



School Fairs

### SCHOOL FAIR - S.S.# 5, 1931

*The picture above, I am sure will bring vivid memories to many of our readers. School Fairs were an event many of us, and those who came before us, looked forward to. Returning to the one or two-room schools in September after a summer of being away from school, we always looked forward to preparing for the fair.*

**Front Row** - left to right - Gerald Blanchfield, Wilby McEvoy **Second Row** - Mary Blanchfield, Giles McEvoy, Grace Saunders, Dalton Giffeland, Jean McCallum, Rita McEwan, Miss O'Neil, Imelda McEvoy, Patricia O'Rourke, Jimmy O'Rourke. **Third Row** - Ivan Saunders, Dolores Blanchfield, Carson Taylor, Inez O'Rourke, Leona McEvoy, Russell McCallum, Lillian O'Rourke, David Giffeland **Back Row** - Allan Taylor, Walter Cleland.

*The School House is situated on part of lot 27, Con 3, Osgoode Township. The picture submitted by Grace Blair.*

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Now that the summer of 1997 has rapidly passed, we look forward to the fall and the series of interesting programs planned by Shirley Lowe. The past summer has been fairly busy at the museum with several special events culminating with the Pioneer Days and the Strawberry Social on August 16<sup>th</sup>. The afternoon was well attended with over 100 visitors. Everyone seemed to enjoy the special displays of hit-and-miss motors as well as the old tractors, all of which were displayed in running condition. There was a high level of interest in the permanent displays in the main museum as well as in the Agriculture Building.

We took the opportunity of having Osgoode Township Councillor Doug Thompson present Elizabeth Stuart a certificate of congratulations for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday from the Governor General.

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, Michael Daley and I presented Elizabeth certificates from the Premier of Ontario and the Prime Minister at her birthday celebration.

In the last newsletter we sought everyone's special support to help defray the unforeseen furnace repairs and increased expenses. We are pleased to have received over \$800 in special donations so far.

On a recent sunny Sunday afternoon when I was on duty at the museum, I was pleased to receive about a dozen visitors. While helping one visitor look up information on the Sheils (Sheilds) family, we received a phone call from someone in Ottawa looking for information on Kellys. On hearing me talk on the phone the visitor asked if he could talk to the one on the phone as his grandfather was a Kelly. After some time on the

## Osgoode Township

### Historical Society & Museum

at the  
Old Vernon School

## Newsletter

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phone, they discovered that they were related, had much information to share and arranged to meet at a later date. Over the past three months we have added many signatures to our visitor's book.

Doug Hughes

### CURATOR/ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

This summer we have gratefully received the following donated items:

- (1) Play Books - A comedy in one act, from 1929-1945 from Kay Porteous, Vernon
- (2) Badge - An Orange Young Britons O.Y.B Lodge No. 114, Osgoode, Ont from Betty (Davidson) Polansky of California
- (3) Box of antique lace, a bow and a collar for a dress, belonged to Daisy Robinson's mother from Daisy Robinson, Vernon
- (4) Set of Annotated Bibliography of Genealogical Works in Canada, Vol. 1-5 from Metcalfe Public Library
- (5) R.C.A.F Dress uniform, including Canadian Forces certificate of service, belonged to Flight Lieutenant Keith Warren from Joyce Warren, wife of Keith Warren
- (6) Nightgown with crocheted top from Estate of Lillis (Craig) Coons
- (7) Operator's manual for a McCormick #5 Side Delivery Rake - Doug Hughes
- (8) Child's white suit consisting of top, shorts and combination undergarment, came from the home of Mabel and Edgar McCooeye of Edwards (both deceased) from Phyllis McKeown
- (9) Man's Pocket Watch, very old, case made of coin silver, (Use of coin silver was discontinued in 1873) from Teresa Smith, Ottawa
- (10) Household Grinder - Ken Anderson, Ottawa
- (11) Books of Knowledge 17 Vols. - Mrs Fern Danielson (nee Cutts), Ottawa
- (12) Photocopy of the descendants of Henry Warren & Margaret Boyd, compiled by Douglas M. Warren from Sue (Warren) Nichols
- (13) Book - For Home and County, the Centennial History of the Women's Institutes in Ontario, by Linda M Ambrose - Vernon Women's Institute
- (14) Golf Trophy won by John Alexander Stuart of Valencia, Venezuela (d.Valencia Venezuela July 4, 1997) from Elizabeth Stuart

At this time we have 2 new publications for sale: The Dalmeny Family of John and Jane McNab Stuart/Stewart by Elizabeth Stuart (\$15.00) and Metcalfe Village. A History from the Writings and Collection of Frances Iverson (\$10.00).

