

A Pencil Sketch Of Port Hope In The Early 1840s



(By Edwin C. Guillet)
 "Ravenscourt," a large brick
 house which still stands a couple

*"Ravenscourt"
 and the
 Hayward
 Family*

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of miles northeast of Port Hope on the old Telephone Rd., played a notable part in the community life of a century ago. It was then the home of Capt. Alfred Hayward and his wife Caroline. They were more genteel than well-to-do, for the captain was a country gentleman rather than a Canadian farmer, and without the income needed to maintain the status easily.

Dr. Clara Benson of Port Hope recalls that he had no regular occupation but used to make odd pieces of furniture out of odd pieces of wood. He may also have drawn the frescoes of coats-of-mail that long decorated

the hallway of "Ravenscourt." The estate was a pleasant place, however, and long a favorite spot for groups from Port Hope and Cobourg to come for a picnic, bringing their refreshments with them. Early in June, 1861, a grand military picnic was given there by Capt. Hayward, and two troops of Cobourg militia marched out headed by the Cobourg band.

"The companies," reported the Cobourg Sentinel, "went through many pleasing military evolutions on the beautiful grounds of Ravenscourt, and after having shared the hospitality of the gallant captain, returned home

well-pleased with their day's enjoyment."

Caroline Hayward published a small book of verse in 1855, in aid of the Patriotic fund then being raised for the Crimean war. As poetry her verses leave much to be desired.

She was also known as an artist. In his twenty-seven years in Canada West (1853), Samuel Strickland states that two fine lithographs, of Rice Lake and Port Hope, had been printed from her work.

I located a previously unknown lithograph of Port Hope during my research for "The Valley of the Trent," and though it is unsigned it is of the pre-railway period, and is almost certainly the one she made. Reproduced herewith, it shows the promise that was to be fulfilled in the gifted artistry of her two sons, Gerald and Alfred, world famous half a century later for miniatures and flower paintings, respectively.