

HERITAGE HAPPENINGS



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February Public Meeting

Aboriginal Farm Workers

Pauline Grondin

Pauline is a professional storyteller, heritage performer, historical interpreter and musician who has been telling stories and making music all of her life, to listeners from the age of 2 to 102. She was given the honour of having her name included on the Ireland Canada Monument in Vancouver, B.C. This monument "honours Irish Canadians for their immense contribution to Canada".

Pauline is also the recipient of the Halton Heritage Award, the Burlington Junction Appreciation Award and the Hamilton-Wentworth Heritage Award. Her stories and music have been recorded for Route 1812, a driving route linking historical sites and cultural institutions in Southwestern Ontario, Toronto and the Niagara regions.

Stories of the Aboriginal Farm workers are seldom told and not generally recorded in the pages of history, yet

their roles were vital to Canadian farms including those in the Village of Aldershot. At the request of the Métis Women's Circle of Hamilton, Pauline spent two years researching and interviewing Elders from the community to piece together this important part of our history.

The story is told in first person as Pauline portrays a 1947 farm wife reminiscing about the Native farm workers, their families and their contributions throughout the years in the Aldershot farming community and beyond.

February 22, 2019
8:00 pm

St. James United Church
 306 Parkside Dr
 Waterdown

Free Admission All are Welcome!

Upcoming Programs

Mar 29: History of Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum
 Apr 26: History of Hudson's Bay Company

FLAMBOROUGH FUN FACT

East Flamborough almost became a French Speaking township in 1793 when the Land Board in Newark awarded the whole township to members of the French nobility who were fleeing from the horrors of the French Revolution. They were a political embarrassment to the British



government when they arrived in England seeking a safe haven, so settlement in Upper Canada seemed to be the answer to the problem.

The emigration scheme never materialized.

Clappison's Corners Heritage Paper #279

Clappison's Corners, located around the intersection of Hwy 5 (Dundas Street) and Hwy 6 was once a thriving community of its own, serving the people of the surrounding farms. At its height, the settlement consisted of three hotels, a blacksmith's shop, a post office, and a store

The small community took its name from Henry Clappison, who owned and operated the largest of these stage coaching stops. His hotel the Clappison Hotel first opened for business in the early 1860s when travel from Hamilton northwards was improved by the opening of Snake Road.



*Clappison Hotel 1950's: Photo credit Local History & Archives, HPL.
Bruce Murdoch collection*

Another prominent family in the history of Clappison's Corners is the Flatts. Robert Flatt/Flett came to Canada from Scotland with his brother William in 1816. They initially settled in Fort Garry near Winnipeg with four-year contracts to work for the Hudson Bay Company. At the culmination of their contracts, the Flatt brothers successfully transported a prisoner for the HBC by walking over 1000 miles from Fort Garry to Fort York near Toronto. In compensation for this effort, the brothers were granted

100 acres on either side of what is now Flatt Road, which intersects with Waterdown Road just north of the 403. Robert changed his name from Flett to Flatt, built a home on the western shore of Lake Ontario near Waterdown, and engaged in the timber business. On October 16, 1819, Robert married Mary Baker. On June 25, 1828, Robert purchased 50 acres north of Waterdown in East Flamborough Township from Mary's brother. Together they had 14 children. Their son John took over the family farm. He was on both the East and West Flamborough Councils as a councilor and as a warden. In 1894, he won the seat of North Wentworth in the Provincial Legislature for the Liberal Party. He was very involved in the elimination of the toll-gate system and advocated improved highway conditions. He ran a successful timber business with his sons, W.D., Jacob, and D.C.

W.D., or William Delos, was also a livestock breeder renowned for his work with Shorthorn cattle. He executed a transaction with the Royal Family to send the first Shorthorn cattle over to Canada and thus implemented this hearty breed into the country. William also went into the real estate business on a large scale, carrying on an extensive development in the southwest part of Hamilton. He was a pioneer in the promotion of the Toronto-Hamilton Highway and was recognized for his efforts by the Toronto-Hamilton Government Highway Commission.

Clappison's Corners also played a unique role in the history of the telephone in Ontario, and in general. In 1883, the intersection was the meeting point of the two wires to Hamilton, the two wires to Toronto, the one wire to Guelph, and the two wires to London. The newly completed lines to London stopped at Clappison's Corners instead of continuing to Toronto and Hamilton because a long-distance switchboard at Clappison's made possible the connection of the London circuits to Guelph, Hamilton, or Toronto as desired. This switchboard was most likely the first of its kind in existence. It was located upstairs in the small hotel on the northwest corner of the intersection.

