

Spring 2019



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Tales of Mott's Chocolate

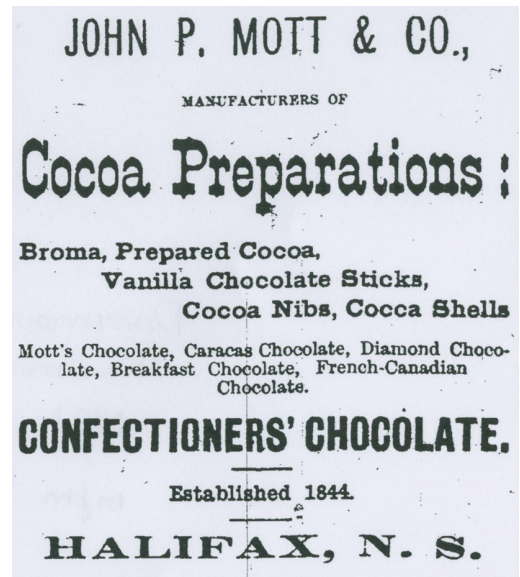
Shannon Baxter

In the early nineteenth century, a world of chocolate and spices opened up along the shoreline of Dartmouth. With a community where businesses of sugar and molasses had thrived, it was only a matter of time before chocolate would be thrown into the mix.

John Prescott Mott established his chocolate and soap works from his estate at Hazelhurst in 1844. He would manufacture cocoa, candles, pepper and other spice condiments. His products sold all over Canada, primarily in the Atlantic Provinces and Newfoundland. Often the advertisements would proclaim how the chocolate would make an excellent, healthy breakfast choice. A chocolate maker from Switzerland, a man named John Trueb was hired to work at Mott's and moved to Dartmouth around 1890.

Sugar, Spice, and Blackmail

The chocolate business proved to be a lucrative one for John P. Mott, as he became one of the wealthiest men in Dartmouth. With that wealth came a bit of trouble. As described in Harry Chapman's



Advertisement for Mott's various chocolate products

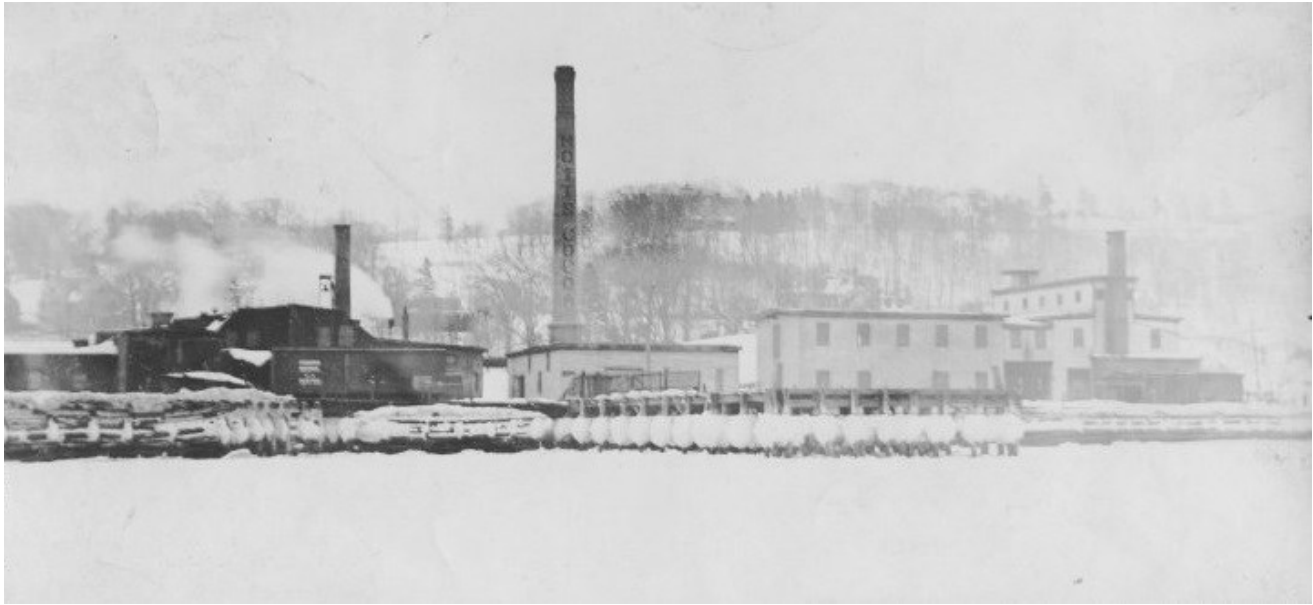
White Shirts and Blue Collars: Industry in Dartmouth: "An unsigned pencilled letter, postmarked in Halifax, and dated January 21, 1888, demanded \$600 in gold [\$16,760.00 today]; if he [John P. Mott] ignored the demand or went to the police, he would be shot." The money was to be placed behind the door of the smoking room on the 8 o'clock ferry the following Monday evening. Mott followed the instructions with two exceptions: he *did* notify the police, and the gold coins were replaced with copper ones.



