



Shanty in Snake Island - Circa 1907

## Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

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

— ❧ — Newsletter — ❧ —

Volume XVI 1990 No. 1

What a beautiful picture, "Shanty in Snake Island" you say. What more intriguing evidence do we need to portray a fact, that the name Snake Island does have a historical background (and not as depicted by cartoonist Muldoon and McGinn as an island with a penitentiary on it surrounded by sharks - Weekly Advance, January 7, 1987). The picture taken from the Archives of the Township Museum was donated by Joe Rowan (noted columnist with the Winchester Press, the exact date or year the picture was taken may never be known, but the location was described to Joe by lifelong resident of the Township, Stuart Jeacle (recently deceased) aged 92 years, remembered his dad speak of it. Drive down Snake Island Road, he advised, proceed north on the old Tobin sideroad to the ditch (Middle Castor) East half of Lot 19 Con 4 or thereabouts. The following names were compiled on the back of the picture by Charlie Clark (Joe's uncle) the three closest to the building, left to right: George Levine, Dave James and Bill Mullens; the three with the horses, left to right: George Morris, Howard Morris and Bill Bradshaw; the others from left to right: Pete Gillissie, Jack Hurly, Charlie Cummings, Jim Hurly, Andy Doyle (with fiddle), Charlie Clark and Jim McLaurin.

### President's Report:

As we begin a new year it is customary to look back at the old, to evaluate the success and failures in hopes that we can plot a better course for the year ahead. On the plus side we saw the completion of our new building to a point where we could house and exhibit our collection of agricultural and industrial artifacts. We enlisted a fair number of new members and thanks to the dedication of our volunteers we were able to exhibit our collection to visiting groups and individuals both at the museum and at local fairs and exhibitions.

On the negative side we were not able to do nearly as much archival or promotional work as we should have, primarily because we were unable to hire sufficient trained personnel for the busy summer season. We were most fortunate that Miss Donna Bowen was available to carry the main part of the load and keep the shop open, but there is a very definite need for two full-time employees during the summer months.

Looking ahead, in 1990 we must do some finishing work on the agricultural building and grounds and improve the general display of artifacts. We must improve the archives in such a way as to make the material more easily accessible to researchers and of most importance, we must generate more interest and attract more visitors. As president, I have been most pleased and impressed by the loyalty and support of few regulars who carry the main part of the load. They deserve a great deal of credit for keeping us on the rails in 1989, but we can always use more help so we appeal to anyone out there who may be able to contribute some time and talent to your township historical society to drop in and lend a hand.

Bob Usher

### Notes of Interest:

I received a letter dated 10 XII 1988, signed Mrs. Sarah Duncan of Petawawa, Ontario. In the Depression years her future husband, Steve Duncan, and two other young men bought a parcel of land in the general area where the above picture was taken, and lived in a cabin such as the one above. They cut and sold firewood and drew logs to a mill somewhere in the township. Once the wood was cut and sold, they paid off the land, divided what was left between the three of them, which was very little, then walked away never to see or hear from each other again.

Submitted by Bob Usher

"The Osgoode macadamized road was built and is owned by that township. It extends from the terminus of the Ottawa and Gloucester road, at the Gloucester and Osgoode town line, to within one and a quarter miles of the village of Metcalfe, a distance of a little over six miles. It was built about three years ago, through the exertions of Mr. Morgan, who was then the Municipal Reeve of the Township, and carried through the scheme of having the Municipal Loan Fund surplus applied thereto. This originally amounted to \$8,537. From the principal and accrued interest the Township appropriated \$9,000 and went on with the road, spending \$15,000 on it, and issuing \$6,000 in debentures to liquidate the balance. There is one toll-gate, which the Township leases at an annual rent of \$750. The road is a first class one, and adds immensely to the convenience of the inhabitants of almost the entire Township."

