



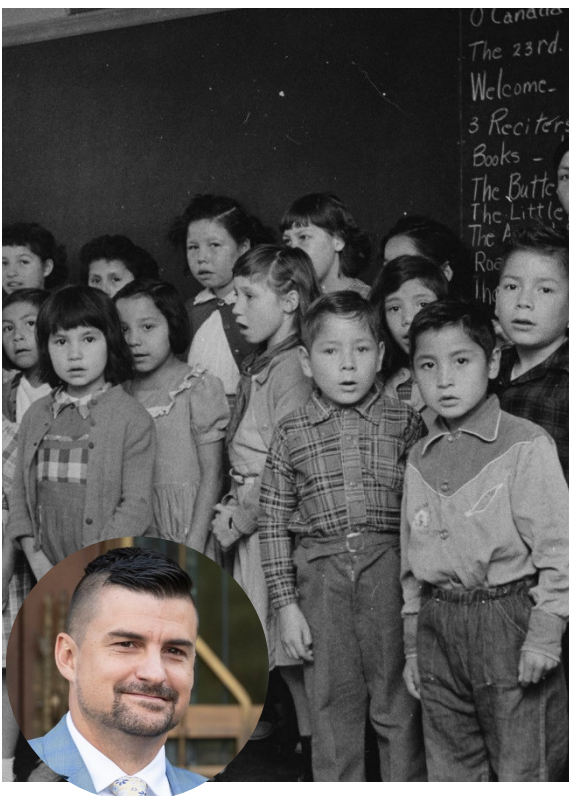
Heritage Happenings

02	06	08	10	12
Heritage Paper	Volunteer	Treasures	Threads through	Message from
<i>The First</i>	Spotlight	<i>Both online</i>	the Past	the President
<i>Europeans</i>	<i>Current projects</i>	<i>and in person</i>	<i>Frederick William</i>	<i>Plus other local</i>
<i>within the Area</i>	<i>and more!</i>		<i>Crooker</i>	<i>society websites &</i>
				<i>our contact info</i>

January Meeting

The Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society will feature a presentation on Residential Schools by Nathan Tidridge, past president of the society and teacher at Waterdown District High School. Thursday Jan. 30 2025, 8:00 pm Grace Anglican Church, Waterdown

Residential schools were government-sponsored religious schools that were established to assimilate Indigenous children into Euro-Canadian culture. Although the first residential facilities were established in New France, the term usually refers to schools established after 1880. The schools disrupted lives and communities, causing long-term problems among Indigenous peoples. The last residential school closed in 1996. Nathan will tell us the stories from some of the survivors from the schools as well as the harsh condition in which they endured.



Heritage Paper #323

This year we explore the various origins of Flamborough inhabitants. This month's Heritage Paper explores how Europeans traded, explored, and later settled in Canada, including conflict and colonialism.

Found in the Fonds

Some pretty amazing stuff is unearthed in the Archives during research projects or when cataloguing items.

What's in the spotlight this month?

Treasures from the Archives

We've covered Tweedsmuir Histories before, in 2018 explaining what they are and 2021 covered the Millgrove Tweedsmuir. What's inside the Westover Tweedsmuir History?

EXPLORE FROM PAGE 2 >>

SEE IT NOW ON PAGE 5 >>

DISCOVER ON PAGE 9 >>

HERITAGE PAPER

The First Europeans within the Area: Trade, War and Colonialism

Tess Moffat, Archives Summer Student

Second in the series under the theme “Ethnic backgrounds of Flamborough.”

When discussing the history of settlement within the area, one really cannot avoid the topic of colonialism. As they pushed deeper into ‘unexplored’ Canadian territories, the Europeans came across a ‘Garden of Eden’ with infinite resources. Initially recognized and exploited for its assets, the land was then recognized as a commodity and an opportunity for expansion, especially to combat American interests.

