



Osgoode Township

Historical Building & Museum

Vernon School

P.O. Box 83 - Vernon, Ontario

Newsletter

VOLUME I 1975 NUMBER 3

From copies of two letters we have that were written home to Breadalbane, Scotland, by Donald McKercher, we can judge the spirit and struggles of the original home builders in Osgoode Township. English was a second language to these Highlanders. We need to supply necessary punctuation.

Osgoode May 1855

"My Dear Duncan:

...I am getting my health better but Mary complains her head and pains in her eye the heat of the cast metal does not agree with her and the fire hear is confined in a stove like a chest to heaten the house and there is cooking stoves with fireholes for cooking at wonce.

...I am still working with Stewart the snow left the ground about the 2nd April and I am commence ploughing among 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 mysscatties they are verry bad and poisoness and very thick for two months I bought a cow for 5 pounds and little Jessie got a sheep from her cousin...

...There is some hear has got on well them that has a strong family but as for one man to commence in the bush and take his living out and pay the land in 10 year he is a dead man and most of the men hear is half dead with work and heat I went down to the Indian Land to see my friends there and I did nit think much of them there children is like the tinklers in Breadalbane and more ragged them that are brought up in this country...know nothing but tearing among the woods and stumps.

...There is Lairds hear this 15 years that has not a chair or a bed in there house yet but lie on the floor like the dogs but they dae well as the grain is high in prices wheat per bushel $2\frac{1}{2}$ dollars....this Stewart that I am with made well he has 300 acres and about 100 clear He is saving 50 pounds a year he has 300 pounds out on interest and getting 8 percent and a good stock on the farm...there is 23 years since he came and he had only 23 soverings when he bought the land but lands were sold at 5 shillings an acre which you would give 16 shillings for now.

...I am sorry I did not bring with me a bagpip for all the highlanders hear is angry at me for not taking one they would gather a day now and then to help me with the clearing if I had the pips...

...I am a poor hand at writing letters...I think when I go on my own place I will be pleased better...I dont like to be under a master in Canada for they work from sunrises till she sets and that is from 4 oclock in the morning till 8 at night breakfast at 6 dinner at 12 supper at 5 oclock and maybe tea 3 times a day and no sugar used in the tea in Canada.

...This country is very rough for a stranger to look at it is so level and covered with woods but sinkholes hear and there and trees are one third longer hear than in the auld cuntrye and thicker than Drummond Hill three times...you would not see a hill nor a glen hear nor a burn running.

...ask John McPherson if he would sellany of his prize pips...little Duncan he is a smart child he was born on the 28th July 60 miles below Quebec.

Daniel McKercher

Adress Lot 24, 9th Concession Osgoode, Canada West "

Comment: A little daughter Ann had died at sea. The pipes came out and Donald MacKeracher walked from his home near Marvelville to Metcalfe to open the fair over 100 years ago. They will be on display in the Museum.

Mrs. Harry Anderson (Olive Campbell) who gave us the good picture of the stone house of her grandparents, John Ferguson and Janet McDonald, has also given us a copy of a passenger's ticket preserved by her Irish grandparents, John and Sarah Taylor.

PASSENGERS' CONTRACT TICKET

No. 27 LONDONDERRY, June 7, 1847

Ship March'ss Abercorn of 67? Tons Register Burthen to sail from Londonderry for Quebec on the 11th day of June, 1847.

WE engage that the parties herein named shall be provided with a Steerage Passage to Quebec in the Ship Marchioness Abercorn with not less than 10 cubic feet for luggage, for each statute adult, for the sum of 24 pounds 10 shillings

Names	Ages	Equal to Statute	Water and Provisions.....will be provided, also Fires and suitable Hearths for cooking. Bedding and utensils for eating and drinking must be provided by the passengersfor each adult... Two children under 14 years of age and over 1 year, being computed as one adult. 3½ lbs. sea Biscuit.....per Week 3½ lbs. Oatmeal.....per Week 3 quarts of Water.....per Day.
John Taylor	47	1	
Sarah do	50	1	
Jane do	19	1	
Wm. do	16	1	
Sarah do	13	½	
Martha do	10	½	
Joseph do	6	¼	
Wm. do	4	¼	
Dan McLaren	22	1	

Deposit 6 pounds - Balance 18 pounds to be paid at the Office of D. Baird & Co., Strand St. Derry, on the 11th day of June, or Deposit and all claim to passage forfeited.

