



MOLAMPHY HOMESTEAD  
On the Bytown Stage Coach Route, Ottawa to Prescott.

## Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

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

### Newsletter

VOLUME 10 January 1984 No. 1

The picture above, I am sure, will bring to the minds of many of our readers, vivid memories of other log cabins, other homesteads, memories of another era, so different to the fast and hectic pace of our modern times. Patrick Molamphy, b. 1814 Co. Tipperary, Ireland, emigrated to Canada with his parents in 1839, settled on lot 9 con. 4, Osgoode. As early as 1835, the Bytown-Prescott Stage Coach passed this way. In 1840-41, Patrick married Julia Kaough, who came from Tipperary with her parents in 1838, and settled on lot 9, con. 5, Osgoode. Eleven children were born to this couple. John, the oldest, b. June 16, 1842, was the most prominent member of the family. Educated in Osgoode, he served three years apprenticing as a blacksmith. In 1860 he moved to the United States. In 1865 he located in Pittsburgh, entered the employ of Holman Carnegie Co. as a blacksmith. After eight years he was made Foreman and later Superintendent. In 1892 he was Superintendent of Transportation and Labour Department of the Homestead Steel Works. In 1902 he was retired with full pay for life. In 1866 he married Margaret Robinson, daughter of James Robinson of Ottawa.

Ironically, Joseph Sullivan, Labour Organizer in the Steel Mill worked for the rights of the Labours, causing friction with his Uncle John Molamphy, who was the superintendent of the Giant Steel Works. The strain in the family remained long after Joe's death.

Mrs. Pat Collins of Windber, Penn. sent us the picture, could we verify it as the birthplace of her G. Grandmother, Catherine Molamphy Sullivan. John Smith was born in this log house, he not only verified it but described it in detail. Two bedroom, kitchen and living quarters on the lower floor. The upper floor was used as storage in his time. A lean-to with a flat roof was at the back of the house. John is the son of the late Sam Smith and Lettia Lee, who like many mothers of those earlier times, died at John's birth. The Molamphy homestead was sold in 1915 to Mrs. Sarah Lee and son James.

#### Museum Notes by David Gray

1. The Board of Trustees met with the museum's advisor for the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture in January to go over our proposals for upgrading our museum to the provincial standards. We again studied the feasibility study prepared for the township by H. Kalman and Associates.

The next step will be to hire an architect to prepare our overall plan and then to start our fund raising program.

2. Our new north wall was completed in 1983 and has already made a great improvement to the building's warmth and has reduced our fuel bills. Thanks again to Miss Elizabeth Stuart for her donation and to Mr. G. Mackie for an excellent job.

3. The Ontario Bicentennial will be celebrated by our society by joining with each of the local Women's Institutes in a "Great Photograph Hunt". We will be in each community of the township on a certain day this spring or summer to look at old photographs, to collect information on them, and to re-photograph them, on the spot, hopefully with the help of professional photographers. Later in the year, we hope to return to each community with a display of the new information and some of the most interesting of the old photographs collected.

We have applied for a small grant from the provincial "Celebrate Together" fund, but will go ahead with the project even without extra funding.

We will need volunteers from each village or community to help locate interesting photographs, record information, and work with the photographers on the special days.

Dates to Remember

Regular meeting nights, the first Tuesday in the month at 8 p.m.

Feb. 18, Heritage Day open house, 1 - 4 p.m. at the museum.

March 6, Annual Meeting, followed by Election of Officers for 1984.

Guest Speaker will be Mr. George Nicholson of Ramsayville. A specialist in Agricultural Technology at the National Museum of Science and Technology, his talk will include information on plows manufactured in our Township.

Note - Membership Renewal - If you do not receive your 1984 membership card with this newsletter, then your membership fees are now due. (\$3.00 per)

Cemeteries - As well as the publication of Springhill Cemetery, we are able to provide for you the recordings of the 5 Russell Township Cemeteries, St. Jacques, St. Mary's, St. Paul's, and St. Andrews, Loucks, and North Russell. Both cemeteries of Metcalfe will be available for Heritage Day in February. There are still some copies of Clarence. Please send 50 cents extra for mailing each copy. Ormond Cemetery will be available in a few months.

Note - The assistance of the Ontario Government through the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture is gratefully acknowledged by our Society. This enables us to continue our researching and recording.