While there were several groups that made their way into North America, some of the first Europeans in the Flamborough region would have been the French. Considering the significance of the fur trade, many of the early French explorers wanted to map out the territory and contact the various Indigenous nations, hoping to establish trading relationships. Some of the first to traverse the Flamborough area were the *coureurs des bois*, but missionaries also were vital for establishing contact; the first priest within the area was Récollet priest Joseph de la Roche Daillon, who



Cootes Paradise from the hill, painted 11 June 1796 by Elizabeth Simcoe.

Archives of Ontario, F 47-11-1-0-214

lived among the Neutral and Wendat Confederacy and the Neutral Nation, both of which lost their territorial supremacy in the Flamborough area after the Beaver Wars in the mid-seventeenth century. Throughout the Pays-d'en-Haut, the lands that were to the west and south of Montreal, in 1740 there were barely five-hundred Europeans occupying the French trading posts and forts that were scattered throughout the area. After the conclusion of the Beaver Wars, the French occasional-

lived among the Neutral and Wendat Confederacy and the Neutral Nation, both of which lost their territorial supremacy in the Flamborough area after the Beaver Wars in the mid-seventeenth century. Throughout the Pays-d'en-Haut, the lands that were to the west and south of Montreal, in 1740 there were barely five-hundred Europeans occupying the French trading posts and forts that were scattered throughout the area. After the conclusion of the Beaver Wars, the French occasional-

ly had the support of a relationship with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy; for example, the Seneca would occasionally fight alongside the French, as seen in 1755 at the defeat of General Braddock.

Unfortunately for the French, their colonial ambitions did not work out, and, after the conclusion of the Seven Years War in the mid-eighteenth century, their colonies, except for Saint Pierre and Miquelon, were transferred over to the Spanish and the English.

The English were suddenly in control of a vast amount of territory. Settlement had certainly always been an option, but



The 1821 Ridout Survey,
depicts the lands granted to the Haudenosaunee along the Grand River in Upper Canada.
Wikimedia Commons

Indigenous sovereignty had been recognized in the 1763 Royal Proclamation, meaning that land would need to be purchased from or ceded by the Indigenous communities that occupied it. Despite this acknowledgement land was not necessarily taken or acquired through honourable means; the Indigenous had to deal with European notions of landownership, dishonest business practices, the other side failing to uphold their end of the bargain, legal loopholes, and squatters. The European desperation for land hit a high after the conclusion of the American Revolution in 1783; thousands of Loyalists were pushed from their land and found their way into Canada, hoping to find safety and security with the British Crown. Some even briefly squatted along the coastline between the border of East and West Flamborough, favouring the area due to its fishing resources, potential for milling, and closeness to other colonial settlements via rivers, streams, and the lake.

Wanting to find land for this sudden influx of settlers, the British started to negotiate a series of treaties that often relied on 'shady' business practices and were in direct violation of Indigenous understanding of land ownership, established treaties and agreements that emphasized sharing the land and respecting each other's sovereignty. One of these treaties



Moccasin Seller, 1860,
by Cornelius Krieghoff, depicts an Indigenous woman selling handmade footwear near a European community in early Canada.
Library and Archives Canada

was the Between the Lakes Treaty, or Treaty No. 3, which was negotiated in 1784 and updated in 1792. The Treaty is between the Mississaugas of the Credit and the British Crown and covers approximately three million acres between Lakes Erie, Huron, and Ontario. During the negotiations, the Giima, or leader, of the Mississaugas emphasized that he desired nothing more than for his people and the new settlers to "live in friendship," a wish that was taken as a complete land surrender by only one side; by 1805, the Mississaugas were pushed to the very edges of their territory, barely numbering fifty people by 1815. This was not the only



'Entrance to Waterdown' - Watercolour,
Thomas Mower Martin (1838-1934)
Sourced from invaluable

treaty or promise made by the British Crown that was not upheld.

With the land cleared of its early inhabitants, the territory that included Flamborough and Coote's Paradise was surveyed in 1793, as the potential for settlement and mills, natural resources, and geography were acknowledged by Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe. A road, dubbed Dundas Street after the controversial figure Henry Dundas, was then connected from Coote's to Woodstock where it then ran west to London, the potential capital for the colony prior to York (Toronto). Wanting Loyalists with a military background to settle in this area, land grants were given to twelve officers; by rewarding those who had defended British dominance within America,

Canada would supposedly have a pool of soldiers acting as a line of defense if there ever was an invasion, a real danger felt by the British with the American colonial stance of Manifest Destiny and the looming threat of war.

