

June 2015



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Join Us this Summer for Afternoon Tea in Helen's Sun Porch every Thursday beginning July 2nd. See page 7 for details.



Joe Howe (1804 - 1873) and His Circle

Maida Follini, Newsletter Editor

The glint of raised glasses could be seen through the whirl of cigar smoke as the congenial friends of **Joseph Howe** gathered for the regular meeting of the “Club” at Howe’s office.¹ Twenty-four years old in 1828 when he bought *The Nova Scotian* weekly, Howe was full of energy and ideas. Howe formed what would have been called in Paris a “salon”, a meeting-place for men who were leaders in the professions, of business and in the arts. These men gathered in Howe’s office, and were referred to “The Club.” Here, regaled with plenty of liquid and solid refreshment, the friends enjoyed free-wheeling conversations.

Howe, was of course the leader. While publishing *The Nova Scotian*, he wrote reports on sessions of the Legislative Assembly, digests of news from abroad, and articles on current events around the province. He also encouraged submissions from other writers. Most noteworthy of these was **Thomas Chandler**

Haliburton, whose satirical novel *The Clockmaker: or the Sayings and Doings of Sam Slick of Slickville* (1836-37) became a bestseller in both Nova Scotia and Great Britain.

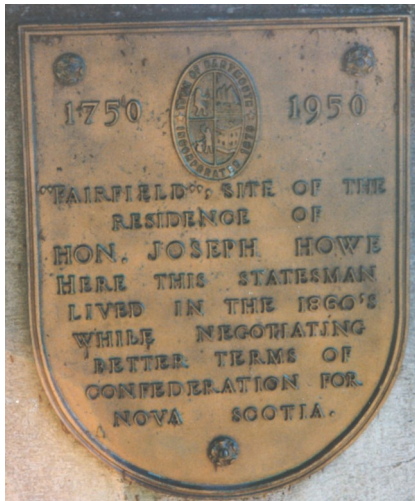
Another author published by Howe was **Andrew Shiels** who wrote under the pen-name “Albyn”. Shiels was a mill operator



Portrait of Joseph Howe by G. Debaussy, 1851 on display in the Red Parlour at Evergreen.

and magistrate whose avocation was writing poetry. His long poem, *The Witch of the Westcott - A Tale of Nova Scotia* was the first published book by a Dartmouth author, issued by Howe's press in December of 1831.

Many of Howe's associates were lawyers. **Alexander James** was a well-respected member of the Halifax Bar who became a judge. James had Evergreen House built as his family home, and his friend Joe Howe often visited him there. James along with Howe helped found the Halifax Mechanics Institute. Another lawyer who was a close friend of Howe's was **Lawrence O'Connor Doyle**, editor of *The Register*, a pro-Irish newspaper in Halifax. Lawyer **Samuel G.W. Archibald** occasionally joined Howe's circle. Ironically, when Joseph Howe was taken to court when accused of libel, it was his friend Samuel Archibald who was one of the



History of Nova Scotia. Howe published Murdoch's four volume *Epitome of the laws of Nova Scotia* from 1832 to 1833. Like Doyle, Murdoch worked to remove Nova Scotia's anti-Catholic laws.

Beamish Murdoch's cousin, **Thomas Beamish Akins**, one of the founding Club members, was concerned that public papers were not being properly preserved. After 15 years of pressuring the House of Assembly, he was appointed commissioner of public records. We owe to Akins the establishment of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia now called the Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management (NSARM)

A contrast to the many lawyers in Howe's circle was **Captain John Kincaid**, a British officer of the 95th Rifle Brigade who had been wounded in Spain during the Napoleonic Wars. His account of his experiences written in a humorous vein, *Adventures in the Rifle Brigade*, fit right in with the satires and lampoons in Howe's circle. Kincaid was in Halifax with his Rifle Brigade in 1826 but in 1831 he sold his Captain's commission and returned to England.

Club member **William Grigor**, a medical graduate of the University of Edinburgh, worked to improve the quality of medical treatment in Nova Scotia and started the first dispensary to treat the poor, a beginning that evolved into Izaak Walton Killam Hospital for Children.

