



Dr. Ballantyne in Vernon

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

Vernon School

P.O. Box 83 - Vernon, Ontario

Newsletter

VOLUME 6 1980 NUMBER 4

While this Newsletter is being written, October 1, preparations are in progress in hundreds of homes in our vicinity for the annual Metcalfe Fair. It would be difficult to imagine a similar Exhibition that involved a greater number of participants from its surrounding area. Our "Homesteaders" and their descendants - and our newer immigrants - unassuming in nature - have exhibited with confidence apple pie, alfalfa, garden produce, needlework, poultry, swine, sheep, cattle, horses, honey, etc., etc., etc., knowing that the work done in the home, the garden, the field, the barn could compare favourably with that done in any other part of the Dominion of Canada. But 60 years ago there was competition, interest, pride engendered by the School Fairs that involved over twenty School Sections of the time, and this could never be matched by the present educational system.

As in other years, the Historical Society and Museum is planning to have a booth at the Fair.

In the Ottawa Directory of 1866-67 we read:

COUNTY OF RUSSELL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

"This Agricultural Society was organized on the 18th February 1858 and includes the Townships for Agricultural purposes - average about 100 members." (Gloucester and Osgoode were part of Russell County for many years.)

OFFICERS

John Kennedy, Osgoode	President
Archibald McKellar, Gloucester	1st Vice-President
William Eadie, Russell	2nd Vice-President
Ira Morgan, Osgoode	Secretary-Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Gloucester	Donald Robertson Daniel McLaughlin
Cumberland	G. G. Dunning
Russell	Alex Stewart
Osgoode	Thos. Gold Duncan Kennedy Daniel Campbell, Jun

Mr. Bell, M.P.P. for Russell presented a Gold Medal to the Society to be awarded to the best Ploughman.

We have heard that the first Agricultural Fair was held at what is now Greely. In 1841 Henry Rossitter owned the west part of lot 5 con 5 and had cleared 40 acres. He had an Inn and "kept horses for hire or gain". It is supposed that the fair was held on his property. Certainly the road system of the time would make this location as easy as any to reach. Smith later bought the hotel and later Richard Stanley - thus the name STANLEY'S CORNERS.

On a monument at the Public Archives, we can read words from the pen of Arthur George Doughty, early Archivist:

"Of all National Assets, Archives are the most precious: they are the gift of one generation to another and the extent of our care of them marks the extent of our Civilization."

Recently the Ontario Archives sent us two extremely valuable rolls of micro-film on the early Ottawa District - Counties of Prescott and Russell, (which included Osgoode and Gloucester) - Assessment and Census records from 1822-1850. We are very grateful to the Toronto Archives for their co-operation and for their consent for us to print any information found on the reels.

The first Osgoode record is that for the year 1830 when the very few householders were recorded with those of Gloucester. In 1831, early in the year, Colin Campbell heads the list of the 34 tenants residing in Osgoode. We believe that he and his three near neighbours - Duncan McNab, Peter McEwen, and Donald McLaurin must have come out on the same ship in 1829, shortly after Colin and Duncan were married on the same day. Each of these four families had cleared 2 acres of their 200 acre lot in the 9th concession. Colin's name would not have appeared on any later roll. He was buried that year at age 27 while clearing more land.

Only the names of the resident landowners appear in 1831 but we are told that there were 55 males over 16 years; 46 males under 16; 46 females over 16; 27 females under 16. The biggest landowner of that year was, of course, living on the W $\frac{1}{2}$ lot 25 con 8 where he had cleared 60 of the 100 acres. There was a square timber house on the sight and we imagine some shanties as well since there were 16 males over 16 in the household, 4 under 16; 3 females over 16, and 4 under - 27 altogether to feed. I wonder what they ate. The other 2 square timber houses were owned by Duncan McMartin and by Samuel Loney. William Yorke who was listed in 1830 as owning a square timber house (one hewn on 2 sides) does not appear to have one in 1831. Was it burned or was there an error made by the assessor? Altogether Archibald McDonell owned 1300 acres: 23 and 26 in 8; 18, 20, 21 in 9; 20 in 6 (Catherine's). William Yorke, in a household of 7, had cleared 40 acres on lot 21 con 9 (Yorks' Corners, but with only 161 acres cleared in the whole Township, 32 families had cleared less than an average of 2 acres each. They would never see the sun either rise or set.

Duncan McMartin was living near the Gloucester boundary in 1830. If the log house he built on lot 37 con 6 in 1830-31 is part of the same moved by Wilbert Duncan down to west of highway 31, then this part of the new house opposite Archie Sheldrick's home must be the oldest building in the Township. Wm. Yorke and Archibald McDonell each had a horse in 1831. The other settlers had 28 oxen 4 years old and upwards to help with the strenuous work.

