

# Hammonds Plains Historical Society

Web Site: [www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca)

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## Hammonds Plains News From the Past – From Halifax Mail Star March 2, 1960

### Box Social Planned Saturday

Members of St. Nicholas Sewing Circle met on Thursday evening at the home of Miss Wright. Co-hostesses were Mrs. K. Pickrem and Mrs. MacKenzie. The meeting this week be at the home of Mrs. Donald Boutliier.

The collection in the three school rooms for the March of Dimes amounted to \$22.75.

Everyone is invited to the Community Hall on Saturday evening when the Baptist Youth Federation will hold a **box social**. The ladies will bring supper for two while the men folk will do the bidding. Mr. Tingley (Baptist Minister) will auction the boxes and a good time is assured. Proceed will be used for youth work in the community. The time is from 6pm to 8pm.

On Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup>, there will be a card social in the Community Hall. Proceeds will be for the Hall Fund.

The teenage boys of St. Nicholas Church attended the newly organized Servers Guild meeting at the Anglican Church in Lower Sackville.

LAC Edison Wright is receiving a warm welcome from his friends and neighbours on his arrival from Rivers, Manitoba, where he is stationed with the RCAF, to spend a month with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wright.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Dennis, Brookfield, were recent overnight guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Haverstock.



## General Meetings for 2017-18:

Look for more interesting presentations next year. We are looking at making a connection with Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, as one of the presentations.

Our next meeting is **Monday September 25<sup>th</sup>**. Look for more details in the fall.

### Did You Know?

Hammonds Plains once enjoyed having a 'night school', which was situated in the residence of a two story house in the community. The house was located in the area where the Hammonds Plains Road connects with the Pockwock Road.

For many years during the late 1800's until the early 1900's, residents gathered at night to upgrade their education. Most often they were taught by a teacher who was boarding at the house. The night classes were held in the basement.

During earlier times it was not uncommon for children to quit school after grade 9 to enter the work force. Night School provided a way for these folks to gain further education options.

## Becoming a HPHS Member:

You can become a member of the Hammonds Plains Historical Society by filling out a registration form and e-mailing it to Dave Haverstock

([haverstockdave@gmail.com](mailto:haverstockdave@gmail.com)) or mailing to 1541 Hammonds Plains Road, Hammonds Plains, Nova Scotia B4B 1P6. **Annual fee is \$10.**

Registration forms are available during one of our general meetings or by copying from our web site.

## Pictures from the Past

### The Rotary Sawmill

Hammonds Plains had several "Rotary Mills", named because of the circular saws used to cut the logs. Pictured below is Rotary Mill, run by Haverstock Brothers & Son Ltd. On Pockwock Lake. Second picture is of the circular saw of the small rotary mill at Hatfield Farms.



### The Box Social

A common fundraiser in Hammonds Plains during the early to mid-1900's was the so called Box Social (as reference by the Mail Star article on Page 1).

The Box Social had several variations, but the main concept was that the ladies in the community would decorate a basket and include enough food for a lunch for two. These baskets would be brought to the Box Social (usually at the Community Hall) and auctioned off to the highest bidder.

At the Box Social, community members, most common, the men of the village would bid on each basket. Most often the baskets would be nameless, so the bidder would not know whose basket they were bidding on, unless they had inside information ahead of time, which apparently was quite common.

The lucky bidder and the owner of the basket would then have a picnic together, with the unwritten expectation that the man would walk/drive the lady home afterwards.

The above picture is Baptist Minister Terry Tingley auctioning off a box at a box social from 1959 or 1960.

## The Founding Fathers of Hammonds Plains:

The Founding Fathers is the name given to the settlers of the early 1820's who were prominent in the formation of the village of Hammonds Plains. We are profiling a Founding Father in this and future editions of our newsletter. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> in the series of 11.

