

December, 2013



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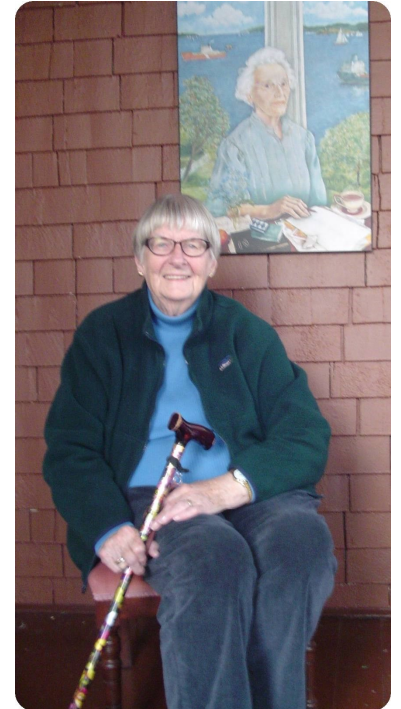
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**Jean Wagener:
 A Volunteer for Thirty-Eight Years**

Jean Scott Wagener has been a familiar face at the Dartmouth Heritage Museum for thirty-eight years. She began volunteering in 1975 at the old Museum building on the Dartmouth Common, at the reception desk, welcoming visitors. “The old museum had more room to display many more artifacts. The whole upper floor was available for displays—there were working displays of the Ice business, a display of the Halifax Explosion, the Shubie Canal – and so many historical household items!”

Unfortunately, the old building was condemned as unsafe, and had to be torn down. But Jean followed the Museum to its new interim home, the historical Evergreen House on Newcastle Street. Here she continued welcoming tourists, school children on field trips, and visitors from near and far.

Continued from page 2



Jean Wagener sits under the portrait of Helen Creighton, at the Evergreen House Museum.

The Editor's Eye: So much going on! So much more to do! Volunteers are the life-blood of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum. With only two paid staff members - “Captain” **Bonnie Elliott**, Executive Director, steering the ship, and “First Mate” **Crystal Martin**, Curator, tending the cargo, we are blessed with a “Crew” of dedicated, reliable Volunteers who man the “Deck”, answer the phone, assist with Tea Parties, Fund Raise, serve on the Board and help the Museum “ship” to stay afloat. We welcome **Sally King** to the Gazette team. Her research was key to the article on the Samuel Greenwood House. We need a volunteer to sell advertising space in the Gazette to local businesses and supporters. Want to try? Contact Maida Follini at 435-3784 or leave a message at the Museum 464-2300.

Jean Scott was born in southern Ontario and moved to Ottawa with her family. She attended high school in Ottawa, and Queens University in Kingston. She graduated in 1948 with a degree in biology and chemistry, and then worked for a year in bacteriology at the government Experimental Farm in Ottawa. In 1949 she married Ross Wagener, whom she had met at Queens where he was studying electrical engineering while a member of the University Naval Training Detachment. As a navy wife, Jean followed her husband to many postings, including Toronto; Pennsylvania, and Halifax. In 1971, after Ross left the service, the Wageners moved back to Nova Scotia.

Jean's five children all live in different locations: Nancy in Toronto; Doug in Georgian Bay; Alan on Nova Scotia's South Shore; Peter in Thailand; and Anne in Dartmouth. Jean has one grandson and two granddaughters.

As well as volunteering at the Museum front desk, Jean served four years on the Board of Directors, which has provided her a broad view of the museum operations.

In other community activities, Jean has been a long-term member of the Banook Canoe Club and served as its first woman president. She was on the Auxiliary of the IWK Children's Hospital, and is a member of the Canadian Federation of University Women where she has served on the National Board. Jean has enjoyed her more than 3 decades of volunteering and the many activities she has participated in: the Strawberry Teas, the fund-raising dinners, and silent auctions at the Brightwood Golf Club. She recommends volunteering to anyone who is interested in Dartmouth, its history and culture. "We do need to have another building where we could display the variety of artifacts now in storage, and where there would be room to show tour groups around."

Although Jean has "retired" after 38 years of regular volunteer hours, we look forward to seeing her drop in with friends for tea, or for special exhibitions now and then. And the museum family want to give her a warm "Thank You!" for all her years of service.