Excerpt From Belden's Atlas 1879 of Carleton County:

1. Under the heading Newsletter insert "Volume XV 1989 No. 4"
2. In the President's Report, third paragraph, Alexander McDonnell should read "Archibald McDonnell".
3. On page 3, under the heading "New Acquisitions in the Agricultural Annex", the 13th line should read "John in the 8th who lived on Lot 31, Concession 8."

We regret that there were a number of errors in our last newsletter. For those of you who saw them, we recommend that you incorporate the following amendments;

Correction to Last Issue:

Osgoode Township Council Representative - Councillor Blaine Ball

- Directors - Murray Little (Vice-President)
- Michael Daley (Newsletter)
- Fred Alexander
- Lorne Craig
- Lorne Harrison
- Don Low
- Gerald Morris
- Bill Zandbelt

State of Officers for the Year 1990

The membership fee for the year 1990 is \$8.00 single, \$9.00 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. (Receipts on request)

Membership:

In 1986 Mr. Mrs. Duncan visited the Metcalfe area, trying to recognize the area (Snake Island) but to no avail, and then again in 1988, but no success. Mr. Duncan was ready to forget about it, but now her curiosity was aroused and felt it was so important to him to retrace his footsteps of the past she would help, unbeknownst to him, she contacted the township hall, and eventually myself. I confirmed in my research the area of the cabin and the names of the other two young men involved, and replied with the story of Snake Island, and all the info I could obtain. Mr. Duncan was elated in the fact that there were people still living in this area that remembered them. Then plans to visit Snake Island in 1990 were curtailed. After a six year battle, Mr. Duncan succumbed to that dreaded disease "cancer". He donated his body to the School of Anatomy at the University of Ottawa, his eyes to the Rye Bank. One may never know what scientific wondrous achievement wrought by this man's generosity. It is with a sense of pride, and a twinge of sadness, that I was able, in part only, to fulfill this one man's dream.

Michael Daley

In response to No. 3 Co.

In response to the many queries (last newsletter), No.3 Company 43 Battalion, Metcalfe, Ontario was raised at the time of the Fenian raids in the spring and summer of 1866. Many such companies were raised throughout the Ottawa Valley. On July 1, 1867 when Canada became a Dominion, Frances relates the story her father told her of the Metcalfe group driving in hay wagons to Ottawa to celebrate the event, and to take their place on Parliament Hill. The heat was so intense "they almost died" and many dropped in the heat. Miss Frances Iveson formerly of Metcalfe, a public school teacher and principal with the Ottawa Public Board, celebrated her 90th birthday on Nov. 19, 1989. Frances Iveson

Excerpt from Ottawa - The Capital of Canada by Shirley Woods Jr.:

The Fenian Brotherhood - a violent republican movement - was spawned in Dublin in 1858 and carried to the United States by Irish immigrants the following year. At the end of the American Civil War some demobilized troops of the victorious Union Army joined the Fenians in a bizarre attempt to conquer Canada. The logic behind this strategy is obscure, but it was meant to advance the Fenian cause in Ireland. ... In the spring and summer of 1866 the Fenians staged raids along the Canadian border at Campobello Island, N.B.; Fort Erie, Ontario and the Eastern Townships of Quebec. Another assault by Fenians who had gathered at Ogdensburg, on the United States' side of the St. Lawrence River, was aborted by a show of strength from Canadian and American authorities. Although these attacks were inconsequential (and actually helped New Brunswick decide to join Confederation), the Fenian movement was perceived as a threat to Canada for the balance of the decade.

N.B. - It was because of the Honourable Thomas D'Arcy McGee's criticism of the Fenians that he was assassinated on 7 April 1868 by a Fenian sympathizer. McGee was a Father of Confederation but had once been an Irish revolutionary himself.

