



Moses Mill - Vernon

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

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

Newsletter

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Clarke Moses and his wife, Jane Allen, erected a sturdy, well-planned stuccoed stone house on the east 100 acres of the lot in concession 1 that lies on the north of the present Regional Road 4. Here they raised 10 children - Matilda, Arthur, Margaret, William John, Matilda Jane, Joseph, Clarke, Mary Sarah Anne, and James. Descendants live throughout Osgoode and neighbouring Townships and they bear the names - Allen, Craig, McKendry, Hicks, Swerd-fager, Cleland, Reid, Carlyle, Shepherd, Dow, and many others. Jane Allen's father, Arthur Allen, who lived on the north half of the same lot, was elected Reeve when Osgoode Township was given its first Municipal government in 1850.

William John Moses and his wife, Margaret Acton, raised a family of 8 children - Clarke Wesley, Byron, Minnie, Maude, Chester, Edgar, Ethel, Clarke. With the help of his sons, Wm John built and operated Mills throughout the country - at Quyon, P.Q., West Osgoode, Osgoode Village, and at Vernon.

It was in January, 1896, that Wm John decided to engage in the Milling work in Vernon. In the early 1870's, three Campbell brothers - Joseph Archibald, John Mungp, and Duncan Webster, - had bought two acres of land, now lot #1 in Vernon, the sight of the present Museum property, and erected Mills. Duncan Webster sold to his brothers and moved to British Columbia. The other two brothers operated an extensive business that brought craftsmen to live in the vicinity and build up a prosperous village. But one of the brothers died in 1890, the other in 1894, and the widows and their young families did not carry on the business. Thus Vernon was left with trained workmen that Wm John and his son, Byron, were able to employ. Byron Moses and his wife built a frame house just west of the Museum property that was later bought by George Acres.

The Vernon History - YESTERDAY AND TODAY - states the Moses Mill was a large industry for such a small place (one acre). The Mill also manufactured cheese boxes... One summer's output of cheese boxes was 47,000 when Justin Dockstader and his assistant, Frank Lora, were in charge. These boxes were delivered by team and wagon to points as far distant as East Templeton and Buckingham. They also manufactured banana crates...

The original stone Clarke Moses house, abandoned for a number of years, was recently bought and is being beautifully restored in line with the original design. A Moses descendant, married to a former Banker in Osgoode Village, is part owner of the present Boyes Explosive operation in Osgoode Township.

THE ANNUAL MEETING held January 7, 1986.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As President of the Osgoode Township Historical Society, it is a pleasure to report on a very productive year with many projects having been successfully accomplished.

We celebrated Heritage Day on February with a well-attended afternoon tea. Ruth Scharfe read from her book of poems, TRILLIUM, a Bicentennial project. The poetry related to her life in Osgoode Township. Patricia Shotton, Curator for the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, gave a presentation of her work, concentrating on Watson's Mill in Manotick.

Our first Genealogy Day was held May 4 and a good-sized crowd profited from capable instructors - Don Read of Ottawa, Clarence Cross of Chesterville, Wendell Stanley of Russell, Grace Johnston of Gloucester, and Lynne O'Brien (now Mrs. Mahlon Cooke) of Morrisburg.

On June 19 we hosted a joint meeting with the Rideau Township Historic Society when our guests examined our Museum, browsed through our Archives and exchanged ideas.

In July we entered a float in the Pioneer Days parade, opened the Museum for two full days and served afternoon tea.

November 23rd was a special and successful day in our year. In co-operation with the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture and The Heritage Canada Board we held a Ceremony to Unveil an Historical Plaque to honour Osgoode native Alexander Cameron Rutherford, first Premier of Alberta, 1905.

Throughout the year there were extension programs - at OGS Gemorama at Carleton University, Dickinson Day in Manotick, the Ottawa Exhibition, Metcalfe Fair.

Members opened the Archives and Museum to young people doing research at the Vernon Public Library Summer Programme.

On Thanksgiving weekend our building and our homes were opened to a touring architectural group from the Toronto-Port Hope area. The group inspected a renovated old stone house owned by the Ruddle family, and a renovated old O'Brien house near Manotick.