Happy spring!

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)



Mott's Factory, circa. 1914. *DHM 2011.64.1*

What happened next was something one would hope to see in a movie. Mott boarded the ferry to Halifax at the appointed time, followed shortly by a well-dressed young man. On the ferry, there was a man slumped near the back, seemingly drunk. Mott placed the money in the designated location, and left the ferry on the Halifax side. The young man left, only to board again for the return trip to Dartmouth. Again he made to look as if to leave, but then quickly went to the hiding place of the money to retrieve it. That was when the drunk – actually a police officer – sprang up and grabbed him. The young man ended up being a sailor, and since the letter could not be connected to him, he was acquitted of all charges.

The would-be blackmailer certainly chose wisely for who to target. After his death, it was calculated that John Mott's estate was valued at \$757,785; which in today's money is a little over \$21 million. While his estate would go to his wife, and the chocolate factory to his business associate at the time; Mott also bequeathed money to Dalhousie University, and various institutes that helped the poor, the blind, and the deaf.



The old French prison on the Mott property, later used for the soap manufacturing building. *DHM 2011.116.1*

More than Sweets

Mott's property and business dabbled in what some may call house-flipping, 19th century style. The soap-making department of his factory was a later installment, housed in an old barracks - shown above - for French prisoners during the Napoleonic Wars. It was used as a prison until 1804.

(Continued on page 3)

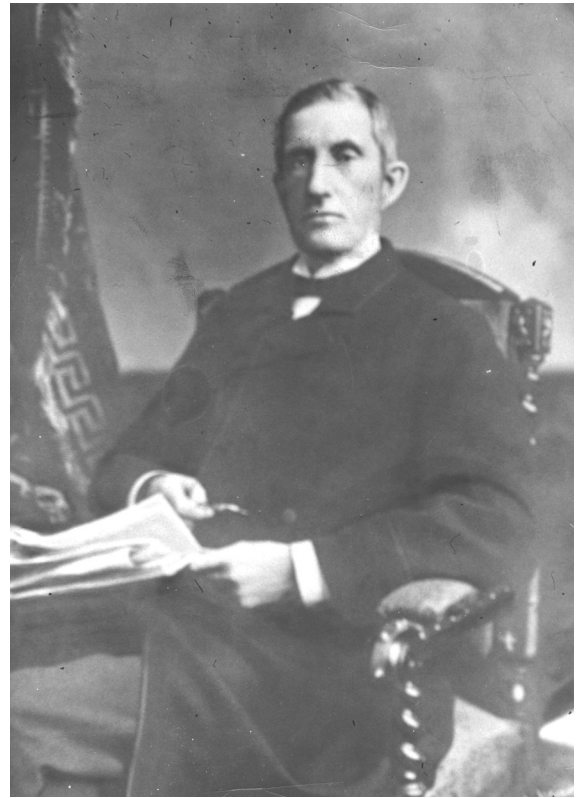
Runs in the Family

It is known that John P. Mott travelled to the United States as a young man to study and train in the business of chocolate. He likely went to work with his uncle William Baker in Dorset, Massachusetts. William Baker was the husband of Deborah Mott, the older sister of Henry Yeoman Mott, John's father. It was through this family connection that introduced John to the world of chocolate. It was his father who originally bought the estate that would make up the chocolate manufactory. John Mott would join his father, eventually owning the business outright and introducing the spice and soap manufacturing to the already lucrative business.

