

# Hammonds Plains Historical Society

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

Facebook: Hammonds Plains Historical Society

## Hammonds Plains – Views From the Past



Numerous houses in Hammonds Plains were built of this style (Two Story Box Style) during the 1900's. Pictured above is the home of Lewis Romans taken in 1955 (located near where 1298 Hammonds Plains Road is to-day). An interesting aspect of this picture is that it shows the old stone wall that ran parallel to a section of the Hammonds Plains Road before the road was upgraded during the late 1950's.



## Upcoming General Meetings:

**May 27<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting** – at Hammonds Plains Community Center – 7pm.

**Presentation: The Life & Paintings of Olive Haverstock**

Election of new **Board of Directors**, along with presentation of **Annual Report** will take place at this meeting.

## Hammonds Plains Community History Art Work Unveiled

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, the Hammonds Plains Community Center unveiled a new historical painting. The painting completed by local artist Jacquie Boucher is a vibrant piece of folk art depicting stories of the community's history in colorful detail.

The painting is shown in the top picture on page 2. Underneath is a picture of artist Jacquie Boucher, Shawn MacIntyre (HPCC Board of Director's) along with Historical BOD's Dave Haverstock, Wayne Shellnutt and Gail Stronach alongside the new painting.

## 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.

## Hammonds Plains Historical Art Project is unveiled at the Hammonds Plains Community Center – February 24, 2018



## Hammonds Plains in the New – A Story of Murder

### From the Acadian Recorder - 1837

INQUEST.—On Tuesday last an Inquest was held at Hammond Plains, on the body of Francis Hamilton, a colored child, of the age of six years. It appeared from the evidence, that a stranger, named M'Carthy, who had been wandering about the settlement, for some time past, came to the house of the father of the deceased, Thomas Hamilton, on Saturday morning last, and having at the request of Hamilton entered the house, he remained there the whole morning with the deceased, whilst the father was employed outside hauling wood. In the afternoon, Hamilton was sent for to lay out a man who had died in the settlement. Before going away he went into the house and found McCarthy playing with the child who seemed well pleased with his companion, Hamilton then left the house and was absent about an hour and a-half. On his return he found that McCarthy had gone away and the child was apparently asleep on the hearth. But on going near to wake him he discovered

going near to wake him he discovered blood on the hearth, and on attempting, to raise him found that his head was shattered and life was extinct. It appeared upon examination that the wound was inflicted with an axe or some such instrument, and it was found that an axe belonging to Hamilton was missing supposed to be taken by McCarthy. The Jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against Charles McCarthy who had made his escape, as is supposed immediately after the Commission of the deed, as upon its discovery diligent search was made for him throughout the settlement without effect, he was afterwards taken near the nine mile house and at the time of his apprehension carried an axe with him. There is no saying what could have induced the man to commit this horrible outrage upon an innocent and inoffensive child, but the most charitable commission we can come to is that the unfortunate being was deranged.



## Hammonds Plains Leaders of the Past

### Rev. William Bezanson (1866 - 1946)

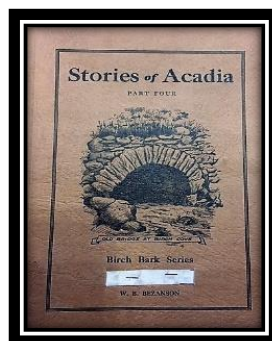
William Bezanson was born in Hammonds Plains on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 1866, the son of Amos and Isabel (Smith) Bezanson. His childhood home was located across the road from the old mill on Mason's Pond. He grew up in Hammonds Plains, attending the local school, near his home. Since religion had played a major role in his early life, with his family being very active with the Hammonds Plains Baptist Church, he became attracted to the calling of the church, and decided as a young man to train to become a Baptist Minister.

He went to Acadia University to get a Divinity Degree and then to Newton Theological Institute, in Massachusetts to receive his Doctorate in Divinity. In 1894, he married Annie Thompson, daughter of long time Hammonds Plains residents, Samuel and Annie Thompson, at the Hammonds Plains Baptist Church. At the time of his marriage, he was already a practicing Baptist Minister in Rawdon.

Rev Bezanson was a religious scholar, and attended numerous theology seminars both for the Baptist Church and the ecumenical community in the Maritimes. As a pastor he served the church during a period in which the Baptist community grew significantly in Nova Scotia. He was a key player in that growth. He served throughout the province of Nova Scotia at Rawdon; Yarmouth; Dartmouth; Springhill; Dorchester (NB); Sydney Mines; Mahone Bay; Caledonia, Queens County; twice at Glace Bay, and finally at Chester.

