



Harry Iveson in his Harness Shop.

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

Vernon School
P.O. Box 83 - Vernon, Ontario
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Newsletter

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Many of you may be receiving Newsletter 2 and Newsletter 3 in the same envelope. This arrangement was not planned to deprive the greedy Post Office of some revenue, but it has been the outcome of some very unexpected circumstances.

After an interesting and productive time at the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City during the last two weeks of March, the writer was faced with a suicide and probable incendiary fire during the first week of April on part of her property - west half lot 34 concession 5. A 120-year old frame house, a land mark for many of us, was gutted with fire during a period of freezing strong winds. The newer rear addition was gone in what seemed a few minutes, but the main part of the small house withstood over 4 hours of fire-fighting by our reliable Volunteer Fire Departments of Osgoode and Metcalfe. Part of each of the four walls still stand, proudly holding up the outside chimney, and the massive basement beams are practically intact - a fine tribute to the builders of so long ago. Originally the property belonged to Alexander McEwen and his wife, Janet McNab, grandparents of a late revered Clerk of Osgoode-Russell A. F. Blair of Metcalfe. Alex McEwen never lived here, and the property passed to a son Alex. When the one-roomed 2nd floor had the ceiling finished, fine tongue and grooved boards were used in place of plaster. The writer had had the paper removed from them and the boards painted. Following close on the disastrous fire, the writer experienced severe sickness of two months duration from which I am slowly recovering. Hopefully Newsletter 3 will follow quickly.

THE RIDEAU CANAL

Three months ago Dr. David Gray, a valued member of our Board of Directors, asked me to insert the following request. We would still appreciate your co-operation.

The Society is planning a special exhibit as one of many activities celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the opening of the Rideau Canal.

We need information, photographs, and historical materials relating to Osgoode Township and the Rideau. Information about township residents who worked on the canal, who built boats of any kind, or who used the Rideau for hunting, fishing, or other recreation in the old days will be very useful. We should like to have photographs taken along the Osgoode section of the river of steam-boats, barges, rowboats, canoes, wharfs, children fishing or playing, or any other recreational activity, as well as old views of any buildings along the river. Items suitable for display, either temporary loans or donations to the Museum's collection are needed. We plan to have some antique toy boats, models of some river craft, and other artifacts relating to the above topics on display. We will have special temporary exhibits on the Canal's history from Parks Canada, and on the restoration of antique boats from the Manotick Classic Boats Club on display during the summer.

Any help in this project will be most appreciated.

Please contact Mr. David Gray,
Box 381, Telephone (evenings)
Metcalfe, Ontario, 821-2640
K0A 2P0

A new interesting book on the Rideau has been published

The RIDEAU,

A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE WATERWAY

Editor: Dr. Adrian G. TenCate of Brockville,
Text by Mary Beacock Fryer

Price \$24.95

Considerable is written on the first white settler on the Rideau, Roger Stevens, who mysteriously drowned opposite the Dr. Taylor Park.

TIMOTHY IVESON'S ARRIVAL IN METCALFE
1854

In the last Newsletter we told how Timothy Iveson, founder of the Iveson Saddle, Collar and Harness Business in Metcalfe, left Rochdale, England, with well-laid plans to set up business in Guelph, Canada. Timothy's son, Frank recorded how fate intervened as his father encountered various interesting people along his route, and how he eventually became a business man in Metcalfe, not Guelph, Montreal, Kemptville, or Kenmore.

When on his way to Kenmore, at the suggestion of Robert McGregor, Timothy met Duncan McLaurin who had recently purchased property west of the present Metcalfe. Mr. McLaurin's greeting to this stranger, "Are you going far?" brought

the reply, "To a place called Kenmore to start a harness shop." "You will do no such thing. You will stay right in Metcalfe", insisted the enquirer, the father of the Reverend John MacLaurin, Late Baptist Missionary in India.

In Metcalfe, Mr. MacLaurin contacted Andrew Lawson - at that time owner of a small mill and later owner of Victoria Hall and Glasgow house - and Alex McDonnell to help secure a building. A House owned by Jim Stuart was available but rent was excessive. Lawson's declaration that he would clear out his parlour furniture to make shop space brought the owner to time. With the help of his two sons, now with him, Timothy was in business by 1854 on the site that later accommodated Daniel McLaurin's residence - for more recent residents, the home and office of Dr. Ed Murphy, the Veterinarian, just below the Methodist Hill on south Victoria Street.

In 1856, Timothy's wife Ellen Allison with three of their daughters and the other two sons joined her husband to occupy a small house on Zachariah McMillan's farm, just west of the village. By 1860 Lots 10 and 11 were in hand on north Victoria Street. The former became the site of the combined residence and shop. As the boys became of age, each served an apprenticeship but only Frank and Henry (Harry) remained at the home base. U.S.A. beckoned the two older lads. Joe farmed in the Brockport, N.Y. area and Bill plied his trade in Hilton, N.Y.