Other Chocolatiers

Earlier in this article I mentioned John Trueb from Switzerland. While he immigrated to Dartmouth initially to work with Mott's, he would eventually establish his own business in Halifax. Trueb's Confectionary was opened circa. 1906 at 193 Barrington Street., which is near by Pier 21. The store was closed in 1917, likely damaged by the Halifax Harbour Explosion that December. The Trueb family had lived on Pleasant Street in Dartmouth, and in 1919 moved to Portland, Oregon. They were close friends to J. Allison, who took over Mott's from 1890 until it closed in 1920.

Both the factory and Mott's grand home of Hazellhurst are gone, but the images and artifacts of the once great business are still part of the collection here at the Dartmouth Heritage Museum.



John Prescott Mott. *DHM 1980.49.6*



Wooden Box for Mott's Spices. *DHM 1974.32.1*

DARTMOUTH HERITAGE MUSEUM PARTNERS WITH CODEX

We have partnered with [Codex](#) to bring DHM's amazing Collection out from our hallowed walls to you, our community. This platform, developed by Dadavan Systems Inc., will not only allow you see our Collection, but also to participate in the storytelling process. We'll keep you posted as this project develops!

"There are so many amazing stories to be told here and we simply don't have the space to do so... we want the public, our residents and visitors to be able to access all of our amazing artifacts and learn about this great city's past at any time. With Codex, not only can we present our archives but we can build detailed stories around them and publish for all to see."

Terry Eyland, Manager, DHM

Staff News

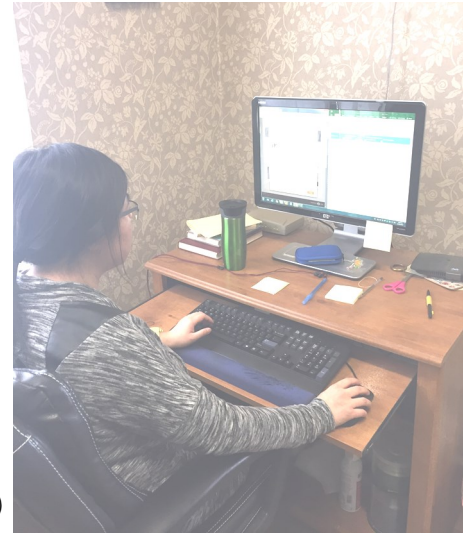
Keila Mak

I have been working on a fun Codex project at Dartmouth Heritage Museum (DHM). Our objective at DHM in using Codex, an online Dadavan system platform, is to make our collection accessible. We want to allow people around the world to be able to view and be inspired by Dartmouth and Halifax's rich history of Nova Scotia at any time right at the press of a button! Presenting engaging stories takes collaborative efforts from the team at Dartmouth Heritage Museum: staff, research volunteers, and the public. To provide the online audience with this exciting experience, every piece of content gathered needs to be properly organized, documented, and digitalized. Part of the digitalizing process is loading all the photos from our database and corresponding photo details into Codex. Details include photo descriptions, dimensions, photographer, tags (tags are used to facilitate online searching), and referencing. In our DHM database, we have the capability to narrow down the different types

of photos found in our collection. I have been able to find five different types of photos:

- 1) Daguerrotypes (1839-1860)
- 2) Ambrotype (1854-1865)
- 3) Tintype (1856-1878)
- 4) Carte de Visite (1859-1889)
- 5) Cabinet Card (1866-1903).

