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Winter 2019

IT'S ABOUT TIME...

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

FIRST SETTLERS: THE HASKILL FAMILY

Haskill Family

Nathaniel Haskill (the spelling of his surname changed from Haskell sometime after their arrival in Upper Canada) and his wife Abigail (Sawyer) with 7 children made their way to Smith's Creek from Lancaster, Worcester County, Massachusetts about 1795. There are a number of different theories as to the arrival of the Haskill family. Did Nathaniel arrive on his own with the first four early families by schooner? Some believe that members of the Haskill family (perhaps the eldest sons Joseph and William) may have actually arrived shortly after c.1793. They were responsible for driving a herd of cattle around the north shore of Lake Ontario through Niagara to Smith's Creek (Port Hope). The remaining family members made their way north and then west across Wolfe Island, near Kingston, and eventually to the newly opened Hope Township, Upper Canada. Nathaniel Haskill, his wife, 5 sons and 3 daughters are listed in a 1797 report as part of the 187 settlers brought in by Elias Smith, J. Walton and A. Walton. A notation reads "Nathaniel Haskill and Joseph Haskill praying for broken lots 16 and 19 in front of Hope twp."

The Haskill family at first settled at a low-lying location just north of the lake and east of the river, present day Haskill and Shuter Street area, which they found marshy and unsuitable for their needs. They abandoned this site and moved west along the broken front (Lakeshore Road) where they settled on Lot 16, consisting of 30 acres. On July 3, 1797 location tickets were given to Nathaniel Haskill and Joseph Haskill. A surveyor's report of 1799 lists Nathaniel as being on Lot 16, Conc. 1, a 200 acre parcel with 2 acres of land cleared and cultivated. In 1801 he gave his Oath of Allegiance to the Crown and is listed as a Son of the American Revolution. Many Americans during this period, with an interest in

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PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

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archives@porthope.ca
905-885-1673

HOURS

Monday 12:30—4:30 PM
Tuesday to Thursday 9:00-4:30
Friday 12:30- 4:30
pm
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

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The Port Hope Archives is a registered charity.

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COMMUNITY HISTORY

securing land grants and title to land, would swear allegiance to the British sovereign and be granted the rights of someone born within the British Empire. Nathaniel had served as a Private with Capt. Fortunate Eagers Co., Col. Jessiah Whitney's Regiment (patriot/rebel) in Massachusetts.

The assessment of 1804 lists Nathaniel on a 200 acre lot with 20 acres cultivated (Lot 16, Conc. 1). In this year, three of his children, Joseph, William D. and Jeduthan each owned 200 acre lots and according to the census, of the same year, appear to be living with their parents. The census of 1807 indicates a round log house on the property. By 1806 Joseph has purchased, from Samuel William Marsh properties at Lot 17, Broken Front and Conc. 1. What is interesting in looking at these records is that Nathaniel's son Josiah is indicated as the original grantee from the Crown. Nathaniel acquired ownership of Lots 16 Broken Front and Lot 16, Con. 1, but it was not until 1839 that the Crown grant was actually issued, 26 years following his death on Feb. 14, 1813. It is suspected that he passed away as a result of Spotted Death / Fever, an illness prevalent during the War of 1812. He is buried in a private family cemetery on the farm.

The Haskill family were farmers and distillers by trade for several generations. They grew the grain, used the available fresh spring water and distilled the whiskey on their properties. Their business was extremely lucrative and during prohibition the Haskills were involved with the notorious rum-runner Ben Kerr. Kerr was able to defy the Canadian Police and the U.S. Coast Guard while earning a substantial income smuggling whiskey across Lake Ontario to Rochester and within southern Ontario. Kerr had whiskey suppliers, including the Haskills, on the north shore from the Bay of Quinte to Hamilton. Sydney and Richard Haskill were hired to assist in Kerr's operation by delivering whiskey by wagon and a team of horses to a site on Lakeshore Road where it was distributed throughout the province. Richard was the patrol man who had been ordered to fire his weapon should they encounter any interference. Shuter Haskill was charged and convicted of bootlegging during this period.

The property on Lakeshore Road has been occupied by the Haskill family for six generations and is considered to be one of the longest running ownerships in Port Hope. Passing from Nathaniel and Abigail (Sawyer) to Josiah Sanford and Chloe (Gage), then to Sanford Watts and Eliza Jane (Henry), then to Shuter Nimrod and Evelyn (Hancock), then to Richard Sanford and Marjorie (Porteous), then to Sanford Watt and Helen Anne (Walter). The house on the property was constructed for Josiah and dates to about 1840. It is an excellent example of a one and a half storey brick house in the Italianate style of architecture.

