

HERITAGE CORNER

Artifact displays for 2020 bring back simpler times - Moore Museum

Curator Laurie Mason

While we cannot welcome you to the Moore Museum in person until we re-open, we wanted to highlight some interesting artifacts from the museum's collection. Summer students Cassidy Jaques and Gabriella McGregor have selected a few noteworthy items to feature in this column.

Fire Bucket

The earliest type of firefighting equipment in Moore Museum's fire hall is the rounded-bottom fire bucket. This rounded bottom was important for many reasons. In having no flat bottom, the bucket was not able to be set on the ground, but had to be hung, allowing the user to keep easy track of the bucket's location when needed.

The lack of flat bottom also meant that the bucket was unsuited for other tasks so thus was guaranteed to not be in use when needed for a fire. The rounded bottom (see inset right) also allowed for a straighter stream of water to be thrown at the fire because of the angle of the curve. These buckets date back to the days of the bucket brigade, which involved a line of people passing buckets forward in the line and the last man in line throwing the water from the bucket onto the fire.

People generally wrote their family name on the bucket to ensure that it was returned to them after being used by the fire brigade.



Laundry Sprinklers

Before the steam iron was invented, the laundry sprinkler was a necessary tool. By sprinkling water onto the fabric, the heat of the iron created steam to smooth the fabric.

Frequently, these were made using a small metal or plastic piece stuck into an old soft drink or ketchup bottle filled with water. Other laundry sprinklers were made for that purpose and were more decorative.

The two sprinklers pictured here are on display in the laundry exhibit at Moore Museum.

A sprinkler was the best way to lightly spread water on the fabric so the heat of the iron could then steam the clothes and achieve a smoother look. These sprinklers were also handy for watering seedlings or other plants that needed a light drizzle.



'blue lady'
sprinkler



'soda bottle'
sprinkler

DID YOU ATTEND SCHOOL IN THE FORMER MOORE TOWNSHIP PRIOR TO 1963?

Moore Museum is developing another virtual exhibit for our website, this one featuring brief histories and photos of the schools in the former Moore Township prior to centralization in 1963. There were 19 school sections in Moore, four of which were union schools - two shared with Sombra Township and two with Sarnia Township. The accompanying map shows the location of the schools.

If you have information on the history of any of these schools, or photos (or scans of photos) that you would be willing to share with us, we'd love to hear from you. We would appreciate details about any school in the township, but especially School Sections #6, #13 and #19 Moore as our research files contain some information for most of the school sections in the township, but we have no information at all for those three. Information can be sent to lmason@stclairtownship.ca. We look forward to hearing from you!

CONNECT WITH MOORE MUSEUM

We invite you to follow the link on the home page of www.mooremuseum.ca to our online survey. We very much appreciate input from our community and, as a thanks for your assistance, survey respondents will be entered in a draw (to be held on November 13, 2020) to win a 2021 family membership and \$25 gift shop gift certificate. In addition to our website and our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mooremuseum, we are now also on Instagram @mooremuseum so you can watch for news from Moore Museum.

Bear Creek Cemetery Company

Bear Creek Cemetery has submitted by-laws to the Registrar of the Funeral, Burial, and Cremation Services Act, 2002. Any interested parties may contact Russell Marsh at 519-331-1798 for information or to make copies. By-laws or amendments may be reviewed or copied at 3393 Telfer Road, Mooretown, Ontario.

These by-laws are subject to the approval of the Registrar, Funeral, Burial, and Cremation Services Act, 2002. Contact can be made by telephone to: Bereavement Authority of Ontario, 647-483-2645 or 1-844-493-6356.

MORE HERITAGE CORNER

MEMORIES OF DAYS PAST: LABOUR-INTENSIVE THRESHING WAS HUNGRY WORK



A threshing machine separates grain from its stalks while the threshing gang work up a hearty appetite keeping the machine supplied with the new harvest.

Moore Museum archive photo

Moore Museum Curator Laurie Mason takes us back to the days before modern agricultural machines, when farming required elbow-grease and sweat powered by a plentiful supply of good country cooking.

"Driving through the country and seeing the golden wheat ready for harvest brings to mind the threshing bees of an earlier time. My mother's family farmed at Waubuno, and my mother (Helen Burr Fournie) and her sisters (Allena and Kathleen Burr) recalled that the threshing gang would travel from farm to farm throughout the district pulling the huge threshing machine with them. The photo above, from Moore Museum's collection, shows the type of machinery and crews involved in the process of threshing grain.

What is not shown in the photo, however, is the basis on which each farm got its turn to have its harvest threshed; it's the quality and quantity of the meals provided by the women on that farm! A wonderful noontime dinner, and supper later in the day, would move that farm up the threshing list. While there is no doubt that threshing was hot, hard work, so too was the making of a huge meal on hot summer days with a wood-burning cookstove. My aunt Allena recalled that, even as a child, she was appalled that the men would have a contest of who could eat the most pie, shoveling in a half or even a whole pie, made through someone's hard work and baking skills, in a single sitting. My husband recalls that his maternal grandmother (Evelyn Wagborne) was helping prepare for a threshing bee at a farm at Invercairn in Plympton Township. She told the woman hosting the meal that they were ready, as they had a pie per man. The hostess replied that they would need double that - two pies per worker for a single day, as well as gargantuan servings of meat, potatoes and vegetables!"

WANTED

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**SOCIAL
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**Photos
still
being
sought**

The Port Lambton 200th Committee is seeking photographs and information that will help illuminate the area's heritage. To donate, please email the Port Lambton 200th Anniversary Historical Committee at portlambtonhistory@gmail.com or contact Kailyn at the Sombra Museum, sombramuse-