



The Edwards Station

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

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

— ❧ Newsletter ❧ —

VOLUME 11 1985 No. 2

EDWARDS - From Glimpses of Osgoode Township

The growth of the Centre was dependent on the Railway, which served the local areas and eliminated long drives to Ottawa. Mr. Surtees opened the first store and Post Office. Successive owners were Mr. Jacques, Samuel B. Latimer, Cyrus Latimer, and R. A. Bickerton and son. In recognition of 50 years service by the Bickerton Family, the Federal Post Office awarded Ken Bickerton a res "Steel Stamp" for Letters.

The Edwards Church is now owned by the United Church of Canada. Built by a Baptist Congregation c1896, families such as Surtees, Bradley, Mitchell, Waddell were served by ministers of the Osgoode Baptist Church (near Vernon) and Metcalfe. When the Rev. Stuart Woods was Pastor in Metcalfe, the building was bought by the Presbyterian Congregation who occupied it until "Union" in 1925. St. James Anglican Church was established circa 1896-1898. Its Church Records have been destroyed by fire.

PUBLIC MEETING IN OSGOODE - about 150 years ago

Pursuant to Public Notice, a meeting of the Inhabitants of The Township of Osgoode was held in the School House on Monday the 29th of February shen Daniel Cameron Esq. being appointed Chairman and Mr. Thomas Bailey, Secretary, the following Resolutions were put and unanimously carried:

Moved by A. McDonell and seconded by E. P. Loucks -

RESOLUTION - That it is in the interest of the inhabitants of this Township that a new District should be formed in this part of the Province having Bytown for its Capital, and of which this Township should form a part;

That notwithstanding many of the Inhabitants have signed a Petition for its object the establishment of the Village of Kemptville as the Capital of the new District, thereby lending their weight and influence to the support of a Measure manifestly injurious to their Welfare and Prosperity.

That a Copy of these Resolutions be published in the BYTOWN INDEPENDENT and the producer of that Paper be requested to send a Copy to Thomas McKay Esq. M.P.P. Toronto.

Signed by D. Cameron, Chairman
T. Bailey, Secretary

This Notice was taken from the BYTOWN INDEPENDENT AND FARMER'S ADVOCATE.
(Query - Where was the School House?)

Date - Thursday, March 10, 1836

HERITAGE DAY

We spent an enjoyable Saturday afternoon, February 16, listening to our own Osgoode Poetess read to us some of the 200 Poems that she has written and produced in her book TRILLIUM, a Bicentennial contribution. As well, she read some of her stories with the flavour of days gone by. Thank you, again, Ruth Scharfe for sharing with us your enthusiasm and your poetic talent.

Patricia Shotton, Curator of the Manotick Mill, gave a talk, illustrated with coloured pictures, of conservation work around the area. Our Museum was asked to put a Display in the Mill during the summer. Moses K. Dickinson was a landowner in Osgoode Township.

PIONEER FAMILIES OF OSGOODE TOWNSHIP, Volume XVI, has been printed and includes - A picture of the Metcalfe Stage Coach and a description of the Postal Service nearly 100 years ago by Norma Simpson Morrison; ALEXANDER CAMPBELL and his wife ELIZABETH CAMERON and their 10 children; ROBERT CAMPBELL and his wife MARGARET SINCLAIR and their 8 children; THOMAS COOK and his wife ELIZABETH EVIT (Everts) and 8 children; PETER DAVIDSON and his first wife JANET GUTHRIE and 3 children - his second wife ELIZABETH GUTHRIE and 12 children; JOHN McCORMICK and his wife ANN JANE MABIB and 5 children; STEWART McVEY and his wife MARY ANN CARSON and 14 children; PHILIP McEVOY and his wife MARY DALEY and the 9 children of son Augustine and the 15 children of son Raymond; WILLIAM PORTEOUS and his wife MARY LORIMER and their 7 children; PATRICK SHIELDS and his wife BRIDGET MURPHY and 6 of their children; CHRISTOPHER SIMSER and his wife HARRIET CAMERON and their 12 children.

We are asking \$2.00 for a copy of Volume XVI and future Volumes.

QUERY - THOMAS COOK b 1792-3 Upper Canada (?), wife Elizabeth Evit b Lower Canada, where? Lvd Osgoode 1842-1853. Where did they live 1820-1842? Moved to Lambton Co. 1853, living along River St. Clair until death in 1877. Sons then moved to Amabel Twp in Bruce Co. Did son John move there also? Have names of all 8 children and their spouses. Will exchange.

Mary Jane (Cook) STUSSI, N. 8201 Espe Road, Spokane Wa. 99207 USA

During the first week of April 1984, the Taylor Brothers of Perth put a fine peaked roof on our building. At the present time, Gerald Mackie and his son are constructing a stairway to the second floor of the Museum. This extra space will give us a storage area almost equal to our display area. Don Lowe and Michael Daley are helping our fine carpenters.

Our construction and maintenance and our publications receive assistance from THE MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND CULTURE.