Workmanship quality in harness and Scotch Collar was beyond dispute. Accompanied by a son or two, treks from Bytown with rolls of leather strapped to their backs were not unusual. Frank was the only one to master the Scotch Collar technique. Late night shifts, after assuming Township Clerk duties in 1882, found him filling an order to relieve a horse's sore neck. Henry eventually moved benches and tools to his shop erected on lot 11 west of the old homestead. His death in 1938 marked the closing chapter of a business that served the public for almost eighty-five years.

But in 1981 the prowess of Timothy Iveson still lives on. A recent newspaper article heading "ANN, AT 25, REVIVES 1850 HOME" indicates a mammoth undertaking. Again its shop doors are open to the public - A handicraft shop. May the spirit of the 1800's and 1900's join to bring success and satisfaction to Ann Mears!

Grand-daughter of Timothy: Frances M. Iveson,
24 Roseberry Avenue,
Ottawa, Ontario.

IRISH SEMINAR

The program of the recent (last weekend in March) Ontario Genealogical Society, Ottawa Branch sponsored Seminar was to share existing knowledge and explore new ideas on Family History with a major focus on the Irish in Quebec City and the Ottawa Valley. This included a Friday night and all-day Saturday presentation.

Friday evening, Sister Marianna O'Gallagher gave us the Grosse Isle story. This was from her new forthcoming book on the Island Settlement established as a quarantine station for the sick on boats coming to the new world.

The same evening, Professor Donald Akinson suggested possible reasons for the Irish Immigration. It is interesting to note that a large number of immigrants from the British Isles during the period from the late 1700's to the mid 1800's were from Ireland.

Saturday brought us the Irish in Ontario and their impact on farming and the school system. In the afternoon, two topics were given concurrently: the Irish settlement of the Ottawa Valley and the Irish in Quebec. Ideas were presented on group settlements and movement patterns. In Quebec we saw the strong French influence on language and customs.

IRISH SEMINAR - cont'd.

Two professional Genealogists, Brian Gilchrist and Bruce Elliot suggested ways and means on how to find place of origin of Irish records. They suggested searching Church, Census, and Land Records as well as Rent Rolls and Education Records.

The Seminar was worthwhile for gathering information for further research. The G.G.S. also sets up a marketplace of genealogical material on Cemetery Listings, How-To books, charts and forms, and regional historical books. This year name tags were introduced with space for families being researched. It was amazing to see necks being put out of joint as people tried to read names in the hope of matching families and finding distant relatives.

Laura Kupferschmidt
Barbara Macey

NOTE: Bruce Elliott said to his audience: "If anyone tells you there are no records in Ireland, tell them, 'It simply ain't so'".

When the writer was at the Mormon Library, I was again searching the family name BALFE: I had heard that they had come from Co. Wicklow c 1846 to Kitley and Elmsley. There are RENT ROLL books for each County, and I was given the earliest available, that of 1852. I scanned page after page, going through the different Parishes, but found only one BALFE name, that of Edward, who had land in various places. But continuing on to the very last of the book, in the Parish of BOYSTOWN, there was KILBEG, and the name BALFE appeared at least a dozen times, sometimes with land only, sometimes with House and Land and sometimes with House, Offices, and Land. There was John, John Sr., John Jr., Matthew, Thomas, Patrick, Edward. We illustrate this search to encourage others to keep trying until the locality of their ancestors is discovered. Seldom did all the family leave their homeland. The Rent Rolls - VALUATION OF TENEMENTS, done annually, give a lot number for a map we did not see, occupiers of TOWNLANDS, the immediate LESSORS, description of Tenement, Area, rates of land and buildings, and TOTAL ANNUAL VALUATION. I have been told that there might be a chain of Lessors. The commonest name in this area was Luke Brady. Among the other people who lived in the area were familiar names such as McLoughlin, Conlin, Kelly, Cassidy, Healy, Byrne, M'Donell.

Also in Wicklow, near Dublin, in the Parish of POWERSCOURT, was the TOWN OF ENNISKERRY and surrounding area. Denis Doyle had a house there and Sylvester, a familiar Doyle name in Osgoode, was both occupier and Lessor of land in neighbouring Killegar. Other familiar names were Murphy, Cavanagh, Kenny, Carney. Did the Doyles bring the name ENNISKERRY with them?

ENGLAND

A friend asked me to look through the Millions of names in the Mormon Library to see what there was on her father's name - BIGMORE. About the middle of the last century it became compulsory to register births, deaths, and marriages in the British Isles. But the name BIGMORE appeared only twice in the Mormon records. One of the names was for 1600.

