



The Journal

Milton Historical Society 16 James Street, Milton, Ontario L9T 2P4 Telephone 905-875-4156

www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca

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Spring Edition



Marsha Waldie, Mandy Sedgwick, Mirella Marshall, Rebecca Hull and Mayor Gord Krantz proclaim 2011 heritage week.

Elizabeth Harrison was Milton's first school teacher. Richard married Jane Bell and they had eleven children during the span of 1843 to 1862.

Mirella Marshall and Mandy Sedgwick held an open house for this restored home during heritage week. The house was purchased by Mandy and Mirella, restored and put on the market for sale. This is an example of a historic home that has been integrated into a new subdivision. The house is located at the corner of Tremaine road and Dymott Avenue (About 1 km south of Derry Road on the East side). Congratulations to Mandy and Mirella for overseeing the restoration and sale of this fine home.

Our own Jim Dills was the guest speaker at our February general meeting and he gave a very interesting speech about the life of writer and publisher Samuel P. Panton who grew up in Cumminsville near Kilbride. Samuel traveled the North American continent during the mid to late 1800s and worked on survey crews, sold dry goods, was editor for a newspaper, and photographer. Samuel's travels took him to St. Louis, Indianapolis, Montana, Oregon and Alaska to name a few of his destinations. Jim summarized Samuel Panton's life as probably the most widely traveled editor of the Canadian Champion ever. The pres-

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Heritage Week 2011

Heritage Week 2011 was officially recognized by Milton Council with a declaration of the week of Feb 21-27 as Milton's Heritage week. This is the first time the town has declared a heritage week. The idea to ask the mayor to declare a heritage week was led by our president Marsha Waldie and supported by Audrey Allison, president of the Nassagaweya Historical Society and also supported by Halton Region Museum. A photo opportunity with Mayor Krantz made it to the front page of the Canadian Champion

The recently restored historic Richard Harrison home was opened to the public during heritage week. open house. Richard Harrison was the original owner of this two storey brick home. Richard was born in 1815, the fifth of eight children of Thomas Harrison and Elizabeth Hodge. Mrs.

entation was very entertaining and informative. Samuel lived to the age of 102 years and died in Oakland, California.

Heritage Milton sponsored the Historic House renovation workshop on Saturday, Feb 19th and featured author Dr. Christopher Cooper who shared his tips on how to maintain a century home. Over twenty homeowners participated in this workshop.

On Feb 28th at the Milton Council meeting, Heritage Milton presented heritage award plaques to Mr. & Mrs. M. Moloney for "Renovation of a listed heritage building in Milton's Character area" for 86 Mill Street and Mr. & Mrs. Kloet received an award for "Alterations to listed Heritage property in Milton's Character area" at 223 Queen Street in Milton.

Rick Roberts of Global Genealogy led a workshop Feb 26th on the use of the Ancestry.ca website. Rick has used this website for many years and showed us the types of information which can be searched with this online tool. There are census records, ships passenger lists, records of border crossings between Canada and the USA, as well as the key birth, marriage and death notices for Canada. There are also Canadian military records including attestation papers for soldiers from World War I. There were fifteen participants to this workshop.

The MHS archives also held an open house on Feb 26th with displays of archival materials that are held by our society. Thanks to Brenda and the archives volunteers for helping arrange these displays.

Happy St. Patrick's Day

President's Message:

I don't know about you, but I can't wait for spring to arrive, my spring shoots peek above the soil and then the cold is back! However, it can't be too far off and we will soon be decorating for Victoria Day. Our society has been very active over the past few months.

New Years Eve our Society partnered with the Town of Milton to offer a Family Event at the Historic Victoria Park where we "Sang out 2010 and Rang in 2011". What a great evening! Thanks to our coordinator Nancy Cuttle, our Volunteers and The Song



Rick Roberts of Global Genealogy

Spinners, who all did a great job.

In January we held our annual meeting where we

passed the Society's updated Constitution and our 2011 Budget. Thanks to Walter Eadie who took the lead on updating our Constitution. We also welcomed a number of new members to our Board of Directors and thanked all those who were stepping down. We would like to especially thank Helen Comber, who has served on the Board of Directors for well over twenty years. She has held a number of positions and given many volunteer hours to our Society each week.

The month of February was very busy, first we noted Feb. 15th, Canada's Flag Day. Then we celebrated Canada's annual Heritage Week Feb. 21-27 with a number of special events. We hosted two scheduled open houses highlighting our Archives and Publications. On Sat. Feb. 26th a very successful workshop on how to use Ancestry.com, with Rick Roberts of Global Genealogy was held.

Also in Feb. we hosted the Ont. Artist Blacksmith Assoc. monthly meeting with a good number in attendance. The Smith's all enjoyed our hot Chili Luncheon. Thanks to all who provided the chill and assisted with serving etc.

Our Alex Cooke Memorial Archives has also been very busy with volunteers working on various projects, members and other individuals dropping by for assistance etc.

We also want to thank John Challinor and Mandy Sedgwick who took the lead on securing a grant from the Town's Community Fund in 2010, which was used to update our technology within the archives and outreach programs. All items have now been secured and we are finding them extremely helpful to our operations.

Thanks again to all our members and volunteers for their enthusiastic support, without you; we could not accomplish our goals.

See you all at our next meeting.

Cheers! Marsha Waldie J

2011 New Executive

Congratulations and best wishes to the new executive

President—Marsha Waldie

Treasurer—Diane Jarvis

Secretary—Jan Mowbray

Special Events—Nancy Cuttle

Membership—Kay Bounsall & Susan Platt

Publications/Displays—Gloria Brown

Building/Supplies—Mandy Sedgwick

Archives—Walter Eadie

Publicity & Marketing—Pam McLean

Monthly meetings—Steve Adams

Journal Editor & Blacksmith Liason—Bruce Carlin

Tour master—Mirella Marshall

IODE John Milton chapter celebrates 100 years

On June 6, 2011 the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire Milton chapter was formed with the inaugural meeting held at the home of Mrs. Horning on Victoria street. The idea for a Milton chapter originated from a conversation between artist Mrs. Bastedo and Mrs. F.C. Wilmott. The national chapter was formed eleven years earlier in Montreal and was started by a Mrs. Murray. The IODE established chapters across Canada as well as in other countries.

The two main goals identified at the onset of the Milton branch were to help to try and get a hospital established in Milton and to also provide some much needed maintenance to the Pioneer cemetery on Bronte Street. As part of these efforts a steel fence



Feb, 1948 Potluck Dinner meeting at the home of Mrs. A. G. Mac Nab, King Street, Milton

was installed along the side of Bronte street. The IODE also arranged for the installation of the two granite pillars leading to Evergreen cemetery off of Oak. The pillars were imported from England.

With the arrival of World War I, priorities changed and the I.O.D.E. members started knitting. Mrs. Charles Maw (grandmother to May Johnson of our society) knitted one thousand pairs of socks herself.

After the war's end the membership focused their efforts on education and providing scholarships to students graduating from both Elementary school and High School. During the depression years the IODE donated milk, cod liver oil and clothing to elementary students who were in financial need to help support them in the hopes they could attend high school.

Just recently, one of their members Helen McNeil willed five thousand dollars and a scholarship has been created in her name. The IODE also supports an Inuit class every year in Labrador and has done this for over twenty years. School supplies such as books are sent to support the class. Letters back from the sponsored class express their appreciation for the IODE support.

The Milton Historical Society archives has several boxes of records from the Milton IODE including minutes of meetings, treasurer's records and scrapbooks with photographs and newspaper clippings documenting their activities.

The IODE John Milton chapter will celebrate their 100th anniversary on June 11th from 2 to 4 PM. Details

at this time remain to be finalized. For more information, contact May Johnson at 905-878-9898.

Thanks to the president May Johnson for providing background information for the IODE John Milton chapter.

House Plaquing—49 James Street

An excerpt from house research by Marsha Waldie

Built approx. 1908

John Martin registered this property as part of his survey in 1853. John Martin was the son of Sarah (nee Coates, 1797-1830) and Jasper Martin (1797-1833). He was born in Northumberland, England on August 16, 1815 and was the eldest son of Sarah and Jasper. The family came to Canada in 1818, to their crown land, Lot 14, Concession 2, Trafalgar Township, (Milton) in October 1821.

Mr. John Martin took over the family business, a grist and saw mill operation, following the death of his parents.

This particular property was first sold to Ralph L. Whyte in 1855 and from this point onward it appears to have been purchased by various prominent business people who were known as property speculators. Some of those names were: Johnson Harrison, Samuel Taylor, John Dewar Jr., Wm. Van Allen and Christina Somerville.

In 1908 Percy H. Willmott sold this property to Samuel Dice who had this lovely heritage home built. This grand home was built in the Edwardian period and displays a mixture of styles. The presence of a wide verandah and both the design and the location of the entrance door in a non central position are not typical of Georgian styling. However, the simple roof and symmetrical windows appear Georgian, but the wide roof eaves with decorative brackets suggest an Italianate influence. The side wing on the south side of the home features push up large double hung windows which allow one to exit from the home to the out doors. This is a very unique feature.

