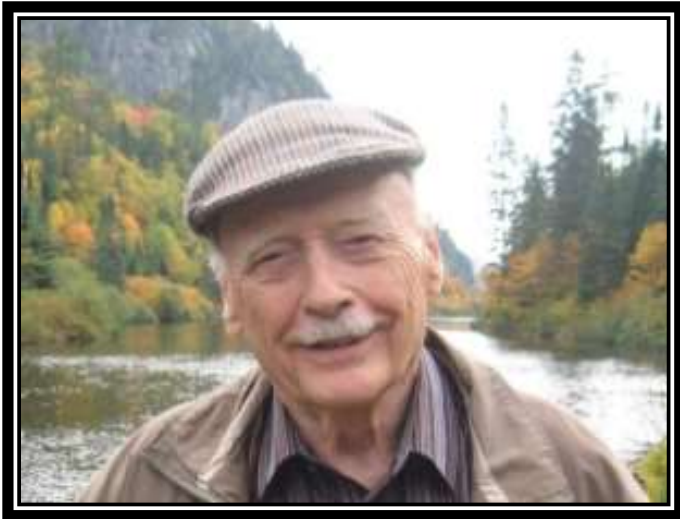


Our April 2021 Speaker - Ken Armson



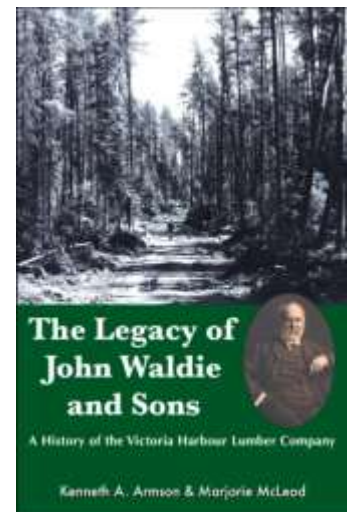
Ken Armson R.P.F., is a professional forester who graduated (B.Sc. Forestry) from the University of Toronto in 1951. He joined the Ministry of Natural Resources in 1978. With the Ministry he was successively, Chief Forester, Executive Director of Forest Resources and finally Provincial Forester.

During his career he has acted as a consultant for several provinces, the state of Western Australia, and the forest industry. In the 1990's he was involved with the Canadian Standards Association's development of the standard for Sustainable Forest Management. Since 2000 he has primarily been active in writing and promoting interest in Ontario's forest history and founded the Forest History Society of Ontario in 2009.

In 2016 Mr. Armson was awarded the Order of Canada for his efforts in the public and private sectors to promote forest management and regeneration.

Ken is the author of more than 120 professional and scientific papers and several books including *The Legacy of John Waldie and Sons*.

John Waldie was a merchant in early Wellington Square and was the person behind the joining of Port Nelson and Wellington Square in 1873 to create the village of Burlington. He served as the first Reeve of the Village.



He then went on to become a lumber baron. But he did not forget Burlington and was very generous in donating stained glass windows to Knox Presbyterian Church and donating the first library building and stocking the shelves with 6000 books.

April 2021 Speaker

Join us on ZOOM
Monday 12 April 2021 at 7 pm
(a link will be emailed)

May 2021 Speaker

Join us on ZOOM,
Monday, 10 May 2021 at 7 pm
Our speaker - Dr Robin McLachlan, UEL

President's Report *Joan Downey*



The clocks have changed, crocuses are popping up – and Spring 2021 is just around the corner. This will be a spring of new beginnings. As we start on the road to recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic we will likely see many changes. But that is the challenge to us – embrace the changes.

Good Friday is coming soon, April 2nd so I doubt we'll be having big Easter Dinners this year. But, maybe by summer we can get back to family gatherings and what fun to be with everyone again.

I have been attempting to include interesting local stories in the Gazette throughout the lockdowns. I am grateful to the members who have shared the results of their research and their stories for each issue. This issue includes the history of the Dixon family. Longtime BHS member, Ruth Taylor (nee Dixon) co-authored this piece with her brother. This family history covers most of Halton, including Burlington. Limestone Hall (a Dixon home from 1885-1961) is on Walker's Line in Burlington and was at one time home to Betty Kennedy, journalist, author & television personality. Remember Front Page Challenge?

