



The Edwards Station

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

Heron School
P.O. Box 83 - Heron, Ontario
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— ❧ Newsletter ❧ —

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Our Autumn Season is now upon us. Nature has once again bedecked our Countryside in natural splendour. Lush green meadows and golden stubble sit amidst the majestic colours of red, green and gold - the aftermath of a bountiful summer with hay, grain, and corn crops in abundance. Here in Eastern Ontario, many of the older generation relate it to resemble the abundant crops of 1920, 65 years ago, when oats sold for 85 cents a bushel.

EDWARDS STATION

On February 14, 1957 the last freight train of the New York Central made its final run through the quiet little Hamlet of Edwards. The train was manned by Engineer Bill Sweener of Massena, Fireman Tom Leonard of Ottawa, Brakemen Bill Carson and W. A. Forsyth. There was much work to be done as the Crew put the last Train together. Leaving Ottawa Station at 3:30 p.m. and picking up cars here and there enroute it stopped in Russell where Agent Bernard Campbell handed over his Company Book to the Conductor to take to Massena. From Russell the Train went on to Embrun, Crysler, Finch, and Cornwall, and there, like the closing of a Book, the New York Central Trains ended. The once bustling Edwards Station, like the far off sounds of a Steam Engine Whistle, is now but a Memory.

NOTES OF INTEREST

The Society set up a Display booth at the Ottawa Exhibition for 10 days in August. There were artifacts relating to the Farm Scene, Publications of People and Places in the Township, and a 20-minute Film supplied by the Township Council depicting farming activities, Township Services, buildings and a variety of events. Our thanks go to Don and Shirley Lowe for setting up the exhibit and to them and others who volunteered their time. The interest of the Public made it all worthwhile.

In September a number of Directors of the Society - Shirley Lowe, Harvey Linton, Cecil Reaney, Michael Daley - met with the Township Council seeking Moral and Financial support in order to improve conditions at the Township Museum. President Shirley Lowe informed Council of dwindling Government Grants and increasing expenses. She asked Council to lend their support through funding, help with programs, and the payment of the legal costs of the Lease which the Council is drawing up for the property in question. Mayor Albert Bowers said, and I quote - I feel the Historical Society and the Council should have been cooperating all along.

Once again the Society had a booth at Metcalfe Fair Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The Exhibit proved to be of interest to many people.

THE UNVEILING OF AN HISTORICAL PLAQUE

It was 90 years ago that a young Teacher and Lawyer left his practice at Kemptville to begin a new career in Alberta. Alexander Cameron Rutherford joined his mother's cousin, Pioneer Alexander McDonald, also born in Ormond, who had arrived in Edmonton in 1892. The Railway was opening up the great North-West and Rutherford was active in the movement to get Alberta recognized as a separate province. His political activity resulted in his being chosen Alberta's first Premier in 1905. The Ministry of Citizenship and Culture has asked the Osgoode Township Historical Society to Sponsor the erection of a Plaque honouring A. C. Rutherford. The Ceremony will be held

Saturday, November 23 at 2:00 p.m., Reception following. Alex Rutherford was born near Ormond, lot 44 concession 9, in 1857, two years after his parents, James Rutherford and Elizabeth Cameron arrived in Osgoode. Laura Rutherford was a valued member of our Society until her sudden death in 1976.

QUERY - William EVANS born Feb. 1, 1907 came to Canada at age 13 years through the Immigration Program of Catholic Social Service, Liverpool, England. In March 1921 he was on the farm of Michael O'Brien of R. R. 1, Osgoode, Ontario. A brother in Queensland, Australia is searching for this person whom he has never seen. Send any information to Michael Daley, R. R. 1, Osgoode, Ontario, KOA 2W0.

HISTORY IN THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Vernon Branch of the Women's Institute is one of five local branches in Osgoode Township; others are at Greely-Manotick, Kenmore, Metcalfe, and Osgoode Village. This well known organization for rural women was founded in Stoney Creek, near Niagara in Ontario, on Feb. 19, 1897 at a meeting chaired by Erland Lee and addressed by Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless. The Lee home and Mrs. Hoodless' homestead are now owned as Museums for the Institute, and many visit them every year. From its humble beginning, the Institute has become world-wide with thousands of branches here and abroad. The world group, known as the Associated Countrywomen of the World, holds Triennial Conference internationally.

