



Newcastle Village and District Historical Society Newsletter

June July August 2001 - Issue # 73

Annual President's Pot Luck

The President's Pot Luck Luncheon will be held at Ron and Betty Lou Locke's on Sunday, 3rd June. Please plan to be at the Lockes for 1:00 p.m. when we will sit down (come anytime after 12:00) Please bring first course or dessert and lawn chairs. Beverages will be supplied by the Lockes. Your guests are welcome too.

In case of rain the following Sunday, June 9th will be the alternate date. Same time and place.

The Massey Show

On April 26 the Massey Committee held a successful media event in the IGA parking lot with the old Massey building in the background. Many were in attendance including local business people,



Charlie Trim poses with Sanford and Ron at the Media Event

newspaper and TV representatives. After the presentation and photo opportunities everyone was invited to the Historical Room for refreshments.

Some of our members were on hand to serve and feed our guests information on the show on June 16.

Thanks to all who helped and special thanks to Pippa for the flowers, the wheelbarrow never looked

so good. Many thanks also to Archibald's Winery for helping with the event.



Sanford checks out Archibald's Finest

The Massey Committee now meets once a week to deal with all the business that comes up as the show gets closer. The directors are also busy with last minute preparations, such as presentations and trophies.

Still Room for Massey Show Volunteers

On June 16 we will require at least sixty volunteers for many different tasks, from selling tickets to helping in the Historical Room. The Show will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., so we will need people for two shifts, from 9-1 p.m. and from 1-5 p.m. Anyone willing to help for that day is asked to drop in to the Historical Room on any Tuesday morning and put their name in the volunteer book, call Ron Locke at 987-4406 or e-mail rlocke@speedline.ca

Author Harvey Medland will be our speaker on October 1, at 7.30. Harvey is highly recommended as an historical speaker, so mark your calendar. More information will be forthcoming.

Fawne Stratford-Devai will be our speaker on April 1, 2002. Fawne is a high-energy speaker who appears at genealogy seminars all across the country. We were very fortunate to be able to book her.

Hart Massey's Newcastle

by Philippa Schmiegelow

William Taylor Boate, Superintendent of Education for Durham County died in 1865 was just thirty-five. In his will, registered by his wife, Hart Massey's sister, Frances, on the 22nd February 1865, he left village lots 16, 17, 18 & 62 to Frances and to their daughter, four year old Emma Elida (Ida) Boate. The land he left them was originally surveyed by William Walbridge and is described in a deed from Hart Massey, dated 2nd September, 1859. Emma Elida inherited *all his books*; his wife, aged thirty, *all houses, outhouses, buildings, and appurtenances thereon, erected or thereto belonging*, as well as mortgages, (none of which paid less than 8%), bank stocks and life insurance. A niece, Fanny Boate, residing with them at the time of William's death while attending school in Newcastle, was left \$100.00 a year as long as Frances and Elida

died without legal heirs. Mrs. Jane Graham, also residing in the house, received \$80.00. The Anglican minister, the Reverent Brent was named as Elida's guardian with strict instructions that, unlike her Massey mother, she be bought up in the Anglican faith. Witnesses to the will were Richard Thomas Wilkinson, Barrister-at-law in the village, and John Glendinning, Cooper. Executors were Frances Massey Boate, David Fisher, Cashier of the Ontario Bank in Bowmanville, & Henry Northrup of Newcastle who bought the house and land from Frances Massey in 1869. William Boate is buried in Bowmanville along with his wife who died in Edgar, Ontario, in 1880.

Six month old Joseph Atkinson's father was killed by a train in 1865, the year William died. His mother turned her home into a

boarding-house for some of the forty to fifty craftsmen and labourers who worked at Massey's.

Somewhere in the sixties, Wing Kelly Walbridge, half-brother of Asa E. Walbridge and half-uncle of surveyor William, died in Dodge City, Iowa. On his death, Wing left a wife and two children in Iowa and his first wife, Sarah Brown, and daughter Phoebe, in Newcastle. Sarah, abandoned by bigamist Wing, died in 1885. She is buried in Brown's cemetery. Their daughter Phoebe became the 2nd wife of a well known carpenter in town, Adna Ferguson. Adna, like Hart Massey, was a trustee of the Wesleyan Methodist Church when the present church was built on Mill Street.

