

Metcalfe Fairgrounds, circa 1875

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

at the

Old Vernon School

Newsletter

Volume xvii No 3 Sept 2000

Presidents Report

Aug/Sep 2000

We have once again had an interesting and busy summer in the historical society. Our new sign on Highway 31 (now officially Bank Street) seems to be having the planned effect of attracting visitors and favourable comments. We have also added a bright fluorescent OPEN sign in the front window which when turned on is easily visible from the road.

Pioneer Day & Strawberry Social

On Saturday, July 29, we held our 24th annual Pioneer Day along with a Strawberry Social. It was again most successful. While the weather that day was mixed and we got rained upon a couple of times it did not dampen the enthusiasm of the crowd which was estimated at over 300. Although the event was planned to run from noon to 4:00 PM there were still a good number of spectators there at 5:00 PM. The enthusiastic exhibitors brought out an excellent collection of antique cars (including three model T Fords, a MacLaughlin-Buick and others), Cecil Reaney brought his antique truck and an enlightening display of artefacts from the Metcalfe Rural Telephone Company. Murray Hall had an educational display of dairy related artefacts including milking equipment, cream separator, milk testing and cheese making equipment. Don and Shirley Lowe supplied a generous amount of delicious strawberries which everyone who had the Strawberry Social enjoyed. Bruce Straby of Greely displayed part of his extensive collection of antique mechanical record players. Bruce has been collecting for over 40 years. His collection goes back to 1887 with Thomas A. Edison's wax cylinder players and through to the robust disk record players manufactured by Edison, Victor, Columbia and Brunswick. (Now a bowling equipment manufacturer) Bruce also provided us with music for the afternoon.

I would like to thank all the members for their hard work in ensuring we had another successful Pioneer Day. A special thank you to the ladies who did a bang up job with another delicious Strawberry Social which raised almost \$400.

Larry Robinson Day

Saturday, August 12th was declared Larry Robinson Day in the Township of Osgoode. Mayor Doug Thompson had asked the Historical Society to display our Larry Robinson artefacts at the event. We put together five large display sheets of news clippings covering Larry's career through the 70's, 80's and 90's along with his shirt from the 1976 NHL All-Star Game, one of his hockey sticks from the 1976 Canada Cup and the pair of skates he wore in the 1989 playoffs with Montreal against Calgary. These items were donated to the museum over the years by his father, Les. Ron and

Nelda Isaac added three more display boards of news clippings and photos. The display was well received by the over 2000 people that came to see the Stanley Cup with many adults and young people taking the opportunity to read many of the clippings and having their pictures taken with the display boards and artefacts. We took the opportunity to hand out many of our new museum information brochures. Larry also took the time to come to our display and autograph the stick and shirt

Agriculture Museum

We now have over \$ 10,000 raised or pledged to the project to add a mezzanine level 14 feet wide by 96 feet long which will run along the north wall of the Agriculture Museum building. It is estimated that the total cost, which includes improved lighting, will be approximately \$13,000. We encourage members to make a special donation towards this project. All donations over \$ 10 will be eligible for a tax receipt. We have received donations from as far afield as Hong Kong. Every donation is very much appreciated.

Doug Hughes, President

METCALFE FAIR, IN THE VILLAGE OF METCALFE

In the beginning, the Metcalfe Agricultural Society was known as the County of Russell Agricultural Society, with fairs to rotate annually in the Township of Gloucester, Osgoode, Russell and Cumberland which comprised the County of Russell at that time.

John Kennedy, who lived south of the village was believed to be the first President of the Society. Captain Ira Morgan was the first secretary, serving in that capacity for 21 years. He later became president in 1876, following the death of Captain Morgan in 1891. The Hon. W.C. Edwards became president of the Society which was still called the Russell Agricultural Society.

He remained in office until 1921. During his term the main agricultural building was erected, also the Edwards Stable, the sheep and pigs pens, Judge Stand, rings for both cattle and horses, the hen house and the dining hall. It was while Mr Edwards was president that the organization became known as the "Metcalfe Agricultural Society" in 1912.

Today, thanks to presidents, directors of the Metcalfe Agricultural Society, both past and present, the hundreds of volunteers, Metcalfe Fair stands second to none in eastern Ontario.

