

# HERITAGE HAPPENINGS



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I was reading a book... *The History of Glue* – I couldn't put it down.

### Tim Vine

(1967 – ) English actor, writer & comedian

## February Public Meeting

### Crossing the Atlantic on the Queen Mary II.

Tom Bochsler and his wife, Doreen, sailed on the Queen Mary II on its long trip across the Atlantic. On this trip, Tom was reminded of the troops that sailed on the original Queen Mary from North America to Britain in the 1940's. He will share with us his pictures from this voyage.

Tom got into the photography business in the early 50's right after he finished high school. In 1956, he started his own business out of his home. Early on, he made a name for himself by photographing the cities steel companies and other local industries. Now retired, Tom reg-

ularly stops in at the family business he started – Bochsler Photo Imaging.



**St. James United Church,  
Fellowship Hall  
306 Parkside Drive, Waterdown  
Friday, February 23, 2018  
8 PM**

**Free admission All are welcome!**

## FLAMBOROUGH FUN FACTS

The original Victoria School was built around 1865 on the northeast corner of Centre Road and 8th Concession. It was a "rickety" frame structure of two rooms and located very close to the road. When first constructed it proved to be extremely dangerous as the pupils were often at risk of being run over by passing horse-drawn wagons. Proving too small and poorly constructed, a new schoolhouse of two storeys was built in 1872 and relocated to the southwest corner of the same intersection where it was used until it closed in 1989.



## Early History of the Waterdown Volunteer Fire Department

Heritage Paper # 271

Although the town that has a long history of setting itself ablaze, the Waterdown Volunteer Fire Department has been a proud part of its heritage. Fires were an unfortunately common hazard for a late Victorian milling town, with numerous fire occurring between the 1850s and the early 1930s. Waterdown's firefighting capabilities were in a rudimentary state for much of its early history, often relying on the motorized Hamilton Fire Department for assistance. In 1922 a large fire engulfed eleven businesses, a roller rink, and three homes on the south side of Dundas Street, from Franklin Street to Main Street costing \$60,000-\$80,000 in damages (\$850,000- \$1,200,000 in today's CAD) proving that the town required more prompt and effective fire protection. A *Hamilton Spectator* article from 25 May 1922, the day after the fire read; "the heart of the pretty village presented a very desolate appearance as the sun went down on Empire day." Over the next ten years little changed for the Waterdown fire department until William H. Carson became the fire chief in 1932.

The Village of Waterdown has always depended on the bravery and skill of its volunteer fire fighters to

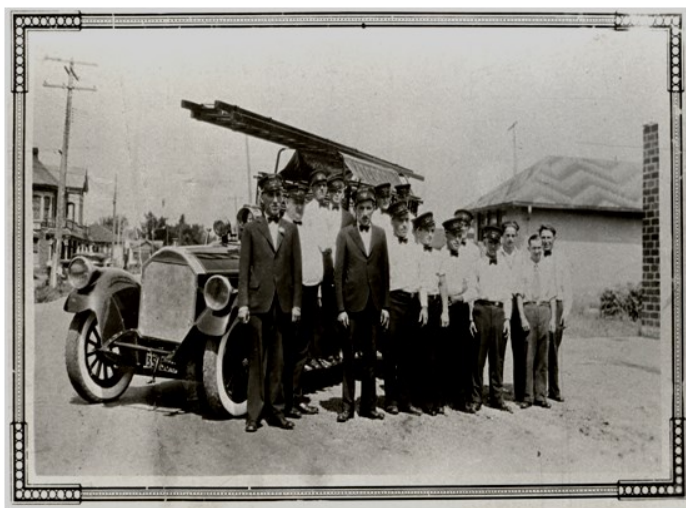


Waterdown's Fire Truck at the Fire Hall on Main Street South, with Fire Chief Bill Carson cross-armed in the doorway (1932).