We continue to have researchers coming to trace their root as well as many telephone and written inquiries.

Donna Bowen

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

### SCHOOL REUNION S.S No.5.

June 20, 1997  
submitted by **Grace (Saunders) Blair**, former student of the one-room school house.

**P**rior to 1878 there were two schools in the West Osgoode area, one Catholic and one Protestant. Each finding financial difficulty in carrying on, they decided to join forces and thus the No. 5 school section was formed and a brick school built in 1878.

Since qualified teachers were hard to find at that time, it was fortunate that a Mr Daniel O'Connor had received his certificate as a qualified teacher from the University of Dublin, Ireland so he became the first teacher in the new school. He was succeeded by his son Mr. Daniel O'Connor Jr.

Last January the dream of a reunion became a reality as Manning McEvoy and his cousin Mary Dewan Pritchard spent much of the winter finding addresses and phone numbers of former pupils. Their work paid off and on June 20, former students from the 1920's and 1930's and their spouses or friends, over 60 in all, gathered in the old brick school. We were able to do this, thanks to the Township of Osgoode Council and the Isle in the River Theatre Group, which now rents the former school house.

Mary Pritchard rang the old school bell to call the meeting to order and as was our custom, we said the Lord's Prayer and sang O Canada. A few minutes of silence was observed while we remembered our former classmates who were no longer with us.

We were fortunate to have two former teachers from the 1930's present, Mrs Margaret Robb (nee Hill) and Dr Arnold Taylor. Dr Taylor had also received his early education there. Both spoke briefly of their days of teaching at No. 5.

Several items of interest were read provided by Manning McEvoy whose father served as secretary for many years and was on the School Board for 26 years. During all his time in office, Mr Hugh Cleland and Mr Robert Taylor were the other Trustees.

After the program, tongues wagged as we pored over the pictures and other memorabilia which were on display.

A delicious lunch was provided by the local ladies, then we reluctantly left our old friends to travel to our homes, scattered from Cornwall to Toronto and points in-between but with many happy memories of the 1997 reunion at No. 5.

Mary Pritchard said it all when she wrote the following poem:

Oh! What a reunion it was!  
We'll never forget it because....  
Folks came from afar, by plane, rail and car  
Even some came by Voyageur bus.

We laughed and we cried and we talked,  
'bout those days years ago when we walked,  
And carried our lunches, and walked ' long in bunches  
To the old school where we once were taught.

By the teachers we had way back then...  
It was so nice to see them again.  
We owe them a debt, well never forget  
As we continue to talk of "back when."

But the best part of all were the folks  
Who told the old stories and jokes.  
Reminiscent of old days and the difference in ways  
Before TV's, jet travel and cokes.

The school-house has changed quite a bit.  
The seats gone where we used to sit.  
The blackboard still there, but they've got fans to blow air  
And the old-fashioned ceiling's a hit.

The lilac that grew at the wall,  
Disappeared, it's not there at all.  
The woodshed is gone and the pump on the lawn  
And everything looks so darn small!

So we say we're so glad that you came.  
(Wore a big tag that told us your name!)  
No one was so bold as to say we looked old  
And for them, we did just the same.

Then it ended, and home we did go.  
We're so happy and we want you to know....  
We thank God we're alive, when at old "#5"  
We renewed memories and friends from ago.

Mary

### SCHOOL FAIRS

**W**hen Manning and I were discussing holding a reunion, he asked me what was the occasion of the 1931 photo and why we were all dressed in uniform. I told him that was our school fair uniforms and since he didn't know too much about school fairs, he asked me to write about them.