Michael Daley



METCALFE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY 1865-1995

submitted by Jim Rowan

In the beginning it was known as the County of Russell Agricultural Society. The fairs were to rotate annually in the Townships of Gloucester, Osgoode, Russell and Cumberland. The first fair was held in Cumberland and the first fair in Osgoode Township was held in 1860 at Rossiter's (now Greely).

In 1861, the people of Metcalfe decided to sponsor their own fair and they held it in Metcalfe. The following is a record of dates regarding when buildings were erected on the grounds:

- * Original Agricultural Hall - destroyed by fire in 1890
- * Present Agricultural Hall - 1891
- * Red Stables as south side started in 1889's - improvements and additions carried on until 1925
- * Grand Stand - 1891. (a donation of James L Roston)
- * Edwards Building - 1922
- * Grand Stand extended 1937
- * Pig Pens built - 1939
- * Cattle Barn #1 - 100 x 30' - 1949
- * Combined Cattle Barn and Curling Rink - 1956 (Centennial Building)
- * Horse Barn - 1962
- * Cattle Barn #2 - 1972
- * Agri-view Building - 1981
- * New Curling Rink - 1982
- * Washrooms - 1985
- * Extended Agri-view Building 1988
- * Lion's Gazebo - 1988
- * Office purchased - 1992
- * Farmer's Community Building - 1994-1995

ODDS AND ENDS ABOUT OUR FAIR

It looked like an interesting project, to go through all of the old minute books and ledgers to determine when the various buildings on our grounds were built. "Nothing to it", I said to myself, "A piece of cake." It did prove to be interesting but not always easy.

The minute books prior to 1920 were missing but I did get some information about earlier times from the Centennial booklet. As for the minutes, from 1920 onwards, the minutes recorded events in great detail about everything except when buildings were erected. Usually they started out with the mention of getting prices and at some point after that there would be a motion to build followed later on by tenders submitted. In the ledger there would be payments for lumber and a contractor. All this might have spanned three years. I could be as much as a year out when noting the year of construction.

It is said that as one grows older, events from the past come, more readily to mind. Apparently the more senior members of our society have not quite reached that stage. Although some information was gleaned from their minds, information that proved to be very helpful. As research continued, from year to year something that was very evident and still holds true today, was the dedication and commitment of everyone involved, from the executive to the newest member. In the 1920's and 30's, directors would meet two or three times a month. Usually on a Saturday night. Followed by this was a period when two or three meetings a year were the norm. The late 1940's saw the number of meetings increase until today when the directors meet once a month and the executives meet even more often.

Bear with me, if you will, as I recall interesting tid-bits from the past.

- 1920 - secretary's salary \$125.00
- 1922 - plan to build new stable, lumber purchased from Andrew Walker - 1' lumber dressed on one side @ \$40.00 per m. 3x4 and 2x4 at \$38.00 per m. delivered
- 1923 - Reverend M. Shaver delegate to convention - expense allowance \$24.50

- 1924 - Stable 30' x 200' built and surplus lumber used to extend stables at south side
 - approved extension to grand stand at cost of \$650.00
- 1925 - Motion to add 100' to south side stables and paint front and ends
 - board fence along road sold "To best advantage."
- 1926 - Wire fence with steel posts and with arm for barbed wire replaced wooden fence
 - motion to build rest room with lavatory accommodation for ladies
- 1927 - Secretary salary \$175.00; Treasurer \$50.00
 - Dining room caterer to have exclusive rights to sell hot dogs
- 1928 - Painted Edwards building and poultry house, red with white trim
 - motion - no booth to have exclusive rights to sell hot dogs
- 1929 - Booths could sell hot dogs but no tea or coffee
 - School Fair to be held in conjunction with Fall Fair, on first day
- 1930 - President John Woods regarding finances and the fact that county grant had been cut in two, appealed to officers and directors to "stand shoulder to shoulder to put forth their best effort in the interest of the Society, in order that our Fair retain it's record as the best rural fair in eastern Ontario."
- 1931 - Ida McLaren and Jessie Cameron appointed delegates to convention
 - new shingle roof on Edwards building
- 1932 - Board sponsored first calf club
 - Championship School Fair held in Metcalfe
 - Board approved a grant of \$15.00 to help organize a Girl's Garden and Canning Club, as approved by Ag. Rep. Moff Cockburn
- 1933 - A request to use Ag. Hall as a skating rink
- 1934 - Fence built along north side to track for tying cattle
- 1935 - Forty rods of fence installed along north side of grounds
- 1936 - Parking fee of \$.025
 - Poultry division changed classification from "American Standard of Perfection" to "Bred to Lay."
- 1937 - Osgoode Horticultural Society request to join Ag. Soc. Approved
 - Grand stand extended - work done by John Sheldrick
 - Motion to assume ownership of Drill Hall approved.
 - Motion to remove old building at entrance to grounds and build a new entrance
 - Because of infantile paralysis epidemic, Fair postponed indefinitely
- 1938 - Motion to paint buildings - paint to be thinned with boiled oil
 - First mention of a nominating committee
- 1939 - First mention of "Black and White"
 - New pig pens built
- 1940 - Fair dates Sept 20-21 - from 1920 on the dates fluctuated between the middle of the month and the end
- 1941 - J.A. Carroll from the Dept of Ag. Approved 20 directors for our Fair
- 1942 - Minutes record only three meetings
- 1943-1944 - During the war years - when possible - 20% of gate receipts donated to the Red Cross
 - Poultry building sold
- 1945 - Advertised Fair on Ottawa Electric Railway - 2 days at \$10.00 per day
 - Motion permitting Cumberland to organize Ag. Soc.
 - Ag. Hall used for skating
- 1946 - Poultry Show finally dropped
- 1947 - Land purchased from Alf Coombs
 - Drill Hall burned during winter. Note - Because hall was used for skating, the ice saved the floor. The

