



A load of cheese boxes from Carkner's Mill.

Osgoode Township
Historical Society & Museum

Vernon School
P.O. Box 83 - Vernon, Ontario
K0A 3J0

Newsletter

Volume XVII 1991 No. 3

President's Report

One of our most important functions is that of promotion and public relations. One of the essential aspects of promotion is maintaining liason with other Societies. We do this in part through our newsletter, of course, but we gain much more through attending meetings and seminars in other communities.

In this calendar year we have been represented at the meetings listed below, in most cases by three or more members, and in most cases our research publications and promotional literature were displayed.

- Smith's Falls: Eastern District Annual Meeting of Ontario Genealogical Society (O.G.S.)
- Kingston: O.G.S. Annual Seminar
- Brockville: Ontario Historical Society (O.H.S.) Annual Meeting*
- Kemptville: Kemptville Heritage Day
- Oxford Mills: Oxford-on-Rideau Heritage Day
- Morrisburg: St. Lawrence District U.E.L. Genealogical Day
- Cumberland: Genealogical Seminar
- Nepean: O.G.S. Genorama
- Carleton Place: Annual Meeting of the Ottawa District Small Museums Group
- Osgoode: Canada Day, Osgoode Community Centre
- Kars: Kars Fair

This represents quite a bit of effort on the part of those involved, some of whom attended all or most of the events. They are indeed a credit to our Society.

*At our monthly meeting in May, it was moved and carried that a resolution be presented at the annual meeting of O.H.S., that a petition be presented to the Ontario Minister of Education, to the effect that more emphasis be placed on the teaching of history in primary and secondary schools. We are happy to report that the resolution was duly presented and accepted!

Of Interest to Researchers - Microfiche copies of Ontario Archives documents are now available on an inter-library loan basis. Films may be held for a period of four weeks. Free of charge to members of O.G.S. We expect to have our own microfiche reader in the very near future.

Pioneer Day was celebrated on 3 Aug., with good weather and a goodly number of visitors. Our volunteers had put a great effort into making everything neat, attractive and interesting. It was quite obvious that our visitors were favourably impressed and those involved are to be congratulated on a job well done.

Building Improvement - We are pleased to report that we now have washroom facilities to accommodate visitors in wheel chairs. The work done by our own volunteers, with assistance and hardware donated by local businesses. The project was completed on time and within budget!

Bob Usher

In Search of their Roots

Inquiry: Mr & Mrs N. McEwen, Box 49, Beaumont, Alberta, T0C 0H0, requesting information on Mr Peter McEwen, his wife and their son Duncan (Mr Mc Ewen's Grandparents) they were from Perthshire Scotland and homesteaded in Osgoode Twp., 1835/1836, any info. to the above address, or the Osgoode Twp. Historical Society would be greatly appreciated.

Inquiry: Mary Lou Kemp, 1929 Flora Vista, Needles, Cal., 92363-3032 in regards to her Grandparents, James Potter Gillissie and his wife, Margaret Ann Mcphail of Osgoode, info. to Michael Daley, RR#1, Osgoode, KOA 2W0 or the above address.

Inquiry: Re, Lyman or Lynam, Mitchell, Byers families. The above families are the ancestors of Mrs Elsie McNeil Riehle of 11080, Norell Ave., Stillwater, Minnesota, 55082. Any info. to the above address or Michael Daley would be greatly appreciated.

Michael Daley

Note of Interest

To the Honourable

The Commissioner of Public Works of the Dominion of Canada

We the Rate payers of the Township of Osgood in the County of Russell and Province of Ontario

Beg leave most respectfully to submit for your favourable consideration the great necessity of the erection of a bridge by the Government over the River Rideau at the Village of Wellington.

At the present time and for a long time past a large amount of traffic is and has been carried on between the Township of Osgoode and North Gower at this point. By ferry including the transmitting of a daily mail. At certain seasons of the year this means of connection is fraught with inconvenience delay and even danger.

