



Metcalfe Public School - School Section No. 11, 1903

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

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

Newsletter

VOLUME XIV 1988 No. 2

The above picture was loaned to us by Joe Rowan. The corner stone now on display in the Osgoode Twp. Museum reads S.S. Section No. 11. A.D. 1884. The stone was donated to the Historical Society by Mel Tomkins (Deceased). This building replaced a little red school house of earlier times, and it in its turn was replaced by a larger and more modern facility in the 1950's. For many who view this picture, fond memories of earlier times will cross their minds, for example, fall fairs, entrance exams, continuation to further education etc.

Minutes of Annual Meeting dated Dec. 27, 1899, Metcalfe, Ont. The Annual School Meeting was held in school house, Metcalfe Sec. 11 at the hour of 10 o'clock a.m. It was moved by Jas. McLaurin, secd. by Hugh Craig that John Sweney act as Chairman, carried. Moved by Dan McLaurin, secd by F. Iveson that J.A. McGregor act as Secretary. Carried. Minutes of previous meeting read and adopted. Moved by A. Walker, secd. by Jas McLaurin that the auditors report just read be adopted. Carried.

Electing a Trustee: Moved by Goe Latimer, secd by D. McLarin that John A. McGregor be a trustee.

Moved by Wm Campbell, secd. by Chas. Bradshaw that George Blair be re-elected. A lengthy discussion arose, how was their best way to vote for said candidates by show of hands or ballot. Not having the school act on hand, which was sent for to the Sec. for the office which caused some delay.

Sale of Wood: J. A. McGregor Auctioneer of 20 cord of hard maple 24 in. long to be delivered in wood shed, the same being sold to A. Walker for \$1.29 per cord, he being the lowest bidder. Moved by A. E. Quail, secd by Ed Whiteside that the election of trustee be conducted by writing the names of each candidate on a paper and every rate payer mark opposite the candidate which they want to vote for. Carried. Results of votes - Namely - John A. McGregor 18, Sam Latimer 12, George Blair 7. The Chairman declared as results of votes J. A. McGregor elected. Wm. J. Whiteside and Wm. Campbell demanded a pole. Moved by F. Iveson, secd by Geo. Latimer that the two highest candidates be voted for. Wm. Campbell withdrew his demand for a pole. Carried. Votes stood as follows. J. A. McGregor 23. Sam Latimer 14. The chairman declared J. A. McGregor elected.

Moved by A. Walker and secd by Rev. Clarke that H. McGirr be Auditor for the Section. (Carried) A lengthy discussion ensued about H. School or continuation class.

Moved by Wm. Campbell secd by Wm. Elliott that this meeting sanction the action of the Trustees in regard to High School. (Carried)

There being no further business to bring before the meeting the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

Chairman

Secretary

Heritage Day at the Museum: Feb. 20, 1988 once again Program Director David Gray excelled in his expertise in portraying a part of our Township History, with an 1874 twp. map, depicting the areas of our former one room schools and reminiscence by Harry Anderson. A slide presentation courtesy of Upper Canada Village made for an entertaining afternoon to a packed house.

The following is an excerpt from the Manotick Messenger.

Schoolmistress from 1860's turns back the clock.

Schools have changed a great deal. A century ago, teachers drilled punctuality into their students with leather straps. To be on time, for a 19th century teacher, was a virtue right next to love of God, country and mother.

The evolution of Upper Canada's school system and changing attitudes towards education were the topic of the Osgoode Historical Society's Heritage Day.

(continued)

Featured on Saturday's agenda was a slide presentation courtesy of Upper Canada Village, reminisces about Osgoode schools from former students and teachers, and a surprise visit from a schoolmistress of the 1860's from Upper Canada Village.

Osgoode Township has had a rich education history. Over 100 years ago, Osgoode boasted 15 public schools, one taught by James Grant, the son of one of the township's first settlers, and two separate schools, one Protestant, the other Catholic.