Howe became a patron of the portrait painter, **William Valentine**. When Valentine, who came to Halifax from England in 1818 he was not able to find clients so he supported himself as a house painter. Joseph Howe found him up on a scaffold, and encouraged him not to waste his talents. Joseph commissioned a portrait of his father, John Howe, which currently hangs in Evergreen House. After that, Valentine completed commissions for more than one hundred portraits of leading Nova Scotia merchants and professionals, many of them friends of Joe Howe.

The actual "Club" which met face to face was paralleled by a series of articles called "The Club" published in Howe's *Nova Scotian*, with pseudonyms for the actual participants. (The Editor; the Major, the Doctor, etc.)³ "Haliday", one of the members, describes the Club as "lampoon[ing] the follies and foibles of the day, under the guise of harmless banter and amusing satire, influencing public opinion on current conflicts."

Joseph Howe, journalist, Speaker of the House of Assembly (1841- 1843), Premier of Nova Scotia (1860- 1863), Lieutenant Governor (1873), defender of Freedom of the Press and framer of Responsible Government, was the most important political leader in 19th century Nova Scotia and he was also influential in other ways. He encouraged Nova Scotia's cultural growth and affirmed the value of Nova Scotia's home-grown talent in poetry, literature, science and art.

¹. Brian C. Cuthbertson, "Akins, Thomas Beamish" in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vo. 12, Toronto, U. of Toronto/Laval, 1990

². J. Murray Beck, "Archibald, Samuel George William", in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, v. 7, Toronto, U. of Toronto/U.Laval, 1988

³. J. Murray Beck, *Joseph Howe: Conservative Reformer*, Kingston, Ont. McGill Queens U. Press, 1982, p. 55.

The Director's Desk

Bonnie Elliott

Ever since the closure of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum on Wyse road in 2002 the most pressing question in the minds of the Society members and the larger museum going public has been “when is Dartmouth going to get its new museum”? For Mr. Peter Douglass as he nears his centenary, the answer couldn't come soon enough. In keeping with most Dartmouthians, Peter knows the importance of his family history which includes running a patten foundry on Windmill Road for many years. He also knows the importance of *passing on the torch* to the next generation so that they can learn about how people once lived, what they accomplished and be inspired by their stories.

The decision agreed by Council in January 2014 to build a civic museum in Dartmouth with the monies realized from the sale of the old Town Hall, seemed like welcome news to all. HRM staff was finally given the direction to go ahead and plan the museum but from what the DHM has been told, it will be a lengthy process. The monies from the sale of the old City Hall will not be added to the budget until 2016. The best estimate from sources is that it will take another decade (10 years) to finally see a new museum space.

Meanwhile 45,000 artifacts are warehoused in a 7,500 square foot space in Burnside out of public view. One wonders whether the annual cost of \$36,000 in rent plus utilities to store this special collection might be better invested in a museum space that is open to the public. An interesting and perhaps viable solution discussed



The Dartmouth Post office c. 1925 shows the tower and the first electric clock installed in Dartmouth. The tower was torn down in the 1970's due to concerns that it was not safe. The Dartmouth Heritage Museum acquired the clock and presently it is in storage.

within the Museum community in recent months is the possibility of locating to the Dartmouth Post Office if and when Canada Post was relocating elsewhere. This landmark building is of significant historical value and may lend itself to a desirable space for the museum. The site is where the first Quaker Meeting Hall and the first school were once located. Proponents to this idea state that apart from being a large building in good condition there are other assets to the site: its wheel chair accessibility, the parking lot, the loading ramps, and alongside a bus route. Most of all its central location in the downtown core is very desirable. Just up the rise from Alderney Gate and a block over from Quaker House, this 1914 building is in a central spot. The presence of a museum at that site would add to the reinvigoration that is already taking place in the downtown area. Dartmouth could finally have a long awaited dream realized.

The Steering Committee is canvassing your thoughts on this idea. Write, phone or email me with what you think.

Happy summer!



Above: The Dartmouth Post Office as it looks today without the tower but with the wheel chair ramp and mature maple trees.

Left: The cenotaph was installed by the I.O.D.E., Dartmouth Branch in 1920 to commemorate the soldiers who died in WWI.



Archival Revival

Karen Colter, Laurel Sampson, Philip Rogers and Debra Barlow

For the past three months, a team of volunteers has been working on the reorganization of the DHM archives at Evergreen House, under the supervision of Executive Director Bonnie Elliott.