Mrs. Atkinson died of exhaustion in 1879, the same year the Massey factory moved to Toronto taking many of the workers and their families with it. Joseph Atkinson left school at an early age to work at the Newcastle Woollen Mill until it, like the first Massey factory, burnt down. He went on to found the Toronto Star. The Atkinson Foundation is dedicated to him.

On the 10th July, 1891, Ella Walbridge, daughter of John Walbridge, niece of surveyor William, and later Mrs. Stephen Jose, wrote from Newcastle : *I have got a hundred yards of carpet to weave this fall. It has been in the house all summer. I have done ten yards this week.* The loom she wove on can be found in Black Creek Pioneer Village along with books and religious tracts belonging to Asa Forbes Walbridge, younger brother of William and John. Asa had a large Sunday School class for adults of several denominations.*

My husband, Denis, and I have lived in the house owned by William and Frances Boate for the past twenty-seven years. Our four daughters have grown up here. It pleases me that the first woman in the house was a Massey and to know that, as well as being successful manufacturers of farm implements and machinery, her Massey relatives were generous benefactors to early female academies and colleges, and so, in their own way, did much to further the cause of education for women in Canada. But that is another story.

* Information on the Walbridge family is from Francis and Erla Jose.

The Esquire

by Myno Van Dyke

My dictionary defines an esquire as "*a man of the English gentry ranking next below a knight*". Not that many years ago, the term "esquire" was often used as a courtesy title after the name of an owner of property in a community. Thomas Montague of Newcastle, Ontario was often addressed as Thomas Montague, Esq.,

In the entrance to the magnificent Newcastle Community Hall there are four large stone

tablets donated by Montague listing the names of local residents killed in the WW1. Each year, a scholarship named after it's donor, Thomas Montague, is awarded to a male and female student residing in the village of Newcastle with the highest standing in O.A.C. This scholarship has been awarded each year since 1928. Last year it went to Newcastle resident Elizabeth MacNeill.

When the new Community Hall in Newcastle

was donated by Chester Massey, it was his friend, Thomas Montague, who was given the honour of laying the cornerstone.

Montague was one of Newcastle's most prominent and generous citizens. Although he was born in London, England, and his business interests kept him away from Newcastle, he returned each summer to his family home in the area of Robert Street and Mill Street South.

Thomas Montague was born in 1845, the son of James Montague and his wife Rebecca Moon. They had three daughters, Helen, Mary and Annie. The family came to Canada when Thomas was still a young boy and settled in Newcastle, Ontario. James Montague was a contractor who worked for the Grand Trunk Railway. He died when he was thirty- seven years old.

Thomas, a civil engineer, followed the path set by his father. He first became a successful contractor and railway builder and worked for the Grand Trunk Railway. He also became involved in iron mining in Pennsylvania. His mother and three sisters continued to live in the large frame house located near Mill Street South and Robert Street. Around 1905, Thomas sold his mining interests and decided to build a new large brick home for his mother and sisters



Thomas Montague and two Howard children, W.Allan MacLean Howard and Aldyla Larnerd

on the same property. This was a large parcel of land and Thomas divided up the property and sold off a number of two, three and five acre lots. .

Thomas Montague served on the Board of Education, was a charter member of the Durham Apple Growers Association, organized the Newcastle Horticultural Society and served as a trustee for both the Bond Head and St. George's Cemeteries. When Chester Massey offered to build the new Community Hall, Thomas was a

member of the Building Committee and with his contracting and building experience ensured that the construction was done properly.

His own home on Mill Street was always in impeccable condition and the building and grounds were the envy of the community. There were flowers everywhere as well as trees and a large vegetable garden.

Rev. Scott Howard , his wife Clara and their two children lived in the house with Montague.



