

Osgoode Township
Historical Society & Museum

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

Newsletter
VOLUME XV 1989 NO 4



Portraying The Past

PRESIDENTS REPORT

This shall be our last newsletter of 1989, marking the close of a very busy and satisfying year for the Historical Society. Thanks to the dedication of our members we have been able to meet our commitment to the public in spite of problems with the maintenance of the school building and the additional load imposed by the opening of the new building.

The Heritage Day theme was "Early Industry in Osgoode Township" and it drew a record audience to hear an informal talk on the primitive industries practiced in the early years of settlement.

We were honored this summer by visits from the Ottawa Historical Society and the Kemptville branch of the Women's Institute. A most noteworthy visit by two direct descendants of the township founder Alexander MacDonnell, Audrey Leinmeker (great-great granddaughter) and John McAllister (great-great grandson) who were visiting from Alberta.

Pioneer Day on the 12th of Aug. was also the occasion of the official opening of the new agricultural collection building. We were fortunate to have MPP Norm Sterling and local officials available for the ceremonies. With a good crowd in attendance, Mayor Bouers cut the ribbon and declared the new building officially opened. Bert Velthuis, representing the Metcalfe and District Lions Club closed the circuits to officially light the building and our MPP Norm Sterling unveiled a plaque which reads "This building was erected with assistance from the Ontario Minister of Culture and Communications, the Metcalfe and District Lions Club and the Ratepayers of Osgoode Township."

Visitors generally expressed the opinion that we have a good collection and that it is well presented.

Bob Usher, President

Editor's Notes: Once again I stand in awe, at the transfiguration of our countryside, here in this beautiful valley with its green hills, majestic rivers, and streams, that meander through the fertile farmlands of our townships. Nature had once again bedecked our country-side in its natural splendour lush green meadows, and golden stubble set amidst the majestic colours of red, green and gold the aftermath of a bountiful summer, with hay, grain and corn crops in abundance.

And then the scene changes, as it were, trees stand naked bereft of their autumn splendour, farmers work their fertile fields ever so gently, their furrows they turn to lie and await the winter's snows.

Notes of Interest; Our fall fairs have come and gone. Metcalfe Fair President Bob Usher co-ordinated the setting up of a display of artifacts, publication, etc., in the agricultural Hall for the one hundred and thirty-third annual event. The weather for the four days Sept. 26 to Oct. 1st was beyond reproach. Tickets were sold for a quilt made by Alice Craig, Olive Cameron, Ann Carkner, Muriel Cameron and Edna Presley. They are to be commended for completing such a successful project. Ticket sales over the summer, Ottawa Ex, etc., totalled \$850.00. The winning ticket was drawn at the Metcalfe Fair, the winner being Ralph Scott of Greely, Ontario.

Ottawa Exhibition: Past President Shirley Lowe co-ordinated the setting up of an interesting display at the Ottawa Ex. of artifacts, publications etc., hand made quilt of which tickets were sold, our thanks to Shirley and Don Lowe, Ann Leighten-Kyle, Alice Craig, Patti Mitton, and Bessie (Howes) Windsor who volunteered their time to man the display over the ten day event in the Heritage Building. Councillors Albert McKeown, Blaine Ball, Doug Thompson, Lloyd Cranston and their wives, members of the Historical Society, Mike Daley, Don and Shirley Lowe, Fred and Vivian Alexander were guests at a noon day luncheon the last day of the event, hosted by the Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

Shirley Lowe accepted on behalf of the Society, a certificate of appreciation for participating in the 10-day event. Shirley received a personal certificate for her major role in this event. These certificates were presented by Yvonne O'Neill - Liberal Member, Ottawa-South.

Russell Sept. 30, 1989 - A Day to Remember: The official opening of the Russell and District Historical Museum building. The former Russell Baptist Church, moved, and refurbished on the former site of St. Paul's Methodist Church (destroyed by fire in 1959) overlooking the Castor river. The Methodist cemetery nestled behind this historic building, is the last resting place for many of the pioneer families of the area. There, many of the tombstones, faded and worn with the mists of time stand like sentinels, overlooking all those interred beneath them.

The Ottawa Historical Society is promoting a Historical Tour to South East England the first two weeks in June 1990. For further information call Herb Gilles at 225-4185.