From a Marriage Register of the Ottawa District at the Ontario Archives, we found:

"March 8, 1858, Wm. Kay Anderson, minister of the Baptist Denomination married William Dillon, age 20, residence N.Gower Born N.Gower son of William Dillon and wife Jane

and Sarah Taylor, age 23, residence Osgoode, born Tyrone daughter of John Taylor and wife Sarah

Witnesses: John Dillon, N. Gower
Arthur Allen, Osgoode "

Information about our past comes unexpectedly from many sources; George Neville of Ottawa sent us an excerpt from the editorial of The ByTown Gazette, Wednesday, January 2, 1859.

"In passing through Osgoode Township, and as we were afterwards informed, in the very centre of it, we came upon a large substantial frame of a building, which had been erected and roofed last summer, and placed on the side of the road with the clapboards, flooring & for its completion inside. On enquiry we learned that it was designed as a place of worship, and that Mrs. Archibald McDonald and her sister, who, as daughters of U.E.Loyalists held a tract of land there, had liberally given ten acres each for the erection of a building and maintenance of a Clergyman at this place."

Osgoode Township is divided into concessions that number from the Rideau River, beginning with the "Broken Front", and ending with a partial 11th concession that borders on Russell Township. The Lots number from the border of Gloucester Township and end irregularly at number 42-44 along the Mountain and Winchester boundary. We have maps available at 50¢ each that show most of the landowners in the year 1863.

The Building referred to in the editorial was immediately West of Metcalfe corner. The record of the grants of land to these sisters can be seen on the following page.

Alexander McDonnell was such a common name that it was customary to add some distinguishing title. From the "Township Papers" we read:
"10 April 1823 John McDonell, son of Alexander McDonell, deceased commonly called 'The King's Son' U.E. Loyalist was granted Lot 19 in the 6th concession.

Catherine McDonell of Cornwall, wife of Arch McDonell, commonly called 'The King's Son' late of Cornwall deceased U.E. Loyalist was given 200 acres Lot 20 in 6th. Settlement duties performed 16 Nov 1826.

Jenet McMillan of Cornwall widow of Alexander McMillan, same place and daughter of Alex McDonell late of Cornwall, commonly called 'King's Son', given Lot 21 in 6th. Now wife of Duncan McDonell of St. Andrews Lumber Merchant, May 1, 1828."

There often was a great deal of difficulty regarding the settlement of boundaries because of the inadequate surveying. In the 2nd concession the lines were not properly established between Lot 17 & 18. Because of this there resulted considerable correspondence:

On Oct. 9, 1844, two neighbours, Patrick Deven and Patrick McCormick said they had known James O'Brien, the claimant, to be the occupant of lot 17-2.

Thomas Bailey, Town Clerk of the Township of Osgoode, stated that O'Brien had paid taxes on 17-2 for the last 11 years.

Patrick Duance (Dewavn) had paid taxes on 18-2 for 11 years.

Patk Shields had paid taxes for 5 years. Dated 1853.

Thomas Dailey (Daley) tax collector stated that O'Brien was on lot 17-2 and Duane and Shields on lot 18-2. Dated 23 Jan. 1854.

The spelling of the documents is used as much as it can be read accurately. Often the same name is spelled in two or three ways in the same document. A petition sent to show that O'Brien was really considered to be residing on lot 17-2 was signed by the following neighbours on Jan. 17, 1854:

William Kelly

Patrick Kelly

Anthony Doyle

Mathew Daeley

Patt Daeley

James McCorkell

Ania Connors

William McCorkell

Timothy Ryan

Denis Connors

Patrick McMahon

James Doyle

Esou Pain

Martin Fonlin

Lawrence Fonlin

William Dailey

John Dailey

Patrick Langley

John McEvoy

Mich'l McDonell

William Gleeson

Patt McCormick

Patt Murphy

Portil Boshoe

Thomas Daley

Bernard Doyle

John Doyle

Unfortunately improvements had been made on the wrong lot, but a just settlement was decided upon. Other lots gave their owners considerable trouble.