"It has been a privilege and an honour to work on the archives" says lead volunteer archivist Debra Barlow, a sentiment echoed by team members Karen Colter, Philip Rogers and Laurel Sampson. The work has been educational, exciting and very rewarding. Reviewing the archival collection has instilled in the archival team a sense of pride in the unique history and development of Dartmouth.

Included in the archives are many *fonds* (collections) of prominent Dartmouth families, as well as documentation pertaining to Dartmouth industries, schools, historic buildings and organizations. This documentation includes letters, postcards, photographs, maps, drawings, plans, scrapbooks, etc. that provide a glimpse into our historic past.

This reorganization has been a necessary process to facilitate the growing needs of the DHM. Additional

shelving was installed in the archives to provide better storage and easier access to the collection. The volunteers have been examining each of the thousands of items and updating the database to ensure that all pertinent information is recorded for future reference. At this time, items which are fragile and require special care are being identified for future conservation work. Once the work on the collection is complete, we hope to streamline research requests for information referring to the history of Dartmouth.

Dartmouth is blessed to have such a rich, living history. Its citizens possess valuable and unique knowledge that without preservation will be lost to future generations. Much like Helen Creighton did with Nova Scotia's folklore, one of the Museum's aim is to make a concerted and organized effort to gather this information from its citizens and ensure it is recorded for posterity in the DHM archive. Hopefully, in the near future, Dartmouth will have a new museum which will facilitate the continued conservation and expansion of our archival collection.



From Left to Right: Debra Barlow, Karen Colter and Laurel Sampson dedicate many long hours working in the Archives. Absent is Philip Rogers

The Library Landing

Andrew Wood

Sitting in front of a laptop computer and next to a stack of books in the Evergreen House's downstairs tea room, I ponder what it must have been like to live in the community in the earlier days. Pages of black and white photography of horses and carriages strolling through the downtown streets of turn-of-the-century Halifax and Dartmouth inspires curiosities in me of those times. Flipping through these pages, I can still hear the long-enduring sounds of the train from outside the walls of the present-day Museum. Combining computer cataloguing software of the present and the stories and images of the past has provided a fascinatingly modern and reminiscent experience for me at the Dartmouth Heritage Museum.

June 2014 was the summer between my first and second years as a student in the Library and Information



Know your Dartmouth



Who is this gentleman and where is he located?

See page 8 for the answer.

Technology program at the Nova Scotia Community College's Waterfront campus. During that time, I began volunteering as a Cataloguing Assistant at the Dartmouth Heritage Museum's Evergreen House, located at 26 Newcastle Street. My participation in the Museum's library project started as an opportunity to catalogue and consolidate the books that were formerly stored in the Museum's tea room and judge's office to create a 'one-stop shop' equipped with stand-alone library shelves, a classification system and, eventually, a searchable electronic database of the collection for public access.

The 'Library Landing', as we like to call it, is located on the Museum's top floor and is divided and labelled by subject groupings in alphabetical order. It features many subjects that are well-known to the Museum, such as Helen Creighton, who once lived in Evergreen House, and the Dartmouth Quakers, who were prominent residents of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum's other location, Quaker House, at 57 Ochterloney Street.

We hope the stories of our history will inspire and fascinate as we invite you to Evergreen House to enjoy the library. Stay tuned for more as we continue to share titles from this diverse collection of our heritage!



Bridal Gown Exhibit

Some of the wedding gowns now on display on the second floor, Evergreen House. The exhibit is on until October 30th.

DHM Society Donors:

Each year Society Members give over and above the membership fees to help us run our programs at the Museum, mount exhibits and continue the work on the collection

Hats off to their ongoing generosity !