The officer who had been granted the land that encompassed Waterdown and Flamborough was Lieutenant Alexander MacDonell of the Butler's Rangers in 1796; however, he had no interest in the land and sold it instead to Alexander Brown in 1802. Brown, recognizing the potential of the area for mills, constructed the first sawmill in the area in 1805 in Smokey Hollow, hoping this would be an incentive for other pioneers to settle in the area. While mildly successful, Waterdown only really expanded

after Brown sold 560 acres to E.C. Griffin, who, similar to Brown, recognized the potential of the Grindstone Creek and Smokey Hollow and wanted to construct a milling complex. Griffin was able to fully develop the area into an actual village and, with the rapid development of industrial activity alongside the Grindstone Creek, more settlers began to flock to the area of Waterdown.

The reasons as to why more and more began making their way to Flamborough became increasingly complicated; many were fleeing poor situations at home exasperated by social changes like the Industrial Revolution that led to the decline of traditional ways of life, overcrowding in cities, poverty, and discrimination. The mere idea of an abundance of untapped resources and cheap land was extremely appealing to many. The British government really began to advertise the colonies after the War of 1812; the American threat had finally reared its ugly head, and, despite the peace treaty, the overwhelming American belief in Manifest Destiny was a cause for concern. As a result, the British wanted as many people as possible to settle across the west to secure their claims on the resources within the provinces, Prairies, and west coast.

Encouraging more people to go overseas would also be benefi-

cial for at home issues, culminating in a decrease in urban overpopulation. Through exploiting the land through settlement, it was a win-win for *almost* everyone within the colonies.

While this timeline hopefully provides some clarity regarding the early history of European settlement in Flamborough, it is worth considering that this area had an almost entirely different makeup. In the early 1790s and at the height of the French Revolution, almost everyone had lost their heads and descended into madness; the French nobility and aristocrats who could see where the current state of affairs were going made their escape from their homeland, fleeing to various countries like England. In Britain, it was decided that land would be given to these Emigrés from the Americas, giving them an opportunity to start anew while also ensuring that they



Jean Talon, intendant of New France, third from left, speaks with members of the colony in a 1931 painting by Lawrence Batchelor.

Talon served two terms as intendant between 1665 and 1672.

would not be a drain on the charity of the British people. In Flamborough, land was going to be given to L'Abbé Phillipe Jean Louis des Jardins and Le Chevalier Lecorne, who both wanted a township that could serve as a haven for French exiles outside of themselves. In 1793, they were granted the township of East Flamborough; however,

the Bourbon Party began to make a comeback, prompting many of the Emigrés to make their return home. In 1794, the offer was officially rescinded; instead, an officer of the Butler's Rangers was granted East Flamborough.

And the rest was history.

FOUND IN THE FONDS

There is but a small space to share an item from our collection this month. While this section is entitled 'Found in the Fonds', the editor loves to explore our boxes of uncatalogued items.

A small photo of Bridle's Market was tucked in one such box. It was once one of

the oldest businesses in the Freelton area. Originally established in 1843, by 1963 it had been owned and operated by Mr. & Mrs. Bridle for 16 years. At

the time it was described as being located in the heart of Freelton on the corner of No.



6 Highway and Brock Road, but is now a single family home at Brock & Freelton Rd.

Current Projects

All of our work is accomplished through our volunteers. You may wonder what exactly volunteers are doing—we're glad you asked!

We've been a part of this community for over 50 years now, and our volunteers enable us to remain active and relevant in a changing world.

If you love Flamborough, history or research, there are always volunteer opportunities with the society. Build on an existing personal passion or discover a new one. You'd be surprised with how a commitment of a small part of your time can help our society in a big way.

We are always applying for grants for our projects, but not all of the applications are successful. The application process is also a large investment of time and effort. Should you have ideas for fundraising or a way to help, we'd love to hear from you.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Our volunteers' love of local history, time spent and dedication to helping the Society is always appreciated. Here we highlight just a small sampling of their work.



