



Town Hall, Metcalf, Ont.

Osgoode Township Hall 1891

Osgoode Township

Historical Society & Museum

Vernon School

P.O. Box 83 - Vernon, Ontario

Newsletter

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The last three months have been busy ones. Thanks to the fine arrangements made by Herb Stewart, we had a tour of Scotland that was far beyond the expectations of any of us. We quote from a News Item submitted to the Winchester Press by Isobel Kennedy Lewis.

SCOTLAND BY BUS

OHS MEMBERS ON HERITAGE TOUR

"A group of thirty members and friends of the Osgoode Historical Society enjoyed a Heritage Tour of Scotland during August. Mr. Herb Stewart, who grew up in the Osgoode area, and who is an expert in planning tours, arranged the itinerary, and Harry Anderson gave valuable assistance contacting the travellers.

As well as the Stewarts, others of Scottish descent took advantage of the opportunity to see the birthplaces of their ancestors, including McDonalds, Fergusons, McDiarmids, McNaughtons, Lintons and others.

Among the places visited were Ayr, Tayside, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Dalmeny, Perth, Kenmore, Comrie, Greenock.

While on tour, Ken Mason of Lanarkshire, Scotland, drove the coach and ably described the numerous points of interest in the beautiful countryside. Glowing accounts of a fine holiday are reported by all."

It was regretted that Gordon and Grace Blair could not join us. Grace's mother, Mrs. Robert Saunders (Irene Butler), was seriously ill and has since passed away. We express our sympathy to the family and are grateful for the help Mrs. Saunders was to our Society. Her interest in and knowledge of Osgoode Township has been recorded in part through the foresight of Audrey Renton who dedicated her book BOTH SIDES OF THE RIVER - the Rideau - to "Irene Saunders, a daughter of Osgoode Township". The 12 Historical Essays - life as it was lived 100 years ago, sells for \$3.00. The family were able to read the stories to Mrs. Saunders who enjoyed hearing again of days gone by.

Harry and Olive Anderson express thanks to the Tour Group for remembering them with cards and other small gifts.

The Kenmore Church on Loch Tay was built on its present site in 1579. The previous Church was at Inchadney, north of Taymouth Castle. The Kenmore Parish Records are available from 1653 and we have requested from Edinburgh the microfilm of these and other Parishes in Perthshire. We purchased a small booklet commemorating the 400th Anniversary of Kenmore Church. In the Cemetery we saw the tombstones of some of our ancestors.

In trying to track down the sisters of the writer's great grandfather, we searched the wills in the 200-year "Old Registry House". But the correct Alexander Stuart is not found as yet. However, there was the Will of a John Campbell who died 16 August, 1860, and who mentioned, not only his son Robert, now in Canada, but named the other sons: James, game-keeper, Cuildochart; Peter, Balloch, Ardeonaig; Ewen, Shepherd, Auchnafree (Claggan) - he married a Jessie Robertson; wife Anne Campbell; dau Margaret, wife of Robert McDiarmid, Auchnafree; Grace, wife of John Fisher, Lynemore, Glenquach; Catherine, wife of James Campbell, Braes of Ardeonaig; and another Peter Campbell, Innkeeper, Ardeonaig, was an Executor. This is the kind of Stuart information I should liked to have found.

And in the "Commissariat of Perthshire SC49" was seen in the index, "James McDonald, Ormond, Osgoode Twp, U.C." James had written regarding the death of his brother Alexander, "Dyer and wool merchant, Aberfeldy," who had died intestate 4 July 1882. James declared himself "Heir-at-Law" and the letter was witnessed by Alpin Campbel, Merchant, Ormond, and by Alexander Rutherford, Student-At-Law, Ottawa (a cousin). The Ormond General Store has been in continuous operation for more than 100 years. When Alpin's son, Bob - R.R. Campbell Ottawa, was in WWI, he visited his relatives. Rutherford was the first Premier of Alberta. Nephews of Alexander, whose famous woolen mill was taken over by Haggarts, who still operate it, were named, John Cameron, meal merchant, Aberfeldy, Daniel and John McDonald, James Walker. Allan McDonald of Carleton Place, a brother of Alexander and James, opened his Carleton Place Mill 1835.