The 1st of July 1867 was a momentous day for Ottawa. Five minutes past midnight a 101-gun salute boomed a farewell to the Province of Canada and welcomed the new Dominion. As the echoes died away, the sky was lit by bonfires and fireworks. Shortly after sun-up, people started to stream into the bunting-clad city, and everyone headed for Parliament Hill. By ten o'clock, when the Governor-General, Viscount Monck arrived, the hill was jammed with spectators and troops; more than eight hundred soldiers of the 43rd Carleton Battalion (popularly known as the Carleton Blazers), the Ottawa Provisional Brigade of Artillery, and the Civil Service Rifles were formed up in front of the Parliament Buildings..."

Submitted by Norma (Simpson) Morrison

IT'S GREAT TO BE A CANADIAN (1940- 1945)

It's great to be a Canadian,  
Because we Canadians are free.  
We can purchase Canada Savings Bonds  
To insure prosperity.

With Canada's vast resources,  
In oil, wheat, coal and ore  
There's employment here for everyone  
And room for many more.

Then when it comes to Government,  
Our laws mean freedom plus  
Because we are free to choose the ones  
Who make the laws for us.

Bernard Dewan

Bernard Dewan, born in 1894 in a little log cabin on the Manotick Station road, was gifted so by nature to write many little poems.

New Publications at the Museum:

The Membership Rolls of the Osgoode Baptist Church, Vols. I and II are the near culmination of research work by founding member Elizabeth Stuart and are now available in the museum. As many know, 1989 marked the year of the 150th Anniversary of the formation of the Osgoode Baptist Church. Included are not only the names of those who appear on the rolls but other relevant material. Her undertaking will consist of three and perhaps four volumes. Volume I covers the first 35 years from 1839 - 1874. This brings to

many early pioneers who were Baptists and when they were either dismissed to other places or deceased. Two of the earliest Baptists of the township Duncan McMartin and his wife Nancy McDiermid granted 1/2 acre of land on which to build a chapel at the brow of a hill on Lot 36. Services had been held in the home of Peter McCaul and in barns of Ferguson's, Duncan McDonald's as well as McMartin's. A log chapel was built about 1840 on this land near the present Regional Road 4. Robert McGregor, carpenter from Kenmore was the builder. This served the congregation until the brick chapel was erected on the N.W. corner of Lot 36 Con. 7 which was opened on Jan. 11, 1874. On the day that the church was organized on July 14, 1839, there were 20 adults in the area who had been baptised, five of them in Jan. 1838. Rev. Wm. Fraser wrote about his trip from Breadalbane to Osgoode in the winter of 1838. "Five people, names not recorded, asked for baptism by immersion at the conclusion of a service. The place would be 'Kennedy's Bridge'. Steps were cut out into the ice down into the water."

There are many references to the tireless first Pastor Daniel McPhail and his influence on the development of the church body. He was known as the "Elijah of the Ottawa Valley" who had formed by foot and horseback more churches than any other pastor and had personally baptised thousands. Also included in the booklet are excerpts from the church minutes between 1866 - 1874 and some diaries and entries. A portion of a letter from the minutes of April 3rd 1867 to P.G. Robertson Esq. giving directions for coming to Osgoode from Perth County. It gives an idea of the obstacles these "apostles" had to contend with:

*"Take the Grand Trunk Railway to Prescott - take the Ottawa and Prescott Railway for Osgoode Station - if you should arrive there without our being aware of the time, leave your baggage in charge and inquire for the Prescott Road. When you come to it strike to the right along two or three miles and ask for Dan Ferguson's who is one of our members and you will be shown a road that strikes to the left and leads to his place and what is known on the Prescott Road as the Scotch Settlement. In a short time you will be in the midst of your field and the scene of your labours."*

Volume II includes names of members during the years 1875 - 1899. The clerks' records indicate a very active church body. There was continual growth, the Ormond Church was well established, to the east in Kenmore a group was ready to organize, to the west along "Old Prescott Road" from Reid's Mills to West Osgoode another group was ready and to the north there were members from Metcalfe corner and beyond to Edwards also ready to organize.

The opening of the Osgoode chapel on Jan. 11, 1874 was commemorated with Brother A.A. Cameron preaching both morning and evening to an overflowing crowd (estimated at 700 during the evening service).

