



Remember the Corman House

Stoney Creek Historical Society

PO Box 66637, Stoney Creek, ON. L8G 5E6

NEWSLETTER

June 2014

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Top left picture of old pioneer cemetery in rural Dundas (see story details next page)

Bottom and right hand picture tombstone to Captain Silas Hopkins U.E. Loyalist located in Hamilton cemetery



The Hopkins – Wales to Stoney Creek by Kevin M. Lee

As a young boy growing up in the eastern area of Dundas, formerly West Flamborough, I was always curious about an old pioneer cemetery that lay across the road from our home, in old fields overlooking Hamilton. The cemetery was quite old, and had no visible roads or paths leading to it. It nestled at the edge of the old Harmer's field next to a ravine, housing maybe 20 headstones, some dates and names not visible, some still very sharp and legible, the most recent date 1905. It also hosted an old iron fence and a gate around one of the family plots. It was a forbidden playground for many of the kids who grew up in our neighbourhood for generations.

The predominant name in this seemingly forgotten cemetery was Hopkins, although there were other names in there as well, including Mills, Hall and Newman. When we played there as kids it was overgrown with lilac bushes, the town of Dundas later cleared them out. Within the last 10 years the City of Hamilton has removed the iron fence and placed all the stones but one in a cement pad. This little cemetery is what sparked my appetite for Genealogy and Local history, as I later learned a very close family friend was related to the Hopkins family.

One of the oldest dates in this cemetery is 1777, the date of birth of Joseph Hopkins, son of Captain Silas Hopkins and Mary Swayze. The cemetery (Lot 25, conc. 2, West Flamborough Twp) was actually on the edge of Joseph Hopkin's farm. Joseph was born in New Jersey and along with his parents and many of his siblings appeared in the area along with many other United Empire Loyalist Families in the late 1790s, early 1800s. Captain Silas Hopkins was born in Wales on August 9, 1741 to Ephriam & Martha Hopkins. They emigrated to the United States, where he was a Captain in the New Jersey volunteers. He married Mary Swayze, born 1743 in Roxbury, New Jersey, daughter of Israel Swayze and Elizabeth Seward on May 5, 1763 in West Finlay, Washington County, Pennsylvania. It is said that Mary's family were descended from a family that came over on the Mayflower.

According to Silas' gravestone in the Hamilton Cemetery, he served with the 5th New Jersey Volunteers in the Revolutionary War for King George III and was taken prisoner, confined 3 years and paid a fine. Silas and Mary with some of their children came to Canada in 1797. IN 1800 he petitioned for land and in 1810 received Lot 3, Concession 1 in Nelson Township, which he sold two years later. He settled in East Flamborough and died in 1818, and was buried at the Hopkins family homestead in East Flamborough. His body was later re-interred in the Hamilton cemetery, where it rests to this day.

(continued on page 8)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



The Stoney Creek Historical Society (SCHS) has now completed the 2013-2014 season. All of our guest speakers have been outstanding. Thanks to Kathy Wakemen for selecting and making the supportive arrangements, as well as scheduling a fine roster of speakers for next season. Our next meeting is Wednesday, 3rd September, 2014. SCHS meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month, at the Municipal Centre, 777 #8 Highway, Stoney Creek (former City of Stoney Creek Council Chambers), starting at 7:00 p.m. As always, refreshments and an opportunity to socialize, follow our meetings.

Our telephone committee, led by **June Guzar**, does an invaluable service by reminding our members of upcoming events. June currently is experiencing health challenges, and all of us extend our Best Wishes to June for a complete and timely recovery.

My personal thanks to our Board of Directors for their continuing support. New members are Peter Kennedy, Dan Lee, and Judy Sowden (Lee). Our team is well positioned to continue with current projects and effectively deal with those that will present themselves in the future.

The SCHS Book Sale was an outstanding success. This was a large scale undertaking, involving the collection, sorting, moving, and the display of more than 3,600 books. The community response reaffirms the level of support that SCHS has garnered. Our thanks to all who donated and those who made a purchase. A special expression of appreciation to Nancy and Ted Capstick, Sue Heatherley, Judy and Doug Green, Kathy Wakeman, Peter Kennedy, Larry Mitchell, Mike Petis, Karen Cerello, Janice Bovine, Liz Laing, Pat Creamer, Wendy and Ron Klassen. An extra special note of thanks to Nancy, Sue, and Judy who unpacked, and arranged all of these books in one day, just in time for their first customers. Our temporary book storage is no longer available to us. Our colleagues in Dunnville were there when we needed them. Our unsold books are now available at the Dunnville book sale.

