



Moses Mill - Vernon

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

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

Newsletter

VOLUME XII 1986 Number 2

Our long winter nights, oftentimes with a cold but beautiful moon, wet amidst a background of millions of twinkling stars - a moon that shed her pale rays of light across our valley - those cold nights are now but a memory. We watched our winter snows succumb to the warm rays of the sun, forming placid pools and soft-murmuring streams that oftentimes turned to raging turbulence in their never-ending race to the sea. In its wake is a mantle of green spreading across our lands.

VERNON AND MOSES' MILL

The Saw-Mill Picture on our 1986 Newsletter is one of two pictures which we have seen of some of the mill. Left to right are: John Bowen (with hat), hidden (unidentified), Mac Bowen, Byron Moses (owner), George Bowman, unidentified, Ernie Fairfield, Steve Robinson, Frank Jones (of Cardinal), Gordon Lora.

During our Vernon Heritage Day celebrated the afternoon of February 15, we were honoured to have as our guests about 40 Vernon old-timers, some of them born in the last century. Lloyd Moore of Metcalfe, formerly of Vernon, gave us a very clear picture of the extent of the Mill operations. We have his comments on tape and shall relate them at a later date.

It was J. K. Porteous that asked the Township to survey what was to be known as the Village of Vernon. The Kemptville Advance of the time has been microfilmed by our Society and in the weekly paper there are frequent references to the Vernon News.

CAN'T WHEEL IN OSGOODE - July 7, 1898

The municipal councillors in Osgoode are not particularly struck on bicycling and have passed a by-law prohibiting it in the township. The action of the Council is said to be due to the fact that the bicycles scare the farmer's horses. Be this as it may, it is extremely unlikely that the regulation would pass a test case..... Ottawa Citizen.

REID'S MILLS - Aug. 11, 1898

J. K. Porteous Store is being re-modelled and when finished will present a great improvement.

J. K. Porteous and Lindsay Allen accompanied by three Hallville boys wheeled to Eastman's Springs on Sunday and returned the same evening. (Note - Lindsay Allen was still able to shovel snow in 1968, the year he died, age 92)

VERNON - July 6, 1899

Work on the new Anglican Church has begun. This will make a big improvement in the looks of the village.

Mr. Roxborough, our public school teacher, will be missed during the holidays. Since coming here he has made many friends.

Vernon is in much need of a park.

Mr. J. M. Campbell has sold his farm to Duncan Kennedy, the sum paid being in the neighbourhood of \$3,100. Mr. Campbell and his family will be moving to Hatley, Manitoba in the near future.

VERNON - Aug. 17, 1899

Work on the new Anglican Church is being rapidly pushed ahead. The contractor for the stone work, Mr. Empey, is a hustler.

Many unpleasant remarks are made, especially on a dark night, regarding our

bad sidewalks. It is a shame that nothing is done regarding getting a sidewalk, even if it is only 2 boards wide. The old sidewalk is scattered everyway, like a battlefield, only no one killed.

1977 - a YEAR TO REMEMBER - OUR SESQUICENTENNIAL YEAR

An outstanding achievement of the year was the design of the Township Crest, a colourful and attractive symbol proudly displayed on all Township vehicles and stationery. (See Vol. XI, no. 4, 1985 Newsletter.)

MEANING OF THE OSGOODE CREST

The BEAVER represents the fur-bearing animal that brought in the early trappers. The Castor River in Osgoode was also named after this animal. (Castor is French for Beaver.)

The LOG FENCE and the PLOUGHED GROUND above the fence reminds us of the early farming of the settlers.

The WHEEL is a symbol to represent those who arrived in the wilderness by steam or paddle boat.

The STRIPS OF BLUE stand for our two rivers, the Rideau and the Castor.

The MAPLE TREES bring to mind the making of Maple Syrup and Maple Sugar.

The MAPLE AND THE PINE TREES stand for logging and lumbering carried on.

The CREST ENCIRCLED BY A HORSESHOE is a reminder of the animal used in travel, logging, and farming. The horseshoe stands for good luck in Osgoode Township.

Across the top of the Crest is: The CROWN for the United Kingdom; The MAPLE LEAF for Canada; The TRILLIUM for Ontario; The WHOLE CREST for Osgoode Township.

NOTES OF INTEREST - What's in a Name?

NEW OSGOODE - Saskatchewan

The 1842 Census reads - Thomas Howes, native of England; inhabitants 10; years in province, 10.

The 1851 Census reads - Thomas Howes, Cabinet Maker, located on pt lot 21 con 8.

The 1863-1879 maps show the Howes family on lots 16-17 con 7 with the Charles Howes residence on the SE cor lot 16 con 6, one-acre lot.