By identifying the different types of photos, we can also identify the era of when the photo was taken. We thank everyone who is involved in this



Keila working away on the Codex project.

QUAKER HOUSE OPENS FOR SEASON

Summer is quickly approaching, which means is almost time for Quaker House to open! Quaker House will be opening for the season on June 1.

Come visit Dartmouth's oldest building and one of only twelve Quaker homes built in Nova Scotia. Costumed interpreters will give you a guided tour of this incredible house during your visit, and there is a fully researched and interpreted heritage garden to enjoy in the back yard. Come and visit!

57 Ochterloney Street, Dartmouth

T: 902-464-2253

Admission by donation. Members and children under 12 are free.



A View From Dartmouth - Prints for sale at Evergreen



A View from Dartmouth is a colourized etching by Susan Paterson based on the watercolour *Halifax from Dartmouth* (1855) by John William Hill (1812-1879). *A View from Dartmouth* depicts a view of the Halifax waterfront overlooking the Dartmouth commons and waterfront.

Susan Paterson recreated Hill's painting through a copper etching process. Using only a singular copper plate, she printed several copies. She then hand-painted all individual prints 'to order'. The museum currently has three of these uniquely hand-painted prints.

Dimensions: 41" x 29" (print).

The prices are as follows:

Print Only: \$950.00

Framed Print: \$1,250.00



DHM 1965x.33.1

Warehouse Finds

With over 44,000 artifacts in storage, the warehouse has lots of interesting stories waiting to be shared.

This tin chocolate box was given to George Sutton of Halifax in 1899. It was a New Years gift sent to British soldiers on behalf of Queen Victoria during the South African War. Sutton was a presser in the tailoring shop of A.E. McManus, which was located at the southeast corner of Hollis Street and Sackville Street.



Evergreen Concert Series Vol. 2 - Mama's Broke

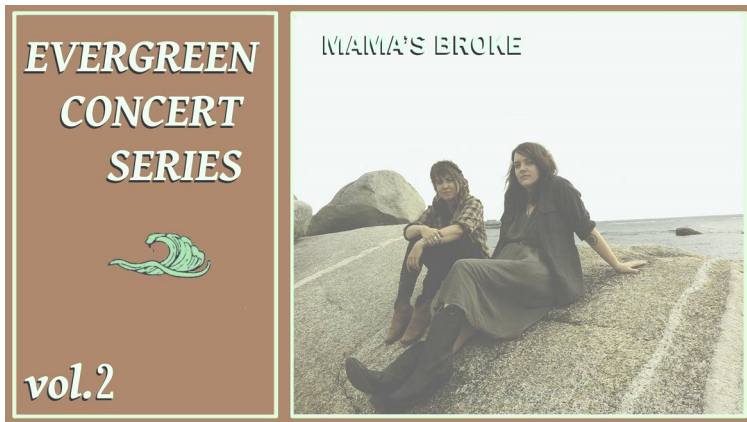
May 3

Join us on May 3 from 7:00-9:00 pm for the second in a concert series showcasing folk music from around the world in the historic home of Canada's First Lady of Folklore, Helen Creighton. Guests will enjoy an intimate performance by Mama's Broke in Evergreen's double parlour.

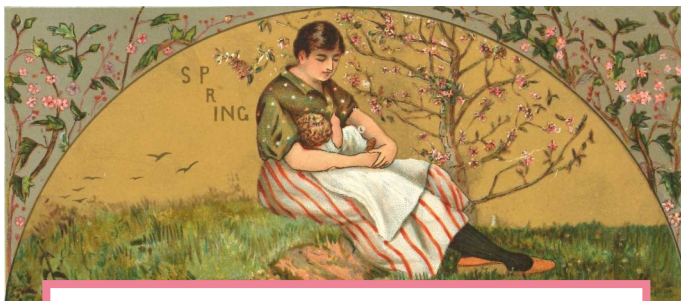
Mama's Broke is a powerful folk duo that deliver a compelling performance with heart and raw energy. Although highly influenced by their Canadian roots, Lisa and Amy are based out of nowhere and everywhere.