Your petitioners would beg leave to submit that although the Government has of late seen fit to erect bridges at other points of the said river Rideau. Yet this the only point at which a daily mail passes and an amount of traffic equal at least to that existing at any other point where recently bridges have been erected at the expense of the Government. This point has been overlooked.

We would furthermore submit that no connection exists by bridge between the population residing on either side of the said River for a distance of eight miles each way above and below whilst other sections of less claims have been thus favoured.

Your petitioners therefore humbly solicit that you will be pleaded in your capacity as Minister of Public Works to press upon the Government the necessity of granting an appropriation to carry out said work.

And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

Dated in the Township of Osgood this 4th day of December 1869

William Butler
Robert B. Tayler
Edward Boyd
Stephen Martin
James Cullen
John Drew
James Drew
Michael Mitchell
Christopher Fegan
Patrick McGuire
Patrick Doyle
Stephen Doyle

(A photocopy of the original was donated by George Byran of Kars and is held in O.H.S. Archives)

Bob Usher

Recent Acquisitions

A number of valuable artifacts have come our way since the last newsletter. Though too numerous to name all of them, several of these now in the main Museum are mentioned. Of historical interest is a handsome wooden cradle donated by Ken McDiarmid of Dalmeny. It was found during renovations of the old place on lot 38 concession 4 and although not

been used in the recent past, is believed to have belonged to Margaret (McDiarmid) Bowen, great Grandmother of staff Donna Bowen.

Some old photographs have been received, Jean Lewis has donated a large photo of the Bonsal family as well as the marriage certificate of Angus McDiarmid and Margaret McDiarmid (her Grandparents). A second photograph was received on Strawberry Social Day by Harold Cowan of Metcalfe. This photo of Edmund and his wife, who ran Cowan's Hotel in Metcalfe, is still mounted in its original round cornered frame with beveled glass.

Bette Crerar has donated a large wicker tray that belonged to Mrs Grace (Peter) Crerar who lived at Kennedy's Corners.

Wendell Stanley, historian and author of Russell and a speaker here on at least one occasion has donated 18 of his recently published book "From Swamp to Shanty" which will be added to our publications for sale.

We have doubly been recipients of the Estate of Miss Frances Iveson. Miss Iveson was an early member of the Society and Timothy was an original settler who was prominent in municipal government and who lived in Metcalfe (now Hawley's Corners). We have been the designated recipient of Miss Iveson's Memorial Fund and received a total of \$1070 which was recorded and receipted. In addition we have received a number of fine artifacts from Miss Iveson's home as well as from the Timothy Iveson House. The artifacts include a tall and elegant porcelain painted lamp, a handmade washstand, a pendulum wall clock, an ornate pedestal table, a valve trombone played in the Metcalfe Brass Band in 1906, framed certificates and pictures, and numerous household items. Her written work as well as more photos are said to also be coming our way.

Ann Leighton-Kyle

As one continues to delve into the history and genealogy of our Township we are ever grateful to those individuals who contribute their valuable artifacts to our ever increasing collection.

Picture with me if you will a recent artifact donated by Lorne Craig. "Genuine Dug out Pine Canoe". "Wow" this distinctive artifact was whittled, chopped out of a pine log, about the turn of the century by Sam Craig (Lorne's father) and Alex Kennedy, both of the Vernon area, measures out at 17 feet long, 26 inches wide, the canoe was used mainly for muskrat trapping along the banks of the Castor. Sam Craig as a young man worked in the lumber camps of the Ottawa Valley and traveled down the Ottawa river on the rafts of square timber bound for Montreal and the overseas markets.

Sam's Dug out Canoe travelled along with him, this canoe was equipped with "folding oar jacks" which leads one to visualize it being used in open water, the canoe was Sam's transportation, back up the Ottawa to the Rideau and eventually to Solmn Mussell's farm on the banks of the Rideau, near Osgoode.

