



St. John's R.C. Church 1854

## Osgoode Township

### Historical Society & Museum

Vernon School

P.O. Box 83 - Vernon, Ontario

## Newsletter

VOLUME 3

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The Historical Society has had a very busy five months .. Because we were celebrating the 150th anniversary of the known permanent settlement of Osgoode Township, we wished to have in print some record of our past history. No other individual or group wished to assume the responsibility of issuing a Souvenir Booklet during this present year, and it was left to the Historical Society to undertake the task. Under the guidance of Miss Arlowa Ferguson as Editor, along with her committee, Michael Daley and Mrs. L. Shorey, a fifty-page booklet - GLIMPSES OF OSGOODE TOWNSHIP - 150 YEARS - was published. We are indebted to the Winchester Press for their co-operation in having the publication ready for our PIONEER DAYS August 6 and 7. There are eighteen communities represented, ranging alphabetically from Belmeade to Yorks Corners, and ninety-six pictures are included. We are happy for the effort made by a number of people in compiling a handbook in such a short time, and we hope that more of our interesting history will be set down for present and future generations to read. The book sells for \$3.00. (plus postage)

The PIONEER DAYS held in Vernon involved many from the village and community. It was a great event. A parade of 68 entries was a delight to the thousands who lined the route .. Archie Sayant and wife Lillian, assisted by Keith Acres, arranged every detail, and the weather was perhaps the best of the season. Club 31 and the Women's Institute planned our food. In fact we owe a great deal of gratitude to all the Vernon citizens for their whole-hearted participation. There was fine music supplied by the Old Time Fiddlers and by Ian Crerar and his Harmony 6 assisted by soloist Bette Crerar. There was Dwayne Acres and his daughters -- recent winners in the amateur class at Ottawa Winter Fair; the Belmeade Belles led by Marilyn McDiarmid; a group from the Osgoode Drop-In Centre; and a fine song leader, Mr. Archie Smith of Dalmeny. Harold Cowan was our talented Master of Ceremonies; and there were flowers from the West Carleton Historical Society. Our invited guests included an Osgoode native born 1890, the Hon. P. M. Dewan, B.A., B.S., L.L.D., K.S.G. now of Ingersoll, still rendering fine service to his adopted community; and the Rev. Donald Axford of Windsor, great grandson of Adam Jacob Baker who was born in Osnabruck in 1821 and who came to Osgoode where he married Janet McDonell, the daughter of Archibald McDonell and his wife Catherine .. Adam J. Baker played a very active part in many aspects of our early

history until he left for Brandon, Manitoba. There was a display of old engines arranged by Lorny Craig that was second to none. And various crafts were exhibited by our local people; glass making, pottery, rug hooking, quilting, spinning and découpage. We are proud of the variety of fine work being done in the community.

The Society has been represented during the past few months at the Kars Fair, the O.G.S. Seminar held in Ottawa, the Hackney Show in Metcalfe, the Metcalfe Fair, and the Ottawa Winter Fair. During September the Museum was open 23 of the 30 days in the month for a total of 117 hours. A few people, mainly from Vernon, have been very loyal in keeping the Museum open. Beginning in May 1978 we plan to contact all members within driving distance of Vernon in order to enlist the support of others whom we believe would enjoy becoming better acquainted with the treasures of our Museum and the records we are collecting. We feel you would enjoy meeting the interested and interesting people who come through our doors.

There has been a great deal of interest in the old road that passed by the old Church that we have used on the 1977 Newsletter. A Road Map was printed shortly after the construction of the Rideau Canal and the settlement at Bytown. All the roads in Eastern Ontario were drawn in and many comments included. There were two roads, a short distance apart, that led out from Hogs Back: one road went east through Gloucester, Cumberland, and Clarence, following, in the main, the south side of Bearbrook; the other veered through Gloucester to the present site of Greely, where there was a divide in the road. Just before this divide there was later a tollgate. One crooked road went south two concessions, east one concession, and then south to the Winchester Township boundary where a 'Wilderness' was indicated on the map for most of Winchester. The road coming through Gloucester passed through Cunningham's Tavern. At lot 5 in the 5th concession of Osgoode where the road divided was Barton's Inn, a house on the west side of the road that continued on through W. Osgoode to McCargar's Inn. Along this road is written 'Travelled Road to Bytown' and 'indifferent road'.

