



Osgoode Township

Historical Building & Museum

Bernon School

P.O. Box 83 - Bernon, Ontario

Newsletter
VOLUME 1 1975 No. 2

Archibald McDonell, wrote from Osgoode, 6th December, 1832, "to His Excellency Sir John Colburn...Lieut Governor of the Province of Upper Canada..."

"The Petition of Archibald McDonell, late Captain in the First Regiment of Stormont Militia...during the late war with the United States of America....Your Petitioner moved into the Bounty of Land granted to him in consideration of his services in the Township of Osgoode, County of Russel, Ottawa District in the year 1827 then twenty Miles from any settlement.... Your Petitioner devoted much of his time and means to the opening of Roads through the Township, which facilitated the way for many others to follow him, and there are now, Thirty seven respectable Scotch Families, Twenty five Irish, Five English and Four Canadian born, residing in it and a number of other families are coming this winter, and your Petitioner flatters himself with the hope of seeing, in a short time this Township the most flourishing Settlement in the district."

Mr. McDonell went on to say that since they were at a distance of 85 miles from the headquarters of the district he believed the settlers were not getting justice from the public treasury and requested that a magistrate be appointed in his Township.

"Your Petitioner is informed that... a man mentioned for the Commission of the Peace...is a man by the name of Billings who left the frontier on the St. Lawrence immediately after the Declaration of the American War in order to avoid doing Duty and settled on the Bank of the Rideau, on a Clergy Reserve, where he had accumulated considerable property...the inhabitants of this County are all true born British Subjects and your Petitioner most humbly prays that none of those Yankees may have a voice over them."

Names mentioned of people known to the petitioner who would be suitable for the position were: Henry Hanna, Donald McIntosh, Daniel Cameron, Alexander McDonell (son Gloucester) Thos. McKay, Urquhart (brother of Rev. Urquhart, Cornwall), John Anderson, Sam Thompson, Elisha Lackey.

(From Upper Canada Sundries 1832, pp8436-9 Public Archives)

Who were all the 71 families here in December 1832? In the Census of 1842, when the heads of families were named, we see 242 families recorded. This 1841-2 Census gives the number in each family; the country from which the family came, their religious affiliation, and the crops grown. We have copies of this Census in our building so that visitors may inspect it. Most of Ontario have a record of the personal census for the year 1851. That taken for Osgoode has been lost, but there is an Agricultural Census that gives the owners of the property by lot and concession and the crops grown.

The 1861 Census for Osgoode Township is complete. All the 4500 names are now recorded, mainly through the persistent effort of Mrs. Lorne Craig (Alice Dalgleish). The Ferguson family living in the stone house above were recorded as follows:

p.59	FERGUSON, John	farmer	b	Scotland	Baptist	45	male	mar.	Stone
	FERGUSON, Janet		b	"	"	48	fem.	"	house 1822
	FERGUSON, Cathrine		b	Up. Can	"	22	"	Single	One story
	FERGUSON, John		b	"	"	20	male	"	one family
	FERGUSON, Eliza		b	"	"	17	fem.	"	
	FERGUSON, Margret		b	"	"	16	"	"	
	FERGUSON, Peter		b	"	"	15	male	"	
	FERGUSON, Christane		b	"	"	13	fem.	"	
	FERGUSON, Ellen		b	"	"	10	"	"	
	FERGUSON, Jane		b	"	"	12	"	"	

Peter Ferguson, one of the sons in the family mentioned on the previous page, married Elizabeth Kennedy. Three of their children remember growing up in the stone house: J. Howard Ferguson, now of Ottawa, age 90 on January 11 last, Mrs. Ernest MacEwen (Ida) of Kingston, and Mrs. George MacDonald (Pearl) of Kenmore. Mr. and Mrs. George MacDonald will be celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary on June 2nd.

Miss Arlowa Ferguson, granddaughter of John Jr. above who married Jessie MacLaurin, has been working diligently recording the great variety of interesting items that have been presented to our Historical Building and Museum.

We wish to acknowledge gifts from the following Estates:

Mrs. Ed Cowan (Hope Hume)	Mr. William S. Bower
Mrs. Briggs-Carkner (Margaret Phair)	Mrs. David Shaw (Amy Knight)
Mrs. Edward Lanoue (Jean Kennedy)	Dr. John McLeod Stuart and
Donald McLean and	his wife Ruby Helmer
his wife Estella Stuart	Robert McRuer
Miss Ida Campbell	Bob Robertson
Miss Louise Stearns	Mrs. Edward Kennedy (Annie Thomas)

The July Newsletter will acknowledge further contributions.

During the last few months most of the meetings were presided over by the vice-president, Gerald Hill, ably assisted by the others on the Executive. The president was laid up with the flu for a prolonged length of time. Some of those who contributed to the meetings were Michael Daly, who told some of the interesting stories he had heard about his neighbourhood; Gerald Hill, who showed pictures of some of his travels; Mrs. Morrison (Norma Simpson) who explained areas of research into her family history, a family that includes a great many in Osgoode Township; Rev. Minvielle (Father Mike) of Metcalfe, who has a great appreciation of people and of the many parts of the world he is acquainted with; Mrs. Audrey Renton, of Kars, who has found a great deal of valuable information on early Methodism in this district.

During the next month we plan to begin an index of the Osgoode Township Papers which we have on microfilm from the Ontario Archives. There is an abundance of miscellaneous material about a great number of people. For example:

In another letter written by Captain Archibald McDonell from Osgoode, December 12, 1832, we read:

"There are a number of persons squatted on Clergy Reserves these three years, and I must accuse myself of having encouraged them, being anxious to have this new section of the County settled, and I am happy to state that although they came into the Township in indigent circumstances, they are now able to make payments if they knew in what manner to make application. List...."

Names		Lot	Conc.	When settled
Daniel Cameron	purchased	22	6	1830
John Woods	squatter	34	6	1830
Arch'd Scott	"	19	7	1832
Felix Donnelly	"	27	7	1830
William Watt	"	17	8	1832
Haslet Anderson (Andrews?)	"	29	8	1830
Samuel Lony	"	18	9	1831
E. McMullen	"	33	9	1832
J. & W. McDonald	"	28	10	1830
Wm. Caserly	"	18	10	1831
Robert Grant	"	33	9	1830

Mrs. Connie Sallans is showing pictures of her trip to Japan on Friday evening, May 30. We plan to have open house at the Museum from Saturday, June 28, through Tuesday, July 1.

The building is open any time by appointment with any of the Executive.