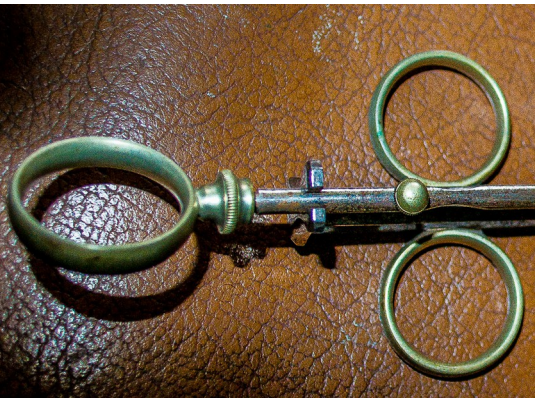


Adopt an Artifact

2016-2017

Aurora Historical Society



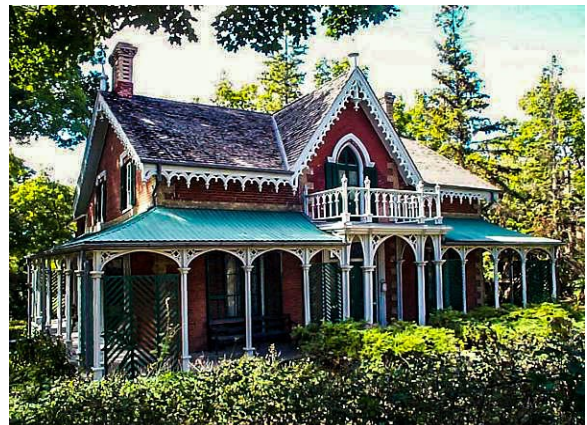


A Message From AHS

We are excited to offer you this unique opportunity to support Hillary House National Historic Site. Your generous support will help fund conservation and exhibition efforts of these important artifacts and raise the provincial profile of the museum. The *Adopt An Artifact* program is your chance to create a personal relationship with the families who lived in the house and become part of its history. Whether adopting for yourself, your class, club or as a special gift, adopting a Hillary House artifact will help us tell its story for generations to come.

Thank you for your generous support,

Bill Albino
President
Aurora Historical Society



AHS Staff and volunteers are pleased to once again be offering *Adopt an Artifact* as a unique opportunity for supporters to create a personal connection with some of the artifacts in the Hillary Collection. Staff have carefully chosen and researched a variety of artifacts that represent a snap shot of life at Hillary House during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century; from leisure and family life to medical oddities. By supporting this initiative you are playing an integral part in the preservation and restoration of Hillary House and the Hillary Collection.

If there is a special artifact that you have a connection with and it is not listed here, please contact us, we would be happy to explore other adoption options.

Thank you,

Erika Mazanik
Curator

What is the *Adopt an Artifact* Program?

A unique fundraising initiative of the Aurora Historical Society (AHS), the *Adopt an Artifact* program allows supporters of Aurora's historic roots to make a piece of history their own for a one or two year term. A wide variety of carefully selected artifacts from the Hillary House collection are now available for adoption. Tax-deductable adoption fees begin at \$100 for one year, and \$150 for two. Adopters will receive a package including an Adoption Certificate and a photo of their artifact to display in their home, classroom, office or business. They may have their name alongside their displayed artifact in the museum or select one of several other recognition options.

Adopt an Artifact forms part of a major fundraising campaign currently underway at AHS. All contributions support the restoration and preservation efforts as well as the ongoing creation of new exhibits, programming and community outreach.

I've Been Adopted!

By Klaus Wehrenberg

2015

For more information on the Adopt an Artifact Program please speak to AHS staff

Mission

Our mission is to preserve, interpret and promote the social, cultural, and material heritage of the community of Aurora for the education, enrichment, and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Vision

Our vision is for the citizens of Aurora to recognize the value of Hillary House National Historic Site, and the Hillary Family artifacts within, as essential components of the Town of Aurora's heritage, to be accessible and preserved for future generations.