Margaret Robb presented an interesting program in the Osgoode Public School when she brought together old time village residents and students to talk about life in earlier times.

A Presentation was made to the Osgoode Township Council asking for financial and other assistance in order to improve and expand our programs. We were granted a 20-year Lease to the building. We had added stairs to a second level storage area. The front entrance to the hall was improved by installing a new window and insulating the area.

I wish to express a sincere thank you to our members and others who worked hard to make the past year so successful. Without the co-operation of so many we could not have undertaken and completed all our projects.

Shirley Lowe,
President.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The membership fee for 1986 is still \$3.00 single, \$4.00 family. If your membership card is not with this Newsletter, then your membership fee is due. If there is an error, please inform us. We sincerely appreciate your past and continued support as we strive to portray the historical aspects of our Township in our newsletters.

It is with a great sense of pride that I view my association with those volunteer members of our Society, both past and present, who have spent countless hours compiling, recording, displaying, or engaged in other aspects of our Township History Research during the last few years. We have surely an impressive array of material on our History.

During 1985 it was my pleasure to assist in researching and compiling a BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR LADY OF THE VISITATION Parish, South Gloucester in order to commemorate the founding of the parish, 1845-1985.

On November 23, 1985, when one of our native sons, Alexander Cameron Rutherford born 1857, was honoured, several distinguished guests were in attendance - Margaret Carter, Director of the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Mayor Albert Bouwers of Osgoode, Norm Sterling, M.P.P. Carleton Grenville, Bill Tupper, M.P. Nepean-Carleton, and Jim Edwards M.P. Edmonton South, great great grandson of John Edwards of the Ottawa Valley, representing the Alberta Government. Hazel Rutherford McCuaig, A.C. Rutherford's daughter, born in Kemptville 92 years ago, sent greetings. Nephew Jack Rutherford and cousin Fred McDonald of Morrisburg unveiled the Plaque. David Gray, Chairman of the Museum Committee and a graduate of the University of Alberta, introduced the guests. In honour of the Scottish ancestry of the Rutherfords, the guests were piped in by David Robb of Osgoode, in full Scottish Dress, to the strains of that haunting melody "Scotland the Brave." Jim Edwards thanked Ontario for preserving this part of Alberta Heritage.

The guests and the audience retired to the Vernon community Centre where a Reception had been prepared gratuitously by the Vernon Women's Institute. We thank the Institute for this kind gesture.

On December 12, 1985, the Greely Post Office held Open House and a special ceremony. A former Greely Postmistress and a present supervisory Postmistress, Rita Vanderyt, presented a Plaque from Canada Post Corporation to the present Postmistress Sandra Lafontaine to commemorate one hundred years of Postal Service in the Greely area.

Mr. Charles Hunter presented our Historical Society with three large coloured posters depicting every postal stamp that has been issued in Canada during the period 1851-1985. For this occasion, the writer had compiled a brief "Glimpse of the Past" relating to the Greely area

Michael Daley, Editor of Newsletter

MUSEUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT for 1985

David Gray - Chairman

GENERAL

Again this year a major portion of volunteer time has gone into the administrative end of museum work. In order to keep up to the standards for community museums imposed by the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, we have had to prepare an Exhibition Policy and fulfill several new requirements under Conservation Standards, Staff Training Standards, and Collection Management Standards. A good deal of effort goes into the preparation of our application for a museum operating grant each year and the resulting grant for 1985 of \$1,073.00 makes one wonder if it is all worthwhile. There is a new suggestion which we are pursuing that would allow the Historical Society to receive a larger grant in consideration of its responsibilities for the museum.

It was with a great sigh of relief that the file on our Bicentennial Grant from Wintario was finally closed. The Committee can now tidy up the loose ends from the practical side. I should like to acknowledge the help in this project given by Sylvia Collier, Barbara Macey, Brian Kelsey, Phill Potter Photography, and the local Women's Institutes.

CURATORIAL

Thanks to Elizabeth Stuart, Norma Morrison, and Patti Mitton, we have made progress on the registering of new donations. We hope that Patti Mitton will continue to give the much-needed effort in the curatorial area.