A story once told by John D. Campbell of Dalmeny, (John D. born 1876-1977) who died at age 101 (to Sam Craig), trappers along the Castor, if they could not trap 100 muskrats a day, at 8 cents per pelt, they would not bother trapping.

Thanks to Bill Zandbelt we have an original windmill (donated) installed at the south east corner of our Implement Shed, the grounds around the building have been landscaped and seeded down. Lorne Craig and Murray Little covered the cost of bringing in a crane to erect the windmill.

Michael Daley

Query "The Mast Trail"

What is that you ask? Mast is a tall piece of timber, used in earlier times on sailing vessels, to which large canvases were attached, in such a way that the winds provided a source of power for sailing vessels that travelled the oceans and rivers of the world prior to the invention of steam powered ships and boats.

"The Mast Trail" of our Township was brought to our attention by Fred Wilson, former owner of Lot 37 on the broken front. Some forty years ago or more Fred recalled enquiring from an elderly gentleman, Alvin Saunders, why the strange indenture in the bush land on his farm (Lot 37). Mr Saunders informed Fred that it was part of a sluice way,

used for transporting tall timber from the Reid's Mills area to the banks of the Rideau.

The search is on my curiosity to delve into this new aspect of our Township's history, led me first to the farm home of Alan Ferguson and family, Lot 41, Con. 3, a descendant of a pioneer family in the Reid's Mills area and thence to Philip Evans of Kemptville, whose Grandfather, Henry Evans farmed Lot 40, Con. 3., next stop the farm home of Reynolds and Helena McGahey, situated on the crest of a hill, (Lot 38, South Gower) over looking the vast expanse of the water of the Rideau, flowing in a north easterly direction, suddenly makes a sharp turn to the left in a northerly direction, searching as it were, their never ending race to the sea.

Though the Mast Trail still eludes me, Reynolds told of how in his father's time, in or around the turn of the century, farmers would draw 4 foot cordwood pile it on the hill field (Lot 37 South Gower) in the winter time. His father, Timothy, would in the spring of the year, load up this 4 foot cordwood, draw it to the bank of the river for 5 cents a cord, as there was deep water at this particular spot, the scows would come in and load the cordwood to be transported to Ottawa, to be used for heating the Parliament buildings, etc.

Next stop Wellington Wright, third generation on Lot 36 broken front Osgoode (now living in the village of Osgoode) relates how he had heard about the sluice way years ago.

Ivan Saunders recalls a conversation with his father relating to a wharf in this particular area, where bricks ect. would be unloaded from boats and scows that travelled the Rideau.

In talking to Clarence Mussell, who has lived, farmed, fished, and trapped along the banks of the Rideau all his life, relates how his father, Allen Mussell and a neighbour Jack Craig went in search of a raft of pine logs and oak timber that sank to the bottom of the Rideau, many years ago, at the south end of James Island. There again this raft of logs, could relate to the "Elusive Mast Trail".

Any info. on the Mast Trail, send to Osgoode Township Historical Society or Michael Daley, R.R. #1, Osgoode, KOA 2W0.

Michael Daley

LARCH: Information on The Archives of Ontario's Loan Service For Microfilm

This is to introduce the Archives of Ontario's new microfilm interloan service.

What is LARCH?

Beginning August 15, 1991, a small selection of our most popular and heavily-used material will be available for borrowing on microfilm. It will be offered for loan to you through public libraries throughout Ontario and beyond who participate in the national interloan system and who have the necessary microfilm readers. This service, LARCH (Loan of Archival Microfilm), will be of interest to all persons who cannot visit our Reading Room at 77 Grenville Street, Toronto.

A catalogue will be sent to participating local libraries and all OGS branches in August 1991. It gives a brief description of each film series with relevant dates, geographical names, provincial court names, newspaper titles, etc. Only film listed in the catalogue is available through the LARCH Service.

