTAL

By 1896 a Brantford, Ontario, Canada, firm was able to offer Stationary, Portable & Semi Portable Upright and Horizontal Farm Engines "Unexcelled in Simplicity" - for farm use. They were made in England. Ads were in the Bowmanville paper [see the Canadian Statesman for June 11th 1896.]

One of the hazards with steam engines was that sparks from the fire that produced steam might set your barn on fire. This didn't always happen - and it is interesting to speculate what Ontario, and North America, would be like if we had gone for "upright and horizontal steam engines" rather than internal combustion [gasoline] engines!

LAKES AT THE LAKE in 1888

Alfred Thomas Lake - along with William Lake and William C. Lake - had land that he rented in the Broken Front Concession (below the 1st Concession next to Lake Ontario). He rented the 60 acres and it was valued at \$2336 - or \$38 per acre.

James McCarthy also rented Lake Ontario land in 1888 - Broken Front, Lot 27. He had 150 acres which was valued at \$5550 - or \$37 for each acre.

THE RAILWAY

Mr Brown the publisher in Toronto had said the railways were not going to last - they were a joke introduced by the Family Compact people - but by 1888 trains were important to Newcastle citizens - and had been running for 30 years. The railway not only brought sons and daughters home to Newcastle, for Thanksgiving - for weddings - and any special holidays - it also took goods and parcels - like milk and eggs - also strawberries in season - to Toronto - or to far distant places like Montreal.

SHIPS

The first ship to arrive at Port Newcastle was a special occasion - and the vessel might come by sail and wind - not steam. In 1888 the first schooner of the season arrived in port on a Thursday for a load of barley for Mr. Lockhart - this from the May 2 1888 edition of the Canadian Statesman.

**Remember THE MASSEY SHOW on June 16 2001 - extraordinary - taking place in Newcastle, Ontario, Canada. * * * To participate - or for information get in touch with:
Sanford Haskill - Port Hope, Ont - (905) 885-8743 --- shaskill.saw@nhb.com - or
Myno Van Dyke - Newcastle, Ont - (905) 987-5482 --- mvandyke@sprint.ca**

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

Also in the May 2 paper - "*John Crawford sold by public auction on Tuesday all his hotel effects, he intends moving across the water shortly.*" In the Collector's Roll we note that John Crawford, "hotel keeper" rented a half acre property at King and Baldwin valued at \$600. Would this be the building we now know as "International House?"

As we read the Collector's Roll we must remember that Newcastle citizens of 1888 did not know details of the Roll. They were unknown facts. Some villager who wore old clothes might be rich - some who wore "the latest fashions" might be close to bankruptcy. Some unknown citizens appear in the Roll - and we never see or hear from them again.

Mrs. Craddock is an example. A widow living on the east side of Beaver St., on village lot 12, between Caroline and Edward Sts. She had a house on a fifth of an acre lot - valued at \$50. This was the lowest valuation in the village. Mrs Craddock is unknown. No family - no past history - no future. She is not listed in "Out of the Mist" - in "Squair - she is not found in Bond Head Cemetery - or at St George's. If anyone knows anything about Mrs Craddock please let us know.

Miss Foster is another mystery person, "a Lady" on North Street. Who was she? Is this "Mary Foster." She owned lot 4, in the 2nd concession, just south of George St. She was on the 2nd property south of George St. on the east side. Her property was valued at \$400. Who was this woman?

MAJOR PLAYERS in NEWCASTLE in 1886 - 1888

William McIntosh was insurance agent for the Accident Insurance Company of North America, while his brother Robert, age 46, ran the flour mill. The father had started the mill at Bond Head harbour.

The Bell Telephone Company had arrived in Newcastle, just prior to 1888, and William T. Lockhart was the agent. He was also the grain merchant - or "Produce Dealer" as he called himself. His father, Allen Lockhart, also a "Produce Dealer," appears to have had a shop of his own on the north side of King at the west end of the Community Hall property in Newcastle. William T. Lockhart and his father were known as enterprising people. In 1890 W.T. was elected as M.P.P. and served in Toronto for 4 years.

Robert Fothergill, was the well known village druggist, and also manager of the Great North Western Telegraph Co., while James K. Allin was agent for the Standard Bank of Canada. Mr Allen appears to have been the wealthiest person in town. He owned 39 acres south of King Street, just east of Beaver, which may have been Wallbridge property 10 years before, valued at \$1950 - or \$65 each acre. He also owned a property on north King Street, 5 acres in size, valued at \$3500 making a total value \$5450. J.K. Allin had made some of his money selling wood to the railroad - as Newcastle was an important supplier of wood for the Grand Trunk.

NEWCASTLE VILLAGE - 1888.

In 1888 John Walker was the only pisciculturist living in the village. As mentioned earlier - auto-mobiles had not appeared yet so the blacksmiths were kept busy, and there were 3 of them - William Pickard, Samuel Moore & John Brant.

There was much talk of the "Scott Act" which - many saw as a step towards Prohibition. J.W. Tuff village "hotel keeper" - closed the Royal and would open it after a few days as a "Temperance House."

The railroad was doing well. Another train had been added so there were 5 a day going east and 5 to Toronto. The local headed west about 8:10 in the morning and brought folk back to the village at 7:45 at night.

The bicycle had become very popular and as many as 100 from the American Bicycle Club might wheel into town and be received with a Strawberry Festival at the Drill Shed in the village park at the east end of King Street. The park would be festooned with lighted Chinese lanterns - there would be a charge - gentlemen 0.15c - ladies and children 0.10c - and the Newcastle band, if still in business, would be present.

For real entertainment one might go to Bobcageon where the Skating Rink people would put on a concert on Dominion Day, featuring none other than Miss Annie Robson and Miss Nora Coleman from Newcastle. The young ladies would sing songs like "Once Again" and the West Durham News would comment that under the starlight - the two young voices blended with charming effect. The Newcastle correspondent noted - "our town has rare musical talent - that needs but to go away from home to be fully appreciated - a prophet is not without honour, &c &c!"

Frank Gibson was a sailor - known by all as Capt Frank - "our mariner" and lived on Lots 8, 9 & 10 - which is on Boulton St in Bond Head - but the newspaper refers to "James and Ch' Sts" which is curious. William Hunter was the mailcarrier - William Wilson Jardine, was schoolteacher and lived on village lot 5 on Manvers St. John Elliott was the miller in Bond Head where Hope Carveth lives today, and Frederick Pope was Harbour Master living on the west side of Mill St, on lots 34 & 35 - at the south corner of Gold street, under where the hydro wires are today. William Rickard was the village coal dealer and had his coal piled high at Emily and Mill Streets - said to be village lots 1, 2, 4, and 7 in 1888. Puzzle solvers can tell us sometime exactly where William had his coal.

WAGSTAFF'S

The Wagstaff's had 2 stores where our CIBC bank is today. The mother, Mrs William Wagstaff was to the west - son William to the east. She had a big store valued at \$500 in 1888, son William had a small store valued at \$100. Francis Jose tells us that people in the village referred to Wagstaff's as the "Meatless Butcher Shop" because it so often had very little meat for sale. The store was called "Wag's" by the locals - and for awhile Earl Walton was the part-time delivery boy - and he was called "Wig."

The name stuck all his life. "Wig & Wag!" Earl Walton worked with many local fruit farmers - and later became a fruit inspector for the government.

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

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