



Friends of LINCOLN'S HISTORY

NEWSLETTER

Summer Issue

August 18, 2022

House Tour 2022

By: Mary Lour Garr

On a warm sunny June 4th, the Friends of Lincoln's History was finally able to hold its long delayed Heritage House Tour!

Almost 200 ticket holders toured five beautiful houses, and a swing beam barn, then many enjoyed a glass of wine at a new winery and some delicious food from a brand new Jordan based food truck.

The House Tour Committee is grateful to the homeowners who were willing to open their wonderful houses to guests and we are grateful for the willingness of those guests to follow the vaccination and masking standards asked of them. The house tour volunteers reported lots of positive comments from those touring, who seemed delighted to be able to enjoy the event again.

We thank all the volunteers and in particular the House Leads who did so much preparation (twice!! - thanks to Covid). Of course, mention must be made of Ruth Smith's outstanding research on each site, which owners are always surprised by and delighted with, when she shows up with her gift binders!

For those who were unable to attend, you missed some amazing extras, including a selection of hand made quilts and hand hooked rugs along with demonstrations of both, some quilt barn boards, snacks of apple fritters and fudge, a banjo concert by Bill Salter, a first hand demonstration of the apparatus used in a swing beam barn, a personal story of marriage in what is now a kitchen, and some surprising house renovations. Guests seem to enjoy the little additions our House Tour always provides.

The Tour was supported by some generous businesses and individuals with financial donations, and in turn we supported local businesses by purchasing everything needed for the event right here in the Town of Lincoln.

In the end, June 4th accomplished the Committee's goal of showing off some beautiful buildings, and conveying some of the wonderful history of the community, while earning enough funds to cover the cost of a scanner that is badly needed by the Archives.

Another success for the Friends of Lincoln's History!

Recent donations to the Archives from Doreen Hutchinson, Lincoln History Club and Ray Konkle's collection.

We also received more old yearbooks from the Beamsville High School. We currently have all year books from 1947 to 2019.

Friends of LINCOLN'S HISTORY

BOARD NEWS



It is our pleasure to announce that Ruth M. Smith, along with Rob Foster, Sue Foster and Nancy Neville, were presented with the Paul Harris Fellow award by the Rotary Club on June 16, 2022 at the Rockway Vineyards Golf Club. They received the award recognizing the significant impact they have made to the community. Congratulations to Ruth from the board members of the Friends of Lincoln's History volunteer staff at the Archives and all members of The Friends of Lincoln's History.

newsnow
2022
**BEST
IN THE WEST**
Community Group

RUBY AWARD

Friends of Lincoln's History

Thank you to all the newsnow readers across the town and farmland for voting us one of the Best Community Groups.

Memories of Beamsville and Boyhood Adventures

“Communication (ca. 1908—1915) By: William Sumner House Brantford, Ontario”

He was born Sept. 24, 1854 and grew up in Beamsville. He died April 30, 1948 in Brantford. He was the son of Ida May Buckham and John W. House.

“Some time ago you asked through your interesting paper for some items of early day recollection in Beamsville, and having read with a great deal of interest and pleasure, the letter in your issue of July 28th from my old Friend and school mate I. B. Marlatt currently living in Kansas City, MO. I thought I would send you a few items that would perhaps be of some interest to your readers.”

“I take great pleasure in keeping track of the old boys and girls of my native village as well as the early history of the place. In the heart of the “Garden of Canada” nestling at the foot of the mountains, with the blue waters of lake Ontario rippling only two miles away, lies the pretty village of Beamsville. Once a forest with only Indians to guide the rare traveller, it has become the centre of one of the best populated and most productive districts of the country. “

“Beamsville is named after Jacob Beam one of the earliest settlers who came from New Jersey before the revolution and who received land from the government. The village is one of the oldest having been settled by U.E. Loyalists before the close of the 18th century. Among those patriotic people were Walkers, Tuffords, Culps, Konkles, Marlatts Zimmermans, Henrys, Houses and many others. These were followed by the Grobbs, Hipplés, Moyers, Honsbergers, Wisimers and many other Germans from Pennsylvania.”

