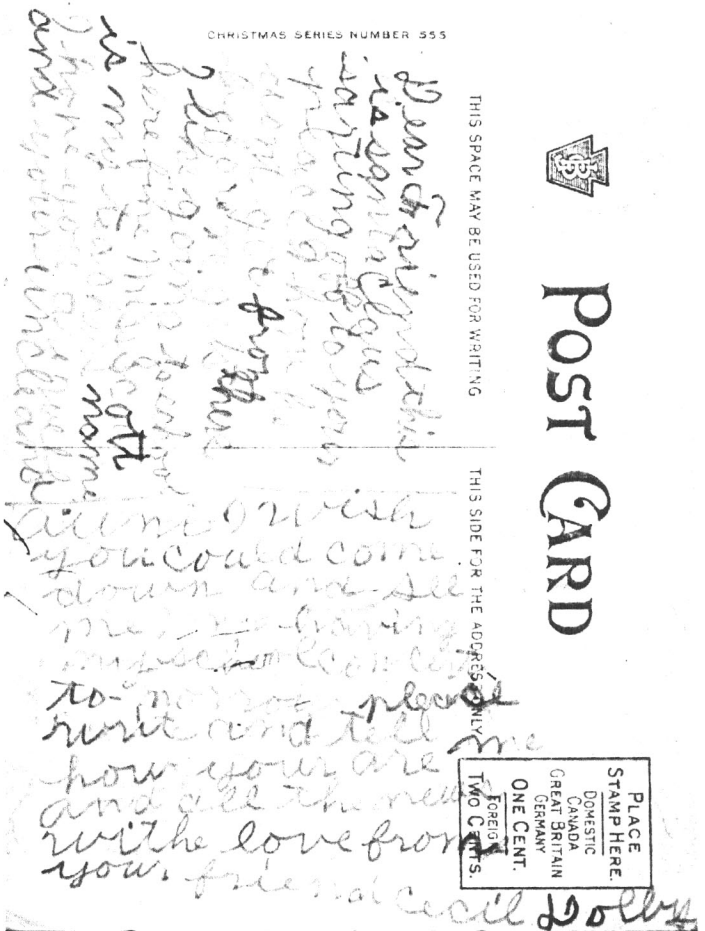




The Journal

Published by the Milton Historical Society

Volume 14 Number 3 December 12, 1999



What could be more fitting for the Yuletide than a child's Christmas card to a friend. Many of our older members will recognize the name on the card. Santa sure has enough beard to protect his face but seems to have shed a good many pounds of insulation!
(John Duignan Post Card Collection)

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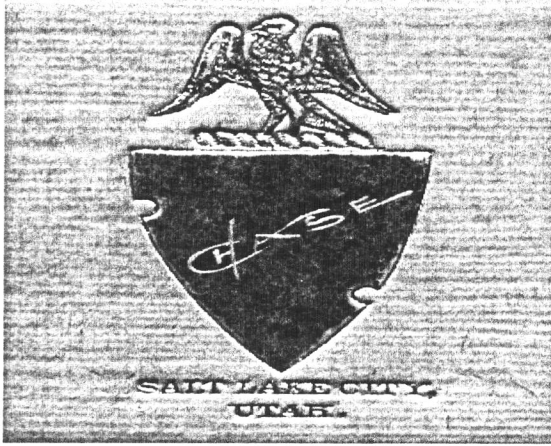
 **M.H.S. MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

 **MILTON & SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**

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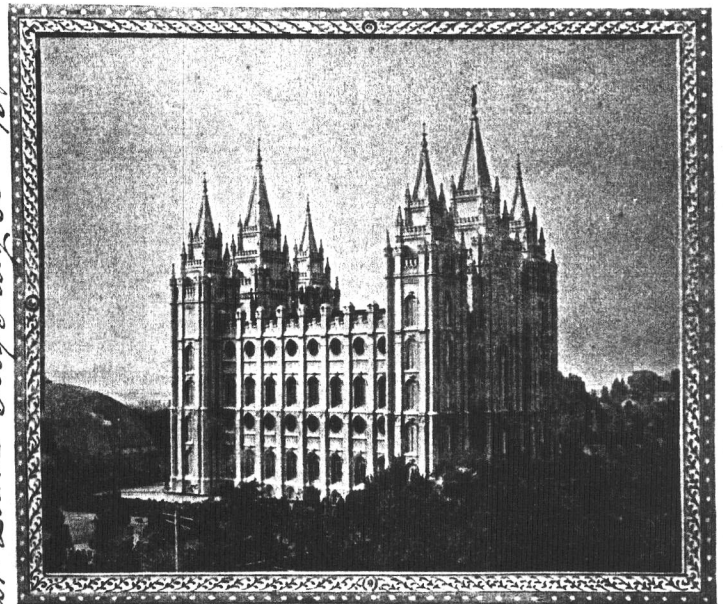
Milton Historical Society's genealogical researcher Lois Knight was presented with the challenge of investigating the intriguing questions posed by the surrounding photographs. Did the daughters of one of Milton's earliest families marry into the clan of Mormon President Brigham Young? Today's Mormon Church, the Church of Latter Day Saints, is more noted for its genealogical endeavours. The history of the Mormons in Brigham Young's time is another matter entirely. The American West in the nineteenth century could be a wild, lawless place. Salt Lake City, Utah, certainly was no exception. But that is a whole story in itself. More particularly, polygamy was ingrained in Mormon Society. Brigham Young as President of the Mormons led by example having by varying accounts up to 17 wives. And of course there were numerous children as a result of many of these unions. This is where Lois' work begins. The photos and the books indicate that Catherine Racey, the eldest daughter of Thomas Racey, the first Registrar of Halton County, married Colonel J.M. Young and that they were residents of Salt Lake City in the 1890's. It is interesting to note that Colonel Young had previously been married to Catherine's sister Frances. The question is who this Colonel J.M. Young was. Here was a man of high military rank in the heartland of Brigham Young. Was he one of Brigham's flock of offspring? Mormon unions were very often centred around a strategy of marrying into influential families. The Racey family certainly was no exception. We look forward to Lois' conclusions. In the meantime, should any of our readers have a genealogical query Lois would be most happy to help in your research. Lois can be contacted at 878-4645, by e-mail at art@stn.net or through the Milton Historical Society at P.O. Box 85, Milton, Ontario L9T 2Y3.

The Milton - Salt Lake City Connection A Mormon Genealogical Riddle Investigated

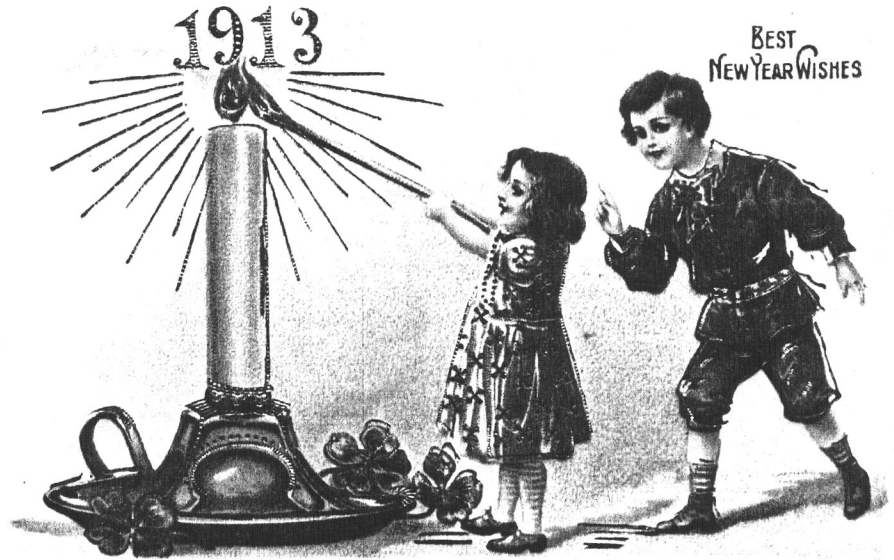


Catherine (Kate) Racey, the eldest daughter of Thomas Racey, the first Registrar of Halton, and Colonel J. Morris Young appear above. The photos were taken in a Salt Lake City photography Studio. Below is a page from a book about Salt Lake City that Kate sent to her brother Charles back in Milton in 1896. The photos above were sent to Charles Racey as a Christmas present in 1905.

*G. O. Racey - Milton August 24th 96
From his sister Mrs. G. O. Young
Salt Lake City July 30th 96*

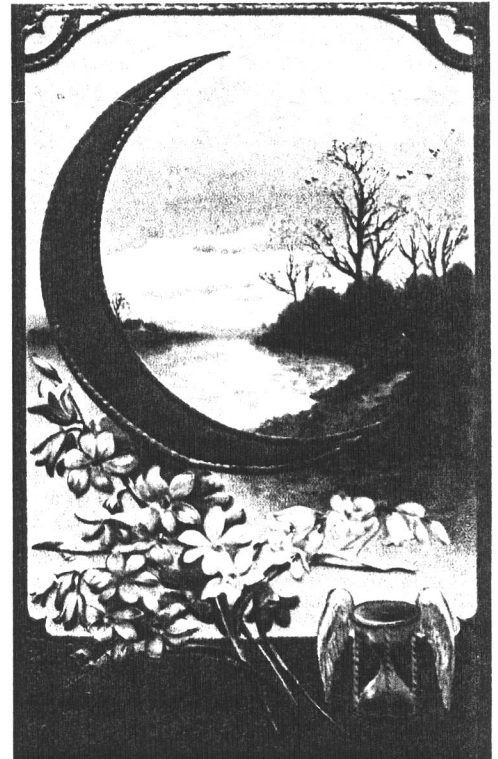


TEMPLE FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.



New Years Past. As we bid farewell to this century we turn back the clock to the early years of the Twentieth Century.

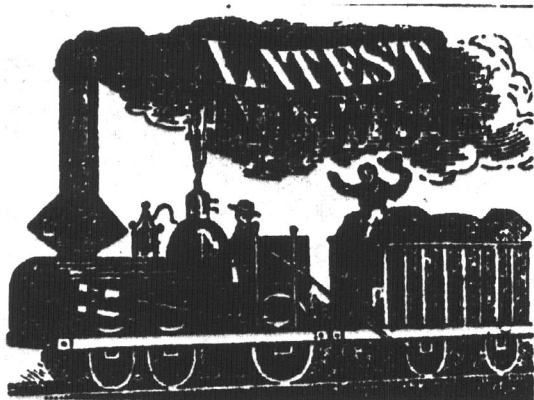
The Twentieth Century, according to Sir Wilfred Laurier, would belong to Canada. While his words may ring a bit hollow in hindsight, Canada is entering the Twenty-first Century in an enviable position. (We could just do with less taxation and regulation though.) The Milton Historical Society would like to wish everyone a happy and safe New Year!



Predictions From The Halton Journal of September 5th, 1856. "Things Two Hundred Years Hence"

"Scene.-Parlour in the house of an elderly gent in New York. Old gent telegraphs to the kitchen, and waiter ascends in a balloon amid a blaze of fireworks. Old gent.-'John, fly over to South America, and tell Mr. Johnson that I will be happy to have him sup with me. Never mind your coat now; go.' John leaves, and at the end of five minutes returns. John.-'Mr. Johnson says he will come; he has got to go to the north pole for mint julep, and then he will be here.' Old gent.-'Very well, John. Now lay out the machine for setting the table, and telegraph to my wife's room, and tell her that Mr. Johnson is coming; then brush up my Aerial Navigator for I have an engagement in London at twelve o'clock.' John flies off to execute his orders, and the old gentleman runs over to the West Indies to get a fresh orange."

(Editor note: A bit eerie isn't it?)



Ken Lamb Receives Honours

Our very own Ken Lamb was the recipient of two awards at Milton Council on November 22nd. The author of 'P.L.-Inventor of the Robertson Screw' and 'Milton Remembers World War II', and contributor to 'Historic Homes of Milton' was presented with the 1999 Heritage Community Recognition Program Achievement from the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Ken also received a certificate from the Town of Milton acknowledging his efforts in preserving the history of Milton. Good show Ken! You deserve it.



