



Town Hall, Metcalf, Ont.

Osgoode Township Hall, 1891

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

Vernon School

P.O. Box 83 - Vernon, Ontario

Newsletter

VOLUME 5 1979 NUMBER 3

Our July Newsletter will bring you up to date on the great variety of Historical Research that has been and is being undertaken by many of our members throughout the Township and beyond its borders.

We have a new publication for sale:

ON BOTH SIDES OF THE RIVER - 12 HISTORICAL ESSAYS

Dedicated to Irene Butler (Mrs. Robert Saunders), a daughter of Osgoode Township. The book relates, in picture and story, the early life in the western part of the Township. The Author, Audrey Renton, is a member of our Society and, as well, she is a valued member of the Kars Women's Institute, a group from both sides of the Rideau. Audrey has already established her ability, both in carrying out research and in writing. During the Centennial Year of the United Church of Canada, her book "History of Trinity United Church-Kars" won her 3rd prize for submissions of work from all across Canada. Her new book will be reviewed at a later date. The suggested price is \$3.50, and Audrey will be present during our Pioneer Weekend to autograph the copies.

Recently, on June 2, Dickinson Day Celebration, Manotick, we saw the Dickinson-Watson Mill again being run by "water-power". From the first run of flour Audrey Renton made bread as it was made over 100 years ago—bread that was a meal in itself. Moss Kent Dickinson owned part of Long Island and his name shows up in our Osgoode Assessment rolls. When the Osgoode census was taken in 1861, the first family recorded was that of David Condie (Davit Conley); the second was that of Charles Chambers with a household of eleven members living in a log house built 1849. One of the non-members was "Batis" Currier age 47 born U.S. And the comments of this family were that there had been a recently-established mill that put out a great deal of pine lumber but little was known of the operation. Dickinson and Currier worked together. Before coming to the Osgoode-Manotick area, Bateson and Currier were in business in Hull. The third family enumerated was that of William Condie (Conley), age 40, born Scotland, living in a log house built in 1835.

In the March Edition of THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST, there is a Review of "VOYAGE TO CANADA by John McDonald" with the final comment: "This account is strongly recommended." Some of you have bought this booklet from us. It sells for \$3.00 and was reprinted through the foresight of George Neville, at present Editor of "Families", the quarterly magazine that goes out to all members of the Ontario Genealogical Society. It was through George that we were able to secure such a fine copy of our map of Osgoode Township which names the property holders of 100 years ago. It is necessary for us to raise the price of this map to \$1.50 each, beginning July 27. If you wish copies at the former price of \$1.00, the order must be given before that date. The map cannot now be produced for the price at which we are selling it. Beginning in October, the price of our "PIONEER FAMILIES OF OSGOODE TOWNSHIP" will be advanced to \$1.50 each. We plan to have Volume XIII printed in July.

We have for sale, too, the recordings for St. Brigid's Cemetery—a book that sells for \$2.00. The research on the property was contributed by Dominic Kelly. The printing was done by the Ottawa Branch of O.G.S. At the present time, Dick Blanchfield, a constant researcher, is recording, and photographing, the stones in St. John's Cemetery on the Prescott Road. As well, he is contacting interested people all over North America. Recently he presented us with a booklet—one of the 5000 printed—FR. CHRIS J. LEAHY, GOLDEN JUBILEE. Who would have expected to find a picture of

the old school house on Snake Island in a booklet printed in Detroit? But it was to this one-roomed school that Christopher Leahy's mother, Rose Jane McKenna, had come when she met and married Timothy Leahy. There were eleven children in the family, some of whom later lived in the old Adam Baker home in Metcalfe, which later known as the Leahy home, was torn down in 1978. When the beautiful schoolteacher was 82 years old, she moved to Detroit to be with her son. Rose Jane Leahy died there at the improbable age of 102.

Over the River in Rideau Township, Bruce Elliott, a descendant of Baileys, Scrivens, Elliotts, is working this summer. Bruce is working toward his Ph.D and sends this report:

THE RIDEAU TOWNSHIP HISTORY PROJECT

The Rideau Township History Committee organizes and directs research and writing with the intention of completing a written history of the communities and their hinterlands by 1986. The committee consists of Carman Bickerton (Chairman), Dora Stamp, Owen Cook, Georgie Tupper, Coral Lindsay, and Bruce Elliott.

This summer several Carleton University students under Township and "Experience 79" funding will be working under the direction of Georgie Tupper, Carman Bickerton, and Bruce Elliott. A bibliography of Manuscript and Printed Sources relevant to the Township and its area of influence will be available in an inexpensively-printed form from the Township Office in the Autumn. It is hoped that this will be acquired by all interested in the area's history...and stimulate further research into local history.....

