



Kenmore Continuation School

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

Vernon School

P.O. Box 83 - Vernon, Ontario

— ❧ — Newsletter — ❧ —

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Some time ago Edna Hill Barrowclough wrote for us an interesting story of her life in Kenmore while she was staying with her aunts and attending the Continuation School in the picture. The time was during W.W.I. The letter has been mislaid and we hope to print it at a later time.

In the OLD TIME STUFF of the Citizen of 1923 and earlier there are varied accounts that indicate the nature of the early education carried on in the Township.

SCHOOL DAYS WERE DIFFERENT IN THE SIXTIES (1860's)

School Days were great days for all of us, but the school days of the 50's and 60's were quite different from the school days of the 80's and 90's. For example, the children in the 80's and 90's were not "trounced" by the teachers the way the children were in the earlier period. And the conditions were vastly different in other respects as well, especially in the country.

As told by Michael McEvoy who attended S.S.4, Osgoode, in the late 50's, the children entered a cold school and stood around until the wood put into the big box stove warmed up the one-roomed school.

The children of that period had to draw their share of wood from their homes on their little sleds, and before they went home in the evening they had to make kindlings for the next morning. They had also to split wood.

They also had the misfortune, (as they considered it) of having the teacher live in their humble home, usually a shanty, for varying periods of time in the year. Where there were four or more children in a family attending the school, the teacher (as part of his pay) stayed two weeks. Where there were three or fewer, the teacher stayed one week. Sometimes the teacher walked to school with the children and that was worse.

School books were scarce and the teacher would paste the ABC card and the first-book lessons on the ends of shingles and these were passed from child to child to be learned. The other end of the shingle often found its way to the side of a boy's head. This was the way the teacher literally knocked things into the boy's head.

The children of the 60's had one advantage over the children of the present. There was no school homework. With so much farm home work there was no time left for school homework. The children had to go after the cows, cut and bring in wood, draw water from the well or spring, dig potatoes, feed the pigs and horses etc., etc., etc.

But these boys and girls, having had such experiences, and having learned valuable lessons from such a variety of hard work, grew up to be leaders in their communities and in places far afield.

Another story told to Michael McEvoy by James Brown, son of Isaac Brown, of Gloucester gives a striking example of the "Homing Instinct of animals." This instinct has not lessened as time has gone by.

OXEN WENT BACK TO CORNWALL

The Homing Instinct of Animals is a wonderful, mysterious thing. In the thirties a yoke of oxen were brought from near Cornwall by Isaac Brown to his home near South Gloucester and they found their way back through an almost trackless wilderness to their stable near Cornwall.

When Pioneer Brown came to Gloucester he travelled up the St. Lawrence to near Prescott and then worked his way over the high ground to near Gloucester. He drove before him a pair of Oxen which he had purchased in Cornwall. Before bringing the oxen he had built a shanty for his family and a pen for the oxen. When he arrived safely at his new home he put the oxen in the pen.

The next morning Mrs. Brown went out and found that the oxen had broken out of the pen and had disappeared. Mr. Brown started in pursuit. He was able to track them easily as there were no other animals in the vicinity. The tracks lead due south. After travelling about ten miles he was greatly surprised to run onto the extensive clearing of a new settler, Arch'd McDonell. (south of Metcalfe) There was mutual surprise and pleasure. Mr. Brown had dinner at the McDonells and then hurried on. To make a long story short, he travelled on southward, following the tracks until he reached the point where he had bought the animals: he found them at home before him.

Taking possession of his property, he brought them back by the route he had first followed. The wife and family were greatly relieved by his return after such a long absence. It was customary for pioneer women to be left alone for days while their husbands went for supplies. Their constant worry was for their safe return. It was necessary for Mr. Brown to have oxen for the heavy work of a bush farm and his walk had been much longer than he had anticipated.

The writer is reminded of a similar incident of about 60 years ago. A beautiful 2-year old mare, "Goldie", (dappled grey) was purchased in the Kemptville area and brought to the farm east of Dalmeny. She was put in a field where there was a faithful 18-year old horse, "Levi", well known as a pacer and for his dependability. He was never tied, even if left for hours while waiting for a train at Osgoode Station.

