

BRANT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER 1908 - 1994

Brant County Museum & Archives
57 Charlotte Street Brantford, Ontario N3T 2W6

SUMMER 1994 Volume I No. 2

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CURATOR:

Ms. Susan Twist

BRANT COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES, 57 Charlotte St., Brantford, Ont. N3T 2W6

PRESIDENT'S REFLECTION

Thank you for continuing to support the Brant Historical Society and the Brant County Museum & Archives. It is encouraging to see the growing support of the Society and the Museum activities. Our monthly meetings held on the third Wednesday

evening of each month have been well attended. In April, Mr. Arthur Binkley related to us the interesting history of the Bixel family of Brantford. In May, Bruce Hill gave an informative talk about the Grand River Navigation Company.

Mr. Hill's book by the same title was successfully launched at this meeting. Copies of the book may be purchased at the Museum Gift Shop for \$21.95. There are still some autographed copies left.

The yard sale held
(continues over page)

on Saturday May 28th was most successful. Thanks to all of you who contributed and helped in so many ways. Without you it could not have been done.

The County of Brant Museum Study under the direction of Weston & Associates of Concord, Ontario is underway and is progressing well. The study is providing a holistic approach to the analysis of the Museum's programmes and facility needs. The consultants are

presently looking at the museum and all of its facets within itself and the community.

The Brant Historical Society Endowment Fund was established in 1986 to generate a capital fund of money to be accumulated to help secure the future of the Society and Museum. The aim of the Society is to build up this fund through monetary gifts and bequests. If you wish to make a contribution, please

contact our Curator, Susan Twist at the Brant County Museum & Archives, 57 Charlotte Street, Brantford. Please find enclosed with this newsletter a copy of our Endowment Fund brochure.

During the summer please visit the museum. Admission is free to all members. You may also wish to take advantage of some of our children's programmes. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Ruth Lefler

THE FOUNDING OF THE WATEROUS ENGINE WORKS, BRANTFORD ONTARIO by Ruth Lefler

In 1844, a gentleman named P.C. Van Brocklin came from the United States and set up the first manufacturing business in Brantford on the northeast corner of Dalhousie and Queen Streets. It was a stove and tinware factory as well as having some produce for sale. The source of power that operated the machinery for the factory was in the basement where a horse was hooked up and walked in circles supplying the necessary horse power.

About four years later, in 1848, C. H. Waterous joined the firm. Mr. Waterous was born in Burlington, Vermont in 1814. His mother died when he was fourteen years old. He then served as an apprentice to a blacksmith and shortly afterwards worked in a machine shop. Later, he became chief engineer for the steamer 'Governor Marcy'. This steamer was employed by the United States government to patrol the Lakes during the Rebellion of 1837. In 1838-39 in New York, Waterous assisted a Mr. Davenport in the production of a magnetic motor and, later, he worked with J. Edgerton building different kinds of mills. In 1845 fire destroyed these mills and Waterous came to Brantford in 1848

where he joined Van Brocklin.

The business continued to grow. In 1857, Van Brocklin left the factory and three new partners, Ganson, Goold and Bennett joined. The factory was now called Ganson, Waterous and Company. In 1864, Goold was the last of the former partners to leave and G.N. Wilkes joined the business. He retired in 1877 leaving C.H. Waterous as the sole owner thus fully establishing the Waterous Engine Works Company.

During this time, the company grew and prospered. Threshing machines, stoves, sawmills, fire engines, and all kinds of heavy fire equipment were manufactured in the plant on Dalhousie Street. As more diversification took place, additions were made to the property until Darling Street was reached and the factory covered half of the block. A new site was necessary. The City of Brantford bought the site on Dalhousie Street. Today the Post Office is located here.

The new site for the Waterous Engine Works Company was located on South Market Street (across from the present day Civic Centre). In the autumn of 1895, construction began on the new factory. A

very large main building was erected in addition to boiler, blacksmith, and moulding shops. The cornerstone was laid by Mr. Ignatius Cockshutt who was a personal friend of Mr. Waterous.

