

IT'S ABOUT TIME...

Newsletter of the Port Hope Archives

Summer 2008

Archives Receives Face-lift

In March 2007, the Port Hope Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario generously provided the Port Hope Archives with a grant of \$10,000. The purpose of the funding was to upgrade the Archives' records storage area. After much planning and a few roadblocks, the upgrades began to take shape in December. The upgrades for shelving and new flooring were coordinated with interior painting. The Municipality of Port Hope had budgeted for interior painting in the 2007 budget. Careful planning was involved to protect the collection, as well as ensuring the move and upgrade goals would go as smoothly as possible.

The old shelving in the Archives had become increasingly unsafe, and aside from being a health and safety issue, was not providing proper storage or support for the collection. The new shelving is sturdy, adjustable and designed for its intended use.

In addition to new shelving, some modifications were made to the records storage area. A shelf that began half-way up the wall and ran the entire length of the room was removed to accommodate the new shelving and make better use of the space. As well, the dehumidifier was hooked up to drain directly into the plumbing. This was a considerable upgrade, as it has previously been draining through a hole in the floor.

The opportunity to rearrange the Reading Room was also presented during the renovations. Shelving was added to provide easier access to the

The new shelving is several inches taller than the original shelving. As well, the shelves are adjustable, making the new shelving units more useful for storing archival records.



The Reading Room continues to serve visitors from around the world who are researching Port Hope-related topics. The renovations in the building allowed for changes in the Reading Room as well, making it more useful for visitors, volunteers and staff.

land abstract books, the photograph binders (all photographs in the collection, as much as possible, have been photocopied for easy viewing), local history and genealogical resources. With just a bit of paint and the added resources, the Reading Room is much more welcoming and is more efficient.

In addition, the land records which were housed in the records storage area were difficult to access. They too have been moved and now are in the office area and are much more accessible for volunteers and staff.

The moving of the collection and coordinating of the renovations could not have been done without the assistance of our volunteers and municipal staff. A special thank you is extended to Mike Miller of the Municipality of Port Hope for his assistance throughout the entire project to ensure that everything ran as smoothly as possible. Thank you to our many volunteers who were on hand in early January, and again in February to move shelving, the collection and land record cabinets. The changes could not have been done without you. With the support of the community and volunteers, Port Hope has an Archives it can be proud of!



Chairperson's Message Charles Taws

These are exciting times at the Port Hope Archives. Krista has become our first full-time archivist. This will allow us to better serve the public with longer hours of operation and to work more closely with the Municipality to ensure their archival documents are preserved for future generations.

The Municipality's generous support has helped the Archives to continue to grow. Visitors remark on the bright newly renovated interior and outside preservation work on the building will continue this summer. The shelving that was bought through a large financial donation from the ACO has created more storage space and made the Archives a more convenient and safer

place to work.

The Archives Board continues to look at interesting projects to raise awareness and funds to keep the Archives a vibrant community resource. You will see us at many local events throughout the summer and fall. These occasions are a perfect opportunity for us to get our message out to the public and also for Staff and Board members to meet current members and to attract new members.

I hope you all have a happy and safe summer.

Charles D. Taws

Welcome Don and Donna

At the end of December, the PHA bid good-bye to **Marnie Marsh** as a director on the board. **Lisa Foucault's** term of office also ended in December, but she has remained on the Board of Directors as past-chair to assist with the transition and partnership with the Municipality of Port Hope. Many thanks is extended to both Lisa and Marnie for all of their assistance over the years. With their leadership, the PHA has accomplished a great deal and is well prepared for its future. Thank you Lisa and Marnie!

With Lisa and Marnie's retirement, the Board of Directors welcomes two new directors, Don Sellar and Donna Strong. At this time, we would like to introduce to you your two new board members.

Don Sellar teaches media law and ethics in the innovative Canadian Media for Internationally Trained Writers program at Sheridan College, Oakville.

He's a Habitat for Humanity volunteer, dry stone wall enthusiast and baseball fan. In 2005, he edited *In Our Opinion*, a collection of Canadian newspaper editorials back to 1884.

Born in Calgary, Don got an arts degree at University of Alberta. He spent 40 years as a reporter, columnist and editor at the *Calgary Herald*, *Southam News* and *Toronto Star*. A news correspondent in Ottawa and Washington, Don joined *The Star* in 1984, where he was an editorial writer, editorial page editor, and for 11 years, ombud.

He and his wife, Lynda, moved to Port Hope in 2005. They have three adult children.