It was a fortunate day for the early pioneers of Osgoode Township when a hardworking, intelligent, and creative blacksmith decided to move from Bytown to Osgoode. Michael Fanning and his wife Sarah Jane O'Brien settled on lot 12 concession 6 early in 1838, and

immediately his skills were in demand. Well-kept records of his business, showing date, name of person for whom he was working, articles made, price charged (in pounds, shillings, pence) have been preserved by his descendants, and it is a privilege to be able to read the names of those living in the township in the years 1838-1841 - the earliest record so far of such comprehensive business dealings. Michael Fanning was a skilled craftsman and a boon to his large neighbourhood; this fact can be deduced from the great variety of articles made and the endless repair work that he was engaged in.

Following each name of the person for whom he was performing a service is the list of articles. For some people there were pages on which were listed the great variety of services for which they came for miles through dense bush. The Fanning farm straddled the road from the present Metcalfe corner to Greely; and Michael Fanning must have been acquainted with more of the men in Osgoode Township than any other one person. A partial list of the items found on the first account book includes: shoeing horse, 4 new shoes, 4 removes; 1 pitch fork; making 9 drag teeth; riveting ox yoke; 3 bands for dragg; mending chain, 2 hooks, 1 swivel, 4 linkes; ironing 1 whipple tree; ironing cart; 3 crain hookes; sharpening dragg teeth; ironing sleigh; staple for lock; plough bolt; 1 neck yoke; mending sleigh; mending scythe; steeling 1 plough point; 1 marking iron; jumping 1 ax; 1 clevis and pin; crain eyes; 1 pair of hinges; 1 ketch for door; bands on cart hub; 1 dung fork; repairing cutter; mending saddle; mending frying pan; bushing gun; rake; ironing neckyoke; 1 leg in pot; repairing wagon tongue; dressing hammer; mending augur; halter rings; 1 hoe; 1 ox staple ring; mending chair; 1 plough pint; framing sleigh; 2 churns; 1 pair fetters; setting cart tire; ring for bull; mending stove pan; draw knife, stove poker - and on and on we read of the versatility of this handy blacksmith. When did he get all the necessary work done? For Daniel (Donald) Campbell he made "irons for cheese press", and "hooks for fanning mill."

A list of the names recorded, many with different spelling than that used today, tells us of early settlers of whom we have no other record:

Michael Casserley	Hugh Mathews	Patrick Melvin	Capt Cammeron
John Lee	John Dailey	Alecander Hubbert	Alex Cammeron
John McKeaon	Thomas Hanna	Daniel Cammoran	Michael Cain
John Prole	Isaac Brown	Leonard Wood	Mr York (Shoemaker)
Robert Lee	Daniel O'Connor	Andrew Spratt	Joseph Combs
Silvester Doyle	Barney Sheerin	Edward Whiteside	Mr. McRosty
Mr. Ferguson	Hugh Clarsan	James Kurens	Charles Maresey
James Fegan	Thomas Brenan	John Kurens	Thomas Power
Allen Munk	John Blair	Patrick Horo	Barney McCarell
Robert McNab	Alexander Brennan	William McGarr	John Farlinger
Peter Skiffington	Samuel Loney	Robert Grant	Alexander Hulbert
Thomas York	Terence McGee	Daneld McLaren	Andrew Spratt
John McNab	Alexander Kennady	Arch'd McDonell	Michael Dailey
Michael Skiffington	Arch'd Lawkes	Peter McLarlen	Mathew Downey
Thomas Cangley	Edward Marres	Adam Woods	Joshua Lowkes
Duncan McMartin	Patrick Barker	Hennery Brown	George Sully
Mr. Kinchla	Darby Keley	John McKean	Stephen Semmans
Daniel McMartin	Patrick McCormick	Andrew McCormick	Patrick Dawarn
Walter Munk	Jas McDonell - Carpenter		Peter Williams
Wm Britt	John McCabe	Solomon Grimes	Samuel McArten
Mr. Bowar	John McDónald	Patrick Obrine	Alexander Meldrem
Wm Stackpole	Patrick McGee	John Durney	Peter McCall
Thomas Coar	Andrew Wilson	John Dow	James McKaon
Thomas Lee	James Hennan	Thomas House	A'ld Stackpole
Samuel Lytle	J. C. Hawley	Daniel Miller	John Phair
George Sweeney	Joseph Hanna	Peter Corkey	Thomas Mulcahy
Robert Woods	Harvey Rossiter	Stephen Woods	Mr. McIntosh
Moses Tobern	Mathew Johnston	Thomas Bailey	Thomas Cod
James Tobern	James Gleeson	Wm York	William McKean
John Pomers	Duncan McLarlen	George Yorke	Brijan Doyle
Hugh McKenna	Robert Busby	William McCune	Thomas Hannen
Hugh McCormick	Robert McNight	Zechristy McMullen	Thomas McCowey
Bengeman Wallis	Patrick Gilfole	John Woods	John Cole
John Wallas	James Johnston	David Campbell	Denis McGee
John Patersan	Thomas Gold	Archy Fisher	Thomas Poare
Alexander McDonell	Michael Stackpole	Daniel Capbell	Joseph Wales
Hennery Latimore	William Dailey	Patrick King	Mr. Piper
Joseph Casidy	William Cachener	Michaele Gilfile	James Smith
Mathew Midole	John Turner	William Streder	John Gilfoile
Francis Grant	Fenley McNail	James Spratt	Barney Sheeren
John Brunton	Daniel Kenada	Peter McNab	Thomas Kennaday
Wm Baily	James Smith	Robert Rodney	William Fenton
John Brushihan	Denes McGee	William Brunton	Edward McNaley
John Herrington	Richard Hippinstall	Isaac Brown	Charles Morris
			Joseph Lefounten

