

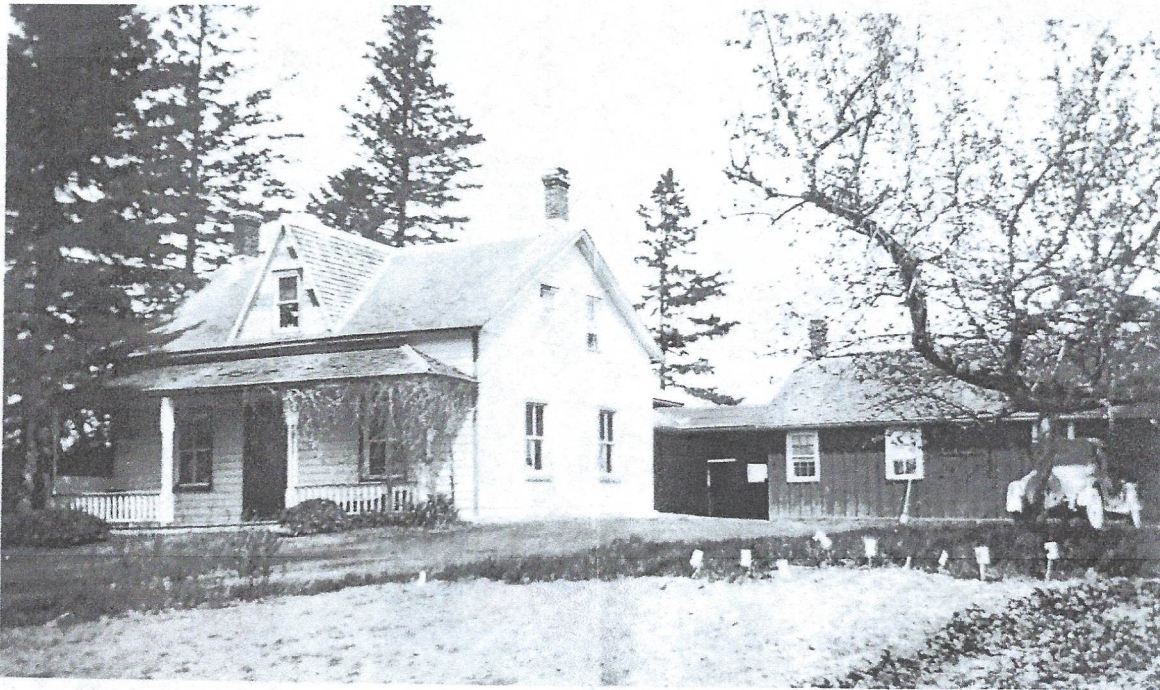
# The Broad Road

Newsletter of

**Manvers Township Historical Society**

1480 Hwy 7A, Bethany, ON L0A 1A0

November 2024



**Otto and Winnie Spencer's Farm circa 1929.**

**On Highway 7 A just a little east of Porter Road on the North side, gone now.**

**Later owners were Earle and Margaret Weatherilt.**

**Happy Holidays.**



## MTHS Events and News



September 14 was our Heritage and Cemetery Walk at Ballyduff with more than 70 people in attendance and great displays and stories. October 5 was our fall bake sale. October 19 was a wonderful gathering of over 30 people to learn about British Home Children, additionally an update on the work of the MTHS sub-committee for home children was presented. And Mary laid the MTHS wreath on November 10 at the Bethany Cenotaph.



# *Remembering cherished member Vaneta Preston*

Submitted by: Kathy Morton

## Vaneta Preston 1934-2024

Vaneta was an avid supporter for her community. She was born in Millbrook to Marwood and Aleta (nee Challice) Chapman in 1934. She may have been small in stature “Tiny’ as her friends affectionately called her, but her presence for the betterment of her community was large.

Vaneta became a public school teacher in Manvers Township. She married Clifford Preston of Manvers in 1957 in Millbrook the same day as her sister Dorothea.

Together Vaneta and Cliff built a home at the corner of Highway 35 and 7A.

She inherited the family parrot “Polly”. For many years Polly was the greeter at the Preston household.

Vaneta joined the Manvers Red Cross and she held many executive positions including the last president before the organization was disbanded.

She took over the blood donor recruitment from Laura Morton. This essential position gave the local hospitals many donors when blood was essential for many surgeries. She could count on local support for this vital request.

