

August 22, 1988

BARNUM HOUSE MUSEUM

The hours open may vary somewhat in 1989. Telephone 349-2656 to clarify before visiting the museum.

The book collection includes early works not related to the geographic area eg. Farmers' Almanac, 1885, Bibles, encyclopedia, Statutes of Ontario, 1867. There are several daybooks and cash books (ledgers) from the 1840's and more recently of local area merchants containing many local names. Other local books such as the Bell Telephone Directory for Eastern Ontario, 1913 exist.

The document collection includes marriage certificates, deeds and other documents. Some are framed and displayed with typed text adjacent and some are in storage locations. As with the book collection, some are of particular local significance and some are of more general interest. Included are genealogies of the Barnum, Hinman, Massey, Jayne, Thos. Webster and other families.

Signature quilts on display provide many names from Colborne in 9123 and from Cold Springs in 1911. There is a typed key (index) of all names.

A photograph collection exists in loose, album, and mounted and framed format. Some photos are from the local area eg. Northumberland & Durham Counties Council group photo, 1885 and the Grafton Cricket Club, 1870. Also there are many individual portraits.

The large collection of clothes, furnishings and artifacts of early life in this area has not been examined for this report.

The book, document, photograph and furnishings collections are catalogued and described with location code in a card index system. As yet, an alphabetical index of names has not been compiled. However, with location code and staff assistance as to item detail, it is possible to find and view useful local historical sources.

In 1988 a management and marketing study commissioned by the owners, Ontario Heritage Foundation, is underway. Recommendations are due in late September and are expected to include these two key items:

- 1) The hiring of a full-time professional staff member
- 2) Extension of the hours of operation

The Reference Librarian of the Cobourg Public Library surveyed the print collection briefly in August, 1988 to better advise library patrons as to the local history sources at Barnum House Museum.

COBOURG PUBLIC LIBRARY