



## Osgoode Township Historical Society and Museum

Volume XXXVIII Number 3  
December 2011

### Baptist Pioneering, The Western Convention.

By Kelly Fekete

Printed in 1939, **“Pioneering in Western Canada a story of the Baptists,”** was written by Rev. Dr. Colin Campbell McLaurin. I happened upon it one afternoon while volunteering at the OTHS & Museum. It was in a box under the manager’s desk and I had started to take a look through the box to see what interesting things were in it.

Am I a Baptist, you ask? No. I am not. It was really the surname of the author that drew me to the book. Not the subject matter. I was wonder-

ing if the person was related to **“my” McLaurins**, the ones who built my home in Metcalfe. What information could I glean from this **book’s pages to help me in my research?** Were there pictures? (It is one of my jobs to try and identify persons in the **“unidentified”** photo collection.)

I asked to borrow the book and take it home to see what I could find. It did have photos! But why did the good Rev. feel a need to self publish this book? Was it a family history or a memoir type book?

I was soon to discover, a well written candid history lesson. It was not a hard read. It flowed and was very easy to get into. A comprehensive look at the efforts, dedication, hard work and often terrain, it took to bring the Baptists Mission to the west.

**I don’t know how** many of these books are in circulation or how many were printed. The Museum seems to have only one copy, I thought you would like to come along with me over the next few news letters and I would share with you some snippets of history from this interesting book.



Rev. Colin Campbell McLaurin  
D.D

To be continued...

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#### Correction

The OTHSM would like to thank volunteer Kelly Fekete for her photographs of our bronze workshops which were used in the September Newsletter without proper credit..

Holiday Hours  
The Osgoode Township Historical Society and Museum will be closed from Dec. 24—Jan. 2.



RSVP Now for the OTHSM Annual Christmas Dinner at Metcalfe Golf and Country Club.  
Dec. 6, - 6 p.m.



Flo Wood and Elizabeth Stuart on the Kenmore Bridge, c. 1920

## Elizabeth Stevens Stuart—Patti Mitton

**“The best place to look for something is where you looked before, because you didn’t really know what you were looking for the first time around.”**

Elizabeth Stuart shared with me this hard-earned piece of wisdom she had learned from doing historical research, and in almost 40 years of working in genealogy, I found it to be true time and again. It may also be true in life: the happiness we seek and the things we treasure most dearly can be found right where we are.

Twice I brought Elizabeth to the verge of tears by acknowledging things that were close to her heart. Some years ago, the Osgoode Township Historical Society and Mu-

seum’s Archives room was named the Elizabeth Stevens Stuart Room. Without really understanding why at the time, I suggested that her middle name be spelled out in full on the plaque, instead of simply being represented by the initial “S”. When Elizabeth saw the plaque on the day of the unveiling, she was deeply moved to see both her father’s and her mother’s surname there, because it called up memories of both sides of her family. Not long before selling her beloved Maplehurst Farm to a neighbour, Elizabeth arranged for her barn and outbuildings to have a fresh coat of soft grey paint with white trim. The effect was beautiful, and I

complimented her on it. **“You can tell that the place is loved.”** We were both surprised by her tears. Home, family, the gifts of our ancestors, these were precious to Elizabeth, and encouraging others to embrace their own history was one of her passions.

We will no longer hear the remarkable voice that exclaimed during a presentation at the Osgoode Township Museum, **“Ah yes, Conscriptum, “Ah yes, Conscriptum in 1917! I remember it well!” But I will always feel honoured that the same voice eagerly introduced me on numerous occasions in this way: “This is my friend, Patti Mitton....”**

### **Don’t Forget:**

*Membership Renewals are due now.*

*Contact the Museum to renew and make sure you don’t miss out on any upcoming events or news reported in the newsletter.*



### Limited Edition Metcalfe Fair Poster

The OTHSM is reproducing a limited number of copies of a poster advertising the 1933 Metcalfe Fair. We will be selling these items at the Metcalfe Fair (Sept. 29—Oct. 2, 2011) and at the Museum for as long as supplies last. **Don’t miss your opportunity to own a piece of history and support the OTHSM. Contact the Museum to reserve yours today for \$20.**





## Remembering - Michael Daley

The paper reads, **“STUART, Elizabeth Stevens. Passed away peacefully at the Township of Osgoode Care Centre on Wednesday, September 7, 2011 in her 105<sup>th</sup> year.”**

Amazing Woman, her roots run deep in Osgoode Township, and even deeper on the banks of the River Tay, in the land of the Heather. Let us for a moment turn back those pages of time: Elizabeth arrived Sunday July 7, 1907, and as her mother stated, she arrived unexpected. Over the years, would I be wrong in saying that Elizabeth still had that same trait?

Years later in search of her Birth Certificate, she found that her birth had never been registered. She made a visit **to the Doctor who attended her mother at the time of her birth, and his record showed her father’s name, “Cam Stuart \$ 5.00”. This information was forwarded to the Provincial Registrar. A question came back to the Doctor: “Were you present at the birth?”**

Elizabeth was the first female, as a little girl, to take cans of milk to the Dalmeny Cheese Factory with a horse and express, prior to her starting to school. Later when she became old enough, at age 7 years, she would take the milk to the factory, then walk the mile and a half to the one-room school house.

