

HERITAGE HAPPENINGS



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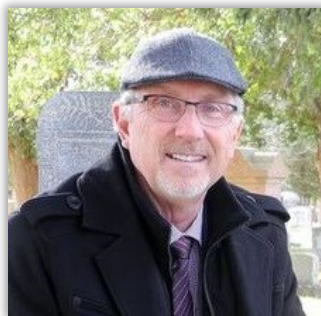
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JANUARY PUBLIC MEETING

Canadians in the Civil War

Mike McDonnell is a member of the Waterford and Townsend Historical Society, Toronto Civil War Round Table, and The Friends of Gettysburg. He retired in 2015 after 36 years of policing and is in his third year as an usher for the Toronto Blue Jays.

Mike's interest in the American Civil War goes back to when he was about 10 or 11 when he read an article in *National Geographic* about the Battle of Gettysburg. Over the years he has toured many Civil War sites with a special interest in how topography affected the battles. This presentation provides an overview of why Canadians became involved in the war. The experiences of several people are examined; some of which will be familiar to students of war.



Friday, January 31, 2020

8:00 pm

St. James United Church
306 Parkside Dr
Waterdown

Free Admission All are Welcome!

Upcoming

Thurs. Feb. 20

7:00 PM

**Black History in
Flamboro
Waterdown Public
Library
163 Dundas St E.**

ANNOUNCEMENT

Starting at our February public meeting, we will now charge a \$5 admission fee for non-members.

The board has been discussing the benefits of society membership and felt that free admission to our monthly meetings should be one of them.

The \$5 admission fee will be refunded should a visitor decide to become a member.



HERITAGE PAPER #286

The Blagdon/Blagden Family

John Blagdon and Mary Thomas were married in Nova Scotia in 1815 at St. Paul's Church, Halifax. In 1842 they, along with their seven children, settled in Lowville, Nelson Township on land purchased from the Canada Company for £50. The Lowville property was left to the youngest son who sold it in 1904.

It wasn't until a joint wedding between Edward Blagdon to Eliza Newell, and his sister Emily to Eliza's brother Charles that the family moved into East Flamborough. Edward purchased 100 acres of Concession 7, Lot 4 for £125 where he and Eliza lived in a two-story log house. This house was where all six of their children were born.

In 1862, Edward farm was profitable enough that he could afford to hire Thomas Le Mesurier to build a stone house in the style of an 'English Manor'. The finished product was a stunning two storey house which boasted a summer kitchen at the back. The summer kitchen included a pit for butchering and scalding pigs as well as a winch to raise the animals. This was likely a later addition to the house, though the date of construction is unknown. Perhaps one of the most interesting features of the house is the "mother-in-law door". A mother-in-law door was a door constructed on an upper storey leading outside, which indicated



Edward Blagdon House — 1996

to the tax-man that that house was incomplete as a balcony would be added at a later date. Often, there was never any intention of building a balcony, for as long as the house remained 'unfinished' the owner didn't have to pay any taxes.

The Blagdon Family was one of around twenty-five East Flamborough families who participated in 'The Beef Ring.' This cooperative, if you will, arose due to the difficulties of storing meat in the summer months. Each family would be responsible for providing one 850 lb animal to be slaughtered by John Robinson of 8th Concession. On a family's given week, they would pay the fees for the animal's slaughter but in exchange would get the tongue and the heart, delicacies of the time. Each of the families would take turns delivering the meat.



Alfred Edward (Ted) Blagdon plowing in Carlsile, accompanied by little Evelyn Blagdon.

The house and property were passed along to Edward Jr. In 1910, Fredrick and Grace Beeforth bought the house and property from the Blagdon's but on the night of their move, the old Beeforth house was destroyed in a fire so the deal was off. They lived in the house, with the Blagdon's, until a new stone house was built on their property. In 1942, the property and house passed to Edward's nephew, Ray. Edward Jr. passed away in 1943 at the property on which he was born. Edward's older brother John had seven children, five of whom made it to adulthood. Alfred Edward, the eldest son, married Mary Moore. Mary was an active member of the Carlisle Red Cross

who met to knit, quilt and sew for the war effort (WWII). John himself was taught to drive at eighty years old by his two granddaughters, practicing behind the Carlisle United Church. While he never drove alone on the road, he needed to drive for his job as the inspector for the township.