The writer's gr-gr grandfather John McDonald, was living lot 28 con 10 (east of the Kenmore road) with 2 other men in the family, probably his younger brothers, William and James. On the west Peter McLaurin had 100 acres - the man who gave Kenmore the name of his native Parish in Perthshire.

The next assessment available is for the year 1835 when Thomas Bailey had arrived and future records are in his beautiful handwriting. He lived N $\frac{1}{2}$ lot 18 in 6, beside John (King) McDonell - brother of Catherine, and in that year Archibald and family were living on lot 20 where the first Catholic Church and Cemetery were established - Hansen's Garage - Metcalfe Corner on Highway 31.

By 1836 there were 24 horses; 103 oxen, 183 milk cows.

There are very complete records for Plantagenet, the Township from which came Thomas Campbell and his wife Sarah Farrens and their large family, as well as other families. The oldest son, Ellice (Allas, Ellis, etc.) was the first to arrive on the farm bought by his father in 1832. Ellice married Mellissa Chamberlain, daughter of Nathaniel and Lydia who had moved from Vermont to Hull to north of Metcalfe. A descendant, Kirt Allen Austin, came by bicycle, foot power, from Charlotte, Michigan, averaging 100 miles a day to see the Belmeade area where so many of his relatives built homes. On the Mountain side was a very old small frame house, and on Ken McDiarmid he saw the interesting workmanship in a cement and stone house being dismantled. It is quite probable that this was where Ellice and Melissa lived.

The first record for Russell Township, taken by Duncan Macnab and Donald McLaurin in 1830 show that the 5 property owners at that time were: Elisha F. Loucks, John Matice, Samuel Thomson, John Purvis, Nelson Hitsman.

In 1837 Loucks had a Saw and a Grist Mill; Thomson a Saw Mill. Elisha later moved into Osgoode.

There have been a great number of interesting visitors to our vicinity in the past year. We mentioned the note-worthy visit of Audrey Leinwebber in connection with the 75th anniversary of the entrance of the Province of Alberta into Confederation. We were saddened to learn of the tragic death of her husband. Lately Janet McIver (Bauldry) was here to help track down her York, McDonald, Campbell etc., etc., ancestors. A visitor from Vancouver found a Bowen ancestor's grave in South Mountain. She was looking for the Winchester Bowen Hotel. What do any of our readers know of this hotel? And a Saunders descendant was fortunate to meet up with Charlie Saunders who was able to take her on a tour of all the places that meant so much to both of them. Three ladies were wondering about the Irven family and did not throw any light on the lamp pictured in the Citizen of June 11, under the heading:

"DOCUMENTED LAMPS REAL TREASURES"

when a picture by Ray Pillon displayed - no other information -

"Tole lamp made by H. Irvin, Kenmore, Ontario."

Does anyone know anything about the production of these kerosene lamps made by a Tinsmith called IRWIN?

In the last Newsletter we mentioned two men, sons of Osgoode Pioneers, whose early experiences seemed to fit them for leadership when the Great North West was opening up. Besides Alex Cameron Rutherford and Lieut.-Governor John Campbell Bowen of Alberta we wish to mention a few others of the many who made a great contribution in their fields of service:

Orton E. S. Whiteside, born 19 Nov. 1870, Metcalfe, son of Edward Whiteside, was a Mining Engineer who became General Manager of the West Canadian Collieries Ltd. of Blairmore, Alberta.

Richard Loney, born Metcalfe area July 17, 1877, son of Simon and Eliza Loney, taught at Eastman's Springs, took part in the South African War, went to Moose Jaw in 1904, and was prominent in the Real Estate business, President of the Moose Jaw Board of Trade.

Alexander McDonald, born at Ormond March 1st, 1837, son of James McDonald and Ann McLean, Pioneer Missionary, first to Winnipeg in 1873, always a frontiersman at heart. His son Jamie, after the death of his mother, lived with his grandparents at Ormond. "Pioneer" McDonald had for many years a very faithful horse. It is related that when lost in a Prairie blizzard, McDonald would cover his horse, turn the cutter upside down and sleep under it until morning broke. His two sons, James and his half-brother Robert Fyfe published the "Strathcona Plaindealer".

Many other men of similar caliber "Went West".

We should like to call to your attention that Herb Stewart, Osgoode native, now of Toronto, is planning a HIGHLAND HERITAGE TOUR for 1981. The Tour begins at Toronto May 2 and returns there on May 18, and the all-inclusive price is \$1825. This Tour is similar in many respects to the delightful one that so many of us enjoyed in 1979. The writer (Scottish) did not spend \$50 more than the price paid in that year. At the present time we assure you that the Hotel accommodation alone would cost about \$100 a day if bought on an individual basis. We have brochures at the Museum or you can phone direct to Herb Stewart at 416-489-9875. Stay-overs may be arranged.

There have been three Golden Weddings amongst our members during the last few months.

Walter Campbell MacDonald and his wife Laura Mae Stewart, now of Winchester, formerly of Ormond and Dalmeny.