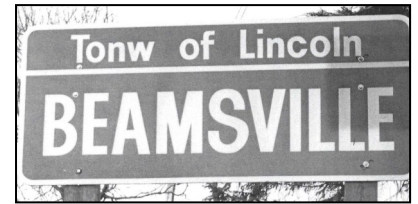
“Beamsville’s first church was built in 1790 by the Baptists. The present church was built in 1858. The pastors that I can recall are Rev. Wm. Hewson, Rev. James Mackie, Rev. R.B. Montgomery, Rev. Hooper and Rev. Gilchrist up to the time of my leaving home. The first school house was erected in 1790. It was also used for religious purposes and stood on the lot just south of the Baptist church yard and was built of logs.”

“My school days were spent in the present school house (Beamsville Public School) and my first teacher was Miss Jane Tufford who later married John Harris. David Morgan was the principal of the common school, followed by Daniel Pycher and Jacob Hipple. The first teacher I remember in high or grammar school was Wm. Howard Hunter, then followed by H. Houston, Stark, Bell and H.B. Spotton. “

“I remember the big fire in 1864 which destroyed some 14—15 buildings in all, it burned from the store occupied by Mr. Archibald Hodge to the site now occupied by Mr. J.D. Bennett’s Carriage shop. I also remember the big rock that friend Marlatt, Teeters too, and the two stately elms which stood at either end of the village. Couses’s field where all the great events were held on holidays, Killborns Hollow, Russ’ Falls farther up the same glen and many other old places and haunts of our boyhood days. The lake we loved so well, where we spent many happy hours fishing, boating and swimming.”

“The old house, the old town and old friends are very dear to my heart and I often sit and live over again many of the scenes and pleasures of my very happy youthful days, and often say with the post in our old school books (Mrs. Allen, I think was the author):

“Backward turn backward, O time in thy flight and make me a boy again, just for to-night.”



RECALLS BOYHOOD DAYS
2014.00079.015. NOA. 065

Mr. I. B. Marlatt, of Kansas City, in renewing his subscription to The Express, enclosed the following communication:

During my recent tour of Ontario (taken largely by airplane) it was my pleasure to visit some of the friends and associates of my youth in Beamsville, of whom I regret to find so few remaining. However, I was gratified to find those still there not much changed such as Messrs. Prudhomme, Sinclair, Amiss, Mackie, Fairbrother, Snyder, Kemp, Walker, Mrs. Osborne, Mrs. Beatty, Mrs. Bennett and others whose names do not just now occur to me.

Your town has of course developed considerably, but the old brick high school is identically the same building of my earliest boyhood, with David Morgan, David Pysker and Jacob Hipple, public or common school teachers, and Messrs. Spotton, Chace, Henderson, Bell, Teehey and Houston, high school teachers.

And this brings to mind the many joyous days when the lure of the Mountain and Lake, Red Creek and Kilbourne Creek, tempted us to play truant. The “big rock” was one of our play grounds. It was a beautiful day last August when George Snyder and I walked down to this rock, but no boys were there, which raised the question in my mind whether the boys of today are as sentimental as those of yesterday.

Two of nature’s land marks, the great elms on the highway at the East and West ends of the village, had long since disappeared — all that is left of the one at the edge of “Kilbourne Hollow” is the large stump rotted almost to the ground — the last vestige of the monarch of a vanished forest.

With kindly sentiment to my home town.

Sincerely,
I. B. Marlatt,
4400 Tracy Ave.,
Kansas City, Missouri.

Isaac Brock Marlatt was born in Beamsville March 11, 1858. He passed away in Kansas City, MO on February 27, 1936.

continued on next page.....

Boyhood Adventures continued

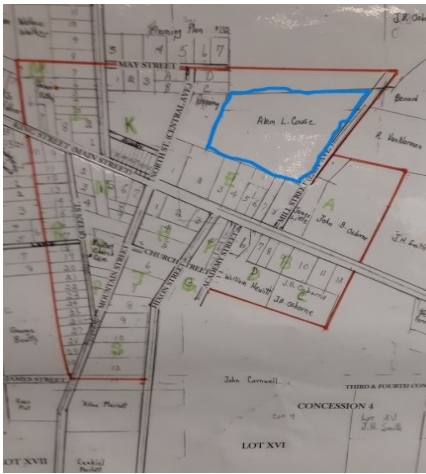
The letter and newspaper article on page 2 were written sometime between 1908 and 1915. After much discussion at the Archives we decided that we needed to find out where some of the places, they mentioned in the article, actually were. (**Kilbourn Hollow, Russ' Falls, Red Creek, Couses' Field and the Big Rock**). Ray Konkle just happened to be in the Archives that day and he said he knew where most of them were. So the very next day, Ray picked up Ruth Smith and myself and off we went for a guided tour of Beamsville. We were successful in finding some of the boyhood haunts they spoke about. Ray himself also used to frequent some of them when he was a boy. I also contacted John Allan who was of great help.