GENEALOGY DAY - May 4, 1985

Our Museum and Archives are open to the Public on a regular basis beginning the first weekend in May and continuing until the last weekend in October - Friday, Saturday, Sunday, (and Holidays) from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

This year, as stated previously, we shall be open Saturday, May 5, at 9 o'clock in the morning for our GENEALOGY DAY.

LOCATION - Our Museum at Vernon is on Highway 31 across from Porteous M and M.

REGISTRATION - There is a fee of \$5.00 which can be paid in advance, on Friday afternoon, or at the door on Saturday morning. Send or bring your pedigree Charts which we shall post. As well give us 5 or 6 names which you are searching. They will be written on your identification card.

REFRESHMENTS - Coffee, cold drinks, muffins, doughnuts will be supplied throughout the day. Bring a bag-lunch or use the take-out service of the restaurant across the street.

GUEST SPEAKERS - DON READ, teacher of Geography and Computers at St. Joseph High School in Ottawa, Professional Genealogist with extensive personal experience in searching both his own and his wife's Roots, will be speaking during the morning at two different Sessions beginning at 9:30. Don gives evening Genealogy Courses at Ridgemount High School. There will be ample opportunity for questions.

CLARENCE CROSS of Maple Ridge will be present throughout the day with his 18 "Book of Remembrance" size Volumes of Family Sheets of the Residents of Dundas County. He will speak in the afternoon and show Osnabruck Research.

WENDELL STANLEY, recently-retired long-time Registrar of Russell County, will explain and demonstrate the genealogical and historical information available from Documents in the Registry Office. We hope Terry Bishop can be present as well.

A PANEL of experts at 3:30 p.m. will try to answer all your questions.

THE TALE OF THE PIONEERS - Recently, Marion Carkner loaned Our Society her Album on Kenmore. There were valuable articles written or collected by her late husband, Wallace Carkner. One of these articles was written for the Farmer's Advocate of December 1910. Mrs. William Reid - Jane McDonald - was born in Bytown January 19, 1831, the Daughter of John McDonald and Elizabeth McMullan. The birth is recorded in St. Andrew's Parish Register. John McDonald was a Private in the 7th Company of Royal Sappers and Miners disbanded at the Rideau Canal in December 1831. He had found time to choose a lot, build a shanty, and plant potatoes in 1830. The potatoes were dug up and again stored in

the ground over the winter. His daughter, "Grandma Reid" of Kenmore, was left a widow with 8 children in 1863. She died in 1921.

EARLY DAYS IN THE OTTAWA VALLEY by Mrs. Wm. Reid

My father arrived at the place around which the scenes of my story cluster in 1830, having previously been engaged in the construction of the Rideau Canal. He located on lot 28, Concession 10, Township of Osgoode, now part of Kenmore. The land was sold by the Crown at the rate of 50 cents per acre. As I dictate my story, the original Deed lies on the table before me. On his arrival he located the site of his future home on the banks of the Castor River. A rude shanty was fashioned out of round logs, while for a roof scoops hallowed out of basswood timber served as an overhead protection against the elements. Logs were reduced to a thickness desirable for flooring, being flatted to suit the purpose. These were piled up until seasoned to be fit for further use.

At the beginning of the following year, I myself was born, and in early spring was brought in along with my little brother, since deceased. Our family, along with our scanty household effects, were brought in within six miles of our location on an ox-sleigh. My brother was carried the remainder of the distance in a shawl strapped to my father's back, while I was borne in my mother's arms. But this, by no means made up their load, for, in addition, they carried some provisions, dishes and articles most necessary for immediate use. On arrival, a couple of pieces intended for flooring were placed for mother to sit on, while father busied himself in lighting a fire by means of the old "flint and punk" method, matches at this time being an unknown convenience. A hasty meal was prepared and partaken of, and then father, after tacking a shawl over the opening intended for a door, barricaded it with pieces of flooring in order to guard us from the wild animals which infested these regions in the early days. He then returned for the balance of our effects and arrived back after midnight. No roads then existed, nothing but the blazed trail serving to guide the traveller through the trackless wilderness. The friendly torch, always used at night, served a two-fold purpose - it lighted and showed the right trail to the woodsman, and it acted as a protection against the wild beasts.

On father's return, a hasty bed of balsam boughs was prepared on which were thrown some blankets. Then weary, and almost exhausted with the day's fatigue, a few logs were rolled together to replenish the fire, and we retired. No chimney graced our early home - the smoke escaped through a hole in the roof.

One great drawback we experienced in building up our early home was the inroads made upon our stock by the wild animals. I distinctly remember, as a girl of five, seeing seven wolves drinking at the river, coming up the bank in Indian file, and passing close to our shanty. At night, these denizens of the forest would break the stillness of the calm night and make the woods vibrate with their sharp howlings, filling our young hearts with terror. In later years, when, by much sacrifice, we had managed to secure some sheep, these unwelcome visitors destroyed as many as seven in a single day. This also brings to my memory how these marauders deprived us of a fine three-year old heifer, nothing but the bones telling the tale of their feast on our hard-earned, prized, and all-too-slim stock. Bears also were plentiful and gave us considerable inconvenience. On one occasion, we children were playing at my uncle's - two uncles had settled close by - when our attention was called to the pig-pen by the squeals coming from it. Here we discovered that Mr. Bruin was the cause of the disturbance and we speedily conveyed the intelligence to mother who summoned the men. The men brought their flint-locks, the bear was forced to take to a nearby tree and one by one the men fired until one of their bullets found its mark. But by no means was the empty pig-sty filled again. On this same day the men were called to two other families and that night three dead bears told the story of their invasion.

