

IT'S ABOUT TIME...

Newsletter of the Port Hope Archives

History Issue ~ Fall 2008

~ 1995 ~

The year 1995 was the first full year of operation for the Archives, then the Ganaraska Region Archives. Throughout the year, donations were accepted for a total of fifty-eight collections. All varied in size and subject, but ultimately were related to Port Hope's history and development.

Since 2003, the archivist has processed and catalogued the collection, both current donations and past donations. However, with the increasing number of donations made to the PHA, along with visitors, out-reach and other tasks, processing the "legacy collection" has not always been top priority.

Well, 1995 is completed! What is exciting, is all the items that have been "re-discovered". None of the old collection was accessible through the computer database, and therefore, it is difficult to use or even know what was available. A lot of incredible pieces were re-catalogued, re-numbered, researched for more information and re-housed. The information was then added to the database, with locations of the items for quicker reference. The process is slow, but very rewarding. This newsletter is to share some of what was re-discovered during the process of cataloguing the 1995 donations. Enjoy!

SONS OF REV. A. M. IRWIN

This photograph was donated by Jean Stroud in November 1995, along with a number of photographs related to families and the Canton Methodist Church. Luckily, the photographs were all identified! This one however, was simply identified as "Sons of Rev. A. M. Irwin" with no additional information. This led to the search to find more information on the Reverend and his family.

The key to finding who these boys were, was to find their father's name. This was found after some creative searching of birth records. From there, census records were cross-referenced, and the names of these four little boys were discovered.

This photograph was taken by E.T. Hamly about 1907. Rev. Irwin's sons are from left to right, Cecil, William, Carl and George.

Rev. Arthur Mansell Irwin served the Methodist church in Canton during the early 1900s. He was married to R. Lillian Webster.

Carl W. and Cecil Mansell were born in Carden Township, Victoria County in 1900 and 1901 respectively. George Norman was born in Haldimand Township, Northumberland County and William Dean was born in 1906 in Hope Township.

A fifth son, Arthur Ross was born in 1908 in Newcastle, where Rev. A. M. Irwin was serving as minister.

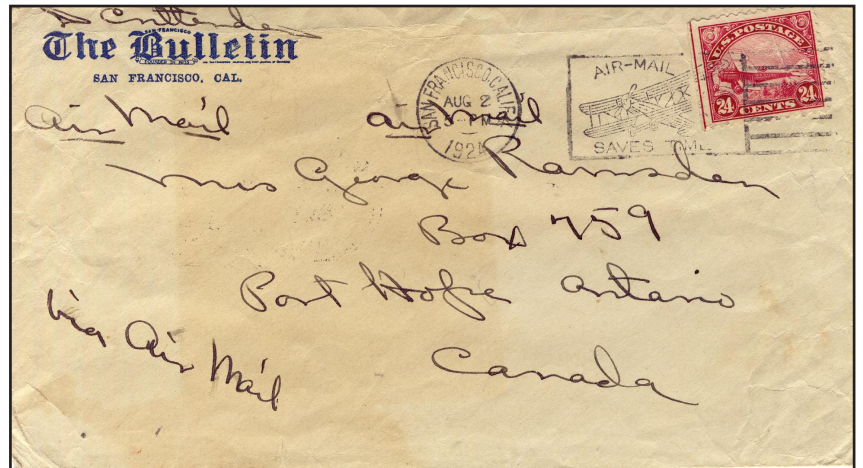


FIRST AIR MAIL LETTER TO PORT HOPE

The Evening Guide reported the following:

"The first letter to reach Port Hope via Aerial Mail was delivered to Mrs. Geo. Ramsden, South Street, from her daughter Mrs. D. Crittendence, San Francisco, California. The letter bears a 24 cent aerial stamp and the stamp mark of the air service. The letter left San Francisco on Saturday night and Mrs. Ramsden received the letter Monday."

In truth, the letter actually arrived on Tuesday, August 5th and was post marked Port Hope (on the back) on that date.



PHA #995-29-1-1

The envelope and the news clipping are part of the PHA collection and were donated by Susan Van Camp in memory of Kay Van Camp.



PHA # 995-20-40-1326

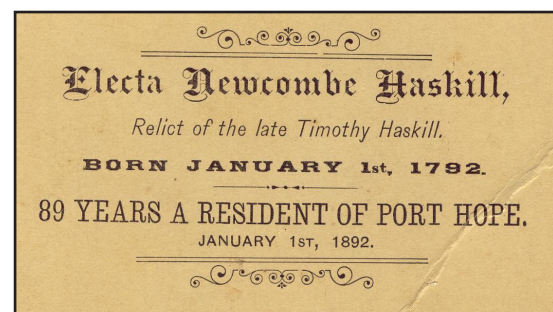
PORT HOPE'S OLDEST RESIDENT EVER?

Electa Newcombe Johnson was born in Dorset, Vermont in 1792, and in 1803 came to Hope Township with her parents, Timothy Newcombe (1752-1840) and Chloe Bennett. She married Timothy Curtis Haskill (1788-1868).

Mrs. Haskill died in 1898 in her 106th year at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John Doney on Charles Street.

Photographs were printed of Mrs. Haskill with her information (seen below) on the reverse.

Former Port Hope mayor, Michael Wladyka was an avid collector of Port Hope historical items, and in 1995, donated a great deal of material to the Archives, including this photograph of Electa Haskill.





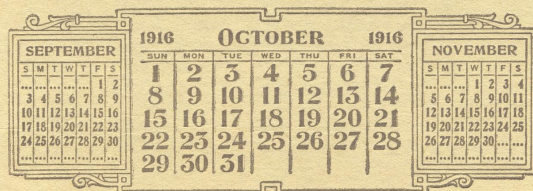
H. W. MITCHELL, PHM. B.