Membership: New and renewal of membership fees have been adjusted to absorb the high cost of material and postage to eight dollars per year. We sincerely appreciate your past and hopefully your continued support.

Michael Daly

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The Last Will and Testament of William McGirr (continued from last edition)

I give and bequeath unto my daughters Mary McGirr, Margaret McGirr and Eleanor McGirr and to each of them respectively the sum of two hundred dollars lawful money of Canada to (be) paid to them by my said sons Alexander McGirr and Robert McGirr ----- fifty dollars each. My son Alexander to pay the said sums to my daughters Mary and Margaret, and my son Robert to pay the said sum to Eleanor. The first of such payments to be due and made within three years after my decease with interest for all remaining unpaid then thereafter at the rate of five percent per annum untill paid. And I charge the Lands heretofore so willed to my said sons Alexander and Robert with the payments of the same, and as a lien on the same to enforce the payment thereof.

My reaper and mower, waggons, buggy, sleighs and other farming implements I give and dispose of as follows to be used in common by my sons Alexander and Robert as long as they agree in the use of same, and whenever they think proper to divide my son Alexander will receive two-thirds value and my son Robert one-third value, and to be so divided and delivered by my Executors hereafter named.

I give and bequeath all the rest and residue of my Estate and Effects including all my household furniture to my beloved wife, during her widowhood or natural life, and after for the use and benefit of my daughters unmarried untill they are married, and then afterwards to be equally divided among all my daughters and sons Alexander and Robert, share and share alike by my Executors.

I give and bequeath unto my son James Cameron McGirr all each sum or sums of money as will be required to give him a fair education, and such trade as he may desire to learn, and to be payable by my said sons Alexander and Robert equally, and I charge the said Lands so willed to them with the payment of the same, and to my sons John McGirr and William McGirr I give the sum of one dollar each, to be paid them one year after my decease by my Executors of this my Last Will and Testament.

In Witnesses whereof I the said William McGirr have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty-first day of January one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

William McGirr (signed)

Signed sealed and delivered by the Testator in the presence of us whom in his presence and at his request subscribed our names as Witnesses.

James Wood (signed) of the Township of Osgoode, Farmer.
 (Name of second witness illegible)

No. 3 Company 43 Battalion Metcalfe Ontario: Contributed by Frances Iveson

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|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Ira Morgan, Capt. | 21. Pvt. Barton Howes | 41. Pvt. Jas. Shepherd |
| 2. Lieut. Hanna | 22. Pvt. Wm. Howes | 42. Pvt. Dan Gerard |
| 3. Ens. J. Carson | 23. Pvt. Thos. Duncan | 43. Pvt. Jas. McConnell |
| 4. Col. Sgt. A.P. Imlay | 24. Pvt. Jonathan Mossop | 44. Pvt. Henry Woods |
| 5. Sgt. P. McKoskie | 25. Pvt. Nelson Lawlor | 45. Pvt. Daniel McDonell |
| 6. Sgt. Jas. Sharp | 26. Pvt. John McCooeye | 46. Pvt. A. McPherson |
| 7. Sgt. John Campbell | 27. Pvt. James Dempsey | 47. Pvt. Wm. McRostie |
| 8. Corp. Jas. Simpson | 28. Pvt. Ephram York | 48. Pvt. Wm. Grant |
| 9. Corp. Henry York | 29. Pvt. Joe York | 49. Pvt. F. Iveson (Bugler) |
| 10. Corp. Alex McDonell | 30. Pvt. John Hall | 50. John A. McDonell |
| 11. Pvt. Dan McDonald | 31. Pvt. David Wishart | (Dr. Jack) |
| 12. Pvt. Robb Gold | 32. Pvt. Duncan Fisher | 51. Wm. Cameron |
| 13. Pvt. John Quail | 33. Pvt. Robert McKeown | 52. George Grant |
| 14. Pvt. Richard Quail | 34. Pvt. Alex Cochrane | 53. John Dempsey |
| 15. Pvt. Wm. Bell | 35. Pvt. Wm. Doctor | 54. Dr. Wm. Lousc (Loux?) |
| 16. Pvt. James Kief | 36. Pvt. Wm. York | 55. Jas. McCormick |
| 17. Pvt. John Cooper | 37. Pvt. Dan McLaurin | |
| 18. Pvt. Thos. Carson | 38. Pvt. Wm. Boyd | |
| 19. Pvt. Thos. Melvin | 39. Pvt. Wm. Clark | |
| 20. Pvt. Wm. Scott | 40. Pvt. Geo. Shepherd | |

