



# NELLES MANOR Newsletter

April 2021

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- B. Thompson – Treasurer
- J. Van Roon CPA
- C. Mullins
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## **Contact Us**

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## **New to our Collection-part 2**

We have been very fortunate to have received several items from the Jarvis Family that were part of the Harold and Jean Jarvis collection. Of particular significance are items created by John Kulp (later known as Culp) from their pottery collection.

**John Kulp** was born in Pennsylvania in 1799. In 1829 he purchased 2 acres of land in Grimsby Township near Smithville and established **one of the first commercial potteries in Upper Canada**. John and his wife Mary had eight children. A relative of his wife was Smith Griffin, founder of the town of Smithville.

John worked full time at making Earthenware or Redware pottery. Glass was limited so pottery such as this had a hundred and one uses. They were used to store many products such as honey, soft soaps, oils and other liquids and used for plates, bowls, mugs and other dishes.



The pottery shards on the plaque were recovered from the site. The plaque and the pottery were donated by the family of Harold and Jean Jarvis. We understood that the Jordan Museum also has an original jug on which **John Culp Grimsby 1843** is written on the bottom.

**John Kulp's pottery** had long since disappeared from the landscape when in the mid 1960's, Harold and Jean Jarvis of Grimsby were instrumental in locating the remains of the pottery in South Grimsby. It is believed that this was the first historic ceramic site examined in Ontario and believed to be the first kiln ever located in North America. The site drew the attention of Royal Ontario Museum.

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## ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

While we have been shut down by the pandemic this has not an uneventful time for the Manor. 200-year-old houses don't pay attention to shutdowns. Maintenance is on-going.

The good news is that we decided that the space adjacent to the master bedroom could be used for historical displays and small meetings. This space was part of the 1950's addition when the home was converted to apartments. Over the past month or so, a couple of us have been painting, cleaning, updating and converting this space into useable space for those needs.

This work has taken several weeks as we worked a few hours per day as time permitted, but is now complete. We are now arranging our displays to present some of our historic items. This room will have both historic and some reproduction items all of which are not directly related to the Nelles Family but are representative of the early 1800's time period of the family. All of the labour and renovation materials for this room have been donated. This space will add another interesting aspect to the Manor tours and education programs.

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## Volunteer - TOUR GUIDES NEEDED

### **Don't forget us!!!**

We are still hoping at to open sometime this summer once this pandemic is under control.

If you have the time and want to contribute to an important cause while meeting some great people along the way, please consider becoming a **volunteer tour guide**. We coordinate our volunteers according their individual schedules and preferences, whether for a few hours or a whole day. We will train you. We have a detailed training manual for you to be able to lead our visitors through the history of the home and the Family. Join our great group of dedicated volunteers.

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## Estate Planning -

Nelles Manor is one of the few pieces of original Loyalist built heritage left in Ontario. One of the ways to support the Manor is to include Nelles Manor Heritage House in your estate plans.

A donation from your estate or life insurance policy to the Manor could be made to our annual operations or to an endowment fund that would support our major capital needs, or where the income supports our annual preservation, maintenance and operations costs.

Consult your lawyer or accountant as to how to provide this type of support

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## Financial Update -

All donations to Nelles Manor are tax deductible and a donation receipt for tax purposes will be issued

The 2020 year was a difficult year financially with no events and programming to help us fund our annual costs. We did however break even in operations despite ongoing maintenance, utility and insurance costs, for example, because of a couple of grants and some generous donations. We are applying once again for various grants to help with our costs as we enter this second year of the pandemic. Hopefully we will be successful.

We are not funded for operating costs by any government level, we are a privately operated Museum, **so you can help**. Sign up as a Friend of the Manor with a small commitment of \$25 or \$40 and/or make a donation that will help us meet the many costs of our historic 225-year-old home.

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Thank you all for your encouragement and we look forward to a safe and successful 2021 year!