Rev. Bezanson and Annie had three children: Gordon, Marion and Ernest.

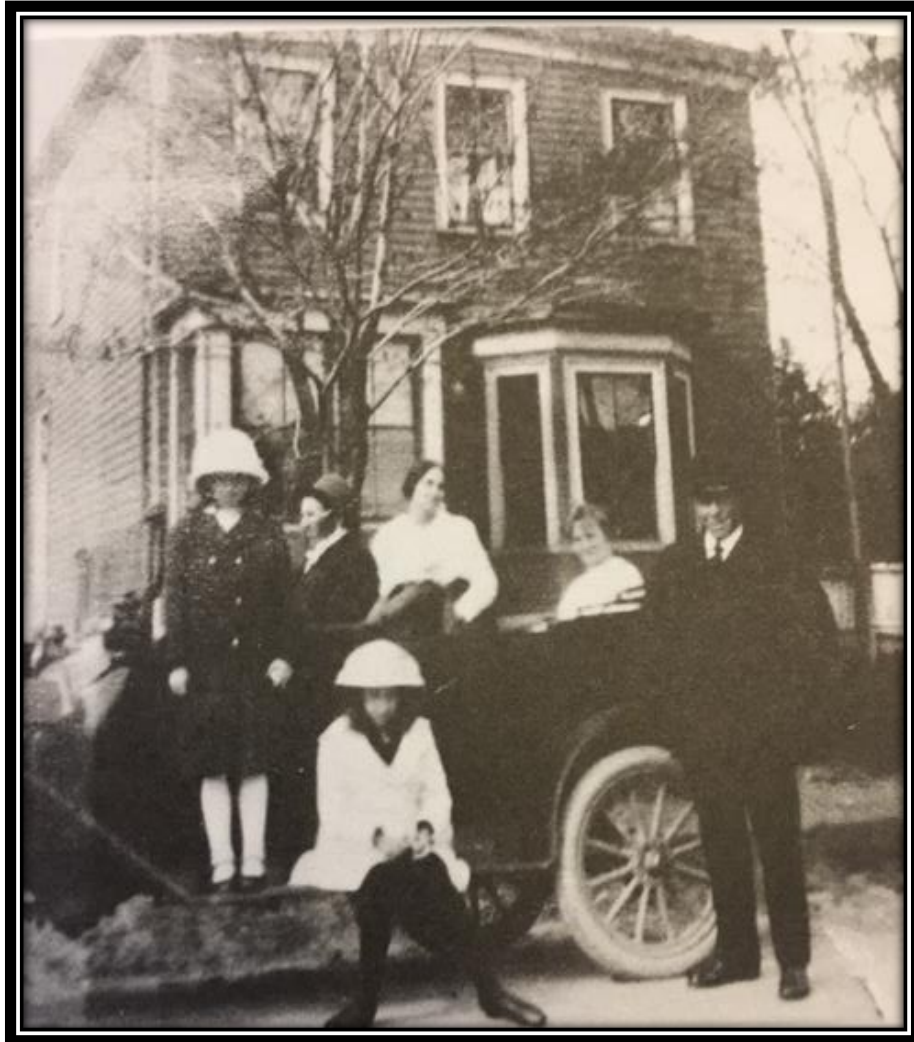
In addition, to being a distinguished theologian, he also was a noted author who wrote on religion, history of the Acadians and tales of the First Nations people of Nova Scotia. His writings included poems, short stories and articles of general interest. His romantic tales of Nova Scotia were included in his four volume series *Stories of Acadia* commonly called the *Birch Bark Stories* (written from 1924-1933). In the series, he relates several stories that have Hammonds Plains connections, including the story of 'The Curlew - The seafaring ship that was built in Hammonds Plains'. He was also the author of *Fuel For Missions and Romance of Religion*.



Throughout his career, Rev Bezanson was active in the communities he served. Some of the organizations that he became a member of included: the Masonic Order, the Oddfellows, the Forresters, and the Knights of Pythias.

William remained connected to his Hammonds Plains roots throughout his life. He often visited home, especially after the advent of the automobile. Rev. Bezanson retired at Chester in the 1930's. In his retirement, he was frequently called out to fill the pulpits in south shore churches from Tancook Island to Cape Sable Island.

After a short illness at his home in Chester, he died in the Bridgewater Hospital on 26 July 1946. He is buried beside his wife Annie in the Hammonds Plains Baptist Cemetery.



Reverend Bezanson (Black Hat) is seen standing beside his car in the 1920's, while he was a paster in Dartmouth.