Archival image titled only 'Family group with Mr. Blagdon's new motor car'

The Blagdon family tradition was for the eldest son to use the names John and Edward for his sons. This tradition was broken when Alfred Edward had four daughters. While this charming tradition kept the original Blagdon names alive, it meant that there is great discrepancy over which Edward Blagdon gets credit for owning one of the first Model-T's in the village. Alfred Edward is often reported as simply Edward or Ted so there are family accounts and multiple publications which contradict each other as to which Edward owned the car.

The next generations of Blagdon's have been instrumental in documenting and preserving this history. The family has hosted a variety of reunions over the years, and in 1986 hosted a reunion and visited a variety of family historical sites. Spelled as Blagdon and Blagden over the years and in various sources, the family has a rich history.

Rosemary Giles, Student Archivist

FLAMBOROUGH FUN FACT

The formal dedication of Sealey Park was on July 1, 1931. As reported in the Waterdown Review "The Park comprises all of the old school grounds of three acres on Main Street and is admirably situated for that purpose. The old stone school house has been removed with the exception of the fourth room, which has been converted into a club house. A fountain and many flower urns, also the gift of Mr. Sealey, have been artistically placed on the grounds, and a gateway of two stone pillars, taken from the old building, with an arch and the name "Sealey Park" connecting, has been erected at the Main Street entrance.' Reeve Speck extended the thanks of the citizens to Mr. Sealey : " Your generosity, Mr. Sealey, in presenting this park is indeed great, and the fact that the gift is presented with absolutely no restrictions only adds to the feeling of regard in which you are held in Waterdown. It will always be known as Sealey Park and will remain a silent witness to your goodness."



The strange thing about this is that the dedication was the highlight of day long events to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Waterdown as an incorporated village. Waterdown was incorporated by County of Wentworth By-Law 276, dated June 5 1878. A Golden Jubilee is to celebrate 50 years.
 $1878 + 50 = 1928$. Why was Waterdown's Golden Jubilee celebrated in 1931 ????

AN OLD-FASHIONED RECIPE...

Down to the bare minimum in your pantry after the holiday season? Why not try a vinegar pie! Common sense tells us that vinegar has no place in dessert. But there's an unusual group of pies known as "desperation pies" that have been around for ages. These desserts were borne out of the need for a sweet treat and a lack of fresh or fancy foods. The vinegar provided a tartness when fruits like lemons or apples weren't available. Its taste and texture resemble a typical custard pie. The following are three versions of the pie you can test out and shock friends and family when they discover the star ingredient!

Pioneer Vinegar Pie

1 egg
1 heaping tablespoon flour
1 c sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Beat these ingredients together and add one tablespoon of sharp vinegar and a cup of cold water. Flavor with a little nutmeg and pour into an unbaked pie shell. Cover with second pie crust and flute edges. Bake for an hour.

Pioneer Vinegar Pie Source: heritagerecipes.com. Printed in Ontario Genealogical Society Leeds & Grenville Branch, News & Views. May-June 2013



Vinegar Pie

2 tablespoons butter
1/2 cup sugar
3 tablespoons flour
2 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp ground cloves
1/2 tsp ground allspice
1 egg, lightly beaten
2 tablespoons cider vinegar
1 cup water
1 9" pie crust that has been briefly baked (~3 min) at 450 degrees

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cream butter and sugar. Sift together flour and spices then add to flour mixture, mix well. Beat in egg, vinegar and water. Pour into double boiler and cook over boiling water until thick. Pour into the pie shell and bake about 30 minutes or until a knife comes out clean.



Vinegar Pie 2

1 cup brown sugar
2 cups water
1 cup vinegar
2 tablespoons butter
1/2 cup flour

Combine the sugar, water and vinegar and bring to a boil. Add the butter and stir until it melts. Mix the flour with a little cold water until the mixture is smooth. Slowly add to the boiling liquid and stir until it becomes thick. Line a pie pan with pastry. Pour in the filling and cover with pastry strips.

Bake in a hot oven (425) for 10 minutes, then at 350 for about 25 minutes.

FIRST NATIONS HISTORY

It is important for us in the era of "Truth & Reconciliation" to remember that our history does not begin with European settlement. To understand the value of our First Nations History, this newsletter will be adding a monthly article dedicated to Indigenous heritage.