Kilbourn Hollow we believe to be where Stadelbauer Lumber was. At one time it also might have been called Prudhomme's Hollow. The creek there is now called Konkle Creek.

Russ Falls was near the corner where Highland Park Drive and Stadelbauer Drive meet today.

Unfortunately we were unable to come to an exact location of Red Creek. Does anyone know where this creek might have been?

I hope you enjoyed the articles as much as I did. Thank you to Ruth Smith, John Allan, Ray Konkle and Geoffry H. Ellis



Ruth was able to locate Couse Field through the deeds on the Couse property. Couse Field is where the first fairs in Beamsville were held in the 1850's.

Crown to Jacob Beam Sr., Patent dated 1 May 1798, 100 acres

Crown to Jacob Beam Jr., patent, 10 June 1801

Jacob Beam Sr. To Jacob Beam Jr. Deed #877, Bargain & Sale

Jacob Beam Jr. to John H. Kilborne, Deed #8477, 16 Dec 1831, 9 acres for 75 pounds

John H. Kilborne to Moses J. Couse, Deed #801, B&S, 20 April 1848, 10 acres, no money

Couse family (Moses died) to Alem L Couse, #1311, Quit Claim, 10 acres, \$700.00

Margaret Couse (Alem's widow) sold this land to John W. Kennedy 9 July 1909 for \$1,000

John W. Kennedy sold to Wilford T. J. Davey 12 July 1909 for \$1,000

Fred Davey was the creator of the Davey Plan, 14 Jan. 1910 (Davey Plan – Created Maple Avenue and Spruce Street. Maple runs from Central Avenue to East Street.) The map on the left shows the Couse property marked in blue. Couse field is where Bombay Park is today.

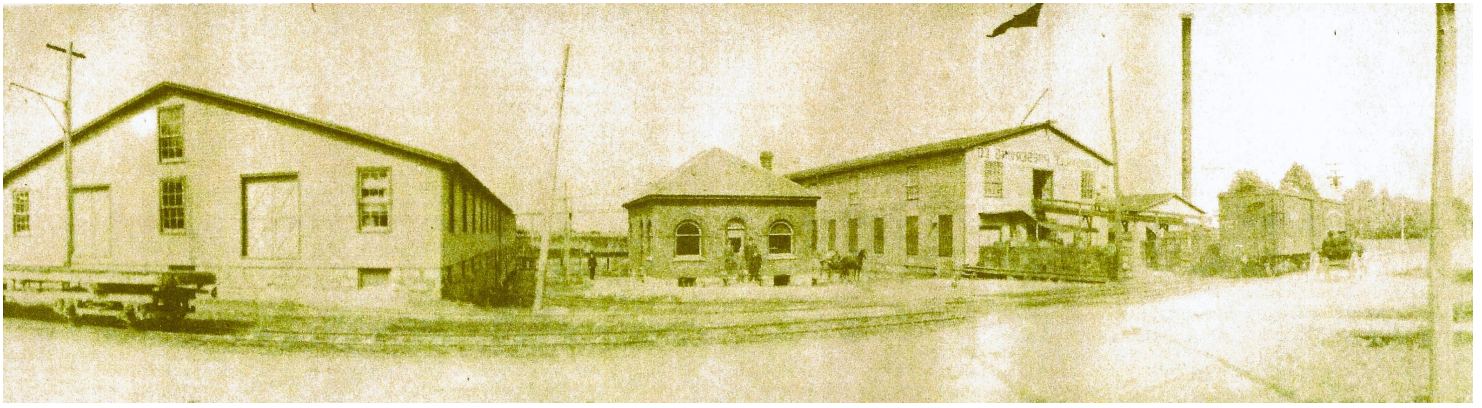


Ray Konkle was able to contact Geoffry H. Ellis (who just turned 94) and has great memories of the rock. He was the principal at Great Lakes College from 1954 to 1984.

