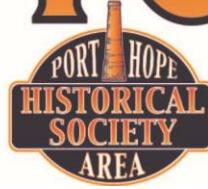


# THE HISTORIAN



Vol 1, Issue 3 Nov/Dec 2021



PORT HOPE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

8016 Portland Ave, Box 133, Port Hope, MI 48468

## Year End Happy Thanksgiving And Merry Christmas Issue

### A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I think back to our status early this past spring, and see the results of our teams' efforts, I am amazed at our accomplishments in just one season.

Of course, the most visible results show up in what has been achieved with the buildings and grounds. But there has been so much more done with membership development, recording and identifying donated artifacts, communications with members and the general public, and several new activities added to our list of yearly events.

All of this is due to the dedication of so many volunteers. The Depot Boyz have worked miracles with the building and grounds renovation and restoration. The team of those who record, mark and identify artifacts, and send thank you letters to our donors has spent many hours performing that task. The ladies who provide lunches for our work team have given us gourmet meals that make it hard to go back to work in the afternoon. The many folks who volunteered to provide a multitude of tasks during the summer activities have demonstrated an amazing spirit of community. Those individuals, couples and families who have donated money so we may purchase building materials and other organizational expenses have helped make the entire process possible. And there are so many more who have contributed time and talent to make it possible for us to have a viable Port Hope Area Historical Society.

We now are in a new planning phase to identify the projects and tasks that will be performed next year.

We continue to invite and welcome new members to the Historical Society. We also would be so thankful for any additional financial contributions to help us. In some cases, families have made a financial contribution to honor their Port Hope area ancestors. If the family so desires, we will display the names of those so honored for future family members and society visitors to see and appreciate.

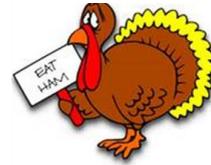
We are also accepting copies of family tree data that will be included in our genealogy library. Letters and post cards are being indexed and stored for future examination.

As Christmas is approaching and 2021 will be coming to a close, many thanks to all for your continued support. Please feel free to attend our monthly society meetings that will begin again on the second Tuesday of April, 2022 at the society building meeting room (the old Brinker Lumber Company building on Portland Avenue).



As Carol & I scoot off to Florida for the winter, we want to wish each of you a joyous Christmas holiday and a happy New Year.

Jim Hunter, Society President



This turkey gobbler has made it thru the Thanksgiving holiday. Christmas is on its way. He asks for your help! Eat Ham!

*As we close out the year, we the board members of the Port Hope Area Historical Society, would like to wish everyone a very blessed Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.*







## PORT HOPE'S "DIMOND CREEK"

Is it Diamond or Dimond? The man behind its name.

He was known locally as "Judge Dimond," but he wore many other hats in his community. Reuben Dimond was known to be the second white settler in what would later become Sanilac County, Michigan. His sawmill, built in 1846, was located along a stream one and a half miles south of the present-day village of Lexington, and was the center point of a small community which included several houses, a few shops, two cemeteries and the schoolhouse. For some time, Judge Dimond served as the teacher. In 1847 he was elected to the Michigan State Legislature and served as a writer at the Michigan Constitutional Convention.

As much of the local forests had been harvested, he began to look further north along the shore of Lake Huron for properties that contained substantial stands of timber. Every few weeks he would make a trip to the government land office in Port Huron to see if any of the military bounty lands that had been granted to veterans following the war of 1812 became available for sale. Few of the veterans had elected to come to Michigan to settle on their granted land, and most often turned it back in exchange for cash that would serve as their pension.

Also in the year 1847, Judge Dimond purchased a land grant parcel about 50 miles north of his sawmill. In his will, created January 26, 1849, he describes the lands he owns, and bequeaths them to his wife, Louisa R. Dimond. The 1850 census shows that he and Louisa have six children.

Reuben Dimond, along with several of his sawmill workers travel by boat to the timber land he acquired in what would

later become Rubicon Township, Huron County. They find a dense stand of virgin pine, and a variety of mature hardwoods.

Looking for a major stream that could possibly be used to transport logs from the interior to a sawmill at lake's edge, they find such a waterway that he names "Dimond Creek." They have arrived in the spring, when the runoff seems to be adequate to float logs. The workers begin to do some cutting, and they stack the logs on high ground near the mouth of the creek to allow them to properly dry.