The Montague House circa late 1930s
Thanks to Carl Good for the use of this picture

When Thomas died in 1928, he left the Howards his house, car and some money. Montague donated his remaining financial assets, approximately \$56,000, to various institutions, among them St. George's Anglican Church and cemetery, Bowmanville Hospital, Toronto General Hospital, Newcastle High School Bursary and \$10,000 to Newcastle Council to help maintain the Community Hall he helped build.

Newcastle resident, Mary Garrod, worked for the Howard family. "It was a busy place because the Howards entertained a lot in the summer. My mother and my aunt also worked there. They had garden and tennis parties and we would prepare food and set the tables. In the winter, they would live in Toronto. They were very nice people," Mary said.

A few months after Montague died, Newcastle United Church and St. George's Anglican Church held a combined Memorial Service for him. Many impressive tributes were paid to Thomas. Reeve W.F. Rickard unveiled a large portrait of him which is still

hanging on the north wall of the auditorium at the Newcastle Community Hall.

In 1939 Rev. Howard died, aged eighty-two. Mrs. Howard stayed in the home until shortly prior to her death in 1952. Shortly after, it became the South Haven Rest Home and housed patients from the psychiatric hospital in Whitby. South Haven became quite run-down and eventually went into bankruptcy leaving the once beautiful home empty for a number of years.

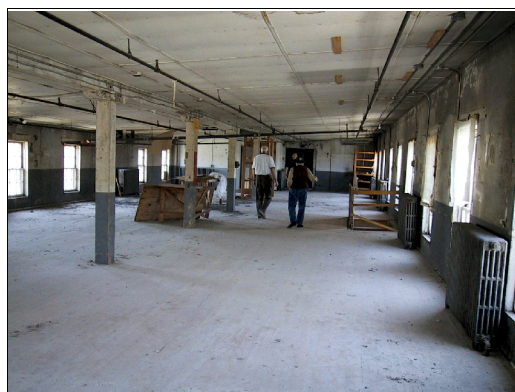
In the fall of 1995, Carl Good and his wife Joyce Kufra purchased the property. They moved in the spring of 1996 and began an extensive restoration of the home. The building now houses their business, Newcastle Funeral Home, and their private residence

Today, the Montague home has been restored to its original grandeur. Carl and Joyce have done a magnificent job of bringing this elegant old home back to how it looked almost a hundred years ago. Thomas Montague, Esquire, would be proud.

The Old Massey Factory

by Myno Van Dyke

Many local residents don't realize the significance of the old run down factory next door to the IGA store in Newcastle. It has huge historical relevance for this area. The older, north portion of the factory is where one of the world's largest agricultural implement manufacturers began.



Myno and Ken examine inside old Massey Factory

foundry in Bond Head at the corner of Metcalf Street and Mill Street South. Business was good and the following year, 1848, he constructed a three story brick factory on the south side of Kingston Road (now King Street) east of Beaver Street and named it the Newcastle Foundry and Machine

In 1847, Daniel Massey purchased a small

Manufactory, C.W. (C.W. means Canada

West) . Additional men were hired and new equipment was obtained as the firm began manufacturing plows, stump pullers, harrows, mowers and other farm implements.

By 1855, Massey began manufacturing a hand rake reaper capable of cutting eight to ten acres a day. In 1856, the Grand Trunk Railway came to Newcastle enabling Hart Massey to expand his operation. Steam engines, boilers, brass and iron castings, various stoves, lathes, iron and wood planes were added to the inventory of items produced in the Newcastle factory. In 1856, Hart sent a carload of machines to the Provincial Exhibition in Kingston where he won the first of many prizes Massey machinery was to win in the ensuing years.

At this time, Massey diversified. Many products were now being built in Newcastle; the Ketchum mower, the Manny Hand Rake reaper, field and garden rollers, horse hoes and cultivators, revolving hay rakes, fanning mills and seeders, wheelbarrows and railroad scrapers. Other items such as threshing machines and separators, stump pullers, feed choppers, grist mills and seventeen types of plows were imported for sale.