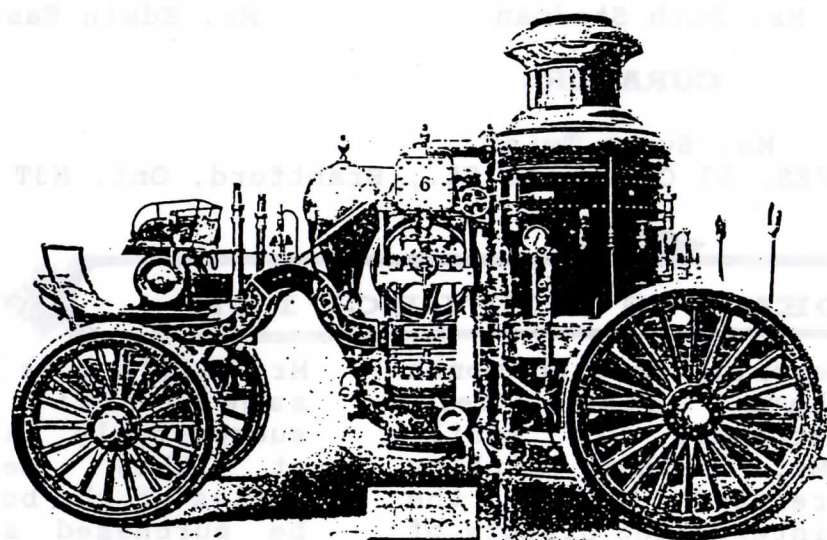
In the office area, a large stained glass window containing the portrait of Mr. C.H. Waterous was on display. This window can presently be seen at the Brant County Museum & Archives, 57 Charlotte Street.

Manufactured goods such as boilers, stone crushers, steam and road rollers, fire engines, hose wagon, and hook and ladder trucks were shipped to all parts of the world.

The Waterous Engine Works Company, in some form, has been in Brantford for 150 years as a large innovative manufacturer. The year 1994 marks the final disappearance of the physical structure but the Waterous Engine Works Company has left behind its legacy for us to remember.

The Brant County Museum & Archives is compiling a filing system about Brantford's Industrial History. We would be interested in receiving any information about the Waterous Engine Works Company. Please contact the Museum at 752-2483.

Waterous Engine Works Co. Limited, Brantford, Canada



FIRE APPARATUS

References:

- F. Douglas Reville, *History of the County of Brant, Volume II*, Hurley Printing Co., Brantford, 1920.

- *Commerative Issues of the Brantford Expositor*, 1895, 1899, & 1901.

THE ARRIVAL OF BLACK REFUGEES TO EARLY BRANTFORD (Part I) by Angela Files

"Dinner was served to us in the dining room of Captain Joseph Brant, in an elegant style. Two slaves served us; one in scarlet, and the other in coloured clothes. They both had silver buckles on their shoes. Port and madeira were served and the royal family was toasted".1

In February 1793, Captain Patrick Campbell visited the home of Captain Joseph Brant at Mohawk Village and discovered captured black slaves working on the lands of the Mohawk chief, tending his horses, serving his meals, and even permitting slaves to marry his people. According to historical records these bond servants were the first black refugees to arrive in the Middle Grand River area. At the conclusion of the American Revolution about 2,000 slaves of Loyalists and 3,500 free blacks came to Canada; and it is estimated about 30-40 slaves came with Brant in 1784 to tend his houses and lands in Kingston, Burlington, and Mohawk Village.

In the same year that Captain Patrick Campbell visited Capt. Brant in Mohawk Village, the Legislative Council of Upper Canada (Ontario) was told by Black

Loyalist Peter Martin that a Negro girl, Chloe Cooley had been tied with ropes by her master and taken across the Niagara River in a boat, and delivered to an American slave master, despite her strenuous objections. It was useless to attempt to persecute the offenders because the Blacks had no rights before the laws of Upper Canada.

On July 1793, Governor John Graves Simcoe and his Attorney General John White introduced a Bill to free all slaves in Upper Canada. Farmers objected to the bill because they needed their slaves to do their manual work.

The Bill was modified and stated no more slaves could be brought into the Province; when the children of slaves reached 25 years old they were to be freed and provision made so they could become charges of various parishes. After the passing of the Bill, Upper Canada became a place of refuge for fugitive slaves and oppressed liberated blacks from the United States. Public opinion was opposed to slavery here, even though it was not actually abolished until August 1, 1833, in the British Empire.

On May 14, 1833

in a list of Brantford lots by Surveyor Lewis Burwell, the following black refugees were listed:

Anderson, James, a man of colour and blacksmith, occupies Lot 1, north side of Dalhousie Street. He took possession of land a year ago at the suggestion of Captain Brant and at the time of the last sale had a house erected on which he still resides. It being a small lot he was told by Captain Brant that he would not be charged more than five pounds for it.

