

ARCHIVE REPORT – NOVEMBER 2021 – OCTOBER 2022

The Archives has been busy this year migrating our PastPerfect records to the cloud for public access, continuing the accession of several large collections, receiving and accessing 41 new artifacts, participating in committee meetings, researching and responding to requests, organizing the Archives and providing training. The Archives participated in the June Open House held by the Rideau Township Historic Society in the Burritt's Rapids Community Centre displaying artifacts related to Burritt's Rapids and Colonel Stephen Burritt.

PASTPERFECT MIGRATION

Upon approval of the Executive Committee, the migration of our PastPerfect data to the cloud database proceeded as follows:

- ✓ prior to the migration, we did an initial clean-up of the data to ensure a smooth transition
- ✓ after the transition, Angela Beking, Elizabeth Robinson, Ann Martin, Johanna Jansen, several students and Nancy Warr reviewed all object and photographic records prior to allowing public access to our collection database
- ✓ 4,906 object records were reviewed with 4,505 made available to the public, the balance need further research and record completion
- ✓ 1,154 photographic records were reviewed with 1,137 made available to the public, the balance need research and record completion
- ✓ to date a total of 15,279 images have been input into the database
- ✓ during the clean-up, 75 long-term loans (40-50 years old) were converted to permanent accession records
- ✓ our entire costume collection (60+) used by the interpreters has now been accessioned – these records are for Archives access only

CREELMAN COLLECTION

Many thanks to Jeff Murray who took on this task of reviewing the Creelman collection. The collection consisted of materials documenting school operations in the rural community of Burritt's Rapids primarily in the last half of the 19th century. It included property taxes that supported operations as well as records of property acquisition and transfers. There were also records pertaining to the school operations, financing, property assessments and mortgages, as well as some general correspondence and multiple examples of payment receipts.

Jeff reviewed, organized, provided detailed descriptions and assigned accession numbers to all 325 records. He also arranged and paid for the appraisal of the documents. The next step will be to input the information into the database.

BALMORAL LODGE No. 280 COLLECTION

Many thanks to Ann Martin and our student Ben Wilson who reviewed, organized and prepared the documents for input this calendar year. The documents donated by Chris Chinkwsky consists of semi-annual reports from 1904 to 1915 including financial data, receipt books, cancelled cheques, Lodge By-Laws and other miscellaneous records. Further research is required.

McLEAN COLLECTION

We received the McLean Collection in early 2021 consisting of his business correspondence and financial records as well as his personal papers from 1928 to 1951. In 2021 we input 300 records with the balance input in 2022 for a total of 531 documents with approx. 300+ financial records remaining for input. The collection was donated by Diane Mason of Smiths Falls on behalf of her parents Oscar and Rose Fader who found the documents and several prints in the attic of the Harry McLean house when they moved in.

WATCHORN COLLECTION

Nancy Goodwin, a descendant of the Watchorn family donated Watchorn Woollen Mill blankets (2 household, 2 army and 2 carriage blankets) as well as family photographs, a drawing and other Watchorn documentation. This collection is now available for public access.

As a side note, we also received 2 Watchorn household blankets from another donor this year.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Many thanks to our volunteers who gave the Merrickville and District Historical Society 1,454 hours of their time working at the Blockhouse, the Archives, researching, working on collections, providing tours and participating in the Executive, Collections and PastPerfect meetings by Zoom or in-person.

Nancy Warr
Collections Committee