METCALFE FAIR CONT'D

floor was removed in the summer and installed in the Ag. Hall

1948 - Harry Latimer presided at annual meeting

- Motion to accept offer of Kinsman Club to raffle a car - split 50/50

- Motion to wire Ag. Hall and dining hall - work done by Hilliard Thompson

1949 - Motion to have three day Fair

- John Woods retired - replaced by Harry Latimer

- Secretary salary \$200.00; Treasurer \$75.00

1950 - applied for class "B" status

- Motion to favor building a Community Center and donate land

1951 - Mrs Woods retired - Stan Hicks appointed and a typewriter purchased

1952 - First Annual meeting in new Community Center

- Motion - President to hold office no more than two years

- Motion to offer Curling Club space to build a rink

1953 - nothing to report

1954 - First mention of storage rentals

1955 - J.E. (Eldon Craig) appointed Sec-Tres

1957 - Edwards Stable converted to sheep and swine building

- Proposal to hold one meeting a month on a set date

- First recording of ladies meeting with Mrs Bishop presiding

1958 - Dining Hall kitchen enlarged, 30' added at east end

- Hard top floor put in Centennial Building

1959 - Horse races discontinued

- Horse show in arena

- Newly formed Lions Club met with exec. To discuss den renovations

1960 - Dining Hall struck by lightning and kitchen badly burned

- Frank Ryan broadcast "Farmer's Notebook" from Fair

1961 - Guernsey and Jersey show dropped - beef class added

1962 - Horse Barn, 200' x 32' built - \$15,280.00 plus wiring

1963 - Floor and toilets put in Dining Hall

1964 - Consent to let curlers put addition on rink

1965 - Motion to purchase tractor and mower - tractor, second hand Cockshutt 20 - mower new

- Ball Park lighting installed

1966 - Permanent water pipes installed

1967 - Fire in cattle barn

1968 - 1969 - Nothing to report

1970 - Addition to Curling Club plus washroom approved

1971 - Community Center burned

- request by Lions for second ball diamond

1972 - Fair extended to Sunday. Horse Show held in front of grand stand at night

- removed some of red stables at south side

- Proposal to build cattle barn 30' x 149' north of cattle barn #1 - decided to reduce barn length to 100' to reduce cost to \$5000.00

- Lions contributed \$7000 for den renovations, making den usable year round. Included new floor, water piped from Community Center, and washrooms

1973 - Main gate accidentally demolished - new gate built with plaque honoring Dr. Morrow

- Friday Fair "Dr Morrow Day"

- Shilo ring built

- Joint project - curlers, Comm Center and Ag

Soc. - drainage of grounds

1974 - 100' of old barns sold

- Harold Gilbert given OK to build a new pickle

stand

- Catering given to Porteous Bros.