But young "Goldie" cast some kind of spell over "Old Levi" and after about two days on the farm, we noticed, during a very heavy fog, that there were no horses in the field. The fog prevented an early search, but after several inquiries it was found that the pair had been in the Belmeade area and were heading west. They were both discovered in a field west of Kemptville where "Goldie" had pastured as a colt. We were glad to get them both back.

No doubt some of our readers have memories of similar incidents when animals played such an important part in our daily lives.

We received two items from Ruth E. Scharfe and we shall share them with you another summer that will, we hope, not be so frustrating to those who must get in the crops, get off the hay, combine the grain, bale the straw, get on the corn fields, pasture the cattle, and for month after month try to cope with the kind of rainfall that prevents all kinds of normal farming.

We are delighted to have a person with such a gift for understanding and appreciating "An Old Cheese Factory" and the "Summer Sounds of Haying", and the many other aspects of country life which most of us take for granted. We thank her for her interest in us.

Michael Daley, living on property owned by his ancestors, wrote about the Hamlet of Enniskerry. He understands the importance that Communities have played in making our life richer throughout the Township. And we want this Community Life to be preserved. He continues his description of

ENNISKERRY

On March 16, 1893, Sylvester McEvoy sold $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of land from the N $\frac{1}{2}$ lot 19 to Robert Pink for the erection of a cheese factory. For many years it was known as Lindsay Cheese Factory and it served the community well till the 1940's. We know of the fond memories of the factory held by the first two of the children of Jim Stewart who was making cheese there around 1900 and took his young schoolteacher bride there - Helen Meldrum. The family later moved to Dalmeny.

Around the turn of the century Thomas Grant from Metcalfe built a home on part of lot 20 con 3. A General Store was added to the home, and with his wife, Anne Daley, served the area well until his death January 29, 1938. The store was sold to Mr. Peter Cousineau and his wife c 1944, and a grist mill and feed store were added to the business. On October 2, 1949, Maurice Cunningham and his wife Irene bought the business, and after operating it for many years closed the store due to ill health.

Bill Cleasby also opened a store in Enniskerry in 1967 but found that with supermarkets within a short driving distance, he could not compete with big business.

The first St. John's Church built 1854-55 was on land donated by John McEvoy and Patrick McEvoy on parts of lot 19 and 20 con 3. There were at that time 65 Irish Catholic Families in the Parish that had been founded by the Oblate Fathers and bore the name for many years - The Prescott Road Parish.

In 1869 Bishop Guigues visited the Parish to bless the Bell. The inscription on the Bell reads:

Meneelys, West Troy, New York
St. Patricks, West Osgoode, C.W.
A.D. 1866

The Parish Hall was built in 1900. In 1918 a new stone Church was built to replace the old frame building, and the Bell was moved to the new Church. On November 11, 1930, the Church was partly destroyed by fire. On May 24, 1935 fire completely destroyed the Rectory. A new and modern Rectory was built.

For many years prior to the coming of modern machinery with the noisy tractors, anyone working in the fields would listen to hear the Church Bell ringing - at 12 o'clock - dinner time, and at 6 o'clock in the evening. When the Bell was heard at "odd" times, it could mean that there was a death in the community, and by the nature of the tolling, one knew whether the death was that of a man, a woman, or a child.

In 1979 the Parish of St. John's celebrated its 125th Anniversary.

It was in 1832 that the first known marriage in the Township was performed by Rev. Lyle of Osnabruck, a minister of the Church of Scotland. The Osgoode Presbyterian Church at Vernon is celebrating the 150th year of witness. From the Grant-Cameron marriage performed in 1832, a daughter, Elizabeth was born who married Alexander Campbell, son of Thomas. It is interesting that a descendant in Calgary has just written to trace her roots in the Township.

We have in our files a

REPORT
OF
SESSION AND DEACONS COURT
OF THE
OSGOODE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Year ending October 20, 1873

Session - Rev. James Whyte, Moderator

Elders - Alexander Stewart, Alexander McTavish, Alexander Dow, William Brunton, James Woods, Daniel Cameron, Stewart Hill, Duncan McArthur, David Kennedy, Alexander Campbell, Alexander McGirr.

