

Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and
District Historical Society

March 2014 — Issue 264

Certo to Kraft: Almost a Hundred Years of Food Manufacturing in Cobourg

It started out with a small fact that Judith Goulin was told about blind taste testers who worked at General Foods. Then there was a curiosity about a little building that looks like a Greek temple, on Ontario St. just north of the tracks. Judith has always had a curiosity about architecture and many other aspects of local history. Her curiosity led to questions: Were the blind taste testers really blind? What's pectin? What's "The Foods"? What was there before the food manufacturing buildings? Questions led to more questions and countless former employees of the industrial complex between Ontario and William Streets told her their stories. She learned what an integral part of Cobourg life General Foods and Kraft were and how history was made here. Literally everyone she spoke to either worked at General Foods or knew someone who did.

Come to our March meeting! Sit back, get comfortable and travel with Judith on a journey so she can tell you some of the fascinating things she discovered and show you historic photos and artifacts from the food era. Some members will have stories of their own about General Foods and Kraft so we'll enjoy hearing additional reminiscences at the end of the presentation.

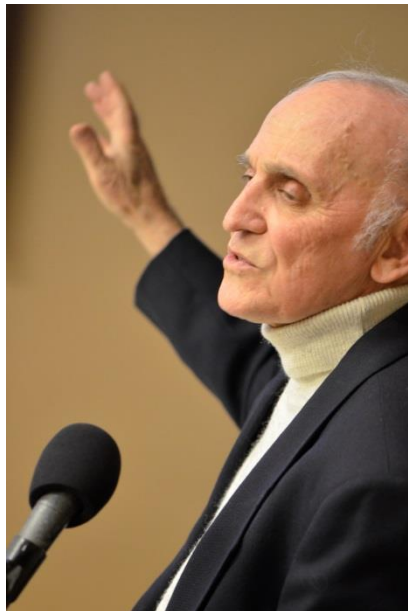
Join us on Tuesday, March 25th, at 7:30pm in Victoria Hall's Citizens' Forum to learn more about the interesting local history of this company and its employees. Doors open at 7:00 PM and the meeting begins at 7:30 PM. Coffee and cookies will be available before the meeting. All are welcome, so bring a friend!

Anyone who would like a ride to the meeting or is willing to drive others should contact Elaine Rosetter-Saunders at 905-372-5958.

Our Previous Meeting

Pot Bellied Stoves, Slates and the One Room School House

Three former One Room School teachers and attendees – Phill Boyko from SS #10 Osaca, Doris Goheen from SS #7 Pine Grove South and Forrest Rowden from SS #14 Silent Valley – alternatively informed and regaled a capacity crowd. We learned about how teachers maintained discipline in a class with varying student ages, life without electricity, the joys of the outhouse, the games played, the dynamics of girls on the boys' baseball team and much more.





Future Meeting

Do you have an illustrious ancestor? Or perhaps a familial connection to a major historical event? Or a family story that smacks of intrigue and adventure? We invite you to share these stories at our April meeting, where the theme will be “Stories, Scandals, and Skeletons in the Closet”. Members are invited to share interesting family stories, and are encouraged to bring along pictures, objects, etc. to help illustrate juicy family histories! There is no need to sign up in advance but we do ask that you prepare to keep your presentation to approximately 5 minutes in length.

The April meeting will be our Annual General Meeting and will include the election of officers for our coming fiscal year. We especially need new members to assist with the Programme Committee so that we can continue to offer fine speakers; we need new people with fresh ideas. If you are interested in making CDHS a better organization please speak with any member of the Executive about the responsibilities of various positions on the Executive.