THE UPPER CANADA TREATIES

Excerpt from Nathan Tidridge's "Extraordinary History of Flamborough"

Many Treaties between the Crown and the First Nations were haphazardly put together in order to "legalize" the acquisition of land for the Loyalists. In some cases community leaders were asked to sign blank Treaties that were later filled in by the British. Before the loyalists settled in Upper Canada, British officials sought to alter the relationships established by previous Treaties and acquire exclusive rights to the land. Ignoring the Treaty of Niagara (1764) and Silver Covenant Chain of Friendship, colonial officials chose to rely on the relationship established by the Royal Proclamation of 1763, which allowed Indigenous Peoples to cede their territories solely to the Crown in exchange for payments. Concepts such as "ceding" and "surrendering" land were not part of the Mississauga's understandings. Rather, Indigenous Nations viewed treaties as relationships such as the one embedded in the Two Row Wampum; they believed in the idea that both nations would live side-by-side and not interfere in each other's affairs.



Figure 13: Two Row Wampum

Historian Donald Smith explains in his book *Mississauga Portraits: Ojibwe voices from nineteenth-century Canada*:

"There was nothing in the Mississauga's [Anishinaabe] traditions or experience that enabled them even to imagine the private ownership of land and water by one man."

The Treaties had prevented settlers from acquiring Indigenous territory and the colonial officials now moved to remove the Mississaugas and surrounding nations from the land. Over the next 20 years the Mississaugas and other Indigenous peoples were forced off of land that they still considered to be theirs.

The area that today makes up Flamborough was included in the "Between the Lakes Purchase", carried out between the Crown and the Mississaugas on May 22nd, 1784. Highlighting the radically different perspectives the two sides had of the treaty, during negotiations Chief Pokquan of the Mississaugas spoke of a sincere desire that his people and the newcomers could "live in friendship with each other as Brethren ought to do."

The vast area covered in the 1784 "agreement" stretched between Lake Erie, the Niagara River, and Lake Ontario, in total more than a million hectares. In return for this land, the Anishinaabe were given 1,180 pounds. No longer treated as a relationship, the "Between the Lakes Purchase" was later made official by Lieutenant Governor Simcoe as Treaty No.3 (1792).



Figure 14: Treaty No. 3, 1792

THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

Arthur William Wallace (1903 – 1978)



Arthur Wallace was an architect, historian, collector and bibliophile who worked in Hamilton, Ontario from 1946 until his retirement in 1971. He was born on 22 August 1903 at Staten Island, New York where his father was employed as manager of the Wall Street branch of the Bank of Montreal. The family moved to Winnipeg in 1908, then to Vancouver and in 1913 to Halifax where the young Wallace became impressed with the Georgian architecture and streetscape. His mother, a graduate of McGill University, encouraged her son to enrol in the School of Architecture.

He graduated from McGill University in 1926 and worked in New York City until mid 1931. Wallace returned to Nova Scotia and during the next two years devoted most of his time to photographing and measuring early Nova Scotia buildings. His drawings formed the basis of his book published in 1976 by the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia entitled 'An Album of Drawings of Early Buildings of Nova Scotia'. In 1935 he travelled to London, England and worked as a draftsman until 1939 when he joined the War Office in England. In 1946 Wallace returned to Hamilton, Ont. and established a partnership with Lester Husband and Hugh Robertson with whom he remained until the dissolution of the office in 1969.

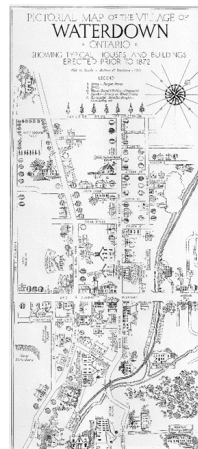
Much of his work after 1950 involved major restoration projects for residences, churches, military fortifications and museums; the largest project he undertook was at Dundurn Castle, the palatial residence of Sir Allan MacNab in Hamilton (restored 1964-67). He died in Hamilton in 1978. The National Archives of Canada acquired the Wallace Collection of more than 20,000 photographs, clippings, maps, drawings and articles on architecture and style in 1982.

Arthur and his wife Letitia were early members of the Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society. They purchased a heritage house in Waterdown in 1951. Built sometime between 1840 and 1850 it is one of the oldest houses in the village, and had belonged to a series of prominent residents such as William Magill, Hugh Green and Robert Lottridge.