The Granite Erratic Rock— Memories of Ray Konkle & Mr. Geoffry Ellis

The granite stones in Lincoln did not originate in this area but it is suggested that they were carried by the Laurentide Continental Glacier (about 20,000 years ago) and left scattered about this area when the glacier finally melted and receded. The Glacial Erratic known as "Big Rock" is behind the gym at the Great Lakes Christian College. It is estimated that the largest rock, behind the college, weighs around 16 tons and it measures 9 X 9.

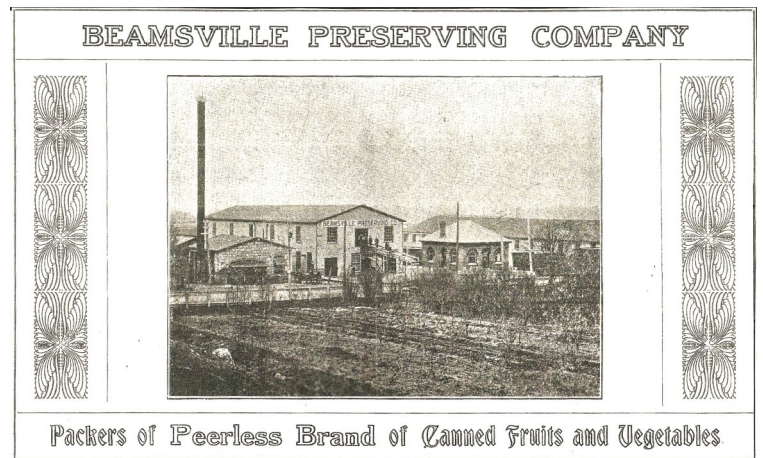
In the early 50's when we as kids played near the rock, this stone sat at the end of East Avenue on the East side of the creek that flowed under Doug Robinson's barber shop, under Wilcox Hardware (now Commissio's Plaza) and out past the Scout Hut on Maple Street (the creek that flows past Babcock's feed mill (west side) and this creek eventually join together east of the Beamsville High School (old football field) and becomes what is now known as Bartlett Creek. Frank Laundry, a local realtor, owned and farmed the 25 acres of land on which the big rock sat. Apparently this big rock was in the way of Mr. Laundry's farming operation and he had the large stone pushed into the dry creek bed. Around the time of the flooding of 1976, the college was building a new gym and the contractor needed to move the stone and asked if it could be put on the college property. An agreement was made and the stone was bulldozed to its present location.



Pictured above is the Beamsville Preserving on King Street in Beamsville ca. 1908. It was situated where the Providence Christian Reformed Church on King Street stands today.

Beamsville's Canning Industry

The Beamsville Preserving Company was started in 1907 at the east end of town where the Providence Christian Reformed Church now stands. The picture above of the Beamsville Preserving Company is from 1908. Notice that it even shows the HG&B rail tracks running in front of the plant on King Street. It was started by ED Smith and TE Owens. Bill Rannie wrote in a newspaper article from 1982, "From Buffalo's large Polish community, every year there would come large numbers of women to work at the cannery. They were housed in dormitory-like accommodations across King Street from the cannery". (The picture on the right is the dormitory that Bill Rannie spoke about) "Tomatoes were the first thing canned at the plant. Around 1935, Canadian Cannerys bought them out, but the plant at that time was mostly used as a warehouse. A large fire in 1953 burned the largest building to the west side., and according to Ray Konkle, "It would be some time later in the 1950's, that it and the burnt out west building were cleaned up. The easterly building still contained a lot of old canning equipment, but it was eventually converted to a 3 story modern intensive chicken farming barn. It too, was later destroyed by fire". Following WWII the brick office building was torn down and the remaining buildings were sold. No additional buildings were constructed on this property until the Providence Christian Reformed Church was built in 1982."



Other Beamsville Canneries

The Ellis Cannery opened in the early 1930's on Ontario Street in Beamsville. It was across the street from where Fleming's Chicks now stands. The Ellis Cannery opened during the depression and was not in operation for very long.