Their two strong voices blend to create haunting harmonies, while they artfully juggle fiddle, banjo, guitar and mandolin, and incorporate traditional dance and foot percussion into their performance. Their original – and often dark – compositions push the boundaries of tradition and the constraints of genre. Drawing from old-time, Québécois, blues, punk, Celtic, Balkan and doom metal, they create a soundscape that is both familiar and new.

Tickets are available through [Eventbrite](#).



Alice and Charles
Creighton in the garden at
Evergreen.
DHM 1993.15.1303



New Years Greeting Card - Cropped. DHM 1995.31.38



Save the Date! DHMS Annual General Meeting

May 22



The Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society (DHMS) will be hosting our AGM on Wednesday, May 22 at 6:30pm. All are welcome to attend, but only members are eligible to vote.

More details to come.

Talk - Much More Than Chocolate: Moirs Advertising and the Link to Identity

June 1

Join us on June 1 from 2:00-3:00 pm for a sweet talk by Holly Hanes at Evergreen House titled “Much More Than Chocolate: Moirs Advertising and the Link to Identity”.

This talk will explore (with lots of photographs), patterns and themes found within the Moirs advertisements. You may recognize the iconic rainbow gracing “Pot of Gold” box, which usually showcases a woman, but it is not the only Moirs’ box that is influential to the company and city’s historic past. The company began in 1815, as a small kitchen bakery, and continued to operate in the greater Halifax area, in a factory style, until 2007. The forms of Moirs advertising have changed over time - from word of mouth, to print media and fancy delicate boxes, to commercials, and colonial symbols such as elephants and white tigers as an advertising gimmick.

Admission is by donation. Light refreshments will be served.

Holly is a resident of Upper Kennetcook, Hants County, who now lives in Halifax. She recently finished her Bachelor of Arts in History from Dalhousie and began her Masters in History this fall at Dalhousie, with focus on the Moirs Chocolate advertising. If anyone has any boxes or other media they wish to share with her please bring them along!

Quaker House Opens

June 1

Open June 1 to August 31. Hours of operation: Tuesday-Sunday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm.

57 Ochterloney Street, Dartmouth

T: 902-464-2253

Admission by donation. Members and children under 12 are free.



Main Level – Helen Creighton and the World of Folklore

Dr. Helen Creighton moved in to Evergreen House with her family in 1921. In 1928, she began her career as a folklorist: collecting songs and stories from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. A new permanent exhibit focuses on her long and significant career. This exhibit features many artifacts and includes audio-visual rooms, encouraging visitors to listen to songs that Helen collected, and to view snippets of documentaries on her life and work.

Upper Level – Explosion! Dartmouth's Ordeal of the 1917 Disaster

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Harbour Explosion, we present the exhibit, *Explosion! Dartmouth's Ordeal of the 1917 Disaster*. This exhibit explores and reflects upon the impact of the event on Dartmouth. It focuses on the cause of the Explosion and how Dartmouth residents worked together to rebuild their community. Come see the much talked about Frank Baker diary, oral histories from survivors, eyewitness accounts, and artifacts from affected homes and families. Due to its popularity, it has been extended indefinitely.

Lower Level – The Carriage Room Photography Studio

Come and visit our recreation of a 19th century Photographic Studio to learn how the art of photography has developed through the years. Peer into the past through the lenses of select antique cameras, and witness the process of creating wet-plate photographs.

Evergreen House

26 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth

T: 902-464-2300 | E: info@dartmouthmuseum.ca

www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca

Admission by donation. Members and children under 12 are free.

Hours of Operation:

September-May: Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm. Saturday, 10:00 am-1:00 pm & 2:00-5:00 pm

June-August: Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm. Saturday-Sunday, 10:00 am-1:00 pm & 2:00-5:00 pm

EVERGREEN WRITERS GROUP

We welcome newcomers to our meetings at Evergreen House, 26 Newcastle Street in Dartmouth. We get together the first Wednesday of each month for discussion, encouragement, providing feedback to each other on works in progress, guest speakers and workshops. For more information, call 902-463-5612 or email evergreen_writers@yahoo.ca.