KEMPTVILLE ADVANCE 1899

July 13 - The barns belonging to Mrs Buckles of Osgoode were struck by lightning and burned. Small Insurance.

July 20 - Vernon is to be visited this week by a travelling medicine Company and no doubt will be made welcome by many of our citizens.

August 10 - Owing to children playing with matches in the hotel stables, Doyle's Palace Hotel and outbuildings at Manotick were burned. Sparks were carried by a strong wind and shortly Wm. Brownlee's dwelling, furniture shop, barns, and sheds, and Robt. Maxwell's butcher shop were also destroyed. The loss is estimated at \$8,000.00 which is partly covered by insurance.

Wm. Hope who has been employed by the paper mill company of Watertown, N.Y., during the past six months has returned home (Vernon) for a short stay and is looking hale and hearty.

Auction Sales of James Moses:

Thursday, March 6 - Alex Buchanan, L3 C1 of Osgoode.
Friday, March 7 - William Ralph, Osgoode.
Saturday, March 8 - A. Bower, Osgoode.
Monday, March 10 - Thos. Mockey, L7 C3 of Marlborough.
Tuesday, March 11 - Alex Crawford, Acton's Corners.
Wednesday, March 12 - William McCullough, Malakoff.
Friday, March 14 - George Pettapiece, L4 Ca of North Gower.
Wednesday, March 19 - W. Brew, North Gower.
Saturday, March 22 - John Clengin, L19 CA, BF of North Gower.
Monday, March 24 - C. Chiveer, City of Ottawa.

The Stallion and Bull Show, Seed Fair and Stock Judging Convention held in the Exhibition Building at Metcalfe March 10 and 11 under the auspices of the Metcalfe Agricultural Society and the Ontario Department of Agriculture was a great success. The idea of holding in connection with a short course, a stallion and bull show and seed fair, was a novel one in Eastern Ontario, at least, and could have been a happy one if the roads had been in condition to permit bringing out the stallions. Under road conditions, there was nothing else to do but call it off.

Results of Holstein Bull Class: 1st.-Richard Hall of Kenmore; 2nd.- John Carson of Russell; 3rd.- Alexander McGirr of Metcalfe; 4th.- G. Walker of Metcalfe; 5th.- Geo. Morris; 6th.- W.O. Tompkins of Metcalfe.

Mrs Carrie Acres and children of Vernon have left to join her husband in Edmonton.

A special meeting of the Osgoode Council was held at which representatives of the Morrisburg and Ottawa railroad applied for a grant from the township of \$1000 per mile for the construction of an electric railroad. The Council refused the grant.

April 10 - Miss D. MacGregor has retired from duties as teacher in the public school at Metcalfe. Miss T. Woods has taken up the work.

May 1 - J.J. Hone's Ice Cream Parlour in Metcalfe is open again for the season.

May 15 - Dr. C. Morrow has purchased an automobile from the Ottawa Motor and Taxi Company.

The Social Club held a ball in the drill hall Friday night. Hume's orchestra was in attendance.

Navigation on the Rideau for the season of 1913 opened on May 1. The steamer barge "Westport" left for down the river for a load of concrete blocks, steamer tug "Col. By" and barge "Minnie" for Ottawa for lumber for Kingston. The steamer "Rideau King" passed Burritt's Rapids on Thursday for Ottawa, returning Saturday morning to Kingston. Until June 15 she will pass regularly on Monday and Thursday at one a.m. and return on Tuesday and Friday at 9 p.m. The steamer "Ottawan" will be up for the first time on Friday, May 9. The Ottawan has recently been purchased by the Ottawa Transportation Co. but she will continue making regular monthly trips from Ottawa to Smith's Falls.

May 29 - Mr George Craig, head of the firm of George Craig Sons & Co. of North Gower is this week in Montreal accompanying his son-in-law Mr John Wallace of Osgoode who is in the hospital there.