Vaneta joined the Manvers Township Historical Society with an amazing knowledge of the community and its families. She held many executive positions including president. For years she kept the minutes, it was amazing how every activity was accurately recorded that could be used for a future reference.

She loved gardening. When Manvers Historical Society established the Heritage Garden, Vaneta not only contributed plants in family names but also made contacts of where to locate local heritage plants.

The “Three Amigos” (Friends) as they were affectionately known- Viola Sisson, Katharine Wray and Vaneta Preston were the driving force for many activities sponsored by Manvers Township Historical Society such as the Bethany 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Pontypool 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Pontypool Jewish Reunion. The society honoured these three as lifelong honorary members. There was never an activity at the historical society that Vaneta and her friends didn’t play a key role- advertising, phoning, greeting, setting up displays and looking after the cash. The three were also socially close- going to lunch or theatre together.



# Remembering cherished member Vaneta Preston

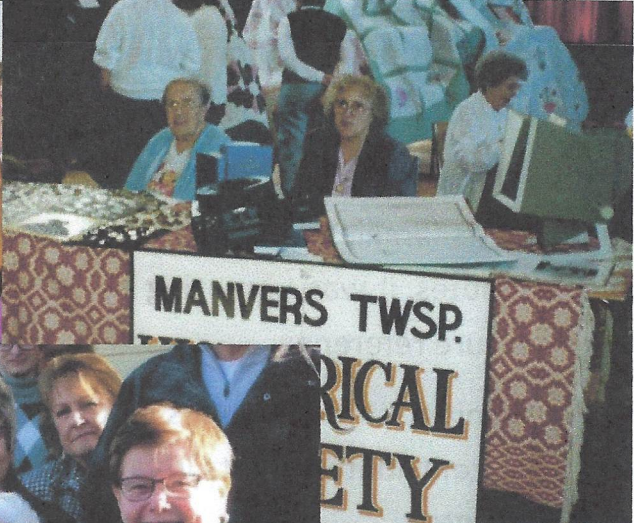
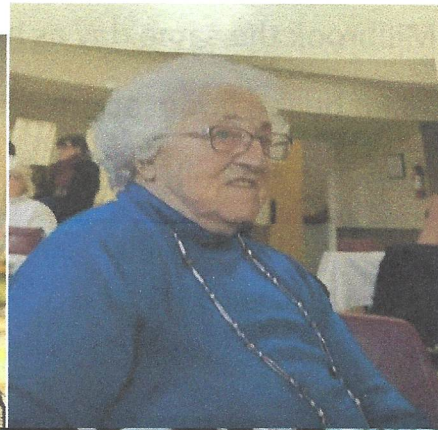
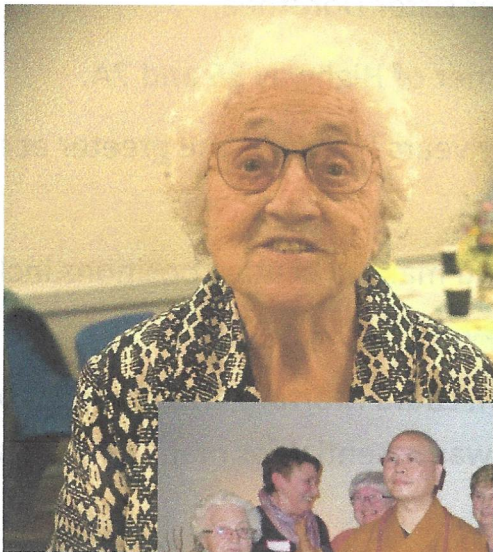
Submitted by: Kathy Morton

## Vaneta Preston 1934-2024

Vaneta and Cliff loved speed. They both raced stock cars at Peterborough Speedway.

She wrote the Forward for the book "Reflections of Bethany" which was produced by Manvers Township Historical Society.

