



*Port Hope & District
Historical Society*

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**Preserving the past
for future generations**

In this Issue

President's Report — p.2

**Carroll & June Nichols train
ride — p-1 and p-3**

**The 200th Anniversary of first
burial in Canton Cemetery— p.4**

Events Calendar — p.4

Society Newsletter

Strangers in the night -- train ride to Winnipeg turns into a 67-year romance



Carroll and June at home, March 20, 2011

Carroll Nichols was born December 26, 1917 and grew up in Wesleyville. He must have done considerable talking about the young woman he met on the train, because it was his father who urged him to visit Cavan "to see that girl!" and what was so exciting about her. To make a long story short it wasn't long after that the young Mr. Nichols mustered up the courage to invite her out on a date. On hindsight, he "blames" his dad and, by default, the crazy world of politics. Unfortunately, his dad passed away sometime before the wedding took place in the fall of 1946 and missed the wedding.

Carroll took over the family farm and worked it for some 13 years, but having a keen interest in Electrical

Cont'd page 3

Little did Carroll and June realize when they boarded the train in Toronto at 11 p.m., May 27, 1944, they were embarking on a lifelong journey together. Before this night they had "never laid eyes on each other." They had been invited to a Young Liberals Convention in Winnipeg by Frank Rickard, a member of Parliament from Bowmanville.

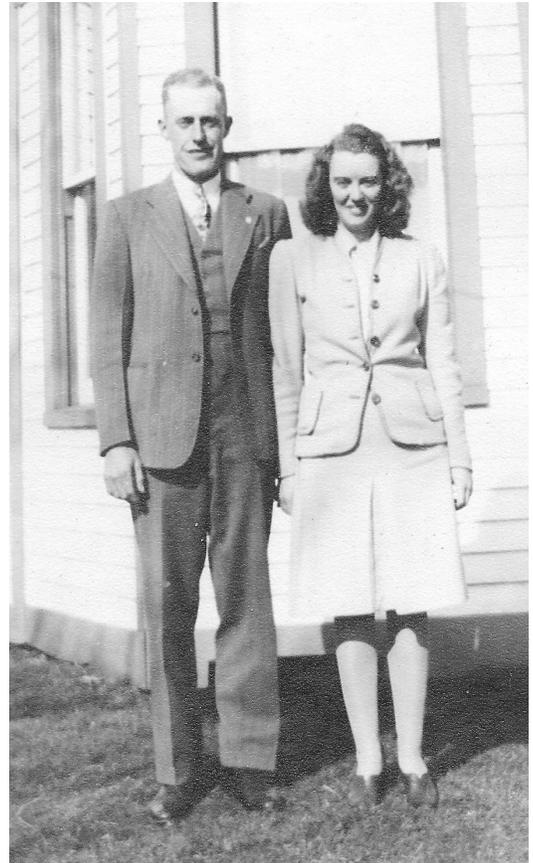
The first major stop on the journey west was in Hornpayne where the passengers were let off for a 20-min stop. Carroll and June bought ice creams. During our interview, June was quick to say, "I didn't pay for the cone!"

They returned home on different trains and didn't see each other again until the Orono Fall Fair where they were required to give a report on their experiences at the convention.

Was it something in her eyes so exciting, in her smile so inviting, that before the night was over, the young man had paid for her ice cream? Anyway, they're not saying what it was. But 67 years later they're still passionately in love — and she was and is "the wind beneath his wings."

June Victoria Shield was born July 27, 1917 and grew up in the northern edge of Cavan Township. She taught piano and voice most of her life.

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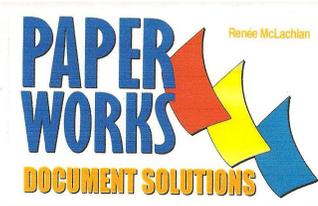


Carroll and June, Easter Sunday, 1946

President's report



PHDHS [former EDHS] is pleased to have the support of the following business members



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This report was put together in the Oshawa General Hospital where I have been bed-ridden for over a month. I wish the situation had been different, but life is unpredictable and I now find myself in circumstances, health wise, that I wouldn't wish on any living thing. However, there is light at the end of the tunnel and by the time you are reading this I expect to be home and up and about.