Mr. Dice was the son of Agnes (1800-Oct. 30, 1873) and George Dice (Aug. 13, 1796-Dec. 4, 1858). The Dice family immigrated to Canada in 1817 from



49 James Street, freshly decorated with a blanket of snow

County Wexford, Ireland. Agnes arrived in 1823 from County Armagh, Ireland.

Mr. Dice was born in Nelson Township, Halton County in January 14, 1837. He married his first wife Sarah Martin June 5, 1862. She was the daughter of John and Margaret Martin and was born 1839, died Dec. 7, 1871. Sarah and Samuel had two daughters: Margaret (Maggie) and Sarah. His second marriage October 1, 1872 was to Abigail Dorothy (1853-1939) daughter of Nelson and Lousia Shuert or Shwert. They had a daughter, Alberta Louise. The family resided in this heritage home until it was sold following Dorothy's death

Mr. Dice left the family farm and moved to Waterdown where he became involved in the insurance and real estate business. He eventually moved to Milton and continued in this business.

Samuel was Mayor of Milton for a number of years and also served as a councilor. In 1907 he was appointed Police Magistrate for Milton and had also served as a Justice of the Peace. The family were members of the Church of England and Samuel was known to be a member of the Conservative party. He died May 17, 1924 and was interred in St. George's Cemetery, Lowville, Ontario.



October 21, 2010 Minister Moore Officially Declares April 6 as Tartan Day

OTTAWA, ONTARIO—(Marketwire - Oct. 21, 2010) - The Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, announced today that the Government of Canada will now officially recognize April 6 as Tartan Day.

"A tartan represents a clan, a family, and a community, and is an enduring symbol of Scotland that is cherished by Canadians of Scottish ancestry," said Minister Moore. "Many Canadian provinces and other countries already celebrate Tartan Day. As well, through Tartan Day, Canadians will have an opportunity to learn more about the various cultures that comprise Canadian society."

Tartan Day originated in the late 1980s in Nova Scotia, where it was declared an official day by the provincial government. It then spread across the country, with many provinces joining in. This marks the first time the Day has been recognized by the federal government.

"By officially recognizing this Day, we encourage Canadians all across the country to celebrate the contributions that over four million Canadians of Scottish heritage continue to make to the foundation of our country," said Senator John Wallace, who recently introduced a bill in the Senate in support of nationally declaring Tartan Day.

In Canada, Tartan Day is celebrated on April 6, the anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish declaration of independence. Tartan Day celebrations typically include parades of pipe bands, Highland dancing and sports, and other Scottish-themed events.

1. Maple leaf
2. Newfoundland and Labrador
3. Prince Edward Island
4. Nova Scotia
5. New Brunswick
6. Quebec
7. Ontario
8. Manitoba
9. Saskatchewan
10. Alberta
11. British Columbia
12. Northwest Territories
13. Yukon



FROM THE ARCHIVES

by Brenda Whitlock

The archives have received donations of over a dozen Milton District High School yearbooks ranging from 1953-54 to the early 1970's. Thanks to Dorothy Downs for this donation.

Brad Clements has donated the receipt book for the Milton Patriotic Society. This society was formed on August 31st, 1914 to provide for the assistance of the dependents of soldiers gone or going to the front. The treasurer for the society was Brad's grandfather W.B. Clements who was a local bank manager.

The Milton Historical Society archives was opened to the public on February 26th to increase awareness by the public about the types of resources that are available in our archives. The archive collection includes family histories, business, legal documents, newspapers, documents about schools, churches, industry and much much more. The archives also have over seven thousand photographs which are available for viewing online from the comfort of your own home through the internet. These photos can be seen over the internet at the following address. <http://images.milton.halinet.on.ca/search>

Royal Wedding theme for Carriage Shop Display

Gloria Brown is planning a Royal wedding theme decoration for the carriage shop in recognition of the upcoming marriage of Prince William and Catherine Middleton.

The MHS has recently received a donation of the wedding dress, head dress, lace jacket and shoes from a descendent of Ethel Florence Terry. Ethel Terry married John Armstrong in 1910 in Milton.

Gloria is looking for items to put in our display case. If you have wedding invitations, cake toppers, pictures, head dresses or any items related to weddings of Royalty, please let Gloria know or Pam McLean know.

Welcome New Members

Kerry Kucharenko, Ken Cross, Ross Johnson, Roy J.



Hawthorne

A reminder that if you have not already renewed your membership for 2011 to please do so. Your membership fees support the society and entitles you to 10% off the purchase price of society articles such as books. Attached you will find a membership renewal form. Please complete and submit.

Single Memberships are \$20.00
Double Memberships are \$35.00

Donations

The society issues tax receipts for all donations over twenty dollars. Donations are used to help support the operations of the Milton Historical Society.

Blacksmith News

A schedule of classes has been posted on the MHS website. These classes are for beginner and intermediate students.

Supporting the war effort

By Judy Houston

On the home front during World War I (1914-1918), knitting was a major preoccupation of Canadians, particularly women. This was one of the ways to help the war effort and to keep Canadian soldiers warm. So in answer to the question - "What can I do to help the war effort?", a booklet was compiled by Mrs. Plumptre and many others produced by The Canadian Red Cross Society. Booklets included instructions for making, packing and sending such things as knitted goods (socks), bedding, surgical supplies (dressings and pads), etc. Much in demand was preserved fruit and jam. Parcels were mailed C.O.D. to "Red Cross Society, King St. East, Toronto" and marked "Red Cross Supplies". Almost all railways and express companies carried Red Cross packages free of charge.

Annual Garage Sale—April 2nd

The society will be holding a garage sale on Saturday, April 2nd with the proceeds to go towards the next publication. Gloria Brown and Pam McLean are leading the event and they are looking for donations of small pieces. Get a head start on your spring cleaning and keep us in mind for items you no longer need.

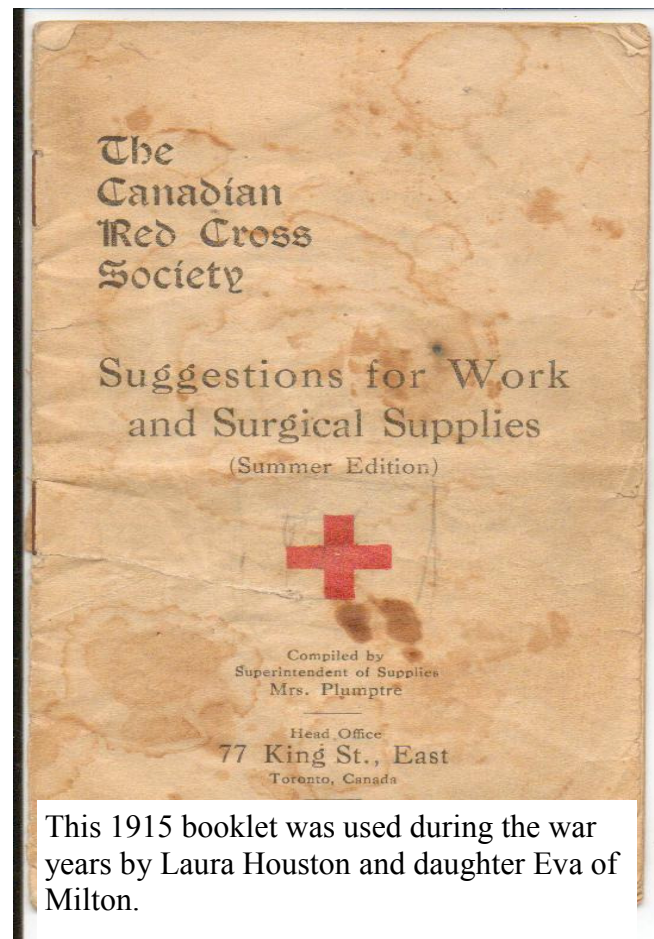
Oral Histories

We are planning an oral history workshop in the near future and a sign up sheet has been started. If you are interested in attending this workshop, please give your name to Marsha.

Upcoming Events

April 2 - 9 AM to 2 PM, Waldie Blacksmith Shop Garage Sale

April 16 – Blacksmith Beginner Class



This 1915 booklet was used during the war years by Laura Houston and daughter Eva of Milton.

April 21st – 8 PM - MHS general meeting

Cheryl MacDonald—Who Killed George? Sensational true murder mystery set in the 1890's in Haldimand county.

May 7 & 14 – 09:30 AM – 12 Noon Flag & Fan Sale (Details on next page ad).

May 15 – MHS Walking Tour

May 19 – 8 PM – MHS general meeting. Guest speaker Maryann Adams - Spinning

May 28—Doors Open Milton

June 3 – Blacksmith Intermediate class

June 11 – Heritage Bus Tour (Details forthcoming)

June 16 – 6:30 PM Omagh Potluck dinner

Get ready to celebrate!