Harry Anderson, our Corresponding Secretary, and Olive Anderson, now living in Vernon. Harry was born at Brouseville and taught in various parts of Ontario.

Wilfred Latimer of Edwards and Dorothea Kyle of Russell, now living in Ottawa.

We extend our best wishes to these three happy couples and to others whom we may have missed.

It was in 1880 that the fine brick home along the River Road was built for Patrick Kelly and his wife Catherine McEvoy. On June 29 of this year, at their Annual Picnic, 176 of the Kelly clan recorded their names in the Family Register. But why was the Kelly Settlement along this beautiful River Road? The ancestors, William and his wife Margaret Kilfoyle, who emigrated from Ireland early in the 19th Century, did not immediately decide on their location of a new home. In the "Wright Papers" at the Public Archives, we find Wm Kelly registering for Muster Duty on the other side of the Ottawa. In the Gloucester Census of 1830 he has located along the Ottawa. In the Osgoode census for 1836 he had cleared 4 acres on the west half of the lot on which the Museum stands in Vernon. In 1842 he is on lot 20 in the Metcalfe area; as well he owned lot 19 there. Then there were various pieces of land in the Manotick area; as well he owned lot 19 there. Then there were various pieces of land in the Manotick area, as well as the present location of the Kelly Clan. At his death in the late 60's, he owned land east of Osgoode. He had been born about 1797.

Dominic Kelly writes of the Kelly Picnic:

"The Re-union began at 2:00 p.m. with an outdoor Mass celebrated by Rev. Francis McEvoy - a relative. A variety of activities followed: races, volleyball, softball, cards, chatter. After a Picnic supper there was taped music provided by Merv Kelly and an exhibition of Irish Dancing - special entertainment in honour of this year's special event - the 100th anniversary of the Kelly Home, now the home of Reg and John Kelly; and there were tours of the old brick house."

"At this year's gathering a plan was formed to replace the tombstone of our ancestral parents. The old tombstone has disappeared. The committee formed has already received donations of about \$100.00."

Look for a picture of this fine home on Volume XIV of Pioneer Families which will be in print shortly.

At the present time, a dispute is raging regarding the correct uniform that should be worn by the Scottish Regiment - 75 in number - that has been raised and is being outfitted by the heir to the Macdonald Tobacco fortune - Col. David Macdonald Stewart. A 1600-man unit was raised in Scotland in 1757 by Simon Fraser, Master of Lovat, to fight the battle for Quebec. As a Royal Regiment, one authority says it should have worn the Royal Stewart tartan. Another authority says that such a tartan was not in existence at such an early time and the Fraser tartan is the correct one.

There is an appeal from Edinburgh to Canadian Families to search their attics for any original uniforms in order to settle the dispute.

It was at such a time as this that Donald McNaughton enlisted in a Breadalbane unit - the area from which Simon Fraser came. We should like to inform readers of a very rich source of information available at the Ontario Archives on Grenville Street - The Heir and Devisee Commission. The papers available in this series of Documents deal with cases in which there was no immediate heir and the person died intestate, having made no will. Or there might arise a dispute over legal property rights.

One such interesting case concerns Donald McNaughton of Charlottenburg, mentioned above. As a U. E. Loyalist, he had received land, but as well as his free Grant, he had purchased another parcel from Sir John Johnson who had received it from De Lancey, both familiar names in the Loyalist cause. When Donald died in the 1840's, an old man of nearly 100 years, he left the land he was then living on, part of Sir John's large holdings, to his son Alexander McNaughton. But because of a lack of clarity in the transfer that took place before 1800, a great deal of information was revealed - Donald's Will, the fact that Alexander had been living on the property since his birth there in 1803, and letters from old friends and neighbours. The daughter Mary, by the way, is the ancestor of Edwin McDonald, one of our members, who lives in St. Andrews West. Donald's brother, John, is an ancestor of the writer; the other brother, James, is an ancestor of the Vernon McNaughtons, the MacAndrews, etc.

We strongly urge you to examine the Heir and Devisee group of Documents for unexpected information.

The names on the tombstones of our large Spring Hill Cemetery have been recorded, thanks to the hard work of Eric Ferguson, Perpetual Care Treasurer, who made out a sheet for each of the approximately 800 plot owners, and distributed them to a group of willing workers. Eric and his wife, Gladys, did the largest share of the work. Now, we expect to compare and check our work with that already done by Alec and Allison Campbell who have kept very careful records since Alec took over the care of the Cemetery many years ago. We should like to hear, as well, from anyone who knows of early burials for which there is now no Marker. When we have the work complete - sometime next Spring, we plan to include these unrecorded burials as well as maps of the different areas, a short history of the property, and any special incidents that may be related to the Cemetery.

Hopefully, we may be able to have all the Osgoode Cemeteries recorded by the end of 1981.