



The CABHC Patch

News from the Community Archives

February 2024

From Dickleburgh to Belleville and back

A photograph album owned by a family in England has furnished us with digital copies of a small treasure trove of photographs taken in Belleville in 1886.

The photographer was William Rayson Smith, who was born in the Norfolk village of Dickleburgh in 1840. He married Maria Hudson in 1866 and in 1870 the couple moved to Canada. They were living in Toronto at the time of the 1871 census, but by 1873 they were in Belleville.

In the 1879-1880 Hastings County Directory, William was listed as being a clerk for the County Treasurer's office on Church Street and was living on the south side of College Street. The same directory also notes that he was acting as the Secretary and Librarian of the Murchison Scientific Society.

Smith's photographs show significant Belleville buildings such as the [Post Office](#) and various churches and grand East Hill houses. He also captured aspects of the local lumber industry, such as [log drives](#) and [rafts of squared timber](#). There is a summer-time photograph of a [toboggan slide](#) which was located on the cricket grounds on the south side of Dundas Street. Thanks to the albums' owners, Jennifer and David Boxall, you can now [view all of these photographs online](#) and in their book about the photographer, which has been donated by them to the archives.

The photographs are something of a farewell tour, as Smiths left Belleville in the summer of 1886.



CABHC: *The Daily Intelligencer*, 13 Jul 1886

An advertisement in *The Daily Intelligencer* announced that their house on College Street was now to let. The couple took with them an adopted daughter, Winifred Annie Colman. She was born in Port Hope in January 1874 and her birth parents were also from Norfolk.

William Rayson Smith died in October 1932 and was buried in Dickleburgh, his place of birth.



CABHC: 2023-114-27 Photograph of the Smith family's home (right) with Albert College in background, c.1886

Recent Additions to the Archives

2024-001 Digital photographs of the Henderson and Coleman Castle buildings, 2023



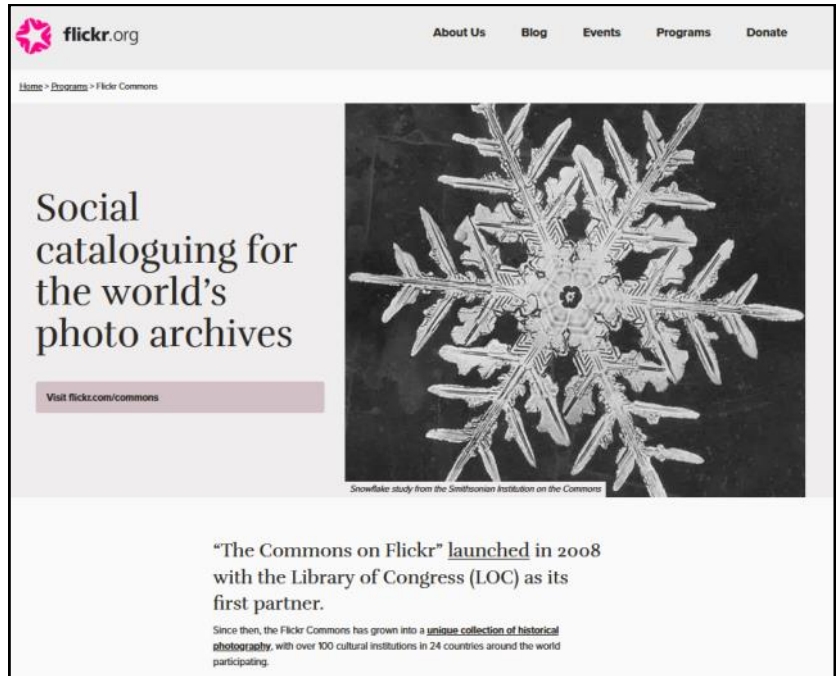
2024-002 *Ontario Intelligencer* of 28 August 1931

2024-003 Digital photographs of the Henderson building during demolition, 4 January 2024

2024-004 Ontario Business College diploma for Jean M. Sills, 18 June 1941

Joining Flickr Commons

Flickr Commons is a fantastic resource for finding copyright-free images. More than 100 cultural heritage institutions around the world contribute their photographs to the Commons, and we are pleased to announce that the Community Archives will shortly be joining them!



Find out more in [this blog post](#) from the Flickr Foundation.

Tour of the Archives

Last month, the Community Archives hosted a visit from members of the Probus Club of Quinte.

If you are involved with a Belleville or Hastings County community group who would like to take part in a similar tour, please contact us. Tours are free of charge.



Visitors from the Probus Club of Quinte, 11 January 2024

