



Osgoode Township

Historical Society & Museum

Vernon School

P.O. Box 83 - Vernon, Ontario

Newsletter

VOLUME 2 1976 NUMBER 1

This first Newsletter of 1976 is going out to at least 230 individuals, each interested in a different way, in the History of Osgoode Township or in the Museum that is being established for our Township. We can be of great assistance to one another as individuals, and there is no limit to the effect that our combined effort can have in preserving the story of the past 175 years of our Township.

Again we have to apologize for late publication of this Newsletter. This time, one of the difficulties was the present strike affecting paper. Earlier, letterheads were printed on paper that could have been used only on one side. The Winchester Press could not find any suitable paper other than white. When this paper was finally acquired, the Press lost no time in preparing the letterheads for us.

During the last quarter of the 1st year we became incorporated as THE OSGOODE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY. We thank our solicitor, Fred Cass, and his secretary, Mrs. Cook, for their guidance and help. We thank, too, Herbert Donaldson Taylor for delivering our documents to the appropriate Toronto Office, when the usual mail service failed us. Because of our new name and status, at the first meeting of the year, we reinstated the officers of the previous Historical Group. As well, we appointed Mrs. John Robb as treasurer of the Osgoode Township Museum, and added four Directors to our executive: Miss Frances Iveson, Michael Daley, Dr. Lorne MacLachlan, and Thomas Stanley. We can now send out receipts to those making donations in money.

Lumbering was the first industry in the Township, and we had expected to have on our Newsletter a picture of the first and very active Lumber Mill in Kenmore. The picture was kindly loaned by Mrs. W. B. Wallen (Jennie Watson), daughter of Hugh Watson who is one of the men in the picture. At the time, the picture was not clear enough to do justice to the operation. But the picture can be used at a later date.

The second industry was agriculture, and we were fortunate to be loaned this remarkable picture of an early farmyard that was part of the homestead of John Loney, descendant of Samuel Loney mentioned in an earlier Newsletter. It is not often that you find a picture that is so representative of the daily lives of so many of our early ancestors and at the same time indicates that farming was and still is a family affair. All the members of this family that are seen can be identified. The picture was taken about 1880 from the window of the Loney stone house that has the date 1850 showing on the stone. The old hollowed out trough and other interesting parts of the picture had to be cut off.

One of our very, very valuable members is the person who has redeveloped this picture and made it clear enough for use. He has worked for hours, too, on the Kenmore Mill picture to bring back the wonderful story it tells. This photographer is:

Mr. Wilfred J. Kearns,
2069 Saunderson Drive,
OTTAWA, ONT. K1G 2E5 Phone: 733-6325

He would like us all to go through our valuable pictures of the past and take them to him in his private studio in the basement of his home where he specializes in making old pictures and documents look better than new. Moreover, he gives you a negative for future use. Miss Frances Iveson has already had about 100 pictures of the Metcalfe area reprinted. Mr. Kearns' work is better and cheaper than any other we know of. The Loney Family have had a dozen pictures 8"x10 distributed of their farm scene.

It would be helpful to have a photo-album of every village and Corners in the Township. Already the Kenmore Womens' Institute has bought some of the reprints for

their Tweedsmuir Book. You can either contact Mr. Kearns direct or lend us the pictures to get redeveloped for you. Wilf Kearns was the first President of the Ottawa Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society.

At the first meeting of the year Miss E. Gordon spoke of how a group of twelve worked together to produce family histories under a New Horizons Grant. Miss Reba Simpson displayed one of the books that have been printed. Betty Gordon had relatives on the Dalmeny Road. At the same meeting, Herb Taylor told of his finds in an old shoe box. In an earlier Newsletter, we printed a Passenger Ticket of John and Sarah Taylor and family. Herbert gave us the letter sent by son John to his parents before they left Ireland. The letter was sent from South Gower. In the 1851 census, the entire family is found in North Gower Township. Any information on names mentioned would be appreciated.