As I have shared previously, each individual and family has their own history. SCHS endeavours to capture the history of Stoney Creek for current and future generations. You can play a significant role towards that objective. Please consider sharing that history with us.

We do receive some very interesting inquiries about buildings, family history, and historical events. Our volunteers are pleased to receive them. Only after careful review and research, is the best possible response issued.

Larry DiIanni, the host of Hamilton Talks, interviewed Doug Green, UEL, on his program. Both Larry and Doug were quite familiar with the significant contribution made by Billy Green The Scout during the Battle of Stoney Creek, 6 June, 1813. Thanks Larry for your assistance in profiling our local hero.

Again, I thank our members for their continuing support, our volunteers for their unselfish assistance, as well as our Board of Directors for their dedication to SCHS. In the absence of any of these groups, it would not be possible to have a Stoney Creek Historical Society. Of special note, are the volunteers at our Reference Library and Archive.

I hope that everyone enjoys a safe and healthy summer 2014.

Do remember to join us at our meetings. Come on your own, or bring a friend. Either way, you'll likely make some new ones.

Greg Armstrong
President – SCHS

Up Coming Speakers

September 3rd speaker Marilynn Havelka : “The Ruthven's Thompson and their involvement in World War 1”

October 1st speaker Mr. Erno Rossi : “Crystal Beach of the Past”



JUNE GUZAR receiving from
PAUL MILLER

**ONTARIO VOLUNTEER 5 YR
RECOGNITION AWARD**

Article from Hamilton Community News Thursday May 24 2012

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THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2012 • HAMILTON COMMUNITY NEWS • WWW.HAMILTONNEWS.COM



Legend of Billy Green is based on fact not fiction

Billy 'The Scout' Green, is credited with guiding troops on a night raid against a force of 3,500 Americans near the Gage home-steads. This raid turned the tide of the war and forced the American army to retreat back to Fort George.

According to some, Billy's story is balderdash. If so, this means that Justice of the Peace Peter Van Wagner (noted historian, magistrate and respected citizen) and the Corman, Green and Glover families, all lied in each of their individual accounts of Billy's actions and those who knew the supposed truth, kept quiet for centuries.

Billy Green's role in the battle, was in obtaining the American password from Isaac Corman and taking it to Colonel Harvey at Burlington Heights.

Billy also located the positions of the American sentries as he made his way to Burlington Heights and so had valuable information for the British.

Billy was not, as some have speculated, Canada's version of Paul Revere. The British already knew the Americans were at Stoney Creek, as they had skirmished with them earlier in the day, and John Brady, a Dragoon, had sounded the alarm earlier in the afternoon before the battle.

Billy's own account of his story was first written down by a Mr. Slater in 1819, and then later again by his grandson John Wesley Green in the 1860s.

Military records found to date do not mention Billy by name. However, it was common practice for British officers only to credit other officers in their reports and certainly not civilians.

Billy was, at the time of the Battle of Stoney Creek, a civilian. Personal diaries of local residents are more reliable historical records than official military reports of the time. This is so, because they were not kept to impress superiors

or cover up incompetence, but to record facts of life. Even the story of Laura Secord did not become an official record until 1837, when James Fitzgibbon was asked for a certificate (letter) regarding her deeds.

In the last two years, a transcription of Peter Van Wagner's diary has yielded the fact that at the funeral of Billy, the church at Lake Avenue and Maple Avenue in Stoney Creek was so crowded that Van Wagner could not get in. If it were so crowded, it appears to be recognition that he was a recognized war hero?

Another fact yielded from the Van Wagner diary, is that Billy's story was told to his doctor, a Dr. Brown, in the 1850s. This places the story far earlier than others have speculated in their books.

There is also abundant confusion in many books, because the numerous William Greens in various British and militia regiments, who are not the Billy Green of Saltfleet, have

been thought to be him. This has led to a massive mis-interpretation of history that has totally corrupted the recorded facts and rendered some books completely unreliable.

Confirmation of the story of Billy's participation at the Battle of Stoney Creek and shots taken by American soldiers at his sister-in-law while she was holding a baby in her arms, occurred, when in 1951, R.E. Glover (a relation of Billy's), said he saw the fence rail with the musket ball hole in it.