This being our first regular report, it will be brief and imperfect. Two or three matters of special interest may be mentioned. At the beginning of the year it was agreed to hold two diets of worship every Sunday instead of three - in Osgoode Church every Sabbath at 11 a.m. - in Metcalfe and Kenmore on alternate Sabbaths at 3 or 4 p.m. Sabbath services in Winchester were discontinued and fortnightly services on a week day substituted. Two weekly prayer meetings were held - one in Kenmore every Tuesday evening and the other in Metcalfe every Wednesday evening. The Pastor had a Bible Class in the Osgoode Church on Sabbath mornings during the summer months.

Occasional services were held in other parts of the Congregation. We have had, during the last year to mourn the loss of a faithful and zealous Elder, Mr. William McGirr, who threw himself actively and heartily into the work of the Church, especially in connection with Prayer Meeting and Sabbath School.

Fifteen members were added to the Church in the course of the year, five by certificate, and ten by examination. Twenty-two were removed by death and otherwise. The number at present on the roll is 298. The Sabbath Schools have enjoyed the usual measure of prosperity. In Osgoode Church there are at present ten teachers, one - Mrs. T. Dalglish - having been recently removed by death. The Kenmore Sabbath School has eight teachers. It had to close sooner than usual for want of suitable accommodation. The Metcalfe Sabbath School has also eight teachers. A new Sabbath School was established in the North of Metcalfe with six or seven teachers.

The Report of the Deacons' Court will be given later.

We recently attended the Annual Dinner Meeting of THE ST. LAWRENCE BRANCH OF THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS' ASSOCIATION, and were reminded that in a very short time - 1984 - we shall be celebrating the Bi-Centennial of the beginning of Upper Canada. The Loyalists were first given Grants of Land in 1784 after England, by the Peace of Paris, 1763, recognized the Independence of the United States. Many of us are descended from one or more of these loyalists. And even if we are not, we can appreciate the hardships they endured in opening up a few trails for others to follow.

We give a few of the ancestors of a few of our members. More will follow in following letters. Let us know what you would like us to write.

