



St. Johns R.C. Church 1854

Osgoode Township

Historical Society & Museum

Vernon School

P.O. Box 83 - Vernon, Ontario

Newsletter

VOLUME 3

1977

NUMBER 3

During this year of 1977, as we have previously stated, the Township of Osgoode is celebrating 150 years of settlement. William Osgoode, who was the Chief Justice of Canada from 1792 to 1808, came from England with Governor Simcoe after the Constitutional Act was passed, June 10, 1791, - an Act which divided Canada into two parts, Upper and Lower Canada. Our township was named after this illustrious gentleman who received a retiring allowance of 800 pounds a year which he enjoyed for twenty-three years. Osgoode Township belonged to Russell County before Carleton County was organized, and the county seat was at L'Orignal. Osgoode Hall, Toronto, was named, too, after the first Chief Justice.

"Not to guzzle beer or whiskey,

To the bar they got their call;

They're the newest batch of Lawyers

Just turned out from Osgoode Hall."

-Robert Saunders, 1798

It is to the firm stand taken by Osgoode, shortly after his arrival in Canada, in 1792, that slavery has never been an issue in Canada. While in Cornwall he noted that some of the United Empire Loyalists had brought slaves along with them. He immediately enacted a law that no more slaves should be brought in as such, and that those already here should be given their freedom when they became twenty-five years of age. For instance Paul and Barbara Heck of the Maitland area, leaders in the Methodist movement, had a slave girl, Betty. Paul, in his will, gave Barbara his slave, Betty, who was to be given her freedom at age 25. (Johnstown Papers, P.A.). Slaves were granted land in Canada on the same terms as any other immigrants.

During the last few months, the Sesqui-Centennial Committee, and other interested persons, have been arranging celebrations in different sections of the Township. The Historical Society, and the Vernon area in general, have extensive plans for PIONEER DAYS on Saturday and Sunday, August 6 and 7. We hope we will have a grand Home-Coming. At the Museum and on the grounds there will be special displays from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Saturday. Keith Acres, local boy and well-known antique car collector, will help organize and lead a parade from the ball-diamond at Vernon to the Museum - starting about 1 p.m. All interested are invited to enter floats in the parade. Lorny Craig is organizing a display of old engines. Mr. P. Michael Dewan, formerly of the Prescott Road, and Minister of Agriculture in the Hepburn government, will be here to open the celebrations. In 1976, Mr. Dewan was named 'Man-of-the-year' for Ingersoll, his present home.

On Sunday afternoon there will be a special concert on the museum grounds from 2 to 4 p.m. The 'Harmony Six' will furnish music as well as Dwayne Acres and his musical family. There will be chorus groups of senior citizens, and other entertainment. We hope to have,

as a special guest, the Rev. Donald G. Axferd of Windsor, a recent visitor to Metcalfe, the home of his great grandparents, Adam J. Baker and his wife, Janet McDonell, daughter of 'The Squire'. It was Mr. and Mrs. Baker that gave one of their many lots at Metcalfe, for the building of a new Catholic Church to be erected in the growing village that was replacing the small settlement 1½ miles to the west, where Catherine McDonell still owned 100 acres.

The Centennial committee felt it impossible during the early spring months to undertake the publishing of a souvenir booklet of our first 150 years. The Historical Society decided recently that we should go ahead with the project, and with our Archivist, Miss Arlowa Ferguson, acting as Editor, we now have a fine booklet being printed by the Winchester Press, our faithful friends and publishers. The Society are grateful to all the fine Osgoode people who supplied us with treasured photos and encouraged us by their help in research. Many pictures had been given during the last year, and with the help of our professional photographer, and member of the Society, Wilf Kearns, Saunderson Drive, Ottawa, we feel that we have a publication that is a contribution to Osgoode History. There are about 100 photos and over 20 pages of script. We have ordered 3000 copies and plan to sell the first 1000 at \$3.00 a copy. Mrs. Harry Lee, Vernon, has consented to handle all sales. The book, entitled,

GLIMPSES OF OSGOODE TOWNSHIP
150 years

will be ready by our PIONEER WEEKEND, on August 6 and 7. We assure you that we are aware that we have only scratched the surface when it comes to writing about the interesting past of every section of the large township.

