

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we experience another Independence Day celebration in Port Hope, memories of previous events come flooding back to me. I remember the uniformed Amvets leading the parade on Main Street -- the hundreds of cars parking around the old sawmill chimney for the fireworks being set off of the old Olgivie dock -- the barn dance at the lumber yard with couples forming up for a good old square dance. (See a related 1941 article on page 4.

Within a few weeks, the parade floats on Main Street were replaced with a lineup of trucks and tractors pulling gravity boxes, waiting their turn to dump wheat at the elevator.

I am sure that you also have favorite memories of days gone by in Port Hope. It may relate to the school, church, sports events, hunting, fishing or our cold and snowy winters. Or maybe it relates to everyday life during your childhood. Was there a special person or event that made an impression on you? What did you and your friends do on Saturday night? What about that old car that you wish you hadn't sold.

We would love to collect and preserve these memories. Please consider writing them down and sending them to the Port Hope Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 133, Port Hope, MI 48468. We will keep them to be shared with future generations.

Jim Hunter, Society President

REASON TO CELEBRATE

In celebration of the Fourth of July, we should all be aware of the meaning and significance of this date. It was on the 4th of July 1776, that we signed the Declaration of Independence and became a free country. America soon became the greatest nation in the world. As our population expanded westward, one region particularly desirable were the forests and the fertile soil in the Michigan thumb area.

Let us travel back in time to the late 1800's. Our ancestors, most of them living in Germany, Prussia and other European countries heard of the United States as being the land of opportunity. Mothers, fathers, children, left their homeland knowing the hardships to follow. They were a strong breed of God-fearing people. They settled in the thumb area, survived two major fires, and kept on going. They saw the future and didn't lose faith. They built log cabins, constructed farms. Planted crops to feed themselves along with their horses, cows, pigs, etc. (See "Their Stories" on page 3 & 4) Our great-grandparents went on to have families who had families who had us. Because of their perseverance and the freedom available to them in this country, we are here. and should be forever thankful, first off, to God, to our forefathers and to the greatest nation on earth. Let us all be thankful and celebrate this day "until the cows come home".

Alger Rutz

NOW AVAILABLE LOGO MERCHANDISE



WOMEN'S TEE'S

\$15.00



MEN'S TEE'S

\$15.00



HOODIE'S

\$25.00

IN STOCK AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUILDING



SOCIETY UPDATES

SOCIETY PROGRESS IN PICTURES

The progress on our Historical Society building and grounds is progressing well. We owe it all to the community volunteers who are spending several days a week working on the endless number of projects. As you can imagine, a wide range of skills and experience is required, and the Port Hope Boyz and Girlz have it. Over the last few months, we have poured 20 cubic yards of concrete to level the floor in the lumber bin areas. These areas will become thematic display rooms. A concession area/room is near complete and is being readied for the 4th of July. The meeting reception room and Genealogy Center is near completion. Electrical requirements, water pipes, roofing, landscaping, floors, walls, paint, It is all in progress, or on our to-do list. This building, originally the Brinker Lumber Co. carries with it a lot of history and stories and the Port Hope Area Historical Society plan is to preserve the building, it's history and The Port Hope areas history.

Sid Holodnick



The concession room is taking shape.



Front face of our building being blasted, scraped and readied for paint.



Cement being poured in the bay areas.



The Port Hope Boyz working in the bay areas.



Hours of back breaking work being done by many volunteers.



Construction of our concession room.

"Their Stories"

Issued Jun. 30, 2022



PORT HOPE FARMS OF 1880

Submitted by Daniel Fantore

Port Hope now has farms with hundreds of acres and dairy farms are few and far between, but those that remain are each milking hundreds of cows. How did farms start in Port Hope? Thankfully we have the 1880 Agricultural Schedule of the US Census to tell us about those Port Hope farms.

The Port Hope farms of 1880 were just a few years away from woodlands. My Paschke family arrived in Port Hope in 1871. They and their Thoms relations bought 40- or 80-acre farms in Rubicon Township all for under \$1000. The Lawitzke farm was on Kinde Road at the northwest corner of Rubicon Township, and the other family farms were on the Port Hope Road south of town.

In 1880, farms were small compared to today's farms. The Lawitzke, Lange and Thoms farms were 40 acres, the Viert and Paschke farms were 80 acres. Most of the farms were a mix of tilled land and woodlands; the farmers were still clearing their land of trees and brush. Port Hope farms in 1880 had cleared land ranging from as little as five acres to as many as 40 of 80. While the farmers were clearing their land, the wood was put to use whether as firewood or possibly wood for their home and farm structures.