Four years after our arrival we secured our first yoke of oxen, and these greatly lessened the strenuous life of the early days. Our first start to clear away primeval forest was on the bank of the river. The trees were cut into logs and rolled down the steep bank. A small clearing was then made and placed in a tillable condition. The first implements were the grub hoe and the oak rake. When the oxen were introduced, an oak plough or jumper was used along with a V-shaped wooden drag in which were placed iron pins procured in Bytown, now Ottawa, the flourishing Capital of our fair Dominion. Logging Bees of those days have been described in Ralph Connor's book, "The Man From Glengarry", which recalls to us old settlers the days of strife and triumph.

Our first cow had been procured by father while he was at work on the Canal and left at "The Front" until provision could be made for her sustenance and shelter. On one occasion she strayed from her keeper, and, following a winter road where she was picking up wisps of hay that had fallen from a lumberman's sleigh, she was mistaken for a bear. She narrowly escaped being

shot. Her arrival at her new quarters was a day of rejoicing to us all. Henceforth, many long-felt wants were supplied. Food and clothing were obtained from Bytown, 25 miles distant, and carried in on the backs of men who took turns in this arduous task.

The first wheat was taken to the mill, a distance of 35 miles in two canoes, the round trip occupying a week. On the return journey the provisions had entirely disappeared, and the men, paddling back against the current, were famished and almost exhausted. They espied a large flat stone, came to shore and kindled a fire on the stone. Then they later swept off the coals, mixed some of the flour and water in a basin which they carried and poured the mixture on the hot stone and waited until it was cooked. They always afterwards looked back on this repast as the finest of their lives. No less was the flour welcome to us at home who anxiously waited and watched for the returning canoes, bread not having been in our house for six weeks.

The first missionary was Rev. Daniel McPhail who travelled on foot at first and later on horseback. The first school was a little log building two miles distant. Here the youth were instructed, not in the modern and scientific methods of to-day, but in the crude, very crude form indeed. The school was called the pay school, the teacher boarding round among families represented in the school. Nevertheless, the men and women of those days were the medium whereby the liberal and advanced education of today was reached.

In conclusion, I may state that some 47 years ago I was left as the sole bread winner for a young and somewhat large family. No channels such as now exist were open by which money might be obtained, and the busy loom had to be kept going far into the night in order to meet the ever recurring wants of the little flock. I now reside alone on a portion of the old pioneer farm, being the only survivor of those connected with this story. I am still, in spite of my 80 years, enjoying, by the blessing of God, a fair measure of good health. And, as I sit on my verandah during the summer, instead of the ring of the woodsman's axe of long ago, there comes floating on the breeze, in strong contrast, the buzz of the circular saw and the dull hum of the planers.

Kenmore, 1910

NOTES OF INTEREST

BYTOWN GAZETTE Sept. 11, 1836

Lands for Sale - The west half of Lot number 40 in the 6th of the Township of Osgoode. For particulars apply to Arch McDonell of said Township. (Our Museum is on the east part of that same lot. William Kelly was the buyer of this lot which he sold in a few years to the first resident Clergyman in the Township - Rev. Daniel McPhail.)

KEMPTVILLE ADVANCE Feb. 27, 1907

Dawson - Mr. N. F. Roman of Russell has purchased the Dawson Cheese factory from Mr. James Stewart of Dalmeny. A meeting of the Patrons was held on Tuesday the 27 inst. Mr. Roman was highly recommended, and all wish him success in his new venture. ("Jim" Stewart had married Dalmeny school teacher Helen Meldrum. Their first two children - Herb of "Stewart Tours", Toronto, and Laura, Mrs Walter McDonald of Winchester, were born at Dawson.)

Osgoode Election Results for the Township of Osgoode - January 10 - are as follows: Councillor Alexander Dow was returned as Reeve, and John McEvoy as Deputy Reeve. The Councillors are - Andrew Walker, Theodore Cleland and James McCormick.

Mr. Thomas Deverix passed away on Monday after a brief illness of pneumonia, age 67 years. Mass was celebrated by Father McCauley. Interment in St. John's Cemetery. He leaves to mourn - his wife and two brothers, Edward and John, and sister Mrs. Flood. Pall Bearers were J. Tobin, J. Coleman, C. Dewan, C. McCahey, R. McEvoy and Mose Doyle.

KEMPTVILLE ADVANCE Thursday March 7, 1907

The Osgoode Council has adopted a warlike attitude toward the Mountain Council over the Silver Creek and the Castor River Drainage Scheme. They note the failure of the Mountaineers to comply with the Referee Judgment and are asking that official to tell them to come up to scratch.

Editor of Newsletter - Michael Daley, with some assistance from Elizabeth Stuart