Board of Director 1983-84, Harvey Dinton, Chairman

Isobel Lewis, Gerald Morris, Douglas MacMillan, Margaret Robb, Gordon Blair, David Gray, Michael Daley

Contributors to this issue - Elizabeth Stuart, Margaret (Hill) Robb, David Gray, Michael Daley

OUR BICENTENNIAL

During the cold month of January 200 years ago, there were thousands of people - women, children, and men - refugees from "The 13 Colonies" to the South, who had escaped, most of them on foot, to the security and minimum shelter provided by military barracks in and to the south of Montreal. This large group had just learned to their dismay, that England had, at Paris, signed a Treaty with her former subjects, granting to them the desire of a Militant Group for Independence as a condition. The Treaty had been signed Christmas Eve, 1783.

To the large group of people who had escaped varying degrees of humiliation, imprisonment, and loss of property before arriving in these camps after the disastrous defeat in 1777, this Treaty meant that their homes, which had been carved out of the WILDERNESS DURING the previous 10 to 150 years in the Colonies, were no longer home. Property was permanently confiscated and as destitute pioneers, they must again face hardships which only they were conscious of, if they were again to find a home - this time in a colder climate.

During part of the 6 year interval in which the Refugees were in Camps near Montreal, Governor Haldimand was in charge of Canada and its unexpected problems, regiments were formed at Montreal, boys of 14 years of age being enlisted. Quarterly censuses were recorded of the population in order that rations and blankets could be allotted to the destitute. There are minute records of all these proceedings. Where did England find men of the calibre of Guy Carleton or Haldimand who would undertake a task of such proportions?

Butler's Rangers were at Niagara during this period and a Census survives of this group; it includes the name of the writer's one U. E. Ancestor.

Immediately, during the winter months of 1784, hardy men had to begin surveying unknown land in order to find homes for 70,000 people. When families somehow settled on a tract of land they could call their own, the history of Ontario, and eventually of all Canada, took a new direction. The lots were measured usually in 200 acre plots - not in hectares - and the settlement was an orderly one. Napoleon had not yet come on the scene to lead France and Europe into and through 25 years of turmoil. The French speaking inhabitants who had remained in Canada after the Peace signed in Paris 20 years earlier, remained loyal to England (as did the Indians) even if the Rebels had the support of their former foes - both France and Holland. The Canadian French inhabitants were spared the horrors of the French Revolution. They enjoyed, under British Rule, all the Rights for which their former countrymen were fighting. Indeed, after the end of this French Revolution, many of the French speaking population in the Embury area will tell you that their ancestors arrived from France to what is now Russell Township.

During this year, 1984, we recommend, if you have not already done so, that you read Kenneth Robert's "ALL-TIME BEST SELLER", OLIVER WISWELL.

In the frontispiece are the words: "In 1821 Chief Justice John Bay said to his nephew, "The true history of the American Revolution can never be written..."

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And from the Boston Herald Traveller: "THE STORY HISTORIANS DARED NOT TELL... ONLY A GREAT AMERICAN AND A GREAT HISTORIAN COULD HAVE WRITTEN THIS SUPERB NARRATIVE."

We amateur Historians who are searching our Roots are learning a little of the greatness and the weakness of those who went before us.

In Osgoode-settled later- we have had, and still have, many descendants of those people of 200 years ago who made a fresh start in a wilderness. The names: Loney, Farlinger, Dockstader, Carkner, Swardfaeger, Munro, Wood, Poaps, Otto, Moon, Loucks, Mattice, Moss, McDonell, Helmer, Hanes, Simser, Wyatt, Crouder, Everite, Morgan are familiar in the incomplete Loyalist list.

Elizabeth Stevens Stuart

WHAT'S IN A NAME? By Margaret Hill Robb

Children ask questions out of curiosity - adults question from wonder. - in between all are so busy growing up and fitting ourselves for a full life of living, we take places, person and things for granted. It is when we reach the golden years that backward thoughts creep in and we really think deeply of the "Whys". This brings to fore some of the places mentioned in previous newsletters.

Born in the farming community of Marvelville and spending my early years there I do have many dear memories. There was a focal point where we attended school and church, took milk to the factory picked up the mail and if we were fortunate could buy a stick of candy with our large one-cent piece. To locals this place was called the Corners; cut at right angles with a road going east and west and one north and south, with buildings on each corner. Whether you were one mile or two from this focal point you belonged to this community known as Marvelville, a Community situated on the Crossroads between two townships of Osgoode and Russell. The community encompassed farms from each township.