Thomas Howes was a Cabinet Maker and a number of pieces of furniture remain in the home of his gr-gr-grandson Charles Howes (dec). Part of a log house remain.

In January, 1897, Thomas Gotliffe Howes, his wife, Elizabeth Shore, their 8 children and his brother James Alonzo journeyed from their home in Osgoode in the hope of finding a better farming community around Moosomin. There, Thomas established a Blacksmith Shop and Alonzo a Tannery. He also worked in the General Store of Mr. McNaughton, father of the boy who later became General McNaughton of Army fame. In the harvest season, Wm. Henry, another brother, went out to see the country. He liked what he saw and he had a desire to help his 4 sons find homes in an area where stone-picking would not be a problem. On returning to Osgoode he sold the farm for \$3,000. and other farm possessions were either sold or loaded on a box car and shipped for future use.

On Christmas Day, Wm. Henry, his wife Rhoda Farlinger, 3 sons and a daughter arrived by train in Moosomin. The eldest son, Wm. James, who had arrived ahead, had rented a house and the young people had a good winter with their cousins and other folk.

Early in the Spring of 1904, the men set out to find their land in a parcel such that one set of machinery could conveniently work it. They stipulated that the land had to be free of stone. Their search was rewarded by each securing a quarter section for \$10. as a Homestead. The land had to be lived on, cultivated, improved, and when these homesteading duties were finished they received Patents.

On Nov. 1, 1904, Wm. Henry Howes, along with his family and brother, Alonzo, staked out the Homestead claims in the Carrot River valley of what was then the North-West Territories. This District was 20 miles in a north-easterly direction from the end of the railway and from the nearest settlement, Tisdale, over rough terrain and across several rivers. The honour of naming the new District fell to Mrs. Howes (Rhoda Farlinger), the first lady to arrive in the area. She chose the name, NEW OSGOODE, in honour of her former Township home.

The new District of rolling land covered with willows and poplars, became after much clearing, a purely agricultural settlement in what is now Saskatchewan.

In 1907 a School District was formed and a New Osgoode School built. Church services had rotated from home to home until St. Mary's Anglican Church was built in 1916. In 1929, the C.N. Railway passed through New Osgoode and with it came 2 Grain Elevators, 2 stores, an Oil Business, Machine Shop, Garage, Pool hall, and more settlers. The Wilderness had become a populous countryside of prosperous farmers. But with improved roads and faster transportation there was the trend for larger farms and the once thriving Hamlet is now but a memory.

In 1980, Manning McEvoy and his wife Joan visited New Osgoode and found that the Anglican Church, unused for years, had been restored, complete with wooden benches and a wood stove. A weather-beaten sign, NEW OSGOODE stood forlornly by the Railway Track and a few scattered homes are a gaunt reminder of the past.

OSGOODE - IOWA

In 1871, 2 cousins, Edmund McEvoy with his wife Mary Kelly and Edward P. McEvoy with his wife Catherine Conway, left Osgoode, along with their young families, going by train. They travelled together as far as Chicago. There, Edward P. and his family travelled by rail to Algona, Iowa, and from there by covered wagon to the north west of Emmetsburgh, Iowa. During the previous year, 2 Conway brothers of Mrs. McEvoy had settled there and the McEvoy's had a place to stay on their arrival. E. P. was responsible for naming a little village near his Iowa Farm as OSGOODE after the Township he had left.

Imbued with the co-operative spirit, he was responsible for establishing the first co-operative creamery in Emmetsburgh. As well, he was responsible for the Farmers Mutual Insurance that was a great help to the early settlers. He also purchased the first Reaper in the County. But the little Iowa hamlet of Osgoode has practically disappeared.

Edmund McEvoy, being interested in cattle, travelled further west in Iowa to Old Town in the Missouri Valley so that he and his family would be closer to the Omaha Market. When his wife died there on April 29, 1885, he was left with a family of 11 children. Later, on Nov. 3, 1887, he married Ellen Hearn at Stuart Iowa. Ellen was a widow of a Civil War soldier who was trying to support a family of 6 on a small pension. They moved to Adair, Iowa, where he bought 80 acres of land on the edge of town and rented 40 acres as well. With a partner he bought out a General Store and in this way, with the 2 projects, he was able to keep the two families going.

Edmund, while en route home to visit his people in Osgoode, took a fatal heart attack in a Kemptonville hotel and died there on Sunday, August 26, 1907. Edmund McEvoy, a native of Osgoode Township - lot 20 con 3, and his wife Mary Kelly - daughter of Wm. Kelly of the River Road Kellys - with their many descendants - doctors, dentists, farmers, etc. left an indelible imprint in the Sands of Time.