RECENT PUBLICATIONS WHICH WE ARE PROUD TO OFFER:

THE MANOTICK STATION STORY - "a record of the early years of Manotick Station commemorates the 125th anniversary of our Community... The members of the Manotick Station Committee who compiled the information were: Mel Tomkins, Herman Smiley, Jim Downey, David Nolan and Barbara Macey ... Members of the community contributed stories, photographs, historical information, anecdotes."

"The haunting, shrill whistle of an approaching train...It never goes unheard." Whether or not you know Manotick Station, you should enjoy this attractively laid out Story. Michael Miles, President of the Community Association, and his executive deserve congratulations for the successful weekend celebration and the history that is now recorded. The booklet sells for \$4.00.

125th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET 1854-1979 A Historical Sketch prepared by Michael Daley of ST JOHN'S PARISH and the MISSION OF ST. BRIGID'S TO COMMEMORATE The Founding of The Parish. Our President, Michael Daley, has done a great service to his Community and his Parish Church because of the careful research that was necessary to produce this history in picture and story. The book has already had record sales. It sells for \$3.00

RECOLLECTIONS OF KENMORE CONTINUATION SCHOOL begins with a short history of the old village that came into being because of the Castor which passes through it and furnished water-power for its various mills. There is the story of the teachers and pupils and many, many pictures. Ruth Scharfe, a gifted writer, takes us back to the eventful but carefree days of long ago. We are reminded of the caliber of teachers who left their stamp on unsophisticated country adolescents. Christian (Tannie) Fraser, a descendant of Rob Roy McGregor, taught longest in this old building - a Baptist Chapel built and paid for by her great uncle, David McGregor, and his friend John Dewar. Wilfred B. Wallen began his illustrious career, along with his sister Lizzie, in this small school. A trustee had remarked, "He has to get experience somewhere." He and his wife, Jennie Watson, have recently died in Ottawa - both in their 80's. And young Fred Hamilton, later Principal of Guelph Collegiate, and "Man-of-the-Year" while there, remarked once that he hoped he would never lose the association with his pupils that he always had in small schools. The book was compiled by Alice McKeown and Etta Hill. RECOLLECTIONS sells for \$2.50.

We have as well the Cemetery recording of St. Brigid's which sells for \$2.50; and that of Clarence, the region of great lumber barons - Edwards, Tucker, McLaren (McLaurin) etc. There is a picture of each stone. Cost \$3.50.

We thank Dr. Helen Dow for her gift of Volume 1 No 2 of THE CANADIAN GENEALOGIST in which she has written an 18-page article THE DOWS OF ONTARIO. This scholarly work, in which she frequently refers to our PIONEER FAMILIES, can be read at our Museum. We admire the way in which she coordinated so broad a subject. The DOWS include many related families.

