

Hammonds Plains Historical Society

Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

Hammonds Plains News From the Past – The Halifax Chronicle Herald – August 11, 1915

Hammonds Plains is Doing Splendidly Well

A. E. Haverstock of Hammonds Plains and his daughter, Miss Jessie called at the Mail Office Saturday and left \$110.56, the proceeds of a picnic by the young ladies of Hammonds Plains and which amount they desired given to the Red Cross fund. The picnic was held at the Foresters Hall and was largely attended. The proceeds is a sum of which many larger settlements would not be ashamed.

The following ladies assisted at the picnic: Belle Wambolt, Grace & Sadie Romans, Lottie & Bernice Haverstock, Laura, Bella, & Gladys Moren, Rita Burns, Ida Smith, Rezia Thomas, Sophia & Annie Schmidt, Emma Burns, Elfreda Melvin, Mary Haverstock, Nellie Romans, Hilda & Elsie McEachern, Jessie Haverstock.

Activities at the picnic included the sale of ice cream, home made candy, tea tickets and tickets for pipe. Music and a dance were also part of the event.

Miss Haverstock will take immediate steps to interest the same young ladies and others in making a contribution for the band of the 64th.



Upcoming General Meetings:

January 30th – Presentation
on First Nations Culture

March 27th – The Life of
Madeleine Symonds

Taken from 'Early Pioneers' – A Booklet about Pioneer Life in Upper Hammonds Plains

Old-Fashioned Remedies

When you and I were little kids, and had a pain or ache; You mind the mustard plasters' our mothers used to make?

They spread it on a muslin cloth, and cover with another; Then slapped it on our little chest, and did it burn? O' Brother.

And when we caught a nasty cold, they made a pad of onions; A cure for every human ill, from headaches down to bunions.

And Asafetida, Oh, me! They hung it 'round one's throat; They swore it kept all germs away; and it smelled just like a goat.

Then worst of all, you will agree; it often came to that; Was when they rubbed on oil or grease, procured from plain pole cat.

In spite of onions, mustard, grease, and Asafetida; We must have been a hardy lot, to be alive today.

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) or mailing to 1541 Hammonds Plains Road, Hammonds Plains, Nova Scotia B4B 1P6. **Annual fee is \$10.** Renewals don't need new forms.

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



The Rink in Hammonds Plains – Did you know that a full sized outdoor rink once was a recreation center in the community? (Note the Boards and net). Picture was taken during mid 1940's.

The 1921 Census – What is tells us about Hammonds Plains

The 1921 Census tells us some telling statistics about the Hammonds Plains area of that era. Here is a summary of the census for Hammonds Plains:

Total population of Upper & Lower Hammonds Plains, Pockwock, Kemptown and Yankeetown – 608 (Lower Hammonds Plains – 251, Upper Hammonds Plains – 249, Pockwock – 29, Kemptown – 26, Yankeetown – 53)

Total households in area – 106

Three most common household names in Lower Hammonds Plains – Haverstock (8 households), Romans (7), Eisenhower (6)

Three most common household names in Upper Hammonds Plains – David (8 households), Marsman (8), Jackson (4)

Most common household name in Yankeetown – Smith (4)

Largest Household – Lower Hammonds Plains – Ronzo & Isabella Haverstock (13)

Largest Household – Upper Hammonds Plains – Samuel & Amelia Whiley (14)

Oldest resident – Lower Hammonds Plains – John Thomas (82)

Oldest resident – Upper Hammonds Plains – Jeffrey Jones (88)

Youngest Residents – (1 year old) – Granville Romans, Violet Romans, Marrion Eisenhower, Douglas Eisenhower, Royce Carpenter, Edwin Smith, Edna Wright, Granville Whiley, Clara Whiley, Alfretta Symonds, Helen Allison, Bernice Allison, Laure Anderson

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 continue profiling the Founding Fathers in this year's newsletters.

Founding Father - Thomas Johnson (1769-1857)

One of the very early community leaders of Hammonds Plains was unquestionably, Thomas Johnson. His name appears on many of the documents relating to Hammonds Plains from the early 1800's. He was of Irish descent, having served as a soldier in the Royal Military. We know that he was discharged from the military and settled in the Chester area. He was an educated man, being able to read and write, by the time he came to Chester. During his time in Chester, he married Mary Tufts, and together they had 9 children - Thomas, Sarah, Mary, Susannah, Samuel, John, William, James, Eliza.

Thomas purchased lot #7, of the original H P Grants, when it went up for public auction in 1812. This is the lot located in the area where the Lucasville Road meets the Hammonds Plains Road. The family moved there in 1812. Thomas was a diversified business person and operated a grist mill in the community. He actually imported the small grist mill from Britain. He also ran the first Inn in Hammonds Plains, located at the corner of the Lucasville Road (the inn was believed to be part of his house). The Inn was mostly used by hunters who would come to the area to hunt game.

Thomas Johnson was also in charge of community mail, setting up the first official post office in the community. The government had appointed him to be in charge of the mail going to the South Shore from the Halifax area. He was also the first official victualler of the Chesapeake Black settlers in Upper Hammonds Plains. This was the title given to the person who was responsible for providing food and provisions to the new settlers. He was also the first person in Hammonds Plains to be given 'Esquire' status, which was the title given to folks who held minor governmental posts.

By the time of his death in 1857, he owned 360+ acres in the community. Before his death he made sure that a small portion of his estate would be donated to the creation of an Anglican Church in the community, on which St. Nicholas Anglican Church was later built.

The original Johnson lands were sold off later in the 1800's, by Thomas's sons. However, there are still descendants living in the community to-day.

Sights of a Bygone Era



This picture was taken in 1955. This house still stands to-day at 1895 Hammonds Plains Road. The prominent part of this picture is the part of the house that is located on the right side. For many years this was a store in the community. First operated by Will Romans and then in later years by son in law, Roy Thomas. The store operated from early 1900's to the late 1950's.



This is a picture from the 1960's of Tupper Moren's garage. The garage was located at the base of his property at the foot of Pockwock Lake. This building is historically significant in that it once served as a school for the children who lived in the Pockwock Lake area.