First, I want to thank the many people who sent cards and flowers, and the thoughtful individuals who brought me gifts on May fifth – marking my seventieth birthday. All of you in one way or another have given me cause to hope in the midst of discouragement.

I also want to express my appreciation to the members of the PHDHS Executive for their patience and support during my time of illness. While the responsibilities of the Society have rarely left my mind, my hospitalisation has kept me from being as active as I would like. For one thing, I had to miss the AGM on April 20th. It was unfortunate that the yearly election process couldn't take place at that time because of insufficient members present. Hopefully, we'll be able to get this taken care of soon.

I am pleased that we are featuring Carroll and June Nichols in this quarter's newsletter. I'm proud to say that I took piano lessons from June in the 1950s. She and her husband, Carroll, are fine people and Life Members of the Society. Carroll has made a significant mark over the years serving his community.

This is the 30th year that Dorothy's House Museum has been in operation. Plans are in the works to recognize this anniversary year –2011 -- with special events planned for a weekend in late August. This will be discussed at our next Executive meeting, which I hope to convene as soon as possible.

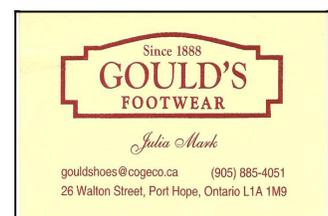
One of our first priorities will be to evaluate where we are as a Council and to set a convenient date and advertise a public meeting so the membership can put in place the 2011 Executive Council. I am looking forward to getting back on my feet and on track for the coming season at Dorothy's House Museum.

Our annual yard sale, which normally took place in May, will now take place some time in June. I have some donated items to be picked up for our fund raising. We will be looking for volunteers for the annual garden and yard cleanup around the museum and area.

Hoping to see all our members at the AGM scheduled for June 15, 2011

Joan Ashby Parrott
President
Port Hope & District Historical Society

Dorothy's House Museum
30th Anniversary Celebration,
August 28, 2011



United Council of Durham and Northumberland Counties in 1948 meeting on the second floor of Victoria Hall, Cobourg, Ontario.



Cont'd from page 1

Engineering and Mechanics he went in that direction along with raising cattle. But that wasn't all, he moved into politics at the urging of Elmer Scott and found himself a Councillor sitting on the United Council of Northumberland and Durham Counties in 1948. He progressed up the political pole and for two years was a Deputy Reeve and then Reeve, and head of the 40-member County Council. He called a halt at this stage and decided it was in the best interest of both he and June to focus on their growing family.

However, that wasn't the end of Carroll's involvement in public affairs; his passionate dedication to his community and beyond pushed him to Toronto, Ottawa and Washington DC, if he saw some benefit to be gained for the local community.

Carroll Nichol's undying commitment to developing "energy from waste" [Plasma Gasification] is as strong today as when [1998] he first realized it's environmental and economic benefits. But his involvement in waste management goes back to 1973 when Toronto asked CP Rail to dump 2000 tons of garbage a day in a landfill in Hope Township. And June Victoria, a gracious and supportive wife and mother, has been with him every step of the journey. Yes, "it's turned out so right for [those] strangers in the night."

Standing upper far left, Carroll Nichols, Elmer Scott



Standing in front of the old Cobourg jail

Board of Canton Cemetery Trust marks 200th anniversary of first burial

On a wet, Sunday afternoon, April 17, 2011, the Board of the Canton Cemetery Trust paid homage to Susan [Woodworth] Hawkins, beloved wife of James Hawkins, owner of the property. She was the first person buried in Canton Cemetery.

