

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

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

Newsletter



Portraying The Past

VOLUME XV 1989 NO. 1

Oxen, a part of our Township History. The above picture of Brothers Don and Russ Lowe with their beautiful, well-matched team of oxen, portray a scene of long ago. Oxen were used mainly to draw ploughs, but they were also essential in land cleaning. To drag away the logs or stumps, wagons and carts were commonly drawn by oxen. The harness for oxen was simple - a yoke of some sort from which a chain extended back to the load. Yokes were of two kinds. In the Atlantic Colonies they were constructed from a heavy piece of wood about six feet long, each end of which was shaped to fit the ox's head just in front of the horns, where it was held in place with straps. The more usual arrangement was a piece of timber shaped like a rounded letter M to fit over the neck of the oxen in front of the shoulders. This timber was held in place by sticks, willow or birch, which were bent into a U-shape to enclose the ox's neck, and inserted into the yoke on either side of the shoulders. Unlike the horse, oxen were not guided by reins, but by means of a pole or prod. Well-trained oxen would also respond to a word of command, a shout of "gee" turning them to the right, and "haw" to the left. Oxen had to be trained from an early age. They are slow, and sometimes exasperating but mostly they are a placid animal which was their advantage over horses. They provided a strong, steady pull and were not easily frightened. If the plow they were pulling became caught in a root or a rock, they would simply stand and wait until it was freed.

This team of oxen, are an added attraction here in Eastern Ontario at Fall fairs, plowing matches, Ottawa Exhibition, parades, etc. Their owners, Don, who farms on the river road in the township and Russ, retired from the Ottawa Police Force, bask in the never ending admirable comments from the young and the elderly and enjoy every minute of it.

The Osgoode Twp. Assessment roll of 1830 reads 14 families. Three families lived in one-storey houses made of timbers squared on two sides and the others lived in crude shanties. There was one horse, 10 oxen and 24 cows. By 1840 there were 110 horses, 112 oxen and 273 cows.

The following items are taken from the time-ravaged pages of the daily account books of Michael Fanning, blacksmith, lot 12, con. 6, Osgoode Twsp. which date from 1838 to 1862.

Account of John Lee (in part only) in pounds shilling, pence May 7, 1838, to jumping 1 ox 5.s. to mending chain 1.s.6.p. May 27, 1838 to reviting ox yoke 1.s.9.p. mending chain 7.p. Aug. 3, 1839 to hock's hinges for barn door 6.s.2p. 8 bolts 32 spikes L2.6.s.2.p. October 16, 1839, shoeing horse 4 removals 2.s.6.p. December 4, 1839 shoeing horse 4 new shoes 6.s.2 pence.

Account of Thomas Kangley April 24, 1840 to jumping 1 ox 5.s.

Account of John Daily, 2 bands, 1 hook for whippletree 4.s.3.p. Cr. by cash 2s.6p.

Account of Alexander McDonnell, Shoeing 2 horses 8 removes 5.s.

Note of Interest Did you know, the community of Greely, about 12 kilometres south of Ottawa city limits on highway 31 in Osgoode Twp. was chosen as the site for Canada's first Solar-designed Post Office, officially opened Friday, May 29, 1981. It is equipped with a glass-panelled roof that soaks up and recycles the sun's heat to warm the building. The single story wood frame building has 12 solar collectors mounted on its roof. They heat the building's water supply and add considerable support to the building's main heating system. The Post Office was built at a cost of \$127,531.34. The Greely Post Office which had been closed since 24-10-1914 re-opened in rented quarters Sept. 2, 1970. Greely is one of a number of expanding communities within commuting distance of Ottawa, the Capital City of Canada.

