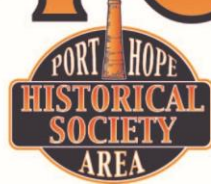


THE HISTORIAN



Vol 3, Issue 2 Oct. 2023



PORT HOPE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

8016 Portland Ave, Box 133, Port Hope, MI 48468

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We just held another "Memory Luncheon" at the Port Hope Area Historical Society meeting room. A group of interested people came together to share a meal and view 120 year old photos of Port Hope streets and businesses. As I listened to the many conversations that emanated from each table, I heard reunions of old friends, stories of childhood experiences and questions that related to the memories of things that happened years ago. Old family connections were re-established and stories of long departed friends and relatives were told.

It occurred to me that this was one of the major reasons why it was so important to establish the Historical Society. The rich heritage of our community needed to have a place to remember, continue and flourish. And it is happening. Donations of local historical artifacts continue on a regular basis, and our museum is growing as it tells the stories of years gone by.

The phrase "It never ceases to amaze me" comes to mind as I watch the efforts of our many volunteers. This includes, but is not limited to the construction and repair of our land and buildings -- the intake, recording and identification of the many artifacts -- the weekly lunch preparation for the workers -- the planting, watering, mowing and care of our landscape -- the planning and executing of the festival activities -- the recruitment, management and recognition of new and existing members -- the creation and presentation of public news and photos -- the management of our financial activities -- the attention to local, state and federal regulations -- and the loan of equipment and services that help us with all our projects. Thank you to all of you who give so much.

This issue of The Historian will feature news about the development of the "Sid Holodnick Memorial Garden" along Dimond Creek. Although all the labor for this project is donated, we need funds to purchase building supplies and landscape plantings. Please consider a donation in loving memory of Sid in the form of a check to the Port Hope Area Historical Society, with a note in the memo for "Sid's Garden."

Jim Hunter, Society President

NON-STOP PROGRESS INSIDE & OUT

One can drive by the Port Hope Area Historical Society building and see the obvious improvements taking place on the outside. The building, the grounds, and the beginnings of the Sid Holodnick Memorial Garden. But that's just the outside! You've also got to see the inside. The place reeks with history, themed bay areas, working displays, and the uncanny way it will take your mind back in time. **(SEE PAGE 2 FOR INSIDE PROGRESS)**. We're far from finished and the work continues. The "Port Hope Boyz and Girlz", all volunteering their time and efforts are doing remarkable work. Coupled with the many donations from our supporters, you will continue to see many ongoing changes.



Less than two years ago



As it stands today





IN JUST TWO SHORT YEARS, FROM THE DEEDING OF THE BUILDING BY THE HUNTER FAMILY OVER TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, WE HAVE UNDERGONE A REMARKABLE TRANSFORMATION, FROM AN ARCHITECTURALLY BEAUTIFUL LUMBER YARD, TO A MUSEUM AND GENEALOGY CENTER. OUR THANKS TO ALL!



Before - Conference Room



Before - Conference Room



One of the 'Port Hope Boyz'



After - Conference Room & Genealogy Center



One of the 'Port Hope Girlz'



Before - Alley Way



Before - Alley Way



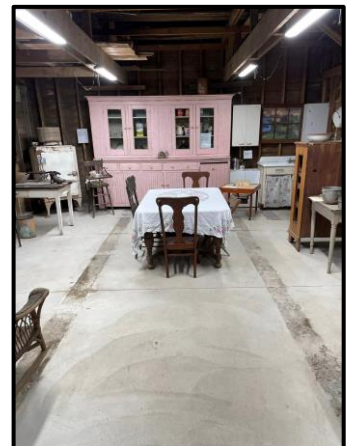
After - Classroom Bay



After - Alley Way Open for Visitors



After - Laundry Bay



After - Kitchen and Pantry Bay

"Their Stories"

Oct. 2023



THE FOLLOWING STORY IS A SMALL EXAMPLE OF THE HARDSHIPS OF A FAMILY WITH A DESIRE TO START A NEW LIFE IN AN UNDEVELOPED LAND.