WOOD-CUTTING AT SNAKE ISLAND by Allison Dempsey

Our father used to go to the bush each winter to cut wood for the following winter. Early in the century he owned a property three quarters of a mile north of our home, lot 22 con 10, which had a stand of trees on it. From that and part of an adjoining farm he could supply needed fuel, but when one piece was sold he looked farther afield.

In 1918 or 1919 he made a deal to take out wood from a bush on "Snake Island", a place about 2 miles west of Metcalfe. On one of his many trips he took me along and it was a day of adventure for me - I was 10 or 11 at the time. We started off after the morning chores were done, with feed and blankets for the team, axe, saw, wedges and canthook for the bush, and a lunch supplied by mother for our noon meal.

We were warmly clad for our drive of over 6 miles. We went through the village of Metcalfe. As we turned into the property where our day was to be spent, my first impression was of the stillness within the woods. Above me were the tops of the trees moving in the wind but around me all was quiet except for the calling of the bluejays and the chirping of smaller birds. The horses were blanketed and tied at a safe distance.

Father selected a tree, made a notch on one side with the axe, then sawed through from the other side in such a way that the tree fell where he wanted it to. Branches were chopped off and trimmed and I was able to busy myself by putting brush at one side and helping where I could. The trunk was cut into lengths suitable for loading and another tree was felled.

At noon - by the sun - the horses were fed and our lunch had that special taste of food eaten in the woods after exercise in the open air. The lunch break was brief as the winter days were short. When Father felt we had enough ready, the task of loading began. Two tall stakes were set in sockets on the far side of the sleigh and pieces of wood fixed at a slant against the near side so that the

larger logs could be rolled up with the aid of a canthook. When the load got higher, two stakes were fitted into the sockets on the near side, limbs and branches piled up until all the day's cutting was on the sleigh. The blankets and tools were placed on top, the horses hitched, and we climbed aboard for our trip home. As we drove through the village I could look down from my high perch on the people walking along. I felt nine feet tall. Looking behind the sleigh, the tracks from the sleigh runners shone like gold ribbons from the light of the sun now low in the west. Reaching our yard at dusk, the horses were stabled and the evening chores begun, but the day's work was not over. The wood was unloaded and added to the pile so that the sleigh was ready for another trip.

One day in March there was a bee. A neighbour brought his circular saw and 2 men carried logs and limbs to the man who stood at the table of the saw and cut off blocks in neat lengths as he pulled the wood in and moved the table back and forth. Another man caught the blocks and threw them on a pile. The whine of the saw let everyone for more than a mile around know what we were doing that day.

The wood was split at intervals over the next few weeks, and it was my job to wheel it into the shed and pile it. The piles rested against the wall at one end, but at the other, where a passage was needed, square ends had to be carefully built. There would be 4 or 5 piles over 7 feet high and a smaller one of cedar. The cedar was split every evening in order that kindling was ready to start the fires in the stoves in the morning.

INSPECTOR'S OFFICE

July 16, 1884

STANLEY'S HOTEL, Co. of Russell

Referring to the recommendations from Mr. Moss Dickinson M.P. for the establishment of a Post Office at Stanley's Hotel Lot 5 Con 5, I beg to say that as indicated in the enclosed rough sketch, Stanley's Hotel is 2 miles from South Gloucester, and 5 miles from Leitrum, the nearest Post Offices. There is a store and a blacksmith shop, one tavern, and some 4 or 5 residents.

THE HONOURABLE POST MASTER GENERAL, Ottawa

Building in the immediate vicinity of the proposed site and the surrounding country is well settled and improving somewhat. The Office, if established, would accomodate some 30 or 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 Leitrum, South Gloucester, and the Railway Station tri-weekly service could, by making an extension of 2 miles to his present route, serve the proposed office. This he offers to do for \$25.00 per annum, a sum much less in proportion to what he is now receiving, which could be safely accepted.

I have the honour to be your obedient servant,

T. P. French

<u>POST MASTER</u>	<u>DATE OF APPOINTMENT-OPEN</u>	<u>CLOSED</u>	<u>VACANT</u>
Reuben Bates	1-6-1885	31-12-1888	Resignation
Thos O'Connor	1-3-1890	9- 4-1894	Resignation
Mrs. Francis Stanley	1-10-1894	9- 4-1903	Resignation
Mrs. Mary J. Dunlap	30-7-1903	1914	Closed for Rural Mail Delivery

In 1919 Patrick Shields bought the Dunlap farm. His son, Andy Shields and grandson Terry Shields still reside on the Family Farm. Andy has in his possession the Mail Boxes from the Dunlap Post Office. With a photographic memory, he relates to many about events and people of long ago.

Michael Daley,
Editor.