Each spring a parcel came to the school containing packages of vegetable and flower seeds. Each student was given a package of each and was to plant and tend them and show the produce at Metcalfe School Fair.

As well as flowers and vegetables there were classes in woodworking for the boys and sewing for the girls. One year the boys made milk benches, and I think one year salt boxes and once, graduated window sticks. The girls made clothes pin bags, one year hemmed tea towels with embroidery and another year, three different sized button holes.

There were classes for livestock, a calf, a lamb and poultry. I think Carson won first prize for his calf once and Ivan and Walter each showed a lamb, but Donald Stewart's lambs which won prizes at Ottawa Exhibition as well as local fairs were too much competition for ours. Even after Ivan selling Walter a lamb the day before the fair for 25 cents and buying it back the day after for 25 cents so that Walter could be the legal owner of his lamb on fair day as required by the rules.



There were prizes for writing too, as well as public speaking and weed-naming. I can't remember anyone from No. 5 winning the public speaking, though I tried. However, Walter and I won the week-naming contest once. That qualified us to go to Richmond Fair for the county championship. Walter got a ride with Sid McCallums and I went with Billy Oudots. We won first prize at

Richmond too, and Miss O'Neil gave us 25 cents spending money for winning. Don't laugh, that was quite a bit of money then. Ice cream cones were 5 cents, pop was 5 cents, chocolate bars 5 cents and hot dogs were 5 cents. Edna Oudot hung around with us so we treated her and 15 cents was gone. Some time later Edna spied her Aunt Mary and went to talk to her. The minute she was out of sight Walter said "Let's get the hell out of here" and we dashed away in the crowd and spent the other dime.

Soon after school started in September, we began practicing marching and most schools had a yell which was practiced also. Two that I remember were:

Boom-a-lac, Boom-a-lac, Boom, Boom, Bah.  
Chick-a-lac, Chick-a-lac, Cha, Cha, Cha.  
Boom-a-lac, Chick-a-lac,  
S.S. No. 5 Rah, Rah, Rah

And

We've got the go. We've got the get.  
We've got the gang. We've got the pep.  
The go. The get. The gang. The pep.  
S.S. No. 5 leads the rest.

The grass around the south side of the school was tramped down by our marching. The girls wore navy blue skirts and white middies with red ties. The boys, navy pants and white shirts and at one time we had white sailor type caps with S.S. No 5 in red on the front of them. Also each school carried a banner and Metcalfe school marched to a bugle band.

The school which won the most points at the fair won a shield and if the same school won it for three consecutive years it became their property. After No. 5 won it, a silver cup became the prize and we won it for three years too and kept it. The books in the picture were school fair prizes and maybe some one else remembers how we won them. The smaller cup was presented to the individual student who won the most points at the Metcalfe School Fair and was won by Carson Taylor.

Grace Blair

## NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS

*Excerpt from Metcalfe Village, A History From the Writings and Collection of Frances Iveson (\$10.00) one of the latest publication of the Society*

Frigid weather, a cutting east wind, a blinding snow storm! None of these elements curtailed Township ratepayers interest in Nomination Day activities the first Monday in December. Then, this was the once-a-year that east, west, north and south rate-payers converged. Interchanging personal assessment of prospective candidates was basic for voting intelligently on the first Monday in January. By ten o'clock, the influx of ratepayers to the village began. When the clock struck two, nomination assembly hour, Metcalfe's normal head count had almost doubled.

Church sheds and hotel yards were a haven for cutters and sleighs. Horses draped in coarse, smelly, stable blankets munched wisps of straw. Business outlets buzzed with early arrivals. The Township Clerk's office - cramped quarters under the Iveson roof - was standing room only. Within a curtain of the thick tobacco smoke, family members unloaded documents from the hand-made pigeon holes along one wall - no filing cabinets then! Clarification of property assessment, school levy, drainage rates, Statue Labour or dog tax was always in demand.