The rapid rise in the popularity of the motor car sparked a number of road improvement and building projects in the Hamilton area during the 1920s and 1930s, none more spectacular than



the cutting of a road through the gap in the Niagara Escarpment at Clappison's which became known at the time as Clappison Cut. This was an ambitious project and resulted in a road straight up the escarpment, making it much easier to get to Guelph. Clappison Cut was initially an incredi-

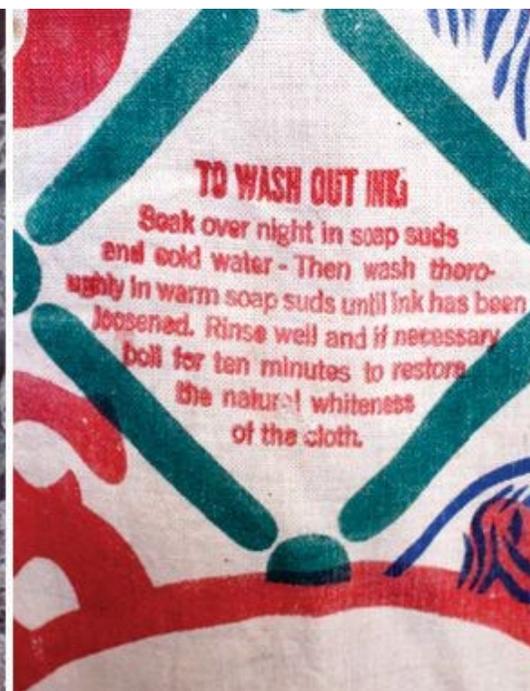
bly dangerous strip of road due to its' steepness and lack of lights, leading to a high lack of visibility. Accidents were commonplace here and in 1966 there was much press for lighting. In the early 2000s, Clappison Cut received \$27 million in safety upgrades.

With the road through the Cut many of the early businesses of the small community died as gas stations and the famous art deco B-Hive Restaurant replaced the hotels and the blacksmith. Many other rural corners were put out of business, so to speak, by the coming of the Motor Age and modern highways, but Clappison's Corners was not. True, its' industrial makeup was drastically modified, but as the businesses were replaced, garages, 24-hour restaurants, and modern service stations where thousands of motorists and truck drivers are catered to every week took their place and kept the area alive. The B-Hive Restaurant, however, came to its demise with further development as highway rest stops became a feature of long-distance travel.

By Shawna Deathe
Student Archivist

Flour Sack Dresses

In the 1920s and early 1930s, families were growing larger than ever as they spread out across the country; however, when the Depression hit, things like new clothes for their growing children became less important than food and shelter! In those days, flour and feed sacks were made of cotton, and when the manufacturers saw that women were using the cotton fabric to make dresses and other items for the family, they stepped up and began printing the fabrics with colorful patterns!



THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

By Lyn Lunsted,

In this age of 'political correctness' for absolutely everything, perhaps we should stop and think about the time period that people or things existed in before we decide that there needs to be a change. Societal norms have changed and evolved through the years and customs and writings of the time were normal. Changes should be made when it comes to ensuring fairness and equal opportunity, but should we be trying to change or erase the past when the only thing 'wrong' is that the values are not those of today?

In our collection we have cards and postcards, some of which date back 100 years and more. Our collection of Valentine's cards is interesting to browse through and one can quickly see the changes in social history by looking at the illustrations and text.



If you want a gal that's glamorous
At six A.M. or so,

Whose hands come out of dishpans
Lookin' soft and white as snow;



If so, I ain't your gal-- but if
A gal like me would suit you

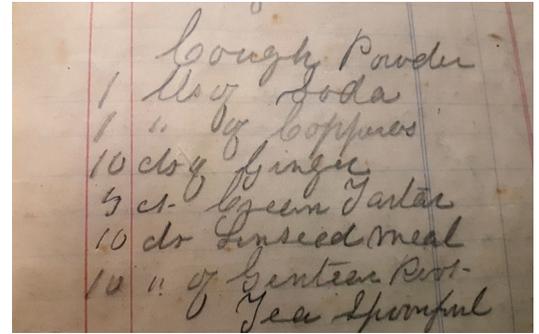


Some of these are definitely not acceptable by today's standards but they are indicative of society at a specific time period and should be viewed as just that—social history. When taken in that context, they are fun to read.

