

# THE HISTORIAN



PORT HOPE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol 2, Issue 1 Mar/Apr 2022

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

## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

From the day that Reuben Dimond first stepped on shore to give his name to the local creek, and to all those who followed, the history of our community tells a wonderful tale of the life and dreams of legions of folks and families. Those of us who are now a part of the current chapter of the history of the Port Hope area have a responsibility to remember and celebrate all of those who came before. And this is what drives the creation and implementation of the Port Hope Area Historical Society. It is inspiring to witness the efforts of all who have volunteered to take part in the construction of a facility, the collection and restoration of local artifacts, the planning of the multiple parts of the society, the generous giving and fund raising, and participation in a whole variety of events that are designed to include members of the public. Work on the lumber yard building has continued through the past winter months. The major focus has been on developing display spaces that will feature various themes. The lumber yard facility affords us the space to create display rooms that can show artifacts and illustrations of past businesses, life-styles and events. And planning groups have been busy preparing for our upcoming 4th of July celebration. We continue to invite you to become a part of our fun efforts. Please consider a membership, a financial contribution in memory of your Port Hope area family, a donation of an artifact or copy of your family tree for our genealogy library, and most of all, come join us in our weekly work sessions.

Jim Hunter, Society President

## SOCIETY PROGRESS IN PICTURES

Nothing stops during the winter months. Re-organizing the old lumber bins, raising beams, roof repair and developing display spaces in preparation for sand and concrete.



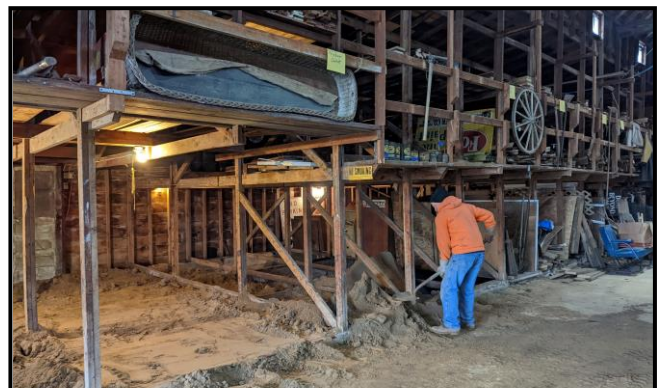
*Jim Hunter operating the skid steer and bringing in the sand*



*More than 60 yards of sand is only a start*



*With the stock of lumber cleaned out, Lawrence Iseler is working on required repairs and modifications to the structure and foundation.*



*Lawrence shoveling sand to fill in the foundation walls in preparation for pouring concrete.*

# THE HISTORIAN SOCIETY UPDATES

## GLADYS AND RB HUNTER GENEALOGY CENTER UPDATE

Our Genealogy Center is an important piece of the Port Hope Area Historical Society. Its goals are summarized as follows: Connect us to people and resources; Help us Grow in knowledge and skills; Assist in Sharing our talents and resources; Build a strong legacy to past stories; and Enjoy friendships created along the way.

Our team is in the process of setting the future of our center. Those plans include an "Archive library" that is indexed, and searchable. It would include family trees, personal stories, & journals. A collection of plat and land maps, along with local books and local items of interest. Also in the planning is digital access to on-line genealogy sites. We will be reaching out to other Historical Societies for suggestions and assistance.

A new feature scheduled for release soon will an email series of family stories and writings called "Their Stories".

Equipment requirements to satisfy the centers needs would include, Internet access, equipment for scanning, printing, and copying. Audio and visual equipment would allow for group presentations, memory lunches, guest speakers, lectures etc.

As one can imagine, this is an extensive undertaking, and an on-going effort is required to satisfy the needs of the center. Future goals would include regular or scheduled on-site personnel. Personal assistance, research availability for or non-locals, genealogy training, lectures, tours, etc. is also on the list

We are very much excited about the Genealogy Center. As we progress with the center you should see continuous improvement and experience the wealth of information available.

We are seeking and encourage the submission of any family history or local stories that you may have. And as always, any additional help or donations are much appreciated.

Sid Holodnick



## WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO A BUSY 2022 SEASON

Welcome to our 2022 season. While winter and Covid may have kept most in hibernation mode, The Society has been a hive of worker bees completing projects, organizing our programs and scheduling our events. Not only have we been continuing on the building construction projects but our Genealogy Center is busy organizing and categorizing the information that is being received. Pictures, articles, family trees etc. Donations of items and artifacts is continuing, requiring cataloging and item labeling, etc. Restoration work on antique items is ongoing.

You will be excited about some of the new features that will benefit our members. A new website is being designed and will be a great source for information. Society Business cards, drop cards and post cards will be available. We are working on promotional logo items such as Tee Shirts, Sweatshirts etc.

A concession area is in the planning stages and will be located In the east wing center of the building. Logo merchandise, Diorama books and other items will be displayed and available.

A new e-mail publication series called, "Their Stories" is being readied that will be featuring articles of interest. One example may focus on a particular family name and their immigration to Huron County. Another, a series of 1927-33 letters written by a 17-year-old Port Hope girl to her boyfriend working in Detroit. Also, a Port Hope army nurse's writings while serving during World War II. The first story, (Issue #1), is duplicated on Page 3 and titled "Is grandpa buried in the barnyard" As a society member, you will be receiving "Their Stories" by email on a regular basis. (We encourage the submission of any family stories or documentation that you may have.)

We, the board members, are looking forward to an exciting season and hope to see you at our meetings and summer events.