Old-Time Christmas Recipes

Fruit Cake

1 pound butter, 1 of sugar, 1 and ¼ flour, 12 eggs, 3 pounds currants, 3 pounds raisins, 1 pound prunes, 1 pound almonds blanched out fine, ¾ of a pound of citron candied lemon and orange peel about ½ pound. Add 1 cup molasses and 2 wine glassfuls of brandy – spice to taste:

If baked in 1 loaf. Bake 6 hours. If in 2 loaves 3 hours. (November 16th 1893)

Plum Pudding

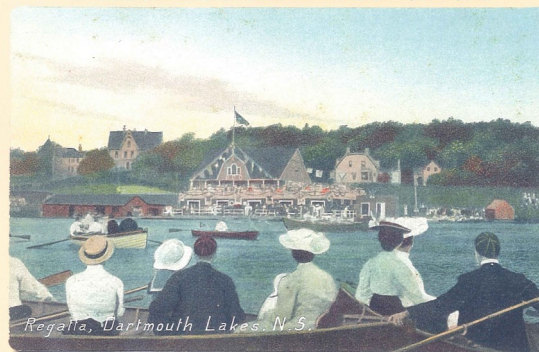
One pound of raisins, one pound of currants, one pound of suet, one pound of flour, eight eggs, half cup of molasses, one cup of milk, flavor with nutmeg and cloves; put into a bag and boil six hours.



The 2014 Calendar is Ready!!!

Purchase your copy at the Evergreen House, Heritage House Law Office, Alderney Dental Office, Credit Union– Wyse Road and Cole Harbour, and Innovative Real Estate. Price \$12.00

Dartmouth Postcards



Regatta, Dartmouth Lakes

2014 Calendar



DARTMOUTH
HERITAGE MUSEUM



From the Director's Desk:

It is always nice to begin a story with some good news; the warehouse project that involves cleaning, re-organizing and conducting an inventory on the collection stored in the warehouse is being carried out by the staff of the Halifax Regional Municipality. As a result to the Auditor General's report titled *The Care of HRM Cultural Artifacts/ Artworks – including the Jordi Bonet Halifax Explosion Memorial Sculpture*© and published in September of 2012, the staff were given some concrete direction on how to proceed. In

November a *request for proposal* (RFP) was issued and a number of conservators applied to do the work. A decision is imminent as to whom the contract will be awarded. In the New Year we should see the work begin.

As I cast my mind back to the past year I am reminded of all the things the museum has accomplished. Most of these accomplishments have been achieved through the countless hours of work by volunteers. Historical research, data entry, planning events including the monthly teas and the Heritage House Tour, front desk duties, work carried on by the Board of Directors and editing this Newsletter are just a few ways they contribute to the success of the organization. Volunteers make coming to work enjoyable and are often relied on for keen advice.

We often think of giving and of gifts during the Christmas Season but when I realize what the Museum has been given on a daily basis throughout the year, I feel very grateful to be part of this organization. As Newsletter editor Maida Follini has expressed, it is due to their involvement that volunteers are the *life-blood* of this organization and along with our members define the character of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society.

Jean Wagener is exemplary in her many years of devotion as well as the late Joan Payzant whom the museum will greatly miss. Our volunteers have put their talents and diverse skills into growing the Museum and



When not working at the Library, volunteer Katie LeBlanc comes in weekly to help out and accomplished much of the scanning and research on the postcards used for the 2014 Calendar.

and still hold out hope that someday we will have a new home. I believe that there is now the political will to help make this happen.

So in this Season of joy and goodwill, the staff at the museum would like to thank all the volunteers past and present who have given of themselves so earnestly and freely and continue to believe in the idea of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum.

Merry Christmas and all the best for a bright and happy 2014.

Bonnie Elliott



Joan Payzant answers the phone at Evergreen House in 2008. To read about some of Joan's many contributions please find article in the Heritage Gazette, Winter 2008 issue at www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca

Photo by Hal Oare.

Curator's Corner

Exhibit Winter 2013 - Victorian Christmas Cards

By Crystal Martin

When we celebrate Christmas today, we have the Victorians to thank for many of its festivities and customs. The Victorians revived many old traditions, such as caroling, and invented new ones, such as sending Christmas cards.

Victorians believed in church-going, gift-giving, spending time with friends and family and charity for the poor. For example, since servants usually had to work Christmas Day, they would get the next day off to spend with their families. It was on this day the master of the house would give their servants a small, boxed gift. Today this day is known as Boxing Day, and this tradition continues as people give presents to those who have helped them throughout the year, such as mail carriers, doormen, porters and tradespeople.

During the Civil War Christmas was a traditional festival celebration, but did not become a commercialized holiday until after 1890.

Here are a few quick facts from the current display, "Victorian Christmas at Evergreen."

Christmas Trees

It was Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, who helped to make the Christmas tree as popular in Britain as they were in his native Germany. An etching of the Royal family around their decorated Christmas tree was first published in England in 1848 and in North America in 1850. It is thought that the first decorated Christmas tree in Halifax appeared in 1846.

