



The Edwards Station

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

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

Newsletter

VOLUME 11 1985 No. 1

The picture above, though faded and worn, will bring vivid memories of an era long gone. Memories of steam trains, of huge steam Engines snorting and puffing with the black smoke rolling back as these old Iron Horses worked to get their heavy loads moving. What was more haunting, though far from one's sight, was the far-off sound of a steam engine's whistle as it continued on its way to some far distant destination. The Edwards Station house was situated on Lot 1 Con. 9 Osgoode Township. The land for the siding was donated to the New York Central Railway by Colin Patterson, an inducement for the company to build a siding there.

The New York Central, with terminals at Ottawa and Tupper Lake, New York, served the area from 1892-1957. Livestock feed was delivered to area farmers from Edwards. Cream was shipped to Ottawa dairies, when the cheese factory closed in the winter. Mailbags for neighbouring villages were loaded and unloaded there. Four passenger and two freight trains passed this way every day for many years. Area high school students boarded the train in the morning to attend High School in Russell and returned home on the evening train - their fare was \$3.00 per month. A special excursion train would be put on for the Ottawa Exhibition with departure times of 8:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. In the winter time farmers would travel the train tracks with their teams and sleigh. Heading for Ottawa, they would get off the tracks at Ramseyville and continue on a better road into the market etc.

The above picture was lent to us by John Patterson of Edwards - grandson of Colin Patterson who settled on the south half of Lot 5 Con. 9 in Gloucester Township. He was the local blacksmith and later built a blacksmith shop at Edwards which his son, Charles operated for a number of years.

It is interesting to note that quite a few freight cars were loaded with willow logs cut in the area and shipped to Hangar Standard Limb Co. in the United States where they were made into wooden legs. Harold Graham (deceased) of Metcalfe wore one of those wooden legs for many years. Bernie Campbell was the station agent and telegrapher at the Edwards station from 1905-1957.

NOTES OF INTEREST - Elizabeth Stuart

Our annual celebration of Heritage Day will take place on Saturday afternoon, February 16, 1985, from 1:00-5:00 P.M. at the Museum. Ruth Scharfe, well-known writer from the Edwards area, now living in Ottawa, will be present to read some of her poems from the recently published book, TRILLIUM. This publication was her Bicentennial contribution. Ruth has kindly donated a copy of her poems to the Historical Society. As well, we hope to have her tell some of the stories from the columns she formerly wrote for the Ottawa paper. At present, Ruth is preparing another publication that will include all these columns, stories of her early life in Osgoode. Refreshments will be served on our Heritage Afternoon.

GENEALOGY WEEKEND - Our Museum and Archives are open to the Public on a regular basis for the six months beginning the first weekend in May. We are planning a Genealogy Weekend for our opening, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, May 3, 4, and 5. A Registration Fee of \$5.00 will include tea, coffee, donuts on Saturday. There will be tours Friday, from 1:00-5:00 P.M., and registration may begin then or on Saturday morning at 9:00 A.M. There will be well-qualified speakers on various aspects relating to searching your roots in Osgoode Township or elsewhere. Assistants will answer questions on the use of our Census, Church Records, Assessment rolls, Vital Statistics, etc. And there will be guidance given on research in French Canada, Ireland, Scotland, England, U.S.A. etc. We should like to post as many "Family Trees" as

possible. Some accommodation is available in the area and there is a restaurant across the street. Bring your lunch and drinks will be supplied. The research will continue until 5:00 P.M. on Saturday. On Sunday, May 5, the building will be open from 1:00-5:00 P.M.

PIONEER FAMILIES - There has been no new edition of FAMILIES since XV about two years ago. We are now working on new Volumes and we hope to have other Families in print in the next few weeks. Some of the families being researched include: Cameron, Campbell, Carkner, Cook, Dalgleish, Davidson, Porteous, McCallum, McEvoy, McIntosh, McCormick, McLaren, McVey, Scrivens, Slack, Shields, Simser, McNab.

As well as the Ormond Cemetery inscriptions which we sell for \$3.00 each, we now have copies of the Morewood Cemeteries, combined, which sell for \$5.00 plus postage.

ANNUAL MEETING HELD JANUARY 15:

The Slate of Officers for the Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum for 1985:

Past President Michael Daley
President Shirley Lowe
Vice President Harvey Linton
Recording Secretary Katy Campbell
Correspondence Secretary Harry Anderson
Treasurer of Historical Society Jennie Dow
Librarian Mrs. Kay Hill
Newsletter Michael Daley - with help!
Social Committee: Alice Craig, Anne Carkner, Verda McNaughton.

