HELLO MEMBERS!

Although our Curator and Assistant Curator are researching and planning for our next exhibit, we are unsure of when it will open. However, once the Museum can welcome visitors again, within a few weeks, we will launch "All Along the Waterfront".

The preservation of the world's most integral natural resource - water - is a significant international issue that has seen a resurgence in 2019 among global youth. At a time when water levels in Niagara-on-the-Lake have continuously risen over several years, and the uncertainty of how it will effect our geography, our economy and general livelihoods can be alarming, this exhibition aims to raise awareness and understanding of how our waterways - the Niagara River and Lake Ontario - shaped the history of our community. It aims to raise awareness of Niagara-on-the-Lake's dependence and lasting relationship with our water so that we can continue to ensure its protection for future generations.
IT’S IN THE CARDS

A SERIES BY JOHN G. SAYERS

The 215 Battalion Football Team

This card is what postcard collectors call a Real Photo card. It’s a photographic image whose production was normally limited to the number that could be sold to the subjects in the photograph. Itinerant and sometimes local photographers took these images and from a business point of view, the more people in the photograph the more likely that you would be able to sell more copies.

In this case, the photograph is the 215 Battalion Football Team at Niagara Camp in 1911. There are 16 men in the photo and if you, the photographer, could print and sell one to each of them at perhaps 20 cents a copy (probably not very likely) you would have a good day. There were some unusual skills involved including writing backwards on the plate to caption the image. In the heat of making sales, errors occurred, as in the backward ‘F’ in ‘Football’!

So for the collector/historian there are very few copies out there. Would 5 of the 16 have survived, in contrast to publishers who produced hundreds or thousand of the same cards? A hundred and nine years later even that modest estimate may be too high.

The card has not been mailed, so was likely kept by the purchaser, or perhaps sent in an envelope accompanied by a letter home. A photographer would have provided a welcome change of pace during Niagara Camp drills, and their images provide a welcome insight for the historian of 2020.

Judith Sayers (jasayers@saybuck.com) has a large collection of postcards of Niagara Camp and Niagara-on-the-Lake which will be shared with you in this series.
After the last week’s postcard entry from John Sayers, historian Ron Dale was able to uncover some genealogical information about the people who were mentioned on the postcard:

"I love a mystery and the postcard that Amy sent in her newsletter caught my interest. The Mrs John Nuhn in question was Mary Keziah Badgerow, born in Flesherton on Nov 21, 1861. She married William Stock of Flesherton on December 19, 1881 and with William had seven children, three of whom died in infancy. William died in 1893, leaving Mary a widow with several children, the oldest being only 11. Mary remarried a widower, John Nuhn (1863-1933) on May 17, 1904 and had two more children by him, Mamie in 1906 and John in 1910.

Only two of Mary’s children ended up in Toronto, Sarah (1882-1981) and Minnie Matilda. Sarah married John Gould (1878-1945) of Toronto in 1904 and Minnie married Frank Lawrence (1887-1953) of Toronto in 1910 and both remained in Toronto for the rest of their lives. Sarah died in 1981 and Minnie in 1998. One of these women must have been the sender of the postcard to their mother, now Mrs John Nuhn.

Mary Nuhn (nee Badgerow) died in Flesherton on August 21, 1929 of bladder cancer and is buried with her second husband John in that town.” - Ron Dale

John Sayers says, "I have spoken to genealogical and other groups about the underappreciated genealogical research value of postcards and Ron’s information is a fine example. It’s also a hint at the value for researchers in the Museum’s own significant collection of postcards including the recent donation of the John Burtniak Collection with over a thousand NOTL postcards. Genealogists awake!"
WAR OF 1812 CROSSWORD ANSWERS

OHS DIGITIZATION

The Ontario Historical Society has put back issues of their publication "Ontario History" online! These journals are a wealth of information for anyone interested in Ontario's history. Check them out here:

OHS JOURNALS

HELP US KEEP AN AUDIO DIARY

To make sharing your COVID-19 experiences a little easier, we now have a phone number you can call and record your stories! You can use your voicemail to recognize people going above and beyond during the pandemic, share observations or simply take the time to vent. But fair warning, you only have 3 minutes per voicemail message! (note: this is not a complaint line for the Town, merely a way to capture local thoughts and stories during the COVID-19 pandemic)

We want to know your COVID-19 experiences. Call the number below to record your audio diary!

289-719-1918