Southgower March 26, 1847

My Dear Father and Mother,

Enclosed we send you eighteen pounds ... I am sorry that we could not get any more now money is scarcer this season than any since I came here as crops did not do so well last year ... I trust you will make no delay in coming ... I think you will not have much trouble in coming from Quebec up here if the Lord spares you to arrive safe across the wide ocean we can do much better in this country than in Ireland ... Though we can do better here in this strange land we will often think of the land of our birth and of the friends we left behind I am sorry to here that you have got but Thirty shillings of the five pounds we sent you and that times are so bad in Ireland ... cloth is getting cheaper in this country but it is double the price it is in Ireland ... if you can have some warm clothes with you for the winter it would be well

But if you cannot if you can have enough to bring you all here we can get enough for our work .. bring your plains and handsaw and some chisels bring some diest plase (flax?) for there is none grows in this part bring five pounds or more of soap all make their own here out of the ashes of the timber but it is soft and only does to wash coarse clothes Dear mother bring your wheel and a pair of good wool cards ... bring 3 pounds of remlets of sextiny cloth... should you think that you would not get from quebec here free I would try to meet you in montreal you can know how you will be for money when you take your passage... bring a hymn book and all your other Books... I think long to hear from grandmother whether she has got strong again or not do what you can to make her comfortable and if we are spared I expect to send her some money by next winter...

We have had a pleasant winter this past season the snow kept off to late in the fall but it is pretty deep now... Thomas reid is now in montreal hospital he had got badly hurt by a fall off a young horse. Give my love to John McCrackin Andrew galbraith Alexander Meclintock... Uncle William Armstrong and aunt Jane Uncle James Blaney and John waddle...

Father I hear that Ireland is in a state of misery which I am sorry for, for my heart always clings to it for it is the most healthiest climate... I took what the call the fever and ague on the 17 of September and was not able to do one days work for about four months I stoped six weeks in Mr. Allens and the Doctor atended me well and would not charge anything, and the were all very kind to me and if I never be able to reward them I hope the Lord will, and after that I came to My youngs where I was living when I took it and stopd there ever since and they would not charge me anything for my board and washing, but I have very good health now and am able to work

Money Letter
Mr. John Taylor Tullyrush
Near Omagh
County Tyrone
Ireland

The postal stamps include South Gower, Hecks Corners, Prescott, Montreal, Omagh.

We can all get something different from this letter: the unselfishness, and concern for others expressed here is not common today.

The Taylors have been using plains and handsaws ever since. Many buildings in every part of the Township were built by a Taylor. A Kenmore History says the two Taylor brothers have just finished the school.

Query: Whom was James Taylor, the other brother referred to in the letters married to? He lived in Kenmore and was a Joiner.

We are acquainted with another descendant - our Reeve.

The first recorded vote for the landowners of Osgoode Township took place in October, 1834, in New Edinburgh, when the candidates were Thomas McKay and Daniel O'Connor. After a contest lasting six days Mr. McKay was elected by a majority of seven votes. 155 votes were cast altogether. A copy of the Poll Book in Mr. O'Connor's handwriting was found among his papers. The returning officer was Simon Frazer of Bytown. The 155 voters came from Gloucester, Gloucester on the Rideau, Gloucester in the Gore, Gloucester on the Ottawa, Clarence, Russell, Cumberland, Ambridge, and Osgoode. People are numbered as they voted.

15.	Moses Doyle	Glouc'ter.. Gore	20	2	O'Connor
16.	John Burchel	do	21	3	do
17.	James Doyle	Osgoode	20	2	do

It would seem that Moses Doyle and the James Doyle who was the original owner of Duncan Campbell's farm at Dalmeny were related. Again

51.	Richard Hall	Osgoode	19	9	O'Connor
52.	Peter Tobin	do	30	9	do
53.	Samuel Lowney	do	17	9	do

Sometime we shall type out the complete Osgoode list of voters.

Dr. J. V. Wright, Osgoode, will be the Guest Speaker at our meeting on January 30th, 7.30 p.m.

Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month. The first meetings are held in the afternoon at 2.00 p.m. The meetings on the 3rd Fridays are held in the evening at 7.30 p.m. Dates for afternoon meetings for February and March are: February 6, March 5; evening meetings February 20, March 19.

Memberships are now due - before April - for the year 1976.

Discussions are underway for having "pancake" days in the Sugar Bush at Maplehurst Farm on the Dalmeny Road on the first Friday and Saturday in April - April 2nd and 3rd.

YOUR GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

Our method of caring for the material you give to us is an adaptation of the system used by the Public Archives of Canada for storing manuscripts and of procedures used by small museums throughout Ontario for the safekeeping of artifacts.

Most of the manuscript material consists of originals or copies of legal documents, account books, scrapbooks, old letters, and other records, as well as published books. We separate the manuscripts into government records; school records; church records; business, professional and agricultural records; and other (including papers of families, service organizations etc.) Then we store them in cases specially designed to preserve them, or else in filing cabinets. Published books are to be arranged according to library principles. We will describe our museum procedures in a later Newsletter.

Following are the names of donors to either the manuscript archives or museum. If you have made a donation and do not see your name below, please let the curator know.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Anderson
Mrs. Edward Armstrong
The Blair family
Mrs. Gordon Blair
Estate of Mr. William Bower
Mrs. William Bower
Mrs. Hedley Boyd
The Briggs family
Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Brunton
Mr. Alex J. Campbell
Estate of Miss Ida Campbell
Miss Jessie Campbell

Mrs. Dick Linton
Mr. Lawrence MacAndrew
Mrs. Hugh McDiarmid
Mr. Duncan McDonald
Mr. Albert McKeown
Mr. B. D. MacKeracher
Estate of Mrs. Duncan MacKeracher
Dr. Lorne MacLachlan
Mr. George MacLellan
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas MacMillan
Estate of Mr. R. A. McNabb
Mr. and Mrs. Jack McDiarmid

Mrs. Rolla Campbell
 Estate of Mr. Stanley Campbell
 Miss Phyllis Campbell
 Mrs. John Cinnamon
 Mrs. Mary Cooper
 Estate of Mrs. E. T. Cowan
 Mrs. Edgar Craig
 Mr. Michael Daley
 Mr. Wilmer Dalgleish
 Estate of Mr. Gordon Russell Dow
 Mrs. William Dow
 Mrs. William Drew and Miss Isobel Drew
 Estate of Mrs. R. P. Drummond
 Mr. Arnold Duncan
 Estate of Mr. Arthur Fetterley
 Mrs. Alex Fraser
 Mr. Gerald Hill
 Miss Frances Iveson
 Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kerr
 Mr. Morgan Kinkade
 Mrs. W. Lake
 Mr. Edward Lanoue
 Mr. and Mrs. David Laverie
 Mrs. Clinton Lewis

Estate of Miss Kate McTavish
 Miss Winifred Meldrum
 Miss Della Park
 Estate of Mr. Howard Porteous
 Estate of Miss Margaret Porteous
 Mr. Roy Porteous
 Mrs. Wilfred Porteous
 Mrs. John Reoch
 Mr. Esborn Rice
 Mr. John Robb
 Miss Jessie Robertson
 Estate of Mr. Robert Robertson
 Mr. Henry Robinson
 Mrs. Herbert Robinson
 Miss Laura Rutherford
 Mr. R. M. Shorey
 Mrs. Wilmont Stanley
 Estate of Miss Louise Stearns
 W. Straby's General Store and Garage
 Miss Elizabeth Stuart
 Estate of Mr. James Stewart
 Mrs. Charles Wallace
 Mrs. Ralph Wright
 Mrs. Robert Wyatt

A SPECIAL REQUEST:

Please give us any details you can about your donation - its history, or how, when, where, and by whom it was used. If it is a picture, date it if you can and tell us anything you know about it.

Miss Arlowa Ferguson,
 Archivist and Curator.