A few short years were spent getting an education, at Kenmore Continuation School, Lisgar Collegiate, Normal School and graduating from **Queen’s University in 1932 with Honours in English and History. Elizabeth graduated again at Queen’s in 1949 with First Class Honours in Math, having taught the returning veterans Junior Math during her three years at the university.** Elizabeth then taught countless numbers of students across this province, which was indeed an accomplishment, as Elizabeth assisted them in choosing their way of life in this interesting world. Early retirement was necessary in 1968 because of severe whiplash from an accident caused by a drunken driver. She returned to her roots, taking over the family farm and maintaining a cash crop operation for many years.

MY introduction to ELIZABETH STUART came after my wife informed me she wanted to take her elderly **parents to Ireland. My arguments (we couldn’t afford to, we couldn’t leave the kids, or the cows) were futile.** I was still saying no when she brought home the tickets. I then visited the National Library on Wellington Street to learn something of my ancestors from Ireland. In speaking to a woman, Mary Coughlin by name, I learned of Miss Elizabeth Stuart living in Osgoode Township, a retired school teacher, a noted Historian who had done extensive research at the archives. Thus it was that I made a phone call to Elizabeth Stuart, and I in turn received an invitation to attend a meeting with a group of senior citizens (New Horizons Group) with a mutual interest, their third meeting, in their search for their ancestors, the meeting to be held at the home of Miss Jessie Robertson in Vernon on March 9, 1973. Those present were Margaret Robb, Laura Taylor, Gerald Hill, Jessie Campbell, Elizabeth Stuart, Jessie Robertson, Michael Daley, Lorne Brunton, Helen Cavell, Jennie Dow and S.M.Lee.

Elizabeth urged each member that day to start working on their family history, and she implanted in my mind the urge to delve into this fascinating world of history and genealogy in our Township. That meeting changed my life for those many years. [MY WIFE OF 61 YEARS WILL VERIFY THAT.] There were times I would be researching **or putting the newsletters together at night at the museum, and she would say, “You may as well take your bed with you.” Ironically, of those eleven people who attended that meeting of March 9, 1973, those numbers have faded to one.**

I would be remiss if I failed to commend Elizabeth for her dedication to her church and the Community in which she lived these many years, and all volunteers of the past and the present as well, all those who, like Elizabeth, have contributed their time and talents to the Osgoode Township Historical Society and Museum. In my view it stands second to none in this beautiful Valley.

Elizabeth, as you continue your journey into the hereafter, may the Lord continue to bless you and hold you in the palm of His hand.





### Recipe Roundup

#### Scotch Shortbread (No. 3)

The following recipe was taken from The Five Roses Cookbook: Bread, Pastry, Etc.

- 1/2 pound fresh butter
- 2 ounces fine sugar
- 1/2 ounce cornstarch
- 6 ounces Five Roses flour

Knead cornstarch and sugar into the butter, then gradually knead in flour. Roll out into a round. Pinch the edges with fore-finger and thumb, prick over top with fork, cut in eight. Place on baking dish and bake in moderate over 20 minutes. Leave on tin to harden.

### New Plough!



A big thanks goes to Ken McDiarmid for the new plough that graces our front lawn. Stay tuned in the Spring for our extended flower bed.

Who am I?  
If you can identify the subject of the image below please contact the Museum at 613-821-4062 or oths@magma.ca

### Storage Shed

We have recently acquired a shed from ProMac sheds to store our non-artefact related materials.



### Volunteer Corner

If you have some spare time, an interest in Osgoode Township history and would like to volunteer your services, we want you! We are currently looking for people who would like to be on one of the committees, act as Directors, help with collections projects or help with outreach activities. Please contact the museum if you think you may be interested.



# Contact Us!

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

7814 Lawrence St.  
Box 74  
Vernon, ON  
K0A 3J0

Phone: 613-821-4062  
Fax: 613-821-3140  
Email: oths@magma.ca

Check out our new webpage!

[www.osgoodemuseum.ca](http://www.osgoodemuseum.ca)

Museum Hours  
Tuesday—Saturday  
9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.



# Upcoming Events

Adult Workshop—Christmas Lanterns  
Saturday Dec. 3—1-4 pm Cost:\$25

OTHSM Christmas Dinner—Metcalf Golf  
Tuesday Dec. 6—RSVP @ the Museum

Kids Craft Day—Christmas Crafts  
Saturday Dec. 17—1-3pm Cost:\$5 per child

Regular monthly meeting-OTHS  
Tuesday, January 2—7:30 pm

Kids Craft Day—Mosaics and Collages  
Saturday, January 14—1-3pm Cost: \$5 per child

Kids PD Day Camp Program  
Friday January 20—8:30-5:30 Cost: \$25 per child

Adult Workshop—Candle Making  
Saturday, January 21—1-4 pm Cost: \$25 per adult

Kids PD Day Camp Program  
Friday, January 27—8:30-5:30 Cost: \$25 per child

Please check our website for up to date events listings!

## About Us

The Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum traces its founding back to November 23, 1972 when the first meeting to organize "The New Horizons Historical Group" was held. Their purpose in establishing this group was to do research, create interest, collect data, preserve and publish the history of Osgoode Township and the genealogy of its residents.

The initial objective was to prepare a story for the Township of Osgoode's 150th Anniversary in 1977. It was on August 8, 1973 that the founding group signed an agreement with the Township of Osgoode covering the use of the building and property known then as the Vernon Public School. The group held their first meeting in the school on August 23, 1973.

The official opening of the Museum was held on September 21, 1973 with many interesting articles of bygone days on display for the first Visitors' Day. The Agricultural Museum building was subsequently built and officially opened on August 12, 1989. It now provides a home for the vast farming and industrial collection held by the Museum.

The Historical Society continues to collect information and artefacts relating to life in Osgoode Township and make them available to the public.