Billy was recorded, in the *Hamilton Evening Times*, as first in line at an 1875 award ceremony for surviving veterans of the War of 1812. This, after a thorough examination by a Board of Military Officers, and corroboration by other veterans who were in the battle with Billy. Was this recognition of his pivotal role in the battle?

-Submitted by David B. Clark, U.E.
and Douglas A. Green, U.E.
Members of the Stoney Creek
Historical Society

**STONEY CREEK HISTORICAL REFERENCE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE
NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2014**

We have been very busy these past few months at the Reference Library and Archive. We have received several requests for research and information on many homes, lots and areas throughout our Region.

Several people have emailed and/or visited us at 605 Hwy. 8 recently. We have been fortunate to be able to accept donations of photographs, post cards, letters and newspaper articles.

We will be cataloguing these mementos in the near future and will be able to preserve more of our local history.

Please remember us when you are re-organizing your attics, basements, book shelves. You can donate these items to us or we can scan or copy them and return the originals to you promptly.

Preparing for the Book Sale took a lot of time. We were able to separate everything by genre to make it more convenient for our shoppers on the days of the sale.

We had a lot of wonderful helpers to transport the boxes of books from 605 Hwy. 8 to 777 Hwy. 8 on Tuesday evening. We spent Wednesday setting up all of the books (3500 or so) and our SCHS Members were able to have an early-bird sale.

We had a huge success for the three days of sale. Thank you to Dunnville Library Volunteers who swooped in Saturday afternoon and were able to box up many hundreds of books in less than an hour and be on their way.

Kimberly Muldoon-Staley, PLCGS, stopped by to enquire about membership and advertising, in our Newsletter. The name of her business is Ontario Ancestry Research. She has since informed us that she has become a business member with Stoney Creek Historical Society.

This week we are back to our usual heavy schedule of projects. However, we are always ready for more and we are ready to receive visitors at any time

STONEY CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Now hold their meetings on the first Wednesday of the month, back at our previous site, the former Stoney Creek City Hall at # 8 Highway and Jones Road.

Nice comfortable seats, refreshments.

Start time of 7:00 pm

Note time, date and location

SC Historical Members Only

Instead of our Annual picnic at the Battlefield park in June, this year the board decided to try a fish fry at the Legion in Stoney Creek.

The date Friday July 11th at 5:30 in the Upper East room. Telephone committee will be calling

Report from Battlefield House Museum

Spring is finally here at Battlefield House Museum and spring brings with it preparations for the annual Re-enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek. We invite you and your family to visit us this spring and summer to enjoy one of Battlefield House Museum's wonderful special events and programs.

Re-enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek

Experience the drama, pageantry, and excitement of one of the most important events in Canada's history. Bring the whole family for games, food, demonstrations, musical entertainment, historic merchants, fireworks, and the Re-enactment itself.

Dates and Times: Saturday, June 7, 2014: 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 8, 2014: 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Cost: Adults \$8.00, Youth \$5.00, Children 5 and under Free

Battlefield House Museum - Free Admission Day - Hamilton Community Foundation celebrates its 60th Anniversary

Hamilton Community Foundation is celebrating its 60th Anniversary by inviting you to enjoy our city. On Saturday, June 28th 2014 over 40 cultural, nature and recreation centres will be free and open to the public. Have a swim, go for a hike, enjoy our museums or conservation areas – from Dundas to Stoney Creek, Waterdown, on the mountain or downtown, there is an activity for your family to enjoy. Presented with support from Pioneer Energy, there's no better way to celebrate our history and our future together than here in Hamilton, the city we love.

Date and Time: Saturday, June 28, 2014, 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

Cost: Free Admission

Regency Family Picnic

Join us for summer fun and entertainment for the whole family. Bring your own picnic lunch to Battlefield Park or purchase refreshments at the concession stand.

Date and Time: Sunday, July 13, 2014, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Cost: Free outdoor event. Admission rates apply to visit the Museum.

Stoney Creek CHEYNE CHURCH HISTORY 170 YEARS *by Harold Parker*

The present Cheyne Church congregation originated before 1843 near Albion Falls. It consisted of families without clergy. In 1843 Reverend George Cheyne was transferred to the areas of Saltfleet and Binbrook. In 1844 Alexander Gale and George Cheyne applied to the Hamilton Presbytery to ordain elders. It was named Cheyne Church.