It seems only fitting that computer corner will take a brief hiatus what with Y2K looming. Let sleeping dogs lie I say. Or as Elmer Fudd would say "Be vewy, vewy quiet." My beasts seem to be all in order but I'm not tempting fate. It seems rather ironic that entering the twenty-first century the old typewriter knows it's the year 2000 but many computers will be gasping for a copy of Windows 1900!



Speaking of Awards...Nominations Are Open for the Heritage Awards Presented February 20, 2000 at Milton District High School

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The Milton Historical Society, and Heritage Milton (I.A.C.A.C.), jointly invite nominations from the community for the annual Milton Heritage Awards.

Award categories include: Education, Writing, Visual Arts, and Architectural Restoration. This is an opportunity to recognize Milton area citizens for their contributions to preserving, recording and publicizing local history, and bringing it into focus for present and future generations. The Awards will be presented February 20, 2000, at the Milton District High School Auditorium.

Anyone may nominate a worthy candidate by mail to: Milton Historical Society, Box 85, Milton L9T 2Y3. Or by telephone or fax to: Bruce Carlin, ph. 875-4588, fax 875-2253, or Konrad Richter, ph. 878-6338.

Entries should include the name, address, and telephone number of the nominee(s), and a brief description of their achievement, and the name and telephone of the nominator.

Entries should be received no later than December 20, 1999.



Christmas Pot Luck in the Alexander Barn, Halton Regional Museum, Kelso

December 16th is our Christmas pot luck dinner at the Alexander Barn, Halton Region Museum, Kelso. Join us for a delicious meal and Christmas Sing-along. The warmth of the fireplace, the smell of good food and the sound of merriment will make this an evening that you won't want to miss. Bring along a Christmas memory to share with the gang—a poem, a card, a photo whatever. The action begins at 6:15 pm and

remember to bring along a main entree or dessert and get in the Christmas spirit. (Editor's note: Don't forget to bring along some cutlery and plates. Now let's see if the editor remembers!)

And Speaking of Food....An Old Recipe!

by Marjorie Hadley Powys

Grandma's Mincemeat

The following recipe for Green Tomato Mincemeat was used by my grandmother, Henrietta Fuller Hadley, who was married in 1872. My father said that when he was a boy he remembered her making the mincemeat from green tomatoes each year.

Before her marriage, she taught in Ville St. Pierre and was qualified to teach in both Upper and Lower Canada. Egerton Ryerson signed her teaching certificate for Upper Canada and George Dawson her sheepskin diploma for Lower Canada. (I have both these certificates.)

George Dawson set up both the educational systems in Nova Scotia and Lower Canada. Strangely enough, he was a geologist and has a number of places named after him, such as Dawson City.

Women were not admitted to universities at that time but McGill ran a one year teacher training course at MacDonald College to which women were admitted, and which my grandmother attended. She was paid \$400.00 once a year which she took in her pinafore pocket to the bank. She was a tiny person who never reached 100 pounds in weight. She didn't believe in corporal punishment and never owned a strap. She had a successful teaching career and was rated highly—perhaps this is why.

GREEN TOMATO MINCEMEAT

Ingredients: 3 lbs. chopped green tomatoes, 3 lbs. chopped apples, 2 lbs. raisins, 1 cup suet, 1 cup vinegar, 1 1/2 tbs. salt, 8 cups brown sugar, 2 tbs. cinnamon, 1 tsp cloves, 1 tbs. nutmeg and 1 orange put through food processor.

Cover tomatoes with water and just bring to a boil. Drain and repeat twice. Add other ingredients and cook until thick and clear.



The Milton Post Card Challenge # 3

Contest Two



Contest Two was much easier. The Hotel McGibbon (a.k.a. Wallace Hotel, Mitchell Inn and "The Upper") is shown above. It is thought that the crowd is gathered for a cattle sale in the stables behind the hotel. Lost to fire in the early 1970's the site is now home to the CIBC instant teller machine and a gravel parking lot at the corner of Brown and Main

sts. Contest winners were disappointed once again when it was learned that the movie passes offered (shown at right) were a little out of date. (Editor note: Contestants must send their answers in early so as not to be disappointed once again.) Contest three is below. What the heck is an evaptor and where is this scene?



George Kleine presents

IRENE FENWICK

In an Extraordinary Film Dramatization of
Porter Brainerd Browne's Celebrated Play.

The Spendthrift

IN SIX PARTS, AT THE

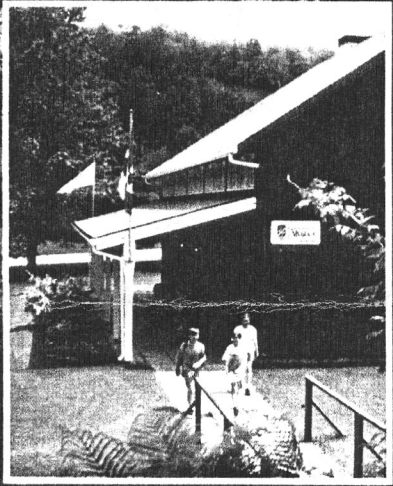
PRINCESS THEATRE, Tues. and Wed., Dec. 15 & 16.





**Your Escarpment
Adventure
Begins Here!**

HALTON REGION MUSEUM



*at the foot of the Niagara Escarpment
in Kelso Conservation Area*

September 16 Meeting-The Natural History of the Niagara Escarpment

Karen Bongard of the Halton Region Museum brought numerous fossils to our meeting which were passed around among our members. In her talk, Karen explained that in ancient times the Niagara Escarpment was a coral reef along the shoreline of a great inland lake, thus the plenitude of fossils such as sea lilies. Designated by UNESCO, the Escarpment is home to 1000 year old cedars. While rich in natural history, the area in and around Kelso Conservation area encompasses a great deal of local history as well. The Halton Region Museum is based in the buildings of the pioneer Alexander family. It is heartening to note that the farmstead, dating back to 1836, will get a much

needed cash infusion for renovation and refurbishing. In addition to the old farm buildings there are remnants of the lime kilns that operated from the 1880's to 1929. The Museum has guided tours of the site. There are many other scheduled events and tours in and around Halton Region Museum. For more information call 875-2200 or visit their website at museum.region.halton.on.ca. It is obvious that the Halton Region Museum has a lot to offer, appealing to a wide range of interests.

The 1999 Milton Antiques Roadshow September 19



Many interesting items were brought to this year's edition of the Antiques Roadshow. Mike Lutes, left, and Don Colling, right, shown above, were among our panel of experts on hand. Mike identified the axe as a French trade piece from the 18th century while Don wasn't stumped by the old toaster. Other experts on hand were Jon Medley, Pat and Bill Doherty, Andrew Zegers, and Alec Stojicevic. Many thanks to our panel and look for the third annual Antiques Roadshow in the late summer of 2000.

North Halton Compass Author Betty Brownridge at October Meeting

Betty Brownridge stood in for the ailing Reid Kennedy at our meeting about the North Halton Compass monthly series "Shoebox Memories". The genealogy of local families of the North Halton area is described in a full two page spread

The North Halton Compass

with numerous photos, a family tree and a history of the family. Betty noted that Reid got the idea from researching his own family, and beginning in March 1998, the monthly paper began publishing. Betty covers families from Esquesing and Reid covers Nassagaweya. Many families she said knew a great deal about their clan but some knew very little. For the latter Reid and Betty do some detective work at the Registry Office to fill in the gaps. The end result is a most impressive article. Past issues are available for viewing on the internet at the Georgetown library website. Subscriptions to the North Halton Compass are \$25 for in town and \$30 for out of area. "Shoebox Memories" is a must read for the genealogically inclined. Reid and Betty are always looking for families for this feature so give them a call at 519-856-2424. Address: 419 Wilson St., Eden Mills, Ont., N0B 1P0. E-mail: mrkennedy@sympatico.ca

Cane Collector Peter Kirk at November Meeting



Peter Kirk, a Milton resident for the past years, has been collecting canes for about 30 years. The selection of canes that he brought to the meeting was large and varied. Really the last time the editor had seen that many

was at a shrine in Quebec. Peter began by differentiating between canes and sticks. Canes have a handle. Most of his collection are termed dress canes as they were a fashion accessory and popular up until the 1930's. His canes ranged from naturally formed examples to the most ornately carved embellished with silver and gold. There were canes for men, women and children. Apart from dress canes Peter displayed novelty canes from carnivals and World's Fairs, military canes such as swagger sticks, and very delicate and beautiful glass canes. The highlight of the evening was his selection of dual purpose canes in which he had the audience try to guess each cane's hidden second use. There were sword canes, ones with umbrellas, flashlights, measuring tapes, cigarette lighters, snuff boxes and a couple that unfolded into seats. The best was left to last, a cane that could fire a bullet the size of a 303. I think there would be one mighty kickback to firing that device! Thank you Peter for an interesting and eye opening talk.

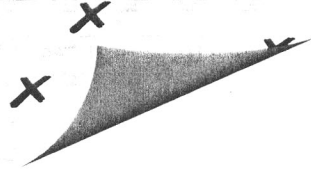


Waldie Blacksmith Shop Update

The latest news on the restoration of the Waldie Blacksmith shop is that everything is on target. The Town of Milton has granted all the necessary approvals. Another donation of old barn boards and heavy timbers was retrieved by an expedition of hearty volunteers. The contractor should begin pouring a new foundation sometime in January. This work will be done from the inside of the building so ersby might not notice much. The Blacksmith Shop committee has been hard at work for quite a while now so the commencement of the restoration must be extremely edifying.



Calendar of events



Upcoming M.H.S. Meetings

January 20, 2000-A history of Milton District Hospital. Speakers: Alan Halls, Senior VP of Haltonhealthcare Services, Mike Ledwith, Marjorie Powys and Jean Butts.

February 17, 2000-A history of St. Paul's United Church. Meeting at the church. Speakers will be Jim Dills and Ad Woodley.

March 16, 2000-Leslie Fitch will be the speaker on the history of Milton Public Library.

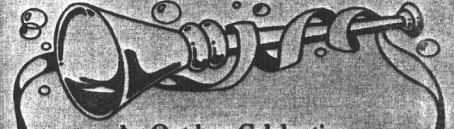
N.B. All meetings unless otherwise noted are at Hugh Foster Hall with coffee served at 7:30 pm and presentations beginning at 8:00 pm.

December 31, 1999

7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Downtown Milton - Mill Street between Martin and James

What better way is there to celebrate New Year's Eve than with Friends and Neighbours in the middle of the community we call our own.



**An Outdoor Celebration
with activities for the whole family!**

Live entertainment featuring:

- Milton's Own Elvis (Steve Kabatos)
- 3MDM (Three Men and A Drum Machine)
- Fleesch featuring Jenahyn Fleesch
- Sensus featuring Mercedes

A great selection of food & beverages

Licensed area available (I.D. required)

A special bell ringing ceremony

A fabulous fireworks display over the Mill Pond at midnight

Special events at downtown churches



**You are invited
to the**

New Year's Celebration of the Century

as Milton embraces
the New Millennium



New Year's Day Levee

January 1, 2000

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Milton Town Hall

New Year's Greetings from Mayor Krantz and Councillors

**Visual displays of Milton's Past, Present and Future
sponsored by the Milton Historical Society**

Musical entertainment by local artists

Millennium cake and refreshments

For more information call 878-7211 ext 184



THE Subscriber would respectfully inform the inhabitants of Milton and surrounding country that he is now prepared to take Likenesses in the new and beautiful style of

Double Glass Ambrotype!

Pictures taken in all kinds of weather.

All pictures Warranted not to fade.

Children taken in the Morning.

Operating hours from eight A.M., till six P.M.

Room opposite the Market. Main Street.

Persons wishing to procure perfect likenesses either of themselves or their family, are requested to call early as the subscriber can only remain in town one week.