Prior to 1885, Greely was known as Rossiters Corners (refer to Greely, a Glimpse into the past, newsletter No. 4 1986). In 1833 Moss K. Dickinson, M.P. recommended to the Post Office Department that a post office be established in what is now known as Greely. He was visited by T. P. French of the Postal Inspection Office. As a result Mr. French wrote the following letter to the Post Master General. (in part only) dated July 16, 1884. Mr. M. K. Dickinson, M.P. has recommended the establishment of a post office at Stanley's Hotel, lot 5, con. 6 in the township of Osgoode, County of Russell. The office if established would accommodate some 30 to 35 families. The revenue would be, I think, some 12 to 15 dollars per annum but the cost of the service would be small as the courier for Leitrim, South Gloucester railway station, tri-weekly service could be made by extending two miles to the present route. This he offers to do for \$25.00 per annum. The letter was signed by T. P. French.

The establishment of the Post Office was approved in principal but a name for the post office was required since the name Rossiters Corners was not acceptable to the Post Office Department.

Thomas Greely lived in a small log shanty on lot 6, con. 5 across the road from where All Saints Anglican Church now stands. Very little is known of this man. However, his name is synonymous with that of Lieutenant Adolphus W. Greely, a U.S.A. Cavalry officer, whose name was very much in the news in 1884-85. Lieutenant Greely was in charge of the Lady Franklin Expedition, 1881-1884. The expedition wintered at Fort Conger on Northern Ellesmere Island in 1881-82. In 1882-83 the fort served as the Base Camp. In 1882 the expedition supply ship was caught in the Ice and sank. When no supply ship arrived the following year (1883) the expedition abandoned the Fort Conger Camp on August 10, 1883. By mid-October they reached Cape Sabine with rations for only 40 days. A rescue party on the ship Thetus, under Captain W.S.S. Schley finally reached them on June 29, 1884 and found only seven survivors. Out of an expedition that numbered 25 men, all seven were near death. It was a story of endurance, heroism and death, or as another writer said "It was polar expedition plagued with starvation, murder and cannibalism."

With interest in the Arctic, and the last Greely expedition, current news at the time, the Post Office readily accepted the name Greely.

The Post Office opened in Stanley's Hotel on June 1, 1885 with Reuben Bates the first Postmaster. It closed due to Rural mail delivery the 24-10-1914. The Post Office reopened in rented quarters Feb. 9, 1970.

The above paragraph on Lieutenant Greely, was gleaned from the Article "Greely, Canada First Solar-Designed Post Office". By James E. Kraemer, President of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, published in the Journal of the Society, Volume 39 Nov. - Dec. 1988, No. 6, in which Mr. Kraemer acknowledged my contribution, "Greely, A glimpse into the Past" etc. to his manuscript.

Membership

The membership fee for the year 1989 is \$5.00 single, \$6.00 family. If your membership card is not with this newsletter, then your membership fee is now due. If there is an error please inform us. We sincerely appreciate your past, and hopefully your continued support.

Note of Interest A letter dated July 15, 1988 (in part) Ministry of Natural Resources approved Geographical name, Ennisketty (Hamlet) Osgoode Township, Carleton County, a submission for official adoption of the name Enniskerry to the Ontario Geographic names at its 62nd meeting May 16, 1988 based on support of area residents and officials. Enniskerry was adopted as an official name and will henceforth appear on future Provincial and Federal Maps of your area, as well as in other related government publications.

Signed M. B. Smart, Manager. Geographic names section.

Michael Daley

Past President's Report

I am pleased to report a year of progress (1988) and achievement in meeting the objectives of the Historical Society. Thanks to the dedicated work of our members we have been able to continue on-going projects, exhibit our collection, participate in training and information sessions, and make final plans for our new building.

The theme for Heritage Day was "Early Education in Osgoode Township". Visitors to the Museum were treated to a talk on the history of education in Ontario and the opportunity to participate in "a first day in a pioneer school". Memories of our local schools were recalled by our visitors. An excellent display of our schools and related artifacts was enjoyed by everyone. Members

set up a display of our research materials and attended sessions at a Heritage Showcase sponsored by the Ontario Historical Society in Chesterville.