Museum Management Committee:

Chairman David Gray
Curator
Treasurer Brian Kelsey

Directors: Harvey Linton
Margaret Robb
Gerald Morris
Michael Daley
Don Lowe
Shirley Lowe
Keith Little
Cecil Reaney
Lorne Craig

Retiring Directors: Doug McMillan
Gordon Blair
David Gray

Retiring Officers: Grace Blair, Secretary
Michael Daley, President

Maintenance: Doug McMillan

Membership Renewal IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD WITH THIS NEWSLETTER, THEN YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE.

Michael Daley

GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST:

Now that Osgoode Township Council are recognizing Township roads with names that are historical or geographical and associated with our area, I am sure many old names will come to one's mind like Lizzie's Corner, Paddy's Hill, Welch's Corner, Scamp's Corner, Harney's Corner and many others. Many years ago there was a section in Osgoode Twp. (though unofficial) called Pokey-Moonshine, a name the people of the district gave it, because certain residents made a "Pokey" or a flat brand of illegal whiskey. But, all that remains of that by-gone era is the basement walls which are still standing. Our Pioneer families had a great sense of humour which greatly helped them through their times of trouble. The people of the Pokey-Moonshine District had a passion for raffles of all sorts - a clock, a gun, a fiddle or something of that sort - and when they did forgather for a raffle, there always followed a dance. They loved to listen to the jigs and the reels, the stories told, and the songs that were sung.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT BRYAN DOYLE HILL:

At one time a very treacherous hill for farmers to get down with their teams of horses and their heavy loads. In addition, the cross lane or corduroy placed at the bottom of the hill due to swampy conditions was apt to cause trouble to vehicles passing over it.

Bryan Doyle came to these parts at about the time construction of the Rideau Canal started. The 1863 map of Gloucester Township shows Bryan Doyle situated at the top of the hill on Lot 23 Con 5, on the east side of Highway 31. They lived in a scooped-roof log shanty. Mr. Doyle was killed in the winter of 1869 while drawing logs from his farm to Manotick for the Dickinsons

in Manotick. When near Moore's Corner, three quarters of a mile past Spratt's Crossing, his sleigh upset. A large basswood log rolled off and fell on him. He was in his 80th year at the time of his death. His son went to the States and his daughter, Annie married a Mr. Abraham. Many of us still remember it as Bryan Doyle Hill.

1872 Rules for Teachers:

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys.
2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.
3. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.
4. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
5. After ten hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.
6. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
7. Every teacher should lay aside from each day's pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.
8. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.
9. The teacher who performs his labour faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.

THE HIGHLAND CROFTER: - Isabel Lewis (nee Kennedy)

Delving into history has always held a tremendous fascination for me and an article about the treatment of the Scottish crofters which I read recently stirred up considerable interest. I would like to share it with you as I know there are many in the Historical Society who, like me, have ancestors who came from Perthshire, Scotland to Osgoode Township.

As I recall our Heritage Tour to Scotland, 1979; what a wonderful feeling came over me during the few days spent in Perth and Perthshire! It seemed as if I had "come home" again. Here in these green fields, my grandfather, James Kennedy and his brothers and sisters had played as children; here in the streets of Perth, they had walked; here in Cargill were the ruins of their blacksmith shop. Why did they leave this lush countryside on the Tay to encounter the rigours of pioneering in Canada? What stories lie buried here!

This we know, that their small land-holdings were called "crofts" and for years they plied their trades and farmed in places like Cargill, Rattray, Kenmore, Tayside, Dalmeny; until the landlords became greedy and decided to take back the crofter's lands for their own selfish use. As a result many crofters were evicted and found themselves in dire straits without work or homes. Thousands left Scotland and came to Canada with many settling in Glengarry and others coming to Osgoode Township.

All this was recalled to me after reading this article in a Scottish magazine lent to me recently by Harvey Linton. It was entitled "Two sides to a Song". The writer had researched a poem which had received considerable publicity in 1903, and this poem, he discovered, was the work of a bitter, evicted crofter named James Kennedy, who was a blacksmith from Lochtayside, Perthshire. It was composed in 1840 and the greedy culprit on whom James vented his wrath was the 2nd Marquis of Breadalbane - how hated he was! I will quote the lines from the poem which says it all - the heartbreak and unfairness - but in the end the other side will be victorious - God will balance the books at last.

THE HIGHLAND CROFTER

*Frae Kenmore tae Ben More
The land is a' the Marquis's;
The mossy howes (house), the
heathery knowes,*

And ilka (every) bonnie park is his;

The bearded goats, the tawsie stots,

An' a' the braxie carcasses;

Ilk crofter's rent, ilk tinkler's tent,

An' ilka collie's bark is his;

*The muir-cocks craw, the piper's blaw,
The gellie's hard day's work is his;*

Frae Kenmore tae Ben More

The World is all the Marquis's.