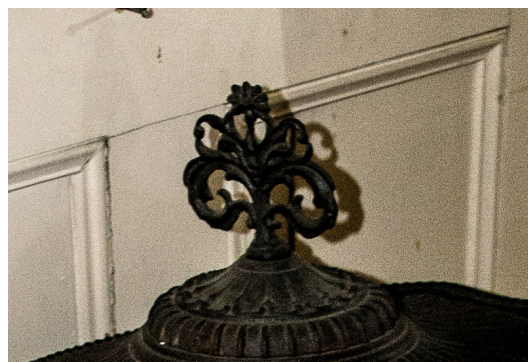
Wood Stove, c. 1870s

About This Artifact

This stove sits upstairs in Hillary House in the Master Bedroom. There is often confusion as to its purpose because it is placed in front of what is apparently a boarded up fireplace. Many assume it was used later as a more efficient and less smoky alternative to the fireplace; however, this was not the case as there is actually no fireplace in the Master Bedroom. In 1869 when Dr. Strange purchased the house from Dr. Geike he made a number of changes including installing marble mantles on the fireplaces in the Study and the Drawing Room. He then had one of the wooden mantel from these rooms moved and placed upstairs in the bedroom, to look like there was a fireplace there; however, it was never connected to the chimney, there is nothing but solid wall behind it.

This stove was the actual method used by the Hillarys to keep their bedroom warm. It was removed from the house for a time but thanks to the generosity of the Hillary family it has made its way home.

Status: Available for Adoption



Wooden Tennis Racket, c.1890

About This Artifact

This racket has hung in the back hall at Hillary House for the last 100 years. The frame is made of wood, while the strings are the traditional “gut” strings made from animal intestines. The make and model of the racket is unknown; however, a past owner has written the initials “H.K.E. 1905” on the wedge. This was a common practice at the time, and people would often write the current year, rather than the year the racket was made. Based on the style of the racket it was not made in 1905, but earlier.

The materials used are common for any rackets made from the 1870 to the 1920s, but the slightly oblong shape of the racket head, the “crisscross” marks acting as the grip on the handle, and the leather butt at the end of the shaft are all marked characteristics of a racket made in the 1890s.

Status: Available for Adoption



Tonsillotome, c. 1830

About This Artifact

Simply put, a Tonsillotome is an instrument for removing infected tonsils. The double rings were placed over the tonsil and the tonsil was held in place with the prongs. The upper ring, which is a blade, was then drawn back to slice off the tonsil. This was a common procedure that was often done in the home, typically to cure acute tonsillitis. Tonsillitis is typically caused by a bacterial infection, most commonly Strep Throat. It was also one of the most common procedures performed on children. Today this procedure is performed less frequently; with the invention of modern medicines doctors are more inclined to save surgery for a last resort. However before the invention of these medicines removing the infected area was the most effective way to fight the infection.

There are a variety of different designs and patents for the Tonsillotome throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; however, they all follow the same general concept. This design is one of the oldest, first seen in the 1830s.

Status: Available for Adoption



Tall Case Clock, c. 1840

About This Artifact

This clock sits in the front hall of Hillary House and is often one of the first artifacts that visitors remark on upon entry. It is one of many clocks in the house, Dr. Hillary having been an avid clock collector. This particular clock was brought with the family when they purchased the house in 1876, and has sat in the front hall.

One important feature on this particular clock is the phases of the moon. This would be very important for someone like Dr. Hillary who often had to get up in the middle of the night at a time when there was no electricity. Moonlight would have been an important light source.

The clock has recently been repaired to chime in the hall once more, but this was not the first time it has stopped. On December 13, 1992; Nora Hillary, the last Hillary to live in the house, visited the house for the very last time after moving into a nursing home a couple months before. Shortly after her visit, the clock stopped. Nora passed away in April 1993, and on April 22, following her funeral, the clock began again.

Status: Available for Adoption



“Exploded Skull”, date unknown

About This Artifact

One aspect of having a Medical Museum is that you come across some of the most unusual artifacts. One artifact in our collection that often is a cause for comment is the “Exploded Skull.” The skull sits on top of the cabinet in the Hillary House Dispensary. Not much of it’s history is known. It was brought to Hillary House by Dr. Norman Hillary who had gotten it in an Italian Medical facility during World War Two. At the time Norman lived in the back section of Hillary House with his wife and family. In their later years, Nora and Holly Hillary recalled that the family would often bring the skull out onto the table on New Year's Eve to recognize the passing of time.

It consists of bone fragments held up on a metal stand, with small metal pieces holding out the different pieces of the skull, allowing each piece to be studied individually. A portion of the top jaw is missing, as can be seen by the lack of upper front teeth. The bottom jaw appears to be fully intact.