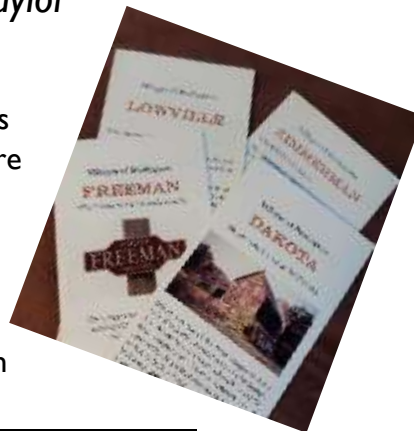
Membership *Pat Taylor*



Pay your 2021 membership dues and get a Village Brochure developed by 3 of our Archives volunteers

Plus

Your membership card by return mail



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Burlington Gazette 10 June 1914

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Baseball

Burlington 13, Freeman 1



The Pine Cove Baseball Team, 1913, BHS Archives
(we don't have pics of Burlington or Freeman Teams)

Ten innings were required to decide the league baseball game played between Freeman and Burlington on Wellington Park grounds on Saturday afternoon last, the locals winning out by the score 13:12. Reeve Smith officiated at the opening ceremonies, and pitched the first three balls, with Clerk Jas. S. Allen at the bat and Dr. T.W. Peart receiving the pitches. Reeve Smith could not locate the plate, and retired without giving Clerk Allen even a chance to lose the ball.

Notwithstanding the high score the game was exciting to watch, and kept the crowd of spectators in suspense until the last man was out in the tenth inning.

Burlington went to bat, and in their initial innings scored 3 runs while Freeman started off with a rush, scoring 7 runs in their first. However, in the second innings, Burlington scored 6 runs, while Freeman was blanked.

Both teams then settled down, and good ball was witnessed throughout the balance of the game. At the end of the ninth innings the score was a tie. In the tenth inning Burlington scored one run, Southom crossing the plate on a two base hit by Farrel. Freeman had a chance to even up the score, but it was thrown away though bad coaching. With two men down, Thos. Galbraith made a long drive to left field, and should have reached home. Burlington had 23 hits with a total of 27 bases, and Freeman 11 hits with a total of 14 bases. Glover had 8 strike-outs and Southom 11. Both teams had nine errors each, some of which were costly. McKenna was umpire, and did his best to give satisfaction, although several of his decisions were questioned.

The score by innings:

Burlington - 3 6 0 0 0 0 3 0 1 - 13

Freeman - 7 0 1 0 0 4 0 0 0 - 12

Batteries - Burlington, Southom and Easterbrook; Freeman, Glover and Galbraith

Editor's note: thanks go to Peggy Armstrong for finding this article.



TRIVIA: In 1914 pitcher George Herman "Babe" Ruth of the Providence Grays stepped up to the plate against the Toronto Maple Leafs' Ellis Johnson down at Hanlan's Point Stadium on the Island and slammed a home run--the first of his professional career. Although "the Babe" went on to hit 714 major league home runs after that, the shot in Toronto was his only minor league round-tripper.

www.bluebirdbanter.com

The Dixon Family of Halton

By William Robert Dixon
and Isobel Ruth (Dixon) Taylor

(Children of Lorne Ewart
and Laura Barbara (Prudham) Dixon)



In 1816, John Dickson (1790-1874) and his father William Dickson, left the Dickson home in the hills of Scotland, and Northumberland, England for the New World.

Work was plentiful in the New World at that time. John and his father William arrived in Quebec in April 1816 in the town of Stanstead, next to the Canadian-American border. The Erie Canal was under construction through New York State. John was employed clearing timber for the right-of-way, and then worked on the building of the locks.

In 1820, John came to Trafalgar Township in Halton County. He worked first for Robert Ruxton who had a farm and sawmill on Lot 6, Concession 6, Trafalgar Township, a farm John would eventually own.

John was one of the first settlers in this part of Trafalgar Township where he chopped and logged for Jasper Martin that portion of land that is now Milton. None are now living who can personally speak of the hardships of the first settlers here. Grain to be ground had to be carried on foot for miles through the woods and if groceries were needed, travel on foot to Little York, now Toronto, had to be made (then an insignificant village). In character, John was unobtrusive and always possessed of self-control and consequently a kind and respected neighbour. He was a man of an iron constitution.

John met and married Jane Bell (1802–1874), daughter of John and Sarah Bell of Lot 10, Concession 7, west half Nelson Township, Halton County. The Bells came from the Parish of Scotts Place and Drumquin in



County Fermanagh, Ireland. Originally from Scotland, the Bells left for Ireland to avoid the Persecution of Dundee.

The Bells donated land for a school, called Bell School, and a Methodist Church known later as Mountain Union Sunday School. Bell School Line is named for the family. Bell Street in Milton was named for Absalom Bell, Jane's brother. Jane's sisters married into the families of Lucas, Cline, McGregor, and Cumming. Absalom married Elizabeth Harrison.

Land began opening up for settlement in Upper Canada in the early 1800s. When the settlers arrived, land was cleared, log cabins were built as were sawmills, blacksmith shops, mills for grinding flour and feed for the animals. Mills were built along the many streams and rivers located in every township and county. Timber was cut from the virgin forests that covered the land.