Local taverns, among them Paddy Connor's bar-room, attracted others. Just a sociable snort with buddies to discount the rigours of a long, cold drive. Heat of discussion in instances was proportionate to in-take of the "hot stuff". Enforced adjournment to respective hotel yards was a substitute at times for prolonged disputes. Here, real battles over candidates drew blood, the consequences of which was that some never darkened the Town Hall door. A black eye, a broken nose or broken teeth were much too obvious.

Others knocked out in the heat of battle came to under a buffalo robe in cutters or sleighs bedded with straw - the courtesy of comrades yet level headed and steady on their feet.

As always, there was an exception. Two enjoyed a little tete-a-tete of their own. Charlie and Bob hailed from the Prescott



Road. Nomination Day, they never missed. The large windows in our office framed their arrival year after year - the visual aspect never varied. On their departure from home they were real buddies. But, not so on their arrival in Metcalfe. Weighed down in winter attire, they slouched low sitting back to back in their little black cutter, head handing low with chin on chest. Harness lines dangled loosely over the dash board. The little horse, with body slumped generally, jogged along. It had a mission to keep - deliver the cutter's occupants to paddy Connor's hotel yard with not one jerk on the reins. The little nag was almost human. It never failed to return them safely to their own back yard time and again.

Why the back to back posture? Argument relative to choice of candidates, heated as it was, was no protection from the cold! However, the warmth of the bottle contents, tucked under the seat, quelled over-heated argument. Instead of punches, it was no more chat as indicated in the back to back position.

The gavel hit the desk in the Town Hall, packed to the rafters, every chair occupied. Even the deep windowsills provided seating accommodation. Nominees one after the other mounted the platform, each identified as an eligible candidate as proposed by two ratepayers - a mover and a seconder. Acceptability of a candidate was reflected at times in the demonstration of "heckling" that occurred during a speech.

Sometimes, nominees were the victims of jokers. Convinced by two so-called friends that he had candidacy potential and consequently nominated by them, he mounted the stage to proclaim his platform if elected. Not surprisingly, audience fright overtook him. For a few moments he stood absolutely rigid. His mouth opened. Not a word came forth. Then he started to stutter, his face a tangle mass of contortions. The audience, for the most part, reacted sympathetically. But piercing the dead silence was a quip from a wag perched in the back window ledge. "Oh! Damn it, Bill! Whistle it". Imagine the uproar!

Another time, an aspirant was waxing eloquently on his qualifications for office, in the midst of which he used the quote - why, nobody could fathom - "If I were an eagle I would fly to the uttermost parts of the earth". An interjection from Bob in front seat, sitting with elbows on knees and chin in cup fashioned hands. "Ah, Bill! You would not get across a half acre lot before you would be shot for a "Shite-poke". (pronunciation as in kite) Get out your encyclopedia. This bird belongs to the crane family.