JONATHAN FREEMAN.

Milton Oct. 14. 1857. 14.

An advertisement from the Halton Journal of October 14, 1857. It would appear that Mr. Freeman was an itinerant photographer who set up a studio in a town for a week or so and then moved on.

In the last issue of the Journal we talked a bit about early Milton photographers, who they were, the time periods they operated in and where their studios might have been located. Jim Dills was most helpful as in his research he had gathered information on Milton photographers. Jim's info confirmed my speculations as to locations and relationships. In this issue as promised we will cover the various photographic processes. I'm sure many of you have heard the esoteric terms like daguerreotype, ambrotype and ferrotype used and wondered what the terms meant. Here then is a brief explanation. The earliest photo taken was in 1839 but the earliest surviving example is from 1840. Daguerreotypes were the first type produced from 1840 to 1860. Unlike today's photos there were no negatives. The image formed on a sheet of highly polished silver-plated copper. These images then were housed in ornate hinged padded cases. A sheet of glass protected the delicate image from scratches and finger prints. These typically sold for about two dollars and became quite popular. By tilting the mirror-like surface either a positive or negative image may be viewed. The actual photo taking process required the subject to remain still for twenty to forty seconds. Hence the little poem in the advertisement on the next page. Unfortunately the photographers were unaware that the heating process involved in developing the images produced toxic vapors that would

Early Milton Photographers Daguerreotypes, Ambrotypes Tintypes & Albumen Prints



Above is an example of an ambrotype. Like daguerreotypes they were mounted ornate hinged padded cases with delicate brass matting around the photo. The couple shown are the editor's great-great-grandparents James Sloan and Eliza Deyell who were married on September 6, 1856. Below is another example of an ambrotype. This one is out of its case. On the left is the glass negative by itself. On the right a black surface was placed behind the glass and a photographic image appears. A daguerreotype did not involve a negative. The image formed on a treated metal plate. An example is not shown as the difference in images would not be noticeable in this newsletter.



Now you don't see it, now you do.



lead to a slow death from mercury poisoning. The next type of photographic process to come along was the ambrotype being produced from about 1854 to 1881. The ambrotype was encased much like the daguerreotype and produced in the same standard sizes ranging in plate sizes from 4 1/4 x 5 1/2 inches to 1 3/8 x 1 5/8 inches. Unlike the daguerreotype, the ambrotype image was formed on the back of a piece of glass producing a negative. A black backing behind the glass transformed the image into a positive. Unlike the daguerreotype, the ambrotype has a nonreflective surface. Many photos like that of the couple on the previous page were embellished by hand with pink cheeks and gold jewelry. Sometimes surroundings like drapes were tinted. The next photographic process to emerge was the tintype or ferrotype. Produced from 1856 to the 1920's, these images were much more popular because of their durability. Like the daguerreotypes, tintype images were produced directly on a metal plate with no negative. In this case the base was made of black, japanned sheet iron coated with collodion—an emulsion of silver or salt solution. Hence the name ferrotype. Tintype was however the more popular term. Instead of a piece of glass tints were varnished for protection. Like ambrotypes many tints were hand tinted with pink cheeks and jewelry. Photo sizes ranged from dime sized cameos to 8 x 10 inches or a full photography plate. The next photographic process to come along was the albumen print and covered the time period of about 1860 to 1890. Photographers would buy paper already coated with albumen (egg whites) and sodium chloride, which was then sensitized by silver nitrate to form light sensitive silver chloride. These photographic images would be more familiar to our readers. A few examples were included in the last issue of the Journal. Early examples were rather crude paper mounted on a piece of cardboard with the photographer's name and address on the back. Later in the nineteenth century the images were mounted neatly on ornately embossed coloured cardboard with photo studio names and addresses displayed on the front. Unlike the previous photographic types, there was a separate negative image and photos could be reproduced at any time. Photo studios kept negatives on hand for customers typically for a year. That pretty much wraps up this article. An invaluable reference for this article and suggested further reading is "Unlocking the Secrets in Old Photographs" by Karen Frisch-Ripley.

HOLD THE MIRROR UP TO NATURE!

THE subscriber would respectfully announce to the Ladies and Gentlemon of MILTON and surrounding country, that he has opened his

New Daguerrean Rooms

In this town, over the store of George Clarkson, and immediately adjoining the new Hotel, Commercial Street, where he solicits a call from all those wishing to procure a

CORRECT LIKENESS!

Having large and commodious rooms, a superior Apparatus, and a varied assortment of the most fashionable frames, Cases, French and American Locketts, he feels confident that he can give entire satisfaction.

Entrance by stairway at the rear of the building.

CHARLES JONES.

Milton, 13th May, 1856.

N. B.—I do engage to satisfy,

If to my rules you do comply,

My rules are few, obeyed at will,

All I require is to SIT STILL!!

Above is an ad from the Halton Journal of June 6, 1856. Below right is another ad from the Halton Journal of August 15th, 1856. Mr. Culver seemed to be rather ambitious! Below left is an example of a tintype or ferrotype. The editor's great-grandfather John R. Fitzgerald appears on the left in the photograph.



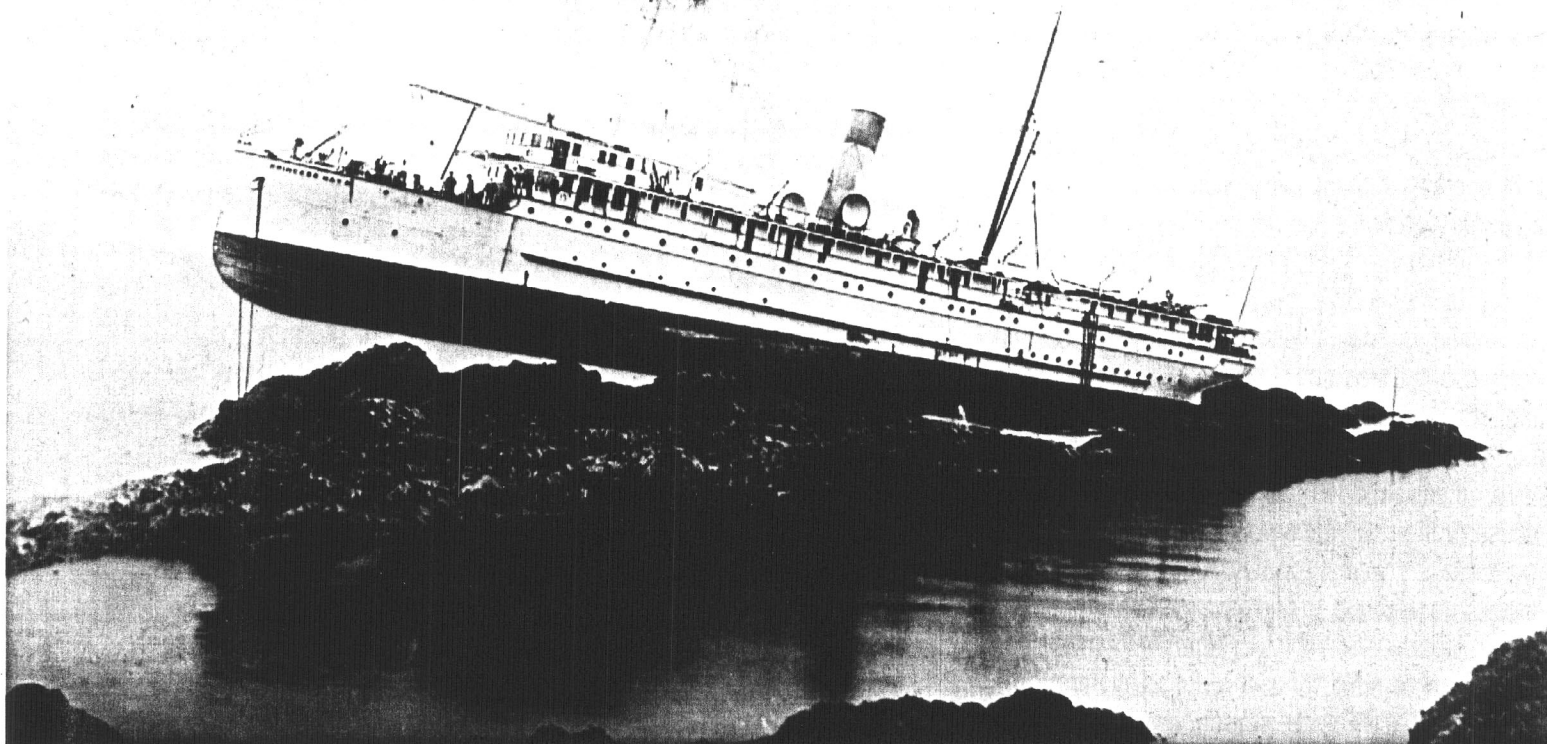
A LOUD CALL!!

TWO THOUSAND SUBJECTS WANTED!!

AS Mr. CULVER is making preparations to close his DAGUERREAN business in this Village, he would respectfully invite those wishing to obtain good and truthful PORTRAITS of themselves or friends, at his rooms to make no delay, clear or cloudy. Behold now is the accepted time.

COME ONE! COME ALL!!!

August 15, 1856.



Milton Mill Pond Update

If you've been past the Mill Pond in the past couple of days you will have noticed that it has been drawn down. Late last week the Town of Milton, in conjunction with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, began draining the pond in preparation for a major dredging project. On a rather chilly and at times miserable Friday, Conservation Halton and MNR officials had the muddy job of transferring the fish population from the Mill Pond to Burns Conservation Area. Bass, black crappie, carp and a lone pickerel were

Mrs. M. W. J. MacKenzie

The Mill Pond has been lowered in preparation for dredging. The Editor won't have to chop his boat out of the ice this year! He may be up to his neck in mud though.

hoisted out of the pond. The Mill Pond Monster was not encountered to the great relief of all present. (Editor's note: Many Miltonians suspect that the serpent has relocated to the wells supplying the Town's drinking water given the recent occurrences of muddy tap water.) Once the fish were out the Mill Pond was lowered further and will be left down during the winter. It is expected that dredging will

begin in the New Year. If all goes well, Milton will enter the next century and millennium with a rejuvenated Mill Pond. It will be interesting to see what might be buried in the sediment that has accumulated over the last 150 or so years. While the local Millennium Committee has been planning a time capsule for the Town in Chris Hadfield Park, the pond may prove to be a time capsule in its own right. (I just hope that we don't find any bodies though!) It should prove to be a most interesting and rewarding project.

It's Not An Engraved Invitation, But We'd Sure Love To Have You As A Member Of Our Society!

At \$7 for individuals or \$10 for families membership in the Milton Historical Society is a bargain you know of anyone who might like to join please call Sue Paul at 878-0657 or write P.O. Box 85, Milton, Ontario L9T 2Y3.

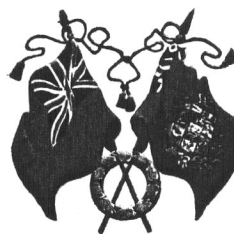
Your presence is requested at a
Dance in aid of Patriotic
Purposes

to be held in the Town Hall, Milton, Friday
Evening, November twenty-seventh,
nineteen hundred and fourteen,
at eight-thirty o'clock.

Milton Orchestra.

Committee :

MR. J. S. McCANNELL,
DR. H. A. MCCOLL,
MAJOR WM. PANTON,
LIEUT.-COL. W. H. PTOLEMY,
MR. C. H. STUART,
CAPTAIN R. K. ANDERSON,
MR. JOHN IRVING,
MR. W. J. MCLENNAN,
MR. J. M. MACKENZIE.



Patriotic Dance

Milton, Ont.
November 27,
1914



The Journal

Published by the Milton Historical Society

Archives

Volume 14 Number 2 September 12, 1999



F.K. Hunter stands proudly in front of his Main Street store circa 1911. The Hunter Studio operated from 1909 to 1915 at 182 Main Street (presently occupied by Harris Stationery). Hunter is certainly one of the more well known Milton photographers. Closer inspection of the photo reveals photos in the window and a stand full of post cards. (What I wouldn't do to travel back in time to purchase all those cards!) It appears the Hunters also sold stationery, magazines and fishing equipment! I wonder who took the photo?

