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Winter 2020

IT'S ABOUT TIME...

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

CAPTAIN ROBERT WALLACE

The Archives would like to thank
Edward Chapin Gould for the research he
carried out on his ancestor, Robert Wallace.

As early as 1819, Port Hope was a designated Port of Entry. Steamboats, schooners, and other boats of all sizes and types travelled along the lake to perform vital services such as transporting travellers and tourists, and delivering goods. By the mid-19th century, Port Hope's Harbour was a thriving and busy port along the lakeshore.

Captain Robert Wallace immigrated from Ayrshire, Scotland at the age of 4 to meet his father, who was living in Port Hope. It is believed he came under the care of retired Royal Navy Captain John Wallace (likely a relative) since his father died soon after. John Wallace was working as a grain and lumber exporter with a small schooner fleet. He purchased the Canada House property (168 King Street) circa 1825, and moved there with his family, which also included nine of his own children. The Wallace family always referred to this property as Lakeview House.

Robert Wallace would become a Lake Captain, Schooner owner, land owner, commission merchant, and insurance agent, and also held other prominent local positions such as Vice-President of the Port Hope Board of Trade, and Trustee of the Joint Board of Grammar and Common Schools.

Robert would marry Port Hope's Jane Brogdin in 1843 and, after two years spent in Kingston, came back to Port Hope and lived at Lakeview House with his family beginning in the 1850s. As a Commercial Merchant, Wallace would buy and sell wholesale goods and arrange their transportation. He also worked with a business

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Captain Robert Wallace..... 1-2
Report From The Chair..... 2
Archivist's Message 2
New to the Collection..... 4

PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

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HOURS

The Archives is closed to the public until further notice. Please contact the Archives by phone or email.

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.

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The Port Hope Archives is a registered charity.
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**COMMUNITY HISTORY
HAPPENS HERE!**

partner, Mr. Wilmot, who lived in Peterborough and brought grain to Port Hope's warehouses by ox-cart. Wallace ran his schooner and commercial merchant business out of a small building beside Lakeview House, built circa 1850, which still exists today as a residence (14 Madison Street). The Wallace family are also believed to have lived in this building for a time in the 1850s while the Lakeview House was rented and used as the 'Seaman's Inn'.

Captain Robert Wallace owned a number of schooners, including:

Maid of the Mill- built 1844 in Oswego, NY

Leander - built at Port Hope for Robert Wallace and launched 1850; could carry 2800 barrels of flour

Canadian- purchased by Wallace in 1860

Lindsay - owned by Wallace in 1860, could carry 2600 bushels of wheat

D. Freeman- built 1875, likely for Robert Wallace Jr.

Garibaldi- purchased in 1860s by Wallace, used mainly for carrying lumber; in service for a total of 60 years before it sank off Port Hope.

An 1869 record of schooners that visited the Port Hope harbour in a single week totalled 30, and two of those schooners belonged to Wallace.

After Robert Wallace's death in 1870, his sons William and Robert Jr. continued the family's trade as produce and commission merchants and opened "Wallace Brothers" on Walton Street.

Do you have an interesting Port Hope family history story to share with the Archives? We would love to hear from you!



The 'D. Freeman of Port Hope' (written on stern), after it was grounded from a fierce storm near Oswego NY in 1888. This schooner was built for the Wallace family in 1875.

2

(photo credit to www.maritimehistoryofthegreatlakes.ca)

CHAIR'S REPORT

Hello everyone. It's certainly been a busy start to 2020. It began with our successful Annual General Meeting in January with local guest speaker Barb Loucks presenting the book 'Memoirs of a Doctor's Wife'. Thank you to all who attended. This was followed by our display on the history of the Opera House, which was set up at the Library. As mentioned at the AGM, we have since applied for the Canada Summer Jobs program again in hopes of getting a student assistant for the summer time. If we are successful in getting the grant, the student can continue to work on the further digitization of our collections.

As you may be aware, the Archives is closed to the public until further notice. You can still contact the Archives via phone or email as we will be safely working solo in the closed office on a part-time basis. From all of us at the Archives stay safe and take care of yourselves. We will be doing the same.

RICK



(L-R) Conservation work was recently performed on the Nathaniel Haskill Whiskey Ledger (1801-1823), Josiah Haskill Whiskey Ledger (1809-1851), and Shuter Haskill Ledger (1871-1920) to help preserve these important records of our town's history for years to come. (*Haskill Collection*, 2019.4.1, 2019.4.2, 2019.4.3)

ARCHIVIST'S MESSAGE

Hello to all our members and thank you for your ongoing support of the Port Hope Archives. I have now finished my year at the PHA, as Rachel has returned after spending a year with her new baby. It has been a wonderful year and I have enjoyed it very much.

Although we are closed to researchers and visitors due to the Covid-19 situation until further notice we remain open through email to answer your questions and inquiries. We are still conducting research reports for those who request it. Just email us at archives@porthope.ca and we can answer any questions you might have. Wherever you are right now, I am wishing you well. I wish this newsletter finds you in a place of safety and good health. Take good care of yourselves.

MARIE

NEW TO THE COLLECTION



'Port Hope Harbour 1860'

Painting on display in the Reading Room.
Part of the Rungay Collection

Due to the evolving COVID-19 situation, and in accordance with Provincial and Local Health directives, the Archives will be closed until further notice. You can still contact the Archives via phone or email for your research requests as we will be safely working solo in the closed office on a part-time basis.

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