### Founding Father - Robert Anderson

One of the early settlers who was most instrumental in establishing the village of Hammonds Plains was Robert Anderson. Although he had moved on by the early 1820's he nevertheless left a lasting legacy. He was native of Scotland, born there in 1754. It was unknown when he came to Nova Scotia, but by the time he came to Hammonds Plains he had assembled significant wealth. He purchased the original Hammonds Plains Lot # 2 in the late 1780's (Between Edible Matters and Uplands Park) and it is believed that he moved to Hammonds Plains at that time. He established one of the first farms in Hammonds Plains on that lot. After 1800, he purchased lot #6 (on the hill between Lucasville Road and Voyager Lakes). Though his successful farm, he was able to make money in Hammonds Plains.

He married Ellen (last name unknown) and together they had 6 children. Jim (lived in Hammonds Plains), Margaret (moved away), Ann/Nancy (married Jacob Haverstock), Ellen (married Jacob Haverstock after Ann/Nancy passed away), Robert (moved to Halifax) and Alexander (married Isabella Romans and lived in Hammonds Plains).

While living in Hammonds Plains, Robert used his wealth to purchase land in and around the Halifax area. He was an early supporter of creating a road through the early community.

It is thought that he moved to Halifax by 1820, after purchasing the Quin Pool Farm, on lands what is to-day Quinpool Road. In 1823, he conveyed lot # 6 to his daughter, Ellen and son in law, Jacob Haverstock. The Haverstock family still owns much of the original lot to this day.

Several of Anderson's children lived in Hammonds Plains well into the 1800's, but the Anderson name in Lower Hammonds Plains was gone by the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Robert passed away in 1829, 8 years after his wife Ellen had passed away. They were both buried on the former Quin Pool Farm estate.

## The H P Baptist Cemetery – A History



The origins of the Hammonds Plains Baptist Cemetery dates back to the early days of the community. In 1824, a leading resident Amos Melvin (along with wife, Dorothy) donated an acre of his land to be developed as a burial ground along with a meeting house. The acre was located on a peaceful hill overlooking Baptizing (First) Lake, along the main road. It is thought that a meeting house was built on the site around 1830. The building also served as the first official school in Lower Hammonds Plains for several years. The Meeting House was eventually bought by John Thomas after a new school and Baptist Church was built in Hammonds Plains in the mid 1800's, and moved to near the intersection of Lucasville Road, where it was used as a store during the later 1800's.

Even though the original cemetery was established around the same time as the First Baptist Church was being formed in the community and the Melvin Family were of the Baptist faith, the cemetery was considered a Community Cemetery, so folks of any faith could be buried there.

It is not known when the first person was buried in the cemetery, but the oldest recorded grave is that of Nathaniel Smith, who was buried there in 1838. After the meeting house was removed the site was used only as a cemetery. A driveway was created that went down the middle of the cemetery, with access to the Hammonds Plains Road.

While the cemetery was owned by the Community, the Baptist Church slowly became the overseers of it. There are many references to maintaining the cemetery in the church records dating back to the 1800's. At some point, probably in the later 1800's a fence was constructed around the cemetery. From the mid 1800's on, more gravestones were erected as folks were buried there and the cemetery started to fill up. The most common name found in the cemetery for most of its history was 'Haverstock' (this remains true even to-day).

At some point before the 1950's the fence was taken down around the cemetery. In 1957, the Baptist Church moved to expand the cemetery. They started negotiations with Wilfred Eisenhower, who owned the land behind the cemetery and in 1958 were successful in buying an additional acre from Mr. Eisenhower. In 1960, the church also developed new guidelines as to who could be buried in the cemetery, as by that time they had fully taken control over the cemetery. Folks had to be associated with the Baptist Church to purchase a lot to be buried in the cemetery. In 1962, the church formed a separate committee to oversee the cemetery. In 1967, the church got permission from the province to take over the deed of the cemetery.

A gate was erected at the entrance of the cemetery in 1965, donated by Morton Eisenhower, in memory of his parents, who were buried in the cemetery. At the same time, a new driveway was constructed through the new gate. In 1990 new by-laws were generated which set policies for burial plot purchase.

The Cemetery is still used to-day as a burial ground, with potential for growth since the woods directly behind the cemetery are owned by the Baptist Church. Many past residents ranging from infants to folks reaching the century mark find their final resting place on the hill overlooking Baptizing Lake.