On March 24, 1864, disaster struck when the Massey warehouse was completely destroyed by fire. A new building was constructed immediately. In 1866, Massey designed a binder which was demonstrated at the '67 International Exposition in Paris, France, where it cut the required section of oats in a remarkable 55 minutes. The runner up took two and a half hours to cut the same section and also required a change of horses. Soon, orders came in for the new binder

from all over the world. This binder was improved in 1878 and was renamed The Massey Harvester. Massey soon had orders for 500 and in spite of more than 100 employees and six large buildings was unable to keep up with the demand. Much to the chagrin of the residents, the Masseys closed their Newcastle factory in 1879 taking many of the approximately 150 employees with them to Toronto.

In 1891, Massey joined up with Harris to form Massey-Harris, and in 1953 the company merged with Harry Ferguson Incorporated to become Massey Ferguson. In 1986, the company became the Varsity Corporation.

In 1916, the old factory building was bought by J. Anderson Smith who manufactured fine jewelry cabinets and cutlery cases. They added a newer section onto the old Massey factory. J.A.S.C.O. was closed in 1989 and the building has been vacant since then. It is now owned by the owners of the IGA store. Their long-term plans include restoration and conversion of this historic building to small shops, offices and apartments.

Our Newcastle Village and District Historical Society must do everything possible to educate the public and civic officials about this building. It must be saved. This will become more apparent this summer. On June 16th, the old building will be a major focus of attention when Massey enthusiasts from all over the world will come to Newcastle for the first ever Massey Show. Many of them can hardly wait to set foot in it.

From our Tech Guy

Massey's On the Internet

Submitted By Don Brown

The focus of this article will be to identify some of the many internet sites containing information on the Massey family and agricultural business, as well as online indexes of information and articles stored in libraries and archives throughout Canada. There are an abundance of web sites dedicated to the collection and restoration of Massey tractors and the sale and servicing of new agricultural equipment. These sites are beyond the scope of this article and are not included.

It should be noted that before going on the internet the serious Massey researcher or genealogist should first explore local resources. Most of the published work on the Massey family is available in Clarington libraries. Local researchers also have access to The Newcastle Village and District Historical Society and The Clarke Museum

and Archives, each of which have extensive collections of Massey artifacts and material.

The list of web sites identified here is by no means "The Complete List." As previously mentioned, the internet is continually evolving. Websites are added or removed daily. With this in mind, it is good practice to make copies of any current information you may find useful. Remember that all information obtained from the internet should be cross-checked and verified. Good website designers will list sources and identify where the contents of the webpage were obtained.

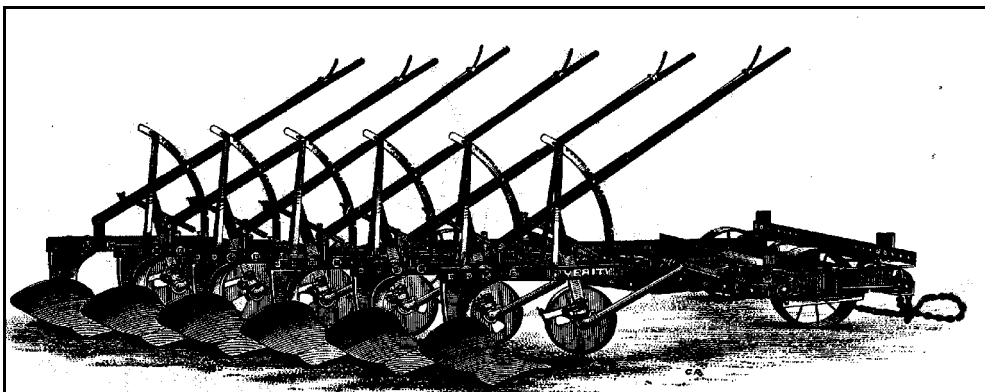
This list is separated into 2 sections: 1) sites where one can locate and obtain information on line; 2) indexes listing the contents of various archives and collections.

