



Kenmore Continuation School

## Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

Vernon School

P.O. Box 83 - Vernon, Ontario

◆◆◆ Newsletter ◆◆◆

VOLUME 7 1981 NUMBER 1

We realize that the picture on our 1981 Newsletter is unfamiliar to most of you, yet very familiar to the few of us who had the privilege of spending some of our adolescent years in the old Kenmore Continuation School. Children in the Kenmore area went to Yorks' Corners School for many years. Later a Public School was built on the east side of the road and later the present building, now used as a home, was constructed. Secondary Education in Kenmore began in this building in 1911. At first, pupils from outside the School Section had to pay tuition to attend. In 1919 that fee, later dropped, was \$25. But this building was not constructed for a school. It was built at the expense of David McGregor and Peter Dewar as a Baptist Meeting Place, and was used as well for the Kenmore Methodist Class.

The Canadian Inventory of Historic Building has recently undertaken a study of pre-1930 school buildings in Canada, and, according to a letter from the "ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY SECTION ... NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS AND SITES BRANCH", assistance that anyone can provide to help them in this survey will be appreciated. Do you know when a certain School was built, the name of the builder, the original plan, any alterations, the first trustees, the last trustees, the present use? We should like you to pass on to us any bits of information you may have on the above matters, or you could write direct-sending a picture if you have one, to SCHOOL STUDY, PARKS CANADA, Ottawa, K1A 1G2.

The Historical Society has been fortunate in having as its President a young man, with his roots firmly planted in the soil of Osgoode Township, one who is continuing in the traditional occupation of the Township, that of Agriculture, and one who, though busier than most of us, is never too occupied to give hearty support to any matter that will benefit the Society.

### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

*As my term of Office draws to a close, my mind goes back to my first introduction to what later became the Osgoode Township Historical Society. I shall give a brief sketch of what has taken place.*

*On November 23, 1972, a group of Senior Citizens, 12 persons in all, met and organized "The New Horizons Historical Group of Osgoode Township". This group was headed by Miss Elizabeth Stuart, a retired schoolteacher, and its primary purpose was to research, collect data, preserve it, and publish the early history of our Pioneer Families. They met for a number of times in the homes of the members. I attended one such meeting and I was deeply impressed by their dedication to search out and compile data on the Pioneer Life in the Township.*

*A trip to the Emerald Isle, the Birthplace of my forefathers, was enough to further propell me into the "Fascinating World of Genealogy". By February, 1973, the Group contacted the Carleton School Board regarding the possibility of using part of the vacant School Building in Vernon, recently declared surplus. On August 23, 1973, the New Horizons Group were given possession of the whole property by the Osgoode Township Council.*

*In 1975 the Group made application to be incorporated as the Osgoode Township Historical Society and Museum. Today, many of these same dedicated members continue to collect and record data on our Pioneer Families and on other aspects of Pioneer life. We have the Census of the people from 1842-1881 and some records from Churches, and individuals. Some of the Cemeteries have been recorded and others are in the process of being done. A number of Booklets have been published on different parts of the Township, and about 2500 artifacts have been donated to the Museum. They have been recorded under the supervision of the Curatorial Staff, two of whom - Arlowa Ferguson and Viviane Shorey - have attended Seminars dealing with the subject of preserving valuable artifacts and documents.*

*Our greatest Heritage is that long line of important individuals known as our ancestors. Without them we certainly would not be here. We can look back with pride and affection to our own Pioneer Ancestors as well as those of others for their stamina in opening up this country where we could live in a happy and safe environment.*

When you hear the word PIONEER, perhaps you think of your parents or your great-grandparents and of how they cleared the land, built homes, Churches, schools, etc. At one time Osgoode Township was much more self-sufficient than it is to-day. The Era of the Village (Rural) Blacksmith, shoemaker, carriage maker, tailor, weaver, cheese factory, harness shop, tannery, sawmill, gristmill is no more.

I remember well, as a young boy, the long evenings in the winter months. It was then that my grandparents, in their twilight years, sat side by side beside the box stove and reminisced about the years of their youth, their friends, the good times, the troubled years, and about those who had gone before them. They lived together for 70 years, sound of body and sound of mind. There are many Senior Citizens with vast knowledge of earlier times and their knowledge goes untapped. Today our children and grandchildren sit starry-eyed before the make-believe television programs, never realizing that the Era of listening to the fascinating story told by our grandparents may be gone forever.

I feel that The Historical Society, in the work that it is attempting to do has been a credit to the Township in the past and will continue to be so in the future.