Donna Strong is a lifelong resident of Port Hope and is married to Dave Strong with whom she has three grown children.

After graduating from Business College, she worked for the Ontario Ministry of Transportation in Port Hope and Burlington.

Donna has a great interest in the history of Port Hope and area, and consequently is a life member of the East Durham Historical Society and served as a Director of the EDHS for over 20 years. She was also involved in the publishing of *Hope and Its Port - Two Centuries of Change*, and in co-ordinating the "Family Histories" series.

Donna is an active member of the Friends of the Library and has a keen interest in genealogy.



Out-going Vice-Chair, Marnie Marsh presents out-going Chairperson Lisa Foucault with flowers from the Board of Directors at the AGM in January.

Archivist's Message Krista Taylor

So many changes have taken place at the PHA in the last 6 months. Our hours have changed, I have gone full-time, we've had renovations and our visitor numbers continue to increase. All in all, we are doing very well. I must not forget to mention the successful Annual General Meeting held in January. It is always wonderful to present to the membership what our accomplishments have been for the previous year.

On February 13 the PHA reopened after being closed for two months for renovations. Anyone who has visited the PHA since that time would agree it was worth the wait. The interior of the Archives was freshened up with a new paint job courtesy of our landlords, the Municipality of Port Hope, and thanks to a grant from the Port Hope Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, the records storage area has been outfitted with archival shelving and a new floor covering. The storage area is now something to be proud of. I have had the opportunity to show our upgrades to impressed colleagues from local museums and archives. I am happy to provide tours of the upgrades to anyone who wishes to see them.

Although the PHA was closed for the first month and a half of 2008, the closure has not slowed the number of donations made to date. I have received a variety of material for the collection, including photographs, probates, magic lantern slides and other wonderful pieces. One piece in particular – a portrait of Queen Victoria – was donated at the end of February and you can read about the provenance of the piece on page 4 of this newsletter.

On March 31, 2008, the Port Hope Archives successfully completed another grant with the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Once again I would like to acknowledge the contributions of OTF. Without OTF's assistance over the last five years, the PHA would not be where it is today. OTF provided the initial funds for the archivist position in 2003, and since that time OTF and the Municipality of Port Hope have provided funding to keep the archivist position available. For more information on the Ontario Trillium Foundation visit www.trilliumfoundation.org.

Spring has finally arrived and we are gearing up for a busy summer. Warm weather encourages researchers to get out and travel to the birthplace of their ancestors. Over the last few years we have been fortunate to have researchers from around the world visit us in Port Hope.

Of course, with the price of gas, I have already seen an increase in e-mail requests as some researchers are opting out of driving and sending an e-mail instead. A steady increase in the number of e-mail requests has been seen this year – from England to British Columbia. As well, now that the PHA is able to accept payment by VISA and Master Card, we have been able to quickly process orders. So keep in mind, any purchases you would like to make at the PHA – be it books, research or your membership renewal – may be done by credit card.



We have had a busy spring with an increase in public hours, as well as two open houses.

To celebrate Archives Awareness Week and our reopening, we held a successful open house on Saturday, April 5th. The volunteers and I were happy to welcome forty-five visitors from Port Hope, Tyrone, Toronto, Brooklin, Belleville and Grand Valley. All of the visitors were able to learn more about what we do and what the services PHA has to offer.

On May 31st, the PHA welcomed more than 160 visitors to the Archives, during Doors Open Port Hope. Visitors came from across Ontario - Toronto, St. Thomas, Brighton, Cobourg, Port Hope and Peterborough - to catch a look at some of the impressive buildings Port Hope has to offer. During the event, the Board of Directors organized a silent auction which raised \$400. Thank you to the Board of Directors for their efforts and to the successful bidders.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer. I hope to see many of you at the various events we will be attending throughout the summer and fall.

Krista Taylor

Please note our new hours

Wednesday to Friday

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

Saturday

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Closed every day between 12 and 1 p.m.

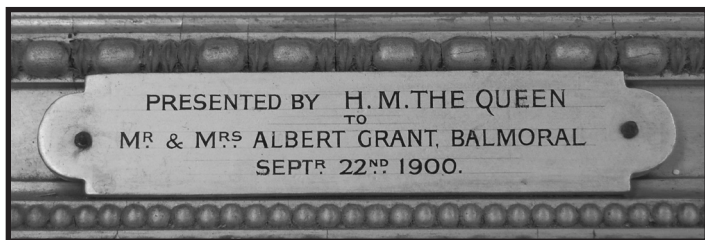
Port Hope Archives Welcomes *The Mother of Confederation*



PHA # 2008-4-1-1

A stunning portrait of Queen Victoria now hangs on the wall in the Reading Room of the Port Hope Archives. The gold gilt frame is striking against the wall and makes a regal statement. However, with all the portraits available of members of the British Royal Family, one may ask why is this one so special? Read on and discover how this portrait of one of the most powerful monarchs in British history came to be in Port Hope.

