



Harry Iveson in his Harness Shop.

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

Vernon School
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Newsletter

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During the past year we have been privileged to receive Family Histories - in part - from a wide variety of sources.

Herb Stewart of Toronto left us a branch of the large Ross Family. The Ross name is now a familiar one in Osgoode, and many can claim it in their ancestry.

THE LOGAN FAMILY (Irish)

Ethel Nixon Russell, 128 Roger Road, Ottawa, presented us with a copy of her intensive research on her ancestors, James and Hannah Logan, who began their life in this country in the Township of Mountain - there were seven children. Her grandfather, James Logan married Mary Ann Kerr. Then there were the brothers and sisters of James: Hannah who married Alexander Taylor; John who married Sarah (?) and lived in Osgoode for a time; Charlotte who married Willis Moon, son of Abraham Moon, said to be one of the first to be buried in Reids Mills Cemetery; Andrew who married a Murdock and had a large family. Cousin William and wife lived along the Prescott Road. We are grateful for the record of this extended family, most of them part of the western area of the Township.

And Mrs. Olive Sawyer, a spry visitor to Osgoode (in her 70's) is sending us a copy of her years of research on the Howes Family. A short note reads:

In January of 1897, Thomas Gotliffe Howes, his wife Eliza Shore and their eight children, accompanied by brother Alonzo Howes, journeyed from Metcalfe and Ottawa to Moosamin, Saskatchewan. Thomas established a home there, and Alonzo worked at the General Store of a Mr. McNaughton, father of the boy who was later General McNaughton of Military fame.

In 1903 William Henry, another son of James and Sarah Otto, came to Moosomin, and later that year he brought his wife Rhoda Farlinger, sons Wm Jas., Frederick, Alfred, Richard and daughter Nellie.

In the Spring of 1904, the men: Wm Henry, Alonzo, Wm James, Frederick, Alfred and Richard set out to find land for themselves where they could establish homes. In the Tisdale Saskatchewan area some promising homesteads were available - the district was named NEW OSGOODE by Mrs. Wm. HOWES (Rhoda) and the families that settled there acquired homes and prospered. But now none of those families or their descendants remain on the original properties.

Many of us were privileged to enjoy the visit of Mrs. Olive Sawyer, daughter of James Alonzo Gowes.

A letter from Mrs. G. R. (Alice) Hunt Peterson of 2631 College View Dr., Japlin Mo. refers to the meeting of her nephew John Hunt with the Editor in Salt Lake City. She writes:

"My paternal great grandparents were George Hunt and Maria Thompson. Son Edward Henry Hunt married Christina McCallum. Their son Charles Edward (b 1877) was my father. A cousin of my father, Merle Henry Johnson, whose grandparents were George Hunt and Mary Pendergast, lives in Kars. My husband and I plan to be in Ontario in September. We should like to visit the area where our grandparents and great grandparents lived and we should like to look further into records."

Two other gifts to the Society were from Judith Ann Keen of Ottawa:

Some notes on the name DEVEREUX and its variants.

Some notes on the surname LEMOINE and its variants.

We appreciate Judith's interest in us and thanks for sending this information.

Mrs. Jean Mott of Brownsburg, P.Q., an authority on the early settlers of her area, tells us that she is descended from Katherine, the daughter of Duncan McDonald written about in Volume XV of Pioneer families. Catherine was the young bride of Mr. Calder and the mother of many children. Mrs. Mott sent for a copy of the

reprint of Rev. Daniel McPhail's History of the Baptist Churches of the Ottawa Association. She has recorded the inscriptions on the stones in the Cemetery where his parents, Duncan McPhail and Janet McNaughton are buried. Rev. McPhail was minister in Osgoode for over 25 years.

Mrs. Rolland Nesbitt sent through cousin Jessie Robertson -

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

This is to certify that MR GEORGE HARVEY of the City of Ottawa in the County of Carleton and Province of Canada and

Miss Margaret Meldrum of the Township of Winchester were duly and legally married by me REV. DANIEL MCPHAIL Pastor of the Regular Baptist Church in Ottawa on the nineteenth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy,

Daniel McPhail,
Baptist Minister

His wife, Catherine J. McPhail (McGregor) was one of the witnesses. This is one of the last marriages he would have performed as he suffered a stroke shortly afterwards.

"One of our very early valuable collections was a bundle of letters loaned to us by Peter Crerar. The letters dated from 1821 and after the arrival of the family in Osgoode. We began to photostat the collection and realized that the Archives should have a copy and could do a much better job than we could. They did photostat them and a vivid picture is presented of the customs and hard times of so many of our settlers from the same area. Peter's Aunt Anna, a beloved organist of the Osgoode Presbyterian Church for many years, had saved the precious letters - one bearing one of the first stamps used when penny postage came into use.

