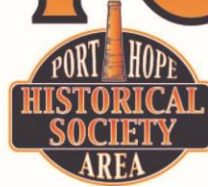


THE HISTORIAN



PORT HOPE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Vol 1, Issue 3 Nov/Dec 2021

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).



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.

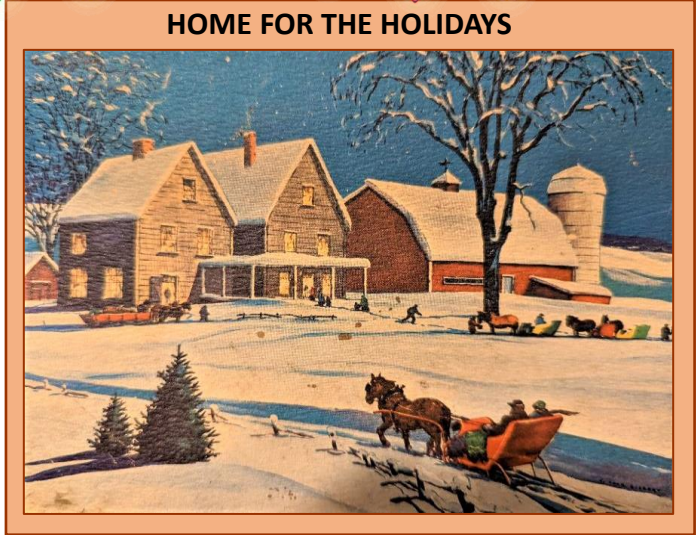


As Carol & I scoot off to Florida for the winter, we want to wish each of you a joyous Christmas holiday and a happy New Year.

Jim Hunter, Society President



THE HISTORIAN ARTICLES OF INTEREST



STORY KEEPERS
Ever wonder why you never knew about your grandfather’s mother. What happens to the story of your life when you leave this earth? Well, genealogy attempts to answer these important questions about our existence.

There is a difference between a family tree and genealogy. I tend to see genealogy as the rich story of my ancestors, not just the names and dates of my lineage. Many are seeking their stories and it is our goal at the Historical Society to nourish these stories. As we complete the restoration of the “lumberyard building” we are preparing to open the genealogy research room, both a library and repository for local family stories. Here is where we’ll keep the family trees, photos, postcards and letters of the families in this part of the Thumb. (The Research Room or Center is named after Gladys and RB Hunter and the plaque shown below hangs at the entrance to the research rooms).

Do you have documents and photos of your ancestors? Do you need help investigating your story? Next time you are digging through those old photos and letters that your aunt left to your cousin, come and talk to us. Or maybe you have a family tree that you want to keep for others to see – bring it in. We would love to see what you have and maybe help you organize and preserve your story.

Talk to one of us or email at porthopeahs@gmail.com My phone is 810-705-1263. Look for us in the coming year to start a beginners genealogy class.

GLADYS AND RB HUNTER
HISTORICAL RESEARCH CENTER

And last but not least, I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and I wish all a safe and blessed Christmas.

Sid Holodnick

THE JOYS OF CHRISTMAS MEMORIES PAST

The leaves have fallen, the harvest is in, the turkeys can come out of hiding and Christmas is close behind.

It is a special time to be thankful for what we have. Whether it be family, good friends, a home, food on our table, a beautiful town & wonderful community, or the fond memories of loved ones that have passed before us, we are truly blessed. As I write this article, Sharon and I are putting up our Christmas tree and decorations throughout the house. Wreath’s, Santa Clauses, Nativity scenes, Music boxes, etc. As we happen to pick a few of the old familiar ornaments out of the box, we are taken back in time to years before, when we, ourselves were children living at home, or later with children of our own. Those same ornaments hung on the tree at that time so many years ago. They were not particularly special to us, or our children then, only colorful and glittery. Today, they are cherished by us and especially our children. All in preparation for what is called the “Rutz Family Christmas Chaos.”

The doorbell rings, the first child and family arrive, each carrying gifts to share and more importantly a happiness showing on their faces. Soon there are four children, their spouses, fifteen grandchildren, their spouses, partners and now five great grandchildren. What a wonderful chaos we have created. After all the hugs and greetings, we soon find them looking at all the decorations and searching thru the Christmas tree branches looking for a particular ornament. Isn’t it wonderful how memories provide a warmth in our hearts and an inner happiness. An old glass ornament or the old nativity scene still sitting under the tree, something so simple, yet priceless. Just one of the many joys of Christmas, and a good reason to thank God for all that we have.

Sharon & I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!

Alger Rutz



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 1st 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.)