Status: Available for Adoption



Dr. Hillary's Violin, c.1800s

About This Artifact

The Hillarys were a family of many talents, and one of their favourite pastimes was music. This violin sits in the study, and was owned by Dr. Robert William Hillary, the first Dr. Hillary to practice out of "The Manor." He was known in the area as a very talented violin player and a great lover of music. He also instilled this love of music in his children as well, encouraging them all to play either the violin or the piano.

This violin was also used when Dr. Hillary was a member of the Aurora Chamber Orchestra, which often practiced in the Ballroom here at Hillary House, and performed concerts for the community.

Status: Available for adoption



Picture of Stuart Hillary, 1917

About This Artifact

Stuart Hillary was the eldest son of Dr. Robert Michael and Edith Mussen Hillary. He was born here in Hillary House on June 14, 1896 as Robert Stuart Hillary. This picture of Stuart was taken in 1916 shortly after Stuart enlisted in the First World War (1914-1918) as a Gunner in the 2nd Brigade Canadian Field Artillery.

Tragically, Stuart's service to his country lasted less than a year after he was injured at the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 1917, only two months shy of his twenty-first birthday. He was buried in the Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension, where over two thousand Commonwealth soldiers of the First and Second World Wars are buried. His sacrifice has also been commemorated on the Aurora Cenotaph, in Aurora War Memorial Peace Park.

Status: Adopted



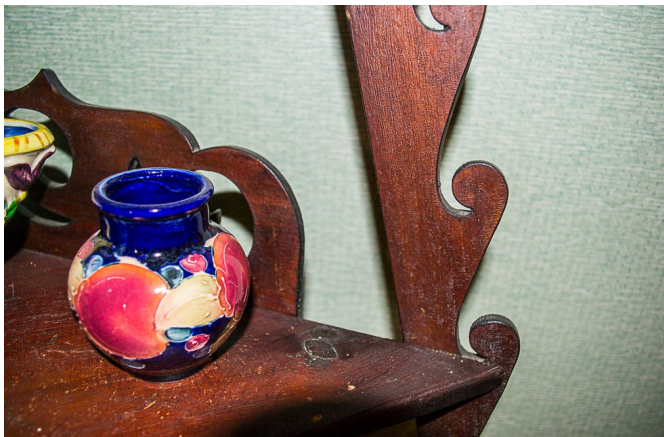
What-Not, late 1800s

About This Artifact

Tucked in the corner of the Drawing Room, this shelf serves as a reminder of the Victorian age in a 1950s style room. Often commented on more for the “knick-knacks” that line the shelves, rather than the piece itself, a What-Not was used for just that, displaying small items.

Most What-Not's followed a similar design. They were often built in the shape of a triangle (like this one), in order to fit into corners, and consisted of thin, spindly columns to support it and give it a delicate appearance. These columns would also support the shelves, which would typically graduate in size, with the smallest at the top. This particular What-Not is unique in that it uses scalloped brackets, rather than turned spindles.

Status: Available for Adoption



Mantle Clock, c.1700s

About This Artifact

This is another clock from Dr. Hillary's fascinating clock collection. It is a french clock made in the 1700s. The base is black marble, the same as the mantle it sits upon in the Study. It has recently been cleaned and repaired so that it once again keeps time and its tick brings life into Hillary House. Adopt this artifact for the opportunity to learn more about the clocks of Hillary House, and get the opportunity to wind it! (All the clocks are wound weekly).