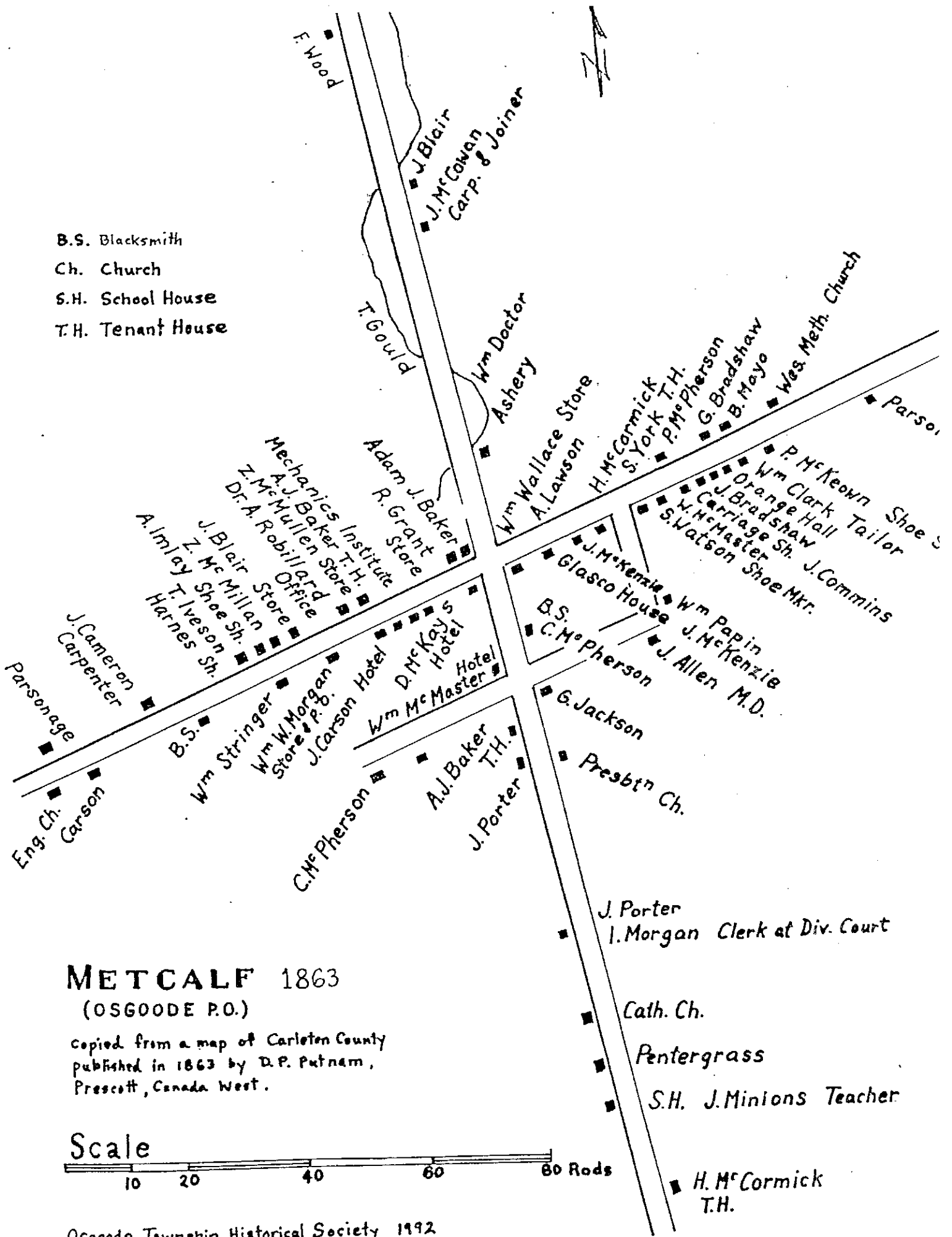
These were just two isolated, humorous incidents related by my Dad at the supper table after Nomination assembly. One regret. Pencils should have been sharpened to record countless others. Memory dulls with passing years.

Worthy of note in council candidacy of my day was the candidate distribution throughout the Township; also, the public spirited generosity of time and effort - no payroll then. There was a long parade of men who served - too many to list. From the standpoint of years of service one man surpassed all. That was the late Alex Dow. For twenty six years he was the servant of his native township's ratepayers. Of those years, only two presented a rival candidate. "Acclamation" had a familiar ring in his ears. As with other members of council - a Deputy Reeve and three Councillors - keen perception of community needs and a tactful approach in implementation of Council decisions dominated administration of Township affairs.

Most of these men were farmers. What about the farm management when these men were out and abroad? Co-operative wives were the "unsung contributors" to council efficiency. Theirs, it was to conquer barnyard chores, to build hay coils or to stack grain sheaves with the help of young family members, while hubby was out abroad on Township affairs. No Women's Lib in those days to proclaim their contribution to promote the Common Good.

# METCALFE VILLAGE 1863

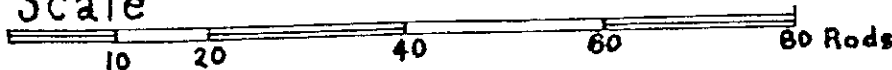
- B.S. Blacksmith
- Ch. Church
- S.H. School House
- T.H. Tenant House



## METCALFE 1863 (OSGOODE P.O.)

copied from a map of Carleton County  
published in 1863 by D.P. Putnam,  
Prescott, Canada West.