ROBERT ROLEY & FAMILY –AMONG PORT HOPE’S EARLY SETTLERS

Most of us have experienced moving from one home to another, whether it be in the same town or another town or even another state. Usually, it's because of a job(s) transfer, retirement, or simply an upgrade to our lifestyle. Along with this being a big decision, it is a stressful process and involves a lot of work. Packing boxes, hiring a moving company to pack up and drop off our belongings, and several trips with our car filled with all the little stuff that we probably should have thrown away. When it's all said and done, you may be further away from your old neighbors, family, and friends, but you're only a cell phone call, text or Facetime away. Local shops, big-box stores, banks, entertainment, etc. are all a short drive away, on modern roads, possibly using our GPS controlled car or truck. We take it all in stride and none of us really think about how easy we really have it.

Things were vastly different back in 1860. The thumb area of Michigan was a vast forest of valuable timber. Workers were being hired to work in the sawmills, one being in a little town in its infancy called Port Hope. One of those early settlers in the Port Hope area was the Robert Roley family. Robert, originally born in Ireland immigrated to Canada with his parents at eight years of age. He married Martha Radcliffe in 1842. In the late fifties they immigrated to the US and for a short time lived in Lexington MI. In 1860, They made the decision to relocate to this undeveloped heavily wooded little town in the thumb.

Jumping forward 67 years, It is now 1927 and one of the Roley Children, Mrs. Dorothy Roley Carr, now about 78 years of age, sat down with Port Huron Times Herald reporter Paul Soini. She related the following story of her families arrival in Port Hope 67 years prior, when she was eleven years old.

"Mrs. Carr, arrived in Port Hope late in November 1860, coming on the last boat of the year from Lexington, Michigan. She recalls the difficult journey through the ice. Her father had been employed by W.R. Stafford to work in the lumber woods around Port Hope. Previous to coming to Port Hope, their residence was in Canada, the birthplace of Mrs. Carr. When the family first arrived at Port Hope, the country surrounding the village was a dense wilderness. The town consisted of a mill, four or five stores, and a few scattered houses. There were no roads, and the only thoroughfare was a footpath. The young people of the village frequently took charge of the logging car to carry them to the lumber camps for dances and parties, Mrs. Carr says. Motive power for the logging car was supplied by a horse. There were no roads in those days and all supplies were brought in by boat. Each fall, a full store of necessities was shipped in and the village isolated during the bleak winter months. Frequently the first boat of the year was anxiously awaited as supplies sometimes ran low. Mrs. Carr recalls with delight her ride in the very first buggy in Port Hope. There were no roads and the route on the ride was over a short, cleared portion of beach property. The woods were so dense that when the end of the cleared space was reached, it was necessary to unhitch the horse and turn the buggy by hand, because of lack of space."

The story is short but certainly describes conditions that are hard to imagine. When the Roley's arrived in 1860, They had three children ranging in age from 1 to 12. What was unknown to them at the time and all others in Port hope was that the hardships of a new life were about to worsen. Devastating fires would sweep through Michigan and Huron County in 1871 and 1881 with hundreds of casualties and the forests being wiped out. The Roley family along with many of the Port Hope area families were fortunate to survive the fires. The tall chimney, currently in Stafford Park is an example of the devastation and is all that remains from the original Stafford Sawmill, totally burnt to the ground.

Life today may have its trials and tribulations, but comparing it to the Roley's back in 1860, we have to be grateful to God for what we have, and especially thankful to those that struck out to start a new life in a little sawmill town in a forest on the edge of Lake Huron.



"Their Stories"

Oct. 2023



WILHELM SCHEWE SR. FARM – (And don't forget, two dozen eggs and two lbs. of butter!)

The following story (in italics), was originally written by Daniel Fantore on July 23, 2014, and presented at the 2014 Schave family Reunion. Suellen Emerick, granddaughter of Charley Schave & Mildred Pochert, provided a copy to the Historical Society for inclusion as a "Their Stories" article in this edition of the Heritage Newsletter.

An interesting story about the centennial farm owned by the Schewe/Schave family, its beginnings in Port Hope and of special interest, the transferring of the farm from Wilhelm to his son Charley and the conditions laid out as part of the "sale".