1878 Northumberland in Google Earth

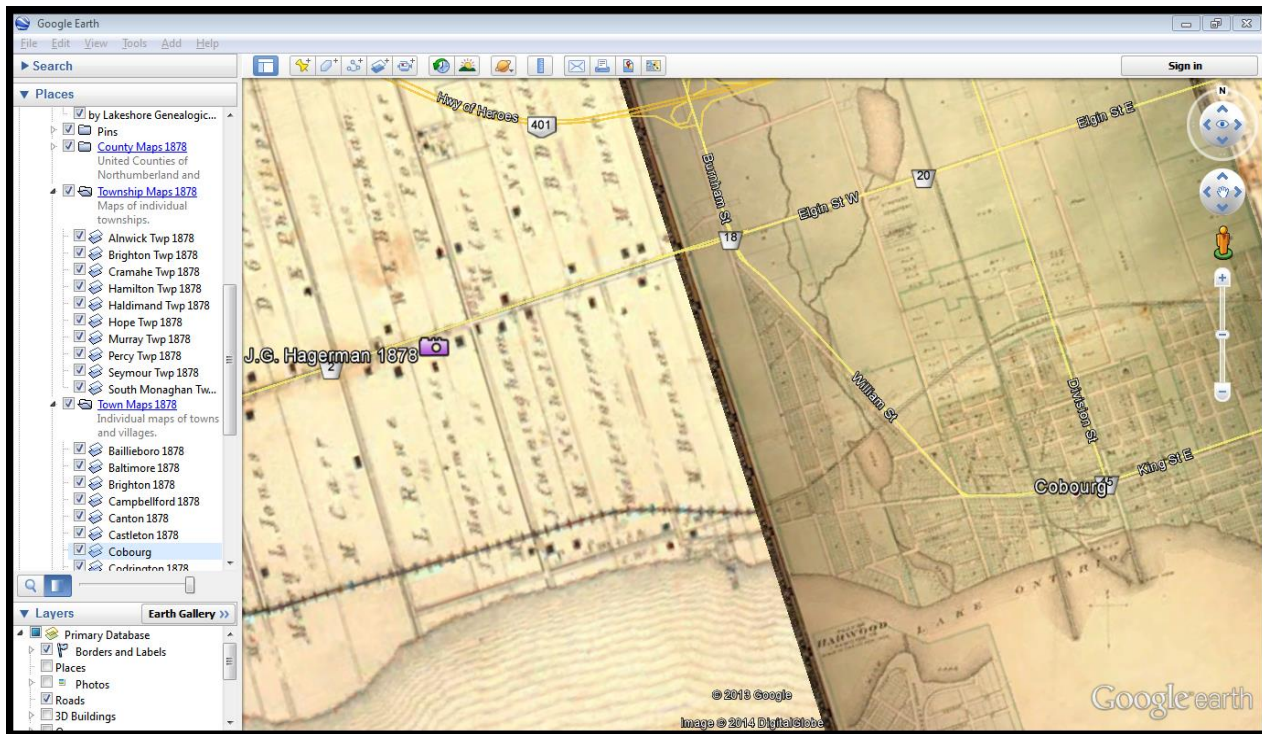
Tom Holden

The Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Counties of Northumberland and Durham, Ont. is a marvellous reference to our local history. It shows the properties and names of landowners; the routes and names of roads, streets and railways; portraits and illustrations of subscribers’ homes, farms and businesses. All were done with reasonable accuracy, given the surveying, transportation and communications technologies of the late 19th century.

The Canadian County Digital Atlas Project scanned Belden’s atlas into digital image files which have been available online for over a decade. It provides a searchable index of property owners’ names with results linking to their very locations on a township map along with any related images.

Correlating a location on an 1878 map at one scale to contemporary maps at another or to where you were standing remained a bit of a challenge which has been addressed by the 1878 Northumberland in Google Earth Project. The maps’ images have been overlaid in Google Earth and then stretched, squeezed and prodded until placed in fair alignment with its aerial imagery.

The screenshot below shows the image of the 1878 Cobourg map, overlaid on top of that for Hamilton Township, in turn on top of the Northumberland County 1878 map, below which is the satellite imagery and other optional elements of Google Earth. Current day roads and boundaries



appear in increasing detail as the view is zoomed in. Aerial imagery can be exposed by switching off map layers or by varying a transparency control. Drop the peg-man onto a current road to open Street View and see what is there now. Customise your own version by adding photos, text and markers – telling a story in a way that may appeal to a younger audience.