On 15 March 1831 Vince (Vance) Marlin wrote from Prescott asking for lot 42-2 and after many letters finally received the deed in 1842. His brother Robert Jr. asked the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the lot. It is part of this lot that was given for Reid's Mills Cemetery.

Considerable information is given on some petitions. Very little on others. For example:

Duncan McDonell, born in Invernesshire in Scotland of age 42 years, having arrived in this province in the year 1802 to become a settler therein and administered him the oath of allegiance do assign to him 200 acres being lot 35, 5th Concession, Township of Osgoode.

Land Board of the Eastern District Cornwall 29 Nov 1825

Hugh McKenna born at Tyrone in Ireland of the age of 34 years having arrived in this province in the year 1818 was granted 50 acres as a settler NW $\frac{1}{4}$ lot 1 in 6th.

Alexander Kennedy of Plantagenat performed his settlement duties on 200 acres lot 43-7th on 21 Feb 1827

John Fisher of Kenyon received lot 44-7 in 1825. The ticket was lost but found again 6 Feb 1827 and the settlement duties were performed as March 1840.

Regarding a land transaction made by Adam McRostie of lot 27-6th, Arch McDonnell J.P. and Alex McDonnell J.P. stated on March 19, 1840 that they had been acquainted with Adam McRostie for nine years and found him a good and loyal subject, and an honest and industrious inhabitant.

George Merkley of Williamsburg, son of Henry Merkley, same place, U.E., was given lot 7-6th in 1812.

Catherine, wife of George Merkley, and daughter of Francis Ulman, of Williamsburgh, was given lot 6-6th, 1812.

From Osgoode, Sept 16th 1841, Arch'd McDonnell sent an additional list of "people squatted on Clergy Reserves in this part of the country. I trust that those people will get there Lots at an Equitable value without allowing others to speculate on there Labour."

NAMES	LOT	CON	ACRES CLEARED	POSSES- SION	YEAR	BUILDINGS
Robert McKnight	14	.6	20	June	1840	House & Barn
John Blair	W ¹ / ₂ 8	6	2	Oct	1840	House
John Patterson	E ¹ / ₂ 8	6	6	Oct	1837	House
William Patterson	W ¹ / ₂ 9	8	12	March	1837	House & Barn
John Wallace	W ¹ / ₂ 13	7	30	March	1839	do
Edw'd Morris	W ¹ / ₂ 33	7	10	April	1839	do
Patk Killfooy	W ¹ / ₂ 8	6 (7)	15	March	1839	House
Mathew Brennan	W ¹ / ₂ 8	3	9	March	1835	House & Barn
Peter McEwin	37	8	15	Nov	1840	House & Barn
Mich'l Turney (Terry)	18	3	6	Nov	1840	House
Jas Braemin	E ¹ / ₂ 8	2	4	Dec	1832	do
Rob't Marlin	N ¹ / ₂ 42	2	40	March	1839	House & Barn
Patk McCormic	S ¹ / ₂ 9	4	15	March	1839	House & Barn
John Piper	N ¹ / ₂ 9	4	15	March	1839	House & Barn

On 21 May 1840, Duncan Campbell stated that he had settled on lot 38 in 3rd Concession 8 years ago. He was inquiring about lot 39 in the 3rd concession. He was married to Janet Dow and his brother-in-law Tho's Dow was also writing about this same lot in the Dalmeny area. A grandson of Duncan and Janet will celebrate his 99th birthday on July 15, 1975. He is the 100th member of our Historical Centre.

Mary McNeil of Lancaster, wife of John McNeil and daughter of Duncan McArthur U.E. was given Lot 31 in the 7th concession on 7 August 1811. Finlay McNeil later lived on this same lot - where Springhill school was built. Was Finlay descended from Mary & John?

About the same time, 1812-3, Christie McIntosh, of Charlottenburg, daughter of Duncan McArthur of the same place, and wife of Donald McIntosh was given lot 43-9th as daughter of a U.E.

Donald McIntosh of Charlottenburg, private in a flank Co. of 2nd Glengarry Militia got 100 acres in lots 43 & 44 in the 9th Concession. Laura Rutherford of Ormond has this deed in her possession.

Duncan McIntosh, of Ormond, a son of Donald, has many descendants in Osgoode Township.