After a break for the holidays our archives is open with regular hours. Volunteers both new and seasoned are busy working on various projects. This includes cataloguing the recent donation from Shelley Scott of 13 boxes of the Flamborough Review and Hamilton Spectators from 2000-2019. We're very grate-

ful as this fills in most of our missing newspaper issues. We've also received a donation from past president Nathan Tidridge of historic material related to Waterdown District High School, with more coming. The Guenther dollhouse that was featured in our April 2022 newsletter is set to be displayed in the

Waterdown branch of the Hamilton Public Library, however the board is currently gathering quotes as it must be covered by an acrylic vitrine to protect from dust and sticky fingers. We're looking forward to using the dollhouse to capture the imaginations of library patrons of all ages!



“Goodness, like evil, often begins in small steps. Heroes evolve; they aren't born. What starts as mere willingness becomes intense involvement.”

- Dr. Ervin Staub

CONTRIBUTING TO OUR CAUSE

MEMBERSHIP

It takes a lot to preserve history, and your membership is a big part of that. Thanks to all our members!

Thanks to everyone who renewed their membership with us. Membership runs from September to August annually, and helps support us by funding our operating costs. Members receive this newsletter as well as enjoying our monthly meetings on numerous different subjects.

We think society membership is pretty amazing—we encourage all our current members to recruit more people, whether you gift a membership to someone special or just let your friends, family, and colleagues know about us.

- 1 Members have priority, being sent the latest news first
- 2 Your membership helps support Heritage Society projects
- 3 Be part of one of the most active Heritage Societies in Ontario



Mountsberg Baptist Church Sunday School Class - Photo 345

DONATIONS

We receive a lot of donations of heritage documents, photographs, and items throughout the year. If you have something you think we may like, please let us know! You don't have to permanently donate an item—pieces can be on loan to the Archives for as long as you wish or copied and returned to you.

We are always in need of funds. While memberships, book sales and grants help us with our day-to-day expendi-

tures, donations from both members like you as well as non-members greatly support our mission.

We've updated our website to make it even easier to donate and see what we're raising funds for. We're also exploring other platforms to make donation fast, easy and accessible.

Please help us preserve our local history by donating today. Tax receipts are issued for donations \$25 and up. Thank you so much for your support.

OUR PRESENCE ONLINE

We encourage all of our members to follow, subscribe, share and overall enjoy our online activities. See you all online!

OUR FOLLOWERS



3,899



624



64



41

We're always online - tap follow and drop a comment to say hi!



Our biweekly blog posts continue with articles "From the Vault".

E-Commerce

Check out our wares online —we've got something for everyone. Be it a book or a membership, purchasing from our online store supports us as a society and ensures we can preserve local history.

Once again, and as always:

Thanks to all for your support!

We're back to a somewhat regular scheduling of social media posts. Due to the amount of time we previously put into researching and describing photos, a new approach is being trialed. Items found online that aren't part of our collection are being put out with a bare minimum title and source, leaving our followers to comment more context or memories about the topic.

So far it seems the posts are garnering just as much interest as before with less time invested.

We also have a few new ideas up our sleeve that we're going to try to reach folks online - we can't say much now but we'll be sure to report if we see some success.

As always, check out our old posts and blogs and things we've shared on our website. There's so much to explore!

BLUEGRASS CANADA '75

JUNE 6-7-8
COURTLIFFE PARK
Carlisle, Ontario

ADVANCE WEEKEND \$18.00 AT GATE WEEKEND \$15.00 SUNDAY ONLY \$8.00
CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE - Accompanied by an adult

Ticket Fee Includes: Taxes, Rough Camping, Parking, Entrance to Festival & Crafts Areas

INFORMATION AND ADVANCE TICKETS:
BLUEGRASS CANADA '75
CARLISLE, P.O. BOX 110
(416) 608-2708 Hamilton
(416) 923-8988 Toronto
(519) 743-2611 Kitchener

FACILITIES: Trailer Hook-Ups (Res.)
2 Swimming Pools, Good Food, Washrooms, Showers, Playgrounds

TICKET LOCATIONS:
-HALL LESTER'S AUTO
-SAM THE RECORD MAN STORES
-THE BAY FINE & BLOOR - Toronto
-AGENTS IN MAJOR CANADIAN & U.S. CITIES
-BENSON & HEDGES STORES

CONCERTS:
12:00 Noon to 11:00 p.m. Daily
Workshops and Jams

Produced by Don Bird

Bluegrass Band Contest

1st prize \$500.