Michael Daley

Our store of information is increasing - "Line upon line, line upon line. ... Here a little, there a little". During the past summer a descendant of a McEvoy-Kelly family, who had gone to the USA in 1871, visited the area with information from the original Family Bible. There have been contacts with the Gold (Gould) family, and with descendants of George Sully. Two Cameron sisters donated their Family Bible - that of Duncan Cameron and Margaret Grant, married March 1832. That marriage is reported to be the first ever performed within the Township. The Grant farm was on the Castor south of Kenmore, and here, now called TWIGS FROM THE OAK, Duncan and Margaret lived. We have a copy of the obituary of Margaret's father, Robert Grant, Sr. (Citizen Apr 25, 1863)

*Died*

*"At his residence, Inverdruey, Township of Osgoode, on Thursday, the 23rd instant, Robert Grant, Sr Esquire, aged 84 years. The deceased was a native of Rothemourcis, Invernessshire, North Britain. He emigrated to Canada in the year 1819 and was one of the first settlers of Osgoode."*

Send us what you know of your History and encourage others to do the same. You may hold the key that others have lost. The Toronto Library asked for a copy of all our publications, and The Ottawa Library has recently requested our PIONEER FAMILIES publications. Volume XIV should be in print by the time you receive this Newsletter. The Families include -

JOHN BLAIR - Part 1  
JAMES TWEEDIE DALGLEISH  
THE FOX FAMILY  
THOMAS GRANT  
ANTOINE LEMOINE Jr

JAMES McCONNELL  
WILLIAM ALEXANDER McCONNELL  
DONALD McDIARMID  
ALLAN McDONALD - Part 2  
McEVOYS - Part 2

If copies are picked up, the price remains the same - \$1.50 each. If mailing is necessary, please add 50¢ for 1 or more copies with each order.

Recently, one of our members, G. L. Halliday of Ottawa, descended from Beckwith McDiarmids, presented us with a map of Beckwith Township which gave the plan of Settlers' Locations, 1816-1824. There is the settler's name, Patent number, date issued, all marked on the appropriate lot and concession. This is the careful work of Howard Brown of Ottawa, Author of the Carleton Place book- FOUNDED UPON A ROCK. We should appreciate some one who can print small and clearly doing the same for Osgoode.

Many of the Beckwith settlers found only rocky soil beneath the felled trees and later moved into Osgoode, as an alternative. Some were lucky. We see the names of James, Henry, and John Saunders getting land the same day, July 1822, 100 acres each, side by side, lots 22 and 23, con 2. The question is still unanswered: "Were they brothers?" And we see Alex and John McTavish, James and John McDiarmid also side by side, Oct. 1818. Alex McTavish and John McDiarmid settled in Osgoode. Mr. Halliday is descended from Duncan McDiarmid, as was Hugh, late husband of Laura McIntosh, now of Winchester, who lived on the McTavish farm east of Vernon.

In Dec 1821, Duncan McDonald, Duncan Ferguson, John King, Duncan McNee got land as close to one another as possible. In 1822 Peter McDonald settled on the other half of his brother's lot - 3 in con 5. This group was from Balquidder Perthshire. Duncan McDonald mar Catherine McNee, Duncan Ferguson mar Christian McNee, John King mar Isobel McNee, Peter McDonald mar Janet King - a real family compact. Many of them are buried in Spring Hill Cemetery. And there is Francis Kilfoyle, McRosties, Dewars, Fishers, Scotts, McGregors, McLarens, McNally, Mooney. Lieut Wm. Blair got land 1816. Sergt John Goth got 200 acres 1919.

A Goth descendant, Rev William, now of Western Ontario, a graduate of McGill in 1916, spoke at the Fall Anniversary Services of the Russell United Church. He referred to "picking mustard", playing ball, and Ottawa Valley singing. Later, in conversation he

he revealed that at one time his father owned 50 acres, near Dalmeny, of the best land he had ever known. Some of us, including members of the Osgoode Men's choir, assured him that we knew of that land - the corner lot now farmed by Bert Velthuis, opposite the Cecil Waddell Farm, lot 31, con 4. It was always known to the writer as "The Goth Place", even when there were no Goths around Dalmeny. They had picked better land than that in Beckwith.

THE ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR OSGOODE TOWNSHIP - 1892, shows some of the conditions here within the memory of our oldest citizens.

Cleared Land	41,478 3/8 acres	Resident Population	4365
Woodland	16,252 "	Non-Res	870
Wasteland	27,183 "		
<hr/>		Total	5235
Total	84,912 3/8	Children 5 - 21	1384
Non-Resident	433 1/2	Children 7 - 13	632
<hr/>		Acres of Fall Wheat	15
Total Prop Assess	\$ 1,298.963	Garden, Orchard	101
Personal "	7,450	Steam Boilers	9

Total Assessment \$ 1,306,413

Returns sent Bureau of Industry

At this time of year we are very conscious of travelling conditions. A letter written in 1838 was given to the Journal for publication in 1908, by James McLaurin of Metcalfe. We quote in part:

Breadalbane, Feb 27, 1838

My Dear Brother,

In order to attend my appointments at Clarence, I lately left home for Osgoode, with a view of taking Clarence on my Return. The distance is about 90 miles which I made in 3 days. As you go out of Bytown, the roads are pretty good for about 15 miles, but the rest of the way you are made to do penance, if you ride, and you must go as carefully and as softly as a Christian beset by a thousand snares and temptations or else you will never get out except with a broken carriage. In or near the back of the Township is a group of poor but well-doing people, chiefly from the Highlands of Scotland, speaking the Gaelic language...I spent 4 days among them....