(John Duignan Post Card Collection)

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 **M.H.S. BUS TOUR**

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 **MILTON PHOTOGRAPHERS**

 **POST CARD CONTEST ANSWER**

 **MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

 **MILTON'S TWIN**

 **NEW PHOTO CONTEST**

 **COMPUTER CORNER**



The Milton Antiques Roadshow 1999

Food booth Blacksmith demonstration



Sunday, September 19, 1999, 11:00 to 4:00

at The Milton Fairgrounds (Agricultural Hall)

Evaluation \$5 per item. Register at door.

For more information call (905) 878-2133/878-0431/878-0865



Remembrance Hall Welcomes M.H.S. Members at May Meeting

On May 20th Reverend Rick Ruggles endeavoured to cover the history of the Lorne Scots in less than half an hour. It was certainly impossible to cover all the rich history of our local regiment. Rick did manage to give an interesting overview though with colourful and interesting anecdotes. He mentioned that while the Lorne Scots did not serve in WWII as a unit, members still did see action in Sicily, Italy and north-west Europe. In the First World War locals went over as part of the 164th Battalion and Rick recounted how the soldiers were marched from Camp Borden through the towns of the district to great fanfare before their departure for overseas. It must have been quite a sight. (There are post card views of this march.) Rick noted that local military organization began around the time of the Fenian Raids in the 1860's. In Milton units were formed under the command of men such as Gilbert Tice Bastedo. Unfortunately the units were confined to guard duty as the paperwork authorizing the units in a fighting role had not been completed. (Some things don't change, do they!) Rick is currently working on a history of the Lorne Scots and we look forward to reading his account, as half an hour talk on the Lorne Scots just scraped the surface and I simply could not possibly convey what Rick did manage to jam into his presentation. The venue for the meeting, Remembrance Hall, was most appropriate and fascinating. Legion members including Bruce Kitchen and Bill Maskell were on hand to answer questions about the artifacts on display. Remembrance Hall is an amazing collection of local military history that is a must-see for all Miltonians. The Legion is to be highly commended for their museum. The numerous displays are truly

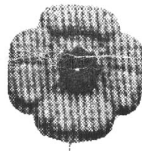
Remembrance Hall

...through newspaper clippings, photos, maps, badges, uniforms, shells, certificates, communications devices, posters, medals, weapons and flags - is to educate and stir the memory and the appreciation of the visitor.

From the peaceful streets and towns like Milton, young men and women answered the call to serve at sea, on land and in the air. They were injured, died or returned to their homes to resume constructive lives as civilians. All were touched for life by their experiences.

As events and memories dim with the passage of time it becomes more important that we remember and that young people have the opportunity to learn from the lessons of the past.

There is no attempt to glorify war. None who served would want to do that. The objective is to remind all that war is never a solution.



We suggest you allow 30 to 60 minutes for a brief visit, longer for an in depth experience.



Remembrance Hall

... is a 2000 square foot area on the top floor of the Private "Joe" Waters Branch 136 Legion Hall, Milton, Ont. with more than 3000 artifacts, clippings and reference items.

Items have been donated by veterans, their families, collectors and interested individuals.

One gallery also recognizes participants on local Legion-sponsored sports teams. Another gallery displays student art with a Remembrance theme.



Comments from some student visitors:

"It's hard to believe just how many people in Milton and all over were lost in the war."

"We are all so very proud of all the Miltonians that put their life at stake for our freedom."

"We thoroughly enjoyed learning about the tears and the hardship of the men that fought for our country. What we all liked best is the way it was told."

"We found it very informative and interesting and it enlightened our minds to the tragedies of war."

"...sincerely recommend this memorial place to anyone who was in the war or wants to learn more about the war."



Remembrance Hall is open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. or by appointment with Bill Maskell. Phone 878-6929. There is no admission but donations are welcome to defray costs and provide for maintenance.



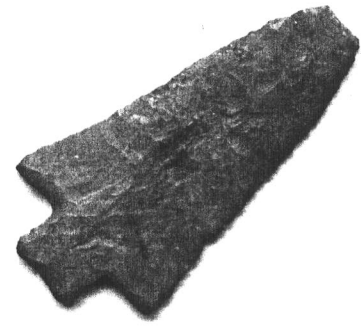
a fitting tribute to the brave men and women who fought in the two World Wars, Korea and Vietnam. It is hoped that people will not just visit the museum around Remembrance Day but all year round. Personally speaking, a visit of a few hours would not suffice. One could easily spend days examining the displays and poring over the records available. Schools should be encouraged to visit this treasure trove for a much more hands-on experience of our local military history. With veterans on hand as guides, Remembrance Hall is a valuable learning experience for our youth. Young and old alike will come away with a far better understanding and appreciation of our often forgotten proud military past. I was most impressed.

Dr. Bill Finlayson of the London School of Archeology Speaks at June Meeting/Pot luck Dinner

Dr. Bill Finlayson was the featured speaker at our meeting on June 17th. The meeting was preceded by our pot luck dinner. There was plenty of food to go around and the food was most delicious. The Editor just needs to remember to bring cutlery and a plate next time. A quick trip to the store shielded members from the sight of a barbarian eating a handful of mashed potatoes. Jessie Hamilton now has a stock of paper plates and plastic cutlery for the absentminded like me. Oh well! After the dinner Dr. Finlayson gave a fascinating talk about his work which included a slide show. He has worked in the area for over 31 years, most notably at Crawford Lake. He noted that there were 90 known archeological sites in Halton with an estimated 110 sites not yet found. Apparently the presence of



old pine stump fences is the clue that points to the presence of archeological sites nearby. It seems that Halton is rich in material. The Rife site in Campbellville that has been in the news lately was noted as probably one of the most important sites in North America. This is particularly so as the area has never been farmed and has been left undisturbed by modern man. Recently the dispute with area residents as to the excavation of the site has been resolved fairly amicably, allowing the dig to start. Dr. Finlayson described the program whereby ordinary individuals may take part in the dig for a fee. With government cutbacks, the participation fee will help defray costs and allow this valuable work to continue. Interested people should contact the London School of Archeology for further information. It was evident from Dr. Finlayson's talk that he has a true passion for his work. As they say, it is a lucky man who loves his work. Dr. Finlayson announced that he will move to the Rife site when he retires so he can continue his work. He is certainly a most dedicated and lucky man indeed. He also brought to the meeting a four volume work entitled "Iroquoian Peoples of the Land of Rocks and Water, A.D. 1000-1650: A Study in Settlement Archeology" covering his work. Full of tables, figures and artifact drawings and photos, the books are colourful, comprehensive and informative. The set is being sold at a price of \$200.00 which might be beyond the personal budget of many individuals but I am sure they would



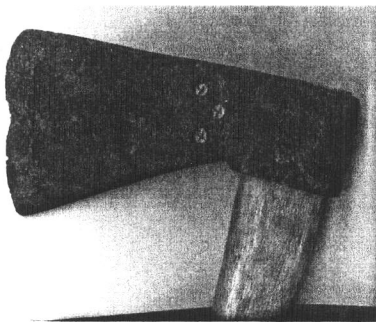
be within the budget of our local library as a valuable reference set for students and other interested individuals. A life's work is represented by these books, and given Dr. Finlayson's experience and expertise, they are required reading for those interested in local archeology. Those interested in the books or the archeological program should call the London Museum of Archeology at 519-473-1360.



Monthly meeting info provided by Program Coordinator Bruce Carlin.

September 16 Meeting-The Natural History of the Niagara Escarpment

Karen Bongard of the Halton Region Museum will speak about the natural history of the escarpment at the hall in Thompson Arena at 8 p.m. (Hugh Foster Hall has been commandeered by a film company shooting a movie in Milton.) Karen's talk will include the rich fossil history of the escarpment, an overview of the early pioneers and early industries at Kelso, and a look at the museum's future plans. Join us for a look down memory lane.



The 1999 Milton Antiques Roadshow September 19

Bring all your treasured possessions for evaluation at the 1999 edition of Milton's Antiques Roadshow. The event takes place September 19th from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Milton Fairgrounds in the Agricultural Hall. Evaluation is \$5.00 per item. Our expert panel will assess whatever you bring, so bring all your valuables or your thing-am-a-jigs. I'll be bringing at least one item that's stumped me. It should be fun and educational.



monthly series "Shoebox Memories". The genealogy of local families of the North Halton area is described in a full two page spread and includes the countries from which the new settlers arrived, the areas they settled, their occupations and the family tree. All this interesting history is supported with a generous number of photographs of various generations. Reid will try and bring some back issues for members to look at and he indicated he is always looking for new candidates for future "Shoebox Memories".

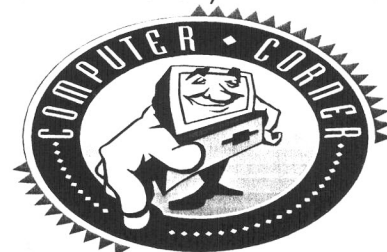
Cane Collector Peter Kirk at November Meeting

November 18th at Hugh Foster Hall at 8 p.m. Peter Kirk, a resident of Milton and avid cane collector, will speak to us about his rather unique hobby. Peter has collected a wide range of canes over the past 30 years and will bring assorted canes for all to see. Most of us think of canes as a walking aid that is simple in structure and sturdily built. Peter will educate us about the different materials of canes, their different uses and the high prices that some of these collector canes command. Join us and if you have a cane of your own, bring it along to "Show and Tell".

Christmas Pot Luck in the Alexander Barn, Halton Regional Museum, Kelso

December 16th is our Christmas pot luck dinner at the Alexander Barn, Halton Region Museum, Kelso. Join us for a delicious meal and Christmas Sing-along. The warmth of the fireplace, the smell of good food and the sound of merriment will make this an evening that you won't want to

miss. Bring along a main entree or dessert and get in the Christmas spirit. (Editor note: Hey Jessie, could you bring along some paper plates and plastic spoons for the absentminded?)



Well folks, this will be an abbreviated column as my computer has decided to put me in a corner after I repartitioned the hard drive. A word of advice, never mess with your computer when you need to get something done. Computers seem to know when to spite you! Hence the fellow at the bottom of this page. However computers can be very useful when they cooperate which is really most of the time. I think we will limit ourselves for now to a few websites of interest. Halinet is excellent for local history-, "www.hhpl.on.ca/library/lochist.htm". The Mormons have come on line a "www.familysearch.org". Other sites of interest, especially to those interested in genealogical pursuits are: (all preceded by www.): "ogs.on.ca", "archives.ca", "rootsweb.com", and "cyndislist.com". Perhaps we might devote one of our monthly meetings to computers and the web. Any volunteers? Oops, got to go, the guy with the horn is getting closer!



