



Dr. Ballantyne in Vernon

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

Vernon School

P.O. Box 83 - Vernon, Ontario

Newsletter

VOLUME 6 1980 NUMBER 2

The winter is over and gone, and week after week we waited for the usual heavy snow storm that would pile up high drifts, block our roads and driveways, and close our schools; but the snow and the bitter cold winds never came. We have had a winter such as none of us can remember.

And then there was sugar-making time that bewildered everyone when the sap simply refused to run. But the 10 gallons made at the Stuart Sugar Bush was sufficient for members of our Society to serve pancakes and Maple Syrup during the Easter weekend. Among others, we talked with people from South Africa, England, Mexico, British Columbia, Alberta who watched the syrup making process for the first time. What a tragedy it would have been if our Pioneers had experienced a lack of sap as there was this year. The Maple Products gave the sugar supply for the whole year, and from syrup there was a big source of food and vinegar.

Donald McKerchar, son of Duncan and Jessie from the north east shore of Loch Tay, arrived here in 1854. In writing home to his nephews, Duncan and Gilbert McLaren, he states:

"... I am still working for Stewart (Alex'n and wife Catherine McDiarmid). The snow left the ground about the 20th of April and I commenced ploughing amongst the stumps and a hard work it is I would rather work a month in Breadalbane than one week in this brute of a place it is getting so hot now you would think the wind is coming off a burning mountain and the flies are commencing now there is a kind they call them misscatties they are very bad and poisoness and very thick for two months...."

"...I dont like to be under a master in Canada for they work from sun rises till she sets and that is from 4 oclock in the morning till 8 at night Breakfast at six Dinner at twelve Supper at 5 oclock and may be tea three times a day and no sugar used in the tea in Canada it would be to expensive there is only certain time in the year that thia sugar will run of the mapllel tree that is in April but there is a great trubble making it this country is very rough for a stranger to look at it is so level and covered with woods and has holes hear and there the trees are one third longer than in the auld country and thicker than drummond hill tree times and the trees are but cabbage plants beside the timber here you shall no see a hill nor a glen here nor a burn running I would rather one sight of Lochtay than all I saw in Canada....."

The postage marks on the outside of the 2 letters indicate the mail service at the time. There was a Post Office - OSGOODE - was it at Metcalfe corner?

OSGOODE	BYTOWN	MONTREAL	PKT LETTER	GREENOCK	MILLPORT
JU 16	JU 21	JU 22	LIVERPOOL	CONVEYED BY UNITED	9 JY
1855	1855	1855	8 JY	STATES PACKET	1855
C.W.	L.C.	L.C.	1855	8 JY	
				1855	

Cost of the above letter was 9/2 - nine shillings and two pence.

OSGOODE	CITY OF OTTAWA	MONTREAL	PKTLETTER	
OC 1	OC 2	OC 3	LIVERPOOL	Stamp for Blair
1856	1856	1856	OC 19	Atholl unreadable
C.W.	U.C.	L.C.	E1856	

Osgoode was still using the letters for Canada West when Bytown had changed to Upper Canada.

Osgoode Post Office in the Village of Osgoode was established in 1880. The Osgoode Centennial Committee have already sent out their program for a very busy and interesting time beginning on May 24. The week in June from the 14th to the 21st is packed with events that should attract everyone. We congratulate the committee for getting so many people and organizations involved.

A new publication - FROM THEN TO NOW - is already off the Press. Margaret Robb of Osgoode has worked hard at collecting and editing material consisting of pictures, maps, stories, etc. The book sells for \$3.00. Phone 826-2354 or write the Museum.

Your Editor has just returned from studying for a week at the Genealogical Library at Salt Lake City. It would be hard to imagine any place more attractive at this time of the year. The beautifully landscaped grounds are fragrant with many-coloured spring flowers against a background of grass as green as in Ireland, trees in blossom, and water and fountains. A short distance away are the snow-clad mountains where there is skiing nine months in the year.

Part of the first floor of the large building, that employs 2000 people, is given over to information about the USA and Canada. In no place in Ontario is there as much information in one place about Osgoode Township - much of it on micro-film. There are the Minutes of the Township Meetings, 1850-90, the assessment rolls which we do not have in Vernon, Wills, Land Records, Atlas, Maps, Surrogate Court proceedings, Osgoode Baptist Church Records 1865-88, miscellaneous. Some of the films we plan to purchase.

The Surrogate Court Records for Carleton County have many books of indexes, giving name of deceased, residence, occupation, name of administrator. For example:

Nelson Campbell, Osgoode, Yeoman, d 1 Dec 1858; Alex Campbell, brother.
 Jonathon Mossup, Osgoode, Y, d 5 March 1862; Clarinda Mossup, Widow.
 Benjamin Wright, Osgoode, Y, d 26 Jan 1869; Sarah Wright, Widow.
 John Brady, March, Labourer, d 21 Dec 1868; Irvine Vance, March
 Peter Tomkins, Glouc. Esq. d 11 March, 1870; Henry Tomkins, Osgoode.
 Wm York, Osgoode, Hotel Keeper, d 22 Jan 1873; Mary York, Widow.
 Michael Brady Brannan, Osgoode, Carpenter, d 26 Feb 1873; Eliz Tharassa Brannan.
 Thos Gillissia Osgoode, Y, d 7 March 1874; John Gillissia Osgoode.
 Joseph Eugene Bruno Guigues, Ottawa, R.C. Bishop, d Feb 1848; Damasel Dandurand
 Terrance McGee, Osgoode, Y, d 25 March 1875; Thos Daley, Osgoode, Yeoman. P.P.