We should like to acknowledge a few more of the many contributors to our Historical Centre:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mrs. Edward Armstrong (Lora Carlyle) | Della Park |
| Mrs. Alex Fraser (Mabel McVey) | Mrs. Bernard Last (Emma Park) |
| Gerald Hill | Mrs. Hugh McDiarmid (Laura McIntosh) |
| Mrs. Harry Anderson (Olive Campbell) | Mrs. John Robb (Margaret Hill) |
| Harry Anderson | John Robb |
| Mrs. Herb Robinson (Eva Helmer) | Jessie Robertson |
| Mrs. Wm. Dow (Jenny Hume) | Arlowa Ferguson |
| Henry Robinson | Mrs. Wm. Bower (Beulah N Ellis) |
| Frances Iveson | Mrs. Archie Stewart (Iris Keenan) |
| Jessie Campbell | Lawrence MacAndrew |

MEMBERSHIP LIST
OSGOODE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL CENTRE
as of June 26
1975

1. Elizabeth S. Stuart	Osgoode, KOA 2WO
2. Alice Craig	R.R.1, Winchester
3. Anne Czrkner	Vernon, KOA 3JO
4. Jessie E. Robertson	Vernon, KOA 3JO
5. Viviane Shorey	R.R.2, Edwards
6. Lisa Atienza	R.R.1, Edwards
7. Margaret Robb	Osgoode, Box 162
8. Gerald Hill	R.R.2, Russell
9. Harry M. Anderson	Vernon Box 83
10. S.M. Lee	Vernon, KOA 3JO
11. Olive Anderson	Vernon, Box 83
12. Arlowa Ferguson	Vernon, KOA 3JO
13. Frances Iveson	24 ROSEBerry Ave, Ottawa
14. Beulah Bower	Osgoode, KOA 2WO
15. Jenny Dow	R.R.3, Metcalfe
16. Wilfred J. Kearns	2069 Sanderson Dr Ottawa KIG 2E5
17. Miss E.M. Gordon	36 Glendale Ave Ottawa KI5 IW4
18. Rev Frank Stone	467 Dufferin St Winchester
19. Jessie Campbell	Vernon KOA 3JO
20. Bruce S. Elliott	32 Qualicum St Ottawa K2H IG8
21. John A. McKercher	673 Farmington Ave Ottawa KIV 7H4
22. Lois McKercher	Same
23. S.W. MacLaurin	22765 Westwood Road Fairview Park Ohio
24. Louise Beck	4 Washington Ave Toronto M5S IL2
25. Jessie B. Ferguson	Winchester, Box 702
26. Dr C.E.L. Morrow	Metcalfe
27. Mrs C.E.L. Morrow	Metcalfe
28. Dr Douglas McKercher	967 Mooney Ave Ottawa K2A 3A3
29. Iris Stewart	R.R.2, Osgoode
30. Mabel G. Shaver	South Mountain Box 138
31. Mrs J.W. Green	Box 295 Manotick
32. Linda Leigh Irven	Metcalfe R.R.3
33. Morgan Warner	Russell
34. Helen Cavell	Osgoode, R.R.4
35. Lawence MacAndrew	Metcalfe, R.R.3
36. Edith MacAndrew	Metcalfe, R.R.3
37. Ian Crerar	Vernon
38. John Robb	Osgoode, Box 162
39. Michael Daley	R.R.1, Osgoode
40. James Lambert	,Public Achives Wellington St, Ottawa
41. John D. Harvey	R.R.3, Metcalfe
42. Mrs J.E. Morey	2471 Alta Vista Dr, Ottawa K1H 7N2
43. Bernard McEvoy	381 Apple Tree Lane, Ottawa
44. Norma Morrison	10 Greenwich Ave K2E 5E6 Ottawa
45. Mrs Mary Cooper	R.R.2, Metcalfe
46. Harvey Linton	R.R.2, Osgoode
47. Ronald Crowe	12 Esgore Drive, Toronto
48. Mrs Madeline McEwen	308 Central Village Apts, Edmonton
49. John M. Robertson	440 Bevan Ave Ottawa K1Z 5S3
50. Gordon Wyatt	R.R. Kemptville
51. Jack N. Hanna	3626 Credit Woodlands Dr., Mississauga
52. Jean Hanna	Same
53. Mrs G. Skinner	905 Kingsmere Ave Ottawa
54. Osgoode Women's Institute	Osgoode, KOA 2WO
55. Etta Hill	Kenmore
56. Wilhelmina Scharf	Kenmore
57. Helen J. Dow	89 Raymond St Apt 406, Guelph
58. Marguerite Ruth Dow	1231 Richard St London N6A 3L9
59. Dorothy Sterling Walsh	52 First Ave Ottawa K1S 2G2
60. Rev James Cameron Stuart	82 Frances St., Auburn N.Y.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