Every farm had working animals, either horses or oxen. Gustav Thoms had one ox, Carl Lange two oxen, the Viert farm two horses, and the Paschke and Lawitzke farms had three horses each. There were two to four milch (milk) cows on each farm, four on the Viert, three on Paschke, two each on Lawitzke, Thoms & Lange farms. Significant butter was churned on each farm, from 150 pounds on the Thoms & Lange farms, to 300 pounds on the Viert farm. Each of these five farms had between 2 and 10 acres in grasslands or hay. These acres yielded the farms between four and 20 tons of hay for the winter for their livestock.

Every farm had two swine, except Gustav Thoms who had three. This is interesting because this farm would later be known to be a significant hog farm as compared to many of their neighbors who would raise just two or three hogs per year. As many of you know, Thoms Family Hog Roasts are famous nationwide. Herman Viert had 12 sheep on hand in June of 1880 his wife's brother-in-law, Albert Lawitzke had three sheep on hand. Each of the farms had barnyard fowl, which were probably chickens: 25 on the Viert farm, 10 on Paschke, 20 on Lawitzke, and five on the Lange and the Thoms farms.

The crops raised on each farm were similar with some variations. The most predominant crop on each farm was wheat, with each farm raising from 15 to 24 bushels per acre. The Viert and Paschke farms usually grew from one to three acres of oats, yielding from 25 To 40 bushels per acre. The Lawitzke farm grew a half-acre of barley. Each farm raised significant bushels of Pulse, Canadian peas. Potatoes are part of any good German diet of the 1880s and each farm devoted between a quarter acre to a full acre to potatoes, yielding between 25 and 100 bushels. Each farm had between a quarter to a half-acre planted in apple trees.

I read that four of Huron County's acres were planted in tobacco in 1880. Imagine my surprise when I found out great-great grandfather August Paschke was one of those Huron County farmers growing tobacco in 1880! He reported raising 20 pounds of tobacco on 1/8 acre as did step-son-in-law Herman Viert who raised 30 pounds on the same amount of land.



Lawitzke Farm & Family



Time For a Little Refreshment

Cont'd on next page

"Their Stories"**PORT HOPE FARMS OF 1880** *Cont'd from page 2*

These family farms raised a variety of crops and livestock that the family lived on. Milk, butter and eggs were raised from "milch" cows and chickens. Oats and hay were raised for the livestock. Wheat was grown to make the family's flour. Each family had a couple or three pigs, enough to meet their meat or pork needs for the year. Potatoes were grown on each farm. Acreage devoted to apple trees was counted on the census but



Four horse team needed to pull the heavy equipment

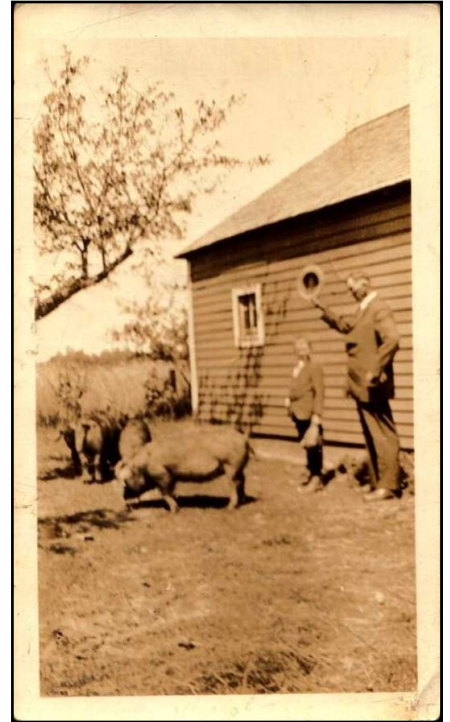
Swine and 30 barnyard poultry, eight working oxen, six milk cows, 46 other cattle, six dropped calves, purchased five cattle, sold 10 alive, and slaughtered 10.

The value of the farms in 1880 was estimated between \$1500 and \$3000 each, including between \$100 and \$500 in livestock each. My how times have changed!

Dan Fantore

what is missing undoubtedly were the large gardens full of cabbage, rutabagas, carrots, and undoubtedly other vegetables that made it to the family table and cellar.

