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Winter 2018

IT'S ABOUT TIME...

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

225th Anniversary

This year marks the 225th anniversary of the arrival of the first settlers, to what is today called Port Hope. The name of the village near the mouth of the Ganaraska River was called Cochingomink, by the Mississauga who inhabited this area. Peter Smith, a trader arrived about 1778 and built a log house to the east of the river. He was a trapper and hunter and became well recognized among the Indigenous people as the fur trader of choice on the north shore of Lake Ontario. Smith enjoyed a monopoly and within a year of his arrival the name of the trading post village became Smith's Creek. In 1790 Smith left the area and another trader named Lawrence Herchimere assumed his position and occupied the log structure near the river.

Three United Empire Loyalist officers, Elias Smith, Jonathan Walton and Abraham Walton were granted their petition in October of 1792 and acquired the Crown lands in the new Township of Hope. It was not until August 26, 1797 that Jonathan and Elias received the patent to the town property, subject to the condition that they construct a grist mill and saw mill on the site. The first Crown grants that were issued in new settlements in Upper Canada did not necessarily go to the first settlers and inhabitants of the land.

It was not until June 1793 that the first white families arrived to settle in the area. There are a number of different stories associated with the arrival of the four founding families to Smith's Creek. Most believe that these families, totaling 27 people, arrived on June 8, 1793 aboard the Mississaga, a small government schooner armed with six cannon. The group consisted of

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PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

17 Mill Street North
Port Hope, ON L1A 2T1
porthopearchives.com
archives@porthope.ca
905-885-1673

HOURS

Monday 1-5PM
Tuesday to Thursday 9:30-5
Friday 1-5pm
We're flexible!

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Marie Jones, Chair
Evelyn Conn, Vice-Chair
Peter Hunt, Treasurer
Rick Sullivan, Secretary
Suzanne Camm, Programming
Bonnie Garrett, Membership
Sarah Smith, Member-at-large

ARCHIVIST:

Rachel Arnaud

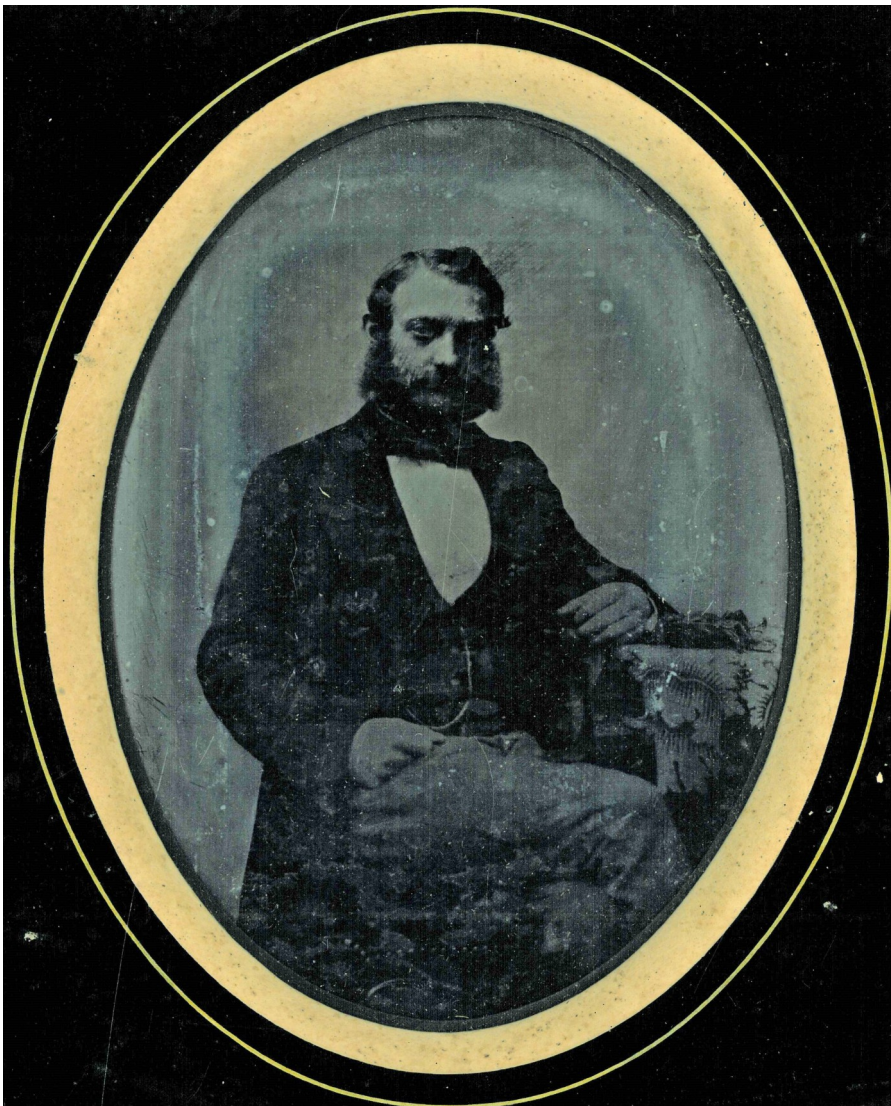
The Port Hope Archives is a registered charity.

