



IT'S ABOUT TIME...

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

First Settlers: Ashford & Stevens Families

We will be writing about the 225th anniversary of the arrival of our first four settler families in each newsletter for 2018. Please go back to our Winter 2018 newsletter to read more about their arrival.

In May 1793, the United Empire Loyalist Ashford family was promised land in Hope Township in return for settling in this newly formed township. United Empire Loyalists were eligible to receive 200 acres from the Crown for resettlement into Upper Canada. The family had arrived ten years previous in Newark (Niagara) at the end of the American Revolution and had been waiting to see if they would be able to regain their land. There was a widespread seizure of land owned by Loyalists after the Revolution (1775-1783), and property the Ashfords owned in Dutchess County, New York had been seized and confiscated. Nathaniel had served in the Dutchess County Company of the 4th New York Regiment during the Revolution.

As the main version of this story goes, the Ashford family- consisting of Nathaniel Sr., his wife Ann, and their two sons and two daughters- set sail in June 1793 from Newark with the Harris, Stevens, and Johnson families on the schooner, and they arrived together at the settlement of Smith's Creek. We have found there is a bit of discrepancy on whether one of their sons walked on foot with the cattle. There is also discrepancy on whether Nathaniel Ashford Sr. ever saw Hope Township- one version of the story says that he was ill while the family was living in Newark and died before they made the trip, and another version says that he made it to Hope Township but was the first death in the township when he passed in 1795. The Ashfords would be granted Lot 1 and Lot 2 in Concession 1.

Another version of the Ashford's arrival story is that in 1792 the Ashford family realized they would not be able to regain their land in New York and decided to move out of Newark and settle somewhere in the Hamilton/Burlington area. For an unknown reason, the family is said to have decided the following year to join other acquaintances in Adolphustown (Napanee) along with the Stevens family. They travelled along the lake-shore and happened on the Smith's Creek settlement on June 3rd - they

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PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

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HOURS

Monday 1-5PM
Tuesday to Thursday 9:30-5
Friday 1-5pm
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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Rachel Arnaud

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

liked the area so much they decided to stay. This version of the story has some interesting elements- Adolphustown had been founded by Loyalists nine years earlier in 1784, so it is believable that the family would want to settle in an established Loyalist village, particularly if they had acquaintances there. However, the Hamilton/Burlington area was also being newly settled by Loyalist families, and was in a good location of being between Newark and York. We haven't been able to find any information or research to support this story but it's an interesting tale.

We do know that John Ashford was granted the north 100 acres of Lot 1 in Concession 1 and John and Nathaniel Ashford were granted 200 acres on Lot 1 Concession 2 Hope Township. Sons Nathaniel Jr. and John would serve in the War of 1812, and John also joined the rebels during the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837. John's son, James, would be the last Ashford to leave Hope Township and lived in Hawaii, where his sons Clarence and Volney made history- another fascinating story for another day.

Although we know a significant amount about the Ashford family, we know very little about the Stevens family. James Stevens and his family were settled in Vermont in the 18th century and after the Revolutionary War made their way to Newark. Some stories mention the Ashford and Stevens families associated with each other before they settled in Smith's Creek, so perhaps they were acquaintances or neighbours in Newark. James Stevens drove his cattle to Smith's Creek, and his wife is said to have given birth to a son on the first night of their arrival in the settlement.

James Stevens would be the first person in the Newcastle District (Durham & Northumberland Counties) to be tried at the local court in 1803. His offence is unknown but he was fined 2 shillings and sixpence, and the day finished with a game of ball at the Soper's farm on Concession 1.

The Stevens would end up settling neighboring the Ashford family on Lot 2 Concession 2.

A HISTORY OF PORT HOPE'S EARLY HOSPITALS

By Marie Jones

In 1910, a great deal of preliminary work had been carried out by a dedicated group of women, led by Mrs. E.J. Burton, with the intent of opening a public hospital in Port Hope. Fundraising efforts began before the Port Hope Hospital Trust was incorporated in May of 1911. The women's group, which went on to become the Women's Hospital Mission, was able to raise significant funds that enabled the construction work to proceed.