2. The fish that swim, the birds that skim,

The fir, the ash, the birk is his;

The Castle ha' sae big an' braw,

Von diamond crusted dirk is his;

The roofless hame, a burning shame,

The factor's dirty sork is his;

The poor folk vexed, the lawyer's text,

Von smirking legal shark is his;

Frae Kenmore tae Ben More

The world is a' the Marquis's.

(Continued on next page)

3. But near, mair near, God's voice we hear -
 The dawn as well's the dark is His;
 The poet's dream, the patriot's theme,
 The fire that lights the mirk is His.
 They clearly show God's mills are slow
 But sure, the handiwork is His;
 And in His grace our hope we place;
 Fair Freedom's sheltering ark is His,
 The men that toil should own the soil -
 Anote as clear's the lark's is this -
 Breadalbane's land - the fair, the grand -
 Will no' be aye the Marquis's.

James Kennedy, crofter and blacksmith, you also were a fine poet and may you not forgotten be! Perhaps he was kin to me and many others who relate to Kennedy. At that time in that part of Scotland, my great grandfather was raising his family of four sons and two daughters. I would be proud if he were the poet, but I do not know.

As I conclude this article, I have in my hand a yellowed letter from my great grandfather to my grandfather dated thus:

"Cargill, March 15, 1853.

Dear James

John got a letter from David which gives more encouragement to go to America. When this reaches your hand, write immediately."

He continues to outline plans to lead his family across the ocean to Canada in 1854, and signs it "I am Your Affectionate Father, James Kennedy."

A faded letter, and a crumbling stone in Springhill Cemetery, James Kennedy, 1783-1861, but what a heritage he has given us! I hope those crofters found happiness and peace in Canada.

MUSEUM NOTES: by David Gray

1. Bicentennial Project:

In 1984, grants were awarded to the Historical Society and the local Women's Institutes to collect and display old photographs illustrating our township's history. We received \$810.00 through the provincial Wintario Program and \$545.00 from the Federal Government's Department of Secretary of State. The funds were used to purchase additional components of our existing "expo system" display unit, to purchase film and storage materials for photographs, and to pay for copying, copy-negatives, and prints of the photographs that were loaned to us.

Photographs were displayed and collected, and in some cases copied on-the-spot at all of the Bicentennial events in the township (Greely, Osgoode, Kenmore, Metcalfe and Vernon). The exhibit was also displayed at Metcalfe Fair and the Ottawa Exhibition.

Most of the 200 or so old photographs came to us through loans of family albums or collections, from a few individuals only. Unfortunately, our own society members were notably absent from this endeavour, with only a few exceptions. The participation of the Women's Institute members who donated time and photos is therefore most gratefully acknowledged.

2. Museum Curator:

With the resignation of Vivianne Storey, the position of curator at the Museum is vacant. We are sorry to lose Vivianne as the knowledge she acquired through the museum studies program is invaluable to any museum, especially a volunteer museum like our own. Any member interested in looking after artifacts; labelling, researching, organizing, etc., should contact David Gray (821-2640). Training courses are available for those willing to help out.

3. Manpower:

The museum committee will be asking for volunteers to help organize museum events and displays to work on our collections, and to help in the running of the museum during the summer. An information sheet will be sent to all members in the near future. Please respond as the quality of your museum depends on your involvement. Let's not let yet another year go by with the burden of responsibility resting on the same few shoulders.

4. International Year of Youth:

As 1985 is the year of youth, we would like to have an exhibit on youth in Osgoode Township in the old days. We would appreciate donations or loans of historical items and photographs relating to youth at play, school, or work.

DOWN MEMORY LAND - SPORTS OF MARVELVILLE: - Charles Fader

Marvelville sports was one of the reasons the name Fader came into the Marvelville community. As a young man, my father grew up in the small community between Morewood and Winchester known as the Melvin settlement. Baseball was a common sport in both Marvelville and the Melvin Settlement. Many times a team came back to challenge the Marvelville team. I am not positive about the year, but it was circa 1870-1880.

In those years sports were played for fun and enjoyment. It was a way of social contact. Circa 1870 a team was brought by lumber wagon to a day's outing in Marvelville (sounds like it perhaps was the July 12th celebrations). Following the game a supper was held and the day finished with a dance at night. My father married Martha McVey and Uncle Allan married Katherine Kane. In a course of a few years they bought property from their in-laws and moved to Marvelville.

My memory goes back to when I was about eight years old to a lacrosse game between Marvelville and Morewood. It too was held at a 12th of July picnic. It was held in an open field and the picnic in the woods, on the farm of David Stearns, now owned by David Wade.

I recall some of the names on that team; Robert McVey, Roy Hay and the Brownlee brothers. A few of the lacrosse sticks are still in existence, one can be seen in the Osgoode Township Historical Museum in Vernon.

