



Society Newsletter

Port Hope's Last Hitching Post in Family For Five Generations

Marjorie (Clark) Brown was 83 years old when she stood beside this hitching post in 1988, but the time-worn hitching post she is pictured here resting her arm on, had been around long before 1988 and had served milk delivery drivers, and other horse and buggy travelers who might have had reason to stop at 158 Bruton Street, Port Hope. Reminiscing with her family in later years, Marjorie recalled the hitching post when she was six years old in 1911, according to her daughter, Audrey Graham, adding that *"it was where father tied up the horse when he hauled home the coal and wood for the winter."*

The hitching post was removed from its original position when the Town's Public Works did some work on the street a few years ago, and would have been lost or destroyed had it not been for one of the Town's workers who realized its historical significance. Some time after it went missing, it showed up on her grandson's [Ross Graham] doorstep.

As of this writing the hitching post has not been restored to its original location. In the photo below it is being held up by Ross in front of the old homestead and in the approximate location where it once stood more than a 100 years ago.

Mrs. Brown was born Marjorie Clark, the only child of Matt and Minnie Clark at the family home cited above. It was purchased in October 1904 for \$300. Her ancestors on her mother's side came to Canada from Yorkshire, England in 1820 after spending 22 weeks aboard ship. On arrival, her mother survived by eating beech leaves for three weeks until she found work.

According to Peggy Foster's interview in the *Port Hope Evening Guide*, Mrs. Brown was able to recall events to a time when she was three years old. She remembers her father carrying her to West Primary School, which was just down the street from her home.

When the new Central Public School opened up, one of her teachers was Miss Smith, a descendent of the Smith family for which the town was first named, "Smith's Creek."

At the age of 13, Mrs. Brown and her family moved to a farm on Highway 2 at Morrish. Some time later Fred Brown came to the farm as a hired hand. It wasn't long before Marjorie struck up a friendship with him and when she was 18 they married. The wedding took place on Sept. 8, 1923. Eventually, the couple bought a house near Morrish where they lived for the next 30 years and raised their family of five children, Audrey, Margaret, James, Kenneth and Eileen.

When Marjorie's mother became ill in 1949 she and Fred moved back to the family home on Bruton Street to care for her.



Marjorie Brown (1905 — 2001)



Ross Graham holding the post

Mrs. Brown's father helped dig the basement for the former hospital on Ward Street and her husband helped build the "new" hospital on Wellington Street.

When interviewed at her 90th birthday celebration, Marjorie told reporter Peggy Foster, that she *"had worked hard and stayed close to God."*

Editor's Note: The writer is grateful to Peggy Foster and *The Port Hope Evening Guide* [Mar. 31, 1995] for info on Mrs. Brown's life.



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Preserving the past for

future generations

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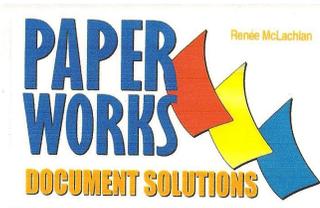
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Port Hope, Ontario

President's report



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



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Happy New Year [2012] to ALL!

Just a short note this time to let you know that Rod and I are enjoying the sunny south of Florida, with temperatures ranging in the 80 degrees. We've been busy planting flower beds with milkweed plants and seeing several butterfly-species coming to our flowers!

We've seen two Alligators, Bald Eagle, Ibis, Sand Hill Cranes in our backyard — Killdeers, Egrets, Wood Storks, Hawks, Shrikes, Swallows, Flickers, Red Bellied Woodpeckers, Blue Jays, Vultures, plus other birds. cities.

Rod and I would like to thank everyone who volunteered during last year's summer season at Dorothy's House Museum, especially the 30th Anniversary Celebration at the end of August. It was nice to see so many of you who had been involved with DHM over the last 30 years! The Monarch Tag and Release added to the weekend's success. Thanks to guest lecturer Donald A. Davis who volunteered his time.

Many thanks to our guest speakers, Art Marvin and Craig Ross. Art's October talk is featured in this issue of the Newsletter, and plans are in the works to include coverage of Mr. Ross's "History of Cemeteries" in a later edition. Both presentations were interesting and informative.

We are sorry we couldn't be present on the special occasion of Ona Gardiner's 90th birthday celebration in January 2012. Congratulations and Happy 90th, Ona!

Last year following our return I experienced serious health issues that dragged on for several weeks. This year I'm experiencing good health and looking forward with optimism, as we make plans for this summer's activities at DHM. We look forward to working with the membership to serve the interest of Port Hope and District Historical Society.

We do wish everyone a great 2012 Year. Hope to see you soon.