2nd 250

3rd 100

PLUS: Recording Session in Ultra-Modern 16-track MERRY BROS. RECORDING STUDIO.

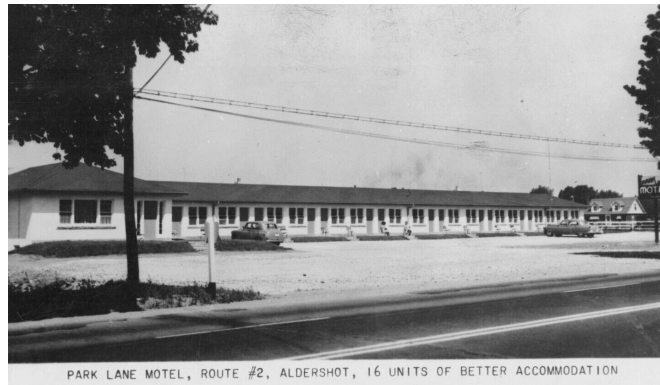
PRELIMINARIES - Sat. June 7th
FINALS - Sun. June 8th

RAIN OR SHINE

STARRING

BILL MONROE & THE BLUEGRASS BOYS	7,8
COUNTRY GAZETTE	6,7,8
SELOON SCENE	7,8
GOOD BROTHERS	6,7,8
COUNTRY GENTLEMEN	7,8
COUNTRY STORE	6,7,8
KENTUCKY GRASS	6,7,8
JACK CASEY & THE TRAINSMEN	6,7,8
ROY BOBS	6,7,8
BRYAN BOWERS	6,7,8
NORMAN BLAKE	6,7,8
JOSH GRAYES	6,7,8
DISSIE FLYERS	6,7,8
THE COUNTRY REBELS	6,7,8

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Treasures from the Archives



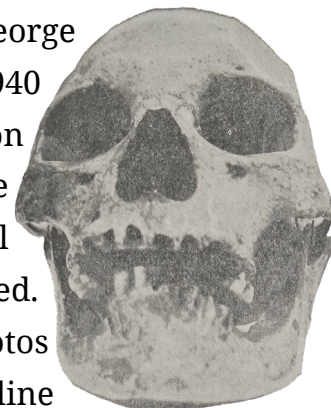
We have several Tweedsmuir Histories on our shelves from all over our former Townships. These collections are treasure troves, filled with information and photos over various time periods, and are a valuable local history resource.

The Westover Tweedsmuir History may be one of our smallest, however it is filled with quite the varied assortment of information. An excerpt of the general store ledger books includes an order for Wishing Well soda - a well known soda pop brand made in London, Ontario with varying flavours. Westover had it's own Betty White, who passed away at 98 in 2015. She had quite the life, highly involved and awarded for her work with animals, and a founding member of the Dundas Woodchippers. The Tweedsmuir also recorded local tragedy - a note under a photo of George



Aftermath of 2005 grass fire

Lindsay's millpond stated it was drained in 1940 after a child drowned. Several articles speak on the abundance of indigenous remains in the area. An original script for the Centennial Pageant, "Beverly Now and Then" is included. There are also small histories paired with photos of local homes of Westover, and beautiful line drawings by various artists of buildings of note in the area. Even more recent articles have been added, including one that covered the 2005 grass fires that cut a large swath through the Westover drumlin.



Site of indigenous burial grounds, 6th Concession

ARCHIVES ACTIVITY - NOV. / DEC.