Reverend George Cheyne was born in Aberdeenshire Scotland in 1802. He graduated from Marischal College and was later sent to North America. He reported to the Presbytery of Toronto and was sent to Amherstburg. He became a saddle-back minister serving an area of one hundred miles. After twelve years his health failed. He requested a change and was transferred to Saltfleet and Binbrook.

In 1914 a mission was started in Stoney Creek through the efforts of James Smith and services were held in the Institute Hall. The mission was later united with Cheyne Church Saltfleet and Cheyne Church Saltfleet and Cheyne Church, with its congregation, was transferred to Stoney Creek.

KEEPER OF THE CROSS *by Harold Parker*

William (Bill) Sinclair, an elder of Cheyne Presbyterian Church, along with two other Ontario Hydro lineman organized the building of a giant illuminated steel cross on the top of the Niagara Escarpment at the edge of the Devil's Punch Bowl on 18 December 1966. It replaced an illuminated wooden cross they had installed on a nearby transmission tower in 1961.

Initially, it was lighted for four weeks around Christmas and Easter, supported by Ontario Hydro and the Stoney Creek Hydro Electric Commission. Since 1991 the Cross has been turned on each night. Stoney Creek Knights of Columbus pays the hydro bill for 10 months of the year.

Until Bill was diagnosed with MS he climbed the cross to replace burned out or smashed lights. Bill died 1 February 1996.

WERE YOU THERE ? *by Jean Baine with thanks for help from Bette (Weedmark) McCabe*

Growing up in the village of Stoney Creek in the 30's and 40's was an interesting time. Since the nearest place to shop was the city of Hamilton, King Street in Stoney Creek between Lake Ave. and Elm St. supplied many of our needs.

Need groceries? go to Millen's, Wepler's, Superior, or Carroll's ; or meat? McClung's or Fluhner's.

Need a haircut? try Stewart's or Weedmark's or a perm? Lampman. For drugs, go to Hagan's or Hunt's. Dry goods could be found at Carroll's or several grocery stores. Lee Hardware had a big array to choose from.

I often spent my allowance at Mrs Morris's Variety shop – ice cream – yum !

Did you know that Stoney Creek had a blacksmith shop in the centre of the village? Children loved to watch Mr Glidden at work. Shoes of the human variety could be mended by Mr Bill Scott.

After all that shopping you might visit the Post Office for your mail, or the Library for a book or two – or the Royal Bank for \$!

Other businesses included Clough's and Lottridge's for coal, Boden for plumbing, insurance from Milmine's.

This street also had a Community Hall, and three nearby churches : United, Cheyne Presbyterian and Church of the Redeemer (Anglican).

The gas station at Lake and King has long since gone but McDougall's is still supplying car needs.

Why would a small village contain so many shops? .. People from the large surrounding . area drove here to shop. Some grocers visited outlying homes to take orders and then deliver the following day. For example, my father had customers on Quigley Rd, Nash Rd and Barton St. that he visited weekly.

(Anyone with old photos of the down town area from these days, please share so we can copy and put in later issues under then and now articles.)

Register Report for Captain Silas Hopkins

(continued from page 2)

This report is 20 pages long and contains 8 generations. All this information is available at our archives. Most of the Hopkins family (13 children) stayed in the Flamborough area but Silas's son Ephriam moved to Stoney Creek and settled at the foot of Lake Ave next to Peter Van Wagner on the Beach.

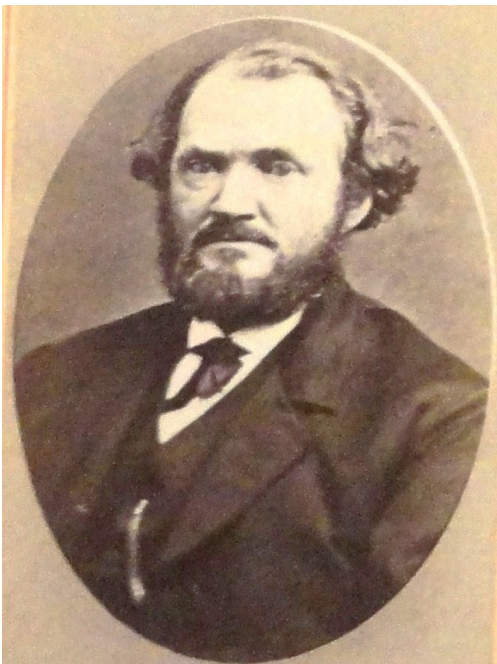
Ephriam Hopkins -2 (Silas -1) was born on June 5th 1784 in New Jersey. He died Dec 15th 1852 at his home on the Beach.