Born in 1759, and a descendent of settlers to New England in the early 1600s she died on April 25, 1811 of small-pox, and was buried in a family plot owned by her husband. She and James had migrated north to Smith's Creek (Port Hope) in 1801, having lived for about



Pictured: Susan Bickle, Jeff Gilmer, Mamie Bickle, Bob Barrie, Andrew Hawkins, Bill Hawkins, Craig Ross [back to camera], John Boughen, Jason Barrie

12 years in Montpelier, VT after the War of Independence. At the time of her death, the population of Hope Township, including Smith's Creek, was likely around 500 people. There are many early residents of Canton buried in Canton Cemetery, including some of the descendents of Susan and James identified below.

Five years after their arrival in Port Hope, James and Susan took up land in Canton in Lot 11 Concession 4 around the area of the current Canton United Church and Canton Cemetery. The land for the church and school was given by the Hawkins family and the first church (Hope Chapel) in Hope Township was built on the land in 1831. Generations of Hawkins' descendents have made Canton their home, and still do. Susan and James had seven children:

1. The eldest named James, was the great grandfather of Dr. M.S. Hawkins who was a dental surgeon in Port Hope and after whom Dr. Hawkins School was named.
2. Their second son, Azel, born in 1785 lived at Mount Airy farm purchased for him in 1822 where descendents still live and farm. Azel's daughter Emily Theresa married Nicholas Peters, who at the age of two immigrated with his parents to Canton in 1822.
3. Their first daughter, Phoebe Margaret, married Myndert Harris, Jr, the son of another original settler in the area.
4. Their fourth child, Susan, married John David Smith, the son of the original Elias Peter Smith of Port Hope. Susan is buried in the cemetery at St Mark's Anglican Church in Port Hope. There are commemorative windows to Susan from her husband at both St Mark's and St John's Anglican Churches because they would have been parishioners of the original St John's and later of the newer brick building completed in 1869.

There is little information regarding their fifth child, and the last two died while quite young.

A few years after burying his wife and three other family members, James realized that the interments were actually in lot 12, not lot 11 that he owned. He purchased the land they were buried in from the owner, Samuel Powers in 1833. Samuel Powers was the father of Dr. L.B. Powers after whom the public school in Port Hope was named. Dr. Powers started his practice in Canton at the white Ontario Cottage on County Road 10 which is now owned by one of Susan's great great great grandsons, Bill Bickle.

Later in 1837 negotiations began to deed the cemetery to the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the forerunner to the United Church of Canada. The land transfer was completed in 1843 after James' death by his son James. In 1931, the United Church sold the cemetery for one dollar to the Canton Cemetery Trust. The Cemetery Board purchased an additional 1¼ acres of adjoining land from Jack & Jennie Vanderwindt in 1988 to enlarge the cemetery.

Through most of the Cemetery's two centuries until today, many of the current Board members have been descendents of early Canton families including those of Susan Hawkins.

— *All information in this report has been copied from research compiled by Mr. Bill Bickle, a fourth generation grandson of Susan Hawkins.*

Events Calendar

Regular Monthly meeting at the Ganaraska Conservation Authority Meeting Room, 2216 Hwy 28 North, Port Hope, ON

Wednesday, June 15th.

Annual General Meeting

Dorothy's House Museum will be open every weekend with special events announced when appropriate

June 25 and 26 TBA

July 2 and 3 TBA

July 9 and 10 TBA

July 16 and 17 TBA

July 23 and 24 TBA

July 30 and 31 TBA

August 6 and 7 TBA

August 13 and 14 TBA

August 20 and 21 TBA

Saturday, Aug. 27th

Monarch Butterfly Tag and Release

Sunday, Aug. 28th

Hope United Church Service
DHM 30th Anniversary Celebration

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Membership Rates

Single	\$15,00
Couple	\$25,00
Business	\$40,00
Lifetime	\$75,00

Stories, or story ideas, are always welcome. Email: cmorgan@eagle.ca