The name Marvelville was understandable to me as its origin had been told many times by our father. He had many times referred to its former name of St. Helena. Only recently, I have pondered on this name St. Helena. We do have to rely on information handed down through generations. I was told St. Helena was chosen in connection with the isolated, backward British Colony, St. Helena Island where Napoleon was banished to spend his last years. Someone must have known his history back in those days but of course it would be the times following the Napoleonic Wars. This community must have resembled the isolated backward island. Backward it proved to be, with its acres of good clay farming land but not suited for the building of roads. The frost became so imbedded in the roads, that it was nearly impossible to get into or out of the community in Spring. Of course since the main road was a boundary between two townships it was a continual war who should fix what part and how much. Every farmer had the experience one time or another bogging down to the axles in the spring.

Mail came in from various directions; some letters stamped South Indian (Limoges), others as far west as Osgoode Sta. The community felt a Post Office was needed. A delegation met with the powers to be and brought back the discouraging word "There was not enough mail coming through to warrant a Post Office at this location. Nothing daunted, word was spread through the area, - "Get your friends to write you; sign for a newspaper if only for six months. Notice was taken, a meeting was arranged, and officials informed them a Post Office they would have; but they could not use the name St. Helena. Sam Cheney, who up to this time, had been instrumental in getting mail to this community, was one who made application and attended all meetings. According to information from the Post Office Archives, the office was opened Jan. 1, 1879, in the south west corner, on lot 5, concession T, Russell, this lot having been severed from the Cheney property. Here, also, a store was opened. Mr. Cheney became the first Post Master at this time and also mail carrier to this post. Being a union community of two townships the Post Office was held in different buildings as Post Masters changed, sometimes on Osgoode side and sometimes Russell.

No one seems aware of why St. Helena could not be used or stories could be confused and the community may not have wanted it with its implications. Blackburn was named but couldn't be used as there was a Blackburn just outside of Ottawa; so chosen, as the farms were studded with burned stumps due to bush clearing. Can't you just hear Mr. Cheney saying? "It will be a marvel if we ever get a Post Office here." Someone spoke up and said "Put a ville on it." So "Marvelville" it became. The community finally had its own name at last. The corner, as we knew it, although all business places have gone, still has that strong community spirit and continues to have a place to gather at "The Marvelville Community Club" in the brick school built in 1909.

Notes of Interest

Edna Hill Barrowclough a fifth generation Canadian, her mothers' people were United Empire Loyalists and her father, Scots-Irish settlers. Together they farmed in Osgoode Twp. near Marvelville. Edna was one of a family of nine, received her education in the Union School in Marvelville, no. 16 was Osgoode and no. 5 was Russell and Kenmore Continuation School. She began teaching at the age of 16 years at Bainsville, Ontario. In 1923 Edna moved to Wesleyville to teach school. It has been her home for 60 years and she spent her life learning its story, living in a home with long roots, fosters a sense of history. As she grew up she was treated to stories past and present, like her great-grandfather who was a policeman and a Reeve in Carleton Co. in the mid 18th century. During his tenure he is reputed to have smashed a counterfeiting ring and broken up an opium den at or near Vars. She remembers seeing the opium and the fake coins. People who say history isn't important are wrong. Edna insists you yourself are the product of the past, and if you deny history you are denying yourself.

Did you know we have? Morrisburg Ottawa Electric Ry  
Plans and Profiles Shewing

Road crossing through the township of Osgoode  
Approved for the township Council of Osgoode,  
Reeve, Alex Dow  
Clerk, F. Iveson  
Dated at Metcalfe May 15 1914

THE YOUNG PEOPLES GUILD OF ST. PAULS CHURCH KENMORE

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S GUILD  
of

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH  
KENMORE

WILL HOLD A  
MITTEN SOCIAL

AT THE HOME OF MR. JOHN PARK SR.  
Friday evening, March 11, 1910

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*This little mitten is made for you,  
Your family or your friend;  
We invite you to our social  
And we trust you will attend.*

*The pennies charged you just depends  
Upon the size you wear,  
So multiply your size by three,  
And fill the mitten with care.*

*Our mill is running night and day,  
Our mittens are "out of sight";  
They are to be furnished at any time,  
Or at the house that night.*

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PLEASE RETURN MITTEN BY MARCH 11.

RESPECT FOR THE DEAD

In the olden days, when a farmer died, the neighbors on either side and those across the road would stop their farm work till after the funeral and all those who lived along the road to the cemetery, whether near or far from the home of the deceased, would stop work till the procession had passed. In those days it was considered a scandal not to pay respect for the dead whether Jew or Gentile, Protestant or Catholic.