Martha Dildane was born in 1788, she died after Nov 20th 1823

Ephriam & Martha had 7 children the second born being **Silas Dildane Hopkins** born Sept 1 1813 in Stoney Creek. He died on 6/25/88, buried at Stoney Creek Cemetery.

note written by Justice of the Peace Peter Van Wagner in his diary 9 Oc am Monday June 25/88

***Silas D Hopkins** was killed a few minutes ago by the cars (train) at the Hopkins crossing. Henry Van Wagner came along directly after the occurrence Silas had been over the track helping pick berries and left to go to the house.*



After Martha died, Ephriam then married Catherine Everret Crocker they had 6 more children the first being **John Wesley Hopkins** (*pictured above*) born 12/14/1825. He married Susan Garner on 11/18/1852. John died 10/19/1871 and was buried in the Hamilton Cemetery.

It appears the two half brothers stayed on the land with **Silas Dildane** farming the section to the east of the inlet and **John Wesley** on the land where the wave pool is today. John's only daughter Flora Alberta married George Alfred Corman and this part of the farm now housed the Corman families. Lieut George Corman and Colonel Henry P Van Wagner were members of the 13th Hamilton Field Battery traveling together by Radial many nights to the Gun Sheds at the Hamilton Armory.

More to follow on the Hopkins, Cormans and Van Wagners in later editions.

Stoney Creek Historical Society Board of Directors

President	Greg Armstrong	(905) 662-6269
Past President	Mary Lewis	(905) 643-3665
1 st Vice President	Kathy Wakeman	
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Director	Peter Kennedy	(905) 664-5706
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Committee Chairs / Co-ordinators

Archives: Nancy Capstick
Sue Heatherley archives@stoneycreekhistorical.ca

Telephone: June Guzar
Membership: Dan Lee

Newsletter: Jean Baine, Kevin Lee, Doug Green

Programming: Kathy Wakeman

Social: Bev Gray, Carolyn Briggs

Member Business Directory

Britannia Cleaners	Ed Strecker	17 King Street East	(905) 662-4971
Bertram & Barry Insurance Ltd.		6 Lake Ave. S	(905) 662-8645
Cerello and Associates	Karen Cerello	42 King St. E. Unit 4	(905) 662-2848
Chamber of Commerce	Dave Cage	21 Mountain Ave. S	(905) 664-4000
Dr. Keith Millar		304 – 15 Mountain Ave S	(905) 662-2312
Simpson & Watson Law Firm		950 King St W Hamilton	(905) 527-1174
Flowers by Dianne	Dianne Black	9 King St. West	(905) 664-6621
Queenston Stationary	Mario Figueroa	38 King St. East	(905) 664-3360
Royal Canadian Legion Br. 622		12 King St. East	(905) 662-4171
Smith's Funeral Home (Stoney Creek) Limited		454 Highway # 8	(905) 664-4222
Ontario Ancestry Research	Kimberly Muldoon – Staley	126 Edgewater Dr.	(905) 643-7064

Please contact *Doug Green* by telephone at (905) (662-4065) or by email at newsletter@stoneycreekhistorical.ca or dgreen136@cogeco.ca If you have questions or answers regarding our newsletter content or if you wish to receive your copy of the newsletter via e-mail. Help us reduce mailing & printing costs.

Membership Application / Renewal / Donations

Yes: I would like to acquire / renew membership in the Stoney Creek Historical Society. _____

Name (s) _____ Receive newsletter by e-mail? Yes ___ No ___

Address _____ Please send to: Stoney Creek Historical Society

P.O. Box 66637

Phone Number _____

Stoney Creek, ON

L8G 5E6

E-mail _____ Please check one: New membership Renewal

Please indicate your preferred membership option: Individual: \$10.00 Family: \$18.00
Business \$25.00

** Please accept my additional tax-deductible donation of \$ _____ to assist the work of the Society

Historical Society Research Queries

Please contact via email:
archives@stoneycreekhistorical.ca

Please Help Us Manage Newsletter Printing Costs

A \$30.00 donation helps with the expense of printing and mailing our newsletter. If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact our Treasurer, Karen Cerello at (905) 525-0655. Receipts are issued for donations.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marie Robbins, Kimberly Muldoon–Staley, Ivan Luksic,
Terrance Smith, Don & Elaine Metcalf and Joanne McLaren.

This newsletter issue is sponsored by courtesy of Sue Heatherley