

Merrickville and District Historical Society

Archival Update, Fall 2013



Welcome to late autumn, or perhaps now it is early winter, and our next edition of the Archive Update. What a glorious summer we had, but it is now time to channel our energies to the updating of the artifacts and documents still waiting to be catalogued. Also after emptying out some of the old and somewhat decrepit filing cabinets and placing all the information they contained into the new cabinets, they now have to be identified, labelled and tabs made to indicate what each file represents. Not particularly a difficult task but a very time consuming one.

Hidden Treasures

One day in early spring, while blockhouse manager Gillian Hammonds was doing a little spring cleaning, she came across a part of a newspaper that had been used as a lining in a chest of draws in the bedroom exhibit area. The paper had been cut to fit the draws and therefore was not the whole page, just the top portion, and it was from the Toronto Globe dated February 5, 1873. A few little interesting items in the newspaper, copied as printed, included:

Advertising

JIG SAWYER - NONE BUT A good steady man need apply, Oshawa Cabinet Co., Oshawa

MILLER – GOOD, IMMEDIATELY, one accustomed to either gristing or custom wok in a country grist mill, Wage \$20. per month and found. Apply by letter or in person to the subscriber. George Caswell, Sen., Coldwater P.O.

BOSS WEAVER-IMMEDIATE –non but sober, steady man need apply, single man preferred. LYNNE MILLER WOODSTOCK

Medical and Dental

CANCERS CURED BY DR. Wood without the knife and almost without pain, and the cure warranted, at Ottawa Cancer Cure.

J.W.ELLIOT, DENTIST USES HIS OWN NEW PATENT Fillers, Extractors, and Moulding-Flasks. 46 and 45 King-st, West, over E. Hooper & Co. Druggists.



“Hold on there, what’s wrong with this picture?”

Lost and Found

WOLFSKIN ROBE LOST – LAST Saturday week, on Queen-st, between the Asylum and York st; \$5 reward by returning it to CHARLES BURNS Saloon. York st.

\$4 REWARD WILL BE PAID to anyone returning the red moroccr (illegible?) pocket-book with patent clasp, containing sum of money, lost on Monday evening about half past five. Return to No. 72 John-st.

Projects – A work in progress

Blockhouse Museum Inventory

During the summer we found that a number of visitors to the Blockhouse Museum asked a variety of questions about the artifacts that were on display, and unfortunately the answers were not always readily available. It was suggested that a book be produced which would be made available in the blockhouse so that wherever possible a particular item of interest could be located and perhaps additional information could then be provided.

Nancy Warr has been diligently transcribing information that we already have on various programs that are available in the Archive Database under the “Blockhouse Museum Display Inventory” as well as two typewritten wonderful books that have subsequently been located in the archives entitled, “1984, Placement of Artifacts, Books 1 and 2”. When combined together these will give much more detail of all the items on display and possibly a description and/or other relevant information with regards to each artifact. Transferring the information into a new format that would be easy to read is a somewhat tedious job, but Nancy is plodding along. There will be two binders of information – inventory listed by location within the Blockhouse; and inventory listed numerically.

Oral History

Back in 1980 the Society requested and received a grant from the Ontario Government in the amount of \$600.00 under the “Experience 80 Program” to compile a library of oral accounts of the history of the Merrickville area. Under the guidance of Jack Pinder-Moss, Angela L. Walton was hired during the summer to interview residents of the Merrickville, Burritt’s Rapids, Carley’s Corner, Jasper, and Easton’s Corners area. Some of these interviews are hand written, and some typed. She also kept a handwritten daily diary from June 9th to August 18th.

Again in 1981 more residents were interviewed by Lori Maxwell and the information transcribed by Annette Bradley. These were transcribed on a manual typewriter and are on legal size paper. They show corrections in pen and some are marked as rough. As the typed copies were easier to read, it was decided that they should be the first to be transcribed to a more reader friendly format and eventually published in book form, copies of which would be kept in the Archive, Village Library and perhaps the Blockhouse. They certainly do make for fascinating reading and I am sure they would now be appreciated by the younger residents of the Merrickville and Wolford area.

All that being said, like the Blockhouse Inventory; they are a work in progress as they say. Everything takes time to format and transcribe, and then hopefully, be transformed into reader friendly books when completed, should funding allow.

Archive Open House

We did have a very successful open house back in September and I think the visiting public were quite pleasantly surprised at what they saw. Many questions were asked about the artifacts on display, and credit must be given to those folk who resisted the temptation to handle them. We will have another open house in the spring; but as the Society has indicated before, the archives are there for the general public and, although they are not open on a regular schedule, we would be more than happy to open the doors for viewing on an appointment basis.

Also should anybody wish to donate any items of interest that they feel would benefit the archival collection, please feel free to contact the Historical Society or myself at 613 269 4289 and I would be happy to discuss whatever you might have in mind.