TREASURES FROM THE ARCHIVES



Our Valentines display is getting a lot of notice this year. Comprised of Valentines through the years, Meghan Martin (archive volunteer extraordinaire) has showcased cards from the Isabella Drummond and George Wray collections. We hope your Valentines were as inspired. Stay tuned for the St. Patrick's Day spread.



Cold Season is here! Check out this 19th C. recipe for cough syrup.

(Found in a Day Book/Diary possibly by Robert Stewart of Freelon (1889-1992))

The Sale of A Negro Slave . . .

Through the kindly co-operation of Mrs. John McKinley Morden, relict of the late John McKinley Morden, a scion of the first operator on the Flamboro Stream, we have received many important documents for investigation, relating to the early Mordens and Cochenours, the two early families being affiliated through marriage in the early years of the last century, and among them we found an agreement of sale of a Negro slave.

The story goes that Jonathan Morden of the State of New Jersey had decided to leave the United States for Canada, so had disposed of all his American holdings, including his collection of slaves. A young Negro named Phill had been closely associated with Mr. Morden, more or less as his personal attendant. He, with others, was sold to a Sarah Axford, of the State of New Jersey. On learning of his fate, poor Phill returned to his former master and pleaded so effectively that "Marse John" would not desert him, that Mr. Morden repossessed him. Phill came to Canada and the Flamboro Stream with Mr. Jonathan Morden and remained with the family until his death as a very old man. Mr. Morden gave him his freedom on entering Canada. The following is the agreement of sale. The writing is in script and the signatures of all, painfully affixed:

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS

That I Sarah Axford of the Township of Axford, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, for and in consideration of the Sum of Ninety Pounds, lawful Currency of the State aforesaid, to me in hand paid or secured to be paid at and before the Sealing and Delivery hereof by Jonath. Morden, of the Township of Knottown, County and State aforesaid, the Receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge. HAVE bargained and sold and by these presents do bargain and sell unto the said Jonathan Morden aforesaid a certain NEGRO SLAVE NAMED PHILL, aged fourteen years, during his natural life, to have and to hold the said negro boy,

during his natural life as slave. And I have by virtue of these presents bargained and sold unto the said Jonathan Morden, his Executors, Administrators and assigns, the said negro slave, during his natural life--AND I the said Sarah Axford for myself, my Executors, administrators and assigns, the said negro slave unto the said Jonathan Morden, his Executors, administrators and assigns and against all and every other person and persons, whatsoever shall and will warrant and defend by these presents.

In witness whereof I the said Sarah Axford have hereunto set my name and affixed my seal, this 15th day of April, 1801, the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and one.

Signed, sealed and delivered

her

In the presence of

Sarah x Axford

Samuel Vansickel

marke

Lydia Axford

(from "West Flamboro Township Centennial" book)

**The Flamborough
Heritage Society**

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2nd Vice President:

Carol Snell

Secretary: Sue McNally

Treasurer: Lyn Lunsted

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Nathan Tidridge

Board Members

Bailey Cripps

Danielle Herrnstein

Brenda Jefferies

Mary Beth Kennedy

Keri Raphael

Kim Hirst, Newsletter



NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY

Did you notice last month that the heading on the newsletter now says Flamborough Heritage Society? Since there is no real presence of a historical society in West Flamborough, the Board of Directors has decided that we want to be inclusive of all Flamborough. We are still known legally as The Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society (which is quite a mouthful), but now this will help keep our names consistent from the Flamborough Archives to our website and Facebook page.

The Archives has collected material from East Flamborough, West Flamborough and Beverly Townships since the early days and this name change on the newsletter brings us more in line with our own facility.

The Board of Directors have been trying figure out ways that we can incorporate all Flamborough in our meetings, Board and Archives. If you have any ideas to help please let us know.

Chris Rivait
President

AREA SOCIETY WEBSITES

The **Ancaster Township Historical Society** -

www.ancasterhistory.ca

The **Burlington Historical Society** -

www.burlingtonhistorical.ca.

The **Dundas Valley Historical Society** -

Www.dundashistory.ca

The **Grimsby Historical Society** -

Grimsby Historical Society.

The Hamilton Historical Board -

www.hamiltonhistoricalboard.ca

The **Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society** -

Head of the Lake Historical Society

The **United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, Hamilton Branch** - www.uel.com

The **West Lincoln Historical Society** - www.wlhs.info