



MOLAMPHY HOMESTEAD
On the Bytown Stage Coach Route, Ottawa to Prescott.

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

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

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"LOYAL SHE REMAINS"

We have at the Museum one of the 500 copies of "A Pictorial History of Ontario", **LOYAL SHE REMAINS**. The title is taken from the official motto of our Province and the motto may be translated: *As Ontario Began Loyal
Loyal She Remains*

The large heavy book, recently published by the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, attempts to trace our 200-year old history by the use of a great variety of pictures, many in vivid colour, of many aspects of our life:- buildings, waterways, conflicts, forts, people, industries, etc. Hundreds of people contributed pictures and 25 writers contributed articles.

In one historical account, it is stated that by the Quebec Act of 1774- two years before the Declaration of Independence - the boundaries of Quebec were enlarged and the land area which is now Ontario was reserved as INDIAN LANDS, agreements, purchased from the Indians parts of Ontario to be used for the settlement of future Refugees.

In the PREFACE, Eugene Forsey, Honorary President of the United Loyalists' Association of Canada says: "...Ontario owes its creation to the Loyalists.

There were, of course, people in what is now Ontario before the Loyalists came, notably the Indians and the French. But they were few and scattered. Without the Loyalists there would have been no Ontario. There would, indeed, have been no Canada, just a few feeble, sparsely settled colonies which would soon, inevitably, have succumbed to the overwhelming pressure of the United States.

The Empire the Loyalists fought for is gone. But the values it stood for are not. They are enshrined in our present Canadian Constitution, "Peace, order and good government"...

The Fathers of Confederation were the heirs and beneficiaries of the Loyalists. The Fathers started us on the road to full nationhood. But without the Loyalists there would have been no Fathers even to contemplate that road....."

We recommend your examining this publication. The price is \$64.50.

Our Society has participated in various Bicentennial Projects being held throughout the Township: at Manotick, Greely, Metcalfe, Osgoode, Kenmore. We shall have displays at Metcalfe Fair and at the Ottawa Exhibition. The Pioneer Weekend will be held in Vernon July 27-29 and there will be special displays at the Museum. We shall be serving tea and biscuits as usual.

During the Celebrations taking place in the various towns and villages, there are Parades, Historic Displays, and many other projects depicting earlier times. The Public School Pupils in Osgoode Village, during the week of June 18-23, tried to live in the late 1700's and prepared a surprise for the Students of 200 years from now. A Time Capsule was prepared and buried in the front lawn of their School so that students of the future will have some items to help them celebrate Ontario's 400th Anniversary.

Ron Isaac, Vice-Principal, had each class fill a jar with their favourite stories, poems, candies, buttons, toys, coins and the jars were put into a Box made with pressure-treated wood, coated with wood preservative, wood joints, and the entire Box covered with heavy plastic. Inside as well will be a catalogue, text books, a tape recording, local papers, etc. The highlight of the week for the students was pioneer log sawing using the cross-cut and bucksaw. Wool-spinning and breadmaking were also demonstrated.

On Saturday, June 23, there was a parade with the theme "The Good Old Days". The Period Costumes made for a colourful Entourage and the Floats were imaginative and colourful. Our Historical Society won the prize for the best Historical Entry, a team of oxen owned and led by Don and Russell Lowe with Shirley Lowe and Helen Evans, in period costume, riding up front on the wagon.

The first settlers of Osgoode Township were 2nd or 3rd generation U.E.L. stock and retired military personnel. Then came large settlements of Irish and Scotch families, but we would be remiss if we did not recognize the input of other nationalities in our Township. Beginning in 1918, a number of French families from Embrun, St. Therese, Sarsfield, and Rockland moved into Snake Island, buying up the farms that the Irish had settled on some 65 or 70 years earlier. The first was Joseph D'Aoust, and early in 1920 the French ratepayers bought the school for S.S. #4 and it became a French Catholic Bilingual School called R.C.S.S. no. 14. For many years, as many as 50 students were in attendance. These French people from East Russell had immigrated there from the Parish of St. Jacques in France. We have at the Historical Society the Cemetery Inscriptions of St. Jacques in Embrun. We welcome the news that a Museum is planned for Embrun.