Milton Farm Museum Fall CRAFT SHOW

September 25 & 26

- ★ Over 120 juried crafts people
 - ★ Handmade quality
 - ★ Superior workmanship
 - ★ Many gift ideas
 - ★ Country decorating at its best
 - ★ Live entertainment
 - ★ Food available
 - ★ Interesting heritage buildings
 - ★ Beautiful Fall location
- In the Great Cambred Barn
The Aberlyle Town Hall
and individual exhibitor tents
- Saturday & Sunday
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Adults \$4.00
Children under 12 free
Parking free

THE MILTON FARM MUSEUM

144 Tremaine Road
Milton, ON

Tel:- 1-888-307-FARM (3276)

North Halton Compass Editor Reid Kennedy at October Meeting

We're back at Hugh Foster Hall October 21st at 8 p.m. with Reid Kennedy, editor of the North Halton Compass. Reid will speak to our society about the popular

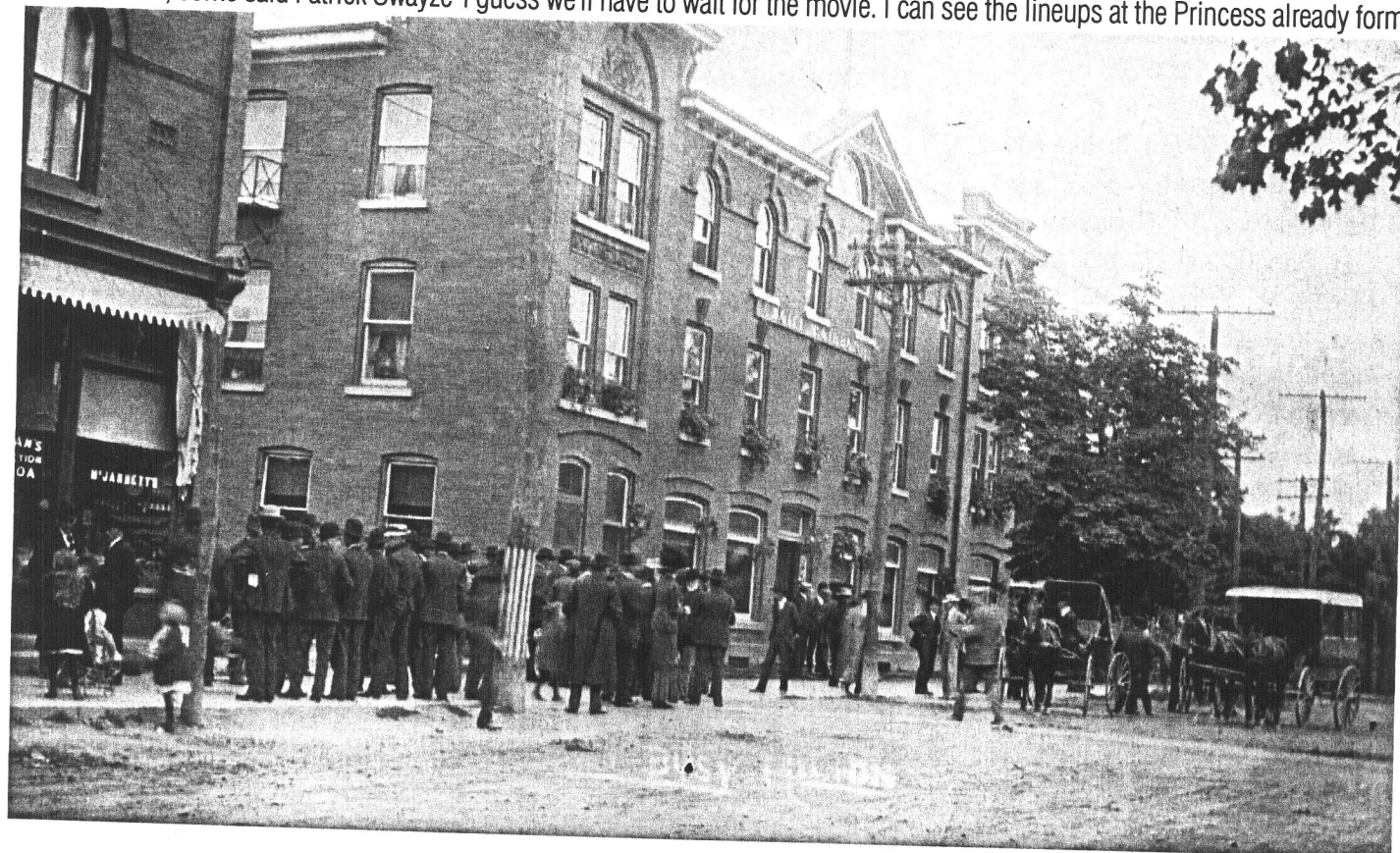


The Great Big Milton Post Card Challenge a.k.a. So You Don't Want to be a Millionaire

Contest One



Contest one I must admit was pretty difficult. However some people did come up with the right answer. Mike Ledwith and Liz Scholtz-Vancleave were among the few who figured it out, a view of Main Street looking east. Congratulations to those who answered the quiz correctly. Unfortunately our winners I'm afraid will be disappointed as some of our astute readers have reminded me that the Hotel McGibbon burned down in the 1970's. In light of this we are trying to obtain alternate accommodation at the Queen's Hotel in beautiful downtown Campbellville. Contest winners will be advised when these arrangements have been made. In the meantime contest two is below. This one is much easier, however contestants must tell me what all the people in the alley way are doing. Contest winners will receive movie passes to the Princess Theatre for the debut screening of the movie currently being shot in Milton starring Ed Asner as Mayor Gord Krantz. (Or maybe I've got that wrong-first I heard it was Patrick Stewart, some said Patrick Swayze-I guess we'll have to wait for the movie. I can see the lineups at the Princess already forming!)





M.H.S. House Tour Enjoys Good Turn Out on June 12

Over 200 passes for the house tour were sold, and along with advertising sold in the tour guide, the event raised over \$4000.00. Organizers of the event must be congratulated on their hard work in the fund-raising effort for the Waldie Blacksmith Shop restoration. Many thanks to the homeowners who graciously opened their beautiful historic homes for the occasion. Thanks go to James and Patricia Douglas (100 Victoria St.), Gail and Jim Pearson (99 Mill St.), Bob and Helen Comber (111 Mill St.), Andrew and Caroline Kocher (107 Mary St.), Berry Smith and Gail Richardson (360 Pine St.) and Jim and Mirella Marshall (8350 Fourth Line). It was such a success that the Historic Home Tour will be repeated next year and perhaps become an annual event. Blacksmith David Sykes gave a demonstration in front of the Waldie Blacksmith shop which attracted numerous onlookers. Very hot work on a hot day! Thanks also goes to the Milton Players and Milton Centre for Music and Theatre Arts for providing costumed interpreters at each house. The editor was most impressed if not a bit confused at



111 Mill Street, M.H.S. President Helen Comber's house. Helen even stayed up all night washing floors! (She had a flood!)



100 Victoria Street where the editor encountered a live Bastedo!

first when one hostess announced that she was Ida Bastedo. I thought it quite something that they had found relatives of the original homeowners to act as guides. The Milton Players had me convinced, or maybe the hot sun had baked my brain that day. Anyway it was a great show and congratulations to all those who worked so hard.



David Sykes busy at work in front of the Waldie Blacksmith Shop.

VILLAGE
BLACKSMITH
OF MOFFAT
CUSTOM IRON WORK & ANTIQUES
R.R. #1 MOFFAT ONTARIO L0P 1J0
DAVID SYKES (905) 854-0516



Jack Hardy made this impressive horse and smithy for the Waldie Blacksmith Fund-raising effort, which has been a staple at the Farmer's Market this season. Thanks Jack! It's so much fun watching Marsha riding it down Main Street every Saturday.

Jim Dills Discovers Parallel Universe in Nova Scotia

Our roving reporter, Jim Dills, came back from Nova Scotia this summer with some very interesting information. On his travels Jim came across a place called Milton which has a Blacksmith Shop Museum which is open from June to September and is quite a tourist draw. What an interesting coincidence and food for thought for our local tourism planning. The funny thing is that the similarities didn't stop there as they have a Milton Mill Pond as well! It might be quite beneficial to compare notes between municipalities and historical societies. Our readers might be interested to know that there are Miltons in Quebec and P.E.I. as well. The Milton in Quebec would have been known postally as Milton East to our Milton West.

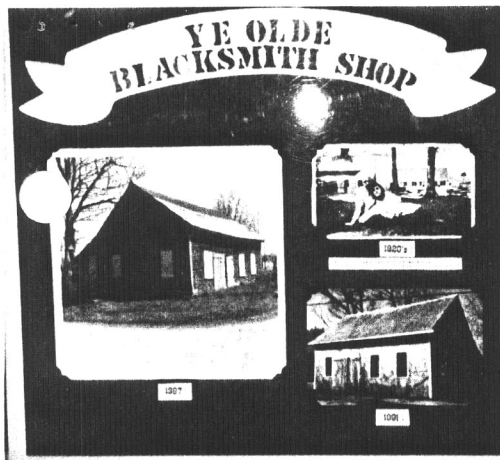
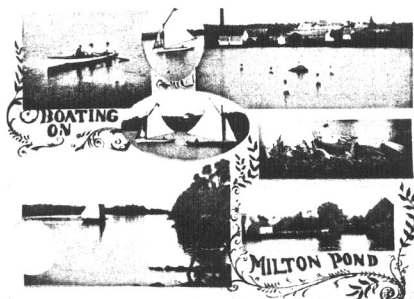


Photo by Jim Dills of a display in the Milton Nova Scotia Blacksmith Museum.

Thanks Jim for coming up with a very interesting angle on history. It also lets me branch out in my post card collecting. Milton, Ontario cards are getting tough to find!



A Milton Mill Pond post card-that's Milton Nova Scotia though! I could have been mean and used this for the photo contest.

Grace Anglican Church Restoration Project

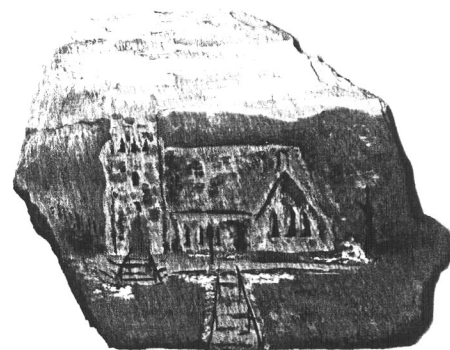
Info supplied by Dr. Andrea Rowbottom & Jim Dills

Grace Anglican Church is in the midst of a restoration campaign, Glorifying Grace. In 1895 the original Grace Anglican Church was moved to the back of the property and a new stone edifice was constructed. Architecturally, the new church was English Gothic with a Norman tower and a natural Pennsylvanian slate roof. The roof has over-extended its life expectancy and is being replaced. The new slate roof will keep parishioners warm and dry for many years, well into the next



Roofers had a steep climb working on Grace's slope. It was also probably tremendously hot up there with this summer.

millennium. Natural slate was the only option to preserve the building's historical and aesthetic value. The original stone building cost \$6000.00 to build and it took the congregation 17 years to pay off the mortgage. The restoration of this century old building is estimated at \$400,000.00. To that end and in less than a year the Glorifying Grace campaign has thus far received \$160,000.00-a great start but a long way to go! Although most slates are crumbling and deteriorated with age, some have been saved and recycled into country scenes or paintings of the church itself. The sale of the paintings goes toward restoration. A painting on slate not only supports Grace's fund raising efforts but serves as a keepsake of Grace Anglican Church and a colourful piece of local history.



A painting of Grace Anglican Church by Dr. Andrea Rowbottom. I chose a church scene as my keepsake.

M.H.S. Bus Tour Headed South on April 25

It was a packed bus that headed out for our annual tour, this time to the Niagara area. Stops included the Mackenzie Heritage Printery Museum, Laura Secord Homestead and McFarland House. This was followed by lunch in Niagara-on-the-Lake and a stop at the Pelham Estate Winery on the way home just to make sure everyone came back in a cheery mood. It was a very enjoyable day with the weather cooperating beautifully. It was quite an informative tour in a relaxed fashion with guides at each stop who were most knowledgeable, entertaining and helpful. Next year's trip will have trouble topping this one but that will be the challenge!



Our guide at the Mackenzie Heritage Printery had tour members test their skills. Located in the village of Queenston, the Printery is housed in the restored home of William Lyon Mackenzie.



Early Milton Photographers They Were a Busy Bunch!



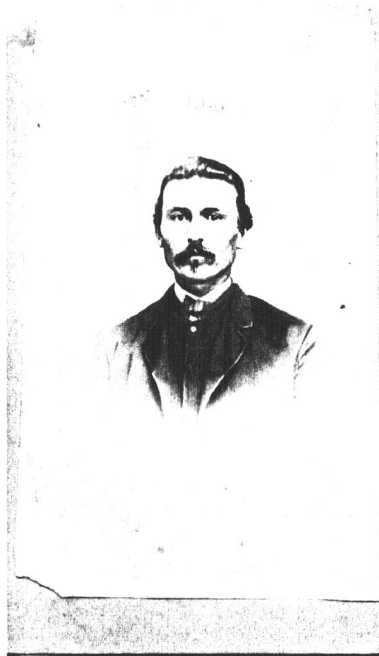
Our uniformed guide at Laura Secord Homestead quizzes our members in the kitchen. He only managed to stump us once. The house is just down the road from the Mackenzie Heritage Printery.