### Scale



Osgoode Township Historical Society 1992

Cartographer/Artist David Gray



## A STORY WORTH TELLING TWICE

The following is page no. 1 taken from the 1975 Newsletter, Volume 1, No.3, Editor, **Elizabeth Stuart**.

From copies of two letters we have that were written home to Breadalbane, Scotland, by Donald McKercher, we can judge the spirit and struggles of the original home builders in Osgoode Township. English was a second language to these Highlanders. We need to supply necessary punctuation.

Osgoode May 1855

My Dear Duncan:

...I am getting my health better but Mary complains her head and pains in her eye the heat of the cast metal does not agree with her and the fire hear is confined in a stove like the cheast to heaten the house and there is cooking stoves with foreholes for cooking at wonce.

...I am still working with Stewart the snow left the ground about the 2<sup>nd</sup> April and I am commence ploughing arno ng the stumps and a hard work it is I would rather work a month in Breadalbane than one week in this brute of a place.

...It is a getting so hot now you would think the wind is coming off a burning mountain and the flies are commencing now there is a kind they call mysscatties they are very bad and poisonous and very thick for two months I bought a cow for 5 pounds and little Jessie got a sheep from her cousin...

...There is some hear has got on well them that has a strong family but as for one man to commence in the bush and take his living out and pay the land in 10 year he is a dead man and most of the men hear is half friends there and I did nit think much of them there children is like this country...know nothing but tearing among the woods and stumps.

...There is Lairds hear this 15 years that has not a chair or a bed in there house yet but lie on the floor like the dogs but they dae will as that I am with made well he has 300 acres and about 100 clear He is saving 50 pounds a year he has 300 pounds out on interest and getting 8 percent and a good stock on the farm...there is 23 years since he came and he had only 23 soverings when he bought the land but lands were so ld at 5 shillings an acre which you would give 16 shillings for now.

...I am sorry I did not bring with me a bagpip for all the highlanders hear is angry at me for not taking one they would gather a day now and then to help me with the clearing if I had the pips..

...I am a poor hand at writing letters...I don't like to be under a master in Canada for thy work from sunrises till she sets and that is from 4 oclock in the morning till 8 at night breakfast at 6 dinner at 12 supper at 5 oclock and maybe tea 3 times a day and no sugar used in the tea in Canada.

...This country is very rough for a stranger to look at it is so level and covered with woods but sinkholes hear and there and trees are one third longer hear than in the auld countrye and thicker than Drummond Hill three times...you would not see a hill nor a glen hear nor a burn running.

...ask John McPherson if he would sell any of his prize pips...little Duncan he is a smart child he was born on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 60 miles below Quebec.

Daniel McKercher

Address Lot 24, 9<sup>th</sup> Concession Osgoode, Canada West

### Comments:

A little daughter Ann had died at sea. The pipes came out and Donald MacKeracher walked from his home near Marvelville to Metcalfe to open the fair over 100 years ago.

There often was a great deal of difficulty regarding the settlement of boundaries because of the inadequate surveying. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> concession of the lines were not properly established between Lot 17&18. Because of this, there resulted considerable correspondence:

- ◆ On Oct. 9, 1844, two neighbours, Patrick Deuen and Patrick McCormick said they had known James O'Brien, the claimant, to be the occupant of lot 17-2.
- ◆ Thomas Bailey, Town Clerk of the Township of Osgoode, stated that O'Brien had paid taxes on 17-2 for the past 11 years. Patrick Duance (Dewan) had paid taxes on 18-2 for 11 years. Pat Shields had paid taxes for 5 years. Dated 1853.
- ◆ Thomas Dailey (Daley) tax collector stated that O'Brien was really considered to be residing on lot 17-2 was signed by the following neighbours on Jan. 17, 1854

William Kelly	Patrick Kelly	Anthony Doyle
Mathew Daeley	James McCorkell	Ania Conners
William McCorkell	Timothy Ryan	Denis Conners
Patrick McMahan	James Doyle	Esou Pain
Martin Fonlin	Lawrence Fonlin	William Dailey
John Dailey	Patrick Langley	John McEvoy
Mich'l McDonell	William Gleeson	Patt McCormick
Pat Murphy	Portil Boshoe	Thomas Daley
Bernard Doyle	John Doyle	

Unfortunately improvements had been made on the wrong lot, but a just settlement was decided upon. Other lots gave their owners considerable trouble.