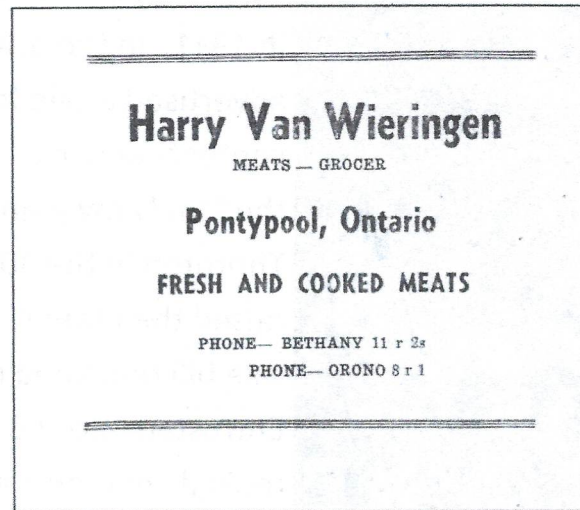
Manvers Township is a better place with the enthusiasm, dedication and commitment shown by Vaneta Preston





## Van Weiringen's Store Pontypool

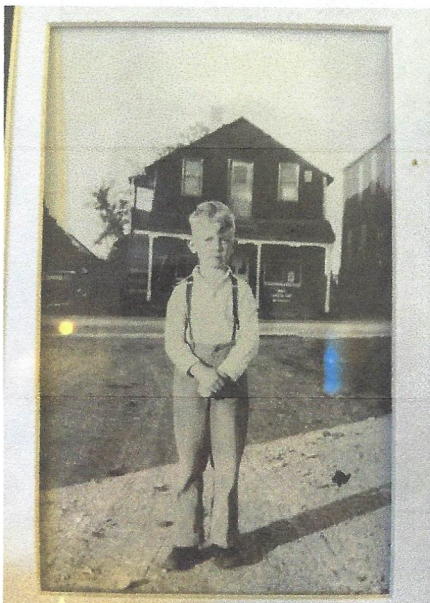
Content compiled from Facebook comments including Andrea Van Weiringen, Betty Lou Beacock, Elaine Chapman and others.



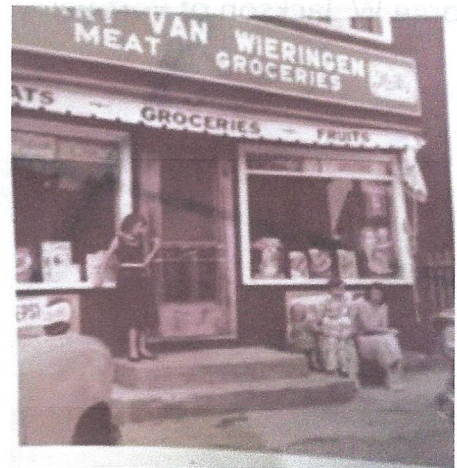
1956 Telephone Book Ad

On Facebook Andrea wrote: “My grandparents Frances and Harry Van Wieringen owned this store in the 50’s after moving from Holland post WWII. They also owned the small hotel beside it (now the Chinese restaurant). Both burnt down in the late 50’s and Harry and Frances built the Pontypool Foodmart building as it stands today.”

Andrea offered the photo below with the little boy, part of her family collection, it shows the store in the 40’s before her grandparents owned it. The boy is believed to be



Wayne Kirk. Elaine Chapman added on Facebook that the store was owned by Lorne Bowins who was also the butcher and that Dave Sexsmith looked after the store when Lorne went off to war.

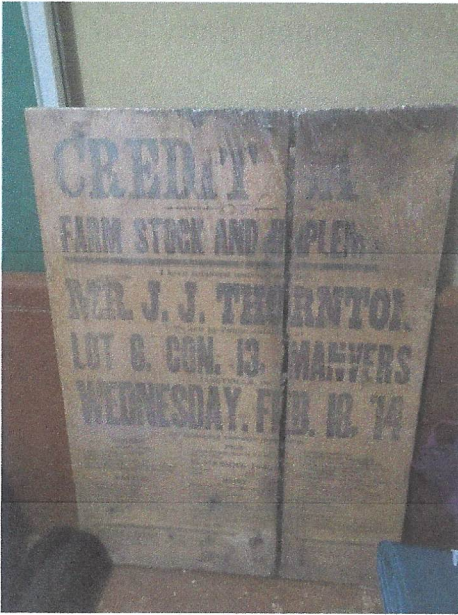


Many added that Harry and Frances were good people and that they remembered the night of the fire. Betty Lou Beacock reflected on the sound of the cans exploding in the intense heat. Pictured at the top is Frances inside her store. And the ad was featured in Grant Curtis’s book *Women of Manvers*.