Mistletoe

Victorians would hang mistletoe from the ceiling, and those who met under it could claim a kiss. This was a good way for young unmarried couples to steal a kiss.

The number of kisses allowed under each plant depended on the number of berries, for each time a kiss was given, a berry was removed. No more berries meant no more kisses.

In the Victorian era, Christmas cards were highly prized

gifts. They were first mass produced in England by Sir Henry Cole in 1843. He printed a thousand cards, which he offered for sale for a shilling each. By the 1860s, Christmas cards were being commercially mass produced. The most popular motifs included flowers, birds and cherubs.



Dartmouth Heritage Museum Collection

To learn about even more Victorian Christmas traditions, including what gifts were exchanged, why gingerbread was so popular and what Queen Victoria ate for Christmas dinner, stop by "Victorian Christmas at Evergreen." It is included with regular admission and on until Dec. 21.

What Is It? Do you recognize this “Mystery Object” ?



How Well Do You Know Dartmouth?

Can You Identify This Place?

(Answer on page 10)



The Samuel Greenwood House

By Maida Follini & Sally King

On a quiet street in downtown Dartmouth stands a well-kept wood-frame house built c. 1797, where it has stood for about 216 years—one of the few 18th century houses left in Dartmouth. It is listed as one of Canada’s Historic Places, and is an HRM Municipally Registered Heritage Property. Currently owned by the Mental Health Association and used for their offices, 63 King Street has a long history of association with some of Dartmouth’s early citizens.

The house is known as the Samuel Greenwood House, because it is on the property owned by the original land owner of the block, and was passed on to his son and grandsons.

Samuel Greenwood

Samuel Greenwood’s origins go back to his birth in Massachusetts, the son and grandson of shipwrights and mast makers. Samuel was born in Boston on 11 September, 1741. Samuel married Mary Snelling, the daughter of his father’s partner in the mast-making business, Joseph Snelling. Samuel became a member of the Sandemanian Christian sect, followers of Robert Sandeman who arrived from Scotland in 1764 to spread his faith in Boston, and other New England towns. The Sandemanians believed in a primitive type of Christianity, and in salvation by faith alone. Aiming at strict conformity to primitive Christianity, they held weekly communion and group meals known as “love feasts”, and practised washing each other’s feet, in emulation of Jesus. They abstained from luxury foods, and dressed simply. Many of the Sandemanians were Loyalists, as was Samuel Greenwood.

He is described by a nephew at a Thanksgiving celebration in 1766: “Uncles Nathaniel and Samuel Greenwood in plain suits – their brother Miles was



The Samuel Greenwood House, c. 1797

Located at 63 King Street, Dartmouth

approaching a Maccaroni – what we now call a dandy – His coat was scarlet with a dash of old lace. He was naturally fond of dress, but at that time he was secretary to the Governor of Nova Scotia, in which position a young man would wish to appear well dressed.” So it seems that there was a family connection as early as 1766 to Nova Scotia, with Samuel Greenwood’s brother Miles serving the Governor there.

The nephew goes on to describe the Thanksgiving dinner: “At nine o’clock the company were ushered into the supper room. The first course was served on highly polished pewter. The second on the finest of china. The knives and forks had silver handles. The candlesticks were of pure silver. The table was of polished oak, and covered with the finest linen damask.” The Greenwood family, in short, were part of the leading businessmen and citizens of Boston.

War Clouds Gather

Ten years after that Thanksgiving dinner, a decided change had developed in the relations between

Greenwood House continued from page 6

Britain and her American Colonies. The Boston Tea Party, (1773), the British attack on Lexington and Concord, the Battle of Bunker Hill (1775) and the siege of Boston by the Continental Army under George Washington (1775-76) were followed by the evacuation of Boston by the British. On March 17, 1776, General William Howe embarked for Halifax, taking with him his troops, the Lt. Governor and Council, and a large number of Loyalist refugees. Samuel Greenwood was one of these refugee Loyalists who were closely associated with the British occupation. Now a widower for the second time, Samuel took with him to Halifax his four small children.

Samuel Greenwood was one of over seventy Sandemanian Loyalists who came with their families to Halifax. They established a meeting place on Prince Street, between Barrington and Granville Streets. One

of the members was John Howe, Loyalist printer, who was the father of Joseph Howe, famous for supporting free speech.

Greenwood benefited from arriving in Halifax as one of the early refugees at the beginning of the Revolutionary War, before the very much larger Loyalist influx after the war ended. He continued to carry on his trade, this time as mast maker to the Royal British Navy. In 1783, the first land grant in Dartmouth from King George III was made to Royal Navy mast maker Samuel Greenwood. This was a large estate called "Countryview" that had been set aside in 1722 as the King's wood lot to provide masts for the Royal Navy. Part of this tract is now Shubie Park, and part is the municipal park alongside Lake Micmac. Samuel Greenwood also received a grant of two city lots in Halifax., where it is presumed he had his home. Samuel, Sr., also owned a block of land on King Street in Dartmouth.