At our Vernon meeting last March, Hal Anthony of CFRA News Media, speaking on Public Relations, stated that we do not project our image publically as much as we should. Maybe we are not vocal enough but in our quiet way our Institute has contributed a great deal to the Village and Members are involved in many community activities. In 1950, Mrs. Beatrice Porteous and Mrs. Bell McMartin put together an excellent booklet - VERNON YESTERDAY AND TODAY, price 25 cents, proceeds to the Vernon Women's Institute. It is a fine source of material for the early history of the Village. The Museum has a copy.

Vernon Institute was organized in 1912 with Mrs. Byron Moses as President and Mrs. Jim Fraser as secretary treasurer and it has had 73 years of active service "For Home and Country" - our motto. It was in 1936, at an Institute Meeting in Athens, Ontario, that Lady Tweedsmuir, wife of the Canadian Governor-General, and herself a WI member, stressed the need of preserving local history by the Institutes. From this motivation the Tweedsmuir History was launched in 1946. There are books compiled in the branches and at higher levels in the WI, continuing histories of the farms, schools, churches, treasured pictures, current events and other facets of local interest. Our Institute has two volumes of history. The first Tweedsmuir Book was begun by Mrs. Jean Kennedy Lanoue and finished by Mrs. Margaret Lee. I started Volume II and worked as Curator from 1976-1982 when Mrs. Laura Conibear took over the task. Now my daughter, Mrs. Margaret Lewis McDiarmid, and I are continuing the history records. It is not easy to gather all the material that we would like, but we try to keep up on current events, 4H activities, and enlarge our histories of homes and farms of the members. Some Institutes like Williamsburg and Mountain have published hard-covered Tweedsmuir books to sell as an historical treasure. To do this is the work of dedicated committees. The work takes many years but it is very worth-while.

At our November 19th meeting we will present a feature, "The great Ladies of our Institute", the first 50 years. The Historical Society friends are welcome to attend.

Isobel Lewis

LOOKING BACK - OUR EARLY BEGINNINGS

As our immediate Past-President, I should like to review, for our many readers, reminisce, maybe, some of the highlights of the Meetings as recorded in the Minute Books of the Society dating from November 23, 1972.

November 23, 1972 The first meeting was held at the home of Elizabeth Stuart for the purpose of organizing the project. Topics discussed - 1. Title: RCCPP - RESEARCH, CREATE, COLLECT, PRESERVE, PUBLISH; 2. Location: Osgoode Township; 3. Application and Name of Organization: New Horizons Historical Group of Osgoode Township; 4. Officials: President - Elizabeth Stuart. Secretary - Louise Stearns, Treasurer - Accountant - Donald MacKeracher, Directors - 12 in number. Participants - 30, Staff - 5, Consultants - 3.

Activity was to begin in 1973 to end in 1977 with the publication of a Brief History to commemorate the settlement of the Township, beginning in 1827, with immigrants, mostly Irish or Scotch. The 150th anniversary of the

first settlement would be 1977. The Directors were all Senior Citizens and an application was made for a New Horizons Grant, first offered in 1972. Names of the Directors: Elizabeth Stuart, Jennie Dow, Lawrence Brunton, Katie Brunton, Henry Robinson, Donald MacKeracher, Louise Stearns, Mrs. May Shelp, Mrs. Earl Taylor, Gerald Hill, William Dow, Mrs. R. H. Saunders.

Feb. 9, 1973 A letter was sent to Township Council asking permission to rent a room in the Vernon School which had been declared surplus in the Fall of 1972 and which the Council had decided to rent for the three years in which debentures would be paid off. At that time the Council would have an option to purchase. The President reported a conversation with Reeve Taylor in which he said that Council would like to get the property but that they did not want it to become a "white elephant". Instead of renting us a room in the building, the Group was asked to assume all responsibility for the maintenance and liability of the entire property for a period of three years.