When Nelson Campbell died he left 7 orphans. His wife, Mary Ann Wood, had predeceased him. In Volume XIII of Pioneer Families the children are mentioned under the story of John Wood 2nd. Since writing that story much more information has come to light. The oldest daughter, Johanna, was the first wife of Hiram Wyatt, Barn-Framer. Her two daughters, Katie Ann and Mary Ann have many descendants in the district. Cleon Merkley's father, Nelson Campbell Merkley was a son of Katie Ann & Cleon is living almost across the highway from where his great great great grandparents are buried. The other daughter married a Silmsen.

The actual books of records have as their first two cases familiar names:

Michael Stackpole of Nepean made his Will 12 March 1842. Mary Haw Stackpole, widow, was the Administrator. Son John was to get one shilling; Sons Thomas and William were to get property in Nepean; son Patrick was to get 30 pounds when he became 21; the furniture, horses, horned cattle, sheep, pigs, fowles were to remain the property of his wife Mary. Was it this Mary that lived to be over 100 years?

William Brennan, Gloucester, made his Will March 4, 1842. Wife Miriam was to get a lot in Gloucester; young James, son, another lot; there were lots in Bytown between Rideau and George and income from these lots was to be used to educate the children until they were 15 years old; if they lived that long; brother Thomas was to get 100 acres; child William was to get 75 acres in Osgoode; and there were other lots for children Mary Ann, Eliza Ann, and Matilda. William Brennan had been a very enterprising man during his young life and his few years in Canada. He had provided for his whole family.

From our Osgoode Township Papers we read that on Dec. 31, 1838, Thomas Brennan of Gloucester agreed to pay for the rear half of lot eight in the third concession of Osgoode, ten shillings per acre. And in 1855, Robert Bell, P.L.S. said the east half of the lot contained 30 acres of ridge land-rest low wet cedar and tamarac swamps. It was worth 5 shillings an acre. The improvements belonged to William Brennan who built a log house in 1840 and cleared 22 acres.

The 3rd floor of the Genealogical Library has a large room with material from the British Isles, Europe, and even Australia and New Zealand.

We saw two books on the Folkard Family of England. The name is in the Doomsday Book.

Another gift is from Dr. Edwin Welch -

ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS

HELD BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF OTTAWA

The Ottawa Society, since its beginning in 1898, had collected 40 boxes of materials. Dr. Welch catalogued these and the NCC printed the book which was distributed to 100 libraries throughout Canada. He kindly sent one to our Society. The material is presently kept in a house owned by the NCC on the Baseline Road and may be seen by appointment. A more central location will be used later. There is a photostat copy of Daniel O'Connor's Diary, and there is a marriage certificate: "James O'Brien and Maria Heas by D. Dandurand, R.C. Missionary of Bytown, at Bytown Missionary Church, 1 July 1844."

Our President, Michael Daly, again prepared for us a fine evening's entertainment when we "Honoured the Irish". Although the rain fell all day March 20, the spirit of the evening was not dampened and we were treated to songs, dancing, readings, stories, group singing of a very high order. We are grateful to our President and Master of Ceremonies, Michael Daly, for his hard work in gathering together local talent of which we are extremely proud.

The Financial Statement for the Museum, 1979, follows:

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Donations	\$ 2,397.96	Share of Maintenance	\$ 1,238.92
Families	864.00	Curator and Assistants	1,432.40
Glimpses	575.50	Producing Families	661.65
Both Sides of the River	303.00	Cost of Maps	321.00
Other Publications	236.50	Printing Publications	1,020.00
Maps of Osgoode	113.50	Publications bought for resale	678.00
Atlas	359.00	Historical Atlases	187.00
Basket Receipts	83.02	Osgoode-Perth Hist Conference	1,600.00
Special Projects	503.13	Special Projects	446.00
Miscellaneous	62.94	Office Supplies, Postage, Charts	244.84
Provincial Grant	3,757.00	Donations Share, 1978, to Hist. Soc.	246.52
Interest	1,266.90	Refreshments	84.56
<hr/>		Bank Certificate	2,000.00
Total Income	\$10,522.45	Miscellaneous and bank charges	74.69
Total Expense	10,235.58	<hr/>	
Excess Income	\$ 286.87	Total Expenses	\$ 10,235.58
Bank Certificates	14,000.00		
Blue Chip	1,767.82		
Current	1,480.65		
<hr/>			
Book Balance as of Dec. 31, 1979	\$17,535.34		

Margaret Robb, Treasurer of Museum

NOTE: The money for Curators was mainly for outside assistance. Our Curators, Arlowa Ferguson, Vivienne Shorey, Amy Daykin, and Barbara Macey, have worked hundreds of hours and travelled hundreds of miles without remuneration. They accept some expenses for attending Conferences and Seminars. At \$1.00 an hour for their time we would have no money in the bank. Thank you, Curators and others for your valuable volunteer work.

The Pioneer Committee have worked for months planning the 4th annual PIONEER DAYS to be held in Vernon the last week end in July. More details will be given in the July Newsletter.