In 1940, The Beamsville Grower's Co-op built a cannery where Fleming's Chicks now stands today. Just one year later it was taken over by Ben Bartlett and he named it Bartlett Canning Company. In 1946 it was leased to United Co-op of Ontario for two years and then was taken over by The United Farmers Co-op who canned chicken instead of fruit and vegetables. Below is a newspaper article from the Beamsville Express dated January 8, 1949 giving us a closer look at the canning industry in Beamsville. The cannery was closed in the early 1950's. (See story on the next page—"Local factory employs 70" from 1949 Beamsville Express).

Local Factory Employs 70

From Beamsville Express January 8, 1949

"Canned chicken, broth and sandwich spread are rolling off the production line these days at the Bartlett canning factory on Ontario Street, now being operated by the United Farmers Co-Operative with headquarters in Toronto. "

"Under the management of John Greenan, the factory is processing about 1,800 birds daily and production may be stepped up to last year's mark of 2,500 a day. "

"Using a unique assembly line system (or it might be called a dis-assembly line) the local plant employs some 20 men and 50 women in its present operation, which probably will last until April. "

"The chickens come to the factory plucked and are taken over from that point by an endless chain on the second floor. On the carrier system they are inspected, hung on a chain by means of special wire frames that allow easy working throughout the various operations. "

"Two men with blow-torches give the birds a final going-over to take the last of the pin feathers off. Following that comes a series of cleaning processes that prepares the chicken for cooking. Practically nothing is wasted, The heart, liver, kidneys etc. are carefully cleaned and segregated for sandwich spread. The crops and other inedible parts are kept for shipment to fertilizer firms. "

"The carcasses are packed into large metal baskets holding about 200 each and are cooked for one to two hours. After cooking they travel downstairs where the women take over, removing the meat from the bones and packing the cans."

"The bones, with whatever meat is left on them, are cooked again in the broth remaining from the original cooking to make chicken broth. Sandwich spread is made from the inside organs plus meat from the necks, all mixed together and ground fine. Four to five thousand cans of broth are made daily and 3,000 to 3,500 cans of sandwich spread."

"Presently the factory is turning out its first orders for export and special inspections were made of the chicken used. The whole process was inspected by a medical man, an expert in his job."

"Beamsville can be proud of the modern methods used in its own canning factory which is giving employment to some 70 people."

Starting back in 1946 Beamsville residents started complaining about the sewers, septic tanks and bubbling, soggy lawns and field tile areas, as well as strong storm sewer odours. According to Bill Rannie's May 10, 1995 article which stated, "The United Farmer Co-op on Ontario Street was canning 6,000 chickens a day, except in the fruit season when the skins and pits from plums, peaches, pears and tomatoes were piling up behind the plant adding to the disgusting stench of chicken effluent that half-filled the ditch along Ontario Street." According to Ray Konkle, "The skins and pits from the fruit along with unsealed tins were dumped on the land behind the Co-op near where we would find Konkle Creek and Hartwood Avenue today. As kids we often went to the creek to catch minnows and crayfish along with garter snakes, which were in abundance in the piles of disintegrating tin cans."

News article from the Beamsville Express September 8, 1948— "Beamsville gets its first police car"

POLICE CAR NOW ON DUTY

"P.C. Frank Cooney is now equipped with a car, complete with radio, and Beamsville is a link in the important provincial Police radio net that has been so efficient in apprehending criminals throughout this part of the province."

"Following Council's decision to provide a car and radio equipment for its police, the Provincial Police were contacted and P.C. Cooney went to Toronto last week to take delivery of the vehicle. The one now in use is here temporarily until a new car is available. This is expected in the near future."

"Use of the car is expected to provide more efficient policing of Beamsville and will ensure the local police of one of the most efficient weapons in the apprehension of Criminals."

Members are encouraged to send in family histories, stories, pictures or documents. We accept original items or copies of any picture or document. We are collecting for future generations to enjoy and learn from them.

Please visit our website where you can now view all our newsletters. You can also join us on Facebook.

Email address: lincolnarchives@gmail.ca

Website: www.lincolnarchives.ca

Facebook: Friends of Lincoln's History

This newsletter is produced by Karen Hughes, a volunteer at the Archives. If you have any questions please contact her at kharchive@cogeco.ca