# Janetville Credit Sale of 1914

Submitted By Teresa Jordan



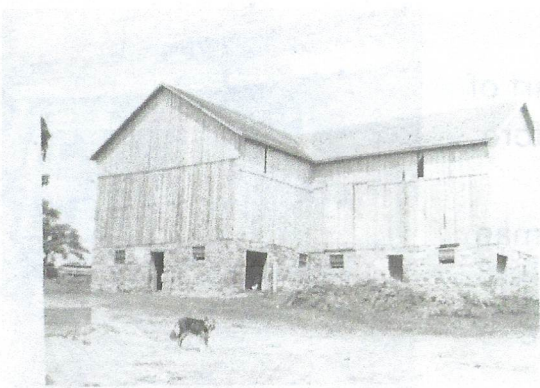
My grandparents bought the farm in Janetville on the hill at the north end on the east side a short time after they were married in 1941. In the driveway hung this wooden sale bill. It advertised a sale from 1914 on the property. Clearly all the contents and livestock were sold, but perhaps not the land as the family my grandparents bought the farm from was Thornton in the 40's. Morley and Grace Kellett lived there and raised their family and retired into Lindsay in 1992. The farm sale bill remained on the drive shed wall for all those years. Entrusted into the care of their eldest son Bruce when they moved. In deteriorating shape, my daughter transcribed the bill and we posted on Facebook to get some help with the

mystery of who the auctioneer was as it was impossible to read. We were not disappointed.

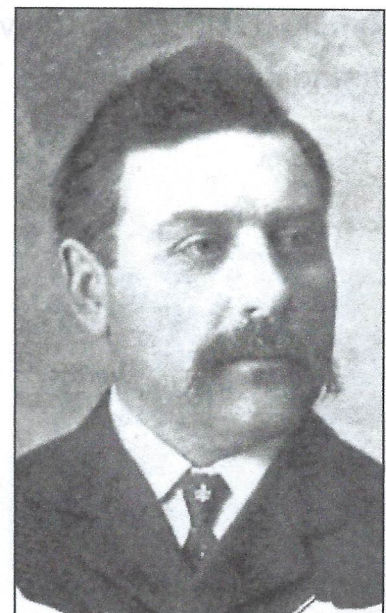
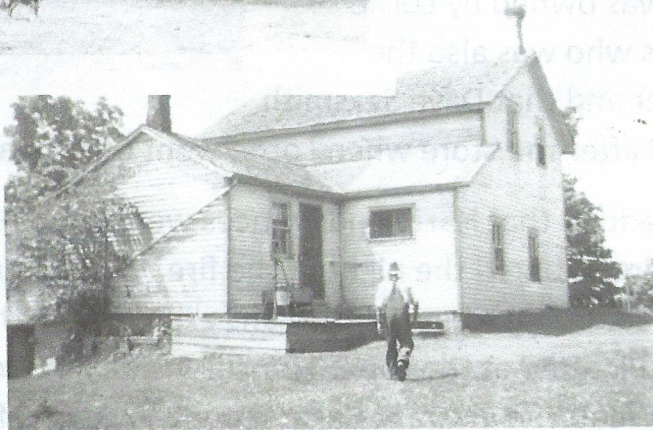
A follower, Andrew Jeanes, went to work and offered this newspaper clip.

The clip made it clear that the auctioneer was George W. Jackson of Port Perry.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18 — By G. Jackson, auctioneer, credit sale of farm stock and implements, the property of J. J. Thornton, lot 6, con. 13, Manvers, Janetville. Sale at one o'clock.



Photos of the farm circa 1950



George W. Jackson



## Janetville Credit Sale of 1914



Sons of James Jackson and Hannah Petch, with wives. George Wesley with Zula May Tonkin, Robert James with Zelpha Annette Wells and Devid Marchall with Clarissa (Clara) Brimacombe.

### GEORGE WESLEY JACKSON

George Jackson was born on Scugog Island on May 28, 1862, the son of James and Hannah (Petch) Jackson. In 1888 he married Hannah (Hood) and from this marriage came one child, Myrtle (McKay). After the death of Hannah Jackson, he again married in 1899 to Zula May (Tonkin). From this marriage there were four children, all of whom, along with their mother, survived his death. They were James Edwin, Dr. George Harold, Marguerite (Brock) and Helen Patricia.

