

Hammonds Plains Historical Society

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Hammonds Plains News From the Past – The Halifax Chronicle Herald – January 1944

PROVO WALLIS CHAPTER HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

Mrs. Charles Harris was re-elected regent of the Admiral Provo Wallis Chapter, I. O. D. E. at the annual meeting held Monday evening at the home of Mrs. Charles Bezanson. Mrs. Harold Wright and Mrs. Clifford Haverstock were elected Vice Regents. Money making activities of the chapter during the past year included card socials, a house party, a travelling basket and Cole Cannon supper. Miss Mae Wright, Treasurer, reported a total of \$261.41 had been raised for war work.

Materials valued at \$14.60 were given to the chapter's adopted school as well as a first Aid Kit and busy work material to another school, the Educational Secretary, Mrs. Raymond Smith reported. Donations had been given to all relief funds, as well as to the Camps Library Fund, Deep Brook and the Endowment Fund.

Four ditty bags were filled and 50 parcels valued at \$124.09 were sent to the local boys serving overseas. Men and women of the services were entertained at the homes of members. Thirty-four books were collected and sent to Headquarters.

Members also helped with the distribution of ration books and articles for war work, including 50 pairs of socks, eight pairs of mittens, two afghans, two pairs of pyjamas, four pinafores and four quilts.

Eight Christmas Boxes were sent to the sick and shut-ins and a box to an ex-service man at Christmas time. One hundred and ten savings stamp folders were distributed during the year.



Upcoming General Meetings:

**March 25th – The origins of
the Village of Hammonds
Plains (Up until 1820) – How
the Village came to be!**

Cornerstone Wesleyan
Church – 7pm

**May 27th – The Life &
Paintings of Hammonds
Plains Artist Olive
Haverstock**

Hammonds Plains
Community Center – 7pm

The picture (1955) shown here is the former house of Farrell & Thomas. The house was located directly across the road from . It was as well known in Hammonds Plains due to it's closeness to the road. Notice how the front porch is only a metre or two from the edge of the Hammonds Plains Road.



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 Hammonds Plains Community Center Historical Art Mural Update

The wall painting depicting the Hammonds Plains area, mixing scenes of the present with historical heritage artifacts from the past, commissioned to local artist, Jacquie Boucher will be unveiled at a ceremony on Sunday February 24th, starting at 2pm.

The picture below is part of a partly completed version of the painting. You can see the St. Nicholas Church, the old Community Hall, the Baptist Church, the Community Center, Hammonds Plains Consolidated School, The old mill on Mason's Pond, in this section of the painting to give an example of what the painting will look like.

The Hammonds Plains Historical Society has been pleased to have participated in the research for this project and have been invited to be part of the unveiling ceremony.



How they advertised land for sale in the 1800's. From the **Acadian Recorder Newspaper – July 20, 1833**



From 1949 – Operating a Circular Saw at the Anderson Sawmill (Upper Hammonds Plains)



A Visit to Pockwock – Hayes Mills & Cooperage

Editor's Note – This article appeared in the Acadian Recorder on December 13, 1880. It was the result of a reporter visiting the Hayes Mill at the foot of Pockwock Lake.

About 18 years ago Jonathon and Norman Hayes, far away from any road or settlement and even a great distance from the nearest habitation, in the wild woods, commenced a clearing close by the 'great lake', as Pockwock signifies in the language of the **Mi' Kmaq** (Editor's Note - name has been changed to reflect proper name in to-day's language). All round them the trees of a virgin forest reared their proud heads and smiled down in all their beauty on the carpet of mags and creepers on which the fairy touches of nature's master hand had placed the pink blushes of the mayflower and the rich scarlet of the strawberry.

Now, the inroads of civilization improves the scene in some respects; those pioneers have since that time erected a saw-mill, and the solitude of the spot has been broken more and more, as homesteads increased in number, and now the little village greets the eyes as the visitor winds along the road, which they have made to their settlement. There stands a school built by the firm, where a first class teacher instill the youthful village mind with elementary instruction, from A, B, C to Euclid. Here also stands a large warehouse over 100 feet in length, a cooper shop, the mill and the homestead, making a pleasing picture of industry and rural comfort. Close by the angler can whip the water, enticing the specked beauties from the fairy tale babble of the run.

The mill is two stores high and measures 50 x 30 feet. It is one of the finest of the kind in the province and is fitted with the latest improved machinery, a great part of which was placed in working order during the past summer. The new 'labour savers' were personally selected by Norman Hayes during a visit to the United States in the early part of the summer. Among the new machinery are several coopering engines for cutting, shaping, channeling, jointing heads and turning heads; and it is the intention of this enterprising firm to purchase some other desirable machinery, in spite of the heavy tax which in this instance takes the money out of their pockets forcibly, as nothing of the kind can be produced in the country at the same price - or even a moderate increase - so well qualified for the work. At the present some 30 or more hands are employed, on the average, but in the spring there will be probably be fifty engaged in the business of making barrels for all purposes.

Last year the Hayes brothers obtained the contract for supplying barrels to the Nova Scotia Sugar Refinery and are present engaged in making barrels for the Moncton Refinery. They have introduced into their establishment the first machine of the kind - a stave cutter. The machine cuts the staves at the rate of 100 per minute. The after process is as follows: They are run through the equalizing saw

with 3 hands attending on them; those are then taken to the 'spring jointer' where the barrel is formed, after which they are stacked for drying. In the second story of the mill the head cutter on at the rate of about 3000 per day, going through the plainer pointer and afterwards finished by Greenwood's Head-Turners - one of the latest improved machines. The cooperage is some fifteen distant from the mills, on the shores of the Basin, near the residency of County Treasurer Evans and to this establishment the ready-made staves and heads are sent to be put together. Here, at present, they are making barrels with the common half round hoop, at the rate of a car load a day, for the Moncton Refinery. In a few days they will commence making barrels for the Halifax Refinery and will probably have a large stock prepared ahead.

One of the proprietors, referring to the tariff duty of the 25 per cent on American machinery, says "I visited the Upper Provinces with the expectation of getting my hoop making machinery cheaper than in New York, but the Ontario boys wanted for the hoop machine alone \$2400. Those prices were so extravagant, so much beyond what the machine was really worth, that we are compelled to get the hoop machine from the states and the duty"

When the machine arrives they intend manufacturing Elmwood hoops for their work, to the astonishment of many. The barrels manufactured are said to be better in finish and appearance than the Canadian or American. A gang of men are now at work in the woods getting lumber for the coming season. The stock on hand at present is something over 300,000 staves and heading for 50,000 barrels.



Here is a picture of the Hayes mill complex taken in the early 1900's after the Hayes family had sold the property. In the center is the house they built, on the left is the two story mill that is referred to in the article, on the right are a couple of buildings, one of which is believed to be a cooper shop.