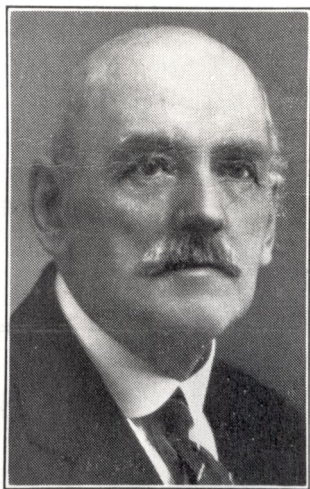
	VISITORS	16 / 44
	CALLS	6 / 6
	E-MESSAGES	137 / 135
	ITEMS CATALOGUED	84 / 74
	ACQUISITIONS	14 / 10
	VOLUNTEER HOURS	206 / 138

THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

Frederick William Crooker

Originally written by Sylvia Wray, Archivist, February 2008. Additional information by Lyn Lusted, Archivist

Frederick William Crooker was born in Waterdown on December 28, 1862, the only son of William Harris Crooker and Sarah Jane Rymal. He was educated at the Waterdown Public and High School on Main Street South (Sealey Park) and during his youth, he regularly attended the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School on Mill Street North, where in later years he became a teacher and superintendent.



Frederick William Crooker

After completing his schooling, Frederick went to work for his father, who had been in business in Waterdown since 1857 and was listed as the village druggist on the 1871 Census Returns for East Flamborough. In 1894, following his marriage to Alice Elizabeth Davis of Burlington, Crooker

and his wife went to live in a large brick house on Dundas Street with his parents. The house was built in 1884, most likely by Waterdown builder John Reid. He also took over his father's business, a general store which he operated for over 30 years, dealing in dry goods, groceries and hardware. Located on the northeast corner of Main and Dundas Streets, the building also contained the village library, meeting rooms, a



Residence F. W. Crooker, Waterdown

Crooker House, now 299 Dundas Street East.



Crooker Store, Northeast corner of Main and Dundas Streets.

bank and the post office where Crooker served as postmaster until his retirement in 1922. Known as the Crookers Block, it was an extraordinary structure for the size of the village and because of its imposing size and grandeur was considered the finest mercantile building in Waterdown, rivaling the commercial buildings on King Street in Dundas.

The building survived the 1906 village fire, but was destroyed less than a decade later, on May 25, 1915 when another major fire broke out at



After the 1915 fire



Dedication of the Crooker Fountain donated by his wife, in front of Memorial Hall
September 1930

the corner, destroying almost the entire building, including the village library located on the upper level. Crooker rebuilt the corner and continued to operate his general store for a short period. However after a third village fire in 1922, he retired from business and entered politics.

In 1924 he ran in the local municipal elections. On January 10, 1924, *The Hamilton Spectator* recorded the result of the election reporting that F.W. Crooker had been elected reeve of Waterdown, having polled 60 more votes than his opponent. He only served one term as reeve, but he appears to have been a popular politician, described as “always a capable leader”. He proved himself a man of foresight, as largely through his efforts, the waterworks system was

installed in the village—possibly after seeing his business destroyed in three village fires, he believed it was time Waterdown had an efficient water system in place for such catastrophes. He died in Hamilton on June 24, 1927 from complications following an operation.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Warm greetings for the New Year. I hope that each of our members, family and friends had a safe and happy holiday season. If not for the support of our board of directors, volunteers, members, and the community, we would not be able to continue our mission as a volunteer-based organization. For this, thank you.



With that thanks comes the reality that our society's membership and volunteer pool is not growing significantly enough with each passing year. In order to respond to research requests, develop displays and exhibits, catalogue donations, and remain active in sharing our passion with the community we need people and an investment of their time. Anyone willing to donate their time and talent to assist, please head over or send them our way.

We're pleased to see the membership fees for this year coming in. If you haven't paid for your membership yet, please take some time to do so today.

Looking forward to our first program of the year, "Residential Schools," January 30th at Grace Anglican. We'll see you there.

Chris Rivait, President

AREA HERITAGE 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 Mountain Heritage Society- www.hamiltonheritage.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

Waterdown Mill Street Heritage -

www.waterdownmillstreetheritage.ca

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& Heritage Society

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