On 15 March 1831 Vince (Vance) Marlin wrote form Prescott asking for lot 42-2 and after many letters finally received the deed in 1842. His brother Robert Jr. asked the N112 of the lot. It is part of this lot that was given for Reid's Mills Cemetery.

Considerable information is given on some petitions. Very little on others. For example:

Duncan McDonell, born in Invermshire in Scotland of age 42 years, having arrived in this province in the year 1802 to become a settler therein and administered him the oath of allegiance do assign to him 200 acres being lot 35, 5<sup>th</sup> Concession, Township of Osgoode.

Land Board of the Eastern District Cornwall 29 Nov 1825

Hugh McKenna born at Tyrone in Ireland of the age of 34 years having arrived in this province in the year 1818 was granted 50 acres as a settler NW112 lot 1 in 6<sup>th</sup>.

Alexander Kennedy of Plantagenate performed his settlement duties on 200 acres lot 43-7<sup>th</sup> on 21 Feb 1827

John Fisher of Kenyon received lot 44-7 in 1825. The ticket was lost but found again 6 Feb 1827 and the settlement duties were performed as March 1840.

## TRY IT AWHILE RECRUITER URGED

The United States Civil war, which began in 1861, caused quite a stir in Osgoode township, in company with other parts of Ontario.

At the time the war broke out Mr Alex Stewart, of Vernon, was only 11 years of age but he remembers clearly the excitement caused. In 1861 Mr Stewart went with an uncle to the fall fair at Kemptville. During the fair, a recruiting officer of the Northern government appeared and surreptitiously canvassed all the young men who were there. He would take them aside and tell them that if they would join the Northern army there "would be a thousand dollars in it for them".

This was the amount of bounty that was offered by rich

men to Canadians who would take the place of either themselves or their sons.

The recruiting officers had to work quietly as it was an offence for anyone to canvass Canadians, Britain being neutral in the war. Mr. Stewart recalls that the recruiting officer tackled one of 5 their neighbours. The young man was not favourable. "Oh try it for a while" the R.O. said, "and if you don't like it you can give it up". But many of the finest young men of Osgoode did enlist. A number of them were killed.

One young man did "try it for a while". He "jumped his bounty" and returned home before the regiment he joined had seen action. "The joke of it was", said Mr Stewart, "that the young man at the conclusion of the war had the nerve to apply for a pension, and, strange to say, got it". "Getting a U.S. Pension at the close of the war was easy", Mr Stewart said. "It was largely a matter of signing enough documents".

*Taken from Old Time Stuff, The Evening Citizen, Sept 20, 1930. Compiled by Donna Bowen.*

## NEWCOMMON ANCESTORS

*A Reunion of the Newcommon /Newcomb Family this past summer resulted in a booklet donated to the archives. Featured here in excerpts, the lot of early settler Jervis Mullin and his wife Elinor Adams - great grandparents of Dorothy Hill of Vernon.*

Early in the spring, 1812, His Majesty's 100 Regt. Of Foot embarked for Canada. There were tears in the eyes of many as the troops marched on board - they were leaving the land of their birth, perhaps to return no more. There were no tears in the eyes of Private Jervis Mullin, late of Arboe, County Antrim. Unknown to all but two or three conspirators - well disguised in a private's uniform, marched Private Mullin's sixteen-year-old wife. As she was a tall girl it was not difficult. Wearing an army uniform, her hair coiled high on her head under a shako, with the visor low over her eyes, she looked like any callow youth in Ireland. Her presence was not discovered until the troopship had made several days journey. It is not on record what award was meted out to Jervis and his friends for their share in concealing the stowaway.

Jervis was in at least seven engagements in the Niagara District; Queenston Heights Oct 13, 1812; the taking of Fort George Apr 27, 1813; the taking of Fort Niagara; the battle of Stoney Creek; Lundy's Lane; Beaver Dam; and Chippewa.