The name Dawson given to the small community where the old church of St. Johns was built, comes from a fine gentleman from Scotland. The Rev. Dr. McDonell Dawson, whose life-span practically paralleled the momentous 19th century. An article by Harry Walker in the Evening Journal, Sept. 3, 1937, states that "Rev. Dawson was born in 1810 at Red Haven, Banffshire, Scotland. On both his father's and mother's side he was descended from historic Scottish families....After a grounding in the classics at a Scottish grammar school, he left at 16 to pursue his studies in Paris and Douai. He returned to Scotland in 1835 and was ordained to the priesthood.

After serving for a few years as assistant at Dumfries, he was entrusted in 1840 with the northern missions of Edinburgh....He was invited to come to Canada in 1852 by his kinsman Bishop McDonell....whither his parents had come in 1830....He had a remarkable career." (His connection with St. John's will be discussed later.) "His grave is in St. Patrick's Church yard, Fallowfield, and there is a granite shaft erected to him by his friends of all denominations."

There are two additional volumes of FAMILIES available:

VOLUME V

JAMES CAMPBELL

CRERARS

GEORGE DEMPSEY

JOHN KELLY

KENNEDYS OF KENNEDYS' CORNERS

MCDONELLS

DUNCAN ROY McLAURIN

SAMUEL PAR

WM. YORK OF YORKS' CORNERS

WILLIAM WOOD

VOLUME VI

THE BOYD FAMILY

DALEYS - PART 3

JOHN DEMPSEY

DEWANS - PART 2

JOHN DOW

MOSES GORDON

DANIEL MCDONELL

D. MCDONELL'S FAMILY

JAMES MURRAY

PINK AND ROLSTON

Volume VII will be available during our PIONEER DAYS. The price remains at \$1.00 a copy when mailing is not required.

We have been encouraging our older people, in fact, any one over fifty years of age, to write us some of their memories of

"When I Went To School"

We know that if we had a thousand such stories, we could write one of the most interesting books that any one ever read. We do not want literary masterpieces but an account from one to ten pages of the memories that have stayed with you for many years. For instance, in asking Etta Dalgleish Howell to tell us some of the memories she had, she immediately said, "I took Winnie Campbell to school the first day she went." One memory your News-letter writer remembers is walking on bare feet over crushed stone for two miles, and how the 'Dalmeny Boys' practised ball from a very early age. They tried, with plenty of crushed stone available, to smash every one of the glass insulators on the telephone wires that at that time were on both sides of the road. Now some of the boys would like to collect these insulators as antiques. No wonder the boys are still good ball players.

An elderly man in Dunedin, Chancellor of Otago University at the time, wrote about his first school. The account was taken from Canada to Perthshire during the summer of 1976, and copied there by the Principal of a modern school that now serves the pupils from the few scattered homes remaining in the community. The description is of education in 1826, and perhaps it typifies, somewhat, the education in our earliest schools here.

"The little school which supplied the needs of the district was in the hamlet of Croft Moraig, which lay at a distance of about a quarter of a mile from Styx. The building, which was plain to baldness, was situated on the edge of a considerable burn.... that finally poured its waters into the Tay.

The school-house provided accommodation for thirty children. The fire was kindled on a raised hearthstone, and the smoke, in default of a chimney, found its way into the "clear" through a hole in the roof. The fuel was provided by the daily contribution from each scholar of a peat of the regulation size of about ten inches. At one end of the room was a broad table at which sat the more advanced classes who had reached the stage of arithmetic and writing. At the opposite end were low benches without backs for the accommodation of the younger scholars. The Master's seat was placed at the end of the table, close to the fire.

Willie Moncrief, after the fashion of the times, was boarded by the parents, taking a day or two days for each scholar...On the opening day my twin brother and I were present with our 'brod'. That was a piece of thin board with the first leaf of the Shorter Catechism pasted on it, having also the alphabet in capitals, in small letters, and in italics, the numerals up to twenty, the letters from the chapters of the Bible, and the usual ab, eb, ib, and so on.