Several members attended lectures and assisted with a display of our publications at the Ontario Genealogical Society Seminar sponsored by the Ottawa Branch from May 20 to May 23. As usual many questions about local history and pioneer families were answered by our members and our materials were popular. This was an excellent opportunity to see and buy the publications of other groups and to share ideas.

We were fortunate to receive Government funding for two student workers for twelve weeks during the summer. The students registered new artifacts, worked on conservation, assisted with research and publication of new materials, and welcomed visitors to the museum and archives.

Several of our very old quilts were on display in the Heritage Building during the Ottawa Exhibition. Present and former residents of our area dropped in to view the exhibit and look through publications. The quilt and publications display was also set up at the Metcalfe Fair for three days. During the summer tickets were sold on a quilt made by Alice Craig and quilted by our members at the museum.

Pioneer Day was celebrated on August 6 with an Open House. A large crowd attended the ceremony to unveil a plaque honouring the members of the first Calf Club in Carleton County which was made up of young men from the Metcalfe area. The plaque which lists the names of the members is on display in the museum. Children who attended Pioneer Day were invited to participate in games which would have been played in a pioneer school.

The highlight of 1988 was the finalizing of plans and funding for our long-awaited new building to display large artifacts related to the pioneer industries of Osgoode Township. We sincerely thank everyone who assisted us in making the new building a reality.

In spite of our many successes and our progress, there remain problems which are proving difficult to solve. The most pressing of these is money to maintain the buildings and provide funds for new projects. We have been receiving the maximum grant which is approximately \$3,000.00. It seems unlikely that we will receive any increase. This grant combined with the money we bring in from projects barely covers operating expenses and maintenance. Local funding is becoming more and more necessary if we are going to carry out our obligations. Although money is a critical issue, there is also a need for more members to become involved in the running of the museum and archives. Our organization can only be as strong as the volunteers who contribute to its functioning. We have been fortunate to have a group of committed people who have served for many years. Through their efforts we have obtained an excellent collection and a reputation for excellent work. We must have new volunteers come forward to continue the work. We are appealing to everyone in Osgoode Township to seriously consider giving some time to your museum in 1989. The needs are so varied that we have a place for everyone. Please consider giving a few hours each month to typing, filing, research, housekeeping duties, conservation, or a host of other jobs that must be done.

This year I become a Past President. I especially want to thank our members for their tremendous support. I have learned a great deal and have enjoyed meeting many new friends. It is a pleasure to wish Bob Usher much success as he takes over as President. I know Bob is dedicated to the work of the Historical Society and will receive strong support from the members and the community.

Shirley Lowe

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1989

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Executive | Past President | - Shirley Lowe | Directors |
| | President | - Robert Usher | Gerald Morris |
| | Vice President | - Murray Little | Terry Otto |
| | Recording Secretary | - Patti Mitton | Murray Little |
| | Corresponding Secretary | - Harry Anderson | Michael Daley |
| | Treasurer | - Ann Leighton Kyle | Lorne Craig |
| | Register/Curator | - Ann Leighton Kyle | Margaret Robb |
| | Archivist | - Shirley Lowe | Don Lowe |
| | Librarian | - Kay Hill | Shirley Lowe |
| | Maintenance | - Doug MacMillan | |
| | Newsletter | - Michael Daley | A ninth Director to |
| | Social Committee | - Alice Craig | be appointed. |
| | | Anne Carkner | Osgoode Township |
| | | Verda McNaughton | Council Representative, |
| | Programme | - David Gray | Councillor Blain Ball |
| | Membership | - Alice Craig | |
| | Publications | - Bessie Windsor | |

(See next page)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Most of our readers will be aware that we have been seriously restricted for space in our present building, and that we had been conducting a very active campaign toward acquiring a new building which could house large items of manufacturing and agricultural artifacts. We are happy to inform you that we have received permission to build, and a generous donation from the township coffers, a donation from the Metcalfe and District Lions Club, and a grant from the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communications. That assistance, together with our own funds, was sufficient to provide the type and size of building that we need. Tenders were called, and Huyvan Construction of Winchester was awarded the contract in early December of 1988.