Status: Adopted



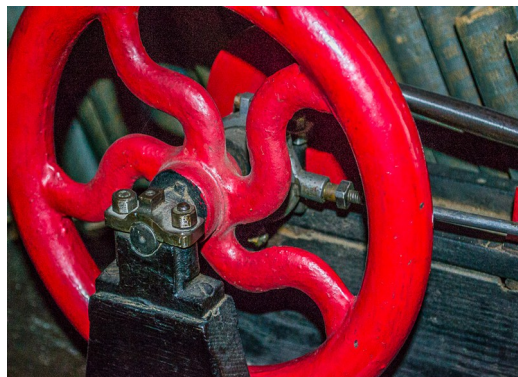
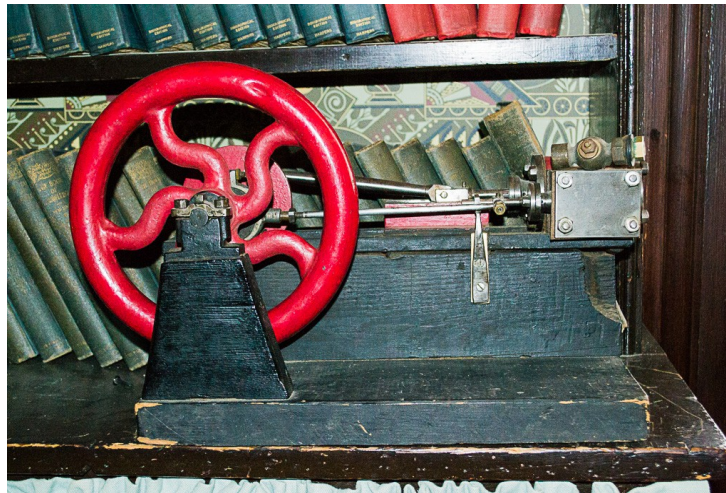
Steam Engine, c.1900

About This Artifact

This artifact is a model steam engine. It was a model for a large engine that was to be installed in the Fleury Agricultural Works on Wellington Street to power the machinery. It was later given as a toy to Stuart Hillary from the Herbert Fleury who lived across the street (where Our Lady of Grace church is today).

Stuart was the eldest son of Robert Michael and Edith Hillary. He was born on June 14th, 1896 and succumbed to wounds received at the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 1917 just shy of his twenty-first birthday. His death deeply affected the family, and when his father returned from the war he retired from medicine out of grief. The family, along with millions of others who had lost loved ones to this tragic event, mourned openly.

Status: Available for Adoption



Aurora Historical Society – *Adopt an Artifact Program*

Terms of Agreement

1. Ownership

The Aurora Historical Society (AHS) retains ownership of, and all rights to, the adopted artifact.

2. Methods of Acknowledgment

The Adopter will identify the method of acknowledgment at the onset of adoption. Methods of acknowledgment will not be altered after the Adopter has signed the contract.

3. Care and Preservation

The Adopter is not permitted to remove the artifact from its place of display or while in storage. (NB: See Pt. 5). In compliance with accepted museum standards, the Adopter will abide by all methods of care and preservation that AHS upholds while in the presence of the artifact (e.g. handling).

4. Copyright

The AHS retains the copyright of the artifact. If the Adopter wishes to acquire a reproduction photograph of the adopted artifact they must request it from AHS and receive permission for its use (NB: See pt.5). Any reproduction of the artifact must bear the credit line at all times attributing AHS with full ownership. The Adopter must acquire permission to use the image for public purposes/non-personal uses (e.g. in publications, for public display).

5. Interpretation

As per the adoptions levels of acknowledgment, the Adopter may choose to write the accompanying object exhibition label. Subsequently, the exhibition label will be edited and approved at the discretion of AHS Curatorial staff. If approved, the placement of the written label in period rooms or exhibition spaces at Hillary House will be at the discretion of AHS Curatorial staff.

6. Usage

If the Adopter identifies outreach as the method of acknowledgment, AHS will have a complete design of the programming and final approval of the outreach program to be delivered. AHS will have authority, and final approval, over determining the location and duration of the outreach program.

7. Renewals

Adopters who adopt at the \$150 level will be given first right of adoption for subsequent years.

8. Termination

AHS reserves the right to terminate the adoption agreement if the Adopter is not held in compliance with any of the above points.



AURORA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Adoption Contract

Adopter Information

Adoption Level: \$100 (one year) \$150 (two years) Expiry Date of Adoption: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Individual Organization Business Other: _____

Artifact Information

Object Name: _____

Description: _____

Notes: _____

Method of Acknowledgment (please choose your preferences)

- Anonymous/Private Acknowledgment in Annual Report
 Acknowledgment in newsletter Acknowledgment on AHS website
 Donor name and label displayed with artifact
 Outreach programming (to be approved upon discussion with Curatorial staff)

My signature below signifies that I am adopting and artifact from the Hillary Collection belonging to the Aurora Historical Society. I have read and understand the agreement terms.

_____ Date: _____

The signatory below represents the Aurora Historical Society and is authorized to enter this adoption contract.

_____ Date: _____



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