WILLIAM FRASER

Query - What kind of horse and carriage did Clergymen need to own in the winter of 1838?

The Winchester Press, as well as Farm Brochures, draw our attention to the extensive activity at Kemptville in the nature of a great variety of courses given at the College there. "Farm Women Across the Province... are upgrading Their Skills and Agricultural Knowledge." The number of courses being offered is increasing; such as "The 2-day Farm Business for Farm Women". We have been fortunate in this area to have been so closely associated with an institution that has been part of the life of so many of our farm homes. Back in 1917, G. Howard Ferguson, son of the local Medical Doctor there, proposed the idea of a school for local farm boys and girls. It was ready for classes in 1920 and was affectionately known as KAS - Kemptville Agricultural School. And many from our homes received a well-rounded education. The School met their needs - academic, social, athletic, practical.

One of the 5 Staff Members in 1920 was P.M. Dewan, B.A., B.S.A. - Instructor in Poultry Husbandry, Economics, and Civics. Among the first 25 students were:

Carman Blair, Metcalfe	Leo Kelly, Osgoode Station
Harry Craig, Metcalfe	James Stewart, Kenmore
Ken Dow, Metcalfe	

Osgoode Township was better represented than any other area. The following year a one-year Home-Economics course began for girls - not the kind of Economics necessary to operate a modern farm. Ella Carlyle represented Osgoode.

Some of you are familiar with the OLD-TIME STUFF that we were fortunate to have seen printed in the Saturday Citizen in the 1920's. It was from reading some of these interesting stories of our past that your Editor first became genuinely interested in our Township History. We have a copy of a paper, Feb. 18, 1828, where the chief story teller was then Michael J. McEvoy, born in Osgoode in 1851, lot 17, con 3, son of Thomas McEvoy. We tell a story of his personal experiences.

"LAZARUS" THE MONSTER PIG

There are a lot of things about the career of this unusual Osgoode Township pig that grew to be the largest porker in 6 counties. The exact, unvarnished narrative was told by Michael J. McEvoy. (Abbreviated here)

The pig "Lazarus", so-named by a neighbour, was born in the year 1860 on the farm of Thomas McEvoy, father of the narrator. Lazarus' mother was a very ordinary animal, and when Lazarus was born he was such a sickly little pig that he would have soon expired but for the kindly assistance rendered him by the young boys of the McEvoy family who fed him milk through a straw and so coddled him that instead of dying, he picked up and took a lively interest in things. It was because this little pig had been as good as dead that a neighbour (Sandy Garvey) called him "Lazarus" and the name stuck.

"Lazarus had been taken into the McEvoy kitchen and never again did he see the pigpen of his fathers. He became a family pet, but the more he was petted the more his piggish proclivities showed up. He was first into everything in the kitchen and then he worked his way into the living room. He knocked things over, he stole, he ate things he was not supposed to eat; he was put out of the house, but he would not stay out. Beating him did no good."

"In the spring, after his first winter, an event happened which changed the course of Lazarus' life. One day he knocked over the kitchen stove and spilled on himself a large pot of very hot water. Somebody opened the door and Lazarus, squealing, disappeared into the "swale". The pig did not come back and nobody cared; his absence was greatly desired. But if Lazarus was not seen much during the summer he was heard of. He knocked down line fences, got into neighbours' orchards, stood on his hind legs and ate the apples. Michael Terry vowed vengeance. He with his dog "Captain" watched for the pig which ran when the dog first attacked but the pig turned and there was a terrible battle. In the morning there was nothing left of the dog. Soon after Lazarus broke into the McEvoy Turnip patch. He grew in size and strength, and was physically dangerous. He was in the wild animal class."

"A family council decided to do away with Lazarus. Pat McEvoy was good with a rifle; Michael Turner, a "pig sticker", Moses Doyle, Frank Nevins, Jimmie Dale went along. Pat McEvoy fired the fatal shot, and the great beast fell, but the rifle was a wreck and Pat fell flat on his back. Pat got up but the pig did not. From the field to the house, Lazarus was drawn on a stone boat."

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With this Newsletter you receive either your Membership Card for the year 1981 or your notice to renew. The fee remains as in last year, \$2.00 for the first member of a family, \$1.00 for each additional member. We hope to see as many of you as possible at our Annual Heritage Day and Afternoon Tea to be held at the Museum on February 14, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

**MODELS OF LOG FENCES**

That is the Contest for the Elementary School students of Osgoode Township which the Historical Society is sponsoring this year.

Entries will be exhibited at our observance of Heritage Day, February 14, at the Museum when prizes will be awarded.

Mr. Alex Bowes, Lanark, who specializes in Fence Models will be in attendance with an attractive display of his Handiwork.

We would appreciate donations of food from our members to help with our afternoon tea, as well as help in serving, and any other assistance you can render.

The Annual Meeting of the Historical Society will be held in the Museum Friday February 6, at 2:00 P.M. Everyone welcome.