According to the 1842 Census, there were three people who had 'TK' after their names to designate their occupation. TK stood for Tavern Keeper of place of Public Entertainment. Hervey Rossiter, born in the United States, was at Greely lot 5, and had a frame 2-storey house, one of the few houses in the neighbourhood; Thomas Bailey and his wife Mary Scrivens, both from England, had an Inn at Metcalfe; and Peter Swatsfigurd (one of the many spellings for Schwerdfaeger) was at W. Osgoode. Besides these three Tavern Keepers, there were only 18 of the 240 families then living in Osgoode who said they were living in a "house". All other homes would be roughly constructed "shanties". The house owners were Sabrina Harrison, Daniel Davis, John Lee, John Farlinger, Henry Hanna, Peter McNabb, Thomas York, Wm. York Esq., Daniel Ferguson, Leonard Wood, Dan'l Cameron, Patk. King, Donald Kennedy, Widow (Alex) McDonell, Elwin Kearns, John Johnson, John Blair, James Blair...

The property in concession 5 beginning at the Gloucester boundary had been granted early in 1800, mainly to sons and daughters of United Empire Loyalists. On March 4, 1816, Samuel Moss, son of Samuel Moss U.E. of Osnabruck, was granted lot 4, Elizabeth Hains lot 5, and John Empey lot 6. Earlier, in 1812, Christopher Babuty Stevens, son of Roger, Carleton County's earliest settler, had been granted lot 7. By 1834, when the first votes were cast by Osgoode land owners, Patk Skiffington owned lot 2, Peter Skiffington lot 3, James Johnston lot 4, Wm O'Connor lot 7. In 1851 Samuel Rossiter owned the 200 acres that included the Tavern (or House of Public Entertainment). He was

cultivating 60 acres of it: 27 in pasture and 33 in crops; 140 were bush. The crops were 20 acres of wheat that produced 400 bushels; 5 acres of barley - 70 bu.; 3 acres of oats - 60 bu.; 3 of Indian corn - 60 bu.; 1 acre of potatoes - 100 bu.; (but the potato crop failed from blight); 1 acre of turnips - 100 bu. The farm produced 50 lbs. of butter, 1800 lbs. beef, 1800 lb. pork, and along with other animals there were 4 horses.. Certainly the travellers would have plenty to eat. .. This farm was between John Lee's and Jas. Duncan's. On 13 June 1857, Samuel Rosster, then of Williamsburg, made his will, stating that his wife Cloe Ann was in Morrisburg and his son Melburn Washington Rosster was on a farm lot 5 con 5 Osgoode. In 1861, E. J. Smith, age 42, also born N.Y., owned the Rosster Inn - the frame 2-storey structure, and later it was bought by Richard Stanley, age 30 in 1871, and his wife Frances. The Inn was just west of the blacksmith shop. In the Greely area the roadway changed somewhat over the early years.

In its day the Rosseter Inn was well known in Osgoode. Early in 1849, Elisha F. L. Loucks, who had property around Yorks' Corners, was reprimanded by some of his fellow church members "for attending a Ball at Mr. Rosseter's Tavern on the night of Dec. 25, 1848 and acting in the capacity of a fiddler to the company. And moreover that Mr. Rosseter, a play actor or Juggler held an exhibition of his tricks at his house during the month of January - the performance was an offence against sobriety...". Elisha F. Loucks, who probably knew the Rosseters before they both moved into Osgoode Township, "acknowledged that he had accepted an invitation to take an oyster supper at Rosseters on the evening of 25th Dec. last and went, not expecting to see anything like a Ball, but there was dancing and he entered the Ballroom and having a taste for music did play a few tunes. As to the charge of Rosseter's exhibiting his tricks at his house or mill - the notice was put up without his knowledge or consent - the exhibition did not take place on his premises .." Query-Did the first Agricultural Fair in Osgoode, organized 1854, take place at Rosseters (Various spellings)?