In another Osgoode area, the Manotick Station Back Road, is the Polish Settlement. Nicholas Adamowski (Adams) and his wife Alexandra Sankow bought the Quinn farm in 1923 and it is still owned by a member of the family. Nestor Rakowski and wife came in 1928; Mike Kachura and wife Helen and brother Max in 1933; Joe Czechowski and wife in May 1934; Michael Kowolchuck and wife Anne in 1936; the Wagoners in 1925. All these Polish people bought farms previously settled by Irish Pioneers.

WEST OSGOODE

One of our new members, Alvan Bower of Manotick, had heard that his great grandfather, John C. Bower, had been the first postmaster in Osgoode and he wondered why his name was not listed in Margaret Robb's book commemorating 100 years since the founding of the Post Office at Osgoode Station. He was not aware of a place called West Osgoode. There was North Osgoode, South Osgoode, East Osgoode, and Osgoode Centre as well. But most important of all was West Osgoode on the Throughway from Bytown to Prescott. We quote from a newspaper clipping. WEST OSGOODE HAD BEGINNING IN 1841.

"The village of West Osgoode 2½ miles from Osgoode Station and 22 miles from Ottawa, was started in 1841 by Philip Helmer and John C. Bower. A Post Office was established there in 1852 and John C. Bower was appointed postmaster. In 1856 J. C. Bower started a sawmill which cost \$3,000 and had a capacity of 16,000,000 feet per year. He also established a factory for making tables and bedsteads.

In 1864 Saniel O'Connor and Miss Lydia Van Allan were the teachers of the local school. Each had 20 pupils. In that year the population was about 50. The residents of the village and of the immediate community were:

<i>John C. Bower</i>	<i>James Owen Sawyer</i>
<i>Robert Cleland, farmer</i>	<i>John Schwerdfeger, Engineer</i>
<i>John Cleland and Co., Merchants</i>	<i>Peter Schwerdfeger, Farmer</i>
<i>Peter Grant, Farmer</i>	<i>Samuel Schwerdfeger, Sawyer</i>
<i>Thomas Heaphy, Cooper</i>	<i>Emery Sherwood, Blacksmith</i>
<i>Edward Murphy, Waggonmaker</i>	<i>Benjamin Wright, Farmer</i>
<i>William Murphy, Blacksmith</i>	

Alvan Bower is taking a trip to Aberdeen this summer in search of the BOWER Roots. He had information about a Rev. Bower who had three sons, one of whom went to Albany from Aberdeen. The late Wm. Bower also claimed descent from the Aberdeen Clergyman, but it was only when looking through the Bower Family folder in our Museum that Alvan Bower found the missing link he was looking for. Bill Bower had saved a letter written by William Bower in 1842 telling his lot and concession in Mountain Township. Whom did he marry that he gave his son the German name, John Conrad?

Thomas Wilson, one of the early blacksmiths of West Osgoode, appears to have been a very strong man. On one occasion, according to Patrick Dewan, Mr. Wilson overcame a fractious horse that did not want its hind leg held for shoeing by catching the other leg and throwing the animal to the floor where it was held with the assistance of a helper until the job was finished. On another occasion, Mr. Wilson was credited with lifting a 700-pound hogshead off a dray, rolling it into a cellar and lifting it on to a stand about two feet high.

Mr. Patrick Dewan, referred to above, had many stories printed in "Old Time Stuff". He was born in 1849, third generation from Pioneer Maurice Dewan who came from Clonmel, Co Tipperary in 1827. The Dewan Family have been in Gloucester and Osgoode ever since. When the family began to grow wheat, Patrick's father had to carry it on his back, bag by bag, 3 miles to the Rideau, through a bush path, and then paddle the canoe to Kemptville to a grist mill. On the return, the flour would be carried home, bag after bag. In those days the roads ran only from farm to farm—forced roads used by a person only on horseback. Wheels were not known on the swampy corduroy paths.

OUR PIONEER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

When Dr. Arnold Taylor was elected Reeve of Osgoode Township for the year 1947, was he aware that nearly 100 years earlier his great, great grandfather, Arthur Allen, had been chosen Osgoode Township's first Reeve? Arthur Allen lived with his son, Samuel Allen, in the first concession on the N $\frac{1}{2}$ lot 35. His daughter, Jane, married Clarke Moses who lived on the S $\frac{1}{2}$ of the same lot. A new Canadian family of German descent is now renovating the sturdy, well-built Moses home. The Records of the first Council were carefully kept.