We received the letters back and a complimentary copy from the Archives. But unfortunately one of the most precious letters was missing - a letter edged in black telling of the death of Uncle James. Fortunately we had a copy - if poorly done. It reads:

London, 25 Dec'r 1847

My Dear Father

I have this day shipped on board the Royal Adelaide 3 boxes directed to you containing my uncle's wearing apparel etc., keys of which you will find in a pair of stockings in the brown trunk.

I have kept the gold Chain and Seal that was to the watch as you wished me

My Dear Father

Your most dutiful Son

Gilbert Crerar

The last letter in the set, written to Canada, tells of Gilbert's leaving for Australia. When the writer was in Lawers, Perthshire, having tea with a Mrs. Robertson, she told of a Crerar from Australia who had been there the previous day, looking for his ancestors. We have the Gaelic Bible of Gilbert's father, Alexander Crerar. It states:

"Alex'r Crerar was born in Claggan Artalnaig Perthshire, Scotland on May 7th, 1779, died in the Township of Osgoode, Canada West on the 28th of May 1861."

Perthshire records show his birth and his parents, Gilbert Crerar and Catherine Campbell.

The Recordings of Spring Hill Cemetery have been typed by Gladys Ferguson of Ottawa, and she and husband Eric have checked them. This is a giant step towards their publication.

The Cemetery Recordings for Russell Township have been put into print. And there is even a 53-page copy containing the index of the whole set of cemeteries - price \$4.50. The entire work is the work of Ken Colins and his wife Evalyn assisted by Fern Small.

The Historical Society were invited to have an exhibit at Russell Agricultural Fair. The work done this year on the Rideau Canal and Osgoode by a member of our Museum Board, Dr. David Gray has produced favourable comment both at the Museum and at other exhibits where a wider public can examine it. We should still welcome pictures, anecdotes and personal experiences of life along the Rideau.

David is undertaking a further similar study of THE CASTOR and its great influence on the settlement, industries, agriculture, and daily life along its many branches and tributaries.

There will be an exhibit again this year at the Metcalfe Agricultural Society Fair the first weekend in October.

We promised to tell a little of the logging experiences of the twins, Robert and Dan McGregor.

In the Spring of 1860, twins Robert and Dan were, at age 13, two men on one of the five cribs to go down the Castor from the Belmeade area. (p 30)

"The water was quite high and the current swift. All went quite well with us until we saw a jam ahead of us. Our only plan was with our great oars to draw to the shore and snub. The oars were quite heavy but, being balanced at centre ends of each crib, we managed to pull the stern near enough the shore to snub to a small tree. When the jam was cleared, Dan walked out to unloose it. The current being quite strong, the crib started at once, and Dan, who had not learned to swim, was plunged overhead into the water. His head came up again and I was able to give him something to catch hold of and he was saved. You can imagine our great joy.

We sailed down and darkness was coming on. We again snubbed and stayed over night at a farm house. In the early morning we started again reaching Duncanville (Russell) safely where we gave our crib into the hands of pilots who were competent to run the slides over the Duncanville Dam. Our Crib would join the others at High Falls. From there all would be on its way to Quebec, father accompanying the shipment."

Note: Our copy of the Robert McGregor Story comes to us through a descendant of Edith Cowan, one of the three little girls, daughters of Daniel McGregor, who died when Principal of McMaster University (Woodstock Literary Institute) and of his wife who died heartbroken two years later.

MCEVOY FAMILY ALBUM

It is with a sense of great pride and pleasure to be able to help the many people that make requests to the Historical and Museum Society for information on their family roots. Also, we in turn greatly appreciate the contributions that you can make to us, in regard to our Pioneer families and their descendants.

We have acquired the recently published, McEvoy Family Album, (66 pages, 60 pictures) prepared by Mrs. Alice Lethbridge of Flint, Michigan. She is the Great Great Granddaughter of John McEvoy and Anastasia Powers, a pioneer family of Osgoode Township, residence, Lot 20, Con. 3, part of which still remains in the McEvoy name. In the fall of 1980, Alice and her husband Hugh, came to Osgoode, found their way to St. John Cemetery and eventually to my door, hoping to learn something more of her ancestors. Due to research prior to this time on the McEvoy family and the Kelly connection, I was able to contribute a substantial amount of information for her. Alice's Great Grandfather, Edmund McEvoy, his wife Mary Kelly (River Road Kelly) left Osgoode in 1871 for Greener fields, accompanied by his cousin Edward Patrick McEvoy and his wife Catherine Conway. They travelled together as far as Algoma, Iowa. Edmund went further west and settled in the Missouri Valley and Edward Patrick went to Emmetsburgh, where his wife's two brothers (Conway) had settled a year earlier.

The McEvoy's, like many others sons and daughters, of our Township pioneer families, that moved onward to other parts of Canada and the United States, made names for themselves and a place in history for generations to come. Edward Patrick established a Farmer Mutual Association and the first Co-operative Creamery in Emmetsburgh. He was also responsible for naming a little village near his farm, Osgoode.