The building is 100 feet by 50 feet, with a height of 16 feet to the plate. It is of wood frame, pole construction with mahogany coloured steel siding. Gable ends and soffits are white, and the roof is of galvalume. The building site is the extreme South-West corner of the old school grounds. This makes the best possible use of space without forfeiting the impression of open space around the original school building.

At the time of writing, the first phase of building is completed. What remains to be done are electrical wiring and the cement floor. We hope that the wiring can be completed this winter, but the floor must wait until early summer when the site is firm enough to permit delivery of cement. The contract calls for completion by 30 June 1989.

This is a very great mile-stone in the progress of our museum, and we owe a vote of thanks to the very many folks in the various organizations and levels of government who helped it along.

We have also received from the Ministry of Culture and Communications a Heritage Development Grant for the sum of \$3,000.00. This is an annual grant for maintenance and archival assistance, rather than for capital procurement.

Heritage Day Heritage Day 1989 will be the 18th of February. The museum will be open from 1:00 p.m. to 4. This year's theme is "Industry in Osgoode". If you have any old photos or documents related to early industry, please bring them along. We may be able to make copies. Also, we would like to share any knowledge you may have about the same subject. Perhaps this is a good time to remind our members that we are anxious to have copies of any old deeds, wills, contracts or other documents which may relate to township history. Sometimes even an old envelope has historic value. In any event, drop in on 18 Feb. if possible.

- Bob Usher

I AM

M A C K I N T O S H

Gilbert McIntosh, born c1746 in Perthshire, Scotland, has hundreds of descendants living in Osgoode Township and the surrounding communities. His story and that of his known descendants has been written by Archie and Lois McDonald of California, and our Society appreciates receiving a copy of this carefully researched book of 163 pages. In the introduction Archie writes:

For more than a dozen years we have been in pursuit of McIntosh connections leading from Gilbert in the 18th Century. Among the depositories of records explored have been the Register House in Edinburgh, the storage facility of Military Records at Kew Gardens, the headquarters of the Black Watch Regimental Museum in Perth, Scotland, and the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City.

Gilbert joined the Black Watch in 1766. A paper on file in the National Archives in Ottawa shows him discharged as a Chelsea Hospital Pensioner on February 15, 1791... *about 44 years of age, brown complexion, brown hair, about 5 feet high and rendered incapable of further service by being rheumatic and worn out.* He lived until 1831 - age 85 - dying in Indian Lands where he had settled in 1801. Gilbert's second son, Donald, and Donald's wife, Christie McArthur, received, in total, 500 acres in the Ormond area, but settlement duties were performed on only 170 acres.

Duncan McIntosh, the 2nd of Donald's 10 children, married Martha Porteous. There are pictures, maps, genealogical charts, and related families in this fine book. We learn about Peter McIntosh and his cheese-making fame. *Close by - the Ormond home - was a cheese factory owned by William Eagan, and the youth was given a job managing one of a chain of factories Eagan was developing.* Peter drifted west and *was a curious combination of talent, restlessness and poor judgment. He is perhaps the most famous of all the descendants of Gilbert McIntosh, and died one of the loneliest...To appreciate the best side of him, visit the museum to his memory in Tillamook, Oregon, or read, 'The Story of Tillamook' by Dean Collins.* In Collin's long obituary he says... *...Peter McIntosh is no more dead than Dr McLoughlin nor any other other who worked at the foundation of the present...The Pacific Northwest has Peter McIntosh to thank for teaching it how to make the golden cheddar for which it is famous...Peter McIntosh had learned the cheddar process at his home town in Ontario, and wherever he went he put it into the cheese factories he founded... In Alaska, in the 90's, all cheese from Oregon was known as 'McIntosh Cheese'.*

McIntosh descendants are fortunate to have a book with such detail. Address inquiries to: Mrs. Archie McDonald, 14609 Skyway, Magalia, CA 95954.

- E. Stuart