The last week in May... we're painting the Town red white and blue

Victoria Day falls on Monday May 23rd
and
Doors Open Milton is on Saturday May 28th

Milton Historical Society will hold our

Flag and Fan Sale
Saturday May 7 & 14th
09:30 am –12pm

You will be able to purchase at reasonable prices

Pleated Fans of red, white & blue
Lengths of red, white & blue cotton bunting,
Union Jack & Canadian flags



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Summer Edition



Gloria Brown and the Royal Wedding Display (see p2 for story).

restorations and will need to take time to heal before looking to the future plans for the rest of the property.

The Milton Historical Society will continue to concentrate on the issues involved in preserving and celebrating Milton's history through our stories, events and heritage neighbourhoods. After a summer break from meetings and agendas, a small task force will assess the most beneficial action the MHS can take to ensure that preservation of our heritage remains on the agenda of our Town Council.

In the meantime, we can celebrate with our neighbours on a close but successful resolution of an unfortunate event. Thank you to all who worked so diligently on this project Nancy Cuttle

President Message:

Summer Solstice is almost upon us. What is summer solstice? Well it was an early celebration, sol + stice derives from a combination of Latin words meaning "sun" + "to stand-still".

Many celebrated the 1st day of summer with dancing & bonfires to help increase the sun's energy. I would think that with the weather we have been having we all should be think-

We Saved the Sanctuary!

As part of Preserving Milton's Heritage Committee we can celebrate with the members of St. Paul's Save the Sanctuary Committee on the positive results of their June 5th congregational vote. By a vote of 174 to 151, the congregation has agreed to proceed with the restoration and improvement project as outlined in the +VG Architects report.

The Ventin Group who were the architects for the Town Hall expansion and the New Milton Centre for the Arts will work with the building committee to ensure that the maximum proceeds are received from the insurance to restore the sanctuary and that exterior restoration of the windows, roof and structure are completed in tandem. The church will undertake a major fund-raising campaign to cover the additional

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ing about celebrating this June the 21st (summer solstice) and hoping for great summer weather!

Our society has been busy over the last few months. During the month of April we hosted our annual Garage Sale, the Blacksmiths ran two classes, one of Blacksmithing and one on Knife Making. Those who attended our April meeting enjoyed our guest speaker Cheryl McDonald. Of course in May we held our Fan - Bunting Sale and our guest speaker Marion Adams demonstrated the fine historic art of spinning.

Some of our members attended the first annual Halton Heritage Network's Conference on April 2 held at the Halton Regional Museum. This group is composed of various heritage societies and groups who have an interest in the history of our Region. We were involved in a number of roundtable discussions lead by various facilitators. Then Professor Ken Weber presented "The War of 1812 – Why Canada is not a U. S. State". Our own John McDonald closed the day with a preview of his upcoming book "In Search of William Halton". John plans to have his new book available this fall. This is one book you don't want to miss. John will be speaking at our Nov. meeting.

Gloria Brown and her team have put together a fine Royalty exhibit which will be up for the rest of this month, so please drop by to see it.

In June, our Pot Luck meeting on the 16th at the Omagh Presbyterian Church, 6:30 pm. We will learn the history of the church and the cemetery grounds so don't miss this one. The Blacksmiths also ran a 2 ½ day blacksmith class the weekend of June 3-5.

As we approach 2012, Ontario will commemorate the anniversary of the War of 1812-1814. You will all know that the final outcome of this conflict ensured our Country's future. By the time you receive this journal our Society will have hosted a meeting on June 6th of the Halton Heritage Network group to begin planning events and activities regarding this historic event.

We are looking for volunteers to assist with coverage on Sat. mornings from 9am to noon. Please let us know if you can help!

Have a great summer!

Cheers Marsha J

Fundraising Initiative: If you have any iron, brass, tin or copper you want to donate then please let us know. Our Blacksmiths will take it to a metal scrap dealer who will pay us for it. Every little bit helps!

Display celebrates Royal Weddings

The meeting room of the Waldie Blacksmith shop has been converted to a Royal wedding theme display this spring. Both visitors and MHS members have enjoyed looking at the collection of wedding related items both past and recent.

The display features photographs of the English Royal weddings up to and including the Prince William and Catherine wedding in May. The collection includes a wide assortment of photographs, several wedding dresses, the earliest dating back to the 1880's. There are also wedding shoes, hats, cake toppers, wedding invitations and other related items.

Although the theme was Royal weddings, a number of our members loaned photographs and other items from marriages of their own families for the display. Thanks to Anne Ptolemy, Kay Bounsall, Gayle & Marsha Waldie for loaning their photographs and other wedding souvenirs.

Knox Church Restoration sets 1.9 Million Fund Raising Goal

By Marsha Waldie

The KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RESTORATION COMMITTEE is striving to raise funds to restore their beautiful Historic Church Building located in downtown Milton. The congregation is committed to preserving this heritage building and sharing it with the community. They hope to begin work later this month or in early July.

Their Capital Campaign has commenced within the church with great energy and enthusiasm, as the overall target is 1.9 million. Their restoration campaign logo says it all: "For Christ & Community".

In the meantime, the work has been proceeding with their architect and engineering design team and they have pre-selected six qualified contractors to bid on the project. Their interior refurbish team have also been hard at work and are now engaging members in the selections. The Town of Milton has seen their proposal and given its endorsement; so now they will

continue to diligently work towards the restoration of one of the blessings in our towns heritage building inventory.

They are seeking the communities prayers and support and the grace of God as they endeavour to complete this major undertaking!

You may wish to consider participating in their fund-raising efforts! Watch for future upcoming community events. Donations can be made to: "Knox Presbyterian Church Capital Campaign", tax receipts available for donations over \$20.00.

Milton Time Capsules—June, 1911

By Jim Dills

The Woodmen of the World will hold their annual decoration of the graves of their departed brethren on June 11th. The ceremonial will be observed by the Milton brethren on that day. They will then proceed to Grace Church for service.

June 15, 1911

The baseball diamond in the fairgrounds has been scraped and is in fine condition, better than ever. The boys are practicing every evening for the two matches on Coronation Day with the Capitals of Toronto.

June 15, 1911

A chapter of the Daughters of the Empire was organized on Wednesday evening 14th inst. In Milton when the following officers were elected: Hon. Regent, Mrs. J.C. Willmott; Regent Mrs. Fred Willmott; 1st vice regent Mrs. Inman; 2nd vice regent Mrs. Robert Stewart; secretary Mrs. George Andrew; treasurer Miss M. Scott; standard bearer Miss Mina Hume; echoes secretary Mrs. Hannant. The name unanimously chosen was "The John Milton" with the motto, "The Beaver for Industry, the Maple Leaf for Beauty, our Hearts for Loyalty." In the absence of Miss Merritt, Mrs. Arthur Van Koughnet, of Toronto, organized the chapter and addressed the many ladies gathered in Mrs. Horning's rooms, to hear the aims and objects, the inception and work of the order....

June 22, 1911

Roy McDowell, of Nassagaweya, manager of E.E. Hartley's fruit farm, appeared before Police Magistrate Dice on Monday evening charged with assaulting a boy named Chew, a strawberry picker. No evi-

dence was taken, the defendant acknowledging having slapped the youngster. He was fined the regulation \$1 and costs.

June 29, 1911

The Coronation Day celebration at the fair grounds on Thursday, under the auspices of the fire brigade, was a great success. There was a large attendance for the daytime sports and a huge crowd for the football match in the evening. The receipts were over \$200. In the tug of war Robertson's lime kilns team won the first pull but the brick makers outstayed them and won the second and third to the great delight of President R.C. Brandon. The football was soccer. The teams were well matched and play was close, but clean.....

June 29, 1911

The first moving picture show of the season, with band concert, was held at Victoria Park on Monday evening. The pictures were pronounced the best ever seen here. There was a large crowd and the silver collection totaled \$29. The next show will come off on Thursday evening July 6 when a new lot of pictures coming from New York will be seen. The shows are under the auspices of the town council and the profits will be spent on seats for the park.

Halton Heritage Conference a first

The first annual Halton Heritage conference was held April 2nd at the Halton Region museum and was very well attended. The guest speakers were Ken Weber and John McDonald. Ken Weber gave an entertaining presentation about the war of 1812 with some keen insights about the personalities of some of the British and American military men. Some of the military leaders were well trained and competent and others were not of the same caliber of leadership.

John McDonald provided his findings on the life of William Halton for whom this county is named. There were a number of other workshop leaders who spoke about History teaching in schools, the Do's and Don'ts of recording oral history, what you need to know about copyright and a guest speaker on writing local history. The organizers plan to make this an annual conference and judging by the response of the participants there certainly seems to be an interest from local historians.

FROM THE ARCHIVES by Brenda Whitlock

Many thanks to Stuart Hill for his assistance with some electronic files that were posing some difficulties to open. Stuart took the discs containing the information and converted them to a form which now allows Brenda to easily work with. The archives volunteers now know who to contact with those stubborn file formats.

Frankie Brown relatives visit archives.