In February, the Port Hope Archives was approached by a local donor about donating the family's portrait of Queen Victoria. This was not just any portrait, but a signed portrait that had been given to the donor's maternal grandparents by the Queen and Empress herself in 1900. The plaque on the bottom of the frame reads :



The Grant family had a strong connection to the Royal Family, being in their employment for two generations on the Balmoral Estate in Scotland.

Albert Grant (1852-1921) was the fifth son of John Grant and Elizabeth Robbie. The Grant family lived on



"Ballintruan", the Stuart, and later the Grant residence on Rose Glen Road, Port Hope, where the portrait of Queen Victoria hung for many years.

PHA 2006-10-4-1679

the Balmoral Estate and John worked as a ghillie (head gamekeeper) for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. In June, 1868, Albert Grant was appointed a ghillie. It is not known how long he worked for Her Majesty.

On May 20, 1896, Albert Grant married Josephine Caroline Stuart (1863-1947), daughter of Charles Stuart and Margaret Gladman of Port Hope. The couple were married at St. John's Anglican Church, Port Hope. After their marriage they divided their time between London and Port Hope.

Albert and Josie had three daughters, Victoria Alberta Stuart Grant (1897-1974), Margaret Dorothy Grant (1898-1980) and Josephine Elizabeth Grant (1899-1971). Victoria Grant was a goddaughter of Queen Victoria.

Albert and Josie are buried at St. John's Anglican Cemetery, Port Hope, however their names and dates are on a plaque at Balmoral Castle.

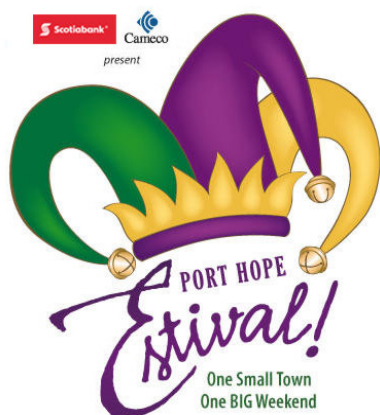
The original portrait of Queen Victoria was painted in oil by Heinrich von Angeli (1840-1925) in 1885 and remains in the Royal Collection. The Queen had the portrait made into a photogravure by Hanfstaengl, one of the leading photogravure artists in Europe at the time. The portrait at the PHA is a photogravure.

To complete the Royalty theme in the Reading Room, a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II which once hung in the Legion hall on Toronto Road welcomes visitors. As well, a letter of thanks from the Office of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, St. James Palace was received by Town Hall for the People of Port Hope following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales in 1997. The letter and envelope are framed and hang on the wall.

Coming Events

***A Carnival of Arts, Entertainment, Food and Culture
Visit Historic Port Hope
on August 2nd and 3rd for a Fantastic New Festival!***

Over thirty different performances will entertain in tents and stages throughout the downtown. Street performers, a plethora of artist and artisan vendors, combined with international food tasting, a fabulous choreographed fashion show and body builders will delight crowds throughout the weekend. A children's tent and fun for the entire family, as



well as numerous other colourful spectacles will delight festival goers beyond belief!

Show casing the weekend events, Saturday's "Parade of Colour" will feature musicians and a magnificent array of dancers including traditional Thai costumed dancers. Other cultural

artists, entertainers, horses and an adjudicated contest for the best dressed umbrellas will all march down Ontario's best preserved Main Street. Be sure to partake of Sunday morning's "All Northumberland Breakfast" serving food produced within the county.

While attending Estival, don't forget to visit the Port Hope Archives table. For information and on-going updates on Estival contact Port Hope Tourism at 1-888-767-8467 or visit www.porthopeestival.ca

20th Anniversary Canton Cenotaph - Join the community to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Canton Cenotaph on Saturday, August 16th, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Canton Municipal office. Demonstrations and displays will be held throughout the day. The Port Hope Archives will have a special display of military archival materials. The *Book of Remembrance* will be available for sale.

Heritage Day, Port Hope Farmer's Market - August 23rd - Visit the Port Hope Archives' booth at the Farmer's Market in celebration of Port Hope's heritage. Be sure to check out the fresh produce the market has to offer.