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Len Atkinson | Suzanne & Michael Day | Catherine Harrison |
| Margaret Hayward | Alice Hale | Inez Joyce Earle |
| Barb & John O'Connor | Holly Gunn | Sally King |
| Theo Mitchell | Anne Hillis | The Osborne Family |
| Linda Forbes | Hannah Minzloff & John Hillis | Margot Walker |
| Josephine Harris | Barbara MacKenzie | Sandra Barss |
| Joyce Earle | Peter Payzant | Ellen Venner -Hiltz |
| Clyde Teasdale | James Morrison | Brian Vandervaart |
| Jean Wagener | Lorna Huestis | Kathryn Stanfield |
| Rodney Simpson & | Betty Pitt | Carmen and Jerry Moir |
| Christina Dadford | Karen Munroe | Brenda Shannon |
| Dorothy Meyerhof | Suzanne & Michael Lewis | Susan Moxon |
| John, Valerie, Mark Osborne | Roland Thornhill | |

Summer Staff Corner

This summer we have been blessed with the hiring of six summer students to work as Heritage Interpreters at Evergreen and Quaker House. The two federal funding programs, Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs and one provincial program, Student Career Skills Development Program have made this possible. Apart from their regular duties of greeting visitors and offering them interpretive tours, the students are involved in many other projects. During their one week of orientation and training, Maida Follini talked to them about the history of the Quakers. Laurie Fleet is absent from the Picture. (*Apologies for the blurry photo, BE*)



Know your Dartmouth *answer*

This is the wooden fisherman standing outside the door of Boondock's Restaurant in Eastern Passage, pointing the way for seafood lovers to have a good meal.

Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society

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E-mail: museum@bellaliant.com

<http://www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca/>

Like our Facebook page: Dartmouth Heritage Museum

Follow us on Twitter: dhmuseum1

*Protecting, Preserving
& Promoting our
Heritage*



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-2016

Chair	To be filled
Vice Chair	Sam Austin
Rick Sanderson	Past Chair
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Mark Chin-Yee	Treasurer
Anita Campbell	Director
Don Chard	Director
Kate Watson	Director
Jean Llewellyn	Director
David Jones	Director
Theresa Babb	Director
Debra Barlow	Director
Bonnie Elliott	Ex Officio

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.

Family Membership - \$30

A \$15 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.

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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership and Donation Level (please check):

Membership \$20(individual) \$30(family)

Donation \$50(donor) \$100(friend) \$500(benefactor)

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

Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society, 26 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth N.S., B2Y 3M5

EVENTS & EXHIBITS

They're back!! Weekly Teas throughout the Summer!

Join us for afternoon tea in the sunroom at Evergreen House. Beginning Thursday, July 2nd and every Thursday after until August 27th. Tea, sandwiches and a plate of sweets for \$10.00 each. Museum visit included.

Sittings 1:30 & 3pm. Don't be disappointed-book in advance by calling 902-464-2300

Bridal Gown Exhibit- June 5th to October 30th, 2015

A brand-new exhibit featuring nine bridal gowns from the first half of the 1900's is currently on. On display throughout the summer, each beautiful dress has a unique story and connection to the local area. Visitors will experience the developments in fashion first-hand by observing the styles chosen by the brides of the past for their special day. A coloured catalogue will be available for purchase at the front desk for \$5.00

Uncovered Gems: Warehouse Secrets Revealed

This exhibit will take a glimpse of some of the artwork, artifacts and archival stored at the warehouse. As a result of the progress that is being made to the collection stored at the warehouse, many of the treasured items have been uncovered! This exhibit will include an eclectic array of things chosen by the museum staff, the Collections Management Committee and warehouse conservators.

Summer Crafts for Kids!

Come join us for fun making creative historical crafts every Saturday at both Quaker House and Evergreen House.

2\$ for each session, children must be accompanied by an adult.

Date	Quaker House 11-12 noon	Evergreen House 3-4 pm
July 4 th	Paper Lanterns	Yarn Dolls
July 11 th	Paper Plate Aquarium	Paper Chains and Thaumatrope
July 18 th	Whale Mobile	Handheld Fire Screens
July 25 th	Sock Whales	Mask Making
August 1 st	Paper Cup Fish	Tussie Mussie
August 8 th	Shell Crafts	Paper Bag Puppets
August 15 th	Puffer Fish Craft	Flower Pot Painting and Paper Flower Making
August 22 nd	Fuzzy Yarn Sheep	Shell Crafts



Evergreen House 26 Newcastle St. Dartmouth

Quaker House 57 Ochterloney St. Dartmouth

For more information please call 902.464.2300

Open Tuesday–Sunday 10am-5pm