SOME NOTES ABOUT CURLING

As we go to press the Metcalfe Curling Club will be starting the 64th season of continuous curling for that organization. The club was inspired by the Rev. Fr. Harris, Rev. Eakin and Dr. Byers in 1925 and curling began on natural ice in the drill hall on the west side of Albert Street. A rink built across the street was used for a time then abandoned before a third accommodation was erected at the fair grounds on the site of the present rink.

Early curlers in the area enjoyed inter-club matches with Russell, Winchester and Ottawa. No doubt travel between clubs was sometimes difficult in early days but a match between clubs from Montreal and Quebec City in 1835 must be a record with curlers leaving Montreal on the 7th of January, arriving at Three Rivers to curl at noon on the 9th.

There is little doubt that the game originated in Scotland, where printed references are found as early as 1638. A Curling stone was found in the last century, dated 1551. It was of unusual shape, being "eleven inches long, ten inches broad and five inches thick. The game was brought to Canada by settlers and soldiers in the latter part of the eighteenth century. It was not long before teams of non-Scots, sometimes referred to as "Barbarians" were involved in the game.

When granite stones were not available, hardwood blocks loaded with lead were sometimes used. Cast iron was adopted because the granite sometimes cracked in the intense cold in the days of outdoor rinks. They were, no doubt cheaper and more easily obtained in those days when small foundries were found in many of our small towns. With artificial ice in covered rinks we tend to take good playing conditions for granted. In 1864 during a match between Port Hope and Cobourg four curlers had their ears frozen, while in 1875-76 December and January were so mild that no ice existed. Now we have comfortable facilities and excellent ice from November to April, but the important aspects of the game have changed little over the centuries. We still enjoy good fellowship, good sportsmanship and the really expert curlers are still to be found among the spectators.

Bob Usher

NEW ACQUISITIONS IN THE AGRICULTURAL ANNEX

Back when the first notions of expansion and a separate machinery annex was brought up, there were offers of artifacts to be donated. In the meantime, before suitable space was available, these priceless artifacts remained where they were or were stored in members' barns. Then immediately after the doors were installed in the newly completed building and before opening day, volunteers managed to bring in the aforementioned donations, place them roughly in categories, register and label them. Errors and omissions may take time to rectify. A few of the many acquisitions we received are notable for various reasons. A 'Land Roller' donated by Weldon Lancaster from his farm on lot 32 conc. 6 is notable because of its primitive appearance and function. A hand made implement, it is basically a large pine log, about a meter in diameter on a horse drawn frame. It was on the farm when Weldon bought it. Two Threshing machines were received. The older one donated by Murray Little of lot 31, conc. 8 is stamped Wheeler, Melick & Co. 1885. It was owned by John "in the 5th" Campbell who lived on lot 31, conc B just prior to Murray's grandfather. The more recent of the Threshers was donated by Earl and Bessie Quinn. Recently Mary Cooper of CBC 'Radio Noon' interviewed the Quinns here in the Annex and they reminisced about harvesting and the Thresher that is now our acquisition. A Fanning Mill has been donated by Gerald MacEvoy, its age contradicts its fresh looking colour and good condition. An indispensable farm implement, it was no doubt used and stored in shelter. An unusual item, and one of the items donated by Dwight McRuer is a unique cast iron pig trough. It was locally made by the foundry in Kenmore. Another unusual artifact was one whose identity kept everyone guessing until one was found in a book. This article was about a meter long made of tin, cylindrical shaped with pointed, cone ends, a handle on one end and an opening on the other. Because of its shape and because it rested on 4 small 'feet' it was immediately dubbed the 'pig'. Its function however was as a Swing Churn, the rings on the top side were for hanging the churn from the ceiling, the agitation of swinging producing the butter. It was donated by John Campbell of Golden Valley. A large number of pumps and engines in the Annex are from the collection of Bill Zandbelt in Vernon. He has painstakingly restored and rebuilt and made replicas all of which are in working condition. A number of items have been donated by Lorne Craig as well, Lorne being an indispensable restorer and a collector himself. Volunteers are welcome at anytime to show up with whisk brooms, dustpans and toothbrushes to assist in removing loose dirt and debris from these marvelous machines.