As a restoration architect his expertise was sought for many projects in Waterdown one of which was a proposed renovation for Memorial Hall, both interior and exterior. Neither of these came to fruition but it is interesting to look at the drawings housed in the Flamborough Archives and ponder what might have been.



He was the architect for an extensive renovation of the former East Flamborough Township Hall in 1966 when the exterior was repointed and the interior modernized.



The item that is the most well known is the "Pictorial Map of the Village of Waterdown Ontario, showing typical houses and buildings erected prior to 1872". Almost everyone who lived in Waterdown in the 1980's has one of these 'maps' somewhere in their house. A large framed version was in the old Waterdown library and it still hangs in the building, at the request of the new owners. New residents still ask where they can get a copy.

We are very proud to have a few of his architectural drawings, his book and the original of the Pictorial Map in the Archives.

TREASURES FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Scott Forsyth Scrapbook of
Newspaper Articles on
Flamborough taken from The
Hamilton Spectator 1852-1897

EAST FLAMBOROUGH.—On Monday, Thomas Stock, Esq., was re-elected as Reeve, and John Green, Esq., takes the position of Deputy Reeve, rendered vacant by the retirement of Alex. Brown, Esq. For Councillors there are six Candidates, Messrs. Mathew, Burns, Roben, Sparks, John McDougall, Charles Sealley, David Binkley and James Campbell.

DEC 27 1866

'The Hamilton Spectator'
27 December 1866

Valuable Milling Property, FOR SALE.

THE Subscriber is instructed to sell by public Auction, at his Sale Rooms, James Street, Hamilton, on FRIDAY, THE FIFTEENTH DAY of MARCH ensuing, at 12 o'clock, noon, that splendid

GRIST MILL,

and PREMISES, situate in the flourishing village of Waterdown, seven miles distant from the City of Hamilton, known as the "Lottbridge" property.

The building is of stone, two storeys in height—beside the basement contains two run of stones, driven by never-failing water power, capable of turning out barrels of flour in the twenty-four hours.

It is situated within one and a half miles of a Rail way Station, and two miles from a shipping port in Hamilton Bay; is surrounded by a splendid agricultural district, and can command, from its position, an unlimited supply of grain.

In addition to the Mill, there are several Frame Buildings on the premises, amply sufficient for the requirements of a large establishment.

The Land comprises Eight Acres, which might be divided into Lots and sold advantageously. The Village of Waterdown already possesses a population of about 1,000 souls.

Such an opening for a large and profitable business has not been offered to the public for many years.

The sale, being under a power contained in a Mortgage, will be peremptory, and for cash.

For title, which is indisputable, and further particulars apply, to Messrs. BERTON, SADLER & BAUCE, Solicitors, Hamilton, or to the Subscriber.

T. N. BEST.

Hamilton, 18th February, 1861.

Globe to copy, and send account to Solicitors.

WATERDOWN PALE ALE, JOHN G. DYKES, Brewer.

Whole Barrels - - - - \$6 50
Half " - - - - 3 25
Quarter " - - - - 1 62½

—ALSO—

Ale in Bottles - - - - \$1 00 per doz.

This pure and superior Ale is offered at the lowest CASH PRICES.

Orders left at J. W. Baine's Hardware store opposite the Market, will be punctually attended to.

Waterdown, Dec 19, 1861.

d186-6m

'The Hamilton Spectator'

18 February 1861

19 December 1861

CAUGHT IN THE ACT.—For some weeks past the clerks in Mr. John Stock's store at Waterdown have missed several small articles, principally tobacco, from time to time. Though both Mr. W. Stock, who takes charge of his brother's store during the latter's absence, and the clerks have entertained strong suspicions as to where the missing property went, they were never absolutely certain. Amongst others who made a practice of loafing about the store (which is divided into two, one being used for grocery purposes, the other as a dry goods and general emporium) was a young man belonging to the village, named William Yennie, who does not bear the most enviable of reputations, being idle and dissolute. He had been repeatedly told to keep away from Mr. Stock's premises, but disregarded all admonitions. Having the reputation of being a tough customer, he was somewhat feared by the clerks in the store, who put up with his frequent though unwelcome visits. Things went on in this manner till yesterday, when, the clerk having left the grocery department, and there being no one else in the shop, Yennie entered and glancing around and seeing no one, sprang round the counter and secured a quantity of tobacco, being watched in his pilfering from the dry goods store. Constable Baker was not far off and was immediately communicated with, the result being that Yennie was taken into custody, and a warrant issued for his detention.