The sons and daughters in law of one time Milton resident and song writer Frankie Brown visited the archives recently looking for any information about him. Frankie Brown grew up in Milton and attended Milton High School from 1940 to 1944. He wrote two songs, Born to Lose and No Letter Today that he submitted to a friend in New York and they were played on radio broadcasts and jukeboxes in the United States. Frank Brown teamed up with fellow student musician Margaret Morrison to complement his written words. Gloria Brown was aware of the story of Frankie Brown and shared her knowledge with the relatives. Gloria remembers that Frank Brown was also a good singer and would perform locally in his youth. The archives has a page of sheet music written by Frank Brown and donated to the archives by Jim and Shirley Dills. Frank Brown was the only son of Mrs. Bertha Brown and Margaret was the daughter of a well known business man, William Morrison. If you have any information about either Frank Brown or Margaret Morrison please pass this information along to volunteers at the archives.

WWI Research—Who Received a watch?

At the end of the Great War, the Town of Milton honoured soldiers who served in World War I with commemorative gold watches. There was no list of recipients known to exist and Richard Laughton of our society decided to create a list of recipients based on exhaustive research of newspaper archives, MHS research related to the Soldiers of World War I book and a number of other sources. Richard has come up with an estimated number of 118 watches awarded by the Milton Town Council. The report lists the names of the confirmed and probable recipients of the gold watches based on the Town Council's selection criteria.



Halton County Tarvia Gang in 1938. (Left to Right) George De Forest, Jim Wilson, Bill Mitchell, Bill Powell, Raymond Miller, Ern Wilson, George Thomas, Clark Harris, Orlo Coulson and Charles Powell (in the back).

"Times were hard in the 1930's" Judy Houston

Halton county roads department was hauling Tarvia from Paris Ontario. In order to make a day's pay, truck drivers had to get up at 3 or 4 a.m. to drive to Paris to get in the line-up to get loaded - first there, first served. The tarvia had to be unloaded while still hot, so consequently the men wouldn't get home until 8 or 9 p.m. No over-time pay in those days."

A complete report is available on line at the Milton Historical Society website. Richard is the author of the report of Milton's Gold Watches and he also maintains our website, which has recently undergone a facelift to refresh our site. Thanks Richard for your extensive research and maintenance of the MHS website at www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca. If you know of the location of any of these World War I watches please let us know so that the recipients list can be updated. In the spring Richard became aware of two more gold watches from the Ptolemy and Beasley families.

War of 1812 Bicentennial

A planning workshop has been organized by Halton Heritage Network to help coordinate and plan for how this area of the province will participate in the two hundredth anniversary marking the War of 1812. There is a website that is dedicated to the anniversary of this important chapter of Canadian History. The website is <http://www.1812history.com/>. This site has photos of a number of artifacts provided to the site from local museums in the Niagara area.

Do you have an ancestor who fought in this conflict and settled in the Milton Halton area? Is there a War of 1812 story to tell about this family member? If so the Milton Historical society would love to know and hear about it.

Historical Home Research

(An excerpt from research by Marsha Waldie)

24 Martin Street

Lots 1, 2 and 3, Plan 68

John Martin Survey

Built approx. 1908

In 1854 Henry Winter P.L.S. surveyor established the Martin Survey Lot 1 Block 5 Plan 68. This property was registered as part of the survey in 1868 and John immediately transferred it to his brother Jasper Martin.

Jasper held procession until 1870 when he sold to Charles Waugh who in turn sold to Joseph Hustler and William McKenzie in 1874. This pair then began to operate a full blacksmith business. Mr. McKenzie bought out Mr. Hustler's interest in the property a year later. Joseph was born near Hornby and had decided to move to Hamilton, where he died in 1924. He had worked in Milton at the carriage shop operated by William Gould.

William was born on the family homestead in Nassigway (1848- Aug. 9, 1902). He married Ellen ? better known as Ella (1850-Nov. 6, 1914). The couple had four sons: William, John, Kenneth and Lorne. Mr. McKenzie learned his trade at Messrs. Culp and McKenzie in Georgetown and then went to Stratford prior to being employed with other similar business owners in Milton.

In the July 1892 Champion, William is advertising buggies, cutters, sleighs and wagons built to order as well as horse shoeing. He was a member of the Home Circle and the Milton Fire Brigade. The family were members of Knox Presbyterian Church.

William was taken ill on Main Street and died at his residence. He was a well respected individual with many friends attending his funeral, with interment in Evergreen Cemetery. Mrs. Ella McKenzie died at Parkdale Private Hospital and was brought to Milton for interment in Evergreen Cemetery.

In 1901 there was a quit claim registered to Reliance Loan and in 1907 Reliance Loan sold to Clara and Eldorado F. Benson of Hamilton. Benson immediately sold the property to John P. Roper Jr.



24 Martin Street, Milton as it appears today.

It was reported in the Champion in July 1907 that Mr. Roper had purchased the property at the corner of Mill and Martin Streets, lately occupied by E. F. Benson. He is having the old shops torn down and will replace it with a new dwelling. The basement was dug and on July 30th, 1908 it was reported that the house was being plastered.

The Roper family almost lost their new home on Jan. 21, 1909 when a fire broke out in the old blacksmith and carriage shop. However the fire brigade soon had it out but could not save the shop. There was some slight damage done to the home and its contents. The lessee of the shop, Mr. W. P. Whitney had been carrying on a blacksmith and carriage repair business for about a year. He lost everything and unfortunately did not have insurance coverage as he had signed but had not yet paid the premium. It is noted that Charles Bundy was his predecessor in the shop.

John P. was the son of John Pollard Roper Sr. (1824-1903) and Ann Speedie (1849-1919). His father operated a grocery business on Main Street. John Jr. followed in his fathers footsteps and also operated a grocery business for many years. He eventually sold out to the Carroll Chain Stores Ltd., of Hamilton.

John (Sept. 19, 1872-June 1949) married Harriet Cairns in March 1895 (Nov. 12, 1871-Sept. 1953) the daughter of Maria (nee Gilmore) and Samuel Cairns. Harriet was born in Campbellville, Ontario. They had children: Charles and Frank who died in infancy.

Halton Newspapers Searches Online

The Halton Newspaper Digital Archive was launched at the beginning of the year to increase the availability of newspaper records online. The local papers include the Acton Free Press, The Canadian Champion, The Oakville Beaver and the Burlington Post. The archives includes both references to where the newspaper articles can be found and in some cases the person searching can read the newspaper directly online. The website includes a search feature that allows you to search all the local newspapers. The website can be found at <http://news.halinet.on.ca/search>.



Peter Kimber McWilliams 1926-2011

Jim Dills recognized by Rotarians

Congratulations to Jim Dills for receiving the Paul Harris Award. This award is presented to a community volunteer who exemplifies putting service above self. Jim has made tremendous contributions to our society, to St. Paul's church and also to the Rotary Club. Well deserved Jim!

Peter Kimber McWilliams Q.C.(LLB, B.Sc)

Peter McWilliams passed away recently at age 85. At the age of 16 Peter entered Harvard but the arrival of WW II interrupted his studies and he joined the U.S. Navy where he served in Hawaii, Japan and China.

He pursued the legal profession and was called to the Ontario bar in 1953 and began his legal career in Mil-

ton. In 1958 he was appointed Crown Attorney for Halton County for 10 years. In 1990 he published "The Rambling Tales of a Country Lawyer" about the bench, bar and people of Halton County.

Peter McWilliams led an accomplished life and he certainly had an impact on our area. Our condolences to his family and friends.

Welcome New Members

Hilary Henderson
Toni-Lynn Hannon
Stuart & Robin Hill

Single Memberships are \$20.00

Milton Historical Society MONTHLY PROGRAMS

June 18th— 08:45 AM Bus tour departs Waldie Blacksmith shop to Dufferin County museum and visit to the Village of Erin.

July 1st— Canada Day celebrations at the Milton Fairgrounds

July 28 to Aug 1st—CANIRON VIII at Sportsplex in Fergus, Ontario

Sept 2, 3, 4 and 5—Milton Steam Era, Milton fairgrounds

Sept. 15th—Milton Historical Society 8 PM—Guest

speaker to be announced

Sept. 17th - Level 1 blacksmith class.

Sept 23, 24 & 25—Milton Fall Fair at fairgrounds

The Journal is a publication of the Milton Historical Society and is published 4 times/year and serves to keep members informed of the activities of the society. If you would like to submit items to the Journal they can be dropped off at the Waldie Blacksmith shop or e-mailed to miltonhistoricalsociety@bellnet.ca
Care of Journal Editor—Bruce Carlin

Have a Safe and Enjoyable summer :)



The Journal

Milton Historical Society 16 James Street, Milton, Ontario L9T 2P4 Telephone 905-875-4156
www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca

Sept, 2011 Vol. 26 Issue 3

Fall Edition



Ingrid and Paxton Bailey in front of the Canada Holland War Memorial Wood Carving from our recent bus trip.

Oct. 20, 2011. The launch will be held at the Halton Regional Museum.