In the parlour of the McFarland House our hostess explained the finer points of the tea preparation ritual. McFarland house was built about 1800 and figured prominently in the War of 1812, serving as a hospital for both sides in the war.



At the Pelham Estate Winery, a tired but happy crew before boarding the bus back home for Milton. Thanks to Tim Hortons for the bus.



G. BURROWS,
ARTIST,
MILTON, C. W.
Negatives Preserved One Year



S. P. PANTON,

Photographer,

MARTIN ST.,
MILTON, ONT.

All styles of Frames always on hand.
Negatives preserved.

Examples of two early photographers' work showing front and reverse. Top photo is by George Burrows who was located on Martin Street. It is pre-Confederation as it is marked Canada West. The lower photo is by S.P. Pantton (related to William Pantton, longtime publisher of The Champion). It appears to be an early photo as well. Judging by the address he was likely a successor to Burrows.

This article is not meant to be comprehensive as this is really a work in progress. My starting point was a couple of articles Mel Robinson did for the Champion back in the late 1970's. Prominent names in the time period he covered included E.C. Featherstone, F.K. Hunter and Henry Sherman. Another source of information comes from Glen Phillips two volumes, The Ontario Photographers 1851-1900 and 1901-1925 which contains lists of photographers by town. His lists are derived from

directories published in this province since 1851. Glen concedes that his lists may have errors or omissions in them but they are a valuable reference. For Milton he lists the following: W.C.Adair (1888), George Burrows (1869-1873), David Butchart (1880), J.A.Cockburn (1897), R.P. Coulson (1875), Samuel Dice (1887), E.C. Featherstone (1898-1909), George A. Hemstreet (1877-1887), Frederick K.Hunter (1909), A.Moffatt (1864), D.M.Reid (1889-1897), Henry L.Sherman (1910-1925), Snicher (1878) and A.J.Wood (1915). Dates in brackets indicate the span of years that the photographer operated in. Where there is but a single year I imagine this means that the person in question operated only for that year or that was the only year that he was listed (or found?) in a directory. Given that these directories had advertising somewhat similar to today's Yellow Pages, where advertisers names appeared more prominently than non-advertisers, I wonder if some listings went missing for various reasons? Nevertheless, Glen Phillips' books are a good base to start with. I can add two names that are missing from the list: S.P. Panton and Embree. We also know that George Burrows was in Milton prior to Confederation, not 1869. F.K. Hunter was here at least from 1909 to 1915. Mel Robinson's articles fill things in a bit. He notes that Featherstone sold in January 1909 to Hunter who in turn sold to Sherman in 1915. Mel speculated that Featherstone's studio was at 8 Martin Street (presently the Acorn Tearoom). This seems to jibe with the information about Burrows' and Panton's photo studios. Whether they succeeded each other in business at this location



is a matter of speculation for now, but the odds are good. Mel notes that by April 1909 the Hunter Studio was at 182 Main Street where Harris Stationery is now. (He stated 184 in the article but I have corrected it here.) It is also interesting to note that George Hemstreet, according to Mel, had bought part of this building in 1885. Did Hemstreet have a studio here first, which was later taken over by successive photographers including Hunter? Or did R.P. Coulson, who Hemstreet worked for and later bought out, have a studio at this location? All this warrants further research. Perhaps our readers could help fill in the gaps.

G. A. HEMSTREET

(SUCCESSOR TO)



R. P. COULSON,
PHOTOGRAPHER.

Dealer in
PICTURES, PICTURE FRAMES,
MIRRORS, ALBUMS, &c.,
MAIN STREET, MILTON, ONT.



Family Groups, Children's Photos A Specialty.

A fine assortment of Picture Frames and Mouldings always kept on hand.

WE have now settled down to business. If you want your photo taken, call on C. E. FEATHERSTONE before going elsewhere. We make a specialty in Family Groups and Children's Photos. Old photos taken and enlarged. We have everything up-to-date. We also make a specialty in Flashlight Photos.

E. C. FEATHERSTONE

A rather fanciful ad from the March 23, 1899 Canadian Champion. E.C. Featherstone was also noted for his scenic photography most notably of Livingston Park. Hunter and Sherman followed in his footsteps with scenic post cards of Milton.

As you can see, I'm almost out of room so I'd better leave off on Milton photographers here. In future issues we'll hopefully have some input from our readers and be able to get into more detail as to styles, techniques and so on. As for our question from the last issue as to what the initials of E.C. Featherstone stood for I searched high and low. But I think I've got it, Emerson Centennial. No wonder he used E.C.! What was the Centennial about? What do our readers think?



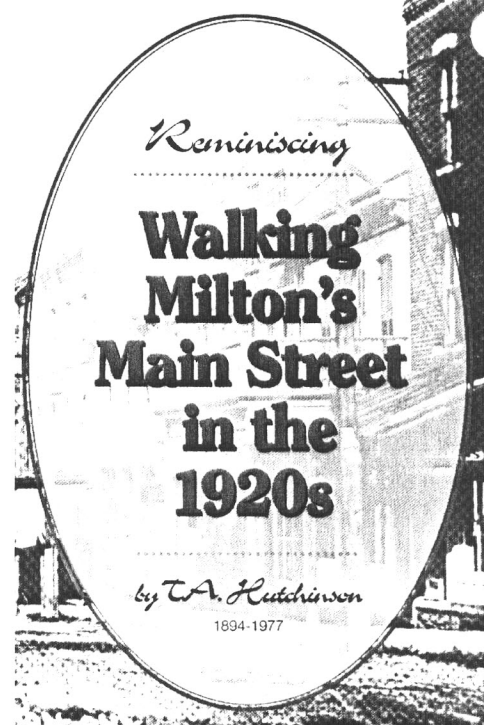
Skiff Sailing on the Pond

Milton Mill Pond Update

It doesn't appear that much has been happening with the poor old Mill Pond. The vegetation growth this year was worse than last year, compounded with a thick yellow algae on the surface. Yuck! It was decided that there would be no harvest this year as the vegetation grew back to the surface within a month last year. It was felt that the money could be spent more wisely on a longer-term solution to the pond's woes, namely wholesale dredging of the sediments that are over a meter deep. The invasive eurasian milfoil thrives in shallow, warm waters like the Mill Pond that have rich sediment beds. While it appears that nothing has gone on with the pond this year, there have been several meetings concentrating on the technical aspects of dredging the pond. Once all the i's are dotted and t's crossed it is hoped that a draw-down will

occur in October followed by dredging after freeze-up. (Editor's note: In the last issue it was reported that the Town of Milton had earmarked \$200,000.00 for the Mill Pond project. In fact the amount allocated was \$100,000.00. The editor apologizes for this error. However I wasn't the only one who made this mistake as some councillors mistook the bottom line in a staff report as the total Town contribution. I guess you could call me a bottom line type of guy? With that in mind, contributions to the cause are always welcome be they cash, labour or materials.) The photo to the left is from the 1907 Milton Semi-Centennial book. Canoeing and boating scenes on the Mill Pond are common but this is the only sailing one I've seen. Having sailed on the pond myself I can appreciate the skill required skiff sailing. It certainly is fun but watch out for those trees. (Perhaps sailing lessons might help though. Anyone up to creating an MCYC?) Hopefully we'll get through all the red tape and studies and be able to enjoy the Mill Pond in all it's former beauty. As the saying goes "The oxen are slow but the earth is patient." Hopefully our patience will be rewarded soon.

Thomas Hutchinson Book Back in Print



If you haven't got a copy of Thomas Hutchinson's book yet, don't delay. The last run sold out quickly. It's quite an interesting and amusing read. I especially enjoyed the "Blue Fleas". Price is \$5.00 per copy and available in stores and by mail.

Have You Renewed Your Membership for 1999??

If you have, thanks. At \$7 for individuals or \$10 for families it's a bargain. If you know of anyone who might like to join please call Sue Paul at 878-0657 or write P.O. Box 85, Milton, Ontario L9T 2Y3.

1901

Halton Farmers' Institute

1901

MEMBER'S TICKET
25 CENTS

Issued to Mr.

Wm McClenahan

DR. ROBERTSON, Pres.,
Milton.

GEO. GASTLE, Vice-Pres.,
Milton.

J. L. WARREN, Sec-Treas., Acton.



The Journal

Published by the Milton Historical Society

Volume 14 Number 1

April 23, 1999



Milton West Circa 1911

But where is this scene in Milton? This post card has baffled many of our historical society members. Can you guess where it is? I myself almost despaired of unravelling the mystery. After poring over the Halton County Atlas map of Milton of 1877, the Fire Maps of 1927, and various other post cards of the same time period, I think I have the answer. This will be our first contest in a series beginning with this issue. I'll give you a few hints. The house on the right with the veranda is still there. The poplars growing on the left of the street are important too. There is a street entrance in the right foreground, and on the left along the picket fence. It must be a busy street too! There are two delivery wagons as well as a telephone linesman up a pole. That should be enough clues for you. An enlarged copy of this post card will be on view at our meetings. The answer will appear in the next newsletter along with a modern day view of the same scene. Our contest prize is an all expenses paid weekend for two at downtown Milton's luxurious Hotel McGibbon, noted for its spacious rooms, ample parking and on-site banking facilities (photo- John Duignan Post Card Collection) JD

Lifetime Achievement Award for Jim Dills

Our very own Jim Dills was recently honoured by the Chamber of Commerce at an awards ceremony at the Granite Ridge Golf Club on Saturday April 10th. Jim is well known to our readers for his many historical works including Moments in History, Reflections of Halton's County Town 1833-1864, and his tireless efforts to promote and preserve our past, such as the restoration of the Halton County Court House. More recently, Jim, along with Sandy French of Halton Cable, has expanded his repertoire to include the video medium with excellent results. (The Victoria Park video will be covered later.) Jim was quoted as saying, "When I heard this was for lifetime achievement I worried I was being retired." I don't think there's much danger of that Jim! Jim is currently working on a book about John White, a rather infamous local politician of the 19th century. (I think Jim would concur with the use of the word infamous.) As well, there is talk of a video about the Mill Pond, a revised and expanded book on historic Milton homes, a book compiling Mel Robinson's articles etc., etc.....Retire? I don't think so! JD

Overflow Crowd at Heritage Awards

The Milton Heritage awards will likely have to move to a new site for the 2000 awards as Hugh Foster Hall simply could not accommodate the huge crowd that attended the February 21st Sunday afternoon ceremony. It seemed that there were as many, if not more people jammed in the foyer, as in the hall itself. The appreciative audience was entertained by the lively performance of the Sheila Graham Irish Dancers before the awards presentation. The joint venture between the Milton Historical Society and Heritage Milton LACAC was emceed by LACAC's Clive Thurston and MHS's president Helen Comber. The festivities included the premier of the video Victoria Park History by Jim Dills and Sandy French which will be covered elsewhere in this newsletter. Milton Historical Society presented awards in three categories- please see AWARDS on page 6

December

Christmas Party

Not Too Many Main Dishes But Desserts, Singers Fine by Ken Lamb
Because quite a few "main dish" executives couldn't attend, those at the end of the line at our Christmas potluck found pickings a bit thin. But strong entertainment and plenty of desserts got the festive season off to a fine start. About 25 attended the December 10th party at Halton Region Museum.



In addition more than 20 "Song Spinners" from the Milton Seniors Activity Centre, led by Joyce Hayward and supported by us and a spirited four-piece brass section, performed about two dozen carols. Karen Bongard, a Museum employee, entertained by testing our knowledge of a wide range of items formerly found on local farms.