President, PHDHS
Joan Ashby Parrott

[Cont'd from opposite page ...Two Paintings]

About this time, our father, Lloyd Marvin told me that the paintings were to have been returned to the farm after Madge died in 1950.

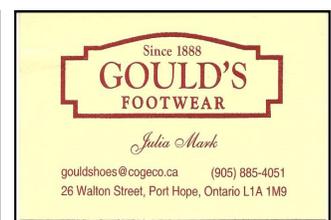
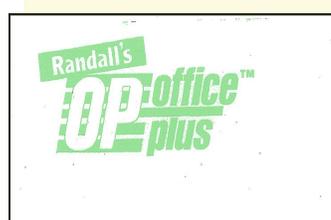
In 2001 I offered to purchase the paintings from Clarke but he refused to sell wanting more for them than was offered but never indicating what he wanted for them.

Clarke died in 2003 and when I enquired about the status of the paintings relevant to the estate it was rumoured that Clarke had sold the paintings, or traded them on a bill for renovations that had been done on his house. In 2005 I tracked down the widow of one of the men who had been involved with the renovations on the Dickinson house. She was not aware of the paintings but said she would talk to the brother of her late husband as he was the other person involved in the renovations. Her husband had been the carpenter and his brother was the plumber. I heard nothing more from her.

In the fall of 2006 I happened to cross paths with a person in Port Hope who had some common interests and I mentioned the paintings and my ongoing search. Coincidentally he said he knew the plumber and said he was pretty sure he had the paintings and would follow up on it later. He didn't have a chance since he was leaving for Florida for the winter.

This spring [2011] I had need of a plumber! I selected the plumber in question and while working on the plumbing I brought up the subject of the paintings. He was indeed in possession of the two paintings. When Farini died in 1929 it is said he left 20 of his paintings to the Royal Ontario Museum. They seem to have disappeared because they never received them. Most of his work is thought to be lost or forgotten.

At any rate I have purchased the original paintings and 100 years after their production, "UGLOW HOMESTEAD" and "FARMER'S CREEK" have been "repatriated" to Marvindale.



A Tale of Two Paintings

In December 1925, a reporter for the *Port Hope Times* called at number 4 Dorset Street, Port Hope, to interview William “Farini” Hunt. Finding number 4 on one of the row houses, on Dorset Street, he knocked and the door opened ‘briskly’ by the aged Farini, who promptly “...took the young man’s hand and took him on a brisk march down the hallway toward the living room. It was a sight to behold...hundreds of brightly coloured paintings hung on the walls and sat on the floor...” amongst numerous other artifacts and trophies.¹

Two of those paintings were the subjects of Mr. Art Marvin’s presentation at the Port Hope and District Historical Society’s Monthly Meeting last year—October 19, 2011. In talking to us about the Farini paintings and how they came into his possession, Mr. Marvin also gave us a brief overview of his understanding of history and what it’s about, by using a couple of examples from his own personal journey. He said, “...at one time I thought history was etched in stone. It now seems to me that history is about change and the documentation of change.”

As one example, he said when he left home in the sixties their farm was in the rural community of Morrish in Durham County, on the north side of Provincial Hwy #2. “Forty years later when I came home,” he said, “the rural community was gone, no church, no school, not on the map and is now part of Northumberland County. In the registry office there is a Pin Number instead of a Lot Concession. It’s a wonder I could even find the place!”

As a second example Art told us he has “...lived in 18 locations, in 14 different communities and worked at 12 or 13 different jobs. Two communities are gone — one completely. And only one of the job sites, offices, and work centres still exists. Several of the jobs don’t exist: Forest Ranger, Game Warden, Tower Man and Operations Manager.”

The Paintings: Speaking to a rapt audience, Mr. Marvin explains it like this: *Much has been written about William Leonard Hunt. In the 1800’s and early 1900’s he was famous as a circus performer and tight rope artist...and as a showman adopted the Italian name, Guillermo Antonio Farini.... In his mid-60’s [early 1900’s] Farini took up painting. Among his works were two paintings of his properties in Hope township in 1908. He was 71 years of age at the time.*

One painting, entitled “UGLOW HOMESTEAD, is of the original home on what now is Marvindale, which was the home of my great great grandparents, William Uglow and Elizabeth Anne Hancock who were tenant farmers on the property.... The other painting entitled “FARMER’S CREEK” is of the original timber crib bridge crossing the stream on York Road which fronts our property.