extinguish the flames. The town acquired its first firefighting equipment in March 1884, which was a hand drawn and pumped fire engine. It was off to a poor start when the pumper froze attempting to extinguish a mill fire using freezing creek water. In December, John Forstner's flour mill was destroyed by fire but the town's small hand pumper was used to douse the flames and prevent it from spreading, with the *Hamilton Weekly Spectator* remarking on the skill and "manful endurance" of its operators. The firefighting equipment did

not change until 1909, when the town purchased a 40 gallon chemical fire engine that used a mixture of 7 lbs of sulfuric acid, 20 lbs of baking soda, and 40 lbs of water. The chemical extinguisher was convenient since the town did not acquire a permanent water source until 1925; three years after a fire nearly devoured the entire downtown.

In 1932, Chief Carson and his volunteer fire brigade raised \$159 towards purchasing new firefighting equipment. The money was put towards purchasing a Pierce Arrow automobile in Toronto and an old fire truck



Waterdown's Volunteer Firemen on Main Street in front of the Pierce Arrow fire truck (1932).

[Left to right, back row: Arthur Burkholder (Driver), Ted Kent, Roy Shelton (Lieutenant), J.W. Fulkerson. Front row: Bill Carson (Chief), Fred Wilson (Captain), Stan Carson (Assistant Chief), Harry Raynor, Tim O'Connor, William McCabe, Bruce Shelton, Gordon Lillycrop, Richard Lillycrop, Tim Spicer, and Elgin Lovejoy.]

from the Hamilton Fire Department. The handiwork of Harry Lillycrop and Fred Harvey used parts from the old Hamilton fire truck and attached it to the Pierce Arrow chassis to create Waterdown's first fire truck. The custom truck was modified with mounted lanterns purchased from a hardware store, ordained with brass knobs from an old bed set, and painted by Hamilton hockey player, Blondie Hayhoe.

In November 1932, the Imperial Oil Company deeded to the town a portion of lot 8 on Main Street S., where a structure was established as a fire hall large enough to store the new equipment. The driver of the truck Arthur "Duke" Burkholder proudly lived in the fire hall with the new truck, supposedly polishing and shining it every morning. Waterdown now possessed its long overdue fire truck as well as a location to house its firemen and equipment.

Carson resigned as the fire chief in 1954 and was succeeded by the short leadership of Robert P. Hender-shot. By the end of 1955 under the leadership of Gordon

Tuck, the Waterdown Fire Department had moved from the site on Main Street to the newly established Municipal Office and Fire Hall on the corner of Barton Street and Main Street S. By then, the equipment for the 22 uniformed volunteer firemen consisted of a 500 gallon pumper with a 350 gallon booster tank purchased in 1953, a water tanker with mounted portable pump purchased in 1947, and a 500 gallon pumper with a 500 gallon booster tank purchased by East Flamboro that year.

The charmingly clunky Pierce Arrow fire truck was used for at least twenty-years to protect Waterdown and East Flamboro before it was retired in the early 1950s after the purchase of new fire trucks.

By William D. Kearney  
Student Archivist



Waterdown's Volunteer Firemen in front of the new Fire Hall (June 1958).

[Left to right, back row: Bill Monk, Gordon Marriatt, Ted Kent, Elmer Lacey, John Forth, Lee Cook. Middle row: Fred Stoutham, Joe Sams, Gladstone Carson, Bill Zimmerman. Front row: Elmer Robinson Douglas Lovejoy (Captain), David Green (Chief), Douglas Burns (Deputy Chief), Bart O'Connor (Captain), and Robert Williamson.]

### Did you know....?

- The name Flamborough was taken from Flamborough Head, a point on the east coast of England in the county of York. The name Flamborough comes from flambeau, a torch or flame, and dates to the time when beacon fires were lit on prominent points on the east coast of England to announce the coming of the Spanish Armada.
- Flamborough comes from two Anglo Saxon words—FLAEN meaning arrowhead and BOROUGH meaning a fortified place.