1850 FIRST COUNCIL

"This Book and the Corporation Seal presented to the Municipality and Inhabitants of Osgoode by Arthur Allen the first Town Reeve in token of his gratitude for the confidence and Honor conferred on him." So begins our records kept by the Township Clerk, Thomad Bailey, at whose house (or Inn?) the first Council met. This first Book has the Minutes for the years 1850-1860.

This first Council was perhaps one of the most important that the Township ever elected. Those chosen were: Thomas Cangla (Cangley), Arthur Allen, John Lee, John McDearmied (McDiarmid), Peter McNab. The Councillors selected Arthur Allen to be Reeve. There had been passed "in the 12th year of the Reign of Queen Victoria (1849) a General Law for the Erection of Municipal Corporations and Establishment of Regulations of Police for the Municipal Governments of Upper Canada."

The Council met on January 21, 1850, and by the end of their term had laid the ground work for the enormous task of governing the affairs of a people of very varied backgrounds who were making new homes in a wilderness. The first motion, made by Thos Cangla, moved that the Rev. Wm. Lohead be Superintendent of Education for the ensuing year. Each school was to be visited every three months. Later in the year, the Council repealed the School Boundaries as established by the "late Dalhousie District" and laid down the new boundaries for 13 School Sections. This Council was indeed democratic. It seems that almost every able-bodied man had a job to do. Donald McIntosh was Treasurer; John McEvoy, Duncan McLaren, and Donald Campbell were Assessors. And there were 17 Pound-Keepers who received fees for feeding the stray horses, bulls, hogs, sheep, geese, or turkeys that might be running at large. Owners were fined, one pound for a bull, less for other animals, and a bell was to be on every yoke of oxen or horned cattle. Sheep, geese and turkeys might run at large any time except in the summer and autumn months. The following were named as Pound Keepers:

Samuel Rosseter	Henry Brown	Mich'l Martin
Thomas Gold	Leon'd Wood	James Andrew
Donald Craig	Warren Moon	Sylvester Doyle
Adam McRostie	Thomas Cook	Sam'l Little
Henry Hartley	James Doyle	Silvina Harris
Jas Chisolm	William Butler	

And there were rules about fences - log fences were to be at least 4 feet 8 inches high and not more than 8" between logs. Fence Viewers:

Patrick Skiffington	Moses Tobin	Hugh Mathews
Jas Buchanan	Jas McDonald	John Kennedy
John S. Campbell	John O'Brian	Duncan McDonald 6th
John C. Bowers	Rich'd Hepinstal	

Six people were chosen Sureties: Thos Duncan and James Johnstone for Collection of Rates; Arch'd McDonall and Adam Baker for the Township Clerk; Henry Hanna and Andrew Wilson for the Treasurer.

There were 37 people appointed to the position of PATH MASTERS. Each man had the responsibility of seeing that his neighbours performed their Statute Labour - about 2 days work each on the would-be roads; fences were not to be built across the "path-ways", and animals were not to be at large. The positions of Road Superintendents were reserved for the Councillors who were to be insured against accidents or liability if falling trees damaged adjoining property when roads were being cleared. A Deputy-Surveyor was given authority to run 9-mile roads which would be paid for by the taxes of absentee lot owners. As well there were 6 new side-line roads to be opened.

The 4-Corners where the Dalmeny Road crosses Highway 31 was known as "The 9-mile". It was 9 miles to Winchester, 9 miles to Russell, 9 miles to Osgoode. What was the significance of this common measurement? It was in 1850 that the forced road across concession 6 west of the present Vernon was replaced by the present part of the highway between concessions. The Council sold the old road across the hill to the owners of lots 36 to 40: Mr. Alexander McDonell Esq., Mr. Duncan McLaren (McLaurin), Mr. John Ferguson, Mr. Duncan McDonald, Rev. Daniel McPhail, for 1/3 currency each. The Assessment at the end of the year was 3/4 of a penny on the pound. Thomas Bailey was paid 10 pounds for his work as Clerk; Rev. Wm. Lohead 10 pounds as School Superintendent. There were 100 copies of the 1850 report of proceedings printed by Mr. Bell.