As John and Jane started their life together, their first child, William, was born in 1829 followed quickly by nine more. The ten Dickson children were William (1829), John (1830), Isabella (1832), Absalom (1834), Jacob (1836), George (1838), Elijah (1839), Jane (1841), Thomas (1843) and Sarah (1845).

Some of the family's earliest properties in Trafalgar Township were Lot 3, Concession 5, Lots 8 and 9 Concession 5 and many more throughout the county.

Nassagaweya Properties: John Dickson owned Lot 5, Concession 5 East from 1847 to 1868. The Nassagaweya book published in 1981 (Campbellville Historical Society) notes there was a steam-powered sawmill on Lot 5, Concession 5 during the 1850s into the 1870s. The Dixons took timber from this property, known for its large stand of virgin pine. Cedars were split for rail fences. It is probable that some of the materials for Sprucedale came from this property. The Dixons were known for managing their stands of timber, and did not clear-cut.

The 200 acres located on Lot 14, Concession 4, Trafalgar Township became the Dixon home called "Sprucedale" (See the 1877 Halton County Atlas).

A log home was built first, then a framed home and then the beautiful brick home built in 1861. This 200-acre farm became the Home Farm, boasting its own carpentry shop, blacksmith shop, machinery shop, and two large windmills. Machinery was manufactured along with wooden water pumps. A large bank barn was eventually constructed.



Most of the Dixons were devoted Church of Scotland members, and helped establish the Church of Scotland in Milton, and later Knox Presbyterian Church, also in Milton. Elijah Dixon was a founding trustee of the Methodist Church, now St. Paul's United Church in Milton.

As the need for a road running to the east from the village of Milton arose, Jacob Dixon gave the full width required to extend what is now Main Street East from the 3rd Line (Thompson Road) to the 4th Line (now James Snow Parkway). In 1978, Thompson Road was named for Frank Thompson, great grandson of John and Jane Dixon. (We were told at the time that the road couldn't be called 'Dixon Road' – seems the name had already been used somewhere else close by!)

Through the years as the family matured, they became involved in the timber industry. Elijah, with his two brothers William and Thomas, ran a successful lumbering operation. They bought and sold thousands of acres of timber from Lake Erie to Algonquin Park, over to Lake Huron, west to Wisconsin and east to Peterborough. In some areas, they owned their own mills.

They were involved with local families by the

names of Martin, Cumming, Harrison and Orr. Shipments of timber, especially oak masts for ships were sent to the United Kingdom. Farm machinery manufactured by the Dixons was shipped to western Canada and the United States. The Dixons were also agents for other farm machinery manufacturers.

The Dixons and the Martins were involved in the lumbering business for many years throughout the province. One mill of note was at Hillsdale near Barrie where J. Cumming worked for Elijah Dixon. The mill was eventually sold to Jasper Martin's son, Jasper Martin Jr. and some of the Martin family remained in Hillsdale, and are buried in the Hillsdale Cemetery.

Elijah was president of the Halton Agricultural Society in 1892. He was instrumental in the founding of the Mechanics Institute in Milton, forerunner of the Milton Public Library. Elijah was active in the St. Clair Masonic Lodge #135, serving as Master in 1886 and 1888. He was president of the Halton Agricultural Society in 1892. Elijah was a Liberal and secretary-treasurer of the Halton Reform Association in 1891. Elijah also acted as magistrate for the Town of Milton. He owned Lot 10, Concession 7 East in Nassagaweya as shown in the 1877 Halton County Atlas.

When Thomas graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School, and was called to the bar, he changed the Scottish spelling of Dickson to the English spelling, Dixon. Thomas began his law practice in Milton in 1868 (Bastedo & Dixon), then practiced law in Durham and Walkerton where he was appointed Crown Attorney for the County of Bruce, a position he held from 1875 to 1905. Thomas was a veteran of the Fenian Raid of 1866, being a member of the Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto, and was awarded a medal for his service. Thomas served on Milton Town Council in 1870.

Children of John and Jane married into local families by the names of Ford, Forrest, Alton, Storey, Featherstone and MacKay.

Grandchildren of John and Jane married into the families of Hume, Crozier, Butts, Harbottle, Downs, Sitzer, McCann, Bousfield, Learmont, Thompson, Lindsey, Earl, Robinson, Hornby, Ford, Coyne, Clifton, Arthur, Fisher, McLaughlan, Rogers and Brocklebank.

Sisters of John came to Canada to join him in

1836; Mary (Mrs. Joseph Brown) lived on Lot 5, Concession I Trafalgar, Sarah Jane (Mrs. George Clarke) lived in Haldimand County. A brother William came the same year. John's other two sisters married to Messrs. Anderson and Cowan and they remained in Northumberland.