Miss Ella Whiteside of Ottawa is seriously ill with typhoid fever at the home of her uncle Mr Leonard Stanley.

Mr T. Allen Hicks has been appointed Issuer of Marriage License.

June 12 - A By-law to grant the Ottawa and St. Lawrence Electric Railway Co. a bonus of \$17,500 was submitted to the ratepayers of Eastern section of the Township of Osgoode on June 7th and carried by a majority of four.

Judge Gunn of Ottawa presided over the Sixth Divisional Court held in Metcalfe at the town hall on June 5th when several cases were disposed of.

KEMPTVILLE ADVANCE 1914

Jan. 22 - A carnival was held on Jno. Trott's crystal rink in Osgoode on the evening of Tuesday, Jan. 6. Numerous costumes were displayed, William Boyd representing the Devil carried off the much coveted gentleman's prize and Miss Mabel Boyd representing Canada won the ladies' prize.

Mr W.J. Marshall shot a wild cat last week and Mr Jas. Moses bagged two.

Mr Theodore Cleland and son Benjamin left Osgoode for Peace River where they purpose taking up homesteading.

Feb. 26 - A fire scare was made today in Metcalfe by the appearance of a blaze in the roof of the shed at the public school. The fire was extinguished without the aid of the fire station and very little damage was done. It is thought that a spark from the mill of S. Bishop & Co. was the cause of the fire.

March 12 - The sale of twenty-two head of pure bred Holstein cattle from the herd of Capt. G. Walker on Thursday last was a great success. The twenty-two head netted Capt. Walker the handsome sum of \$2940.

March 26 - The Vernonites are going to walk dry shod this summer as they intend building cement walks on both sides of Main Street.

April 16 - The Pioneer Literary Society of the Allen school SS #4, Osgoode was organized by Miss Eva Robinson for the young people of the section in the winter. The officers were Mr Lester Skuce, Mr Carl Taylor, Miss Bertha Smith, Miss Clara Johnston, Miss Edna Skuce, Miss Mayme Taylor, Mr Forest Knowles, and Mr Harold C. Taylor.

April 23 - The Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of the Metcalfe Rural Telephone Company Limited was held in the Town Hall, Metcalfe, on Tuesday, April 14. There was a large attendance and good will and harmony prevailed. The reports of the officers were most gratifying showing the number of phones now installed to be 271, that there was 98 miles of lines erected carrying 79 miles of extra wire and the gross earnings of the company to be about 20 percent for the year. There was a dividend of 10 percent paid to the shareholders in February.

May 7 - Mrs Fraser of Vernon visited Ottawa last week and brought home a fine display of millinery.

Mr Josephus Campbell of California is visiting in Vernon.

May 28 - Dr. Kennedy of Vernon has purchased an automobile.

June 18 - Taylor Bros of Heckston have purchased a Sharples Milking machine and state they believe it will prove most satisfactory being able to milk fourteen cows in about thirty-five minutes. Special credit is due men bringing into the country a machine that all farmers may study and which may prove advantageous in the future of farm life.

July 16 - A garden party held at Mr Ballantyne's Vernon last week in aid of the side walk proved a success.

July 23 - Excursion to Ottawa on Wednesday, July 29. On regular morning train. Special train leaves Ottawa at 10 p.m. Return fare from Spencer-ville \$1.35, from Kemptville 95¢, Osgoode 75¢, Manotick 45¢.

Sept. 3 - A new cement bridge is being built on Victoria Street in Metcalfe. The work is being rushed so as to be ready for the exhibition.

A new storey is being added to the high school. The new part contains three rooms.

Oct. 29 - The Ladies of Metcalfe have been busy for sometime preparing clothing for the Belgian Relief Fund and a large bale will be sent away on Monday, Oct. 26. Besides this, huge loads of grain, potatoes ect. have been donated by the farmers and a financial subscription list has been liberally signed.

Compiled by Shirley Lowe