Both of these paintings were in the possession of our family in 1908. In 1910 our great grandparents Eli Arthur Marvin and Margery [Madge] Uglow, daughter of William and Elizabeth, moved to the property as tenant farmers along with their son, William Thomas Hector and daughter Aleda Gladys. The paintings then became the possessions of Arthur and Margery when Margery’s parent’s died [William in 1913 and Elizabeth in 1914].

In 1913 when William died, his son, John William Uglow purchased the property from William Hunt [Farini], but did not move to the property. Eli Arthur and Madge stayed on as tenant farmers until 1921 when they purchased the property. In 1926 William Thomas Hector Marvin purchased the farm from his father Eli Arthur. Sometime before 1930 Eli and Madge Uglow moved to the farm south of Hwy 2 and one lot west of the farm and took the paintings with them. In 1937 when Eli Arthur died, his wife Margery Uglow went to live with her daughter Aleda Marvin Dickinson taking the paintings with her.

In a 1948 recitation to the Morrish Women’s Institute, May Lillian Marvin mentioned that the paintings were “the valued possessions of Mrs. Arthur Marvin” [Madge]. Madge died in 1950 leaving the paintings in the possession of Aleda Marvin Dickinson. Aleda died in 1987 leaving the paintings in the possession of her son, Clarke.

[Continued on opposite page]



¹Shane Peacock, *The Great Farini: The High-Wire Life of William Hunt*. (New York: Penguin Books), 1995, Page 1

Two Lifetime Society members celebrate birthdays in recent days

Boxing Day Special

Carroll Nichols near the end of last year, December 26th, celebrated his 94th birthday.



Asked to offer a reason for his remarkably long life, he said he's been trying to keep up with his wife, June, who turned 94, July 27, 2011. They have been married 65 years, plus a two-year romance that was set ablaze on a May night in 1944.

Carroll also suggested with a touch of humour, that perhaps his four national bloodlines may have contributed to his longevity. His mother, an English American was 90 years of age when she passed away, and his father, a German Canadian, was 70.

Despite a long career in farming, Electrical Engineering and Mechanics and eventually politics, Carroll Nicholls is still actively involved in his community through frequent phone calls, writing, attendance at meetings, personal and public. His undying commitment to "energy from waste" [Plasma Gasification] is as strong today as it was in 1998 when he first realized its environmental and economic benefits. But his community and environmental concerns can be traced back to 1973 when he took on the City of Toronto and the CN Railway.

Still motivated today by the current political dialogue, he feels frustrated by those in power who seem bent on using "yesterday's technology" while newer and better processes are available.

Ona Gardiner celebrates 90th Birthday



More than a 150 friends and relatives showed up at Roseglen Village Sunday afternoon, Jan. 8th to honour Ona, and celebrate her 90th birthday — though her actual birth date was January 17, 1922.

The event was arranged by her two nieces, Marion Manders and Karen Doherty. Ona said — trying to keep from laughing — "they actually sent me a formal invitation this past Christmas to attend my own birthday party. I asked them why and they mischievously said, 'because you would have said no!'"

Ona has given most of her long and productive life to serving others. Her areas of service are too numerous to describe here. But readers can read her memoir, *The Party Line: A Telephone Tale*. She is a life member of the Port Hope and District Historical Society, and for many years was a contact-person for Dorothy's House Museum spending untold hours acting as a consultant to visitors wanting information.

As a switchboard operator her voice went far and wide, becoming the connection to the world outside Garden Hill and surrounding rural communities — and vice versa. The switchboard office was located in the home of her uncle, Dr. A.C. Beatty, the local medical doctor.

Speaking about the changes she has experienced and seen throughout the years, she can't get over the changes in the cost of living, especially for food and clothing. She remembers "going to the local Garden Hill store with a \$2-dollar bill and coming home with a loaded bag of groceries."

Ona, please note you have been given the last word!!!!

Events Calendar

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

Wed. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 18, 2012

John Boughen

Topic: Barnabas Bletcher-Innkeeper & Stagecoach Owner

Monday, 7:30 p.m., March 12, 2012

Board Meeting at Canton Municipal Building

Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., March 25, 2012

Heritage Fair at Lion's Recreation Centre. *Heritage is as much about the future as it is about the past.. More info to come.*

Wednesday, 7 p.m. April 18, 2012

Annual General Meeting. Please note: as of Dec. 31, we started a new year. In order to vote at the AGM you will need to have renewed your membership for 2012.

Dorothy's House Museum

Summer weekend events to be announced in the April edition of the Newsletter

Contact Information

PHDHS

P.O. Box 116, ON

L1A 3V9

Web: www.porthopehistorical.ca

Joan Ashby Parrott

President

905-885-2981; Cell: 1-905-922-6439

Note: If no response please leave message at 905-797-2291

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