New Year's Day Levee

Robertson Records Shine by Ken Lamb
It was by no means a large turnout at the Mayor's New Year's Day Levee but those who attended spent a



Ken Lamb discusses his latest book about P.L. Robertson with a visitor at the Mayor's New Year's Day Levee at Milton Town Hall. Ken along with Ted Gazley received this year's Heritage award for writing.

lot of time at the P.L. Robertson display in the council chamber. Set up by Bruce Carlin and Stephen Willson, the exhibit contained dozens of photos and records, many of them gathered in researching the recently published "P.L." book. Robertson Inc. contributed a large display of its products. The Hastings String Quartet, consisting of Milton violinist Andre Gluck and three Oakville youths, provided a festive atmosphere. Mayor Gordon Krantz, assisted by all the Councillors but one, welcomed the 100 or so guests. As always Jessie Hamilton did a great job of providing refreshments, and thanks to Marjorie Powys for lending her silver tea set for the occasion.

GLOBAL

Everything For The Family Historian
New Store Owners Hustle To Nurture Family Trees by Ken Lamb
Opening of the Global Genealogical Store at 13 Charles Street last

fall is a local sign of mushrooming interest in family histories. At our January general meeting store owner Sandra Roberts gave us a broader indication-the Internet now contains two million genealogical sites. Sandra and her husband, Rick, have been developing their business for 17 years and formerly operated from their Laurier Avenue home. Sandra specializes on Scottish family histories while her husband concentrates on Ireland and England. Among their many interests, the couple encourages the reprinting of local histories and represent 100 small publishers. (Editors note: If you can't visit the store in person they have a large and very interesting website at www.globalgenealogy.com)



Show and Tell With John Crawford at February Meeting
At our general meeting on February 18th John Crawford, a well known local collector and member of our



John Crawford and the Holy Grail! Well maybe not - February's show and tell session.(it's a lamp of some sort in case you were wondering)

society, gave a talk about his collecting experiences and advice to the audience as to what to look for. His talk mostly focused on coins, stamps and militaria. John recounted that he really got his start when his father returned home after WWII with a number of souvenirs including Nazi daggers. By age 16 John was busy collecting coins and from there branched out. One needs only to talk to John for a brief period to realize that he has been busy in other fields as well. He recounted some astounding prices fetched, such as the 1936 dot Canadian one cent piece which sold for \$100,000.00. But coin collecting needn't be the hobby of kings alone. Just checking everyday pocket change can yield treasures such as 1985 Canadian pennies with a pointy five or 1991 quarters with low mintage. Paper money with radar serial numbers is something to look for. Even Canadian Tire money is a good collectible. He noted that value is determined by

age, condition and availability. Many Roman coins are well within most collector's budget because while they may be ancient they were produced in vast quantities. So keep your eyes peeled folks, a treasure may be jangling in your change. The public was also invited to bring along items to be identified and evaluated, which proved to be very entertaining as well. Thanks John.

1998 Financial Report

At the February meeting the financial report for 1998 by Mike Ledwith was presented. After all Mike's number crunching the Historical Society has a healthy bottom line of \$26,381.99 plus books and merchandise on hand. Good show!



Jim Dills' new video about Victoria Park was the centre of attention at the March 18th general meeting. The video, which made its debut at the Heritage Awards in February, was a cooperative effort between Jim and Sandy French of Halton Cable. Sandy told me that he had just put the final touches on the video at 6 am the Sunday morning of the awards. I think he's a bit of a perfectionist which sometimes can



Jim Dills at the Heritage Awards With a Piece of the Rock.....

be a problem when you need to get things done in a hurry. However everything worked out just fine with a very polished production. Jim's narrative tells the very interesting story of the handsome Court House that we now know as the Town Hall, as well as Victoria Park adjacent to it. It's been a busy little spot in a busy little town. Who could know that a pretty little garden was once a place where convicts broke rock and sometimes met the ultimate punishment. It's all in the video as well as some lighter moments. It is bound to be a valuable resource in schools. No doubt Jim will be finally able to save his voice a bit, rather than doing the tours of Victoria Park in person. The video is currently being shown on Halton Cable, so keep an eye open. There is also talk of making the video available for purchase, so interested parties should let us know. Jim and Sandy are to be commended for their great work. Encore, Encore! When's the video for the Mill Pond coming out? (Aren't I a nag!)



A Little Yarn From Miss Kitty
Eventful April 1st In
Downtown Milton

Area residents awoke Thursday morning to a resounding thud when unexpectedly the Waldie Blacksmith Shop suddenly collapsed for no apparent reason. Recently shored up, the building withstood the unusually heavy snow loads of this past winter. The impact of the collapse sent chunks of masonry and horseshoes flying through the air smashing stained glass windows at St. Paul's United Church. Area resident and spokesperson for the ongoing restoration of the Waldie Blacksmith Shop, Marsha Waldie, was dumbfounded and clearly disappointed. However on an upbeat note, Town of Milton Planning Staff moved in quickly with a novel solution. The debris of the Waldie Blacksmith Shop would be reconstituted into a replica of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, which it was felt, would be much more stable and just as much a potential tourist attraction for Milton. (Yes Marsha, the editor deserves 30 lashes with a wet noodle for that one!)

Environment Canada's Tony Chir
Speaks at April Meeting

Twenty-eight year veteran of the weather service, Tony Chir,



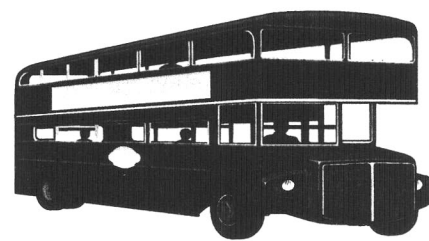
recounted some bone chilling temperatures in his talk at the April 15th meeting. Originally from Montreal, Tony has been resident in Milton for 10 years and thus able to shed some light on the local weather scene. Tony refers to the Escarpment as "Our Hidden Secret". As many Miltonians have long suspected, 'Mount Milton' does affect our weather locally. (Maybe not as much as the editor tried to suggest though—oh well, now I know better!)



In effect the escarpment tends to split approaching weather fronts in two, sending storms toward Brampton and south to Hamilton, sparing Milton from some nasty weather. But Milton certainly experienced winter in January with a few good dumps of snow. Tony noted that this past season only really consisted of 17 days of true winter weather along with three freak winter thunderstorms. So I guess we shouldn't complain too much. Locally our weather is affected by four factors, Texas lows, Alberta Clippers, Arctic highs and Lake Ontario. Tony went on to speak globally, covering such topics as El Nino, La Nina, and the greenhouse effect. It was noted that the planet was experiencing a gradual warming as a result of human activity, and that even with remedial action taken by the world's nations, it would take a great deal of time

for the process to be reversed. So we will continue to see ice melting at both poles, continued warming, and a rise in sea levels for some time. Weather history is recounted in huge spans of time compared to that of mankind. Sadly humans have managed to impact Earth's climatic history of millions and billions of years in such a short time period. (Sorry for the downer folks but on the bright side we won't be around to see it happen. Small comfort eh!) Well Tony thanks for the talk. It was most interesting though a bit disquieting.

On a lighter note, member Gloria Brown unearthed an interesting anecdote. In 1823 Eliza Harrison of Milton was swept up by a tornado while out doing her wash. She was carried for half a mile but the flight left her relatively unharmed. (Either the pioneer woman was of a hardy stock or she landed in the Mill Pond!)



Road Trip ! Road Trip!
April 25.....

This year's outing sold out quickly. The tour includes stops at McFarland House, Mackenzie Heritage Printery, Laura Secord Homestead, lunch at Niagara-on-the-Lake and a wine tasting at the Pelham Family Estate Winery. (this should prove interesting—look for the story in the next newsletter along with perhaps some incriminating photos)



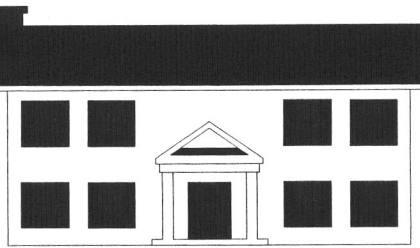
General Meeting May 20th History of the Lorne Scots

Reverend Rick Ruggles will speak about the history of the Lorne Scots Regiment at Remembrance Hall at the Canadian Legion at 21 Charles Street. As with all our gatherings coffee is served at 7:30 pm and the meeting gets underway at 8:00 pm. All are most welcome.



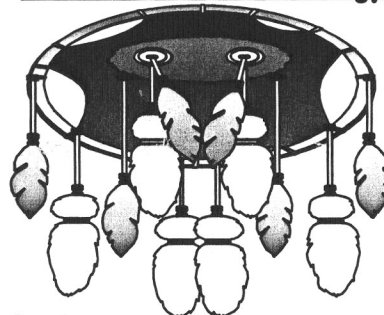
Historic House Tour June 12th

Don't miss the historic house tour on June 12th. Properties included in this tour are: 100 Victoria Street-built for John Bastedo in 1887, 99 Mill Street built by Thomas Ross in 1855, 111 Mill Street built for Thomas Bowes in 1880, 360 Pine Street built for John Hatton in 1855,



and 107 Mary Street built for Hugh Campbell in 1888. The Waldie Blacksmith Shop will be included with the possibility of a blacksmithing demonstration. Tickets are \$15.00 and will be available in downtown stores. For more information please call Mandy at 878-4197.

General Meeting June 17th Dr. Bill Finlayson of the London Museum of Archeology



Dr. Bill Finlayson of the London Museum of Archeology will speak at our June 17th meeting. The June get-together is our pot luck dinner and we hope to have it at Crawford Lake. At press time the site was not confirmed but we'll let you know. I think the setting would be ideal for what should be a most interesting talk. (P.S. Be sure to bring lots of food as I think Ken is still hungry from the Christmas pot luck.)



or Dominion Day for Diehards like
myself - it just sounds better!

Milton is a busy place on July 1st so check the papers for events

scheduled. It's all topped off with a spectacular fireworks display at the Mill Pond. See you there.



Second Annual Antiques Road Show September 19th

The second annual Milton Antiques Road Show will be held on September 19th at the Agricultural Hall at the Fairgrounds on Robert Street. Bring all your what-cha-ma-callits and thing-ma-jigs for identification and appraisal by our team of experts. Who knows, you might be sitting on a treasure. Anyway, it should prove educational and amusing.

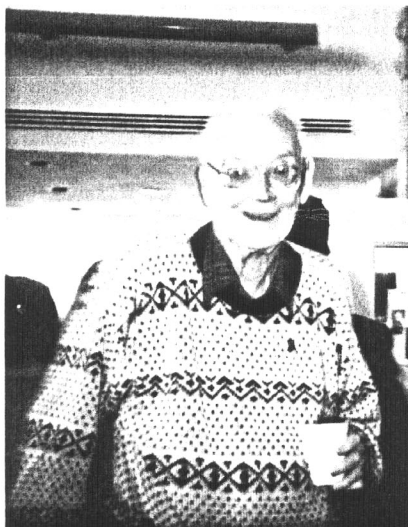


A Great Big Thank You To Past Executive Members!!!!

A new year brings another listing of executive members. Some are stepping down after years of exemplar service. Among those are Alex Cooke-Genealogy, Ken Lamb-Journal Editor and Jessie Hamilton-Treasurer. Alex, Ken and Jessie are still involved in things and helping out the new executive. And of course Alex still is heavily involved in genealogy-you could say it's in his blood! Thanks to Bruce Carlin who is now our past president. Helen Comber has once again taken over the reins as President. The rest of the executive for 1999 is as follows: Bruce Carlin-Past



President/Program Coordinator, Liz Scholtz-Vancleave-Secretary, Gloria Brown-Treasurer, Marsha Waldie-House Plaquing, Sue Paul-Membership, Dorrie Murdoch-Greig-Publicity/Promotions, Jessie Hamilton-Social Convener, Mandy Sedgwick-Chair Waldie Committee, Gail Richardson-Archivist, Jim Dills-Research, Lois Knight-Genealogist, Audrea Lear-Costigan-Liaison Town of Milton, Konrad Richter-Liaison LACAC, Carolyn Goodall-Telephone Committee, Treasa Lamb-Telephone Committee, Ken Hassard-Publications, Lynda Leaver-Antiques Roadshow and John Duignan-Journal Editor.