Please note the upcoming date for our annual Historical Book Fair, which will be held Sat. Nov. 26th, 10 am – 2 pm. We expect to have other historical book sellers join us. This is a great opportunity to pick up that special Christmas present.

This year our society will be releasing the reprint of Gwen Clarke's, "Halton Pages of the Past". It was originally published in 1955 and has been a long-sought item. This new release will have many additional photos.

Next year Ontario and Canada will begin to celebrate the Bicentennial War of 1812-14. There will be many special events taking place throughout the country, something for everyone.

Marsha Waldie U. E.

St. Paul's Update

By Jim Dills

Restoration work is progressing at Knox Presbyterian Church and at St. Paul's discussions have begun and plans are being made to restore and improve the 1890 sanctuary. This is good news for those who see the preservation of these two important churches, along with Grace Anglican Church, have a continued presence

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President's Message

Hope you have all had a great summer and are now looking forward to the fall with the lovely colours about to explode.

We have had a great core of volunteers who have assisted our society throughout June, July, Aug. and Sept. manning the Blacksmith Shop and in The Alex Cooke Archives. Our society could not function without volunteers; there is always something to do which will help us to preserve our heritage. If you can help please speak to one of our Board members.

Many of you will know that one of our members, John MacDonald has been traveling around the world looking for information on William Halton. The Region of Halton was named - originally Halton County in his honour. This new exciting book is about to be released on Thur.7 pm,

on the town's Main St. and business district.

All will continue to need financial support if these impressive buildings are to be improved and maintained. Unfortunately there is no government support for this work, as there is in municipal buildings, and so the congregations and friends in the heritage community will undoubtedly need to be supportive at a personal level.

June Pot Luck – Omagh

Our June Pot Luck supper and meeting was held at Omagh Presbyterian Church on Britannia road. As usual, there was an abundance of good food, which was enjoyed by about forty members. Following supper Mr. Tom Hill told us about the history of the church followed by a tour and walk about the cemetery. The church dates back to 1838 and has much of the original furnishings.

June 18th Dufferin County Bus Trip

Members enjoyed a mix of history, arts and shopping on our recent bus trip to Dufferin County. The Dufferin County museum has a wonderful collection highlighted by exhibits of clothing and linens and cornfield glassware. Following the tour of the museum we visited the historic Alton Mill which has been converted to a series of art studios and finished our afternoon with a visit to the village of Erin for some shopping and ice cream. It was a glorious day and thanks to Mirella Marshall for organizing the trip.

Milton Biographies

Burling, Richard

Undertaker, Furniture Business, Grocery & Confectionary Store
1845-1926

Richard Burling was born September 9, 1845. He married Emma Stephens (Nov. 22, 1854-May 25, 1910). The couple had three children: Edith, Roy and Herbert. Following Emma's death, Richard married Rachael Copeland (?-April 1940) the daughter of George Copeland.

In May of 1900 he purchased the building which stood on the south east corner of Main and Charles Streets,



Burling Furniture Store at Main and Charles (Since demolished)

(1970 removed) from the estate of John Lyon. The family came to Milton from Weston, Ontario.

It was noted in the paper that he had a first class hearse and a full line of undertaker's supplies. Richard operated an undertaking and furniture business at this location with his partner, nephew Charles H. Burling. Of interest was an item in the March 3, 1904 Champion: "Mr. Burling had an accident on the way home from a funeral in Kilbride, Ontario. The hearse upset in a snow drift and all the glass on one side was broken and the hearse had to be left on the road", thank goodness it was not on the way to the funeral! Two years later January 3, 1907 it was noted that a: "John McDonald of Oakville, whose hip was broken was transferred in a conveyance belonging to the Burlings. He wasn't a "dead one" however, but was setting out for a Toronto hospital and was going to the C.P.R. station. It would certainly appear that Richard was community minded in helping his fellow residents.

It was very common to have these two businesses conjointly operating and owned in the same building. Funerals were usually held from the deceased person's residence. Charles gave up his partnership and moved to Pickering, Ontario. In 1910 Richard entered into partnership with Clarence R. Turner who eventually took over the business. In September 1910 the two received a diploma as efficient embalmers in Toronto.

Richard bought a grocery and confectionary business from Joseph Tock in 1912. He sold this business in 1915 and left town. He moved to Kettleby, Ontario where his wife Emma had been buried. He died there

June 3, 1926 and was interred in the Kettleby Cemetery. Emma's funeral service was held in Milton and then she was transferred to Aurora by train for interment in Kettleby Cemetery.

The Burling family were members of the Methodist Church. Richard served on Milton Town Council in 1905 and 1908.

Research: Marsha Waldie
 Written by: Marsha Waldie
 Sources: 1901 Census
 Canadian Champion, Jim Dills
 Milton Historical Society Archives

Milton Time Capsules—1911

by Jim Dills.

September 21, 1911

Messrs. R.C. Brandon and G.A. Perry addressed a meeting at Noah Hamilton's house, Mansewood, on Monday evening, in support of Mr. Smith, Liberal candidate for Halton. While the meeting was in progress someone unknown removed the nuts from the axles of some of the vehicles which stood outside and the indignation of the owners was hot when they discovered it.

October 12, 1911

George Gordon has finished his waterworks contract and the other contractors have nearly finished. The pipes are being teamed this week to where they will be put, and within a week or so the water from the Agnew spring will be turned on, putting an end to the water famine, Milton's last, it is to be hoped.

October 19, 1911

Workmen are busy preparing the Winn shoe factory building for the J.W. Williams Co. and the Willmott buildings for the Edwards Motor Co. A boiler has gone into the Willmott building and an engine is on the way. The plant and output of the Robertson screw factory have been greatly increased lately and additional hands engaged.

November 2, 1911

The woods of this neighborhood were full of sportsmen on Thanksgiving day and they brought home a number of cottontail rabbits. Partridges and black and grey squirrels have increased greatly under the protection of the three-year special order-in-council for Hal-

ton. It is to be hoped that they were not molested.

November 2, 1911

The public school had to be closed on Tuesday. A cement floored and walled cellar was made for the furnace of the new heating plant. It was hoped that it would be soakage proof and no drain was put in. The hope has been blasted. There was so much soakage that the fire in the furnace was put out last week. The school was kept open one day, unheated. Pumping was tried without much result at first, but more successfully later, and the school is again open today. A drain must be opened as quickly as possible all the way to the hill on Pine Street south of Mr. Deacon's residence (corner Court and Pine).

November 16, 1911

The interior of Christ Church, Omagh has been undergoing repairs during the past few weeks. A new Georgia pine ceiling has been put in and reflects great credit on the contractor, Samuel Henson, of Milton. The whole of the interior has been repainted and grained and Messrs. Armstrong, Gollins and Maxted have the thanks of the congregation for the very able manner in which they did their work. New carpets, mattings and choir chairs have also been added and the Anglicans are now the proud possessors of one of the prettiest churches in the neighborhood.

November 16, 1911

A scheme for a hospital for Milton is under consideration. A suitable building is available, furnished. If the owner's terms are satisfactory and the financing can be arranged it can be opened on short notice. The need for a hospital here has been realized for years.

December 7, 1911

The bilingual schools are coming in for a good deal of discussion in the present election campaign, but it is to be feared that nothing will come of this unless the English-speaking citizens of Ontario, Protestants and Roman Catholics make the question non-political and unite in demanding that English shall be the language of this British province and the only language taught in its public schools. Now is the time to do this.

December 7, 1911

The boiler in the power house got out of order on Monday and we have had no electric lights for three nights. Fortunately the moon was full on Tuesday and the weather has been clear, so street lights were not missed.

December 21, 1911

It is announced that on New Year's Day twenty six Ontario municipalities will vote on Hydro-Electric power by laws. There should be a 27th. Milton manufacturers already established here want electric power and more will be attracted if we get it. The Board of Trade should moved in the matter and bring it before the town council.