Atkin, Adam, a man of colour and a common labourer, occupies No 1. south side of Darling Street took possession under Captain Brant and at the time of the last sale had a house erected on the lot. He has a large family of children and most of his means has been expended in erecting his house.

Bolyston, John, blacksmith, was the only black property owner listed in the 1830 survey of the village of Brantford. His lot was sold on June 1-3, 1830.

Van Patter, John, coloured citizen. His father was a slave of Joseph Brant, a fine intelligent negro, who

went by the nickname "Prince". John Patter was placed on the Voter's List of 1847.

Wright, Samuel, a man of colour and a barber, occupied Lot 36, south side of Colborne Street. At the time of sale he had a log house erected, and living on the lot with his family.

In 1835, the society of coloured Methodists was organized in Brantford. Meetings were held in private homes whenever and wherever opportunities arose. Three years later, a church was organized which today is known as "Drake Memorial British Methodist Episcopal Church" located on 165 Murray Street, Brantford.

In 1837, the black community of Brantford opened its own school, "since Negro children were excluded from the public schools; and as the level of the instruction in the Negro school was recognized as superior to that offered in the common schools, the whites enrolled with the blacks until both institutions were united."2

During the 1830's and 1840's many underground Railway terminals were set up in Canada for fugitive slaves. About twenty of these were located along the Lake Erie shore, the Niagara

River and the Detroit Frontier; particularly at Amherstburg, Sandwich, and Windsor. Black refugees also travelled by land and water to Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, Prescott, St. Catharines, and Brantford. By the early 1840's about fifteen black families lived in or near Brantford.

In the early 1840's these fifteen families along with white squatters decided to move into the wilderness of the Queen's Bush, part of the Huron area, which included sections of Waterloo, Wellington, Dufferin, and Grey Counties. Their objectives were to form their own black communities in Upper Canada.

Sophia Pooley, a slave of Captain Joseph Brant, decided to move into the Queen's Bush with other blacks for she thought that they would care for her in her old age. They cared for her until her death in Galt (Cambridge), Ontario.

By the time of the 1852 Census, there were about 100 black refugees living in the environs of Brantford. One of their most important social events was Emancipation Day, celebrated on August the First, by both blacks and invited guests in Lovejoy's Grove. They wished to show their appreciation for the abolishment of slavery

throughout the entire British Empire and that Upper Canada was the forerunner in mandating freedom from cruel human bondage. It is the history of our black community that we are attempting to preserve in the Brant County Museum Archives.

Endnotes:

1. Campbell, Patrick, Captain, "Travels In North America 1792", Campbell described his visit to one of the homes of Joseph Brant, next to the Mohawk Chapel in detail writing about the members, the Brant Family, the meals and entertainment - music and dancing.

2. Wincks, Robin W., "Blacks In Canada", Pg. 167. As the population increased in Canada West (Ontario), there was a need for schools for the black communities. According to the following dated census the black population increased from 1842 to 1891:

YEAR- CENSUS	Reported Negro Population
1842	4,167
1847	5,571
1848	5,469
1851	4,669
1861	13,566
1871	13,435
1881	12,097
1891	Not Given
1901	8,935

PUBLICATIONS LIST & GIFT SHOP ITEMS
of the Brant Historical Society,
Brant County Museum & Archives
57 Charlotte St., Brantford, Ontario N3T 2W6

NEW HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS OF 1994

1. Brant County: Place Names And List of Professionals and Trades From Lovell's Directory and Gazetteer (20 pages) Collator Angela Files \$ 5.95
2. Assessment Rolls of Grand River Tract (Haldimand Township) Gore District, (now Brantford Township) 1816, 1818-24 (27 pages) Collator Angela Files \$ 5.95
3. Census (Nominal) Grand River Tract (Haldimand Township) Gore District, (now Brantford Township) 1824, 1827, 1829 Collator Angela Files \$ 5.95

HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Jean Waldie Vol. 1	\$14.95
Jean Waldie Vol. 2	\$15.95
Both Volumes	\$22.50
The Grand River Navigation Company (Bruce E. Hill)	\$21.95
View of an Indian Reserve (George Beaver)	\$15.00
St. George Continuation School (B. Wesley Switzer)	\$ 7.00
Rural Schools of South Dumfries Township (J.C. Webster)	\$ 8.00
Glimpse of the Past	\$ 3.50
How Brantford Cooked	\$ 3.50
Brantford Pottery (Robert L. Deboer)	\$ 9.95
Arts and Entertainment (Robert L. Deboer)	\$ 9.95
From Automobiles to Washing Machines (Robert L. Deboer)	\$ 9.95

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Great Little Inns of Southern Ontario	\$ 9.95
Brant County Atlas	\$25.00
Real Old Woodstove Cookbook	\$ 2.95
Rules of Etiquette of 1800's	\$ 2.95
Health Hints 1887-1924	\$ 2.95
Great Grandma's Health Suggestions from the late 1800's	\$ 2.95

Canadian Album Series -

Nature Stories for Children	
Wildflowers	\$ 3.95
Insects	\$ 3.95
Large Mammals	\$ 3.95
Birds	\$ 3.95

POSTERS

Pelee Island Wine & Vineyards Inc. J.S. Hamilton	\$20.00
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HASTI-NOTES (Stedman postcards)

Market Square (5's)	\$ 2.95
Mohawk Chapel (5's)	\$ 1.95

FRANK ADAMS' PRINTS \$ 5.00 (pkg. of 6)

Mohawk Chapel
W. Ross Macdonald School
Brantford Market Square,
Bell Homestead
Brant County Court House,
Grace Anglican Church

POSTCARDS (various)

Mohawk Chapel (Stedman Postcard-1910)	\$.25
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MAPS

County of Brant - Tremaine	\$ 2.50
City of Brantford 1875	\$ 5.00
Historical Map of Brant County	\$ 5.00
Discovers of Canada Map	\$ 5.00

**BRANT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
and MUSEUM ACTIVITIES 1994
(Summer: June, July, August)**

JUNE 1994

Wednesday June 15th, 8:00 pm
BRANT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
57 Charlotte St., Brantford

**BRANT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MONTHLY LECTURE:**

Mr. David Neill will speak on the history of the W. Ross Macdonald School. Free admission.

Sat. June 25th 1:30 pm
BRANT COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
57 Charlotte St., Brantford

EXHIBITION OPENING:
"Comic Relief"

A tribute to Walter Ball and a look at family life in Canadian Comic strips from "Juniper Junction" to "For Better or For Worse". Admission by donation.

JULY 1994

July 1st - September 17th
BRANT COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
57 Charlotte St., Brantford

EXHIBITION CONTINUES:

"Comic Relief"
Featuring work of cartoonists Jimmy Frise, Walter Ball, Doug Wright, James Simpkins, and Lynn Johnston. Small admission charge.

Monday July 11th - Friday July 15th
Monday July 18th - Friday July 22nd
BRANT COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
57 Charlotte St., Brantford

Children's Museum Club
full and half day programmes
"Time Travellers"
Pre-registration required.
\$10.00 half/\$20.00 full day.

AUGUST 1994

August 1st - September 17th
BRANT COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
57 Charlotte St., Brantford

EXHIBITION CONTINUES:
"COMIC RELIEF"

Featuring work of cartoonists Jimmy Frise, Walter Ball, Doug Wright, James Simpkins, and Lynn Johnston. Small admission charge.

Mon. August 8th - Fri. August 12th
Mon. August 15th - Fri. August 19th
BRANT COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
57 Charlotte St., Brantford

Children's Museum Club
full and half day programmes
"Canadian Comic Strips"
Pre-registration is required.
\$10.00 half/\$20.00 full day.

MUSEUM SUMMER HOURS:

Tuesday - Friday 9 am to 5 pm
Saturday & Sunday - 1 to 4 pm
(Open Holiday Mondays, closed following day.)

ADMISSION FEES:

Adults: \$2.00
Seniors/Students: \$1.50
Children: \$1.25
Children Under Six Years: Free



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Mr. Bruce E. Hill

Mr. and Mrs. Verrall

Mr. John Davis

Mrs. Westaway

Our sincere thanks to our Corporate sponsors and New members.

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Individual	(\$15.00)	\$
Family	(\$20.00)	\$
Patron	(\$25.00)	\$
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Additional Donation		\$
Amount Enclosed		\$

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Please make cheque payable to: Brant Historical Society.

Send to: Brant County Museum & Archives, 57 Charlotte St., BRANTFORD, Ont. N3T 2W6