177th Port Hope Fall Fair - September 12th to 14th - Visit one of the oldest agricultural fairs in Ontario! Come

to the fair and see all it has to offer. While there, stop by the Archives' booth to see our display and enter your name for a chance to win a great prize.

Mini Yard Sale - Saturday, September 20th - The Port Hope Archives will hold its fourth annual yard sale. The 2008 sale will be on a smaller scale. This year's "mini" yard sale will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the Archives. The Archives is accepting donations from members and friends of the Archives. All donations are to be brought to the PHA on September 18th and 19th. The PHA will not be accepting the following for the sale:

- Clothing
- Furniture
- Harlequin novels
- Encyclopedias
- Reader's Digest books and magazines
- National Geographic Magazines
- Textbooks
- Mugs and cookie tins



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Archives. Thank you for your continued support!

Genealogy Workshop

- Saturday, October 25th, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. - back by popular demand! Archivist, Krista Taylor will lead participants in a workshop aimed at understanding what genealogy is, how to begin, how to get organized and much more. The workshop is \$25 for non-members and \$20 for members and includes workshop booklet. Seating is limited and pre-registration is required by Thursday, October 23rd. To register contact the PHA at 905-885-1673 or archives@porthope.ca



PASSING THROUGH PORT HOPE ...

On the way into Canadian history

DR. ANNIE ELLA CARVETH HIGBEE

Annie Ella Carveth was born in Port Hope on October 11, 1864. She was the youngest child and only daughter of English parents, John Carveth (1826-1906) and Mary Ruddock (1833-1880). Annie had two older brothers, George Henry (b.1858) and Arthur Henry (1861-1939).

Annie graduated from Trinity University in 1893 with her medical degree. She practiced medicine for a short time in Windsor before leaving for California due to health reasons.

While in California, Annie married Professor Charles E. Higbee (1858-1934) in January 1897. Charles was born in Lodin, Ohio and was the son of Jeremiah Higbee and Melissa Virginia Foote. He was employed as a high school principal. They had one son, John "Jack" Carveth Higbee (1898-1975).

The Higbee family remained in California until 1912, when Charles and Annie, followed her brother Arthur to northern Alberta. Here Annie and Charles purchased a 640-acre farm in the Peace River District of Alberta.

Annie applied for homesteading rights, buying four homestead quarter sections (160 acres) of their choice. The Higbees were responsible for improving the land, which included occupying it, making improvements such as building a house, barn and fences and breaking in the land. After a minimum of three years, they were able to apply for title to their property.

Dr. Higbee in California became "Dr. Annie" in the Peace River District. According to Carlotta Hacker in her 2001 book *The Indomitable Lady Doctors* she described Annie's method of attending her patients. In the summer she rode on horseback with her instruments strapped to her saddle or by horse and buggy to visit patients. She kept an office in Grande Prairie, which was fifteen miles from the Higbee homestead.

The Grande Prairie *Herald* reported in the July 22, 1913 issue: "One of the most noted events of last week was the laying of the corner stone of the new Presbyterian Hospital on Saturday afternoon. The stone was set in place by Mrs. Forbes, Nurse Baird and Dr. Higbee, all three having taken an important part in caring for the sick and injured of this district..."

The February 14, 1957 issue of the Bowmanville *Canadian Statesman* reprinted a November 1956 article from Grande Prairie's *The Herald Tribune*, describing Annie's medical career in that district.

"Back in 1912, frontier folk for wilderness miles around begun to keep anxious kerosene lamps in pioneer cabin windows, waiting

for the familiar pounding of her saddle horse or the clatter of her welcome buckboard along the trail when illness struck. Dr. Annie Carveth Higbee, first woman doctor to pioneer her profession in the Peace River country had ventured over the Edson Trail that March with her husband, Professor Higbee of the Cleveland, Ohio educational system and their 13-year old son Jack, in company with her brother Arthur, his wife, their daughter Rita and son Gerald, near her own son's age.

"The party had set out from Newcastle, Ontario to join other members of the Carveth family who had gone on ahead to the beckoning grand prairie in 1911 to establish new home-sites.

"The arduous trek by ox team ended for the Higbees some nine miles east of the scattered collection of rude shacks known as Prairie City. Later, they acquired land in the Benzanson district.