I took my place in a class of eight. The method followed was that of simultaneous teaching. With our pointer on A, we shouted after our teacher 'A, A,' three times. The leader of our class was then asked to sound it, and all the others followed him in order...In a fortnight we had acquired a full knowledge of the 'brod' and were then advanced a stage into the Shorter Catechism. The Second Royal Reader was the Proverbs of Solomon, the Third was the New Testament, The Fourth was the Bible, and the Fifth was 'Barrie's Collection.'

Strong healthy children of six or seven years of age soon learned to read. When the children were dismissed to their seats their occupation consisted in spelling and pronouncing each word simultaneously...It may be taken as evidence of beneficial results of this system of teaching that before the year was out, I was advanced to the Second Royal

Reader...."

The stone school house still stands, now part of a house. And the stone backhouse is a store-room. The Stuart twins, born 1819, and Peter McAndrew, born 1820, were at this school. How our modern educators would decry such techniques.

Considerable valuable material is being handed over to the Museum each week. We have just received several small diaries, 1905-1923, of the travels of A. G. E. Robertson. In the last Newsletter there was an error in stating the husband of Margaret McTavish. She married her cousin Donald McTavish of Balderson. There are various McTavish diaries in the community, each adding to the picture of the times. If you cannot attend our gathering the first week-end in August, we should be glad to get a letter from you.