The search for Osgoode History began in earnest with Elizabeth Stuart as President, Gerald Hill as Vice-President, Louise Stearns as Secretary, Donald MacKeracher as Treasurer. It was decided to visit the Registry Office and the Public Archives in search of Documents and to acquaint ourselves with local sources of information.

March 9, 1973 A meeting was held at the home of Jessie Robertson. Discussion - the building available for the research of the New Horizons Group. Present - Margaret Robb, Laura Taylor, Gerald Hill, Jessie Campbell, Elizabeth Stuart, Michael Daley, Lorne Brunton, Helen Cavell, Jennie Dow, S. Margaret Lee.

April 27, 1973 Reports were given of the meeting of the President and Secretary with two Council members. Moved by Mrs. Shelp, seconded by Mrs. Lee that Jennie Dow contact the Council and inform them that we were prepared to assume the responsibility of renting the Vernon School.

August 8, 1973 After a wait of 8 months, during which time, Louise Stearns, one of the initiators of the project, had become seriously ill, Elizabeth Stuart and Jennie Dow, who had agreed to replace Louise Stearns as secretary, signed the Lease with the Corporation of the Township of Osgoode for the said Lands and Premises in the Township of Osgoode known as the Vernon Public School.

September 21, 1973 Our official opening was held with a display of many useful artifacts of by-gone days. For our first Visitor's Day, Mrs. Morris had a quilt in a frame. Frances Iveson ably informed the gathering of the purpose of our organization. Joe Rowan, representing the Winchester Press, called after 5 p.m. and took pictures. A writing desk, a Stearns Heirloom, had been placed in the collection of articles as a Memorial to Louise Stearns.

November 9, 1973 Miss Stuart introduced our guest speaker, Gordon Crouse, the first certified Genealogist in Canada. At the time he was Editor of the Shawville Equity. He shared with us some of his knowledge of Historical Research and offered suggestions on what we might do.

January 24, 1974 Alice Craig reported that material collected had been filed. Michael Daley told of his recent trip to Ireland. The oldest person who had been a resident of Osgoode, Mrs. Wm. J. Hawkshaw (Mary Ann Ross) passed away at the age of 105 years. A letter of appreciation was sent to the Department of Health and Welfare for the Grant of \$6,170 recently received.

1974 Other Highlights Mr. Berthiaume, in charge of New Horizons Grants, met with our Group. There were many interesting speakers who dealt with a variety of topics. A Motion by Margaret Robb and Viviane Shorey set a membership fee. Fliers were to be distributed and Newsletters sent to members. Jim Lambert and Gary Maunders from the Public Archives gave much valuable information on the storing and displaying of Historical Documents.

1975 Highlights The first Newsletters, published by Elizabeth Stuart, were sent out. Speakers: Norma Morrison, Father Mike Minville, Lorne Craig, Audrey Renton of Kars, Connie Sallans of Osgoode who showed slides of her trip to New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong and Japan. On July 22 Alan Barnes from the OMA was present to inform us of the steps necessary to become an Incorporated Body and thus be in line for Provincial Grants. July 30, forty-five members in 10 cars set out at 10:30 to tour the Vernon-Dalmeny area. Lunch was eaten in the Dalmeny Hall. August 25, members of the Executive met with the Township Council pertaining to Incorporation and change of name. Reeve Taylor stated that we had been good tenants. Sept. 5 Annual Meeting and a new President - Gerald Hill, Vice-President - Connie Sallans. Oct. 8 The hours when the Museum would be open were discussed - a total of 360 hours being necessary for a Grant. Oct. 24 Audrey Renton and her assistant Isobel Drew gave an interesting history of Kars and Isobel Drew displayed some of her handiwork. Oct. 28 Thirty visitors, members of the Merivale Society met with us and Alan Barnes from OMA. Nov. 21 All Documents necessary for Incorporation

had been forwarded to the Consumer Affairs Department. The Legal work had been done for us at no cost by Lawyer Fred Cass of Winchester. Keith Last, local Antique Dealer, showed us some of his prize collection and spoke to us of his interest in his hobby. Dec. 19 A separate Museum account was set up - moved by Arlowa Ferguson, seconded by Elizabeth Stuart.