Less than a century ago, area pioneers considered education to be a luxury, Upper Canada Village's Gabrielle Thomas told a packed house at the Vernon museum. In most villages, the building of a church was the first priority, followed by the government's push for roads. The schoolhouse was a distant third in the race, and money for schools had to be provided by parents.

The Common Schools Act, developed over a century ago, left education as a local initiative, emphasizing the community involvement, to make education appealing to parents. While the provincial government promised money for schools in the act, the promised funding rarely materialized, said Thomas. The Common Schools Act wasn't changed until the 1930's.

Qualified teachers were also a scarcity. In 19th century eyes, said Thomas, children were considered to be innocents, but they were easily influenced by the evils of the world. Their environment was under the control of a few people, usually only the parents, teacher and clergyman, and the students were segregated by age, sex and religion to keep them from corruption.

Not all teachers had Normal School, or post-high school qualifications, said Thomas. A loud voice and the ability to carry out punishment were seen as the best qualifications.

Academic ability was low on the list of qualifications. Reading, writing and arithmetic were considered the most important subjects and "learning by rote" or copying the lesson over and over, was the method of teaching. The slate and the slate pencil were the students tools, and the copybook was only for use after the lesson had been written successfully on the slate. Subjects like history and geography only entered the curriculum later.

Punctuality and cleanliness entered the school system as a way to prepare young students for a life of working in factories, said Thomas. The government encouraged such qualities with achievement awards.

Physical education was also a new concept. As students began to spend more time in schools and less time working, teachers found a need to add physical activities to the curriculum. The wages didn't draw very many young people into teaching as a career. In the 1860's, a male teacher could expect to make about \$260. per year, and he would have to negotiate his salary himself.

Female teachers fared even worse, with salaries at about \$165. per year. Females were seen as less competent than male teachers. Despite this sentiment, female teachers were common because their lower wages were considered to be a savings to the community.

Many of the one-room schoolhouses had classes of up to 90 students, but it was rare that even most of the children would show up on any day. By 1871, education for children between the ages of seven and 12 was compulsory for four months out of the year, but the law was hard to enforce if there were few truant officers.

As education became more important, and students spent longer periods of time at school, there was a decline in domestic service, said Thomas, as fewer children went to work as farm-hands and maids. Girls who had a higher degree of education could elect to work in shops and factories instead of private homes. By the end of the century, schools were teaching home economics and shop.

Children who had chores to do at home were discouraged from going to classes by the teachers themselves if there were more pressing matters at home. In the mid-1800's, there were only three weeks out of the year in which school was not in session.

Methodist minister Edgerton Ryerson, one of the pioneers of education in Ontario, established minimum standards for schools by the 1860's. He outlined standards for the school building itself, but these were hard to enforce.

A decade later, a school inspector declared that half of the schools he inspected were "destitute" and unfit for school purposes.

The end of the one-room schoolhouse came with the end of the Common Schools Act, said Thomas. Within one century, education had been taken out of the hands of the family, out of the hands of the community and into the hands of the state.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE WORDS OF THIS SONG?

Chorus in No. 1 Newsletter 1988.

Doris Broughton of Osgoode has contributed the following two verses and chorus for male singer.

School Days - see next page.

School Days

Nothing to do, Nellie Darling
 Nothing to do you say,
 Let's take a trip on memory's ship
 Back to the by gone days
 Sail to the old village school house
 Anchor outside the school door
 Look in and see, there's you and there's me
 A couple of kids once more.

Chorus: School days, school days
 Dear old golden rule days
 Readin' and writin' and 'rithmetic
 Taught to the tune of a hickory stick
 You were my queen in calico
 I was your bashfull barefoot beau
 And you wrote on my slate, I love you Joe
 When we were a couple of kids.

2. Member the hill, Nellie darling,
 And the oak tree that grew on its bow
 They've built forty stories upon that old
 hill
 And the oak's an old chestnut now
 'Member the meadows so green dear
 So fragrant with clover and maize
 Into new city lots and preferred bus'ness
 plots
 They've cut them up since those days.