The Port Hope Archives has recently received a donation from the Haskill Family that includes, among other objects ledgers, journals and day books with entries dating back to 1801! It is an interesting collection of archival material and we are very fortunate to have this as part of our holdings.



My name is Hannah LeBlanc and I have been volunteering at the Port Hope Archives since the fall of 2018. I have been working on imputing information on each of the items from the Archives of Ontario Collection digitally into the PastPerfect Software. My previous experience comes from my studies in Applied Museum Studies at Algonquin College in Ottawa and volunteering at the Northumberland County Archives in Cobourg.

I have a great interest in learning about the local history in both Port Hope and Cobourg as my mom's family is from Port Hope and I grew up in Cobourg and live there. I hope to continue volunteering as it adds to my profile of skills and furthers my knowledge in the field. **HANNAH**

CHAIR'S REPORT

This is my first submission to the newsletter as Chair of the Port Hope Archives. I officially took over from Marie Jones at the AGM on January 24th. Marie's expertise and dedication over the past several years have been fundamental to our successful operation and her contribution continues as she assumes the role of Temporary Archivist while Rachel is away on maternity leave.

We have a busy schedule planned for 2019, as we celebrate our 25th anniversary. We are currently participating in Archives Awareness Week,. We have our Open House on May 10th/11th with activities planned for facilitating property research and preserving archival material. We are participating in Northumberland County Doors Open on June 1st/2nd. We will also begin accepting donations for our annual Fall Yard Sale in June.

We heartily welcome new board member, Sue and volunteer Hannah. Of course, thank you to all for your ongoing support through memberships, donations and volunteer hours. **SUZANNE**

I first became involved with Port Hope Archives when I worked with archivist Rachel Arnaud in July/August 2018 as part of my work experience for the Library and Information Technician diploma program through Durham College. I graduated from the program in December 2018 and became a board member at the archives in January 2019.

The field is a new start and career for me as I recently moved from Toronto where I worked as an Interior Designer and for a major retailer in the development of their eCommerce.

I have always been interested in the history of architecture and community and look forward to working with the other board members to gain skills and experience as well as contribute to and promote the Archives many projects and special events. **SUE**



ARCHIVIST 'S MESSAGE

With winter almost over we have had a recent increase in our visitor numbers, especially researchers undertaking the history of their properties. If you have any photographs or documents related to historic homes in Port Hope, the archives would be very interested in duplicating them for our Research Area or receiving them into our collection.

More recent donations and accessions have included a wide array of material including tintypes, photographs, documents, ledgers and journals. Of particular interest is the Sanford and Helen Anne Haskill Collection with material dating back to 1801 and moving forward until 1990. These records, which span almost 2 centuries, give us a glimpse into the farm and family life of the Haskill's. **MARIE**

COST OF GOODS 1898

Aug.	16	To 1 doz eggs 10 ⁴	10
"	19	To 1 doz eggs 10 ⁴ 1 quart Coal Oil	10
"	20	Mustard 50 ⁴ Mustard seed, ginger	80
"	22	To 1 doz eggs 10 ⁴ 1 lb butter 13 ⁴	23
"	27	To 1 doz eggs 10 ⁴ 2 lb butter 19 ⁴ a lb	48
Sept.	2	To 1 doz eggs 10 ⁴ 2 lb butter 19 ⁴ a lb	48
"	3	To Lard 25 ⁴ oatmeal 25	50
"	5	To 1 doz eggs 10 ⁴	10
"	9	To 2 lb butter 19 ⁴ 2 doz eggs 10	58
"	10	W. Sugar 25 ⁴ Baking powder 10 ⁴ Starch 10	50
"	10	By Cash Two Dollars	2 00
"	12	W Sugar 25 ⁴	25

From the Haskill Collection

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Port Hope Archives annual Open House is on Fri. May 10th and Sat. May 11th, 10a.m. – 3p.m. Visit us as we "Unlock the Vault" to our collection. Join us on Fri. and discover the resources available to uncover your property's past. On Sat. we can answer your questions about the proper care and preservation of your own family archival collections. Bring in any objects you might need assistance with.

Website: www.porthopearchives.com

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