"But it was from her 'office' on the Grande Prairie homestead now known as the Herman Wendt place, that Dr. Higbee soon earned the gratitude of the countryside. Night or day, slogging through mosquito-infested slough trails or bundled against paralyzing cold, she beat the stork to lonely, isolated cabins... bound up deep axe cuts of an inexperienced settler... treated lost trappers for frostbite and pneumonia, ... rickety Beaver Indian babies ... home brew-poisoned breeds... pulled teeth and set broken bones....

J. C. McGregor wrote in *Land of Twelve Foot Davies*: "Dr. Higbee in her services is unsparing of herself. In every way this lady has rendered great service in her care of the maimed and ailing.... Dr Higbee, who devoted her life to the care of the sick and to the cause of the mothers who, in log bunk screened off from the rest of the kitchen, bore the next generation that were to develop the Peace River Country."

In 1919, the Higbee family moved to Toronto. Annie's brother Dr. George Carveth was a founder of Toronto Western Hospital. Annie joined the staff as an anaesthetist. Annie remained on staff until her retirement in 1925.

Annie returned to Newcastle where she operated her private practice. Charles died in Toronto in 1934, although a resident of Newcastle. Annie retired from private practice in 1939.

In 1956, Annie attended the 60th anniversary of the opening of Toronto Western Hospital. She was 92 years old and attended the ceremony in her own right, being the oldest surviving staff surgeon and the oldest graduate woman doctor in Canada.

Annie died in Milton on April 25, 1965 at the age of 100. She is buried with her parents, her husband and family in the Orono Cemetery.

HISTORIC BUSINESS

C. Quinlan & Son

Architectural buffs in Port Hope may be familiar with the name of a block of buildings on Walton Street known as the "Quinlan Block". But one may ask, who were the Quinlans and how did they contribute to Port Hope's history?

CORNELIUS QUINLAN (1821-1883)

Cornelius Quinlan was born in Ireland. As a young man he came to Canada West and settled in Hamilton. While in Hamilton he became employed by Edward Jackson. About 1842, Cornelius left Hamilton for Port Hope where he succeeded Aaron Choate in operating the Port Hope branch of Mr. Jackson's business.

In 1843, Cornelius married Eliza Quay (1824-1887), a daughter of Thomas Quay. They had a family of one son – James Walker and four daughters – Mary, Maria, Edith and Eliza.

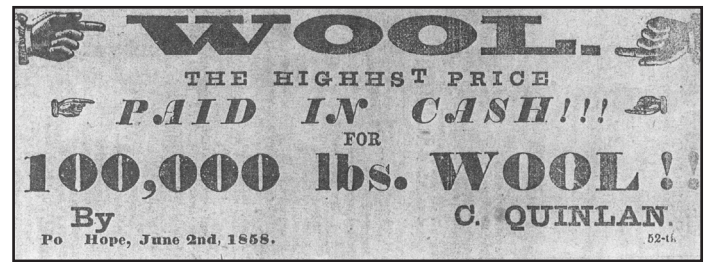
Cornelius was active in public life. In 1856 he was a member of the police court; an ensign with the 1st Battalion of the Durham Regiment Militia; a director of the Port Hope, Lindsay and Beaverton Railway Company and active in the Methodist Church. He served Port Hope as a reeve and later as Mayor from 1861 to 1865.

Cornelius had extensive land holdings in town and was responsible for building the Quinlan Block – the first one which burned in 1866 and its rebuilt successor.



The Quinlan Block, Walton Street, ca. 1897

When it came to his business, Cornelius was listed differently over the years. In 1856 he was simply a "tinsmith" on Walton Street, yet he had advertisements in the local papers wanting to buy wool. In the 1861 census he was listed as "tinsmith and mayor". With the publication of the 1871 Dominion Directory, the business was under "C. Quinlan and Son" who were listed as "tin and copper smiths, gasfitters



and dealers in stoves, tin ware, pumps, lamps, coal oil, &c."

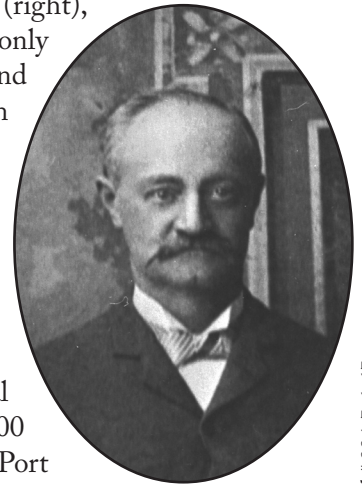
JAMES WALKER QUINLAN (1847-1905)

James Walker Quinlan (right), known as "J.W.", was the only son of Cornelius Quinlan and Eliza Quay. He was born and educated in Port Hope and later went to work for his father. He remained unmarried and carried on the family business following the death of his father in 1883.