Alger Rutz



## MEETING NOTICE:

The Historical Societies monthly meetings will begin in April. Meetings will be held in our building's conference center meeting room on the second Tuesday of every month.

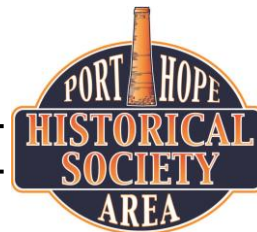
First meeting - April 12th at 6:30pm

Hope to see you there!



# "Their Stories"

Issue 1 Mar. 20, 2022



## IS GRANDPA BURIED IN THE BARNYARD?

Submitted by Garth Kriewall

At least it seemed that way when the current tenant on my late parents John & Marla's farm, discovered an old headstone near one of the farm outbuildings. It had no last name, just: "William -- June 7, 1843, to Feb. 7, 1927.

After being contacted by the freaked-out tenant, I assured him that...no, mom and dad did not have any bodies buried on their Moeller Road farm in Gore Township. At least I was pretty sure about that.

With a little searching on my mom's extensive database collection, I was able to identify the headstone name as William Pochert, my great grandfather.

Wilhelm C, Pochert, was born in Germany in 1843 and emigrated to Port Hope with his parents and siblings in 1855.

William fought for the Union Army in the Civil War. On Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, 1862, he fought in the battle of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, also known as Stone's River. His experiences during the war are not totally known, but what the family does know is that upon his return, he sent his two youngest sons to the Pacific Northwest -- as far away as continentally possible -- in the hopes they would never have to fight as he did.

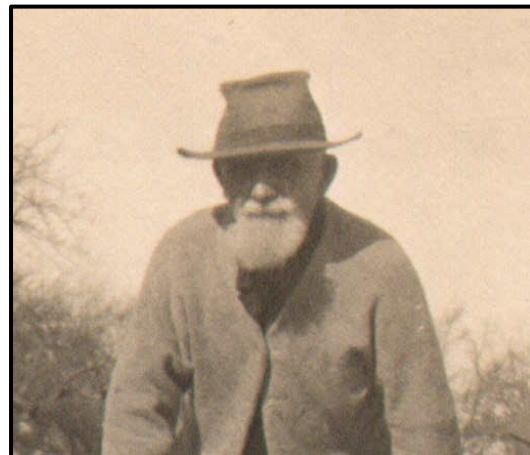
Back to the tombstone story, it was a certainty that William Pochert was buried in Marquardt Cemetery, in Huron Township, less than 2 miles from the former Pochert farm (at the corner of Moeller and Pochert roads. The story soon became clear.

Apparently, William's original stone in the Marquardt Cemetery had been vandalized some years ago and had since been replaced. Presumably, my dad John took custody of the old broken stone, brought it home and set it in the barnyard.

Mystery solved, all is good, William and his wife Otilie have all along, been resting peacefully in Marquardt Cemetery.

The old stone now resides in our garden bed on Ferdinand Drive, a 5-minute drive from where he's buried. And our tenant is now sleeping a bit easier.

*(A more extensive story of the Pochert family as well as the Kriewall family will be published in a later issue of "Their Stories")*



William and his hat (1889)



William C. Pochert June 7, 1843 – Feb 7, 1927



William and Otilie (Siltz) Pochert

The above is the first in the new series of, "Their Stories", to be issued and emailed to all Port Hope Area Historical Society members.

## Calendar of upcoming events

- 2022 -

**APRIL 12 – IST SOCIETY BOARD MEETING**  
**BOARD MEETINGS HELD ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> TUE. OF EACH**  
**MONTH THRU NOV.**

**MEMORY LUNCHES - DATES T.B.D.**

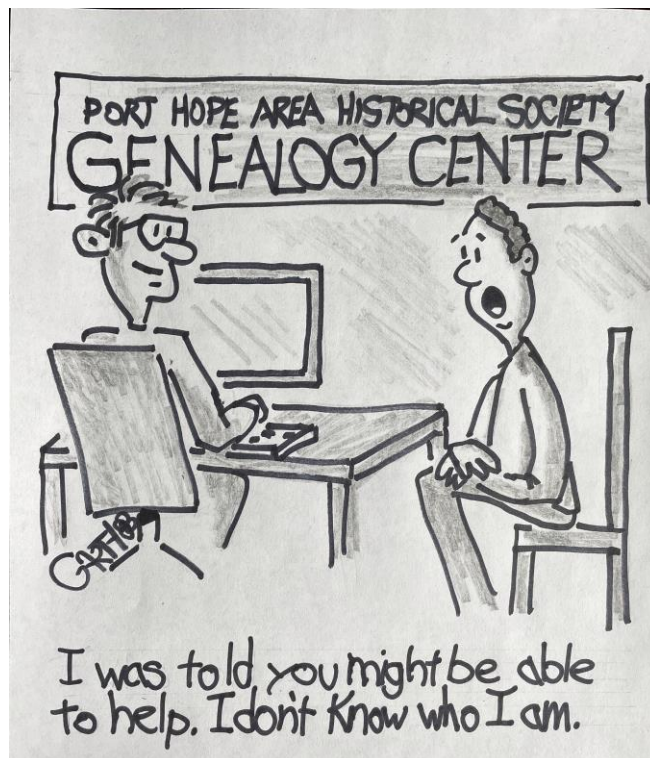
**JULY 1,2,3 - FLEA MARKET - 4TH OF JULY**  
**CELEBRATION**

**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**



Always a spot for Garth Kriewall's "GARTHTOONS"

**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.)