- Last of 100' of old barns sold - \$150.00

1975 - Lola Craig resigns - Ida Craig engaged

1976 - Bill for drainage approved, \$4125.00

1977 - Addition to beef barn

1978 - Purchase of 10 new bleachers, \$525.00 each

1979 - Well drilled - 130' (2 and ½ feet to rock)

- Curling Club building condemned

1980 - Applied for Class "A" status

1981 - Agri-view building built - cost \$23,000.00

1982 - Proposal for new Curling Rink

- 50th Anniversary of Calf Club (4H)

- New Curling Rink built - contractor Gord

Morrow - cost \$205,818.00

1983 - Leahy Family show

1984 - Proposal by Stan Hicks for form a Past Presidents Assoc.

- RCMP Musical Ride

1985 - Washrooms built - cost \$17,000.00

1986 - Grounds at east end of grounds leveled - cost \$2707.00

1987 - Carol Baker show

1988 - Gazebo built by Lions Club

1989 - Dinner Dance fund raiser

- Farrier competition

- Main gate relocated to east end of Comm.

Center parking lot

- Nick Pora annual scholarship - \$1500.00

1991 - Holding tank for den and office

1992 - Office purchased from L7R Trailer Mfg. Inc. \$20,000

1994-1995 - Farmer's Community Building. "Entertainment Center and Farmer's Market"

You will recall that at the beginning I said it would be a piece of cake to get this information. Well, it turned out to be a very big piece but an enjoyable one. I hope that the reader will find something of interest in these snippets from the records; some frivolous, some historical in interest. The founding fathers, looking on from their heavenly abode, must surely be pleased to see that something they started so long ago, still flourishes.

Jim Rowan

**HUMOR FROM THE INTERNET**

I started out with nothingI still have most of it!

If all is not lost, where is it?

An optimist is the person who watches the 6 p.m, 10 p.m and 11 p.m news, hoping things will get better.

Laziness is the habit of resting before you get tired.

NAME CHANGE - OUR LOSS

I would like to refresh your Memories of a proposed name change in 1988, when some area politician proposed a name change from "Ottawa Carleton" to "Metro Ottawa"

REGIONAL COUNCIL VETOES THE PROPOSED CARLETON NAME CHANGE

April 18, 1988

Carleton, A Part of our Heritage

It was with the utmost apprehensiveness I awaited to hear via radio, television, the decision of the Regional Council of the Ottawa Carleton Municipality in regards to the proposed name change (Metro Ottawa). I was elated with the results of the vote, 16 - 11, no name change. I commend Albert Bouwers, the mayor of the Township of Osgoode, for his strong and successful stand on this issue - an issue in my opinion which should never have been conceived in the first place. At this point in time it is gratifying to know that the residents of rural Carleton may continue to retain our identity and our place in history.

Sir Guy Carleton, after whom our county is named, had a brilliant career both as a soldier and administrator. In his two terms of office he held Canada for the Crown by his statecraft and fidelity at a time when the American Revolution and French Revolution were undermining the status quo in the Chancellories of Europe. His two tenures of office in Canada after the conquest place him in the category of one of the greatest colonial statesmen in the long history of the British Empire. His greatness received belated recognition in several biographies more than 100 years after his death.

Carleton first came to America in 1758 and gave distinguished service in the capture of Louisburgh and on the Plains of Abraham at the capture of Quebec where he was wounded leading his Grenadiers. Carleton, with the vision of a statesman far beyond his time, became the Father of the Quebec Act. He forced a major breakthrough in the treatment of a conquered people, hitherto in wars of Empire, the victors imposed their will, customs, laws and language on a defeated country. Carleton reversed all that centuries-old thinking.

When the Continental Armies invaded the province it was Carleton whose meager forces held Quebec and eventually drove them back across the St. Lawrence, aided by an onset of smallpox that left a trail of rotting corpses to a mass grave at Isle aux Noix.

In the retreat from Canada of a pest-ridden, starving army of American frontiersmen, Carleton showed his compassion. Twice he had in his power to wipe out the ragged survivors. The prisoners he took, he fed, clothed and hospitalized. He sought out example to change the savagery of wars. Unfortunately to this point in time it has not worked out that way.

I would like to portray the topographical characteristics of this part of Eastern Ontario and south of this immediate area. I like to feel free to quote excerpts from the Historical Atlas of Carleton County, illustrated by H. Belden & Co., 1879.

