

DRAFT

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

ARCHIVE REPORT – NOVEMBER 2022 – DECEMBER 2024

The Archives has been busy the last two years. First of all, we have two new members of the Collection Committee – Julie Hamilton and Cindi Delcorde. During this time, the Committee has:

- accepted, reviewed and accessioned 111 objects and photographs;
- helped set up the Blockhouse for the summer and shut it down for winter;
- provided training to the students;
- disposed of obsolete electronic equipment;
- removed 'light-sensitive' documents from the Blockhouse, made replacement copies for the Blockhouse and retained the originals at the Archives
- updated exhibits
- responded to requests for information, provided tours, etc.
- North Grenville Historical Society Quilt Collection book for 2024 – seven of our quilts, in particular, the signature quilts will be featured in this book and will contain our website so the public can obtain more information on them.

PASTPERFECT MIGRATION

The PastPerfect migration project is still on-going. During the last year, all images in the 'Object' and 'Photos' categories have been labelled. This allows the general public who access our digital records to print the item and a descriptive label will be on the bottom of each print. The label also has the accession number on it should they request further information and can reference it.

There were 5,180 object records for a total of 14,827 images and 1,148 photographic records for a total of 2,071 images.

CREELMAN COLLECTION

Many thanks to Jeff Murray who took on this task of reviewing the Creelman collection. The collection consists of materials documenting school operations in the rural community of Burritt's Rapids primarily in the last half of the 19th century. It included property taxes that supported operations as well as records of property acquisition and transfers. There were also records pertaining to the school operations, financing, property assessments and mortgages, as well as some general correspondence and multiple examples of payment receipts.

Jeff reviewed, organized, provided detailed descriptions and assigned accession numbers to all 325 records. He has completed all of the scans and has turned over the documentation for input into

PastPerfect. The project will be finished within the first three months of 2025. Again, many thanks to Jeff.

BALMORAL LODGE No. 280 COLLECTION

The documents donated by Chris Chinkwsky consisting of semi-annual reports from 1904 to 1915 including financial data, receipt books, cancelled cheques, Lodge By-Laws and other miscellaneous records. Further research is required. There were 172 items and 456 images.

McLEAN COLLECTION

The McLean Collection consisted of his business correspondence and financial records as well as his personal papers from 1928 to 1951. The accession of the collection has been completed after several years. There were 577 objects input along with 1,182 images.

WATCHORN EXHIBIT

Thanks to donations from the Watchorn family and others, an exhibit was mounted in the Blockhouse room. The exhibit consisted of the history of the mill, family portraits, community participation, original blankets and suit material samples produced over the century by the Watchorn Woollen Mill. As well, there are photographs of other mills and factories in Merrickville and area at that time.

MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

- **Political Buttons** – We received a donation of approximately 1,000+ political buttons for consideration into the Archives. They consisted of municipal, provincial and federal election buttons. We sorted, categorized and researched the items. Internet searches were done and very little information on many of the candidates could be found. The decision on the fate of the buttons has been discussed and they will be sold.
- **Military Metals/Buttons** – Upon clearing up the boxes in the Archives, a number of military uniform buttons were discovered. There were no accession numbers nor any indication who donated them. Jeff Murray reviewed and researched them, completed his report with a list of items with descriptions and valuations. After much discussion, the decision was made to sell them.
- **Gilroy Collection** – we recently received from the Smiths Falls Historical Society a collection of photographs, postcards, letters, etc. on the Gilroy family who lived primarily in Burritt's Rapids. The Committee has accepted this collection into the Archives and Cindi Delcorde is currently reviewing and researching it.
- **Pews Collection** – we also received a large collection of documents, photographs, framed pictures, tapes and books on the Merrickville United Church from the Ann Barr.

- **McLean Panels** – the panels are worn and need replacement. A review is being undertaken to update the information and reprint them in both languages.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Many thanks to our volunteers who gave the Merrickville and District Historical Society 1,678 hours of their time working at the Blockhouse and the Archives, researching, working on collections and specific projects, providing tours and participating on the Executive Board and Collections Committee.

Nancy Warr
Collections Committee