The Old Stone School S.S. #13, Osgoode - Built prior to 1864

It was a sturdy building at York's Corners, the first public school on the site. Built of stone, it was square in shape with thick walls and deep window seats, the four sides of the roof sloping up to a short ridge pole. The boys and girls of School Section #13 Osgoode were given their introduction to education within its walls and to social interchange on the grounds outside as they took part in games and contests. This is the school which Dad (Russell Dempsey) attended.

Most of the teachers were men, usually retired army officers, who were strong on discipline whatever their academic qualifications may have been. And it seems there was need for stern measures at times, especially in winter when the farm lads were attending. Younger pupils and the girls could begin with the opening of school, but older boys were kept at home to help with the fall work: harvesting, root and potato digging, ploughing, butchering, and clearing of new fields. These boys were sent to school only when they could be spared. The result was that there were those between fifteen and eighteen years of age in classes with pupils much younger, and they felt out of place and some of them harder to discipline. They lost time each year and their education suffered as they fell behind and in some cases interest faltered. One of these older boys was told to remain after four o'clock one day but when the others started to leave he got up to go with them. The teacher was at his desk in a stride, picked him up bodily, and threw him across the room; the lad decided to stay. The cane was in evidence; it was certainly not "spare the rod and spoil the child".

The pupils worked with slate and stylus which had one advantage: when the slate was filled it could be cleared of words and figures and used over again. The approved way was with cloth and water, but it was sometimes done by spitting and wiping with sleeve or on pantleg. As scribblers came into use they gradually replaced the slates but they cost pennies and the family got them as they had the money for them. There were reading books with prose and poetry, many of the passages for older classes taken from the great authors of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, along with selections from the Bible. Years later, those pupils, now parents, could surprise their children by quoting poems from the old readers, as memory work had been required of them.

The country still had first stands of trees in many areas, and farms were being enlarged and houses improved or replaced by better ones. Grandmother Dempsey told that when she went to bring the cows in from fields at the back of the farm she could hear wolves howling in the woods between her and the buildings.

Numbers of the farmers were also lumbermen and each winter were busy felling trees and piling logs at the river bank so as to be ready to float them down the Castor in the spring on their way to Montreal or Quebec. Grandfather Dempsey was one of these. When Father was fourteen years of age (in 1890) Grandfather handed the plough handles to him saying: "Take over, you will do the ploughing from now on". That ended Father's formal education.

Allison Dempsey

Curator's Report; Ann Leighton Kyle

Although the pace is slower in the winter than in the summer, artifacts continue to trickle in to be catalogued. Some come by way of persistence on the part of the member and some because the winter gave someone the opportunity to get to it. Some interesting projects are waiting to be undertaken, only we need a few more hands. Anyone who would like to put in an hour or two a week doing interesting 'stuff' is being urgently sought. Call any member (or myself) to discuss details.

Some interesting 'stuff' is to be found in the family files. Particularly of interest is one of the Campbell files which features the family of Thomas Campbell who brought his

bride Sarah Faran to his newly purchased tract of land in Osgoode () in 1809. This particular excerpt is part of a series of stories by descendant Walter F. Campbell in 1954 and sent to the museum by his daughter. These engaging stories describe an aspect of life we take for granted today. A constant struggle was the shortage of cash to buy needed metal tools, gunpowder and some foodstuffs like salt and tea. Mr. Campbell goes on to say that except around the towns the whole country was covered with dense forest which sheltered animals of all kinds. These animal skins, tanned and taken to the trading post in exchange for the essentials. Since gunpowder was so dear, pioneers frugally sought ways to capture game without it. Wild turkeys were trapped within the woods in a trap made of split rails 10 - 12 feet long laid out like a cabin except that the ends were not fitted but left open (6 - 8"). The walls were 5 - 6' high covered by rails with 6" gaps. Next a tunnel was dug under each wall leading from the outside to the inside. Once a turkey had gotten used to it being there, corn kernels were strewn about and in a trail leading through the tunnel and into the trap. Once the turkey reached the end of the trail of corn in the trap he raised his head, looked up for a place to fly out, (never thinking to look down) and continued to look up until his captor came with a stick and killed him.