Just when the sport of lacrosse died out in Marvelville, I can't recall, but football or soccer as we now know it became the summer game and hockey in the winter.

The girls of the community formed a softball team and played a good game. They challenged several communities - to name some, Kenmore, Russell and Metcalfe. Football continued actively challenging Kenmore, Vars, Russell, Marionville and Golden Valley. A league was formed in all sports at different times. When the new cheese factory was built on the Osgoode side of the township, the large room above served the community as a "Community Hall". Indoor activities were held here on Saturday nights. You name them and we had them - wrestling, arm twisting and many more to show off the powers of our bodies.

The boys now seeped in sports felt they would like to be better organized, so plans were made to form a team and enter a league. Until this time we were just a group of boys playing exhibition games with Cannamore, Kenmore, Embrun and Ormond. The seed was planted and soon we were an organized club to be known as the Marvelville Athletic; circa 1920. Great plans were made to build an open air rink but this never materialized. We made arrangements with the first closed rink in the area - Russell Arena. We played our home games there and had one night a week for practice. The first league took in Metcalfe, Russell, Kenmore, North Russell and Marvelville.

As finances played an important part to all clubs money must be raised. A box social and dance was held. One box made a record and sold for \$17.00, a lot of money at that time (a very interesting and hidden story there). Enough money came in to buy our sweaters and sports equipment. The sweaters were made of wool and colours were black and orange.

When the Marvelville Community Club was formed in 1945 a box social again came to the rescue. A type of reunion was held and all old-timers were contacted and many generous donations were made for our cause. We were ready to start a rink and organize. This rink became the hub of the community. Now we had not just good hockey, but skating to amplified recorded music - "Sidewalks of New York", "Smile A While" and many other good old tunes.

In recording this, my mind flips back to the war years of 1914-1918 when we were very young; skating on Marvelville Creek known as Oak Creek, bon fires made from fence rails and young people coming from far and near to have a night of fun under the stars. Every Saturday night we went by sleigh to skate at Russell. Everyone took their turns supplying transportation. What glorious times we had! Pitch holes, sing songs and roads cutting off, all added to the fun.

I myself graduated from the ponds and Marvelville Creek to play on a school team as well as on the Marvelville team, Kenmore seniors, and the Ottawa Valley League of Russell, Hull, Aylmer, and Rockland. For a time I played for Kenmore and two winters with Winchester - Central League, which included Chesterville, Merrickville, Finch, Cornwall and Avonmore. I also played some for Vernon where I have come to retire. There are very few of my old hockey pals left.

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The Marvelville rink and Community Club recognized hockey in their youth and encouraged them to go farther afield. Jack Hume and my son Glen played for the Inkerman Rockets and an Ottawa Valley team later. Larry Robinson, so well known with the Montreal Canadiens - N.H.L., learned to skate and practiced his skills on the Marvelville rink.

Circa 1960 the community had a good baseball team and won a championship. A banquet was held for them and the late Ernie Calcutt was the guest speaker. In more recent years the women had a ringette team and held their place.

In looking back, those of us who grew up in this community with sports and social life were fortunate indeed and may the same spirit continue to survive.

FROM YOUR PAST PRESIDENT

It is with great pleasure I turn the office of President of the Osgoode Township Historical Society over to Mrs. Shirley Lowe (Davidson) whose Scottish roots are firmly planted in the Township. Shirley is the Great-great-granddaughter of Peter Davidson, his wife Camilla Harris, who settled on Lot 9, Concession 1, in Osgoode in 1851. Her Great-Great-Great-Grandfather, also a Peter Davidson, left Paisley, Scotland and settled in Dalhousie Township in Lanark County in 1821. Shirley and her husband Don's involvement has been greatly appreciated.

My association with the members of the Historical Society (March 9, 1973) the last 6 years as President, prior to that 2 years as Vice President with recording Secretary, Grace Blair, at my right hand, has been a learning Experience for me. Bearing with me, you have given me confidence in myself, to be able to speak out, to express my thoughts, etc. (without shaking all over). I thank you all for giving me the opportunity to be of service to the Society.

Michael Daly

SOMETIME

Sometime, when you are feeling important,
 Sometime, when your ego's in bloom,
 Sometime, when you take it for granted
 You're the best qualified in the room,
 Sometime, when you feel that your going,
 Would leave an unfillable hole,
 Just follow this simple instruction,
 And see how it humbles your soul.
 Take a bucket and fill it with water,
 Put your hand in it up to the wrist
 Pull it out and the hole that's remaining,
 Is a measure of how you'll be missed,
 You may splash all you please when you enter,
 You can stir up the water galore,
 But stop, and you'll find in a minute
 That it looks quite the same as before.
 The moral in this quaint example,
 Is do just the best you can,
 Be proud of yourself, but remember,
 There is no indispensable man.

- Author unknown