



Osgoode Township

Historical Building & Museum

Vernon School

P.O. Box 83 - Vernon, Ontario

VOLUME I *Newsletter* 1975 NUMBER I

This is our first Newsletter to members near and far who have expressed interest in preserving and recording and studying any Historical data relating to Osgoode Township. Our sentiments are similar to those expressed so beautifully in the poem "I Must Make a Memory", written by Lillian Allin Hawkshaw, formerly of Dalmeny and Vernon. The closing lines read:

.....
New Lake you have a story
Men may some day forget.
The Muses that you murmur
Are they Joy -- or sad Regret?
I'll linger here to listen
While you whisper -- soft and low,
And I will make a memory
Of this before I go. - Lillian Hawkshaw, 1960.

The old house, shrouded with lilac bushes, in the picture above, was the home of John Ferguson 'on the Sixth'. It stood just West of Vernon close by the old North-South road. There were nine other stone houses recorded in the 1860 census. They belonged to: Robert Lowery, D. Doyle, George Popham, Daniel Ferguson, William Kearns, Samuel Loney, Peter Grant, James McDonald and Donald McLaren. Mrs. Roger Shorey, of north of Metcalfe, is convening a group to work with the Dept. of Indian and Northern Affairs in compiling an inventory of Heritage Buildings in Osgoode Township. The accumulated information about buildings and people will furnish valuable historical data.

Miss Arlowa Ferguson, our Archivist, is giving ungrudgingly of her time and experience to catalogue the wealth of precious documents that have been contributed by more than one hundred individuals. The April Newsletter will begin to acknowledge these contributors. Gary Maunder and James Lambert from the Manuscript Division of the Public Archives visited our Centre, later gave us a tour of the Archives, and presented us with carefully laid out instructions on how we could proceed with cataloguing our material. Ross Reid of the Public Archives helped us secure a micro-film reader.

An enthusiastic charter member, the late Miss Louise Stearns, was our first secretary. Her brother, Olin Stearns, presented the Centre with an old oak writing desk in memory of Louise.

Our most comprehensive collection comes from the Estate of the late Wm. S. Bower of Osgoode Village, through the generosity of Mrs. Bower. Rare books, pamphlets, scrap-books, legal documents, artifacts,

were donated.

The oldest document in our possession is an 1811 Crown Deed to Lot 34 in the First Concession to James Fraser, son of Captain Wm. Fraser, UE Loyalist, reserving all mines of gold and silver and all white pine trees 'that shall or may now, or hereafter grow' on any part of the said parcel. There was a proviso that 'a good and sufficient dwelling house' be erected within three years and 'some person to be therein resident for and during the course of one year....ensuing the building of the same'. Another deed indicates that James Fraser sold the same land to Jonas Jones for 50 pounds in the year 1818. These deeds, along with other artifacts, were presented by Mrs. Hedley Boyd (Clara Allen) now of Kemptville.

Special events included two travelogues, one through Ireland with Michael Daly, another through Scotland with Lawrence and Katie Brunton. At the latter meeting, Katie presented books, records, and pictures from the estate of her late mother, Mrs. Margaret Briggs-Carkner, a long time resident of Vernon, and a member of the McTavish Clan.

Dr. Michael Lewis, Geologist, on the Dalmeny Road, assisted by his wife Ann, explained and illustrated some of the strange features of the earth's surface in the Ottawa District.

Mr. Ron Curtis of the River Road described his extensive research in producing a Saunders Family Tree.

At the first Open House, Frances Iveson, of Ottawa, formerly of Metcalfe, indicated the wide range of subjects that constitute Osgoode History. At the second Open House, Miss Iveson, by means of a large display of artifacts indicated the involvement of her family in Township affairs.

In our files there are valuable Church Records, many indexed, and we are in the process of recording the 4600 names on the 1861 Census.

Numerous very old Crerar letters reveal the social conditions of Scotland, especially Perthshire, the district from which many emigrated to Osgoode.

Old correspondence dealing with early settlements, the so-called Township Papers, have been carefully micro-filmed by the Ontario Archives, Toronto, and can be read at the Centre in Vernon.

Meetings in February and March are at 2.00 P.M. Friday afternoons, Feb. 21, March 7, March 21. The building is open by appointment.

E. STUART, President
G. HILL, Vice-President
H. ANDERSON, Secretary

J. Dow, Treasurer
A. Ferguson, Archivist
S. M. Lee, Social Convenor