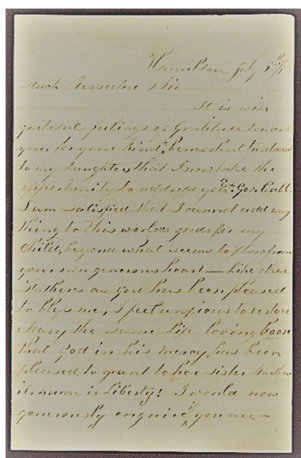


## THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

By Lyn Lunsted

Compared to other parts of Southern Ontario, Flamborough has relatively few Black people. Those who came with owners during and after the Civil War from the U.S. were usually freed after arriving in Canada, or they were free to begin with. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, Dr. John Jenkins came to West Flamborough in 1851 as a free man. He purchased property and prospered as a doctor. He was able to purchase the freedom of his youngest daughter Martha, and in 1857 he learned of the location of his eldest daughter Mary Jane and her husband Perry Higgins.

They were owned by Richard K. Call, the ex-governor of Florida. Dr. Jenkins wished to purchase their freedom and wrote to Mr. Call hoping this could happen.



Hamilton, July 8<sup>th</sup> /58  
Much Respected Sir

*It is with grateful feelings of gratitude towards you for your kind and benevolent treatment to my daughter, that I now take the opportunity to address your Ex. Gov. Call. I am satisfied that I cannot add anything to this world's goods for my child, beyond what seems to flow from your own generous heart. Like other Fathers, a God has been pleased to bless me. I feel anxious to restore Mary the same Life Loving boon that God in his mercy has been pleased to grant to her sister Martha. It's name is Liberty! I would now generously enquire if you are willing to let me have her freedom. What will*

*be your price, as low as you can grant it to a Father? If you are a Father I presume you can judge of my feelings – my grief has been deeper than I had language to express. Through the mysterious darkness that threw a veil between myself and my children for many years – thanks be to the great (?). It has pleased God of late to shed light upon my path and open the way to hear from them and also give a lenient heart to the owners of Martha and to place her in my power to obtain her, for which they have my sincere thanks and I feel anxious to learn from your own pen, your mind and your price, if you will be so kind as to give me an answer.*

*To this address*

*Dr. John Jenkins*

*Hamilton, Canada West*

*P.S. Please say to my daughter and her husband, her father and his family are well, hoping the same blessing attends her.*

Governor Call agreed to let Mary go and on August 5, 1858, Dr. Jenkins wrote that the arrangements were in place:

*It is with deepest emotions of gratitude Sir I acknowledge the receipt of your letter, giving your consent to let me have my daughter Mary. I am thankful to think you show me the leniency you do, in the moderation of your price. .... I have made arrangements with the American Express Co. and forwarded a draft to that amount you requested to the firm of Smallwood, Earll & Co, New York.*

There is some confusion as to what happened to Perry Higgins since some sources indicate that he remained behind in Florida, as Dr. Jenkins did not purchase his freedom, but there are also references to a Perry Higgins owning property in West Flamborough, selling to Martha Jefferson ( Mary's sister) in 1871. Mary also acquired land from her step-mother, Sarah Jenkins, in April 1870. After John Jenkins died in 1869, Sarah, a white woman from Vermont, returned to the United States, living with a daughter from her first marriage, in Fort Wayne Indiana, where she died in 1879.

The originals of these letters are in the Call and Brevard Family Papers, Florida Memory, State Library and Archives of Florida, Tallahassee.

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## TREASURES FROM THE ARCHIVES

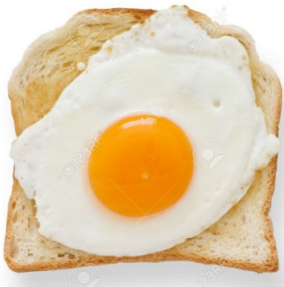
### ACQUISITIONS

The Flamborough Review has donated several years of photographic negatives from the years 1979 to 1999. It will involve some finagling to get the masking tape off them, but they can be viewed, switched to positive images and copied from the Archives handy dandy microfilm reader. This is a fantastic, if daunting acquisition to our Society.