*"On the following evening a Tea Meeting was held, the chapel being filled to suffocation. Excellent addresses were delivered ... A choir led by Mr. David Pelton rendered excellent appropriate music. An earnest enthusiasm pervaded the entire audience and at the call of Mr. Cameron for donations and pledges to wipe off the debt, the unexpected sum of \$900 was cheerfully given either in pledges or cash. This leaves the debt remaining on the building a mere trifle and has lightened many anxious apprehensive hearts."*

During the 25 years with which this booklet is identified, there were two revivals with 250 names added. In addition there was land opening in the west and members were leaving giving clerks many more entries. The first 18 pages contain the membership rolls - 437 entries in all. The excellence of the minutes in the latter portion are due to the efforts of Earnest Waddell and Daniel McLaurin for their legibility and completeness. From 1887 to 1911 the new members with related are gleaned from the names of members and vital information from 1900 - 1911 and until the church in Vernon was opened in 1923.

Ann Leighton-Kyle

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Finnerty and Bergin were walking across a field when it happened. 'Finnerty,' yelled Bergin, 'there's a bull charging us. What'll we do?' 'Don't panic,' Finnerty replied coolly, 'just give me a hand to climb this tree!!!'

Life's Golden Age is when the children are too old to require a babysitter but too young to borrow the car!

Excerpts From 'Osgoode Township- In the Beginning': by Elizabeth Stuart

"In the beginning of the settlement of Osgoode Township, we were included as part of the Ottawa (River) District, along with Prescott and Russell. The seat of Government was at L'Orignal and our early records remained in the Municipal Building there until they were lent to the Ontario Archives where they were put on microfilm.

The Ontario Archives sold us two reels of film which include records of the area beginning in 1822. The records for Osgoode begin in 1830 where they were included with Gloucester.

We are printing the assessment records in order to show the continual and rapid growth of the Township and to give a truer picture of the development of industries. Where was the Merchant's Shop? Was it on Duncan McDonnell's property?

Peter McLaren- Square McLaren- has been said to have had a mill on the Castor at Kenmore. He had property there in 1831 but the assessment was "20" and it remained the same, even until 1841. He had not yet built a mill there when there were already mills in other parts of the Township. Some of the very high assessments have been included.

The number of horses, cows, and oxen have been recorded. As well as cows three years and over, there were young cattle owned by many of the households, especially after the families had been in the Township for a few years...

Osgoode Township Assessment Roll - 1830

<u>Names</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Con.</u>	<u>Uncult.</u>	<u>Cult.</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Ox</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>3+</u>
Archibald McCrostie	25, 26	8	260	40	1	-	2	4	
	18, 20, 21	7							
	20	6							
Adam McCrostie	23	6	200	-		-	2	1	
Felix Donely	27	7	298	2		-	-	-	
Alexander McLaren	38	8	200	-		-	-	2	
Collins Campbell	36	9	200	-		-	-	1	
Donald McLaren	37	9	200	-		-	-	1	
Peter McEwan	35	9	200	-		-	-	1	
Duncan McNabb	39	9	200	-		-	-	1	
William York	21	9	164	36	1	1	2	4	
Robert Grant	24	10	185	15		-	-	2	
Richard Hall	19	9	180	20		-	2	3	
Samuel Loney	17	9	188	12	1	-	2	3	
Duncan McMartin	16, 17	6	400	-		-	-	1	
William Page	1	6	50	-		-	-	-	
<u>Total 14 Families</u>				<u>125</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>24</u>	

Note- The two first families to make their homes in Osgoode Township were those of Archibald McDonell and William York. This fact is shown by the number of acres of bushland that had been cleared since the arrival of the two families early in 1827. The next three families to arrive, were those of Richard Hall, Samuel Loney, and Robert Grant. It appears that Felix Donely came in 1829 since he has cleared two acres. The families of Alexander McLaren, Donald McLaren, and Peter McEwen arrived early in 1830. So did the newly married couples -Colin Campbell and wife and Duncan McNabb and wife who had got married the same day in Killin Parish, Perthshire in 1829 before sailing for Canada. William Page had arrived early in 1830 as well.