1976 Highlights Jan. 2 Betty Gordon spoke on the experience of The Heirs of History Group in writing and selling Family History books. Margaret Robb became treasurer of the Museum account. Directors for the Society were appointed: Frances Iveson, Michael Daley, Dr. Lorne MacLachlan, Thomas Stanley. Feb. 20 Arlowa Ferguson and Jessie Robertson displayed several articles, clothes and books, used in earlier times; Allison Campbell showed early diaries of her grandparents; Connie Sallans talked about buttermaking; John Robb showed slides of Osgoode Village. March 19 Janet Wright from Indian Affairs was guest speaker. May 7 It was noted that \$686, had been cleared on the pancakes and maple syrup sold at the Maplehurst property of Elizabeth Stuart. The Dept. of Transport was contacted regarding Museum Signs on the Highway. May 21 Rosemary Ruddle, a local anthropologist, spoke about Indian Research. June 18 Dr. Lynn Morrow of Metcalfe spoke of many interesting incidents that he recalled during his Country Practice. Sept. 24 A large number took part in the sightseeing tour of Metcalfe arranged by Frances Iveson. A number of members were to attend the Historical Society Weekend to be held in Cornwall. Nov. 5 Elizabeth Stuart was authorized to buy paper for the 1977 Newsletter and for the first edition of Pioneer Families, 10 families in a Volume. Nov. 19 40 members were present to hear Carl Betke, Assistant Historian with the RCMP, who spoke on the 1874-94 period of the North West Mounted Police.

1977 A YEAR TO REMEMBER and the year for which the Group was originally formed. 25 meetings were held throughout the year under the guidance of President Connie Sallans. Many events were arranged and carried out - Heritage Day, Tea and Bake Sale, with 90 people visiting the Museum, stories of Pioneer Families were researched and published, pens were bought and sold, pancakes and Maple Syrup were sold in the Spring. A committee of Michael Daley, Viviane Shorey, and Gerald Hill were appointed to supervise the celebrations of the 150th year of Osgoode Settlement. Members met with Township Council to discuss plans.

A Sesqui Centennial Committee was formed with Philip McEvoy as Chairman, a position which proved his ability to organize, co-ordinate, and carry out the many festivities held throughout the Township. The Official Opening was June 11th at the Metcalfe Fair Grounds with a mini Parade and Township Officials participation. From June 6 to Oct. 2 there were - Ball Games, Dinners, Dances, etc. A Wintario Grant was applied for and received which was applied to expenses of various celebrations. The Historical Society compiled a booklet GLIMPSES OF OSGOODE TOWNSHIP replete with numerous pictures of the various rural municipalities. The special celebration for the Historical Society was Pioneer Days with a giant parade arranged by Archie Sayant and Keith Acres. Lorne Craig arranged the large display of engines on the Museum grounds. There were demonstrations and displays of weaving, spinning, and quilting. The guest speaker for the afternoon, Mr. Michael Dewan, Osgoode native, former Minister of Agriculture, was introduced by Philip McEvoy. Sunday afternoon, August 7, at the Museum Grounds was enjoyed by the large crowd in attendance. There was a short talk by a grandson of Adam Jacob Baker who had married Janet McDonell, daughter of Osgoode's settler Archibald McDonell. The musical program consisted of The Harmony Six, Dwayne Acres Family, Osgoode Senior Citizens Group.

Perhaps the outstanding achievement of the year was the designing of a Township Crest. A contest was held among the School Children and prizes awarded to the best entries. The winners were: First - Beth McEvoy of Greely; Second - Bruce Griffin of Metcalfe; Third - Chris McEvoy of Greely. The Crests were combined by Mrs. Ruby Young of Osgoode to form a colourful and attractive symbol which is proudly displayed on all Township vehicles and stationery. Pins have been made and are worn by Osgoode Volunteers, including those who give so much of their time in the administration of the Historical Society and Museum that came into being 13 years ago.

The meaning of the Osgoode Township Crest will be explained in the opening Newsletter of 1986.