And we have made contact, through Herb Stewart, the well-known tour guide of THE Superannuated Teachers of Ontario, with another writer, a descendant of Rev. Wm. Lohead, the first minister of the Presbyterian Church in Osgoode and Gloucester, and also a descendant of the writer of "Gourlay's History of the Ottawa Valley." We thank her for her book, "I REMEMBER GLENGARRY". If you were born 3-score and 10 years ago you will think Rose Gourlay Gosse is talking about your early life. The book was sold out but she has had 500 more printed, the cost \$5.00. She is also writing about the old Gourlay home, now only "Old Stone Walls". We have asked her to write for us the Lohead history.

Bruce Elliot, President of the 700-member Ottawa Branch of OGS, and at the same time studying toward his doctorate degree in local History, sent along an obituary: Ottawa Citizen, April 25, 1863.

"Died: At his residence, Inverdruey, Township of Osgoode, on Thursday, the 23rd instant, Robert Grant, Snr., Esquire, aged 84 years. The deceased was a native of Rotheinourcis, Invernessshire, North Britain. He emigrated to Canada in the year 1816 and was one of the first settlers in Osgoode."

Bruce was studying, too, in Ireland during the past summer and found some valuable sources of information. We hope to have him contribute to our Irish night in March.

Daniel O'Connor Esquire of Ottawa had brothers and other relatives in Osgoode and the neighbouring townships. We looked through some of his papers at the Public Archives hoping to find reference to the Osgoode part of the family. There was a 2-column obituary in the paper owned by his son - The Union - of May 12, 1868. And although we did not find the names of relatives, we learned a great deal of history and are encouraged to look again.

"The deceased was one of the oldest inhabitants of this city - one who entered it when an unclaimed forest wild, and who lived to see it the capital of his adopted country... The deceased was in his 62nd year. His death took place on the 8th day of May, the very day of the month and week in the year (1827) when he first set his foot on the sight. Mr. O'Connor, a native of Tipperary was possessed of considerable scholastic attainments; his parents, who were in comfortable circumstances, sent him to Clonmel school. He kept a

journal throughout his life." It is this journal, printed by his son in 1901, that we should like to see. It tells of Mr. O'Connor's adventuresome spirit. He bought a commission and enlisted under McGregor who led an expedition, The South American Patriot Society, to help Bolivar break the yoke of Spain over Venezuela. McGregor married the sister of Bolivar. A few years ago, the writer was surprised to see the name of a McGregor leading the list of names engraved on the wall of a Caracas State building. Daniel O'Connor then conducted business in Clonmell for four years. (This was the home of the Dewan family.) But on May 8th 1821 he set foot on American soil - a log of the journey was kept. He returned to his mother's roof at Farrinlare and married Miss Power, daughter of a neighbouring mill-owner - 1824 - and came to Canada when he heard of the building of the Canal. He became a bosom friend of Colonel By. On Dec. 8, 1833 he was appointed City Magistrate and held the position until his death. We mention these details from his journal to indicate how valuable his complete papers must be. No doubt there are various references to Osgoode affairs, beginning with the first election in 1834.

The 1881 Census for all Canada has been finally released and we were fortunate in getting a copy of the microfilm - on inter-library loan - for our Museum. We are beginning to copy it out - 25 names on one page - and rather hard to read. We welcome help as the film is in great demand. We have had considerable correspondence from people who are willing to pay for doing research for them. If we have anything in our files which will help anyone, we have people who will look up the information at the modest price of \$3.00 an hour.

On arriving home from Scotland, there was a letter waiting from David McNaughton of Comrie who is interested in any Emigrants from his district. He has valuable ship lists and we have already written him.

In November, near the time of St. Andrew's Day, we plan to have a "Scotch Night" - November 16, at 8:00 p.m.

We had a booth at Metcalfe Fair and made numerous interesting contacts with persons who, we hope, will send us their family history. The stories for Volume XIII are not all received as yet, but we hope to have: Dalgleish, Wood, McDonald, McDiarmid, Leahy, Tomkins, Johnston, Stuart, Lemoine. Winter is a good time for a farming population to become historically-minded. The FAMILY volumes, as well as the Osgoode Maps which tell the land owners of 100 years ago, now sell for \$1.50 plus postage.