Instructions and the overlay file are available at www.LakeshoreGenealogicalSociety.ca which is permitted to reuse the image files courtesy of Rare Books & Special Collections of the McGill University Library. LGS provides the overlay as part of its collection of online resources of interest to family historians and genealogists who may be researching in our area and welcomes suggestions for improvements.

Announcements

Small Town Radio

Small Town Radio is looking for programs created by local community personalities and groups, and the CDHS is very interested in participating. This is a great opportunity we have to present Northumberland's history in a

Northumberland
89.7FM
SmallTownRadio



fun way. Contact Carla Jones at (289)252-1684 or email cgrucelajones@gmail.com if you would like to participate in bringing our history to the air.

Lakeshore Genealogical Society

The Lakeshore Genealogical Society will meet on Thursday, April 10, in the HTM Room of the Cobourg Community Centre, 750 D'Arcy St, Cobourg at 6:30 pm. In Sher Letooze's presentation on "Building Your Family Story Using Maps" she will describe the use of maps including ordinance surveys and topographical maps in genealogical research. Visitors are welcome.

Port Hope Heritage Fair

The Port Hope and District Historical Society will hold a Heritage Fair on Sunday, May 4 at the Port Hope Lions Recreation Centre on Thomas Street, Port Hope. Complete details will be available closer to the time of the event.

Membership Matters

Membership Renewal

All memberships not yet renewed are past due. Please mail your membership renewal form (included in the last newsletter) to Alma Draper, 10 Madison Street, Cobourg or pay Alma at the March meeting.

Newsletter Delivery

Carla Jones would appreciate hearing from anyone who is willing to assist with delivering our newsletters. If you might be willing to help please contact Carla at cgrucelajones@gmail.com or (289) 252-1684 for details of what is required.

New Members

I would like to welcome Helen and Peter Notter, Bonnie Johnston and Michael J. Winter of Salt Spring Island, B.C. who have recently joined CDHS

The Origin of Cobourg's Street Names

Extracted from Cobourg 1798-1948 by Edwin C. Guillet and continued from the February 2014 issue of Historically Speaking

Some old maps and directories give Cobourg street-names other than these, but in most cases they were short-lived or merely erroneous. Particularly in the map-picture of 1874 are there variations in names. East is given as the name of Henry, Colborne in place of Queen, Boulton for King, Boswell for Perry, and Fourth for Forth. There are also several unoccupied streets, among them William for the second street north of the tracks, between Division and George, and Wellington running north from Spencer in the rear of old Victoria College. Shown also is Jay Street, running west of Ontario near the lake, and Princess and Clare, west from George just below the tracks, largely occupied a few years later by foundries, etc., of the Crossen Car Works. Similarly, in a *Directory* of 1857-58, Hewet Street is mentioned, and as the Hewets lived near the corner of George and Covert. It may have been an alternative name for Covert Street, frequently called Tannery Lane because of Kennedy's Tannery. Court Street, also referred to, was probably a small street near the old Court House.

With such origins and old-time associations it is to be hoped that Cobourg's citizens will always resist any efforts to change or modernize street-names.

This concludes the extract

Websites

There are many websites with great Cobourg-related historical material. Visit any of the following:

Cobourg Museum Foundation: northumberlandheritage.ca

Snippets of Cobourg history and current happenings: www.hardscrabble.ca

Cobourg History: www.cobourghistory.ca/

Ontario cemetery records: ocfa.islandnet.com/

History of Great Lakes travel: www.maritimehistoryofthegreatlakes.ca/

Cobourg and Peterborough Railway: www.harwoodmuseum.ca

Cobourg area heritage resources: <http://www.cobourg.ca/links1.html>

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario: <http://www.arconserv.ca/>

1878 Northumberland County Atlas in Google Earth:

<http://www.lakeshoregenealogicalsociety.ca/history-area/maps/northumberland1878>

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