

Hammonds Plains Historical Society

Web Site: www.hammondsplainshistoricalsociety.ca

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Hammonds Plains News From the Past – The Halifax Chronicle Herald – March 10, 1960

Editor's Note: The worse automobile accident in Hammonds Plains history happened on March 9, 1960. The following newspaper article is how it was described in the Halifax Chronicle Herald.

Two-car Collision Kills Three

Three persons were killed instantly and two were injured last night in a two-car collision at an intersection on the Hammonds Plains Road near Halifax.

The fatal accident occurred about 9pm on a treacherous curve at the intersection of Hammonds Plains and Pockwock Roads, which is about five miles from Moir's Mills on the Bedford Highway.

First reports were scarce but it is believed all involved were men. No names were released pending notification of next of kin.

The three dead and the most seriously injured were in a two-tone late model green Chevrolet proceeding east towards Halifax.

Halifax RCMP said the road was slippery. Only last month two were hospitalized with severe injuries following a head long collision on the same curve. Since then several vehicles have left the road in the immediate vicinity of last night's accident.

The RCMP said considerable difficulty was involved in the removing the three bodies from the wreckage. A resident living about 1000 feet from the scene said the impact of the two vehicles colliding sounded 'like a deafening explosion'.



Upcoming General Meetings:

**January 28th – Open House
at Hammonds Plains
Community Center (See
Below for details)**

**March 26th – Hammonds
Plains – From Beginnings to
Present**

Our Open House

The Hammonds Plains Historical Society will be hosting an open house on **Sunday January 26th from 1pm – 4pm** at the Hammonds Plains Community Center.

The open house will have a large picture display of vintage Hammonds Plains photos, a café style gathering spot along with a presentation area where 3 mini presentations will take place.

The presentations will consist of:

- A View of Hammonds Plains through Old Pictures
- The history of the Hammonds Plains Community Center Building
- A Look at the Hammonds Plains Then & Now Booklet.

The open house will be a drop in format, with planned times for the mini presentations.

This will take the place of January's meeting and presentation.

Come and learn about the History of Hammonds Plains.

Becoming a HPHS Member:

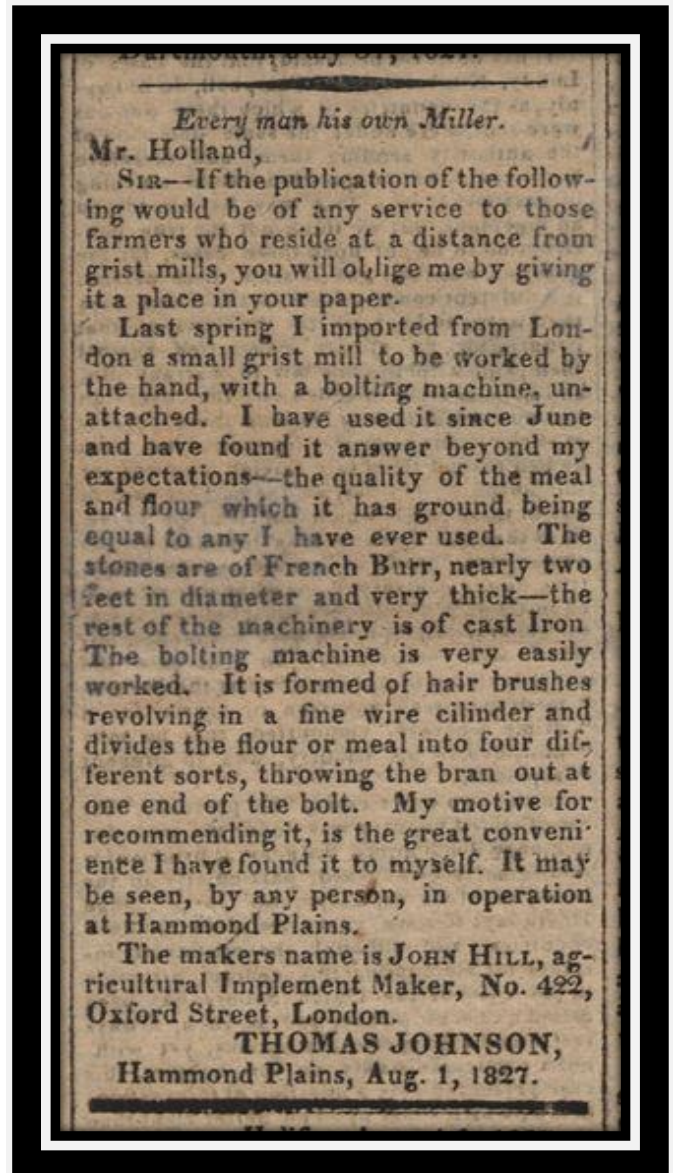
You can become a member of the Hammonds Plains Historical Society by filling out a registration form and e-mailing it to Dave Haverstock (haverstockdave@gmail.com) or mailing to 1541 Hammonds Plains Road, Hammonds Plains, Nova Scotia B4B 1P6. **Annual fee is \$10.** Renewals don't need new forms.