"Carleton County is particularly level very similar in most respects to the counties, south and east. We are simply affirming, that it belongs to what scientific writers denominate the Champaign Region, which consist of a territory bounded on the south by the Shickokok, or Notre Dame Mountains, which leave the right bank of the St. Lawrence River about one hundred miles below Quebec City and gradually diverge from the course of that river entering the State of Vermont about 50 miles south of Montreal, under the name of the Green Mountains,

continuing westward till it strikes the eastern limit of the valley of Lake Champlain around which it sweeps in a southerly direction till it runs into the Adirondacks of Western New York State, the eastern limit of which range of hills become the western boundary of the above named region running in a northerly direction until they terminate at the St. Lawrence River in the neighbourhood of the Thousand Islands. The northern boundary of this region is known as the Laurentides or Laurentian Hills. This range of hills hugs the left bank of the St. Lawrence from the coast of Labrador to a point about twenty miles below the city of Quebec. It diverges gradually inland, being opposite Quebec City about twenty miles north of that city and about fifty miles north of Montreal, striking the river Ottawa some sixty miles above its confluence, with the St. Lawrence, following its left bank up the Chats Rapids where it crosses the Ottawa River and runs an almost southerly direction meeting the Adirondack Range at the Thousand Islands, thus it will seem that the county of Carleton is a part of the Champaign Region, which comprises the valley of the upper St. Lawrence and the Lower Ottawa in Canada, and the valley of Lake Champlain in the United States and like the greater part of that region, the surface of the county throughout the major portion of Carleton also is very level, the exceptions being so few and of such character as to be scarce worthy of notice as affecting the general topography."

In the year 1796 the aging Commander left Canada returning to his estate overlooking the Berkshire Thames to live out his remaining years. Truly a man who has left an indelible imprint in the history of this country, Canada.

NAME CHANGE 1999-2000

As of January 1, 2001 Carleton County (Ottawa Carleton), Osgoode Township and all other communities within its boundaries, as we have known it to be, will have been swept away with the winds of change.

All opposition to this bureaucratic proposal was to no avail. This vast area, 67% rural, will henceforth be called the "City of Ottawa."

Michael Daley

HISTORICAL NOTABLE

For all parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, who are purchasing school supplies for children for the upcoming school year, you might find this story interesting. It is about the origin of Natural Pencils and can be traced back to the 1860's when the far north was over run with prospectors with maps in hand, visions of gold nuggets and endless dreams of striking it rich.

Pete, one old-timer who had unearthed more than his share of fool's gold over the years, had spent a long, hard day panning near a settlement called, oddly enough, Pencil Point. Before turning in for the night, he built a fire and tried to make sense of a map of the area. Pete became tired and frustrated about where to pan the next day. He picked up a charred branch from the fire and stabbed at the paper map on the ground.

When he opened his eyes he saw the black mark the stick had made and felt sure that tomorrow would be his lucky day. Did Pete spend the rest of his life in hot pursuit of the most precious of metals? Not on your life! Pete had hit the mother-lode, in a matter of speaking.

Pete knew a good thing when he saw it. He packed up as many willow tree "Pencils" as his mule could carry and traveled across the country. By 1871, Pete's All-Natural Pencils Inc. was a legend drawing customers across two continents.

Jim Bowman



A TANGLED RELATIONSHIP

From the manuscript of *Memoir*, by P. Michael Dewan. Mr Dewan was born in Osgoode on the Manotick Station Road. He was elected Member of the Legislature of the province of Ontario for Oxford County in 1934. He was appointed Minister of Agriculture in 1937 and carried that portfolio until 1943. He was by far one of the most outstanding men in Hepburn Cabinet, people trusted him, that was his greatness

M. Daly

My father married Margaret Shields, the daughter of Patrick Shields. Pat's brother, Thomas Shields had already wed Brigit Dewan. The resulting situation was that Brigit, already Mother's aunt by her marriage to Thomas Shields now also became Mother's sister-in-law.

For my own part (and that of my brother and sisters) Thomas Shields' family were my first cousins on my Father's side and also my first cousins once removed on my Mother's side. Then what happened? Well Brigit Ann, eldest daughter of Tom and Brigit married Dave Kelly a direct first cousin of my Mother on her Mother's side. And so the issue of Brigit Ann and Dave became my double second cousins on my Mother's side and my first cousins once removed on my Father's side.