Samuel Greenwood, Sr., was considered one of the principal businessmen of Halifax. His great-grandson describes him as "a peculiarly gentlemanly person and much liked and respected. After he was 80, he made two voyages to the Mediterranean for his health... and came home with a budget of traveller's stories."

Samuel Greenwood died January 12, 1826 aged 85 years, and was buried in the Old St. Paul's Cemetery in Halifax.

His son John Ventiman Greenwood, who had joined him in the mast making business, had taken it over after his father retired.

John Greenwood married Mary Young, a Quaker, from Shelburne, NS. The couple lived on Brunswick Street in Halifax. Mary was considered eccentric for her generosity to relatives and strangers in need. As well as six children of her own, she also brought up an orphaned nephew and adopted a niece. "In those days, a large number of Irish were emigrating to Nova Scotia; She allowed one family to live in her barn, where they remained for several years, and raised a number of children... on another occasion, an old woman came into the kitchen; she was mentally feeble, and suffering from cold and hunger. Mrs. Greenwood gave her food, and allowed her to



Heritage designation

Wamboldt-Waterfield/Dave Grandy
REGISTERED HERITAGE PROPERTY
 Wilfred Lawson, right, owns the oldest house in Dartmouth to still house residents. The home, located at 63 King St., is believed to have been constructed in 1797 or earlier and has been designated a heritage property by the city. Sid Gosley, curator of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum and a member of the city's heritage advisory board, attached the plaque designating the home a heritage property.

Sid Gosby, former curator of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum, is shown in this file photo attaching the plaque designating 63 King St. as a Municipal Heritage Property. Former owner Wilfred Lawson looks on.

Greenwood House continued from page 7

remain in the house for two years, most of which time she spent seated in the kitchen. The only work she would do was to peel potatoes providing these were placed in her hands.” [Stayner, MS, NS Archives]

John Greenwood was a dedicated supporter of the Sandemanian religion, and “While preaching in that Church, dropped dead, 21 Feb. 1843, aged 77 years.”

Second son Samuel Greenwood, Jr., also worked with his father in the mast making business, and later became Coroner for Halifax County. In 1806, he was reported to hold a farm at Cornwallis, N.S.

Samuel Greenwood, Jr.’s older sons, Samuel Miles Greenwood and Theophilus S. Greenwood, became owners of the house at 63 King Street. These two brothers did not continue the mast-making tradition, but ran a watch-making and jewelry business in Halifax. Unfortunately the business failed, and Samuel M. and Theophilus Greenwood emigrated to Chicago, Illinois.

They sold the lot and house at 63 King St. to Lewis Edward Piers, merchant, in January, 1819. Lewis and his brother Temple Piers owned a rope-works company (another enterprise supporting the maritime industry). Lewis Piers was also a director of the Shubenacadie Canal Company, and manager of the Halifax Sugar Refinery. The house on King Street was rented out until it was sold to Charles Allen, a carpenter, in 1839. From 1839 to 1895 the house was owned by Dr. Thomas DesBrisay and in 1895 it passed to his son Mather DesBrisay. Mather was a lawyer and a judge, and became MLA for Lunenburg County and Speaker of the Assembly. The DesBrisay Museum in Bridgewater was named for him. William Barss, a lawyer, owned the house from 1907 to 1917 and James Lahey from 1917 until 1921. It then came into the possession of the Lawson family. Wilfred Lawson (pictured on page 7) willed the house to his sister Margaret Warbeck during her lifetime, and then to the City of Dartmouth. The City of Dartmouth later sold the property to the Mental Health Association, which currently occupies it.

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Electric Light Bath

The object pictured on page 5 is a portable light bath made for treatment of skin diseases, lupus, consumption, anemia, neurasthenia and other conditions! The Light Bath would result in “profuse perspiration” which was considered advantageous, as opening the pores of the skin, and stimulating metabolism.

Seymour Turtle

(Page 5) Seymour Turtle, created by local Garden Clubs, guards the Shubenacadie Canal near Alderney Drive in Downtown Dartmouth. Take a walk on the surrounding paths and bridges, and watch the tide come in at the sea end of the old Canal.

DHMS Membership Form

Individual Membership - \$20

A \$10 tax receipt will be issued, you will receive our newsletter by mail, and membership will entitle you to free admission to museums (Evergreen and Quaker House) upon presentation of your card.

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