These 1880 family farms were different than the largest farm in Rubicon Township; the W.R. Stafford farm which was 600 acres of tilled land, 100 of permanent pasture, meadow, orchards or vineyards. In 1880 Mr. Stafford owned 36 horses, 130 sheep, eight



Earl & Charlie Schave at Uncle Will's farm

1910 - PORT HOPE FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

CELEBRATION WAS A HUMMER

Three Thousand People at Port Hope, July 4th

That Hustling Little Burg Took Good Care of Her Guests, and Everybody Returned Home Happy.

Port Hope entertained over three thousand folks within her gates Monday, the drawing card of the day was "An old fashion Fourth" in all its vim and glory. The good business men of that town got together in one solid determination to give the people of Huron county, a good time, Monday, and their efforts were satisfactory in the extreme.

Everything was carried out just as advertised, even to good weather.

The contests in the line of sports were interesting and nicely managed, and the prize winners were happy in the fact that there was no slippery work on the part of the judges. It was a nice clean contest and all received their prize packages with smiles.

The ball game between Grindstone City and Port Hope had just enough Harbor Beach talent on each side to add interest to the exhibition and ended

in Port Hope winning, 3 to 4. Outside of a little rough language on the part of one of the Grindstone players, the game was as smooth as velvet.

Mitchell & Lester, the money making members of the Harbor Beach Rural Carrier's Association, were present with their merry-go-round and new piano, and made an acre of fun for their customers, coming back to this city with almost enough money to start a bank.

Other Harbor Beach money getting talent that followed the big show were:

George Mitchell with his famous trick mule, Maud He-Haw. Mitchell claims a record breaking business for one day.

William Young with his pop corn and hot peanut machine, to which is attached a whistle that toots each time its owner takes in a nickel. When Mr. Young finished the day, the whistle was hoarse.

Balmer Brothers sold enough pop corn to cause a shortage in the supply of dairy butter for the next two weeks.

One of the great surprises of the day, was the sale, at one stand, of 20 barrels of Orange Cream Vim. Why thusly we know not.

Over 1000 people from Harbor Beach, were at the celebration. Many young men were accompanied by their best girls.

**1941 - FOURTH ANNUAL
BRINKER LUMBER
BARN DANCE**

FOURTH ANNUAL BARN DANCE BY BRINKER LUMBER COMPANY

The Brinker Lumber Yard, Port Hope, is announcing its Fourth Annual Barn Dance, which will take place on the evening of Saturday, August 23 (this Saturday evening) to its friends.

Dancing will start at nine o'clock that evening with the "Plank Heavers" dishing up the music. The termination of the dancing will come in the wee small hours of the next morning.

Added attractions will be a street parade at seven that evening with several "surprise entertainers."

If you have a float that is not busy that evening or if you are a clown, or even think you are, get in the parade is the word from the entertaining committee, which consists of Clarence Cook, R. B. Hunter and Doctor Ernschaw.

Everything is free as the air, the committee states.

**BOOK NOW AVAILABLE
AT THE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY BUILDING**

**PORT HOPE
MAIN STREET**
*Connections With
The Past*

**You've seen the diorama,
now read the book**



\$18.00

UPDATED AND REVISED

Calendar of upcoming events

- 2022 -

JULY 1,2,3 - FLEA MARKET - 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

BOARD MEETINGS HELD ON THE 2ND TUE. OF EACH MONTH THRU NOV.

MEMORY LUNCHEAS - DATES T.B.D.

AUG 20 - ABC DAY - BEAN SOUP AND MORE

AUG 27 - HOBO EXPERIENCE

SEPT 24,25 - MUSEUM WEEKEND - HURON COUNTY MUSEUMS

DEPOT, HIST. SOC. & STREETScape VIEWING AT ALL MAJOR EVENTS



"This is a very rare piece - So rare in fact, that we have no idea what it is."

"GARTHTOONS" brought to you by Garth Kriewall

Interested in becoming a member of the society? Wanting to make a donation? Please fill out and mail the form below.