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FROM "SELECTED RECIPES" STONEY CREEK WOMEN'S INSTITUTE 1930



#### Poached Eggs On Toast

Bake a plain white cake in a deep, long loaf. Cut in slices the thickness of toast. Put one slice on each dessert plate. Pile on this 2 tablespoons of sweetened,

flavoured whipped cream, in a roundish mound, and place in the centre, hollow side down, half a well-drained apricot or small peach. The apricots make a slightly more realistic egg, but peaches are usually at hand and do very well.

MRS. ERLAND LEE

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### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

EXCERPT FROM WEST FLAMBOROUGH CENTENNIAL 1850-1950

#### FATHERLY LOVE IN FLAMBORO

In 1858, a colored man who called himself Dr. John Jenkins, lived on the Brock Road in West Flamboro. He had escaped from slavery in 1834, leaving two daughters in bondage. He lived near Rochester as a freeman for sixteen years, then came to Flamboro in 1851. Having prospered, he desired to redeem his daughters from slavery, but he had not heard from them for eighteen years when, in 1853, he learned that the eldest had been carried South. In 1855 he learned that the youngest was in Richmond, so he gave a man fifty dollars to go and get her, but he never saw the man or his money again.

In 1854 he wrote to his daughter's owner; found what her price was; and sent eight hundred and fifty dollars to buy his daughter. In 1857, the daughter and her husband (a freeman) arrived in Flamboro, and this year he learned that his eldest daughter was owned by Ex-Governor R. K. Call of Florida. Learning her price, he sent four hundred dollars to buy her freedom, and on November 4th, 1858, he had the infinite joy of meeting her at the G. W. Railway station in Hamilton.

They lived together on the Brock as one happy united family until the father's death eight years later.

**Waterdown-East Flamborough  
Heritage Society**

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Archives E-mail: [flamach@hpl.ca](mailto:flamach@hpl.ca)

Website: [FlamboroughHistory.com](http://FlamboroughHistory.com)

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Corrie Giles

2nd Vice President:

Carol Snell

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Bailey Cripps

Keri Raphael

Kim Hirst, Newsletter



## NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY

HELP!!!!

Did I get your attention? We have been busy with the Society and Archives and we are just getting busier! With our new grant that we mentioned last month, we need help putting together displays and presentations that we can take out into the community. Do you have any topic ideas or things to donate to help bring these displays alive?

We have received a treasure trove of historical documents and memorabilia from Jonathan Vance that belonged to his father and grandfather. With the Flamborough Review moving out of their Main St. building, we also received many photo negatives, in a unique configuration shown in this month's newsletter! These negatives need to be unrolled and properly taken care of.

We are also looking for a few new people to join the Board of Directors. If any of these sound interesting to you or know a family member or friend that might be interested in helping out, please let us know.

Chris Rivait , President

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### AREA SOCIETY WEBSITES

The **Ancaster Township Historical Society** -

[www.ancasterhistory.ca](http://www.ancasterhistory.ca)

The **Burlington Historical Society** -

[www.burlingtonhistorical.ca](http://www.burlingtonhistorical.ca).

The **Dundas Valley Historical Society** -

[www.dundashistory.ca](http://www.dundashistory.ca)

The **Grimsby Historical Society** -

[Grimsby Historical Society](http://GrimsbyHistoricalSociety).

The **Hamilton Historical Board** -

[www.hamiltonhistoricalboard.ca](http://www.hamiltonhistoricalboard.ca)

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

[Head of the Lake Historical Society](http://HeadoftheLakeHistoricalSociety)

The **United Empire Loyalists' Association of**

**Canada, Hamilton Branch** - [www.uel.com](http://www.uel.com)

The **West Lincoln Historical Society** - [www.wlhs.info](http://www.wlhs.info)