FEB 25 1881

'The Hamilton Spectator'

25 February 1881

26 February 1881

2 March 1881

THE WATERDOWN LARCENY.

William Yennie, who was caught stealing tobacco from the store of John Stock, Waterdown, and had a hearing before Mr. Cahill at the Police Court yesterday, decision in the case being reserved till to-day, yesterday confessed his guilt, and gave evidence implicating two lads named Charles Cooper and Frank McGibbon in the same affair. Cooper is the son of a hotel keeper, and McGibbon's father runs a bakery in Waterdown. Warrants were issued and the boys arrested by Constables McNair and Baker, brought into the city and had a hearing before Mr. Cahill last evening, Wm. Yennie, the other prisoner, being the chief witness against them. He deposed to the effect that a series of petty thefts had been committed by himself and the two boys named above at Mr. Stock's store, and that they stole tobacco as often as he did. This the lads deny, but brought no witnesses for their defense, and although their parents were fully aware of the arrest of their sons they did not think it worth while to come to the city and see them through. After hearing the evidence of the prisoner Yennie, Joseph McFadden, Charles McMonies, (companions of Cooper's), and James Glasco (clerk in the store), as to the stealing of the tobacco on Thursday, the Magistrate said he would like to have seen the parents of the boys, and in order to give them a chance to communicate with their friends, would reserve his decision until this morning. The three boys were then taken to the cells. Cooper and McGibbon took matters very coolly, and did not make the slightest defense either by asking questions or otherwise. As they are all over 16 years of age they will not, if found guilty, be fined, but sentenced to imprisonment.

FEB 26 1881

WATERDOWN'S BAD BOYS.—The youths, Wm. Yennie, Chas. Cooper and Frank McGibbon, who were tried last week before Mr. Cahill for larceny from J. Stock's store, Waterdown, were up for sentence this morning, and were given their liberty on their own recognizances to appear for sentence at any time when wanted.

MAR 2 1881

A DANGEROUS LUNATIC.

Fritz Forstner Threatens to Brain his Father.

For about a year past a young man named Fritz Forstner, who lived with his parents at Waterdown, has been acting very queerly, and at last became so violent that on Saturday, upon application he was brought before Messrs. Sealey & Crocker, county magistrates, and committed to jail here, pending a medical examination, as a dangerous lunatic. It is said that something over a year ago Fritz became a trifle insane on the subject of religion. From that time he has become gradually more violent in his behavior till at last his family were afraid of him. He would of late come downstairs in the evening and order the family to bed, and then to want to tramp up and down the room all night. On one occasion he threatened his father with a chair, and became quite unmanageable. The family have the full sympathy of the neighbors in their affliction. For a long time the family did everything in their power with a view of keeping Fritz at home instead of having him sent to jail or the asylum, and once, when the magistrates were ready to pass upon the case, and commit the young man to jail, his relatives backed out, and said they would try him once again.

MAR 21 1882

APR 20 1882

DISCHARGED.—Fritz Forstner, of Waterdown, confined for some time in jail here as a lunatic, was taken before his Honor Judge Hinclair, who, after reading the certificates of two medical men stating that Forstner was not insane, ordered him to be discharged.

'The Hamilton Spectator'

21 March 1882

20 April 1882

**The Flamborough
Heritage Society**

P.O.Box 1044
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Officers 2019–2020

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1st Vice President:

Corrie Giles

2nd Vice President:

Carol Snell

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Mary Beth Kennedy

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Keri Raphael

Kim Hirst, Newsletter

Lyn Lunsted, Archivist



NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY

We are excited that our children's book is almost ready to go to print! It will be great to be able reach younger members of our community with how rich our local history is. The book will be perfect to share with your children and grandchildren.

Recently, the Society had to upgrade our two computers in the Archives, so they would be compatible with the library's systems. We are very grateful for the donations that we received in helping to offset these unforeseen costs. We also received a generous donation for archival supplies which were very much needed. Just one archival storage box can cost from \$14 for letter sized papers to \$66 for newspapers! Photo storage can be as much as \$75 for 25 envelopes.

Thank you, we really appreciate your kindness.

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