The long weary wartime days finally ended and Jervis now transferred to the 99<sup>th</sup> Regiment was stationed in Bytown. The soldiers stationed here were employed in building the canal locks, working on the 'rock cut' near Wellington and Commissioner Streets. The government now began settling the officers and men of regiment with the 99<sup>th</sup> and 199<sup>th</sup> Regiments being Perth, Smiths Falls, Richmond, Goulburn and the vicinity of Ottawa. Those who accepted landed at the foot of the Chaudiere Falls in the early part of August 1818, which came to be known as Richmond Landing.

At the coming of these settlers there were only 3 house-holders at the 'Landing.' Captain Bellows had the dock and the store. Isaac Friith kept a tavern. There was one settler, Ralph Smith. The Flats around the Chaudiere became a busy place with several hundred women and children, awaiting their soldier husbands to complete the road through the bush and swamp and finish building the log cabins. Sgt Hill supervised the building of the road, which followed the old Chaudiere portage trail, and with a few exceptions, the course of the present Richmond road. The trees were cut, but in many cases the tree stumps had been left standing. The carts and sleighs got around them the best way they could, but many did not reach

## NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

(Cont'd from page 3)

The next activity was Election Day. Voter List revision, posting Polling Lists for each of the twelve Polling Divisions. All were checked and rechecked with the help of the Iveson youngsters. Once old enough, each took a turn. To this I attribute my ingrained habit - check and double check. Contents for the old, battered, galvanized tin (zinc) Ballot Boxes were sorted out. One by one the Returning Officer collected his box. His remuneration for a long day's vigil at the Polling Booth was \$5.00, a paltry sum in today's reckoning. A drive to Metcalfe with his returns, especially before the days of the telegraph or telephone often concluded his day.

No matter the mood of winter, it did not restrain election return vigil until long after midnight in the Chief Polling Clerk's office. Pat Harnet's returns from Poll #1 - well beyond Township centre in the Manotick area - usually spelled out the elected Council members for the ensuing year.

their newly built homes till winter, and there was much suffering from the cold.

Each soldier was given 100 acres of land and each was to receive rations for one year, and the usual farming implements and seed. Each family was entitled to 1 pick-axe, 1 spade, 1 shovel, 1 hoe, 1 draw-knife, 1 hammer, 1 hand-saw, 2 scythe stones, 2 files, 12 panes of glass, 1 lb putty, 12 lbs of nails in 3 sizes, 1 camp kettle, 1 bed and a blanket.

Jervis Mullin carried a number of these articles from Richmond, through the woods for 9 miles to his allotment of land in Goulburn. Some were strapped to his back, both hands were full and the camp kettle was on his head. He 'ran the gauntlet' of a whole army of mosquitoes, not cutting his way through them, but the reverse. They pierced their way through his delicate Irish skin as he waded across the long stretches of swampy ground. Bitterly complaining afterward of his face and hands so unprotected, the 'boys' in expressing their sympathy would have it that 'they bit him through the pot.'

The log or timbered house that Jervis built for Elinor measured about 20 by 28 feet, which was considered quite roomy for a pioneer's cabin. This log home was unusual, in that the fire-place was built in the centre of the house thus dividing the lower floor into two fair sized rooms with shelves for china in one room and kitchen utensils in the other. Jervis built his own fireplace. He would boast that he could build a fireplace with a draft that would draw a handkerchief up the chimney even if the handkerchief was at the far side of the room. They made an effort to keep the fire always burning. It was an ancient Irish custom.

## COMING EVENTS

Nov. 4/97- Monthly meeting. Historian and story-teller, **Coral Lindsay** will be speaking

## NOTES

**OPENING HOURS**- Every Friday 12 noon to 4 p.m. and some Saturdays. Better call ahead.

**MEMBERSHIP** for 1998 will be \$10.00 per year.

### OSGOODE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Published quarterly at the Museum in Vernon. Objective: to promote, preserve and publicize history in the Township of Osgoode and to foster genealogical research. Circulation 250

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