Ann Leighton-Kyle, Curator

KEMPTVILLE ADVANCE JAN. 10, 1907

HOCKEY AT OSGOODE

A hockey match between Osgoode and Kars was played on the rink at Osgoode Station last Sat. Both teams lined up in good spirits. Osgoode scored 5 goals in half time and Kars 1. Second time Osgoode scored 2 and Kars 1 giving a time of 7 - 2. The lineup was as follows:

(continued)

Kemptville Advance Jan. 10, 1907 continued

	<u>Kars</u>	<u>Osgoode</u>
goal	Rechleau	J. Shaver
point	J. Lindsay	A. Moses
c. point	L. Lindsay	T. Levere
rover	J. O'Callaghan	B. Main
center	Martin O'Callaghan	G. Ferguson
R. wing	Geo. Kerr	W. Boyd
L. wing	B. Veitch	W. Rath

Mr. J. Clarke from the west made a good referee.

From the Kemptville Advance 1881 - Compiled by Shirley Lowe

- March 18 - A Chaudiere Firm has received no less than 67,000 bushels of oats from Osgoode Station during the winter.
- April 22 - Campbell's saw mill will be ready for work in about four weeks time. Large quantities of potatoes are being shipped from Metcalfe area to U.S.A. Dr. Wallace of North Gower will commence practice in Metcalfe about the end of this week. Pink and Rolston intend rebuilding mills which were burned a little over a year ago.
- Sept 30 - Mr. John R. Campbell of Vernon made 1700 pounds of butter from 12 cows in less than 7 months. Owing to its superior quality he received a higher price for it upon delivery than was agreed upon. He attributes quality and quantity to Mr. Alex Smith's creamers. Mr. Hebron Harris has passed through the Gatineau Boom this season 55,227 railroad ties. There are 4000 yet to come. Ties are sent to Kingston and Cape Vincent. Mr. Johnston a speculator paid out about \$40,000 in three days last week for butter in Osgoode Station. Osgoode has become a great market for grain and produce. Buyers are John Eastman for Thomas McKay and Co., W. Keeler for Mr. Smith of Prescott and Hugh Cleland for J. P. Wiser of Prescott.
- Oct. 28 - It is estimated that about 1700 car loads of lumber are to be shipped over the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Railroad to American markets.

From the Kemptville Advance - The Archives 1892

- Jan. 14 - While crossing the Rideau at Robert Nixon's near Kars on Saturday morning, Uriah Sander's team and rig broke through. By prompt action all were rescued. A short time ago John Waterson of Vernon was presented with an excellent fur overcoat by his friends in that section. This goes to show that as a teacher Mr. Waterson is highly esteemed. May it last long and wear well to protect his frail body from the chilling blasts of Canadian winters.
- Feb. 18 - Osgoode Station 25 years ago (c 1867) had but one shingled roof. It now has 2 general stores, 2 carpenter shops, 2 telegraph offices, 2 churches, a school house, tavern, blacksmith shop, cooper shop, grain imporium, shoe shop. (etc.)
- Feb. 25 - A former resident of Osgoode M. McGrath who has been living in Drayton, Dakota, is renewing old acquaintances.
- March 17 - The quiet village of South Finch has become excited over what is thought to be the discovery of a copper mine in the vicinity.
- May 5 - Mrs. Ira Morgan of Metcalfe has disposed of her household effects and will live in Ottawa in the future. Edward Barr has sold his hotel in Osgoode Station to Frank Young of Hazeldean. The price paid is said to be \$4,000.
- May 19 - We expect to have quite a number from her (Manotick) attend the I.O.F. picnic at Russell's Grove near Osgoode Station. We understand the Manotick Brass Band and the Court from here will attend. A good time for all.
- May 26 - Mrs. W. F. Gibson returned to her home in Kemptville after visiting her sister Mrs. Dr. Wallace of Metcalfe.
- June 2 - The South Mountain cheese factory owned by the Eager combination was totally destroyed by fire at an early hour on Tuesday morning. Some 60 cheeses were saved. Loss about \$1200. no insurance.