About 1896 he began his work as an auctioneer and his natural ability for the work made him one of the most popular auctioneers in the this section of the Province. His reputation was so well known, he was often asked to perform his duties outside of the area, in such places as Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, Guelph and North Bay. He was an auctioneer for 40 years and highly respected.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson moved to Port Perry from Scugog in 1901. They first lived at 349 Queen St., then moved to 355 Queen St. In 1906 he moved to a fine brick residence at 234 Mary St, formerly owned by James Carnegie.

In public life, Mr. Jackson offered his services for the progress of the town. He served on the village council for a number of years, and was chairman of the building committee for a new arena in Port Perry. He was given the honour of officially opening the arena in January 1922.

He conducted an implement business from his office and sheds on Water St., selling all kinds of farm equipment and machinery.

Geo. W. Jackson was one of Port Perry's most esteemed and finest townsmen, and when he passed away on June 2, 1931, the entire community was saddened by his loss.

His funeral service was conducted from the United Church, Port Perry, which was crowded with those who came to pay the last tribute of respect to one whom they honoured most highly. Interment took place at Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert.

As a gift for my Uncle Bruce we had the sale bill reprinted with the accurate information of the auctioneer and his terms gathered from a similar sale bill.

In the early 2000's the house burnt down, but the driveshed and barns remain still overlooking Janetville from the hill.



# CREDIT SALE

OF

# FARM STOCK AND IMPLEMENTS

I have received instructions from

## MR. J. J. THORNTON

To sell by Public Auction at

## LOT 6, CON. 13, MANVERS

JANETVILLE, ON

## WEDNESDAY. FEB. 18, '14

The following valuable property:

### HORSES

Clydesdale mares  
 1 Mare in foal, 14 yrs old  
 1 Mare 5 yrs old  
 1 Registered colt, 2 yrs old  
 1 Colt, 2 yrs old  
 1 General purpose mare 15 yrs old

### CATTLE

3 Pure shorthorn cows in calf  
 2 Grade cows in calf  
 1 Pure shorthorn bull 2 yrs old  
 1 Pure shorthorn heifer 1 yr old  
 2 Pure shorthorn bull calves  
 2 Pure shorthorn heifer calves  
 1 Steer 1 year old  
 1 Heifer 1 yr old  
 2 Grade calves

### PIGS

1 Yorkshire boar bred by D.C. Yelot  
 2 Brood sows

### BLACKSMITH TOOLS

1 Bellows  
 1 Vise  
 1 Anvil  
 1 Drill

### DAIRY

1 Improved Massey-Harris cream separator  
 1 Leader Churn  
 1 Cheese factory can  
 1 Creamery Can

### IMPLEMENTS

1 Deering binder, 7 ft. cut  
 1 Brantford mower with table  
 1 Massey-Harris seeder, 13 hoe

1 Deering cultivator  
 1 Massey-Harris horse rake  
 1 Twin plow, heavy cockshutt  
 1 Set harrows, 5 section, Deering  
 1 Turnip pulper, Hamilton  
 1 Scuffler, Massey-Harris  
 1 Fanning mill and bagger, Jackson  
 1 Wagon  
 1 Set of trucks  
 1 Set of shobogan sleighs  
 1 Set of knee sleighs  
 1 Cutter  
 1 Hay rack  
 1 Stock tack  
 1 Self-dumping turnip rack  
 1 Wood lathe  
 1 Rip saw  
 2 Set chain harness  
 1 Set single harness  
 1 Wheelbarrow  
 2 Grindstones  
 4 Binding chains  
 whiffletrees  
 2 Neckyokes, Turnips, Hens, Hay  
 Other things too numerous to mention.