There were several locations proposed for the new hospital with the most suitable site being the Jane's 2 ½ acre lot at the south corner of Hope and Ward Streets. The price was \$5,000 and included a two-storey house, c.1865. It was decided that this house would be used as a temporary hospital while the new one was constructed. After some modifications the first Port Hope Hospital was opened in Jan. 1913.

In the winter of 1915 injured soldiers from The Great War made their way home to Port Hope where they recovered and were cared for in a large medical tent annex erected as part of the small hospital. During the summer of 1915 over 200 soldiers were cared for. In 1916, when the new hospital was completed, this original hospital was converted to a residence and training school for nurses.

In early 1915, Toronto architects Ellis and Ellis, were hired to design the new hospital. J. Trick and Company was awarded the tender for construction for just under \$24,000. The official opening of the classic revival new hospital building was held on June 29, 1916. In 1922, a service building was built and the

west wing addition was constructed to house a further 25 beds. The hospital operated at this location until 1964.

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This grouping of heritage buildings has historical and cultural significance within the municipality, constructed primarily with funds raised by residents of Port Hope, a major feat during WW I.

CHAIR'S REPORT

It feels like Spring is finally here. The Canada 150 tulips in our front garden are making their way up and will be in bloom in a week or two. Last year we had a wonderful display of colour in red and white. Board members have been busy during the winter months planning for upcoming events and displays that will take place primarily in the next 6 month period. We hope that you will join us for our Open House that takes place on May 11th and 12th. Rachel, our wonderful archivist, is doing a talk for ACO, Port Hope Branch on June 19th, 2018 at the library, which we hope you will participate in. Please check their web site for advanced ticket sales.

Have a wonderful Spring!

Marie

ARCHIVIST'S MESSAGE

Directories are a fantastic resource for anyone conducting research on a person, property, or business in Port Hope or Hope Township. At the Archives, some of the main directories we have available in our reading room are:

1799 residents in Hope Township; 1856/1857 directory for Port Hope; 1857/1858 directory for Port Hope; 1871 directory for Port Hope; 1880 Dodd's Directory for Port Hope; 1892 Farmers and Business Directory; 1892-1897 Hope Township School Register; 1901 Old Boys Reunion (features names of Port Hope people who have moved away); 1945 & 1949 Bell Telephone directory; also, the 1878 Belden's Atlas has a directory and also shows property owners in the rural township in that year.

Directories can tell us so many important things including if a person lived in the area in a specific time period, what they did for a living, and what street they lived on. If they owned a business, they may have even paid for an ad in the directory. They are often the first resource that I reach for when doing research, and I encourage you to come and take a look. Don't forget that you can also visit the Archives to conduct research on Friday May 11th and Saturday May 12th during our annual Open House.

Rachel

FROM THE PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION



Title: Hospital, Port Hope, Ontario

Creator: Photogelatine Engraving Co. Ltd.

Description: Colour Postcard

Date: c1940

RECENT DONATION HIGHLIGHTS

2018.12—Photographs and letter from WWII soldier Clarence Kelly of Port Hope

2018.13— Materials from the Port Hope Lawn Bowling Club

2018.15—Wallpaper fragment from Walton Street store, circa 1850s

2018.16—Panoramic photo of Walton Street, from Queen Street, c1970s

UPCOMING EVENTS

Port Hope Archives' Open House, May 11th & 12th, 2018– 10am-4pm

Wesleyville Country Market & Naturefest– May 27th, 10-4pm– reopening ceremony at noon

ACO-*'Overland & Overnight' Evening Talk* with Port Hope Archives' Rachel Arnaud, June 19, 2018 at 7pm at Port Hope Public Library. For ticket information contact ACO Port Hope.

FIND US ONLINE!

Website: www.porthopearchives.com

Flickr: www.flickr.com/porthopearchives

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Archeion: www.archeion.ca/port-hope-archives

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PHArchives>

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