Bruce Elliott, Qualicum Street Ottawa

And from Professor B.C. Bickerton we received the following:

"There will be two half-courses in local history offered at Carleton, beginning in September. The courses are being given in the evenings-3 nights a week, #327 before Christmas, #328, after. The 327 courses is intended as a general introduction to the concepts and questions of local history and provides an opportunity to examine some of the best examples of local history writing produced in Canada and abroad. It is therefore a necessary introduction to the 328 courses which will consist primarily of guided research into the history of the Ottawa Valley.

"For further information please contact the Carleton University Office of Continuing Education at 231-6660."

B.C. Bickerton
Associate Professor of History.

We already have many amateur historians of Local History in our midst. Osgoode Village is planning its week-long celebration in June of 1980, and material is being gathered for a book: OSGOODE VILLAGE-THEN AND NOW. Margaret Robb writes: "In researching history we are finding clues all around us-in old tax rolls, old photos, maps, peoples' recollections. The Osgoode Map of 1879 showed initials "Z.L." on a 6-acre lot. The 1880 tax roll showed the property belonged to Zephaniah Liscombe. The initials "J.G." on a picture of a building were found to belong to one, John Grant, the owner of the first hotel in the village. We are deeply indebted to our Township Clerk, Fred Wilson, for showing us a 1908 map of the village on which we found the owners of every lot. I should like to thank all those who are writing the histories of the churches and organizations and to Grace Morris and Sara Cowell who provide transportation in our continuing research."

Margaret Robb, Osgoode.

One of the members subscribes to: "ANTIQUE GAS ENGINE AND TRACTOR MAGAZINE". He was surprised to see his picture on page 7 of the April-May copy. Below the picture we read:

"Lorne Craig of Winchester, Ont. (He lives just east of Vernon") with some of his rare engines. Quebec-built "Caron" with vacuum pump, round hopper "G.S.&M." and "Taylor" combination engine and vacuum pump which Lorne is oiling. Lorne hand-built the battery box for the round hopper "G.S.&M." out of solid oak with finger joints on all corners. Really a work of art! Middleville Show '78. Lorne says this is the only one of its kind that he believes is in working order. At the same show mention is made of the "Goold Shapley & Muir" with a square hooper that was displayed by Brian Dalgleish of Vernon. See these engines and others at our Pioneer Days. It was Lorne who first suggested that it would be worth our while to have an Engine Display in Vernon.

The President of our Historical Society, Michael Daley, is a busy farmer, father, grandfather, and churchman. For many years he has been doing research into the Irish Settlement in the Township. Who would expect that such a person, in demand, even, to "call off" for Square dances, could find time to help organize an historic event and write a booklet that contains rare pictures and the history of his community and his church Michael writes:

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE YEARS 1854-1979

It was on August 2nd, 1854, that Monseigneur Guigues, then Bishop of Ottawa, came in person to choose a site on which to build a Church, St. John's, on the "Old Prescott Road". Part of lot 19-20 concession 3 was the site chosen, and as well there was a site for the Mission of St. Brigid's. For many years it was known as the Prescott Road Parish. Later it was known as Dawson, and later still as Enniskerry.

To commemorate this Historical Event, a Booklet is being published, former Parishioners are being invited back, and we look forward to renewing old acquaintances at our Annual Church Social to be held July 21, 1979. You may buy the Booklet on that day. Bishop Beahen of Ottawa will say the Evening Mass at 4:00 P.M. on Saturday, and supper will then be served from 5:00-8:00 P.M. There will be outdoor dancing to the music of an Irish Group-The Jug of Punch; other entertainment for young and old; a display of Family Ancestry Sheets; old pictures, etc.

Everyone is welcome-come one; come all. If it were not for the sturdy qualities of our forefathers, we would not to-day be enjoying the life-style that we take for granted.

Michael Daley

At the other end of the Township, in the Kenmore area, a group is looking into the history of the Kenmore Continuation School. The Board Minutes indicate that students, by paying a monthly fee, were able to get post-elementary education at the Forrester's Hall in Kenmore in the year 1906. That Hall is now the meeting place for the Women's Institute. When the present Baptist Church was built-across from this Hall. The old white frame church, built c1855, was changed into a school and remained as such until 1954. Philip Kelley and Etta Hill were the last two teachers. Gerald Hill has found an old picture that indicates that as early as 1890, the home of the Dow sisters was used as a school house. Former students are invited to a Re-union at Metcalfe on the afternoon of June 21. Mrs. Roy McKeown (Alice Hughes) and Mrs. Charles Hill (Etta Carson) are preparing a souvenir booklet which will sell for about \$2.00. Orders for this booklet will be taken on the day mentioned above.