A WEEK-END IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

During Easter Week last April, I had the experience of showing a nephew, John Stuart, the birthplace of another John Stuart, his great, great grandfather. The location was at Styx, Perthshire, Scotland, on the slope of a hill overlooking Taymouth Castle, the former property of the Earls of Breadalbane (Campbells) on the Tay River. The village of Styx, an abandoned, roofless, dry-stone-wall structure, consisted of 12 homes joined together to form a U-shaped large "town house" with 12 doors opening into the common enclosure.

My nephew's younger 7-year old daughter was named ERIN, and her parents wished her to see the land whose name she bore. In our rented car we crossed from Stranraer, Scotland, to Larne in Ulster on a Ferry-Boat that took us out Loch Ryan and across an unusually calm sea for the 2-hour trip. The cost was 91 pounds for car and 5 passengers.

The following morning we drove along the eastern shore, skirting Belfast, and arrived in Dublin in the afternoon. Like Scotland, the fields in April were already green, and the large herds of cattle were enjoying the grass on the rolling hillsides. Flowers, as well, were blooming about a month ahead of ours in Osgoode.

In Dublin we found the busy Tourist Information Building, and it was at once evident that Ireland has become conscious that millions of descendants of her land are interested in their Irish roots. On one wall was the word GENEALOGY in large letters. I explained that I would like to find the ancestors of my great grandmother, Mary Balfe. I was shown a large telephone book that contained the names of all householders in the Irish Republic excluding Dublin. There was also the Dublin Directory. About 20 people of the name BALFE were found in each. I copied down the names of those living in County Wicklow, just south of Dublin. As well, we were given the name of a fine "Bed and Breakfast" home for our 2-night stay, 7 pounds a night single (about \$10), less for a double room. The house was within walking distance of the ocean. We learned from the Landlady that about 90% of the population was Roman Catholic and that there were a considerable number of Jews.

Saturday morning I went to the Dublin Carnegie Public Library and it was again evident that many were anxious to assist. Along a street near the Library were bookstores packed with information on Irish History and People. On the ground floor of the Library there was a display of beautifully coloured maps of old Estates which showed the names of the tenants. Upstairs the Librarians were ready to answer questions. When I gave the name and the place, Kilbeg, I was asked whether the people were Protestant or Catholic. When I answered Catholic, I was told that the Protestants had better Records, and that the Registers I wished began in 1850. It was suggested that I look around while I was waiting for the material, and I examined a book - The Irish in Ontario - and read a variety of letters written "home" from Emigrants. Many people were using the micro-film readers.

In the afternoon we drove south and I took a picture of the sign ENNISKERRY. In Wicklow we saw land that reminded us of the Highlands of Scotland, and it was clear why so many emigrated from a countryside that would provide such a meagre living. In Kilbeg the name BALFE was written above a very small busy store, similar to many in Ireland and Scotland, and I enquired of the genial owner whether anyone was familiar with the Balfe History. He replied that his brother, a teacher in London, England, was working on their History, that there were more Balfes in Meath, and that he would have his brother get in touch with me. He refused to take money for the paper and the orange that I bought. The name BALFE was made famous by a Dublin musician, Michael Balfe, composer of The Bohemian Girl, Killarney, and other Irish songs.

Sunday morning we began our trip northwards, following the less-travelled route. As yet, Ireland does not seem aware of the wealth of its store of Historic Sites, all an interest to tourists. We practically stumbled upon such places as the remains of an old Castle of King John in whose reign, 1215, the Magna Carta was signed. Close by was an abandoned Protestant Church, well built and still well preserved. The writing on the monuments was clearly legible, so hard was the particular stone that was used. At the border, no duty was asked, for the linens and other merchandise purchased. We crossed back to Scotland and stayed at Ayr, ready for the return flight.

Considering our ailing dollar and the fact that the Irish pound is lower than the low British pound, I am anxious to return to Dublin and spend a much longer time getting to know the area where many of my ancestors lived.

In the next Newsletter we shall be talking about early education. Send us some of your memories of the School Days that are gone.