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



Making Hay with Horse and Raker – This was a common scene in Hammonds Plains for over 100 years. Many of the residents used to have fields that were cut as hay, then raked to dry and put in barns for winter feed for the livestock. The above picture shows a Hammonds Plains Resident raking his field from the 1960's.

From the Acadian Recorder 1827



Thomas Johnson was an early resident of Hammonds Plains, considered one of its Founding Fathers. He had a grist mill transported from England and set it up in Hammonds Plains. Thomas lived at the corner of Lucasville Road and Hammonds Plains Road. It is not known where the grist mill was located. The above is a letter to the Acadian Recorder, telling folks that his grist mill is open for business.

The Founding Fathers of Hammonds Plains:

The Founding Fathers is the name given to the settlers of the early 1800's who were prominent in the formation of the village of Hammonds Plains. This is the 9th article in a series of 11.

Founding Father - James Bezanson (1802-1872)

The Bezanson family played a major role in establishing the village of Hammonds Plains. During the 1800's the Bezanson family were well known in the community as community builders, and one of its leaders in the forest trade, within the area.

James Bezanson was born in 1802, the youngest son of Jean Jacques & Anna Marie Bezanson, who lived in the Chester area at the time of his birth. James's father was involved in the ship building business in the Chester area. He died when James was only 3 years old. James was brought up in the Chester area. After 1810, a number of the Bezanson Family moved to Hammonds Plains. It was believed that they had connections with to the so-called 'Chester Group', a group of Chester area families that had moved to Hammonds Plains between 1811-13. The Bezanson family members, it is believed, lived in the area close to where Kynock Resources is to-day during this time. Since they were trained as ship builders, the Bezanson's helped to build the hull of a ship in Hammonds Plains, named the 'Curlew' and had it hauled to Bedford Basin. James married Dorothy Melvin, the daughter of Amos Melvin (one of the Chester Group) in 1827.

Together James and Dorothy 13 children: Sarah, Amos, Isabella, Ben, William, Clarissa, Melissa, James, Susan, George, Amanda, Annie and Mercilla. Many of the family remained in the Hammonds Plains area for much of the 19th century.

James got involved in the lumbering business, operating a mill on Big Indian Lake and a cooper shop on the Hammonds Plains Road. The business was carried on by sons James and Amos into the 1900's. James passed away in 1872.

The Bezanson Family remained key players in the community throughout the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, contributing to community life through their involvement in the lumber trade, the church and various community groups. The long standing 'Bezanson' House, located where the Hammonds Plains PharmaChoice Pharmacy is to-day (2120 Hammonds Plains Road), was featured in a 1959 Halifax Chronicle article.

100 Years Ago - The Halifax Explosion

No residents are left with memories of December 6, 1917 in Hammonds Plains but stories passed down through generations talk of shaking ground, cracked windows and the sight of the resulting cloud of the explosion in Hammonds Plains, along with residents travelling to the city to help with relieve efforts. 100 years later we remember a defining moment in local history.

The Halifax Explosion happened on the morning of 6 December 1917. SS Mont-Blanc, a French cargo ship laden with high explosives, collided with the Norwegian vessel SS Imo in the Halifax Harbour Narrows. A fire onboard the French ship ignited her cargo, causing a large explosion that devastated the Richmond district of Halifax.

Approximately 2,000 people were killed by blast, debris, fires or collapsed buildings, and an estimated 9,000 others were injured. The blast was the largest man-made explosion prior to the development of nuclear weapons, releasing the equivalent energy of roughly 2.9 kilotons of TNT.



A couple of views of the destruction of the Halifax Explosion