An enthusiastic, capable group from the Vernon area are hard at work planning the last details for the Pioneer Days weekend the last of July. Besides the giant parade of Saturday, there will be an Open Air Craft Show, children's playground, bicycle contest, horse shoe pitching, and plenty to eat. On Sunday there will be a Church Service in the Presbyterian Church with dinner afterwards, either at the Church or the Museum Grounds. Besides the display of crafts, there will be a fine musical program. A Men's choir has been formed recently under the capable and dedicated leadership of Archie Smith of Dalmeny. The members come from various religious backgrounds, from various countries in the world, and their ages range from 16 to 89 years-and together they form a choir really representative of our area.

On Friday and Saturday, July 27 and 28, the Museum will be open from 9:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. and a light lunch will be served to those wishing it. For more details, watch for posters.

We congratulate the MANOTICK STATION COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION founded in 1979 to commemorate Manotick Station's 125th year. Their NEWSLETTER with its appropriate symbol of a diamond-shaped railway crossing sign gives the proposed program for THE AUGUST FESTIVAL which will be held the first weekend in August, beginning Friday evening, August 3 at 6:30 P.M. They, too, are planning dances, a parade, craft shows, an amateur horse show, and a corn roast.

The Historical Society is indeed pleased to see the revival of interest in the sense of belonging to a Community. In no way does our Society direct the policies or handle any of the finances of any of the above active groups-Osgoode Village, St. John's, Kenmore Continuation School, Pioneer Days-Vernon, or Manotick Station. But in each of these localities we have members of our Society who are working hard to make us all more aware of our Heritage.

And then, from August 5th to 21st, we have a group of 34 who are on a Heritage Tour to Scotland-the land from which at least one-third of our Pioneers came. Herb Stewart, our experienced tour manager, was born 75 years ago when his father James (Jim) Stewart was making cheese at Enniskerry. Herb's mother, Helen Meldrum, was Dalmeny's second

schoolteacher. Herb was the eldest of a family of eight, all of whom attended Dalmeny Public School. Herb got his first year of higher education at Kenmore, another year and a half at Kars Continuation School to which he drove summer and winter-7 miles away-with his sisters. After teaching at Merrickville he attended Queen's from which he graduated with the Gold Medal in Greek and in Latin. He had a short stint as supply teacher at Metcalfe. As his father was born near Ormond, he is seen to have had connections with at least half the township which he left 50 years ago. Herb has arranged this tour for us at much less than cost and we are indebted to him for all the difficulties he has overcome on our behalf.

At the museum itself, our Curators have been putting in many hours of hard work. Our Supervising Curator writes:

"This summer we are making special effort to complete the cataloguing of our museum artifacts. We have hired a graduate of the Museum Technicology Course of Algonquin College and are making good progress. The Catalogue, a basic Museum record, contains information needed for insurance purposes; it is a means of identifying and locating artifacts, and is useful in planning displays. To prepare the catalogue, we must examine, measure, and describe each of some 2000 artifacts received and entered in our "acquisition register" during the past five years. We add information given by the donor, and details learned from the study of reference books and other reliable sources. The task is time-consuming but very necessary in the operation of our museum."

Arlowa Ferguson, Vernon.

In order to obtain a grant for maintaining the Museum--a grant that is based upon our earnings for the year--it is necessary for us to have the building open to the public for a certain number of days and hours each year. For this reason the building is open from 1:00-5:00, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and all holidays, from the beginning of May until the end of October. We need volunteers and would appreciate your offers to help. Call Alice Craig 821-2562 or Harry Anderson 821-2858. We have visitors who come from far and near and for many different reasons. Raymonds, brother and sister, were sent by the Public Archives. They had the obituary of Thomas Bailey, the first clerk of the Township, and were delighted to be shown his signature as the recorder of the Census of 1842. We put them in contact with Bruce Elliott and with an American descendant of Duncan McDonell and Isabel Bailey. Another couple had travelled widely looking for the wife's ancestors--the Doctor family--in order that she could establish her identity and get a birth certificate. She had just recently learned that she was adopted as a baby. She was pleased to find William Doctor's tombstone on Methodist Hill in Metcalfe. Col. Amidon was surprised to find that there was a little Scotch blood in his veins. Jane Campbell had married Colin Paups son of Rudolph. We find this particular Jane living with Nancy Campbell who married a Grant, and Nancy was one of the many children of Thomas Campbell and Sarah Farrens. Jane may have been a neice or a cousin of Nancy Grant. We expect some day to find the proper connection between Jane Paups--buried many miles away--and the Thomas Campbell Family who came from Plantagenet. Can anyone help?