A great deal of interesting material is waiting to be rediscovered. Such information helps give an idea of life in Osgoode so long ago. We appreciate the donations or loans of any material for this purpose. In particular, old photos of village life, particularly mainstreets and buildings are of value.

Ann Leighton Kyle, Curator

Notes of Interest:

Bessie Windsor of our twp. a descendant of a pioneer family of Osgoode (James Howes) in going through a keepsake box came upon 350 some articles, tax bills, assessments, receipts and other articles too numerous to inscribe here. One such article reads:

Clerk of the Peace Office

James Howes Bytown 24 Apr. 1849

Sir, You are hereby notified that you were duly appointed a Constable for the Township of Osgoode in the District of Dalhousie, at the last Court of General Quarter sessions, holden in and for said District, and you are hereby required to take oath of office, prescribed by Statute, with the least possible delay.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Serv't

Tax Receipt Nov 17 1846: Rec. from Mr. James Howes the sum of 9/10 being the amt of 2 years taxes total west ½ 16 in the 7th concession of Osgoode years 1843 and 1844.

Thomas Bailey
Collector

March Heritage Festival, Saturday June 25th 2-8 p.m. at Pinhey's Point (Horaceville) Entertainment, food, Historical displays etc. further information Katherine Watson 592-4281

Membership Fee for 1988: To those members, receiving membership renewal notice with this newsletter we greatly appreciate your past and hopefully your continuing support to the Society. Thank you.

Jean Cochran, author of "The one room School house in Canada will be our guest speaker at a meeting at the museum in June. Date to be announced.

Recipe: What is it?

4 lbs. of green tomatoes, 3 lbs. of sugar, 3 lemons sliced, ginger root to taste, Boil till thick.

School days 50 years ago (Vol 14 1988, No 1 Newsletter) Due to the many queries and applause, I humbly admit to being the author of School Days 50 Years Ago, editor of News Letter Michael Daley.

We are pleased to state that the Osgoode Twp. Council have signed an application form for grant purposes to assist in the erection of a building on the museum grounds (twp. property for the purpose of storing and displaying antique machinery, relating to the Agricultural Industry of Osgoode Twp. Cash donations are gratefully accepted. Receipts available.

Obituary in Ottawa papers: Enniskerry Citizen Dies:

Jan 4 (1911) Mr. Michael Murphy, a well known resident of Enniskerry passed away last week. The late Mr. Murphy had been ill for the last two years and the end came not unexpectedly. A widow, three sons, and two daughters are left to mourn his loss. Messrs, Michael, Earl and Eddie, Miss Lizzie at home and Miss Mamie of Sask. also his sister Mrs. P. J. McGahey of Wilson's Bay.

The funeral took place at St. John's Church and was largely attended. Interment in St. John's Cemetery. Contributed by Pat Ryan

An excerpt taken from Twigs From the Oak and other Trees by D. G. Cameron, D.D.

The year 1833 is an outstanding date in the development of the Osgoode settlement. Prior to that time the people were mainly occupied in the management of their family affairs although always willing to give their neighbor a helping hand and to promote any enterprize that seemed likely to advance the welfare of the community, but now a forward step was to be taken by which the settlement as a whole should have dealings with other settlements, situated in a somewhat similar manner to their own.

There was an increasing desire for a wider knowledge of the country in which they lived, and especially of the surrounding communities. Some of them also were becoming anxious to get in touch with the Governing bodies of Upper Canada. They had been receiving fragmentary information concerning the matter in which the Province was being governed and had heard alarming reports of class distinctions and of special privileges being claimed by some churches which were denied to others. Several were also disposed to seek an opportunity of expressing their own views regarding those conditions and various other settlements of public interest..

When the news that a District Council was to be formed that Osgoode was one of the Townships to be included and that a representative of their settlement would occupy a seat in that council it was received with general satisfaction when organized, it was named the District Council of Ottawa, for its meeting place was L'Orignal on the south shore of the Ottawa River about forty miles from Osgoode.

Mr. Archibald McDonell was chosen as the first representative of Osgoode in that Council, whether he was appointed by the gov't or elected by the people we are unable to state, but whichever method was adapted it seems clear that no man was better qualified for the position.

James Grant a son of one of the earliest settlers was the first who taught in a school, and it was in a log shanty erected especially for the purpose on the ground immediately east of where the Metcalfe Methodist Cemetery is situated.

Metcalfe - This village was named in honour of Sir Charles Metcalfe (1785-1846) a distinguished British Administrator in India and Jamaica who was Governor General of Canada in the year 1842.

VOTERS' LIST FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF OSGOODE FOR THE YEAR 1897

(Continued from Volume 14, No. 1)

No. on Roll	Jurors	NAME	LOT	Con.	Address
12	j	Linch, James J.....	pt 8.....	Man.	m f and o.. 1
219		Levine, George	pt e hf 9	2	mf and t..
59	j	Mansfield, Wm.....	n 3/4 1	1	mf and o.. 24
72	j	Moody, Alexander	n w qr 5	1	mf and o.. 1
325	j	Morrison, Hugh	e hf 5 and o p	3	mf and o.. 3
443	j	Morris, William	s hf 10.....	4	mf and o.. 15
327	j	Morrison, John A.....	n hf 6.....	3	mf and o.. 3
17	j	McCartney, Bernard.....	pt 9	Man.	mf and o.. 1
502	j	McGrath, Hugh	e hf and s w qr 1..	5	mf and o.. 6
60	j	Mansfield, George	n 3/4 1	1	mf and fs 1
331	j	McHale, Edward	w hf 8 and o p	3	mf and o.. 3
332	j	McHale, Patrick	n hf 9	3	mf and fs 3
13	j	McCaffrey, John	pt 8	Man.	mf and o.. 1
326		Morrison, Chas. G.....	e hf 5.....	3	mf and fs 15
321	j	Nolan, Michael	w hf 3	3	mf and o.. 3
211	j	O'Brien, John	n pt 6	2	mf and o.. 3
214	j	O'Connor, Thomas	n hf 8.....	2	mf and o.. 3
433	j	O'Connor, John	e hf and n w qr 6..	4	mf and o.. 15
520		O'Connor, Thomas	n pt 7	5	mf and o.. 15
522		O'Connor, John sr.....	w hf 8 and o p.....	5	mf and o.. 15
320		O'Connor, Patrick.....	pt n hf 2.....	3	mf and o.. 24
523	j	O'Connor, James	w hf 8	5	mf and fs 15
525	j	O'Brien, Richard	e hf 8	5	mf and o.. 15
434	j	O'Brien, Michael	s w pt 6	4	mf and o.. 3
528		O'Brien, Thomas	e hf 8	5	mf and fs 15
526		O'Brien, W. J.....	e hf 8	5	mf and fs 1

No. on Roll	Jurors	NAME	LOT	Con.	P.O. Address
324	j	O'Brien, James	n e qr r	3	mf and o. 3
527		O'Brien, Richard jr.....	e hf 8	5	mf and fs. 15
89	j	O'Brien, William	n hf 10	1	mf and o. 1
521		O'Connor, John, jr.....	n pt 7	5	mf and fs. 15
438		O'Grady, Daniel	s e qr 4	4	mf and t. 15
62		Pratt, Ferguson	pt 1 and 2	1	mf and o. 1
16	j	Powell, Robert	pt 12	Man.	mf and o. 1
328	j	Pyper, Henry	w hf 5 and o p.....	3	mf and o. 3
334	j	Pyper, Pierce	s hf 9	3	mf and o. 3
439	j	Pyper, James	pt n w pt 9.....	4	mf and o. 4
15		Paget, Thomas	pt 8	Man.	mf and o. 1
504	j	Quinlan, Joseph	s hf 2	5	mf and occ 6
66	j	Robertson, James	s hf 3	1	mf and t. 1
69	j	Robertson, Thomas	s hf 4 and op	1	mf and o 1
329	j	Rafte, Thomas	pt n hf 7.....	3	mf and o. 3
333	j	Redmond, Robert	pt n hf 2	3	mf and o. 24
516		Ralph, Thos	pt s hf 5	5	mf and o. 15
518		Ryan, Thos	pt s hf 5	5	mf and o. 15
73	j	Scrobie, Homer	1/2 5	1	mf and o. 1
213	j	Sullivan, Patrick	s hf 8 and op	2	mf and o. 3
218	j	Sullivan, Michael	s e qr 10 and op	2	mf and o. 3
220	j	Sullivan, Jerry	pt s w qr 10	2	mf and o. 3
422	j	Shaw, James	1	4	mf and o. 6
432	j	Stackpole, John	w hf 5	4	mf and o. 15
435	j	Stanley, Wm.....	8 and op	4	mf and o. 15
505	j	Stackpole, Michael	n hf 3 and op	5	mf and o. 6
513	j	Stanley, John	n hf 5	5	mf and o. 15
441	j	Stanley, James	n w qr 10	4	mf and o. 15
442	j	Stanley, Day J.....	n e qr 10	4	mf and o 15
436		Stanley, Wm. T.....	8	4	mf and fs. 15
437		Stanley, Harvey	8	4	mf and fs. 15
330	j	Smith, Geo. H.....	e hf 8	3	mf and o. 3
84	j	Shea, James	s hf 8 and op	1	mf and o. 1
79	j	Stinson, William	n hf 7 and op	1	mf and o. 1
431		Shea, Joseph	pt e hf 5	4	mf and o. 6
80		Stinson, Wm. H.....	n hf 7	1	mf and fs. 1
515		Stanley, Wm. A.....	s hf 5	5	mf and o. 15
11	j	Tevans, Patrick	pt 8	Man.	mf and o. 1
303	j	Tierne, Patrick	w hf 3	2	mf and o. 24
310	j	Tomkins, Henry	1 and op	3	mf and o. 24
311	j	Tomkins, W.E.O.....	lot 1	3	mf and fs. 24
312		Tomkins, H. J. M.....	lot 1	3	mf and fs. 24

PART II - Persons entitled to vote at Municipal Elections only.

217		Burns, Mrs. Michael	centre pt 10	2	owner..... 3
14		Driscoll, Mrs. J.	pt 8	Man.	owner 1
20		Dolan, Ellen	pt 8	Man.	owner..... 1
86		Davidson, Mrs. J.....	s hf 9.....	1	owner 1
206		Kilfoyle, Mary	pt e hf 4	2	owner 3
195		Murphy, Mrs. M.....	s e qr 1	2	owner..... 24

PART III - Persons entitled to vote at Elections to the Legislative Assembly only.

313		Johnston, Thos. M.	1	3	mf 24
517		Moran, John	pt 5.....	5	mf 15

POLLING SUB-DIVISION No. 2.

Comprising the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Concessions; from Lot 11 to Lot 23, both inclusive, and the 4th Concession from Lot 11 to Lot 26, both inclusive.

PART I. - Persons entitled to vote at both Municipal Elections and Elections to the Legislative Assembly.

231	j	Burns, Thomas	pt s hf 13 and op	2	mf and o 4
340	j	Burns, William	s hf 11	3	mf and o. 3
256	j	Brennan, Bernard	n hf 23 and s hf 23	2	mf and o. 5

(cont. in next issue)