Another tangle - "Pod" Shields, (How he got this nickname I do not know), brother of Brigit Ann did not marry until he was of middle age and he then invading a younger generation took as his wife Loretta (Kaye) Kelly, a daughter of Bill who was a brother of Dave. Or putting it another way, Pod married his sister's niece by marriage. Thus the children of this union are my second cousins and also my second cousins once removed on Mother's side and my first cousins once removed on my Father's side.

These tangles do show how tangled relationships may become, without any blood relatives whatever entering into marriage.

In the Osgoode district there are several unions of my Mother's first cousins with my first cousins on my Father's side which gives me relatives who are first cousins once removed on the one side and second cousins on the other.

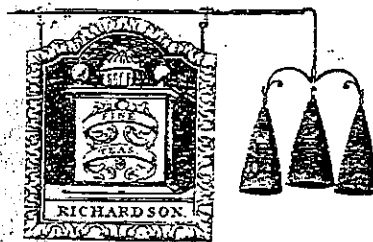
When quite a young chap, I kept company with a young girl named Anise. The relationship did not continue. While going with her I brought with me my uncle only a few years older than myself and presented him to Clarissa, elder sister of Anise. Then the friendship grew and resulted in marriage. (It is but incidental to mention that Anise later married my Mother's first cousin so that her children became my second cousins.)

But what of the relationship between the two sisters' children? They were of course, first cousins on their respective Mother's side. But because the husbands were first cousins, they were also second cousins.

I say enough of this for I can't imagine any reader trying to solve these "tangles." Even my wife becomes confused and indeed somewhat impatient when I attempt to explain. In fact she usually "shuts me off." But I say to her, "Come with me to the home of my first cousin Willie Dewan, next farm to where I was born and there you find him married to your own first cousin Miss Kealey, so their children are your first cousins once removed; they are likewise mine."

So Olive is not entirely devoid of "tangled" relationships.

Anyway, the examples mentioned do indicate how involved blood connections became in those horse and buggy days when men did not in most cases travel too far afield to find their mates.



John Richardson
Grocer

at the Corner and thro Sugar Loaves
against Hatton Garden Holborn

London.

*Sells Fine Teas, Coffee, Chocolate, Snuff, Soap,
Malt, Wine, Vermicelli, Starch, Sugar, Powder, Blues
With all sorts of Groceries & Confectionary Wares
Wholesale and Retail*

SUGAR IS SWEET

Sugar in pre-confederation days was a luxury. As pictured above it came in a solid cone (or loaf) brightly wrapped first in white paper, then in purple. As it was costly, other methods of sweetening were home-produced honey, maple sugar and molasses. A customer would ask the shop keeper to cut off what was needed with a special pincer. Each cone/loaf weighed up to 55 pounds. The customer did the granulating at home in a grinder, or the shop keeper might also do so.

Sugar cost between 12 - 16 cents per pound, costly when it is recorded that semi-skilled labourers made roughly \$1.00 per day at pre-Confederation times. At this time granulated sugar was not popular. Even then it was coarse and brown, and so hardened in the barrel or hogshead in which it was shipped that a special augur was needed to loosen it, and a special sugar grinder was part of grocers equipment.

Sugar originated in cane form from the tropics, though some areas in the United States grew small patches of cane to be ground and processed.

The refining method was to melt the raw sugar, then add milk of lime, egg albumin or oxblood to the pot. This caused the impurities to coagulate and rise to the surface where they could be skimmed off. The resulting light colored syrup was boiled to a heavy consistency, then poured into cone-shaped molds to cool and crystallize. The syrup which trickled through the aperture of the mold was collected and sold under the name of Treacle. Sometimes Fuller's Earth was run through the cooling cone to collect the dregs of molasses. The next step was to knock the loaf gently from the mold, trim it so no colored part remained. Then it was dried at a temperature of 130 to 140 degrees in a drying oven from three to five days.

Early settlers prized the purple wrapping as it could be soaked for fancy dyeing.

Sugar originated in the Far East, probably India. It was first used in England in the Continent by returning Crusaders. The first mention of sugar cane appeared in the record of Alexander the Great. At the time that Nero fiddled, a Greek physician told listeners about a sort of hard honey called Saccharum found upon canes in India. Arab traders in the Middle Ages took sugar on the road to Eastern Europe. The Italian Republics grew rich and powerful with sugar trade. Columbus, took cane cuttings to America where they flourished spurring a brisk trade between the West Indies and Europe. The products included rum, molasses and sugar.