Edmund, his wife (Mary Kelly) interested in cattle, farmed in the Missouri Valley, close to Omaha Market, running water and shade, all advantages in the cattle business. They had a family of 9 boys and 2 girls. Mary died April 27, 1885. On November 3, 1887, Edmund married Mrs. Ellen Hearn at Stuart, Iowa, a Civil War widow with 6 children. He then moved to Adair, Iowa and bought a small farm and with a partner, Mike McManus, bought out a large general store. Thus he was able to provide for the two families.

On August 25, 1907, Edmund with his wife, Ellen, enroute home to Osgoode for a visit, suffered a heart attack. He was removed from the train and taken to the Kemptville Hotel where he died early Sunday morning August 26. His body was interred in St. John Cemetery, Adair, Iowa.

I would like to thank Mrs. Alice Lethbridge of Flint, Michigan for her very informative publication - the McEvoy Family Album, and her acknowledgement of the contribution of the Osgoode Township Historical Museum Society. Publication such as this serves as a link with the past and continuity with the future.

Limited copies available. In Canada, phone Michael Daley, 821-2054.

IN SEARCH OF DAVID CAMPBELL

For some searchers, especially those who start early in life, ancestor-hunting can be fairly easy; then there are those, like myself, who get into this exciting hobby when there is scarcely a person living of even her father's and mother's generation. Even with a few handed-down stories, like the one I had which started me on my hunting, you can depend on your search being time-consuming, sometimes hopeless, but at other times so exciting that you'd like to shout to any one nearby, "Look what I found!"

For the past few years I have been searching out my Campbell ancestors, one of the many Campbell families that settled in Osgoode Township (mine also had land in Mountain Township at the same time), when the road between Osgoode and Mountain was unopened and was covered by heavy standing timber. I knew that my Grandmother's name was Sarah Ann Campbell (she married James Simpson as his second wife); I knew her father's name was John Saxon Campbell; his father was Thomas Campbell and his father was David Campbell.

Fortunately for me, a first cousin of my father was able to give me the names and spouses' names of the thirteen children of Thomas Campbell and his wife, Sarah Farren (Ferrin, Ferrand, etc.) who were my Great-Great-Grandparents. This same cousin also told me she'd seen a Land Grant in the Public Archives for Thomas Campbell in Plantagenet Twp. and so, in the early days I was able to read and handle the original document and then get a copy of it. This document was very important as it told me, not only the lot and concession where Thomas settled in 1815 (before the Township was surveyed) but also the name of his father - David - which information was unknown previously.

Many years, dozens of letters, and after much searching in Plantagenet and Osgoode Townships, some blanks in this large family are being filled in. Through my membership in the Osgoode Township Historical Society and the Ottawa Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, I have been put in touch with descendants of eight of Thomas and Sarah Campbell's 13 children.

My cousin, Ken Campbell of Russell, also a descendant of John Saxon Campbell, remembered visiting cousins in the Pendleton area of Plantagenet Township and took me to see them; we visited cemeteries in the area, went to the L'Original Registry Office and even to Lachute, Quebec, as I had reason to believe this Campbell family had at one time lived in Chatham Township, Argenteuil County, Quebec. One of our more important discoveries was made at L'Original a few months ago when Ken Campbell, while browsing through a Crown Lands Grant Book discovered that a David Campbell had received a Crown Grant in West Hawkesbury, December 1802. By checking the Land Book we found that the land received in the Crown Grant was sold in 1831 by a "Jairus Campbell, heir at law to David Campbell, deceased." Earlier this year I had been able to confirm that David Campbell had sons Jairus (Jeremiah) and James, as well as my Great-Great-Grandfather Thomas. And so, we knew that our David had certainly lived in West Hawkesbury, perhaps after living in Chatham Twp.

What we don't know is where David came from originally. It is family lore that he came from Scotland to what was then New York State. Another family story is that he fought with the King's Troops in the Revolutionary War while his brother fought on the other side. I do know that a David Campbell settled in Chatham Township on land settled by ex-soldiers of the 84th Regiment of Foot.

And so, as facts are what count in this business, I am presently trying to discover if David Campbell in Chatham is our David who lived and died in West Hawkesbury. Incidentally, Jairus Campbell who inherited his father's property, lived only another five years as he was killed in a dreadful storm while piloting a raft of timber on Lac St. Pierre in October 1836 - the write-up in the Montreal Gazette stated he was one of the oldest and most experienced pilots on the River.

Norma (Simpson) Morrison.

The Newsletter for 1983 will have a new Editor. We welcome contributions from all our readers and friends. Each of us has a different interesting story. The present writer hopes (D.V.) to have more time to devote to organizing the vast store of material that has been gathered in during the last few years, to make the material more accessible to each one of us, and to search out more material that will help to unfold the many-sided life of those who have gone before us.

During the next few months Volume XVI of PIONEER FAMILIES may include: SHIELDS, HOWES, McEVOY, KENNEDY, YORK, McGREGOR, TAYLOR, McVEY, CAMPBELL, McNAB.