MEMBERSHIP AS OF JULY 1, 1977

1. Mrs. Deborah Abbott,
Kanata
2. Jean Albrecht,
Guelph
3. Harry Anderson,
Vernon
4. Olive Anderson,
Vernon
5. Public Archives,
Ottawa
6. Lisa Atienza,
Edwards
7. Arnold Armstrong,
Ottawa
8. Fred Alexander,
Osgoode
9. Louise Beck,
Toronto
10. Kenneth Beek,
Edwards
11. Mrs. Ken Beek,
Edwards
12. Mrs. Pat Berman,
Osgoode
13. Mrs. Rae Bertrim,
Ottawa
14. Sterling Bishop,
Metcalf
15. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Blair,
Osgoode
16. Ernest Blanchfield,
Osgoode
17. Richard Blanchfield,
Osgoode
18. Rosie Bourbonnais,
Greely
19. Beulah Bower,
Osgoode
20. Bert Bower,
Osgoode
21. Albert Bouwers,
Metcalf
22. John Brady,
Osgoode
23. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Broughton,
Osgoode
24. Mrs. Dan. Butler,
Ottawa
25. Sid Butterfield,
N. Vancouver
26. Muriel Cameron,
Vernon
27. Jessie Campbell,
Vernon
28. John Campbell (dec.)
Vernon
29. Alex J. Campbell,
Metcalf
30. Katie Campbell,
Metcalf
31. Grace Campbell,
Pennsylvania
32. John K. Campbell,
Metcalf
33. Jean Capell,
Ottawa
34. Anne Carkner,
Vernon
35. Allen Oliver Carson,
Edmonton
36. Mrs. Allen Carson,
Edmonton
37. Mack Charron,
Osgoode
38. John Cinnamon,
Kenmore
39. Norma Cinnamon,
Kenmore
40. Walter Cleland,
Osgoode
41. Mrs. Ken Cooper,
Metcalf
42. Mrs. Mary Cooper,
Metcalf
43. Larry Cobus,
Osgoode
44. Richard Cowan,
Ottawa
45. Mrs. Sarah Cowell,
Osgoode
46. Alice Craig,
Vernon
47. Lorne Craig,
Vernon
48. Dorothy Craig,
Ottawa
49. Peter Crerar,
Waterloo
50. Betty Crerar,
Metcalf
51. Mrs. Ben Crowder,
Mountain
52. Michael Daley,
Osgoode
53. Rita Daley,
Pittsburg
54. Patrick Daley,
Toronto
55. Mary Dalglish,
Ottawa
56. Wilmer Dalglish,
Ottawa
57. Mrs. Amy Daykin,
Osgoode
58. Mrs. Charles Daze,
Ottawa
59. Rev. W. Allison Dempsey,
Guelph
60. Mrs. Jack Dempsey,
Ottawa
61. Donna Dempsey,
Ottawa
62. Bevis Dewar,
Kanata
63. Rev. and Mrs. C. B. Dolby
Colborne
64. Mrs. Edna Downey,
Ottawa
65. Bernice Dow,
Ottawa
66. Helen Dow,
Guelph
67. Marguerite Dow,
London
68. Jennie Dow,
Metcalf
69. Mrs. Gertrude Doyle,
Manotick
70. Isobel Drew,
Manotick
71. Mrs. Gwen Douglas,
Osgoode
72. Bruce Elliot,
Ottawa
73. Arlowa Ferguson,
Vernon
74. Helen Ferguson,
Ottawa
75. Mrs. Lula Fetterley,
Iroquois
76. J. Howard Ferguson,
Ottawa
77. Jessie B. Ferguson,
Winchester
78. Clifford Folkard,
Burlington
79. Violet Folkard,
Winchester
80. John Flake,
Osgoode
81. Mrs. Allen Fraser,
Bracebridge
82. Laura Ferguson,
Ottawa
83. Flora Gallagher,
North Gower
84. Jack Gallagher,
North Gower
85. Pat Gleeson,
Toronto
86. Betty Gordon,
Ottawa
87. Mrs. J. W. Green,
Manotick
88. Mary E. Grey,
Ottawa
89. Jim Guilfoyle,
Ottawa
90. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hanna,
Mississauga
91. Sgt. Wm. Hanes,
Shelburne
92. Mrs. Robert Harding,
Brantford
93. Florence Hay,
Manotick
94. John Hawkshaw,
Ingleside
95. Joan Heyland,
Metcalf
96. Gerald Hill,
Russell
97. Mrs. Lee Hichens,
Arnprior
98. Mrs. Ernest Houlahan,
Ottawa
99. Harold Hovey,
Ottawa
100. Mrs. Mary Hunt,
Osgoode
101. Metcalfe Women's Institute
Metcalf
102. Osgoode Women's Institute
Osgoode
103. Mrs. Cecil Johnston,
Metcalf
104. Ken Johnston,
Ottawa
105. Grace Johnston,
Ottawa
106. Wilfred Kearns,
Ottawa
107. Dominic Kelly,
Manotick
108. Michael A. Kelly,
Manotick
109. Mrs. Martin Kelly,
Ottawa
110. Mervin Kelly,
Ottawa
111. Philip J. Kelly,
Ottawa
112. Mrs. Grace Kingston,
Osgoode
113. Laura Kuperschmidt,
Osgoode
114. Patricia Kennedy,
Montreal (Suburbs)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 115. Lawrence MacAndrew, Metcalfe | 153. Maurice Loughlin, Greely | 191. Jessie Robertson, Vernon, |
| 116. Edith MacAndrew, Metcalfe | 154. Mrs. Eileen Laverie, Osgoode | 192. John Robertson, London |