Massey Information Online

Site	Web Address	Scope	Pictures
Masseyshow	http://www.geocities.com/masseyshow/	Several history articles featuring; Massey family history, Massey Expositions and the legacy of buildings the Masseys left in the Newcastle area.	Vintage and contemporary.
Mabie Brothers Equip Dealer	http://www.mabiebrothers.com/massey/company_history/main.html	150 YEARS OF MASSEY FERGUSON 4 web pages of information about the Massey, Harris and Ferguson companies	Vintage
Canada Heirloom Series	http://collections.ic.gc.ca/heirloom_series/volume4/84-85.htm	THE MASSEY LEGACY Farming the World, one web page of Massey history	Vintage
Governor Generals Of Canada	http://www.gg.ca/history/bios/massey_e.html	One full web page dedicated to Canada's first Canadian Governor General --The Right Honourable Charles Vincent Massey	One Sketch of Vincent

Online Indexes to Massey Information Stored In Archives and Libraries

Site	Web Address	Physical Location	Extent	Material
National Archives Canada	http://www.archives.ca/	Ottawa	15.08 meters of textual records. 13,321 photographs.	Massey family fonds --By far the largest Massey collection. Well indexed online
Ontario Archives	http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/	Toronto	Some correspondence of Vincent Masseys	Very little vintage family or company info indexed online
Trent University Archives	http://www.trentu.ca/	Peterborough	Vincent Massey Collection	Charles Vincent Massey collection. -- 1921-1931. -- 1 folder of textual records
Toronto Public Library	http://tplwpac.tpl.toronto.on.ca/	Consolidated Index Of All Mega City Branches	Complete List Of All Massey Books In and Out Print. Most of these books are available through the library inter branch loan policy	Use Search Function to search on keyword "Massey"



Thanks to Hans Verkruijsen (J&J printing) we now have impressions like the this one made from the Massey printers blocks that were donated to us some time ago.

From the Collection of Murray Walton

Submitted by Herb Taylor

In 1927 an American car arrived in the village and the occupants made purchases at Bob Walton's store and several other businesses.

Then they drove off toward Newtonville and soon the merchants discovered that the money used by the Americans was counterfeit.

So Earl Walton, Earnest Gray and Eric Gray jumped into Bob's car and began an armed chase with Bob's revolver. They found the car at Morgan's Corners with all the men standing behind it. They caught the men by surprise and made a citizen's arrest, Bob with his gun, and Eric Gray who stuck his pipe into a man's ribs pretending it was a gun. There was much confusion and the local men saw revolvers and a machine gun in the American Car. One of the Americans whispered that he was an under cover FBI agent traveling with these men to find their counterfeit money printing equipment. He gave the name of a policeman in Toronto for the men to contact and warned that someone could get killed if they did not release the gangsters. He was not totally believed but the local men were happy to get their money back and released the Americans.

The local men returned to Newcastle quite pleased with themselves, but soon became upset when they realized that Bob's gun was not loaded.

This appeared to close the incident until the following arrived in the village:

I have been advised to-day by the United States Attorney here that the case of the United States vs. Joseph Clark has been set for trial, 9: 30, a.m. March 6th, 1928.

It will be appreciated if you will kindly have the following persons notified to be at this office, Room 347, Post Office Building, Detroit, Michigan, at 9: 00 a.m. on the above date.