Sugar and a universal "sweet tooth" has played a part in building rich seaports, discovering a continent, and developing a nation. Though it originally was used for making medicines, it began its rise in popularity with social tea drinking in the western world.

Ann Leighton-Kyle

NOTE OF THANKS FROM THE DIRECTORS

I would like to thank all contributors and people who worked at the Museum on Pioneer Day, July 29th. I'm sure that everyone will agree that the day was very successful, even though dark skies did keep some people away.

It was good to see Don & Shirley Lowe out again. I thank Don for giving me a tour of his trailer and his offer of a trip south in it.

For those that haven't heard, I increased the population of Osgoode Township by one on Aug. 1, 2000 with the arrival of Samuel James Bowman. My wife helped a little, I guess. Everyone is doing well and the parents are expecting to sleep some month soon now. I hope that everyone has a good fall. Get lots of wood in, it may be a long winter.

Jim Bowman

**OSGOODE TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM
NEWSLETTER**

Published quarterly at the Museum in Vernon
Objective is to promote, preserve and publicize history in the Township of Osgoode and to foster genealogical research. Museum & archives are free admission.

Circulation - 225 Membership \$10.00 yearly
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MUSEUM NOTES

√ Thanks to Stephen MacDonald of Newington, we have a new glass donations box with a padlock. With his expertise in woodwork, it can be attached to the front desk easily.

√ October 3rd speaker will be John Van Baal about the "Secrets of the Lost Villages."

√ November 7th speaker will be George D Hobson, Manotick, Polar Shelf Research Group, now a Tour Guide in the North West Passage. - "Historic Sites in the North West Passage"

√ Raffle Tickets for the Quilt made at the Museum are now available at \$1 ea. Help make this a worthwhile effort.

√ Try our Web site at: www.magma.ca/~oths

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Michael

Here's another e-mail which I recently received while researching some of the people who came from Ireland to work on the Rideau Canal and later emigrated to the United States.

Daniel Burns was born in Belfast. According to his obituary, he was born in 1795, but various census information gives his date of birth between 1801 and 1810. He emigrated to Upper Canada about 1826 and married Ann Crosby in Bytown (Notre Dame Church) in 1832. By 1833, the family was living in Madison County, New York, where their first child, John, was born. The family moved to various places in New York and Pennsylvania, finally settling in Mauch Chunk, PA. (Mauch Chunk is now known as Jim Thorpe.) The family consisted of John, Roseanna, Patrick, Daniel Jr, Margaret (my great grandmother), James and Elizabeth.

Daniel died in 1891 and according to his obituary, "of his family in Ireland is living, excepting a nephew who is a prominent well-to-do businessman in Belfast."

John, Patrick and Daniel all fought in the American Civil War. In fact, it was while searching Civil War records that I discovered the mention of the marriage in Bytown.

As I looked at your web site, I was struck by the many names that I am also researching... McGee, Nash, Mulligan, McCabe. I suppose it is just a coincidence, especially since so many Irish families left Ireland.

My e-mail address is ag.lewis@sympatico.ca

Al Lewis

ARCHIVIST/CURATOR'S REPORT

It has been a busy summer with numerous visitors and many telephone and e-mail enquiries.

Just a few of the family names being researched were: Turner, Bower, Reoch, McCooye, Acres, McEvoy, Nolan Otto.

We have received two Porteous family written histories: 1) Descendants of James Porteous by Jim Norman Porteous, Barrie, On.

2) The Porteous Story - A Scottish Border Family from 1439 A.D Vol. I by Barry Porteous.

3) Lorna (Martin) McGarry donated the Waddell family history

4) A copy of William Kearns of Metcalfe by Elizabeth H. Pope was also donated to the archives.

ARTIFACTS

Several artifacts have also been donated.

* A very decorative (and old) comb, brush and mirror set that had belonged to the late Miss Jessie Robertson was donated by her niece Alice Craig along with several other articles belonging to Miss Robertson.

* A light fixture belonging to Major Arthur Barnes that had been at his cottage for many years. It was an Osgoode "Street Light" at one time. Mr Barnes added the electric lamp socket then mounted it by his wood grill outside the cottage where it served for 40 years. This artifact was donated by Tom Barnes, grandson of Major Barnes.

* A photo of the Vernon Hockey Team (with cup) of 1924 was donated by Harriet Lemoine of Metcalfe.

These are just a few of the many artifacts that we have received.

Donna Bowen

