



Welcome to the summer addition of the Archive Update, although I must admit we are at the latter end of the summer and the weather could have been better but still it didn't seem to stop everyone from keeping busy and having fun. This of course meant that the Archives were a little neglected and unfortunately not a great deal of cataloguing was done. But the archives are monitored on a weekly basis to be sure that everything is in order. And we are now pleased to announce that the Burritt's Rapids Community Association (your landlord) has installed a permanent de-humidifier with an automatic pumping system that allows the water to be pumped directly to an exterior outlet, this now gives us the freedom to not have to be present on a thrice daily visit during the very humid days of summer to empty the water bucket. The BRCA are to be commended on their efforts to work with their tenants and provide an environment suitable to our needs. We thank them; they are a great group of people to work with.

The Society as you know have a large collection of artifacts, most of which are in the Blockhouse Museum, and are on display on a daily basis for the general public to view during the summer season when the Blockhouse is open. The other part of the collection is unfortunately hidden away in a new climate controlled environment, as most of it is paper or fabric material which when exposed to the environment could deteriorate at an alarming rate. So they are catalogued, cleaned if need be, placed within acid free paper, and stored in the same acid free boxes. The archives have shelves of boxes as you can see by the photographs. These are all numbered and most have a listing of the accession numbers on the boxes, which allows archival personnel to retrieve the relevant information placed within the boxes, which has been catalogued in the computer system. They consist of mainly communication artifacts such as the Women's institute, Merrickville Star, The Packet, magazines, school books, atlases, and one box listed as "Watchhorn Co. Ltd." which holds ledger, receipts, letters and advertisements all from the Watchhorn Company, and of course many more, just too numerous to list.



Another one of the boxes for example is box number 3, titled "Orange Lodge".

This box consists of eleven envelopes of material. Contents of each envelope are listed on the front of the envelope and they date as far back as 1843. In fact there is a letter post marked December 15th 1843 to Mr. C. H. Whitmarsh and is signed by the Grand Master of the day and with the Lodge Seal intact. Most of the envelopes contain Applications for Admission from the early 1900's but there are membership receipts, annual return forms, pledge cards, delegates credential forms, account receipts, correspondence, and in envelope number 5 there is a letter dated 1859. Unfortunately this envelope indicates that the item inside is in poor condition, so there it stays, untouched.

There is also an interesting document written by M. J. O'Brian, Grand Organizer of the Orange Grand Lodge of Ontario East, Gloucester Street, Ottawa, and typed on original letterhead, dated September 21st, 1922 on the subject of "The Separate School Question in Ontario". Very interesting reading indeed.

Also this summer we had a donation from your past President Mr. Denis Faulkner who, while clearing out an old house, found some wonderful old newspapers. They were "The Ottawa Evening Journal", "The Ottawa Journal" and the "Record News" all dated July of 1931. And interestingly enough, it would appear that back in the 30's one had to subscribe to the newspapers, which would have been delivered to your mailbox by Her Majesty's Royal Mail. All of the newspapers were delivered to a Miss Olivia Brown at Box 72, Merrickville, Ontario. Would anyone be familiar with the family of Miss Brown?

A few of the advertisements are quite interesting, since prices have changed a little over the years. These were printed for The Ottawa Evening Journal on Wednesday July 15, 1931 for the Thursday morning bargains.

Bryson - Graham's Thursday Bargains

(Located at the corner of Sparks and O'Connor Sts)

Men's and Boy's Dressy Sport Oxfords - size 6 - 10, \$2.98	Women's Smart Boudoir Patent Slippers - size 3 - 7, \$1.15
Men's and Young Men's High-grade 2-Tousers Suits - \$19.95	Women's "Jean Gordon" Print Frocks - size 18 - 42, \$1.98
Odd Lines Men's Shirts - Clearing Thursday 9.00am - \$0.89 each	Women's Silk Hosiery - size 8 ½ - 10 ½ - Clearing Thursday - \$0.89
Two Plate Electric Grills - \$3.79.	23 Piece China Tea Set - \$1.39

Today's Dollar Stores weren't the first to have their dollar days, it would appear that Bryson - Grahams' also offered grocery specials on Thursdays.

These are just a few of the examples.

Dumart's sliced cooked ham, special flavour 2lb for \$1.00	Gold Medal Table Jellies all flavours, 17 for \$1.00.
Dumart's Breakfast Bacon by the piece, 5lbs for \$1.00	Sugar/Flour Combination 10lbs Redpath and 12lbs Five Roses all for \$1.00
Clover Leaf Salmon, 3 for \$1.00	Peaches and Pears Aylmer, squat tins 9 for \$1.00
Fray Bentos Corn Beef, 5 for \$1.00	Surprise and Comfort Soaps, 20 bars for \$1.00

Thanks again Denis for your contribution to the Archives. And of course should anyone have any old papers or magazines that they feel could be best stored in the archives, we would be more than grateful to receive them.

We do also have a number of publications in the archives and sometimes when being cataloguing, one tends to spend more time reading than cataloguing.

Did you know that the population of Merrickville in 1842 was 970, in 1891 it was 1,072, but in 1971 it was down to 930, back up again in 1991 to 983 and in 1996 it was 1,027 but still below the year of 1891. In 1998 the Village of Merrickville amalgamated with Wolford and the numbers escalated and in 2006 were up to 2867. Alas in 2011 they were back down to 2850.

No doubt you might think, just a little piece of useless trivia, but interesting none the less.

Two more items on display are this lovely oil burning wall lamp and a pair of ice skates. I would guess the skates might be for a gentleman, or maybe not, since ladies probably didn't have the choice of the fancy white or coloured ones that are available today.



Oil burning light fixture, not dated and no record of donation.

Description reads:

A metal light fixture that can be attached to the wall. It is square with two sides having glass panels and two sides being metal. One of the metal sides opens to the inside. Inside there is a wick and a knob for adjustment. There is an ornamental section on the top with holes for ventilation. A long segment sticks down from the bottom. (Presumably to handle when opening and closing the side door)



One of a pair of ice skates, donated by Mrs Bessie Whaley, in August 1976.

Description reads:

Modern style, full boot ice skates, Automobile brand,
Blades are Nickel Steel Tempered, Patented August 1, 1905
Size 7 1/2, Leather laces.
Length 32 1/2, cm, height 20 cm

Should you wish to visit the archives, please don't hesitate to contact us and we can make an appointment to show you your collection of artifact, those on the shelves, those hidden away in boxes which we can open to take a peek (if not too sensitive) and also demonstrate how the artifacts are catalogued.

You don't have to be a member of the Historical Society to visit the Archives, they are open to the general public, but having a membership would be nice. We appreciate the support from the community and the Village for the archive project, but when making applications for grant assistance, the higher the membership numbers, the greater the chances of receiving available grants, they do say the more the merrier. So don't forget to renew your membership this coming October. The annual membership runs from November 1st to October 31st, \$10.00 for single, \$15.00 for family and \$100.00 for life members. This can easily be taken care of when either visiting the Archives, or attending the monthly lecture meeting, or you can even just send a cheque to the Merrickville and District Historical Society, P.O. Box 394, Merrickville, Ontario. K0G 1N0

Our call for photographs seems to have fallen on deaf ears, we didn't receive any calls or emails about you all rushing up to the attic to see what you might find, but then as we said the summer has been a busy time for everyone, and nobody wants to spend their days indoors, good grief the winter is long enough for us to be cooped up. Still if you think you might have any photographs you would like to donate or have us scan or copy we would be happy to come and pick them up. Memories are wonderful to have but a picture says a thousand words, and if shared with others, history lives on.