Alex Cooke has genealogy in his genes-no doubt about it. If Adam and Eve had birth certificates he'd track them down!



A special thanks to Ken Lamb and Jim Dills for putting together past issues of the Journal. I now know what a job it is!



Jessie Hamilton is still cooking up a storm. "Hey, don't take my picture!"



AWARDS - continued from page one

writing, visual arts and educational. Ken Lamb and Ted Gazley won the award for writing with their book "P.L. Inventor of Robertson Screw". Ted had a long association with P.L. Robertson, the man and the business, so his insight was invaluable. Ken's interviews with past associates and employees of P.L. shed new light on the man. In researching this book new information was unearthed. The stories are often humorous and sometimes tragic. In all it's a good read. (Copies of the book are still available in local stores or through the Historical society. Price is \$25.00 per copy. Please add \$5.00 for orders outside of Milton.)

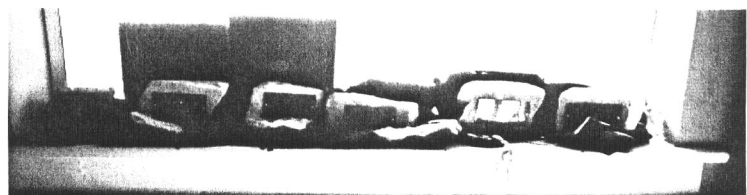
The visual arts award went to Loblaw's Milton Market for their Wall Mural of Milton Landmarks. Loblaw's manager Brian Trevaill accepted the award. It's really heartening to see large corporate citizens like Loblaw's taking an interest in the history of their community. The murals are quite something and so is Loblaw's brand new store.

The Educational Award was won by the Grade 8 class at St. Peter's School for their work on historical sites around Milton. Their topics included the Mill Pond, Town Hall (the new one), Waldie's Blacksmith Shop, the Milton Information Centre (old CN Station), Hilton Falls, Crawford Lake, Maplehurst and Springridge Farms. The students are to be congratulated on their very professional and eye-catching presentations. I see some good historians in the making here. Keep up the good work!

Rounding out the ceremony LACAC presented awards and plaques. St. Paul's United Church was honoured for its recent interior restoration work. Mark and Lynda Cross were recognized for their home at 191 Sarah Street. Heritage Designation Plaques were handed out to Todd and Tosca Corradetti for 66 Victoria Street and Mario and Leanne Bucaro for 5703 Tremaine Road.

Congratulations to all the award winners. Keep up the good work and we'll see you next year.

(for more photos please see page 7)





The Journal

Published by the Milton Historical Society

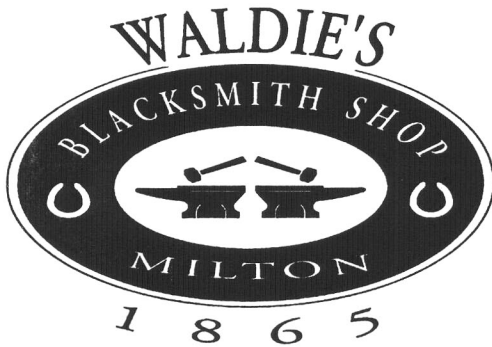
Milton Historical Society Heritage Award Winners 1999



Above: Grade 8 Class, St. Peter's - Education

Below: Ted Gazley - Writing Award Left:
Loblaws Store Manager Brian Trevail
receiving Visual Arts Award from Mayor
Gord Krantz in Hugh Foster Hall.





Waldie Blacksmith Shop Update

No, the Blacksmith Shop did not collapse. I will mend my ways and fill our readers in on the latest news. The Shop did weather the heavy snows of January. Timing as they say is everything. The roof had just been reinforced in the fall which probably saved it. Society members went forth on an expedition to collect a load of old barn boards that were donated for the restoration. On April 18th a working bee was organized that cleared out the contents of the shop which were stored in a trailer next to it. The next move is to pour new foundations for the building. So in fact things are moving along quite well. The fund raising is off to a good start. The restoration committee is currently selling very stylish t-shirts and golf shirts bearing the logo shown above that artist Konrad Richter designed. Cash donations to the cause are always welcome but donations of building materials and labour skills are equally appreciated. For more information call either Mandy at 878-4197 or Marsha at 878-1146.

Sad News to Report

Unfortunately we must report the recent passing of several Society members and friends. We mourn the loss of Jack Charlton, John Grimshaw, Lillian Gowland, Mary



Hutchinson, Julius Geist, and Helen Babcock to name a few. John Grimshaw was the husband of past MHS president Val Grimshaw and will always be fondly remembered by members for the spread that he put on for MHS functions. Mary Hutchinson (nee Mahoney) was the widow of Thomas Hutchinson, a lawyer and author of a book on Main Street in the 20's. Lillian Gowland (nee Franklin) was the widow of Gordon "Doc" Gowland who had a hardware store and they are remembered for the beautiful house they had across from the old Town Hall. Julius Geist lived in the historic home on Third Line built in 1832 with pine felled on the property by John Stewart, great-great-grandfather of Alex Cooke. Helen Babcock (nee Mills) is remembered for her long teaching career at Bruce Street School. Such brief mention here is somewhat unsatisfactory but I'm sure our readers will understand the constraints of this newsletter. The particulars of each person's lives and contributions would easily fill a book. They will be greatly missed. (Jack Charlton will be covered below in more depth recognizing his invaluable assistance to the Society.)

John (Jack) Charlton

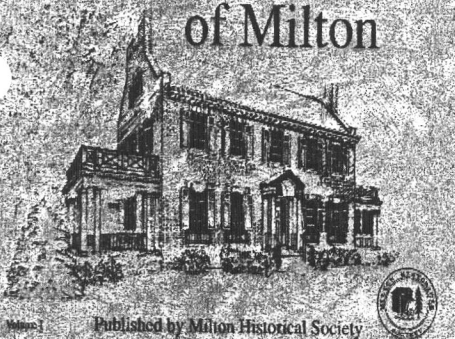
submitted by Ken Lamb and Bruce Carlin

Jack Charlton, a resident of Milton for most of his life died December 27th at the age of 84. Born in 1914, Jack held many posts including Town councillor 1954-1959, Deputy Reeve 1960-1962, one term as Reeve in 1960 and chairman of the Arena Board in 1961. He was a 28 year employee of P.L. Robertson beginning in 1934. He was appointed assessor by the Town of Milton in 1963



and continued in that role, later with the province until his retirement in 1978. This background, combined with a remarkable recall for past events in Milton going back to the early 1920's, made him an invaluable member of the Society. In 1988 Jack headed the program researching the history and providing the plaques for historical properties. He contributed significantly to the development of a data base on property ownership which will be used for years to come in tracking the background of buildings. In 1990-91 he wrote the text for "Historic Homes of Milton", published by the Milton Historical Society. The book included his research and information on more than 60 homes which the owners and Society had researched for plaques. His experiences made a colourful contribution to Ken Lamb's recent book on P.L. Robertson. And when Jim Dills was putting together his book "Moments in History" he often got help from Jack. Jack's death was a double blow for Alex Cooke. Not only had they collaborated on many research projects but they also were life-long friends. In 1998 Jack received an Ontario Heritage Foundation Community heritage recognition certificate honouring his achievement in historical

Historic Homes of Milton



research. The award was presented by Mayor Gord Krantz and MPP Ted Chudleigh. Jack will be sorely missed.

Marking Historic Properties A Plaque for Your Property

It is rather fitting to discuss the Society's house plaquing program here. Marsha Waldie is in charge of the house plaquing program and has given me the following notes. The Society has to this date, placed over 105 plaques on various historical buildings in Milton. Our first edition of "Historic Homes of Milton" consisted of 60 homes. We are looking forward to publishing our second edition once we have reached another 60. In order to assist us in this goal you or your neighbours may wish to consider our plaquing program in the near future. The fee is \$75.00 which includes the research and the plaque. For more information or to obtain an application please call Marsha at 878-1146.

Bell Exchange Opens

The first Bell Telephone exchange was established here in 1893. It was located on Main Street. Among the first subscribers were names such as John Bennett of the Bennett House, John Dean of the Commercial Hotel, J.W. Elliott, Barrister, Hume Brothers Flour and Feed,



M.E. Mitchell of the Wallace House, Dr.D.Robertson, Dr.P.Stuart, and the G.Winn and Son Shoe Factory. The hours of operation were limited, 8am to 8 pm weekdays and on Sundays 2pm to 4pm. It was not until 1909 that 24 hour service was made available.

A Pond "Sarpint"

from the Canadian Champion for June 2, 1910

Several Miltonians report having seen a monster of some kind in the pond. They say it is shaped something like a turtle, measures about 3 x 4 feet, has a huge mouth and numerous legs. They insist that they do not exaggerate and that they had not been imbibing anything to make them see imaginary "snaix".

The Insurance Hat for Men

-A NEW IDEA IN HATS-

When buying your new hat, be sure and buy the Insurance Hat and get an insurance policy for \$5.00 or \$25.00.

With every hat sold goes an accident policy for \$5.00. Guaranteed by the Empire Guarantee and Insurance Corporation, Ltd., of Glasgow. If you are killed in a railway accident while wearing one of the Insurance Hats your nearest of kin will receive \$25.00 cash.

These hats are the newest English styles. Best quality of felt in either stiff or Fedora shapes. Price **\$2.50** each.

From the category of strange but true comes this ad from the well known Milton retailer Bastedo & Company. It appeared in the Canadian Champion on March 8th, 1906. As the saying goes 'when all about you are losing theirs' - hang on to your hat - there's money to be made!



G. A. HEMSTREET

MILTON

I recently found this poor lost soul in Toronto. Luckily I recognized him as Johnson Harrison. As our archivist Gail Richardson implores, please mark your photos on the back. Museum collections are full of anonymous people and scenes. Next newsletter we'll talk a bit about early local photographers. In the meantime I'll leave you with a quiz question regarding local photographers. What does the E.C. in E.C. Featherstone's name stand for? (Let's put it this way- I know why he only used his initials.) In the meantime don't throw those old photos out - they're valuable to someone.

Also Coming
Next Issue-->





"The 24th of May is the Queen's birthday and if we don't get a holiday we'll all run away!" A festive occasion on the Mill Pond, probably Victoria Day 1906. The house in the background appears to have just been built as piles of earth are visible around the foundation. Our house plaquing expert, Marsha Waldie, tells me that it was built in 1906 for Riby and Elizabeth Ellis. Ellis was the caretaker of the post office well into the 1920's. More probably people recall that the Humes lived here for a great deal of time as well. (PostCard-JohnDuignanCollection.)

Historic Mill Pond to Get New Lease On Life - More Funding On the Way

M.P.P. Ted Chudleigh presented the Town of Milton with a cheque for \$30,000.00 from the Ministry of Natural Resources on November 27, 1998. The funds will act as seed money for the massive restoration project which will likely focus on dredging and rebuilding the fish habitat of the moribund lake. Recently the Town allocated \$200,000.00 for the rehabilitation effort which it is hoped will restore the Mill Pond to the splendour of the Livingston Park era.. In the early part of this century tourists flocked to the area by the trainload from Toronto and Hamilton. I think T.C. Livingston will be pleased with our efforts to restore his dream.

A Hot Proposition



Have You Renewed Your Membership for 1999??

If you haven't renewed your membership please do. Your membership keeps the Journal coming and helps support the ongoing work of the Society. And membership is a real bargain-\$7 for individuals and \$10 for families. If you can't make our meetings send your cheque to P.O. Box 85, Milton, Ont., L9T 2Y3. For more information about membership please call Sue Paul at 878-0657.