SOME ANCESTORS

- AMIDON, Lt. Col. Ervan, 3782 Inocbee Trail, Traverse City, Michigan, 49684. Rudolph Paupst, b c1804, parents unknown, m Ann Wood d/o John Wood U.E. and wife Ann Cook. Family in Osgoode early. Son Colin m c1861 Sarah Jané Campbell, uncertain of parents.
- ANDERSON, Harry M. Box 83, Vernon, Ont. KOA 3JO. John Anderson in the War of 1812 with Col. Arch'd McDonell. John in Osgoode 1832, m Eleanor Galbreath d/o John Galbreath U.E. & Eleanor Johnson. John s/o Henry Anderson, Edwardsburg.
- ANDERSON, Mrs. H. J. (Olive Campbell) Duncan McDonald b Balquidder 1783 s/o Patrick McDonald & Janet McDonald m Catherine McNee d/o Duncan McNee & Margaret McLaren. To Beckwith with 6 children c1821; to Osgoode later. Dau Katrine m James Campbell - gparents.
- CAMERON, Mrs. Kenneth (Muriel Blair) Vernon, Ont., KOA 3JO. Wm. Blair & wife Catherine Sim from Glasgow to Fallbrooke, Ont. 1822. Sons: Hugh m Mary Christie; John m Margaret Truelove; James m Bella (?).
- CAMPBELL, Jessie Elizabeth, Dundas Manor, Winchester, KOC 2K0. Duncan Campbell b 4 June 1791 Kinlock, Perthshire s/o John Campbell & Catherine Robertson, m in Osgoode, Janet Dow, d/o Thomas Dow & Janet McEwen. Son Thomas m Catherine McDiarmid d/o Arch'd McDiarmid & Catherine McLellan. Dau Jessie b 26 Oct. 1884.
- CRAIG, Lawrence Robert, Vernon, Ont. Robert Jas Craig m 1847 Mary Ann Bell Boyd in Scotland. To Huntley Twp; later to Cumberland, and then Russell Twp. Son Samuel Lawrence, hunter, trapper, lumberman, m 1st Janet Logan d/o Arch'd Logan & Mary Nathaniel & settled east of Vernon; m 2nd Matilda Cameron d/o Hugh Cameron and Mary Campbell.
- CRAIG, Mrs. L. R. (Alice Dalglish). Alexander Dalglish s/o John Dalglish and Grace Tweedie m Catherine Lee(s) of Gloucester 1840. Son William b Spring Hill m Lucy Hedley; Son Thos Lee m Mary Robertson d/o John Robertson.
- DALEY, Michael R.R.1 Osgoode, KOA 2W0. Michael Daley & wife Elizabeth McGuire from Kings Co Ire. settled in Que and Gloucester before coming to Osgoode. Son Thomas m Mary McGee; son Michael m Catherine Keogh; son Thomas m Mary Ida Leahy. Most burials in St. John's.
- DOW, Mrs. William (Jennie Hume) R.R.3 Metcalfe KOA 2P0 Gparents John Hume and Ester McIntyre walked from Lachute P.Q. 1858 with 3 small children & settled at Osgoode Centre with Wm Hunter. Later to Russell (Marvelville). Son John m Mary Jane Jennett Hill.
- DOYLE, Mrs. Thomas (Gertrude Blanchfield) R.R.3 Manotick. Patrick & Mary Blanchfield from Co Carlow, Ire. & son John & wife Mary Durning settled West Osgoode. Son James m Elizabeth Daley d/o Thos Daley & Mary McGee & lived near #5 school house.
- FERGUSON, Eric 249 Woodland Ave., Ottawa. Son of Jas Finlay Ferguson & Margaret Mary Campbell. John Ferguson b Barr Scot. 1784 m Elizabeth McLaren; to Beckwith, then Osgoode. Son John m Janet McDonald b Balquidder 1810; son John m Jessie McLaurin d/o Duncan - lived Dalmeny and Spring Hill.
- FERGUSON, Mrs. Eric (Gladys Clarkson) d/o George Clarkson, who came as a boy age 12, from Liverpool & his wife Ruby Lamb d/o Peter Lamb of Lochaber P.Q. s/o James Lamb & Sarah Baker of Osnabruck. Lambs from Sterling. Gdau of Karl Mielke from Prussia to Mulgrave P.Q.
- KELLY, Dominic, R.R.3 Manotick, Ontario. Wm. Kelly, b c1797 came from Ire. to Minnesota, to Hull Area, P.Q. He was a stonecutter & lumberman; m Margaret Kilfoyle & settled Osgoode 1837; son Patrick m Catherine McEvoy & began the Kelly settlement on the River Road. His son John m Theresa Daley d/o Thomas. (Parents)
- MCDIARMID, Mrs. Hugh (Laura McIntosh) Winchester, Ont. KOC 2K0. Wm Lane b 1805 Woolwich Eng m Marg't Ouderkirk 1830. Dau Catherine Amelia of Boucks Hill m Geo Henry Barkley of Elma; dau Ada Elizabeth m 1888 John Albert McIntosh b 1844 s/o Sandy McIntosh and Maria Cook.
- MCDONALD, Edwin, St Andrews West, Ont. s/o Joseph D. McDonald b Pakenham 1858 s/o Daniel McDonald & Elizabeth McDonell d/o James McDonell & Mary McNaughton, m St Raphael's 1811. Her father, Donald McNaughton, 84th Reg., b Kenmore, Scot. 1746 s/o John McNaughton and Elspeth McDougall.
- WYATT, Mrs. Arnold (Elaine Crowder) Vernon, KOA 3JO. Chas Crowder b Germany 1789 s/o Wm 3rd (?) bur lot 23/8 Mountain m Susannah Wallace; son Anthony m Jane McKendry; son John Edward (g father) lived Inkerman. George Francis (ggfather) m 1814 Mary Bradley. Son Patrick from Co Wexford.