Dispensing Chemist

The **Rexall** Store

PHONE 92. RES. 221

PORT HOPE



Now you read the other side?

The 1916 *Commercial and Industrial Edition of Port Hope, Bowmanville, Orono and Newcastle, Ontario* described H. W. Mitchell and The Rexall Store as such:

"The business of the pharmacist is one requiring a great amount of care and well directed study to prevent any possible mistakes in the compounding of prescriptions or handling of drugs. Among the most competent and popular druggists and chemists in Port Hope must be classed Mr. H. W. Mitchell. He assumed control of this old established business ten years ago. The premises occupied on Walton Street are tastefully and appropriately fitted up for all the requirements of the trade. Here a full line of drugs and chemicals of the finest quality are kept, including proprietary medicines of acknowledged merit and reputation, also fancy and toilet articles, perfumery, etc., as well as fine stationery. From its inception this house has maintained a strong hold on public favor and confidence, steadily winning its way to prominence and prosperity, until now its patronage is of a most substantial character. The proprietor, Mr. H. W. Mitchell, is a graduate of the Ontario College of Pharmacy. He employs competent assistants in the store and gives special and personal attention to the compounding of prescriptions. He will be found an honorable and upright business man in all his dealings and is worthy of the appreciation in which he is held by his friends and patrons. He is also Ticket Agent here for the C. N. R."

Four H. W. Mitchell calendars are in this particular collection from 1916 and 1918. The calendars were originally donated to the Oshawa Community Museum. In 1995 the calendars and other items were deaccessioned from OCM's collection and transferred to the Archives in Port Hope.

JULY 27, 1935

The snapshot shown to the right is one of 20, donated in 1995. The snapshots were taken on July 27, 1935 by a Port Hope resident.

The subjects of the snapshots include the harbour, viaducts, rail tracks, and the trains. A couple of the snaps also show the town hall with the tennis courts that were once south of the municipal buildings.



PHA # 995-55-1-326

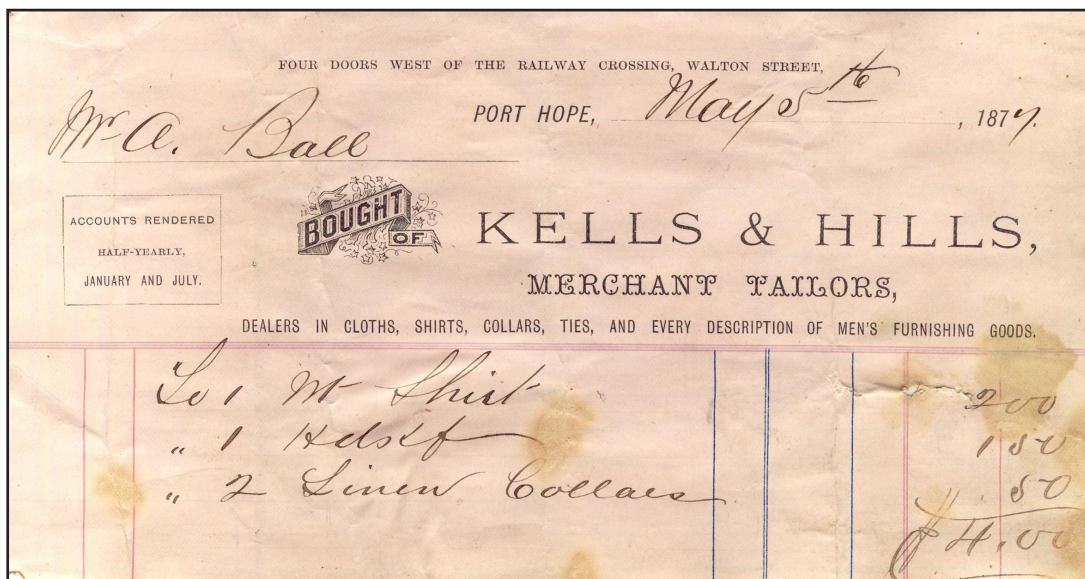
ORIGIN OF DECORATION DAY IN PORT HOPE

In 1995, Jane McColl donated her father's research notes and other historical papers. Ms. McColl's father was local historian W. Harold Reeve (1900-1974), who in 1967 wrote *The History of the Township of Hope*.

Among the papers was found a make-shift scrapbook of lined paper, with invoices and letterheads from old Port Hope businesses attached. These papers originally belonged to Albert Ball (1832-1926) of Hope Township. The papers were acquired by Mr. Reeve after Mr. Ball's death.

Below is an example of one of the invoices included in the scrapbook. At the bottom of the page Mr. Reeve wrote: "*William Henry Kells sec of Order of odd Fellows from its beginning 1871 to 1877 when he died on Aug 1 1877. Flowers decorated his grave by the members and this was the inception of Decoration Day that spread to other lodges.*"

According to the 1871 *Canadian Dominion Directory*, Henry Kells lived on King Street, and his partner, George Hills lived on Walton Street. Kells and Hills was located in the Queen's Hotel block, now the Walton Hotel at 81 Walton Street.



PHA # 995-52-2-2

JOIN US

Annual Memberships to the Port Hope Archives are available to everyone. For more information visit or call the Archives.

Household \$25
Business/Organization \$50

DONATIONS

All donations of \$25 or more are eligible for a tax receipt. The Port Hope Archives is a registered charity

Charitable Registration
#83789 8675 RR0001

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OUR MANDATE

The Port Hope Archives exists to collect and preserve archival materials which illustrate the growth and development of the Municipality of Port Hope or which pertain in whole or in part to activities within the geographic boundaries of the Municipality of Port Hope.

It's About Time...

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HOURS

WEDNESDAY TO FRIDAY

10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Closed everyday between
12 p.m. and 1 p.m.