The gift shop at Evergreen House is now restocked with *Out of the Mist* and *Off Highway*, the two anthologies published by the Evergreen Writers Group. Both books are also available online at www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca.



DHM Society Donors:

Each year Society Members give over and above the membership fees to help us run our programs at the Museum.

Hats off to their ongoing generosity!



Marjorie Hare

Barbara MacKenzie

Suzanne & Michael Lewis

Holly Gunn

Karen Monroe

Margot Walker

Lorna Huestis

Carmen Moir

I. Joyce Earle

Joanne Rivest & Dayle Harrington

Harold Merklinger & Barbara Trenholm

Cindy Campbell-Stone

and all our anonymous donors!

A NEW WAY TO DONATE

We want your nickels and dimes!

The Dartmouth Heritage Museum now has a drop-off account set up at Canadian Recycling, 365 Portland Street. This is an easy way for you, our supporters, to donate to the Museum. When you drop off your bottles at the depot just mention the Dartmouth Heritage Museum and the refund will be donated to us.



WANT TO BE 'EVERGREEN'? JOIN THE TEAM!

We have big plans for the gardens at Quaker and Evergreen House this summer and we need your help! If you want to volunteer and help us realize our gardening dreams, contact the DHM at 902-464-2300 or info@dartmouthmuseum.ca.



Dartmouth Heritage Museum

protecting, preserving, and promoting our heritage

26 Newcastle Street
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 3M5

Phone: (902) 464-2300
E-mail: info@dartmouthmuseum.ca
Website: www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca/

Like us on Facebook: [Dartmouth Heritage Museum](https://www.facebook.com/DartmouthHeritageMuseum)
Follow us on Twitter: [@dhmuseum1](https://twitter.com/dhmuseum1)

We now have Instagram! Find us @dartmouthheritage

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-2019

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DHMS Membership Form

Individual Membership - \$20

Individual membership entitles you to free admission to both historic houses (Evergreen and Quaker House) upon presentation of your card, invitations to exhibit openings and functions, a \$10 tax receipt, our newsletter, and a vote at our AGM.

Family Membership - \$30

Family membership entitles you to free admission to both historic houses (Evergreen and Quaker House) upon presentation of your card, invitations to exhibit openings and functions, a \$15 tax receipt, our newsletter, and a vote at our AGM. Family membership includes two parents and children under 18.

Please also consider the following levels of giving...

\$50 Donor - Your name will appear in the newsletter, and a full tax receipt will be issued.

\$100 Friend - You will help sponsor one of our exhibits, your name will appear in the exhibit, the newsletter and a full tax receipt will be issued.

\$500 Benefactor - Your name will appear in our annual calendar, your name will appear in our newsletter, and a full tax receipt will be issued.

Group Member - For companies, universities, foundations, governmental departments, etc. Please visit our website for more information.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Select Membership Type	Annual Fee	# Years	Total
Individual Member (tax receipt for \$10.00)	\$20.00		\$
Family Member (tax receipt for \$15.00) Includes parents and children under 18	\$30.00		\$
Total Membership Fee			\$
Donations are helpful and appreciated with tax receipts issued for the full amount. Would you like to make a donation at this time? If yes, please indicate amount in the box to the right.			\$
Total Payable (Membership + Donation)			\$

Please make cheques payable to the Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society and send to:

Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society, 26 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth NS, B2Y 3M5

Check the box if you would like to receive the E-bulletin Yes No If yes, by ___ email or ___ post mail?

Would you like to receive our Newsletters? Yes No If yes, by ___ email or ___ post mail?

From time to time, we recognize our members and donors publicly. We respect your privacy so are asking that you expressly indicate whether we can publish your name, or not: Yes No