Membership / Contribution Form

Please fill out this form and mail with your check to:

P.H.A.H.S.
P.O. Box 133
Port Hope MI, 48468



Port Hope Area Historical Society

8016 Portland Ave.

Port Hope MI, 48468

Questions: 989-428-4831

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Spouse First Name _____ Last Name _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Spouse Phone _____ Email Address _____

Yearly Membership: Single _____ (\$25.00) **Family** _____ (\$40.00)

January 1 thru December 31 (must be renewed each calendar year by May 15)

Life Member _____ (\$500) **Founders/Life Member** _____ (\$1,000.00)

All members will receive the quarterly newsletter and member names listed periodically in the newsletter. Founders & Life Members will have a plaque at the Historical Center with their name on it.

This section is for a contribution that may be made with or without a membership.

I would like to support the Port Hope Area Historical Society to further its development and wish to make a contribution in the amount of \$ _____ (Make check payable to: "Port Hope Area Historical Society".

(Contributions to the PHAHS, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization are tax deductible according to IRS guidelines.)

The Little Town with the **BIG WELCOME!**

PORT HOPE

36TH ANNUAL 2022 4TH OF JULY FESTIVAL

★ SPONSORED BY THE VILLAGE OF PORT HOPE ★

FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY **JULY 1-2-3**

FREE Shuttle Service between both sites • July 2 • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 

PORT HOPE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ...
8016 Portland Ave.
(the old lumber yard)

PORT HOPE ACTIVITY CENTER ...
7840 Portland Ave.
(the former school & grounds)

★ Food Available All Weekend ★
 - At Both Locations -

GIANT! Outdoor Flea Market 
Gates Open at 8:00 a.m.

Turn east on Portland Avenue -
 it's just a block to the old lumber yard
WHERE THE FUN BEGINS!

FIND US ON FACEBOOK:
Port Hope Area Historical Society

20' x 20' Spot: \$20.00
 Information: Elaine - (989) 428-4838

- Primitive camping on grounds for exhibitors only
- No electricity available

ADMISSION: \$4.00 DAILY

Map and Registration Form on Flip Side (TURN OVER)

 **BIG PARADE** 
Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.porthopemich.com

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK:
Port Hope Tractor Show / Truck & Tractor Pull

Gas Engines • Tractors & Farm Equipment
FEATURING Ford Tractors
 SET-UP: Thursday, June 30, 2022
 INFORMATION: Dan Deer • (989) 550-3617

Primitive camping on grounds for exhibitors only • No electricity available

FRIDAY

Antique Tractor Show REGISTRATION 8 a.m. • TRACTOR SHOW OPENS 8 a.m.
 Sawmill Demonstration 1 p.m.
 Tractor Pull - Thumb Tractor Pulling Association 6:30 p.m.
 Modified Tractor Pull • Admission: \$10.00 • 989-550-3617, Dan
 FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE FROM MAIN PARKING LOT
 (ACROSS FROM THE HOPE ACTIVITY CENTER) TO THE PULL ... STARTING AT 5:00 p.m.
 Concessions Available from Sandman's and Nikki's Kitchen

SATURDAY

Hot Breakfast Veterans Eat Free 7 a.m. - 10 a.m.
 5K Run REGISTRATION 7 a.m. • STARTS 8 a.m.
 Antique Tractor Show REGISTRATION 8 a.m. • TRACTOR SHOW OPENS 8 a.m.
 Book Sale 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Tractor Parade REGISTRATION BY MAIN GATE 10 a.m. • TRACTOR PARADE STARTS 11 a.m.
 Bean Soup & Concessions 10 a.m.
 Quilt Show REGISTRATION 8:30 a.m. • QUILT SHOW 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Contact Madeline Stacer 989-550-0171
 Makers Market • Contact Mindy 989-553-1196 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Petting Zoo, Pony Rides 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Children's Activities 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Balloon Artist 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Barrel Train Rides 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 BMX Stunt Bike DEMONSTRATIONS 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. • SHOW 4 p.m.
 Chicken BBQ Noon
 Sawmill Demonstration Noon
 Tractor Pull Antique Tractors • 989-550-5346, Mark Noon
 Concessions Available from Sandman's and Nikki's Kitchen
 Kiddie Tractor Pull • Contact Mindy 989-553-1196 2 p.m.
 Fireworks Dusk

SUNDAY

Hot Breakfast Veterans Eat Free 7 a.m. - 10 a.m.
 Free Balloon Creations 10:30 a.m.
 Joyful Sounds 2 p.m.

PARADE

NO ENTRY FEE *Schedule Subject to Change*

PORT HOPE ACTIVITY CENTER: 989-553-1196

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK:
Port Hope - Hope Activity Center
porthopeactivitycenter.weebly.com

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: