



Moses Mill - Vernon

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

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

Newsletter

VOLUME 12 1986 NUMBER 3

Back on March 19, 1975, members of our 4-year-old Historical Society met with the Township Council and interested members of the community to make plans to celebrate the Sesquicentennial (150th. year) of the settlement of Osgoode Township. With the competent assistance of Councillor Philip McEvoy - 5th generation native of Osgoode - we arranged that events should be held in different areas of the large Township. Since our Historical Society and growing Museum were based in Vernon, it was planned that the PIONEER Days weekend should be held in Vernon. That well-planned and successful celebration included, among other dignitaries, the late beloved Mike Dewan, former Minister of Agriculture, and a descendant of the first settler through Janet Baker, daughter of Archibald and Catherine McDonnell. Archie Sayant and wife Lillian assumed the responsibility for an impressive parade.

Through the organization of the Vernon Community Association, the idea of those original Pioneer Days has been continued each year since 1977 and 1986 marks the 10th such celebration and it is being given special significance as such.

As well, 1986 marks 100 years since the mapping of the Village of Vernon. The Museum, as well as the Community Association, is planning special events. Our Historical Society has a professional reproduction of the 100-year-old Surveyor's Map in the possession of our corresponding secretary, Harry Anderson. Harry's late wife, Olive Campbell, was a direct descendant of the original settlers, Duncan McDonald and wife Catherine McNee from Balquidder, who had settled in Beckwith in 1821 before coming to Osgoode, lot 39 con 6 in the early 1830's. The Anderson home and the few acres of virgin woods behind the house are part of the original 200 acres still in the family. The new map of Vernon is the work of Larry Kyle, the surveyor-husband of one of our efficient summer workers at the Museum.

East of the Museum was the original 200 acre lot purchased by William Porteous and his wife Mary Lorimer. William Porteous was a blacksmith from Dumfriesshire and we hope to have on display his anvil, passed down through the oldest son and now in the possession of Bruce Porteous, the family genealogist. John Porteous of Vernon is on property that has always been in possession of the family.

It is interesting that in 1986 there is considerable expansion in the village, just as there was 100 years earlier.

THE BEGINNING OF VERNON

(As written down by Edith Dewar Hill from information given by Sandy Stewart who died in Vernon 1937, in his 88th year.)

John Imlay, a stone mason, built a log house on the corner where the Manse now stands and here his wife ran a grocery store. Thomas Cowan afterwards kept store in the same building. A blacksmith shop occupied the present site of the bank. Later, Howell and Howes built another blacksmith shop where Mr. Lindsay Allen's shop now stands. They also built the two first dwellings in Vernon - the ones now occupied by Mrs. Peter Ferguson (Brick) and by Mr. Folkard. A sawmill and a grist mill were erected by the Campbells and Wm. Bow built a store which the Porteous Bros. now occupy. Vernon, in the beginning had a weekly mail brought from Metcalfe corner and distributed at the blacksmith shop. A petition was sent to the government asking for a Post Office. The Petition was granted; a meeting was called and the name Vernon was chosen.

STATISTICS OF EARLY OSGOODE TOWNSHIP

Your Editor would like again to turn back the pages -- through more than 120 years - to the year 1864.

At that time Osgoode was part of Carleton County - the Dalhousie District - comprising townships: Fitzroy, Gloucester, Goulbourne, Huntley, March, Nepean, North Gower, Osgoode, Torbolton. Surrounding Counties were - Lanark, Dundas, Grenville, Russell.

Population of Carleton County as given by early Census --

1842	16,193
1848	25,520
1861	44,059 (including Ottawa)

Osgoode Township itself, is bounded (clockwise) by Gloucester, Russell, Winchester, Mountain, South Gower and North Gower.

Census population for 1850	2,733
1861	4,332 (about half the 1981 population)

In 1849 some of the products produced in Osgoode were:

wheat	21,000 bus.	maple syrup	12,000 lbs.
oats	23,000 bus.	wool	6,600 lbs.
potatoes	26,000 bus.	butter	9,400 lbs.
turnips	8,800 bus.		

1861 CENSUS according to origin

Eng. and Wales	97	Native of Can. (Not Fr)	2,889
Scotland	304	Native-French Origin	35
Ireland	952	United States	54
		Guernsey, Jersey, other Br. Isles	1

TOTAL 4,332

1861 CENSUS by Religion	Ch. of England	559	Wesl. Meth.	415
	Ch. of Rome	1,722	New Con Meth.	4
	Ch. of Sc.	84	Other Meth.	8
	Free Presb. Church	1,157	Baptists	366
	United Presb.	8	Quakers	1
	Universalists	2	No Religion	5
			Not classified	1

TOTAL 4,332

From the OTTAWA DIRECTORY of 1864

OSGOODE TOWNSHIP OFFICERS

REEVE - John Dow	Clerk -	- John Kennedy
Deputy Reeve - Ira Morgan	Treasurer	- Adam J. Baker
Councillors - John C. Bower	Assessor	- James Blair
Andrew Lawson	Collectors	- Hugh McCormick
Timothy Shiel		Robert Cleland

Council meets in Victoria Hall, Metcalfe

Magistrates - Ira Morgan	Henry Hanna
Adam J. Baker	Thomas Cangle
John Dow	John Lee
Zachariah McMillan	Thomas York
Peter McNab	Alexander McDonell
	Arthur Allen
	Clark Moses

COMMISSIONERS - Ira Morgan
Adam J. Baker
Robert Grant

THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY - organized in 1854

PRESIDENT - Alex McTavish	DIRECTORS - John McInnes	Duncan Cameron
VICE-PRESIDENT - Thomas York	Thomas Gold	Duncan Kennedy
SECT.-TREAS. - Ira Morgan	John McNab	Alex'r McDonell
	Alex Dow	Donald Campbell
	Duncan McLare	

METCALFE VILLAGE - the Osgoode Post Office

An important Post Village of the Township of Osgoode, nine miles from Osgoode Station - which is on the Ottawa and Prescott Railway - and 20 miles from Ottawa City. The settlement was first made by Thomas Gould, Wm. Doctor, John C. Hawley and Adam J. Baker.

(continued)

METCALFE VILLAGE continued

The Post Office was established in 1850 and Donald Cameron appointed Postmaster, followed by Adam J. Baker

The Village contained 4 General Stores

- 1 Ashery
- 1 wagon Shop
- 3 Carpenter shops

The 6th Division Court was held at the Victoria Hall - a large and comfortable hall in Connection with the Glasgow House.

Metcalfe contains also a Grammar School in a flourishing condition, a good Common School, 3 Churches:

- The Church of England erected in 1856 of frame, at a cost of \$1200.00
- The Free Church of Scotland built 1858, also frame, cost \$600.00
- The Wesleyan Methodist erected in 1854, also frame, cost \$1200.00

Mails daily

Population 250

Loyal Orange Lodge No. 205 meets on the 2nd Tuesday in each month -

James Sharp, W.M., Charles Scrivens, Secretary

Loyal Orange Lodge No. 688 meets on the first Tuesday in each month -

John York, W.M., John Cameron Dep. M., Southwall Watson Treas., James Whiteside, Secretary

Metcalfe Grammar School

Trustees - Ira Morgan

John Kennedy

Rev. Geo. W. White

Rev. Jas Whyte

Dr. Jos Allen

Adam J. Baker

Sup. of Twp. Schools - Rev. Jas. Whyte

Head Teacher - Joseph Morrison

Assistant Teacher - Miss Elizabeth Lowry

HEADS OF FAMILIES - METCALFE

ALLEN, Joseph, M.D. - Coroner
 BAKER, Adam J. - P. Mastor, Farmer,
 Twp. Treas., Commission in B.R.
 BELANGIE, Anthony - Labourer
 BELONGIE, Samuel - Cooper
 BLAIR, James - Dutcher and Assessor
 BLAIR, John - Boot and Shoemaker
 BRADSHAW, George - Carpenter
 CAMPELLE, W.M.F. - General Merchant
 CARSON, John - Music Teacher
 CARSON, Wm. - Carpenter
 CLARK, Wm. - Bailiff and Tailor
 DAZIE, Peter - Wheelwright
 DOCTOR, Wm. - Blacksmith
 DOCTOR, Wm. R. - Farmer
 GILBRATH, Archibald - Hatter
 GOLD, Thomas - Farmer
 HEANEY, John - Horse Dealer
 HEANEY, Margaret - Hotel Keeper
 HMLAY, Andrew - Boot and Shoe Maker
 IVESON, Timothy - Saddle and Harness Maker
 MORRISON, Joseph, M.A. - Master Grammar School
 PALMER, John - Farmer
 PENDERCAST, John - Boot and Shoemaker
 POPHAM, Wm. - Farmer
 POPHAM, Wm. Jr. - Farmer
 PETER, James - Mason
 PRIVO, David - Shoemaker
 STRINGER, Wm. - Tanner and Currier

KENNEDY, John - Twp. Clerk, Pres Co. Russell
 Agr. Society
 LAWSON, Andrew - Proprietor Glasgow House and
 Victoria Hall
 McCAUL, The Misses - Milliners
 McCORMICK, Hugh - Twp. Collector,
 Dealer in provisions
 McDONALD, Daniel - Musician
 McKEOWN, Robert - Boot and Shoemaker
 McMASTER, Wm. - Retired
 McMILLEN, Zachariah Sen. - Retired
 McMILLEN, Zachariah Jr. - General Merchant
 McPHERSON, Charles - Blacksmith
 MARTIN, Hilliard - Waggon Maker
 MAHEW, Benjamin - Cooper
 MORGAN, Ira, J.P. - Clerk 6th Div Court,
 Commissioner in B.R.,
 Deputy Reeve
 MORGAN, Wm W. - Deputy Postmaster, Dealer in Drygoods,
 Groceteria, Hardware, etc.
 SWEENEY, Michael and John - Boot and Shoemakers
 SWEET, Rev. Edmund E., Wesleyan Meth.
 WALLACE, Wm. - General Merchant and Potash Manufacturer
 WHITE, Rev. Geo., Church of England
 WOODS, Francis - Farmer

ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH - Metcalfe

An Indenture dated the sixth day of November 1840 between Archibald

McDonell, his wife Catherine, (daughter of United Empire Loyalists) deeding a part of lot 20 con 6, a parcel of land for religious purpose. This agreement was signed by Bishop Rene Gawlin, Bishop of Kingston, Archibald and Catherine McDonell, John Casserley, Patrick Melvin, John McDonald, Thomas Bailey. At the suggestion of Father Brady, a travelling Missionary, a frame Church was built. It was known as the Mission of Osgoode, but it was situated far from the centre of the Catholic population.

Father De'leaye, in charge of the Mission, persuaded the Faithful to buy an acre of land in the village of Metcalfe in order to build a new Church. While waiting, religious services were held in the School House. It was only

by the personal intervention of Bishop Guiges in Feb. 5, 1859 that work began on the present Church, on Feb. 5, 1860. The Church was solemnly blessed on 5th day of June, 1868. The former Chapel and lands were sold to James Murry in consideration of one hundred and five dollars. The bodies of the deceased members of these pioneer families were removed to the present St. Catherine's Cemetery in Metcalfe. In 1898, Bishop Duhamel of Ottawa erected the Mission of Metcalfe into a parish. The first resident priest was Father Walter E. Cavanagh.

We are very fortunate this year to have secured the services of two students under the Challenge - 86 program of the Employment and Immigration Branch of the Federal Government. The two students, Ronda Swerdfeger of Osgoode Village, and Anna Leighton of Blossom Park, are working in both the Archives and the Museum. As well as taking care of the extensive work that has to be done daily, they are clearing up the backlog of work that is required in registering artifacts. We have been blessed as a Museum in receiving thousands of valuable and interesting artifacts that played such an important role in the early life of our Township residents. Some of these objects have come in unidentified, and for a number of them we have no evidence of the Donor. We welcome visitors who can identify pictures or other objects still unidentified. The students have accomplished a great deal since the work began in the middle of May. Every artifact requires about two hours time to process it according to good Museum Standards. We believe that at the present time our records are in much better shape than those of the majority of Community Museums, thanks to the initial work done by Arlowa Ferguson and later by Vivienne Shorey and Amy Daykin and now by very capable, conscientious, and efficient help. The Museum building has been open 6 days a week from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and on Sunday afternoons, and we have received visitors from near and far.

During 1986 we have received at least 100 new artifacts. This means that our space is being taxed to the limit. Come and see our new displays.

Mr. Pillon from the Cumberland Museum will be speaking and showing slides at our next meeting on Wednesday evening, August 6, at 8:00 P.M. We should all be able to derive a great deal of benefit from his visit.

It is over a year since our last publication of Pioneer Families. Volume XVII is being put together and when we receive two more 'Families' we can publish the Volume. We are certain that many of you have genealogical information that we could use. Waiting to be printed are families - Stanleys, Campbell, McVey, McMenomy, Springhill McDiarmids, Rutherford, O'Brien.

In May, six of our members received 10-year Volunteer Service Award silver pins and a Certificate from the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture of the Ontario Government. We appreciate this recognition for years of faithful work on behalf of the Historical Society. The Recipients were:

Arlowa Ferguson	Grace Blair
Vivienne Shorey	Norma Morrison
Isobel Lewis	Katie Campbell

The 1891 Census has been copied and part of the families have been typed and indexed. We know that the information gained will add greatly to that which we are collecting on the area.