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**COMMUNITY HISTORY
HAPPENS HERE!**

Another tale indicates that James Stevens and a few men made their way on foot from Newark (Niagara on the Lake) while driving a herd of cattle and arrived in Smith's Creek on June 3rd. The remainder of the group arrived on the 8th. Although the stories differ somewhat it is certain that these four early families arrived sometime in early June of 1793.

By late summer the surveyors were able to lay out half of the township before they were struck with illness. They ceased their work and returned to Newark for the winter. The following spring the surveying of Hope Township was completed by Iredell. Harris took possession of Lot 3 and Ashford of Lot 1 of the 1st Concession, and Stevens had Lot 2 and Johnson Lot 1 of the 2nd Concession. These early families acquired additional lands in the township as time went on. By late 1797 Smith and Walton had settled 40 families in the Township.



**Ambrotype of
Joseph Shuter Smith, 1854**

Joseph Shuter Smith was the grandson of town founder Elias Smith, and son of John David Smith, a prominent local businessman and politician, also known for building the Bluestone house.

Joseph Shuter Smith was born in 1835 in Port Hope. He attended the St. John's Military Academy in Quebec as a child, and in 1856 was an officer in the Durham Regiment. He would marry Elizabeth Hall Ward of Port Hope in 1861, and worked in engineering in New York. After retiring, he lived at the Bluestone House and researched and wrote the genealogical history of the Smith family, which is now in the Archives' collection.

From the 'Smith & Ward Collection' (2017.21). More of this extensive collection is currently on display in the Archives' Reading Room.

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CHAIR'S REPORT

The Port Hope Archives Board looks forward to another active year of events and outreach, as we celebrate the 225th Anniversary of the first founding families who arrived in 1793. Throughout 2018 we will celebrate this occasion and will participate with other organizations to share this story. In Nov. 2017 we welcomed two new members to the Board, Bonnie Garrett and Sarah Smith. Both are very familiar with the day to day operations of the archives and our growing permanent collection. We look forward to their new ideas and insight. Thank you to all for your continued support of the Port Hope Archives through your memberships, donations and volunteer hours.

ARCHIVIST'S MESSAGE

We've had a productive winter here at the Archives, and have been seeing a rise in researchers and research requests in the new year. When the winter weather prevents you from spending too much time outdoors, it's a great time to undergo a research project. There are a lot of resources you can access here at the Archives to get you started, as well as find online— start with the links I've provided below to learn more. Don't forget that we have open hours Monday-Friday throughout the whole year, and you can just stop by when you have time. I'm also happy to help advise you or lend a listening ear about your research, and am just a visit, phone call, or email away. And, if you've done research on a local topic or person, consider donating a copy of your research for our reference files. No topic is too large or too small!

The new year also marks the end of my first year at the Archives. It's been a wonderful year, and I have met so many interesting researchers and visitors, and enjoyed working with all of our dedicated volunteers. Thank you for helping to make me feel welcome, and bringing your enthusiasm for history through our door.

<http://www.porthopearchives.com/resources.html>

<http://www.porthopearchives.com/related-links.html>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/porthopearchives/albums>

RECENT DONATION HIGHLIGHTS

2018.2– Capitol Theatre Historic Site designation materials

2018.3– Portrait of graduating class from Port Hope High School, circa 1915

2018.4– Port Hope Baptist Church booklet from centennial, 1855-1955

2018.5– Photographs of 167 Walton Street being built

2018.6– 1937 Flood photographs, taken around Ontario Street

2018.7– Port Hope Bowling Club materials; Hershey Motor Service Advertisement

2018.8– Port Hope Methodist Church receipts and other business materials, 1910-1917

UPCOMING EVENTS

Archives Awareness Week, April 2-6th, 2018

Port Hope Archives' Open House, May 11th & 12th, 2018

ACO-Antiques & Artifacts Auction, April 22nd; Bus tour to Kingston, April 25th; 'Overland & Overnight' Evening Talk with Port Hope Archives' Rachel Arnaud, June 19, 2018

FIND US ONLINE!

Website: www.porthopearchives.com

Flickr: www.flickr.com/porthopearchives

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PHArchives

Archaeion: www.archeion.ca/port-hope-archives

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PHArchives>

Instagram: www.instagram.com/porthopearchives/

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