The vital statistics for England are on microfilm, indexed quarterly, giving the name and Registration District. James Jarvis Bigmore was supposed to have been born c1879 in the County of Cambridge. I was told to look for LINTON. I scanned the microfilm for 1879, 1877-8, and fortunately the name appeared only about three times in each quarter. But I continued on until 1882 when I found JAMES JABEY BIGMORE born in Linton. I paid \$10.00 to the assistant in charge and in about a month's time received the birth certificate from England through the Mormon Library. They will have three more of the names to add to their files. The Certificate reads:

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH Given at the GENERAL REGISTRY OFFICE LONDON

REGISTRATION DISTRICT		Linton					
1882	BIRTH in the subdistrict of <u>Dunford</u>	in the <u>County of Cambridge</u>					
	born name father mother occupation signature registered						
	First March 1882	Frank Jabey Bigmore	James Bigmore	Susan Bigmore	labourer	of mother	eleventh Apr. 1882
	Pamisford Mills (boy)			formerly			
	R.S.D.			Pluck			

The writer has long been aware of the inaccurate knowledge we may have of both names and ages. James Bigmore left home at age 17 for the Boer War and came afterwards to British Columbia.

SCOTLAND

A map of the Parishes of Scotland will indicate why the writer has found the quarter of her ancestors that are from Scotland - all Perthshire - in six different Parishes: Weem, Kenmore, Killin, Fortingal, Blair Atholl, Dull. And when looking in these Parishes we find many ancestors of those in Osgoode. As the Lords, living close together in their castles, fought or married off sons and daughters, land changed, and some Parishes are in 4 or 5 fragments. Others are of a very peculiar shape. This is true of Dull Parish, the records of which begin around 1700, and make up 4 micro-film reels.

From north to south, Dull Parish is 30 miles long. At the north, around Loch Tummel, were the Kennedy families, those who came first to Indian Lands near Maxville and later to Osgoode, and those who came later in the century to bring with them the art of blacksmithing that is mentioned at Foss nearly 300 years ago. To the south of Loch Tummel, 30 miles away, were the Dows, early Osgoode settlers. Thomas, all of whose family were in Osgoode at some time, most of them buried at Spring Hill, was baptized 13 Oct 1769, at E. Tuerrich, Glen Quaich, 13 Oct 1769, the son of Thomas Dow and Janet Carmichael. The latter Thomas was born 1727 the son of Thomas Dow and Mildred McKay. Then there were the McDonalds of Ormond, sometimes in Dull Parish, sometimes in others, since the area around Aberfeldy is in 3 Parishes. And there were Camerons and Rutherfords. The writer had a pleasant surprise to find the parents of her gr-gr-gr-grandmother, Janet McGregor. Janet and Donald Stuart were "booked" in Fortingal Parish in 1774. She was of Learan on the north shore of Loch Rannoch. But in Jan 1746, her parents, Malcolm McGregor and Margaret Menzies had her baptized in Dull Parish. Were the parents looking for a safer place to have her born than in the area where many died fighting for Prince Charlie in 1745? Anyhow, the Fortingal records begin only in 1748 and her parents might not have been found. Even her mother's birth was then found in Dull Parish, 1718. Information we should like to have always seems to be someplace. But where?

THE KEMPTVILLE ADVANCE

For about 5 years now, our Society has been working toward having the papers of the Kemptville Advance micro-filmed. This was quite an unknown field for most of us, but we knew it was important to preserve the content of papers that went back to the year 1858. Margaret Robb and Arlowa Ferguson did a great deal of ground work in working with Mr. Crawford and contacting micro-filming companies. Then, about a year ago, Professor Bickerton of Carleton University came to our aid. Through his untiring and persistent efforts, the work is now in progress and soon the many films will be available to the Public. Rideau Township Historical Society also became interested and are sharing the cost. They, too, will have copies of the micro-films, as will Mr. Crawford. We feel this is a very worthwhile accomplishment.

OSGOODE TOWNSHIP

The Mormons have many years ago microfilmed all the assessment Rolls of Osgoode and any other Township Records available. They have the minutes of the meetings from 1850-1890. We obtained permission from the Township to have copies of these purchased for our Society and are awaiting the delivery of them. Elaine Crowder has been copying out the births, marriages, and deaths from the Winchester Press that relate to Osgoode. The copies of that paper were burnt before 1919.

WEST OSGOODE

Recently, a party, looking for her grandparents grave, inquired around Osgoode Village for the location of West Osgoode and unfortunately no one whom she asked knew anything about it. But she was fortunate to come to the Museum where Gordon and Grace (Saunders) Blair were able to direct her to the Cemetery and as well tell her of her family. Both Grace and Gordon had gone to school with some of her aunts and uncles. Should there not be a sign WEST OSGOODE? The flourishing community was a focal point and very important when traffic increased on the Rideau Canal.

NEW OSGOODE

Manning McEvoy discovered, when visiting Saskatchewan, that there was a community known as New Osgoode. Inquiring around he found that the name had been given by homesteaders by the name of HOWES. He contacted a daughter, and she is a recent visitor to Osgoode and will be sending a copy of her many years of work on that family.