Special Thanks go to Ruth and Emily Walker, Walter MacDonald, Evelyn Pelton and Allison Dempsey and others for their contributions.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

With the involvement in the Bicentennial Collection continuing, we were not able to progress on the hoped-for displays on Youth in the Township, or Cheese factories. Hopefully we shall make some progress in 1986. As mentioned in previous reports, our artifacts were on display outside the Museum at various times.

VOLUNTEERS

It was with great disappointment that we have recognized that the society membership at large is not about to volunteer en masse for our many ongoing projects. I guess that it was with more hope than expectation that we sent out the new information sheet on which members could indicate areas where they were willing to help. Although we certainly do have a core of hard-working members, not one new volunteer responded as a result of the form sent out with the newsletters.

We'll just have to try harder because we know that there are people out there with the necessary time, talent, and interest.

LIBRARY REPORT

Thanks to the assistance of Dorothy Brown (Mrs. Stuart Brown), approximately 200 donated books have been recorded and organized. The members may be interested to know that the first book that Dorothy examined, The Call of the East: a romance of far Formosa was written in 1914 by Thurlow Fraser - not a common name, but the same as one of Stuart's brothers-in-law who lives in Ottawa and is an active member of Southminster United Church. As was later revealed, the author, Thurlow Fraser, was a great uncle of Stuart's brother-in-law! This particular copy had been given as a Christmas gift in 1914 to Jane McArthur of Winchester.

Kay Hill,

Librarian.

HERITAGE DAY - Saturday, February 15, 1986 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This year we are planning on hearing a great deal of Oral History on Vernon Village. We have contacted many old-timers who have been born, lived, worked, gone to school in Vernon during the years of 40-95 years ago. We hope to record this valuable history for future generations.

Back in 1950, two members of the Vernon Women's Institute, Bell Dockstader MacMartin and Bea Robertson Porteous, wrote a fine history of Vernon which was worth much more than the 25¢ that was asked for the accurate history. There were no pictures in the book. We would like all those people who have pictures of Vernon to bring them for the day, to have them mounted and labelled on paper that can be displayed for others to see. There will be a panel and a question and answer period. Bring your clippings.

As usual, there will be tea and cookies.

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR - 1986

EXECUTIVE -

Past President	Michael Daley
President	Shirley Lowe
Vice-President	Harvey Linton
Recording Sec'y	Katie Campbell
Corresponding Sec'y	Harry Anderson
Treas. Hist. Soc.	Jennie Dow
Archivist	Elizabeth Stuart
Librarian	Kay Hill
Newsletter	Michael Daley - with help
Social Committee	Alice Craig, Anne Carkner, Verda McNaughton

MUSEUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE -

Chairman	David Gray
Registrar/Curator	Patti Mitton
Treasurer	Brian Kelsey

DIRECTORS -

Gerald Morris	Don Lowe
Harvey Linton	Lorne Craig
Margaret Robb	Mike Hind
Michael Daley	Murray Little
Shirley Lowe	

Retiring Directors -

Cecil Reaney
Late Keith Little - deceased

MAINTENANCE -

Doug Macmillan

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

Our aim to collect any documents and other material pertaining to the history of Osgoode Township, to list, and arrange this material in such a way that it will be accessible to the public.

PROGRESS IN 1985

Church Records have been arranged alphabetically and filed in a cabinet and there are 10 pages of information typed with the help of Norma Morrison:

Township Records, including assessment and collector's rolls have been listed and stored for use. Microfilm of other rolls are listed as well as the microfilm of the Clerk's Minutes during the period 1850-1901.

Post Office Petitions and other information from the Public Archives during the period of the 1870's and later were received.

Abstracts from the Registry office for the four lots in Vernon were obtained - lots 39 and 40 in the 6th and 7th concessions. This gives us information on the beginning and growth of Vernon Village.

PLANS FOR 1986

The 1891 Census is being transcribed and the families typed. The Plaque for marking the site of the Campbell Bros' Mills will be erected.

Another Volume of PIONEER FAMILIES will be printed.

Elizabeth Stuart,
Archivist