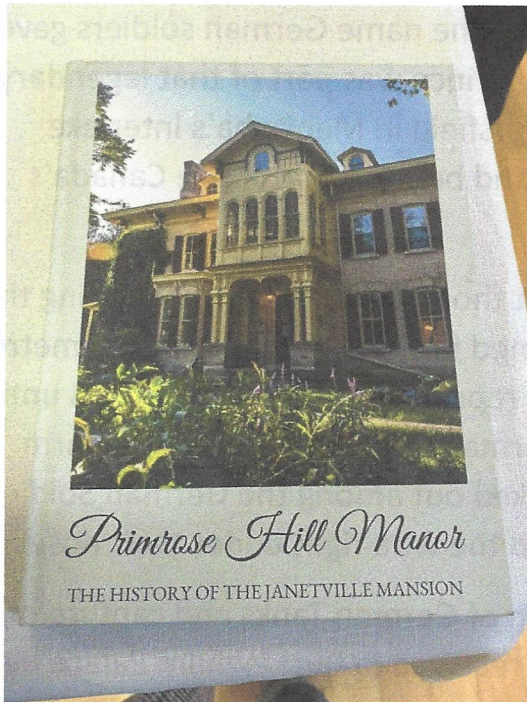
SALE AT ONE O' CLOCK

**TERMS:** All sums of \$10 and under cash, over that amount 12 months credit will be given to parties furnishing approved joint notes to pay interest at the rate of 7 per cent per annum if not paid when due. A discount at the rate of 5 per cent per annum will be allowed for cash on credit accounts.

GEO. JACKSON AND SON, Auctioneers



## Primrose Hill Manor Book Launch



On November 17 the MTHS helped to host the book launch for Primrose Hill Manor– The History of the Janetville Mansion. Co-o-Authors Paulette Sopoci and Sara Walker-Howe presented their book for signing to a crowd at the Janetville Community Centre of over 40 people. Many conversations were had about memories. When all the books were sold the co-authors took to the stage to present their book. Paulette described this work as her final love letter to her home of just under four years. Paulette talked about how research is difficult and then sometimes ends up in bits and pieces in attic boxes of our memories, this book weaves it all together. Sarah talked about her meticulous research into the history of the manor and her many trips to the land registry in order to piece together the owners. And what she found was a tapestry of connections to

Scotland and Russia, the Davis dry dock in Kingston and the odd ghost story. The book is available to purchase on Amazon and will soon be at the Research Centre for sale.

The mission of the MTHS is to honour the history of Manvers and work to conserve its heritage sites and buildings. Paulette has been an ally and a great partner in doing just that with the Janetville Mansion.



Paulette and Sarah with Doug Elmslie the mayor of CKL





# Tommy Prince

Submitted by: Jan Johnson

In 1968 Hollywood made a movie about the Devil's Brigade, the name German soldiers gave to the elite Canada-US, First Special Service Force. Tommy Prince was part of that legendary unit, portrayed in the film as "Chief". Born in a tent in Petersfield in Manitoba's Interlake Region, Prince was from the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation and became one of the Canada's most decorated war heroes.

Prince learned to trap and hunt from his father and he put those skills to good use during the war. In 1944, he ran a communications line to an abandoned farmhouse that was 200 metres from a German artillery position. He used his position to report on enemy movements until the line was severed during shelling. By that point the Germans had advanced to the farmhouse. Prince disguised himself as a local farmer and walked out among the German soldiers. Bending down and pretending to tie his shoes, he repaired the wire right under their noses.

Prince's exploits during the war resulted in the destruction of German tanks and capture of more than 1000 German prisoners. After the war he was received in Buckingham Palace by King George VI, who presented him with the Military Medal. He also received the Silver Star medal (one of only 59 Canadians to receive it) and several other decorations.

After the war, Prince returned to Canada where as an Indigenous man, he still was not allowed to vote in federal elections and despite his service, didn't receive the same benefits as the other veterans. He lobbied the federal government to abolish the Indian Act and became an advocate for Indigenous rights. "All my life I wanted to do something to help my people recover their good name", he said. "I wanted to show they were as good as any white man."

Prince returned to the army to fight in the Korean War, and he was part of the First Canadian unit to land there. His role was similar to the one he had in the Second World War, leading small groups into enemy territory, launching attacks, then retreating. He did two tours in Korea before being wounded. Once again distinguishing himself and once again was decorated for his actions. In all, he received 11 medals in the two wars.





## Tommy Prince

His heroism continued once he got home when he saved a man from drowning in Winnipeg. But the home front proved to be more challenging than the front lines. The battles he count win were against racism and the restoration of Indigenous rights. He spent the last years of his life living in a Winnipeg Salvation Army shelter and died November 25, 1977 at the age of 62.