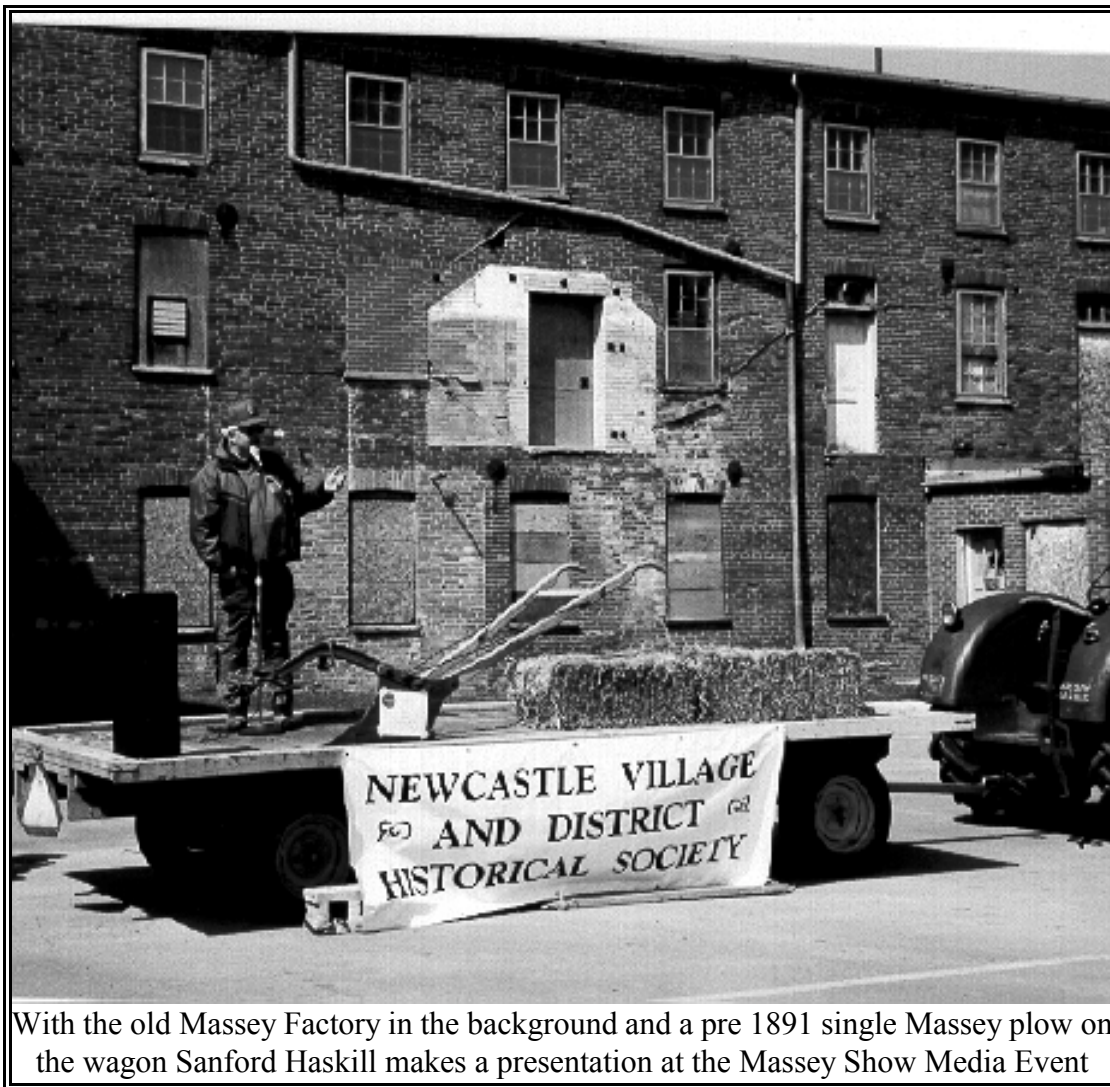
Robert Walton - Earl Walton - Ernest G. Grey - Erick Grey

You may advise these witnesses that this Government will pay each of them approximately \$37.00 for the round trip transportation to Detroit from Toronto, and \$5.00 a day for expenses from the time they leave Toronto until they return.

As I understand it, the above persons reside in Newcastle, Ontario, a suburb of Toronto, and will be willing to appear at the trial when notified.

Your assistance in having the witnesses notified and getting to appear in court here will certainly be appreciated.

*Yours respectfully
(sgd.) Bert C. Brown
Agent in Charge*



With the old Massey Factory in the background and a pre 1891 single Massey plow on the wagon Sanford Haskill makes a presentation at the Massey Show Media Event

We are invited to exhibit at the Local History Festival at Oshawa Library, Sat. Oct 13, 10-4 p.m. Dorothy, Myno, Helen and Pippa have agreed to put together a display.

We will be including Massey Posters with this newsletter. Please display them where you can. You may also pick up extras at the Historical Room any Tuesday morning before the show.

Society Information

Mailing address: Newcastle Village & District Historical Society
Unit 3, 20 King St. West
Newcastle Ontario, L1B 1H7

Web Site: www.geocities.com/nvdhs
e-mail President: rlocke@speedline.ca