Three of the 14 families lived in one-storey houses made of timbers squared on two sides. The others lived in crude shanties.

As well as having milk cows, some of the families had younger cattle.

Hugh Griffith, Wm. Smyth Assessors, 15 June 1830 - George Hamilton Chairman

Excerpts From the KEMPTVILLE ADVANCE: compiled by Shirley Lowe

1893

- Jan. 12 - The people of the Roman Catholic church in Kemptville were treated to some fine music last Sunday by the Metcalfe Choir.
- Jan. 26 - Duncan C. Robertson late of firm of Bronson & Western Lumber Company died in Ottawa on Jan. 24. He was at one time a teacher in Metcalfe.

March 9 - James Kennedy of Osgoode came here (Kemptonville) to attend his brother's funeral which took place at 8 o'clock on Tuesday evening. While he was at the church one of his horses kicked the other breaking one of its legs. The animal was a large mare valued at \$80. She was taken away and killed.

Alexander Kennedy of Kemptonville who was born in the Parish of Kergill, Scotland in 1825 and his sister-in-law Mrs. John Kennedy (nee Ann Burns) died of suspected poison. An Inquest will follow.

March 30 - Miss M=Pherson will dispose of her millinery business in Metcalfe as soon as possible and remove to Kemptonville to take care of her uncle John Kennedy.

April 27 - Several days ago Mrs. Boyer of Crysler was confined and prepared for burial but awoke just before the lid was fastened down two days after her death.

Miss Jessie M=Pherson has disposed of her millinery business in Metcalfe to Mrs. John Rolston. Miss M=Pherson will reside in Kemptonville in the future with her uncle Mr. Kennedy.

A team driven by Duncan Meldrum of Osgoode ran away last Wednesday as he was leaving Winchester village. The buggy upset. Mr. Meldrum was seriously hurt on the back and Miss Stoodley who was also in the buggy was injured about the limbs.

June 1 - E. Loughlin arrived home in Hallville from Chicago accompanied by his sister Mrs. O'Connor and her two children.

August 3 - A sample of timothy hay was exhibited in town yesterday by James Kilfoyle of Osgoode which measured 5'8" and he claims that it would have been still higher but was pulled three weeks ago.

August 17 - Archy M=Arthur M.D. of Kenmore, a former pupil of Kemptonville high school will shortly leave for Colorado.

August 31 - On the 14th of September \$250 will be given for prizes in races at Metcalfe.

Sept. 14 - Joseph Hyndman, a resident of Mountain Township, born in Ireland, age 85 has never paid a dollar for medicinal purposes for himself. He drives to Kemptonville every week.

Sept. 21 - Henry Tomkins of Manotick Station is doing the World's Fair.

#### From 1891

April 17 - Rev. Father Cole P.P. of Osgoode to become first pastor of new R.C. church at Bayswater. He was formerly curate of St. Patrick's in Ottawa and will say good-bye to the River church on Sunday.

May 8 - During the season of 1890, 2,492 vessels passed through the Rideau Canal.

May 15 - Patrick Donovan has disposed of his blacksmith business in Osgoode Station to John Mahue of Metcalfe.

June 10 - Archie M=Arthur of Kenmore who took part in the sports here last Wednesday very nearly lost a valuable young horse before leaving town. The animal suffered from a severe attack of colic, but by means of proper treatment the animal survived to return home.

July 17 - Henderson's tannery of Winchester was burned yesterday afternoon. The building is a total loss and the stock mostly destroyed. Loss of \$4,500, insured for \$2,200.

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The problem had Mr. McGillicuddy annoyed so he put a notice on his shop counter: "Mothers are asked not to put their children on the bacon slicer as we are getting a little behind with the orders."