| 117. Laura McDiarmid, Vernon | 155. Mrs. H. M. Lee, Vernon | 193. Terry Ryan, Osgoode |
| 118. Ken McDiarmid, Osgoode | 156. Isobel Lewis, Osgoode | 194. Pat Ryan, Osgoode |
| 119. Margaret McDiarmid, Osgoode | 157. Harvey Linton, Osgoode | 195. Connie Sallans, Osgoode |
| 120. Jim McDiarmid, New Mexico | 158. Audrey Leinweber, Jasper, Alta. | 197. Cpl. D. J. Sasco, Greenwood, N.S. |
| 121. Hilda McDiarmid, Orleans | 159. Howard Leahy, Ottawa | 198. Dan Scharf, Kenmore |
| 122. Fred McDonald, Morrisburg | 160. Mrs. H. G. Larocque, Ottawa | 199. Wilhelmina Scharf, Kenmore |
| 123. Laura McDonald, Winchester | 161. Joe Martineau, Osgoode | 200. Gordon Sedgwick, Toronto |
| 124. Edwin McDonald, St. Andrews W. | 162. Bernie Mears, Metcalfe | 201. Vivian Shorey, Edwards |
| 125. Dr. Lorne MacLachlan, Ottawa | 163. Winnifred Meldrum, Ottawa | 202. Lloyd J. Simpson, Dollard Des Ormeaux |
| 126. Elsie MacLachlan, Ottawa | 164. Patti Mitton, Russell | 203. Kenneth O. Simpson, Pointe Claire |
| 127. Rev. Francis McEvoy, Kanata | 165. Wm. Morrison, Metcalfe | 204. Andrew Shields, Greely |
| 128. Patrick W. J. McEvoy, Greely | 166. Doris Morrison, Metcalfe | 205. Lawrence Smith, Cornwall |
| 129. Lorne McEvoy, Osgoode | 167. Norma Morrison, Ottawa | 206. Mrs. P. R. Smith, Ottawa |
| 130. Manning McEvoy, Osgoode | 168. Jim Morrison, Ottawa | 207. Ed. Snider, Ottawa |
| 131. Joan McEvoy, Osgoode | 169. Mors. Loretta Morrison, Ottawa | 208. Sara Snider, Ottawa |
| 132. Philip McEvoy, Greely | 170. Mrs. Grace Morris, Osgoode | 209. Margaret Stanley, Metcalfe |
| 133. Mabel McEwen, Edmonton | 171. Dr. C. E. L. Morrow, Metcalfe | 210. J. A. Stoate, Ottawa |
| 134. Norman McKeen, Osgoode | 172. Myrtle Morrow, Metcalfe | 211. Norman Sterling, Manotick |
| 135. Mary McKenna, Ottawa | 173. Hazel Munroe, Ottawa | 212. J. H. Stewart, Toronto, |
| 136. Mrs. Emma McKendry, Metcalfe | 174. Ida M. Mutter, Ottawa | 213. Elizabeth Stuart, Osgoode |
| 137. Bessie McKercher, Ottawa | 175. Annette Morphy, Ottawa | 214. Rev. Jas. C. Stuart, Osgoode |
| 138. Dr. D. D. McKercher, Ottawa | 176. Mrs. Rolland Nesbitt, Ottawa | 215. Gordon Simpson, Ottawa |
| 139. John A. McKercher, Ottawa | 177. George A. Neville, Ottawa | 216. Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Straby, Ottawa |
| 140. Albert McKeown, Edwards | 178. Roger Nickerson, Toronto | 217. Dr. Arnold Taylor, Osgoode |
| 141. Phyllis McKeown, Edwards | 179. Kevin O'Connor, Manotick | 218. Mabel Taylor, Osgoode |
| 142. Stuart MacLaurin, Ohio | 180. Ray O'Rourke, Osgoode | 219. Ross Taylor, Osgoode |
| 143. John R. McLean, Cardston, Alta. | 181. Mrs. Angus O'Rourke, Osgoode | 220. Robert Thompson, Ottawa |
| 144. Geo. McLellan, Toronto | 182. O.G.S. Ottawa Branch, Ottawa | 221. Mrs. Ken Thompson, Ottawa |
| 145. Jessie McNault, Brockville | 183. Evelyn Pelton, Brockville | 222. Edward Thompson, Osgoode |
| 146. Gordon McRostie Jr. Ottawa | 184. Gordon Philips, Ottawa | 223. Mrs. George Titus, Arizona |
| 147. Wm. McVey, Metcalfe | 185. Mabel Porter, Newport, N.S. | 224. Mrs. G. M. Tupper, Kars |
| 148. Katie Lake, Russell | 186. Mrs. Heather Presley, Ottawa | 225. Mrs. Theodore Vriend, Osgoode |
| 149. Emma Last, Vernon | 187. Mrs. Charles Quaile, Ottawa | 226. Percy Waddell, Metcalfe |
| 150. Wilfred Latimer, Ottawa | 188. Audrey Renton, Kars | 227. W. B. Wallen, Ottawa |
| 151. Dorothea Latimer, Ottawa | 189. John Robb, Osgoode | 228. Jennie Wallen, Ottawa |
| 152. Mrs. C. W. Latimer, Delta, B.C. | 190. Margaret Robb, Osgoode | 229. Dorothy Walsh, Ottawa |

236. Mrs. Fraser,
Vernon

234. R. M. Warner,
Russell (dec.)

235. Clarence Fraser,
Vernon

232. Gordon Wyatt,
Kemptville

233. Fred Wilson,
Osgoode

230. Mrs. Milton Watson and Lois,
California

231. Jean Wright,
Ottawa