John and Jane ensured their children received a good education, which helped tremendously in the beginning and formation of Milton and Central Halton. John worked hard for 54 years and set up family on productive agricultural farms. The Dixon Family was involved in the leadership of local churches, the Masonic Lodge, and local businesses. John was a trustee on the first Milton School Board. The first log school was situated on Lot 14 on the bank of the Sixteen Mile Creek, near the Milton Pioneer Cemetery, where widow Elizabeth Harrison taught.

The Dixon Family celebrated 200 years in the Milton area in 2020. And, 2020 saw the birth of the latest member of the Dixon Family, Carter William Keith Dixon, a boy who carries the name of the first Dixon to arrive in Canada in 1816, more than Two Hundred Years ago – Carter is the Gr. Gr. Gr. Gr. Grandson of William Dixon Sr.



Limestone Hall, Photo – BHS Archives

Lorne Dixon (Carter's Great Grandfather) was the last Dixon to use the fields for summertime pasture in the 1930s and 1940s. Cattle were driven from Limestone Hall, 6391 Walker's Line, Burlington, along No. 10 Sideroad, (now Derry Road), north on Bronte Street to Main Street, then east on Main Street to Third Line and to the Sprucedale farm.

This route was taken to avoid the plank bridge, which crossed Sixteen Mile Creek west of

Highway 25, as cattle refused to cross such a structure.

Those who drove the cattle to Sprucedale farm must have been hardy souls – they, along with their herding dogs. In the fall, when the cattle were ready for market, they were loaded onto rail cars at the Milton rail yards of the CPR and sent to the stockyards in Toronto.

Harvey Dixon, son of Jacob, was the last Dixon to live at Sprucedale (1880–1960). He was a bachelor, and often said everyone should have a little recreation – away from the everyday drudgery of farming. His enjoyed baseball – he never missed a ball game at the old baseball park located on Dundas Street in Toronto. Apparently, the Dixons weren't all work and no play!

On a sad note, Sprucedale was demolished in 1991, a tragedy to be sure. See The Canadian Champion, November 27, 1991 "Fight to Preserve Historic Home on Thompson Road ends in Demolition" (Reference on pg. 1 & 2). There is a small walnut tree shown in the picture of Sprucedale, in the 1877 Halton County Atlas (page 50), located in front of and just west of the front entrance to the beautiful old home – today, that tree, very mature, still stands just west of where the magnificent Dixon home called Sprucedale once stood. My, what stories it could tell! To recognize this historic family in this area there is a Dixon Drive and Sprucedale Lane.

Notes:

Page 1: *William Dickson Sr.'s dates of birth and death unknown. He is not mentioned as arriving in Trafalgar with his son, John. John's mother, Isabella (Nichol) Dickson is assumed to have remained in Northumberland, dates of birth and death unknown.

John Dixon Sr. and Jane Bell were buried in Milton Pioneer Cemetery on Bronte Street, as was his sister Mary (Dixon) Brown who died on the same day as John. (John, as one of his first tasks for Jasper Martin Sr., was to log and clear the land for the cemetery.) The family later erected another tombstone in Milton Evergreen Cemetery to the memory of The Senior Dixon Family, who are interred in the Pioneer Cemetery.



The Dixon Family of Limestone Hall

L-R, Back: Jennie Mae, 1891-1965, m. Arthur Coulson d. 1964; William Anson Dixon 1858-1925; Priscilla (Hume) Dixon 1862-1937
 L-R, Front: George Dixon 1897-1967, m. Olive Featherstone 1902-1991; Lorne Ewart Dixon 1899-1979, m. Laura Barbara Prudham 1907-2003; John Allan Dixon 1888-1966, m. Margaret Jean Alderson 1890-1971; William Guy Dixon 1894-1974, unmarried

Outreach Report Joan Downey

On Saturday, March 6th, 2021, our tour guide, Alan Harrington led us on another interesting walk – The Waldie Walk. To comply with COVID restrictions, there were 25 people who signed up and attended.

It was cold but it's always fun.



Alan inspecting a Vimy Oak sapling at City Hall
 photo Anne Sorochinsky

From the Archives Joan Downey

“What’s Behind the Name”

by Peggy and Les Armstrong

Published by The Burlington Historical Society

Nicholson Court

The property on which this court was developed was for many years the estate of both A.S. Nicholson and his son Warren Nicholson. The two families shared a very stately home on the grounds. The property was developed about 1978. The Nicholson Family were in the lumber business in Burlington from 1908 until the 1990's.



Photo BHS Archives



The Burlington Historical Society
Preserving Burlington's History for Today and Tomorrow

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Are you interested in volunteering with the Society? Would you like to help us in preserving the history of our City? Tell us a bit about your talents and interests – info@burlingtonhistorical.ca

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