61. Wm C. McVey	Box I66, Metcalfe
62. Ray A. McNabb	R.R. 1 Metcalfe
63. George C. MacDonald	R.R. 1, Metcalfe
64. Alice Wood	333 Metcalfe St Apt 10
65. Flora Fader	206-4 Deerfield Drive, Ottawa
66. Norma Cinnamon	Kenmore
67. Donald Ferguson	R.R.2, Osgoode
68. Rev Walter Gawa	Kenmore, Ontario
69. Bert Bower	6 Borden St. Osgoode
70. Constance Sallans	Box 252 Osgoode
71. Joseph Martineau	R.R.4, Osgoode KOA 2WO
72. Archie & Lois McDonald	Star Route Magalia Cal, 95954
73. Mrs Jean Capell	1796 Laxton Cres K2C 2N3 Ottawa
74. Donald H. MacKeracher	Box I2, Vernon , KOA 3JO
75. Mrs Laura McDiarmid	Vernon KOA 3JO
76. John MacMartin	Winchester
77. Mrs John Hawkshaw	R.R.3, Ingleside
78. Mrs N. Ida McEween	450 Frontenac, Kingston
79. Stevens Stuart	498 Thessaly Circle Ottawa
80. Dr W.A. Taylor	Osgoode
81. Lorne Craig	Vernon
82. Betty Crerar	Vernon
83. Mrs Rolland Nesbit	42 Havelock Ave, Ottawa
84. Mrs L.O. Renton	R.R.I, Kars
85. Mr L.O. Renton	R.R.I, Kars
86. Philip McEvoy	Greely Ont., R.R.2
87. Mrs Philip McEvoy	Greely Ont. R.R.2
88. Mrs George C. Lighthall	519 Smerdon St Hawkesbury K6A 2M9
89. William Morrison	R.R. 3 Metcalfe
90. Doris Morrison	R.R. 3 Metcalfe
91. Patrick Gillissie	119 Caroln St, Ottawa
92. Lawrence G. Smith	I309 Princess St., Cornwall
93. Malcolm J. Macdonell	River Road Manotick
94. Mrs W.B. Wallen	840 McLeod Ottawa
95. Stanley Hicks	Metcalfe
96. Percy R. Waddell	Metcalfe
97. Helen M. Waddell	Metcalfe
98. Mrs Wilmer Dalgleish	R.R.5, Ottawa Box 311
99. Stirling Bishop	Metcalfe
100. John Campbell	Vernon
101. Fred Alexander	R.R.4, Osgoode
102. Gerald Morris	Metcalfe
103. Wilfred Wallen	840 Melwd Ottawa
104. Albert McKeown	Metcalfe, (Edwards)
105. Mrs Albert McKeown	Edwards
106. William H. MacLaren	2174 Iris St Ottawa K2C IB3
107. Donald MacLaren	541 College St Kingston Apt 43
108. Roger Nickerson Ont Archiv	77 Grenville St Toronto
109. Mrs E.H. Relyea	2719 Kelly Ave Ottawa K2B 7V2
110. Rev M.A. Minvielle	Metcalfe
111. Dominic Kelly	R.R.3 Manotick
112. Mrs Bessie McKercher	315 Holmwood Ottawa
113. O.G.S., Ottawa Branch	Box 8346 Ottawa KIG 3H8
114. Albert Bouwers	Metcalfe
115. Fred Wilson	Box I04 Osgoode
116. R. Bourbonnais	R.R.2, Greely
117. Charles Cavell	R.R.4, Osgoode
118. Laura Rutherford	Winchester
119. John Herbert	51 Wanless Crescent, Toronto
120. Mrs Elsie MacLachlan	1140 Bedbrooke, Ottawa