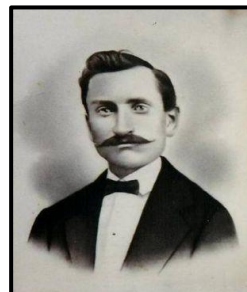
"On December 22nd, 1877, Wilhem, and Bertha Hartz Schewe, Sr. bought forty acres in Rubicon Township. It is interesting that Wilhelm was the first Schewe landowner in port. Hope, but Gottlieb was the first Schewe in Port Hope, as his daughter Martha was born here on March 15th, 1876. Gottlieb and wife Ida were probably pulled to Port Hope by her Plietz relatives, but they did not buy a farm until 1886. Wilhelm bought these forty acres, built a house, and farmed here. The story, as told to me by Earl Schave & Mildred Pochert Schave, is that the fire of 1881 burned part of the house, but some of the original house still stands. Two neighbor Moss children died here in the fire, looking for someone or some refuge.

The farm was passed on to second son, Charley Schave in a 1920 deed that is like a contract between Wilhem Sr. and Bertha and charley. In return for the farm, Wilhelm and Bertha received \$50 each year, and Charlie was to keep them in a cow so they had milk at all times, three tons of hay so the cow could eat, or two pounds of butter per week, and all the milk they needed. He was to supply them with twenty-five chickens every spring, and if they did not keep chickens, he was to supply them with 2 dozen eggs each week. A young pig was to be supplied to them every spring. Charlie was also to supply his parents with flour, twenty-five bushels of potatoes, two hundred pounds of sugar, and fuel enough to keep the house warm. He was to plow their garden each spring and if either parent died, he was to take the survivor into his house and care for them, paying for all doctor bills and funeral expenses for both, including erecting funeral stones. Therefore, I think Charley was responsible for the gravestones of Wilhelm and Bertha back in Port Hope Cemetery."

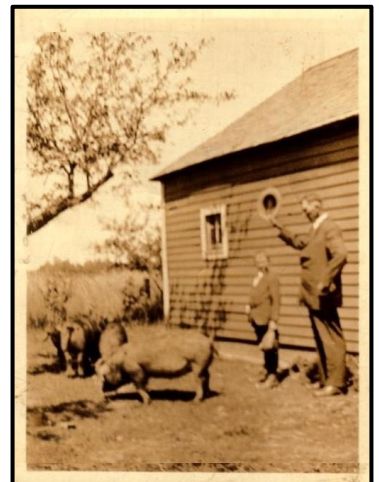
William Schewe Sr. passed on the farm to second-born son, Charley Schave, who passed it on to son Earl Schave, and is now owned by Earl's son Bryce. The farm is a centennial farm and sits at the northwest corner of Redman and Schave Roads It has been solely owned and farmed continuously by the Schewe/Schave family for well over 100 years.



The Schewe Farm with Wilhelm & several Family Members



Wilhelm Carl August Schewe



Wilhelm's Son Charley and Grandson Earl



SID HOLODNICK MEMORIAL GARDEN

Sid Holodnick, probably the most important player in the initial success of our Port Hope Area Historical Society, passed away in April of this year. His contributions throughout the village of Port Hope will never be forgotten. He was a well-loved individual by all who knew him and will forever be missed.

Over the last couple of years, as his health was starting to wain, Sid would often take a break from the days activities and walk over to the edge of Dimond Creek, sit by a tree and spend some private time. It was a peaceful spot for Sid, and he deserved every minute of it.

Because of the importance of what Sid has meant to all of us, the Society has decided to create a Sid Holodnick Memorial Garden along the edge of Dimond Creek. A walkway with a couple of park benches and lined with various flowers, shrubs and trees. A serene place to sit and just reflect as Sid would do.

The plan has been approved and initial ground clearing and excavating has been started. The costs and work involved are entirely through the generous efforts of volunteer workers and donors.

The Society would certainly appreciate a contribution in honor of Sid Holodnick. With your help, we will soon be able to enjoy a calm quiet garden where individuals can visit, relax and let their minds take a peaceful break.



Sid Holodnick on a Typical Day at the Lumber Yard



The Beginning Stages of the Sid Holodnick Memorial Garden

Sid Holodnick Memorial Garden 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 _____

I would like 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.)

OUR NEW MEMBERSHIP TREE



Our new membership tree recently installed in our conference room. Founding Members are displayed in the gray base area, the Life Members in the green foliage area, Yearly Members, Sponsors and those awarding Grants are displayed in framed displays. A Commemoration Scroll in remembrance of Sid Holodnick, a key individual in the founding of our society is mounted in the center of the trunk.

BECOME A MEMBER! ADD YOUR NAME!



"GARTHTOONS" brought to you by Garth Kriewall



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 personalized name plaque displayed on the membership tree at the Historical Center.

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.)