Alex Cooke Memorial Awards

Every year a graduating student from each of Milton's three high schools is selected to receive the Alex Cooke Memorial award. Recipients are chosen on the basis of high marks in history and who will be pursuing university in a related field. The recipients for this year are Colleen Grieve of Bishop Reding, Anthony Cooke of Milton District and Malik Fayed of E.C. Drury. Congratulations and good luck to all.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

by Brenda Whitlock

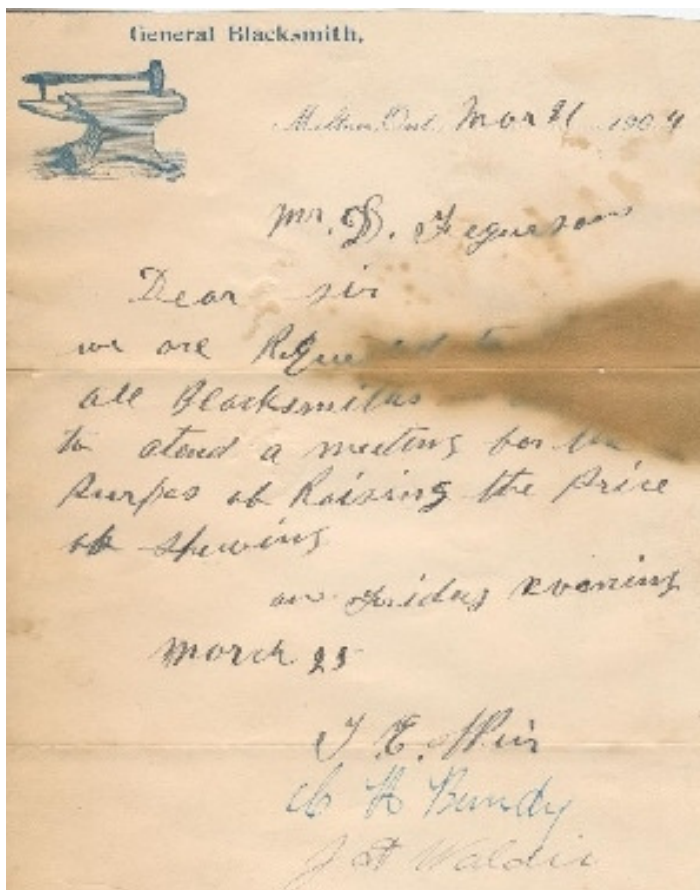
Meghan Ross has been volunteering her time at the archives and helping with research on a number of biographies including Thomas Easterbrook, George Edwin Bousfield and Peter McWilliams Q.C. Meghan. Meghan is a history student from the University of Guelph.

We have had a number of visitors over the summer-time visit the archives researching family histories. People are very appreciative of the warm welcome and knowledgeable volunteers of our archives.

Milton's Horseshoe Cartel

By John Duignan

You just never know what will pop up at a local garage sale. Over the Labour Day weekend a very interesting item appeared which has significance on a few different levels. Pictured is a letter and an envelope addressed to a Mr. D. Ferguson of Ballinafad. The text of the letter is as follows (or what is legible through the stains). Spelling leaves a bit to be desired but you'll still understand.



Milton, Ont., Mar 21 1904

Mr. D. Ferguson

Dear Sir

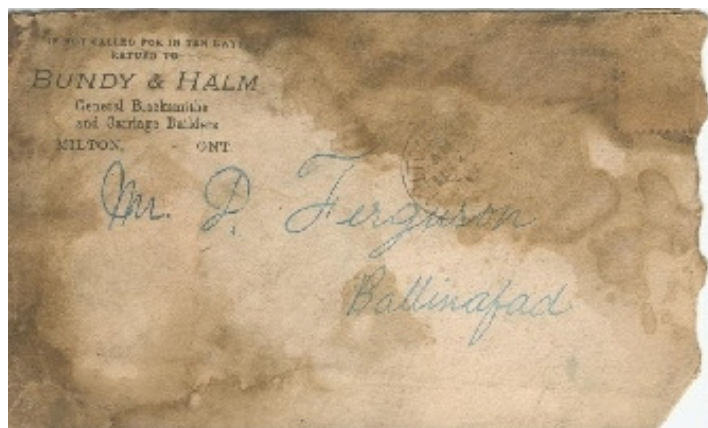
We are requested to all blacksmiths to attend a meeting for the purposes of Raising the price of shewing on Friday evening March 25

T.E. Weir, C.H. Bundy, J.A. Waldie

Obviously Mr. Ferguson's hands were a bit dirty when he read the letter. The postage stamp likely fell off long ago! It is a miracle that someone didn't throw it away thinking it a filthy bit of paper. The letter seems to be an attempt by local blacksmiths to increase revenues by agreeing to set a standard price through the area. The signatories to the letter were all Milton blacksmiths. Tom Weir operated where Carriage Square is now, Charles Bundy of Bundy & Halm was located on Commercial Street where the Creamery building still stands and James Waldie was on James Street as we all should know.

We know a fair bit about the Waldie operation but not

as much about the other blacksmiths. Therefore the envelope is rather interesting. The address side of the envelope shows the sender as Bundy & Halm, General Blacksmiths and Carriage Builders. Many of the artifacts from the Bundy operation remain with the family. Grand-daughter Lynn made sure the anvil remains a treasured family heirloom along with many of the tools of the trade. Sadly the Bundy home on Mary Street was torn down a couple of years ago. The actual letter has had the top trimmed off so we can't tell whose stationery it was. This was most likely done at the time as it was a letter from a few blacksmiths. It would appear that Mr. Weir wrote the letter and Mr. Bundy addressed the envelope. Perhaps it was on Waldie letterhead. It obviously was a team effort.



The reverse of the envelope advertises a "Big Firemen's Tournament" to take place in Milton on August 4, 1904. These were big events for the time period and people travelled from all over Ontario to attend. Special rail excursions were organized, events were well attended and winners of competitions not only received prizes but were immortalized on photo postcards detailing



Publications

Halton's Heritage—New Publication

Local author and member of our society John McDonald has spent the last three and a half years researching and writing a book about William Halton, the person who our county was named after. An official book-launch is scheduled for 7 PM Thursday, October 20th at the Halton Region Museum. (Note that our October meeting has been cancelled to allow us to take in the launch. If you need a ride out to the museum, please leave a message on the office phone at least one week before the event and arrangements will be made.

Halton's Heritage is about more than just the story of William Halton, it also covers the creation of the Gore district and Halton county. The book also includes the origin of the names and description of seventy five settlements that exist or existed in the history of the county.

Halton's Heritage will be published as a hard cover book and is 300 pages in length. A very special guest will be attending the book launch, a descendent of Mary Halton (William's sister) is traveling from Aus-

Halton's Heritage

William Halton and Halton County



John McDonald

tralia to attend this event. There will also be officials from Halton Region on hand for the launch. Congratulations John on the completion of your latest publication.

If you cannot attend the October book launch John will be our guest speaker at the November general meeting.

Halton's "Pages of the Past" - Reprinted

The Milton Historical Society is pleased to announce the release of "Halton's Pages of the Past" written by Gwen Clarke and published in 1955 has been reprinted and expanded by the Milton Historical Society. A limited number of copies will be available at the Society's Book Fair Sat. November 6, 2011 at 10 am.

The 170 page book includes an expanded number of pictures (188) including many that were not available when the first edition was published by Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd. More than 50 years ago.

This edition has been completely reset, original pictures have been used where available and the pages are slightly larger for easier reading. The text has not been changed from the original. Special permission was granted by Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd to permit printing the copyright work. Copies of the original have been long sought items for local libraries and it is hoped reprinting of this brand new edition will meet that need.

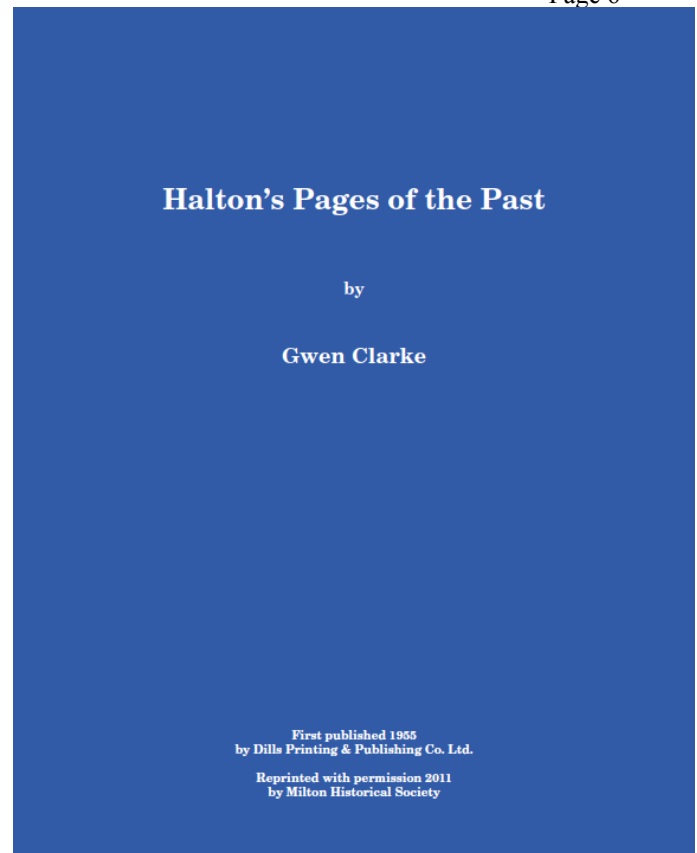
Family Recipes book

Have you got a favourite family recipe? The Milton Historical Society is planning to publish in 2012 a historic recipes book in recognition of our thirty-fifth anniversary. We are looking for about one hundred recipes. Recipes can be for a variety of dishes such as salads, casseroles, cookies, cakes, etc. Please ensure that recipes include exact measures as well as the method of preparation. Please drop off recipes at the blacksmith shop or at one of our general meetings.

Blacksmith Shop News

Thanks to Mirella Marshall for painting the outside front doors of the blacksmith shop with a new coat of stain. Nice job!

Several of our volunteer blacksmiths attended the CanIron VIII July 28 to Aug. 1st in Fergus, Ontario. This event was sponsored by the Ontario Artists Blacksmith Association and brings in blacksmiths from all over North America for demonstrations and exhibits.



Welcome New Members

Elly Koelewyn, Ken Morley, Susan Snider
Shelly Snider

Single Memberships are \$20.00
Double Memberships are \$35.00

Passings

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Gordon Hume this summer. Gordon was a long time member of the Milton Historical Society and a life long resident of the Scotch Block. Gordon and his family have been active members of the Boston Presbyterian church for seven generations. Gordon helped Gloria Brown with research for the Scotch Block book published in 2009 by the Milton Historical Society. He was also active in other groups including the Steam Era Club, the Mason's, St. Clair Lodge # 135, receiving a sixty year pin in 2004 as well as a member of the Esqueing Historical Society. Gordon was in his 93rd year. Gordon will be missed by many. Our condolences to the family.

Milton Historical Society

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

September 15th 8 PM, MHS General Meeting
“Towers of Time” speaker Marc Boileau Learn about
the architecture of the Post offices of this area.

Sept 17th—Beginner Blacksmith Course

Oct 1, 2—Fine Arts Society of Milton studio tour,
Waldie’s Blacksmith shop is one of the stops.

October 20th 7 PM, Book Launch of Halton’s Heri-
tage by John McDonald at Halton Region Museum
(Note the MHS general meeting for October has been
cancelled).

November 17th MHS General Meeting 8 PM
Halton’s Heritage Presentation by John McDonald

November 26th MHS Book Fair at Waldie Blacksmith
shop from 10 AM to 2 PM—Local heritage books for
sale, get an early start on your Xmas shopping.

December 15th 6:30 PM Xmas Potluck Dinner and
program

Dec 31 11:30 PM Annual New Years Eve Historic
Bell Ringing in Milton’s Historic Victoria Park. Join
the MHS and Mayor Krantz as we ring in the New
Year.



The Journal

Milton Historical Society 16 James Street, Milton, Ontario L9T 2P4 Telephone 905-875-4156
www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca

Dec. 2011 Vol. 26 Issue 4

**Winter
Edition**

**Happy
Holidays!**



Presidents Message:

We are almost into 2012, which will be a special year for our Society and indeed Canada. Our society will be celebrating its 35th Anniversary. The Government of Canada has indicated that they are planning celebrations across the Country regarding the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812-14 and the Diamond Jubilee of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, both which will begin in June 2012.

War of 1812-1814 :



The war of 1812 was of great significance to Canada. Had the United States been successful it is likely Canada would not have evolved as a separate Country. In

light of this it is important that we all look forward to the special event celebrations which will be happening over the next three years.

Halton is part of the Western Corridor – Pathways to Peace, which runs down towards the Niagara area and west towards Detroit. The corridor links various communities, including the first nations. You can keep updated by checking out the web site for this area:

www.westerncorridor1812.com

Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee:

As our Prime Minister indicated, "Canadian's have good reason for celebration as we mark the Diamond Jubilee of our head of state. For the second time in our history we honour the 60-year reign of a Sovereign. The Queen has dedicated her entire life to the service of others and has always held this Country and all Canadians in the deepest of pride and affection."

Milton Historical Society 35th Anniversary:

Our Society was founded in 1977 and many of you will know that our 1st goal was the preservation of the County Court House and Jail. The building had been abandoned and many were very concerned as to its future. Through the efforts of our members the Town eventually ac-

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quired this magnificent historical building and re-stored it to what we all take pride in today - Milton's Town Hall, Hugh Foster Hall and Victoria Park Square.

Our Historical Society is dependent on its volunteers and their dedication. The work that they do is essential to our success. As I close out my term as your President I encourage and challenge you all to become more involved, it is very rewarding. An individual can make some progress but a team with common goals working together can make things really happen, that is our Society!

I thank you all for your support and encouragement over the past two years; it has been a blast and very tiring at times. You certainly all helped and worked together to preserve and highlight the importance of our town's historic buildings and our rich heritage.

Marsha Waldie U. E.

1917 Crash landing WWI near Milton

Submitted by Judy Houston

Recently, a story appeared in the Milton Champion, in Milton Time Capsules for November 1917, of a pilot who escaped injury in a rough aeroplane landing at the A.S. Willmott farm near Milton. The propeller was smashed and the machine otherwise damaged. The pilot was in the uniform of a R.F.C. cadet but said he was Lieut. Bedier, of the French army and had been at the front from the beginning of the war until coming to Canada to act as an instructor. He said he came from Camp Borden and was forced to descend on account of engine trouble. Many people from the town and neighborhood viewed the wreck.

Snow falls vary as winters change

Submitted by Jim Dills

Those early December rains didn't fool anyone that winter would follow soon.

It's different now. As years advance our memories of winter make us feel that "winter isn't what it was." We all have memories of difficult winters. But let's put our memory book aside and recall some real life stories.

In February of 1889, just as the Milton curlers were about to leave town on Friday for their match at



Milton residents congregate around airplane crash near Milton.
Photo by Eva Houston 1917

Brampton, the team attached to their conveyance became frightened and dumped them all into the street. Fortunately no one was hurt, but the carriage, which belonged to Anderson's livery stable, was wrecked and they had to get another. There was no report of their success or otherwise in Brampton.

Getting around in winter has always provided some difficulty. Imagine then in March of 1904 local undertaker R. Burling's problem. He was returning from a Kilbride funeral and on his way home his hearse upset in a snow drift and all the glass on one side was broken. The damage amounted to about \$60 and the hearse had to be left on the road overnight until it could be brought home the next day.

In early January of 1931, as a result of the heavy fall of snow on Monday, the heaviest that winter, the sleighing in this district was good. It was also felt the snow would help to increase the water supply on some of the farms. Some farmers had been paying as high as one dollar for a large tank of water for their thirsty stock.

That same year the doctors were busy with people stricken with winter ailments, notwithstanding the hourly injunctions of the radio announcers and their remedies.

It was November of 1931 when, after weeks of fine weather, Old Man Winter made his debut in Milton, the mercury sinking from 60 degrees on Tuesday to the 30-degree mark Wednesday afternoon when a strong north wind lashed the district, accompanied by snow flurries. There was a thin sheet of ice on Martin's pond early that morning.

But the next year, in January 1932 hockey fans were despairing of seeing any games that winter as about ten days had elapsed since the date of the first O.H.A. game of the local players was scheduled. On account of mild weather very little ice has formed in the arena, consequently the boys had not been able to practice.

Cold weather brought social problems to the community. Children's Aid Society Inspector G.F. Thompson reported in 1932 that a large number of complaints had been received during the winter months with forty seven investigations, many due to the lack of employment of the wage earners.

In November 1933 there was good news for hockey fans all over Canada in the announcement that General Motors hockey broadcasts were definitely to be continued and on a larger scale than the previous winter....The hundreds of thousands of radio listeners in Ontario who enjoyed Foster Hewitt's rapid fire account of the hockey matches of the last year were delighted to know that he was to be at the microphone again for every game played by the Maple Leafs on their home ice.

Winter weather in 1934 saw the Hydro men thawing out dozens of underground water pipes but the difficulty was that once thawed out the water has to be allowed to run constantly or bingo! The pipe was frozen again in a few minutes. This was the first winter for many years that Milton had known anything about underground frozen water pipes. The frost was said to be down more than four feet.

The 1930s were difficult years in Milton and in November 1934 we get a sense of the mounting problem of hardship faced by families. *The Champion* editorialized, "As another winter confronts us the question of relief work, which when started three years ago was thought to be only a temporary measure, is just as big a problem as ever. Without a doubt there are more people at work now than when the problem was first faced. However, the earnings have been small and have allowed scarcely for catching up with past obligations. Credits have been stretched past the limit and savings have gone. The problem this year is just as serious as it was at the outset. The question of funds, that were so generously provided by citizens, is also a serious one. Many who gave freely now find themselves in a position where such cannot be continued. Their savings have also reached a point where the work cannot be carried on as in the past. Perhaps the



question this year is the most serious of any year since assistance started. Governments are finding the load heavy too and are enforcing stricter regulations on the municipal bodies administering relief. The present season will see plenty of call for assistance and the problems more difficult to face."

It was typical of winter but in February 1935 snow storms made the "back lines" hard to navigate and even highways had quite a bit of snow on them.

Weather patterns were changing though and in March of 1937 it was reported that only 17.6 inches of snow had fallen that winter, while the average was 66 inches and farmers were worrying about their well-based water supplies.

Any predictions for this winter's snowfall?

Winter: Memories of Milton excerpt from Mel Robinson memories as published by the Milton Historical Society

One of Mel's scary sleigh rides around 1911 – "One winter day while coming home from school, Mel and his friend walked down Pearl St. towards the creek. Straight ahead was the steep slope down to Fulton St. It looked very inviting and with little traffic, but there was no great expanse at the bottom after you passed Fulton as there was the creek. You had to make a sharp turn with your sleigh and glide along the path beside it.

Mel's friend had his sleigh which was the same general type as Mel's. He offered it to Mel and down he went, picking up speed as he shot past Fulton St. As he approached the creek he pulled on the handle to turn along side the creek, which was the usual practice.

It was at that time he discovered that it was not like

his own sleigh. The handle was fixed rigidly to the frame, and he could not steer with it. It was too late to steer by dragging a foot. He swooped gracefully to the bank of the creek and plunged headfirst into about fifteen inches of very cold, rapidly-flowing water. Mel staggered to his feet, the owner of the sleigh bawling for its return. Mel threw it at him as well as he could.” “It was a cold, wet experience running home from that point about a half mile to the west end of Victoria St. That was Mel’s last sleigh ride on that hill.”

FROM THE ARCHIVES

by Brenda Whitlock

We are collecting information about Milton residents who were connected with the War of 1812 or who had ancestors who were active in the war. Thomas Racey (1791-1881) evidently fought in the War and later became Land Registrar of Halton. He was associated with Grace Church and is buried in St. Stephen’s Anglican church cemetery in Hornby. He married Helen Nelles and they had five children. We are wondering whether anyone would have a connection to this family and if so, a picture of Thomas Racey. He did not die until 1881 and photographs were readily available at that time and had been for a number of years. Any help on this would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you to the following donations;

From Richard Laughton for two copies of his work on Milton’s Commemorative Gold Watches; a mystery from the past”. One is for the Archives and the other is for circulation. This is an “ongoing” work and will be updated as Richard finds more information and more watches.

From Cathy Goulding for the donation of two boxes of Boy Scout memorabilia, photographs, magazines, song sheets, etc.

From Mrs. B. Whaley – genealogy of the Whaley family, two pictures of her husband Raymond – one was taken in WWII and the other more recently. She also included memories of his service in WWII that her husband had written. She also included photocopies of some land deeds belonging to the family.

From Doris Pranke of Ottawa – a beautiful copy of the “Milton Semi-Centennial 1857-1907” booklet. We



Blacksmith interpreter Fred Johnson entertained and educated Milton 7th Beavers troop recently.

were very pleased with this because the one we already own is not in such good condition. Also, two copies are better than one copy!

Publications

Do you still have some people on your Christmas shopping list? Check out our publications including the recently reprinted Halton’s Pages of the Past by Gwen Clarke which was originally published in 1955. Also Milton’s Semi Centennial of 1907 has been reprinted and includes many photos of early pioneers of the area as well as photographs of early businesses.

Blacksmith News

The 7th troop of the Milton Beavers recently learned firsthand the art of the blacksmith and how steel, fire, blacksmithing tools and the skill and sweat of a blacksmith can transform a steel bar or rod into a useful item such as a hook for the home.

Fred Johnson of our society recounted to the Beavers how a blacksmith apprentice would work for no wages, only room and board for several years before becoming fully qualified to practice the trade. The apprentice was given the more menial duties such as cleaning the shop and would progress over the years with more responsibilities requiring higher levels of skill.

A blacksmith knife making course was held in November with instructors Michael Currie and Larry Maughan. The final product from the course was a hunting knife with steel blade and antler of a deer for a handle and a leather holder for the knife.

A new schedule of blacksmith courses for 2012 has been posted on the MHS website. Courses include both beginner and intermediate levels.

Welcome New Members

Ken Featherston, Amy Posner, Ken Purvis, John W. Tickner

Get your 2012 membership today. See membership form on page 7. Single Memberships are \$20.00, Double \$35.00

Milton Area Biographies Campbell, Louise (nee White) 1850-1920

Homemaker, Land Developer

Louise White was born in Trafalgar 27 Nov. 1849 the eldest daughter of John White who was born 8 June, 1811 at Omagh, County Tyrone, Ireland. John became a prominent Halton business man and he was a Member of Parliament for Halton during Confederation 1867. He died 3 May 1897 and is interred in Evergreen Cemetery, Milton. Her mother Louisa Knight was born 16 September 1822 in Hamilton Ontario and died 12 February 1909. Her parents married on 15 February 1849 in Palermo. They had two other daughters Sarah E. and Charlotte (Zimmerman). Two baby boys died in infancy and she had a half brother Thomas Lyon from her father's first marriage to Mehitable Post. (see Vol. 1 Milton Biographies)

Louise's maternal grandparents Dey Knight and Sarah (nee Springer) were Empire Loyalists coming to Ontario from Maine around 1812. Her grandmother was a descendant of Baron Springer Archbishop of Holland. His son was the Bishop of Wilmington, North Carolina and became the first Church of England Bishop for the state of Delaware.

Louise grew up in Milton attending the local public school and Knox Presbyterian Church. She was a child in 1854 when legislation was passed to build the

county buildings in Milton and seven years old in 1857 when Milton was incorporated as a town. The most historic event she ever witnessed was Canadian Confederation in 1867 and the part her father played as a long time Halton representative, (1851 – 1872) and Reformer MP. He was only defeated once - in 1854. This defeat inspired him to partner with Samuel Clarke in founding the Halton Journal newspaper. It would support him prior to the 1857 election.

On 31 Aug. 1876 Louise married David Watson Campbell. He was three years older than her, born 17 April 1847. They had four sons: John Murray, Edward Charles, Norman MacLeod and William David and two daughters Louise (Louie), and Charlotte, the twin of Wm. David. On 2 April 1896 David died after one of the first performed appendectomy operations. He was operated on at home by a surgeon from Guelph. Four months earlier 12 Dec. 1895 Louise's sixteen year old eldest child Louie had died. Louise suffered two huge losses and was left with a young family to raise on her own.

David had been an active community member, a politician and a partner/publisher of the Canadian Champion. (see biography in Vol. 1) As Mrs. David Campbell, Louise assumed a prominent role in Milton society. She was an accomplished pianist who gave generously of her talent and time playing for local patriotic functions and at church events. She was secretary of the Ladies Auxiliary at Knox Presbyterian Church and volunteered doing work for the local Red Cross committee during the First World War. Her sons Norman and David served overseas. The John Milton Chapter IODE, to which she belonged, was very active in the war effort and later in fund raising to support community projects and for bursaries to young people pursuing higher education.

Louise loved gardening and enhanced her home creating beautiful gardens. She went on to become a land developer selling properties left to her from David's estate. Two lots were severed on her Victoria St land where she lived for the next twenty years. Louise died 4 Feb. 1920 at the age of seventy and is interred at Evergreen Cemetery, Milton..

Research by Marsha Waldie, Written by Susan Henderson. Sources Alex S. Cooke Biographies, Canadian Champion and Evergreen Cemetery.



HAPPY New Year!

Mayor Gord Krantz *and the* Milton Historical Society
invite you to an old-fashioned

Family New Year's Eve Celebration

Sing out the Old, Ring in the New

With the Song Spinners Chorus

Saturday, December 31st, 2011
11:30 pm to 12:15 am

Victoria Park Gazebo & Town Bell
Hugh Foster Hall, 141 King Street



Bundle up and bring your voices and instruments

We will supply the song sheets and hot cider

Gather around the historic bell at midnight to
Ring in the New Year

Milton Historical Society

Monthly Programs

December 31 at 11:30 pm—Family New Year's Eve Celebration Victoria Park Gazebo. MHS members are invited to a pre-celebration at the Waldie Blacksmith shop at 9 PM, bring along snacks and beverages. Local historian John McDonald will be the special citizen of the year to ring in the New Year!

January

1st 1:30 –3:30 pm Mayor and Councillor's New Year's Day Levee – Milton Town Hall

19th 8:00 pm Annual General Meeting/Members Show and Tell

February

11th 9:00 pm OABA Annual Meeting

15th National Flag Day in Canada

16th 8:00 pm Monthly Meeting Guest Anne Fisher from Heritage Milton

20-26 Ontario Heritage Week

March

12th Commonwealth Day

15th 8:00 pm Monthly Meeting TBC

17th 9:00 am Level One Blacksmith Class – Must Register

YEAR: _____

**MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

16 JAMES ST., MILTON, ONT. L9T 2P4

TELEPHONE: 905-875-4156

WEB SITE: www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca

New:

Renewal:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone #: _____

E-Mail: _____

Membership Fees:

___ Single \$20.00

___ Double \$35.00

___ Student Free

Please mail or deliver your Membership Application to
Milton Historical Society at 16 James St., Milton, Ont.
L9T 2P4

Donations to the Waldie Blacksmith Shop Foundation assist
In maintaining & operating this interpretive centre in the
Heart of Milton. Donations of \$10.00 or more are income tax
Deductible and receipts are available.

I want to HELP Milton Historical Society by volunteering: I've indicated my
interest-

___ Blacksmith Shop Interpreter, Assisting : ___ in the archives ___ with exhibits ___ with
social times ___ phone committee ___ walking tours ___ school tours ___ researching local
history ___ staffing during open hours VOLUNTEERS are a vital component to our
Societies Success