In death he was once more the decorated war veteran. Members of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry served as his pallbearers and more than 500 people attended his funeral, including Manitoba's Lieutenant Governor Francis Laurence Jobin and consuls from the US., France and Italy. A symbol of courage, he was embraced once more.

Compiled from an article by Don Gillmor.





## O'Connell/Walden Cemetery Revisited

This abandoned cemetery is located near Little Britain along the Scugog River. It was brought to the public attention during Covid when a developer did an archeological dig. The discovery of forty four unmarked graves was detected. Artifacts that were buried with these individuals were removed with no public accountability. These people perished when the Scugog River was dammed to create Purdy's Mill in Lindsay.

This property is the site of the first settlers for Victoria County. The Patrick and John O'Connell families set up their homes along the river bank. They were awarded the crown deeds for their properties when they built a home and cleared two acres of land.

The O'Connell's dug a well to supply clean drinking water. Other settlers drank water from the river. According to historian, Watson Kirkconnell, dengae fever caused the death of many of the first settlers. Patrick also brought the first Roman Catholic priest to Victoria County.

The fenced ten foot square cemetery is the final resting place of Patrick O'Connell and his wife and one son, The other forty four graves were located outside the fence. The only tangible article remaining is a piece of Patrick's tombstone. This fragment is housed by the Manvers Historical Society until further cemetery restoration occurs. The cemetery is registered with the Ontario Government and cannot legally be decimated. It is also the assumed responsibility of the City of Kawartha Lakes to maintain it.

It is the responsibility of the City to cut the grass and brambles annually. Sadly, the developer returned the large piles of soil around the site making it difficult to detect.

Descendants of the O'Connells visited the Manvers Historical Society this summer from Ohio. Their ancestor was John O'Connell, brother of Patrick. He was a trapper and was known as King Connell. Eventually the family moved to the United States.

The developer of the surrounding subdivision and the land surrounding the cemeery is allowed to have little done with the site until the last lot is sold. As of now no lots have been sold. This delay will only allow further neglect of this valued historic site.

Manvers Historical Society will hopefully remain vigilant.

Dottie Mantela & Warren Buckler Jr.  
Descendants of John O'Connell

Submitted by:

Kathy Morton and

Dianne Carnaghan





## BLACKSTOCK HERITAGE DAY

On Sunday August 18<sup>th</sup> the Lake Scugog Historical Society hosted a Blackstock Heritage event. Many interesting historical exhibits were set up at the Blackstock United Church and we were given lots of time to view them. About 60 people attended, sharing stories and connecting with old friends. We also went on a short walking tour led by Paul Arculus and our own historical society member, Marilyn Pearce. Marilyn is the president of the Lake Scugog Historical Society. Across the road from the church is the Old Methodist Cemetery where some of the early pioneers to the area rest. We walked from there to the "Doctor's House" also known as the "Medical Hall". The house was built in 1870 by a Dr. Montgomery and it remained as a doctor's house until 1966. We then walked to the four corners of Blackstock. At one time, when Blackstock was named Williamsburg, there was a hotel located on each corner. Now two of the buildings still remain. The Cenotaph and the Pioneer Memorial are located on one of the corners. On our return to the church we enjoyed light refreshments and had more time to look at the exhibits and visit. The LSHS also launched the new self guided driving tour of the area. Pamphlets can be picked up at our Research Centre in Bethany.



Old Methodist Cemetery



Doctor's House



Pioneer Memorial

submitted by Dianne Carnaghan



## Find us on the Web

Manvers Township Historical Society has an active presence on Facebook with thousands of hits each week looking at old photos or newspaper clips. Over 1500 people follow the site and add to its information with comments and shares.

If you wish to add something to the site, send it by message directly on Facebook or email Teresa Jordan at [teresaanddon651@gmail.com](mailto:teresaanddon651@gmail.com).



[www.manvershistory.ca](http://www.manvershistory.ca)

## Become a member of Manvers Township Historical Society

If you would like to join the Manvers Township Historical Society or if you wish to renew your membership, please complete the following form and mail to:

**Manvers Township Historical Society**

**Box 173 Bethany, ON L0A1A0**

The membership year ends December 31. The membership fee for a year is \$15.00.

**Membership beginning January 1, 2025 will increase to \$20.00 with a \$5.00 premium to have the Broad Road mailed.**

Corporate Membership fee is \$25.00.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street or postal box: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_