Like his father before him, J.W. served on municipal council, serving from 1896-1900 and again in 1904 as mayor of Port Hope.

One of J.W.'s greatest contributions to Port Hope was introducing electric light to the town in 1885. J.W. operated at Ball Company dynamo in the Wallace Machine shop on Cavan Street, driven by an engine supplied with steam from the Wallace boiler. Later that same year, he moved to Beamish's Dam and for the first time water was used for developing electrical energy in Port Hope.

J.W. died on April 24, 1905 from pneumonia. He was buried with his parents at St. John's Anglican Cemetery, Port Hope.



THE PORT HOPE ARCHIVES WOULD LIKE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR BUSINESS & ORGANIZATION MEMBERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, INDIANA

ACO, PORT HOPE BRANCH

CAMECO CORPORATION

CHEMCRAFT INTERNATIONAL

GILMER'S HOME HARDWARE

THE PAPERWORKS

PORT HOPE & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Choate Family Papers Donated

Early in 2007, the PHA received a donation of papers related to the Estate of Nathan Choate (1805-1891). Due to the size of the fonds, processing has only just begun. Initially, it was believed the papers were only related to the estate. Instead, it has been discovered that the papers cover several generations of the Choate family and their relations.

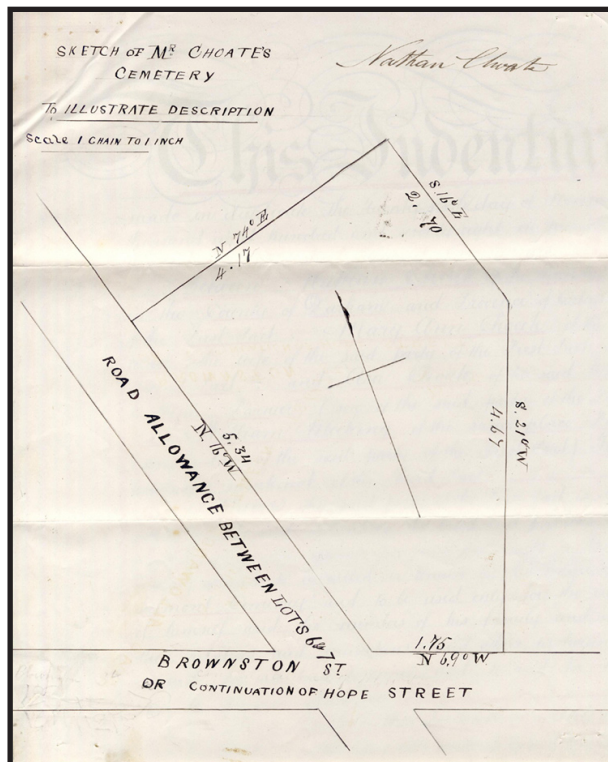
This collection of papers is very interesting and provides a great deal of insight into the business dealings of one of the area's earliest families. Considering their age, the papers are in very good physical condition and include the detailed paperwork of the executors of Mr. Choate's estate, local businessmen, Henry Hamilton Burnham and John Henry Helm. Also found among the business papers was personal correspondence between Jacob Choate and Jonathan Walton, between the years 1832 to 1837.

It may be of interest that the Choate papers did not come from a Choate descendant. Instead, they came by way of a friend of the family, who was given the papers several years ago by a Choate descendant. Finally, last year, the donor and her daughter sought to find a new home for the papers where they would be protected and be accessible to others.

So many interesting papers are included that it is impossible to list them all here. The cataloguing of the collection is near completion and will be accessible this summer. One of the interesting documents included was the 1878 deed for "The Belmont Cemetery."

On November 26, 1878, Nathan and his fourth wife, Mary Ann Choate set aside a parcel of land on lot 6, Concession 2, Hope Township for the "purpose of a cemetery or burying ground to be called or known by the name of 'The Belmont Cemetery' and to be used only for the interment of himself and the members of his family and of his and their relatives and connections, and others... and for no other use."

When Nathan Choate died, he allocated funds from his estate for the perpetual upkeep of the cemetery. In October 1947, The Belmont Cemetery was closed and the remains of the Choate family were relocated to a family plot at Union Cemetery, Port Hope.



Mr. Choate's Cemetery, 1878

PHA 2007-5-1-6

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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Don Sellar

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...

PUBLISHED BY THE PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

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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.