West Osgoode was another important stop on the road between Bytown and Prescott. Patrick Dewan, born in the area in 1850, related to the Citizen, "Old Time Stuff" 1930, how horses were changed every 20 miles along the route, and that West Osgoode was one of these changing places. There is a reference to this road in the minutes of the Baptist Church. James Stenhouse, Church Clerk, (father of our beloved Rebecca, so long of Winchester High) wrote a letter April 3, 1867 to P.G. Robertson, Co. of Perth C.W., who was to become Pastor of the Osgoode Church ... " .. As regards the directions for your journey: You must take the Grand Trunk Railway to Prescott, and there change and take the Prescott Railway for Osgoode Station. But should you arrive there without our being aware of the time, I might as well give you a few hints as to the plan of procedure - After getting to the Osgoode Station leave your baggage in charge and inquire for the Prescott Road. You will be directed up the road to it. When you come to it strike to the right along the Prescott Road, and after going two or three miles make inquiry for Dan Ferguson's who is one of our members, and you will be shown a road which strikes to the left and leads in a short time to his place and into what is termed on the Prescott Road the Scotch Settlement. Mr. Ferguson will give you all the information necessary and in a very short time you will be in the midst of your field." The Ferguson house that Mr. Robertson would see is the same stone house that we see today. The road leading to it is no longer in use. This young Pastor had a 12-mile walk to the midst of his field in Vernon. James Stenhouse was then living farther east to the south of Kenmore. It is hard to realize how the swamps in Osgoode segregated the communities for so many years.

Our Museum remains open Fri., Sat., and Sunday 1-5 p.m. until Oct. 31st. After that time we shall be open on demand. Mr. Beek of Edwards presented the Historical Society,

on behalf of the Greely Legion, with a cheque for \$100.00 We are very grateful for their consideration.

Volume VII of Pioneer Families has been printed and has the following families:

Patrick Blanchfield  
Robert Carlyle  
The Elliotts

Archibald Fisher  
Archibald Galbraith  
William Hill  
Kellys - Part 4

McDonalds of Kenmore  
Edward Nixon  
The Scrivens Family

Memberships are now being received for 1978. The fee is payable yearly - \$2.00 for the first member in a family and \$1.00 for additional members. We have already received about 15 memberships for 1978. Printed below is a list of memberships not included in the July Newsletter.

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|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| 237. Diane Harkin,<br>Winchester    | 249. Mrs. Dombroski,<br>Ottawa            | 260. John Loney,<br>Edwards                  |
| 238. Dorothy Relyea,<br>Ottawa      | 250. Jean Ellis,<br>Ottawa                | 261. Mrs. Joe Rowan,<br>Metcalf              |
| 239. P. M. Dewan,<br>Ingersoll      | 251. Mrs. Willis Coons,<br>South Mountain | 262. Audrey Crerar Darling,<br>Ottawa        |
| 240. Charles J. Daley,<br>Islington | 252. Robert P. Burns,<br>Ottawa           | 263. Mary Waddell Darling,<br>Ottawa         |
| 241. Ken Johnston,<br>Ottawa        | 253. Gavin J. McEwen,<br>Ottawa           | 264. Mrs. G. J. Jeffrey,<br>Guelph           |
| 242. Mrs. Grace Johnston,<br>Ottawa | 254. Jean Dalgleish,<br>Cornwall          | 265. Mrs. Eileen Graham,<br>Greely           |
| 243. Brian J. McEvoy,<br>Osgoode    | 255. Mrs. Garfield McCaul,<br>Greely      | 266. Herb Taylor,<br>Toronto                 |
| 244. Gerald Morris,<br>Metcalf      | 256. Stuart Hill,<br>Winchester           | 267. Florence Taylor,<br>Toronto             |
| 245. Effie Morris,<br>Metcalf       | 257. Willis McRostie,<br>Manotick         | 268. Mrs. Fred W. Boyd,<br>Greely            |
| 246. Coral Scharfe Lindsay,<br>Kars | 258. Katie MacKeracher,<br>Ottawa         | 269. Percy Graham,<br>Vernon                 |
| 248. Elsie Kelly,<br>Metcalf        | 259. Iris Latimer,<br>Ottawa              | 270. Mrs. Orvil Saunders,<br>North Gower     |
|                                     |   | 271. Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Martin,<br>River Road |
|                                     |   | 272. Ross Batstone, Osgoode                  |
|                                     |   | 273. Garry O'Brien, Osgoode                  |

Our final meetings for the year will be held the first Friday in the month. That is: Friday, Nov. 4, 1977 at 2 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 2, 1977 at 2 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 6, 1978 at 2 p.m.