At the same time, a group of men are also purchasing land in the same area. William R. Stafford, Clark Haywood, and Benning W. Jenness have come to Lexington from New Hampshire. They have the financial backing of William Southard, who stays back east due to ill health.

On March 29, 1852, Reuben Dimond, aged 51 years, dies and is buried in the Dimond family cemetery near his sawmill. Two years later, his wife Louisa sells the parcel of land at Dimond Creek to the firm of Stafford, Haywood and Jenness. Mr. W.R. Stafford assumes the position of managing the cutting operations and by 1855, additional logs are cut and stacked at the mouth of Dimond Creek. The firm constructs a chimney for a steam powered sawmill and builds a 1,300 ft. dock in 1858. By this time, folks were calling the community "Port Hope," named such by eastern financier Mr. William Southard who while attempting to visit the site, and after being left off a steam passenger boat, rowed a small skiff all night in a storm before arriving ashore the next morning.

In 1866, C.B. Cottrell completed surveying the area surrounding Dimond Creek and on March 22, 1867, the original plat of Port Hope was registered with the county register of deeds. This map clearly shows the spelling of the waterway as "Dimond Creek." For reasons that are still unclear, Mr. Stafford decided to engage a different engineer, and a completely new village plat map was created by Edward Molitor, an engineer and surveyor who had served with Captain George Meade's Great Lakes Survey and was registered and recorded with the County Register of Deeds on April 24, 1872. But Ed Molitor was not a local as had been Mr. Cottrell. C.B. Cottrell had likely known Reuben Dimond and knew how to spell his name. Mr. Molitor made what he thought was a correction in spelling, and on the new plat the waterway was now labeled "Diamond Creek."

And so, through the years, even though the pronunciation of the name remained the same, the connection to the man for whom the creek was named was lost.



*Diamond Creek looking east at Main & Dean Street*



*Diamond Creek looking west at Main & Dean Street*

## Calendar of upcoming events

- 2021 -

Dec 5 - Christmas Sing-A-Long

Dec 12 - Joint Depot & Historical Society Christmas Party

- 2022 -

Memory Lunches - Dates T.B.D.

July 1,2,3 - Flea Market - 4th of July Celebration

Aug 20 - ABC Day - Bean Soup and more

Aug 27 - Hobo Experience

Sept 24,25 - Museum Weekend - Huron County Museums

Depot, Hist. Soc. & Streetscape viewing at all major events

2nd Tue of each month - Society Board Meetings  
Apr. through Nov.

## Announcing the 2021 winner of the coveted "OUTSTANDING TEAMWORK & TIRELESS VOLUNTEER WORKER AWARD"

The votes are in and...and...

IT'S A TIE !!

The award goes to...

The "**PORT HOPE BOYZ**" (AKA - the DEPOT BOYZ)

- and -

The "**PORT HOPE GIRLZ**" (AKA - The WONDER WOMEN}

In all seriousness, whether it's working on a caboose, shoring up beams in the lumberyard, cooking meals, organizing events, both the BOYZ and the GIRLZ deserve the 1<sup>st</sup> place award. Our thanks!

Thousands of hours have been logged in by the "Z" Teams. giving days each week to make our little town a better place. And it's making a big difference.

Thank you, BOYZ and GIRLZ



**Interested in becoming a member of the society? Wanting to make a donation? Please fill out and mail the form below.**

### Membership / Contribution Form

Please fill out this form and mail with your check to:

P.H.A.H.S.  
P.O. Box 133  
Port Hope MI, 48468



**Port Hope Area Historical Society**

8016 Portland Ave.  
Port Hope MI, 48468  
Questions: 989-428-4831

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Yearly Membership: Single** \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25.00) **Family** \_\_\_\_\_ (\$40.00)

January 1 thru December 31 (must be renewed each calendar year by May 15)

**Life Member** \_\_\_\_\_ (\$500) **Founders/Life Member** \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000.00)

All members will receive the quarterly newsletter and member names listed periodically in the newsletter. Founders & Life Members will have a plaque at the Historical Center with their name on it.

### **This section is for a contribution that may be made with or without a membership.**

I would like to support the Port Hope Area Historical Society to further its development and wish to make a contribution in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Make check payable to: "Port Hope Area Historical Society".

(Contributions to the PHAHS, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization are tax deductible according to IRS guidelines.)