



Shanty in Snake Island - Circa 1907

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

Vernon School
P.O. Box 83 - Vernon, Ontario
K0A 3J0

— ❧ Newsletter ❧ —

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Autumn Fantasy

*The autumn now is here and passing
The leaves in varied colours flashing
The breezes blow and send them dancing
Like children in their play romancing
Who run about and hide and laughing*

*The trees shake now and then are still
As on the ground their leaves they spill
And bearing branches shake and quiver
As if in fear they dread the winter
It is a time of beauty grand
The varied colours of our land*

Author: Raymond Leahy, 1981

From our Township,	In a few short lines
Past and present	Their story they tell
There are those people	Of life, of love
Gifted so by nature	Of tragedy, of the Grandeur
To write such little poems	Of our lands.

"Autumn Fantasy" taken from a collection of poems by Ray Leahy. Ray, born 1899, in "Snake Island" farmed on the Prescott Road, retired and living with his wife Elsie in Kenora, Ontario.

In my attempt to compile a newsworthy newsletter, I find myself reflecting on the above picture. It is most gratifying to know that a copy of the same, enlarged to a 12 by 16 foot mural, adorns a wall amidst "Canadian Forestry Display" at the Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa, the capital city of Canada. Thanks to Joe Rowan and George Nicholson. A memento to our Township history.

Our fall fairs have come and gone. Once again the Historical Society set up a display at the Metcalfe Fair of artifacts, publications, etc. in the Agricultural Hall. Tickets were sold for a quilt made by Alice Craig, Olive Cameron, Muriel Cameron, and Edna Presley. The winning ticket drawn at the fair by director David Mackie was held by Mrs. R. Adams of Manotick.

Michael Daley

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

This shall be our last newsletter of 1990. Looking back, we see a run of the mill year with the usual triumphs, calamities and unforeseen disasters.

On the credit side of the ledger, since our last newsletter we have:

- displayed artifacts, publications and a quilt in-the-making at Kars Fair and at Dairyfest in Winchester;
- entertained visitors on Pioneer Day (July 28) with music by the Harmony Six, displays of working artifacts, tours of our collection, refreshments and enlightened conversation;
- in September, provided an old-fashioned tea party as part of a fund raising effort to assist in paying for our new furnace;
- enjoyed guest speakers Keith Boyd with an audio-visual documentary of the Russell fire of 1915 and Coral Lindsay with an astonishing collection of antique dolls and toys;
- Attended the official opening of the Rideau Township Archives in North Gower;
- displayed publications and artifacts for the three days of Metcalfe Fair.

On the debit side, we were shocked and dismayed to learn of the passing of a good friend and neighbour, Ewen Douglas MacMillan. Although Doug was a quiet person, those who knew him well were aware of a good sense of humour and a dry wit. Well versed in many aspects of history and with a great fund of anecdotes and witty stories. A long time member of the Historical Society. There was once (and may be yet) a sun dial in an old English garden with a plaque which read...

*"You say; Time flies, alas
Not so!
Time stays.
We go."*

Bob Usher

1990 A Year to Remember

Historians will inscribe in the annals of our nation's history books "the Death of Meech Lake Accord". They will inscribe the confrontation of armed Canadians against armed Canadians, a confrontation of which we in this country find hard to accept - "but it happened!" Pictures of confrontation - face to face, eye to eye, of barricades of trees and earth, of razor wire, stone throwing incidents- brought home to us by the news media, and the pressing of a T.V. button. Thankfully cool heads prevailed resulting in the dismantling of all barricades, a prelude to peaceful negotiations.

Historians will also inscribe that the Canadian Armed Forces - Army, Navy, and Airforce - were posted to a possible War Zone in the Middle East.

M. Daley

The First Canadians- a brief review:

When Columbus landed in the New World he believed he had reached India, and he called the natives "Indians". This term although a misnomer, has since been applied to the whole aboriginal population of North, Central and South America exclusive of the Inuit. There were more than fifty different tribes in Canada, each with its own dialect, customs and well-defined hunting grounds.

The Indians of the Pacific Coast occupied roughly the coastal area of British Columbia. In this area were many distinct tribes foremost among them were the Haida, Salish, Nootka, and Bella Coola. The Plains Indians consisted largely of Blackfoot, Sioux, Assiniboine, Plains Cree and Plains Ojibway Tribes. They occupied the rich agricultural prairie lands. The advent of the horse made life easier for the Plains Indians.

When wild herds of horses moved north from Mexico (where they had been brought by the Spaniards) the Plains Indians domesticated them and used them in the hunt. Nevertheless, they continued to be the nomads of the Western Plains. Life was a never-ending search for deer and buffalo, the natives' survival depended on them.

Linguistically, the Indians of the Eastern Woodlands can be classified into two divisions. Those who spoke the Athapascan and those who spoke Algonquian. The Algonquian occupied the Appalachian Highlands and the whole Canadian Shield. The Indians of the Athapascan tongue, such as the Chibewyan and the Yellowknife, inhabited the northern and western part of the Canadian Shield.

The Indians who spoke Algonquian were of great significance. This linguistic group included the Micmac of Nova Scotia, the Malecite of New Brunswick, the Algonquin of the regions of the Ottawa and St. Maurice rivers, the Montagnais, the Cree and the Ojibway of the Canadian Shield.

The Indian tribes of the St. Lawrence Valley had two things in common. They spoke the Iroquoian tongue and lived in similar environments. The famous tribes of the Five Nations - Onandaga, Cayuga, Mohawk, Seneca and Oneida as well as the Huron, the Neutral and the Petun made their homes in the area that approximates the St. Lawrence Lowlands and the northern portions of New York State. Somewhere in their history these Indians had learned how to grow corn, sunflowers, squash, beans and peas; but with their primitive tools they could not depend exclusively on agriculture for their existence and therefore were hunters as well as farmers.

The Whiteman introduced the Indians to iron tools and weapons. European civilization also brought with it diseases that had been unknown to the Indian. Measles and smallpox took a disastrous toll of Indian lives.

The Whiteman in turn learned from the Indian to hunt, to fish, to try to use the canoe and snowshoe, to preserve food and to clothe himself in the harsh environment of North America.

M. Daley

Notes of Interest:

Excerpts taken from the first Book of Osgoode Township Register dated 1850-1890.

page 1: -1850 This book and 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 honour conferred on him.

page 2: Reign of Victoria 1850, First Council - By virtue of an Act in the 12th year of the reign of Victoria... to provide by one general law for the erection

of municipal corporations and the establishment of Regulations of Police in and... the several counties, cities, towns, townships and villages in Upper Canada.

And by the Authority of the same, the Council for the Township of Osgoode met at Thomas Bailey's on the 21st day of January, 1850.

Present all the members.

The Council proceeded to the elections of Reeve when Arthur Allen was duly elected for the Township Reeve. The Reeve having taken the qualifications of the different laws then taken and accepted.

Peter McNab	John Lee
Thomas Canla	John McDermid

Moved by Mr. McNab and seconded by Mr. Lee that the Council do adjourn until the 8th day of February next, 10 o'clock. Carried.

A number of Rules, Regulations, By-laws were introduced and a copy of same to be posted in a conspicuous part of the council room, during sitting of the Council. By order of the Councillors. Signed, Thomas Bailey, Clerk.

The following names were appointed as Pound Keepers:

Thomas Gold	Henry Brown	Michael McCartin
Donald Craig	Warren Moon	James Andrews
Adam McCrostie	Thomas Cook	Sylvester Dovle
Henry Hartley	James Dovle	Sam Little
Jas Chislom	William Butler	Silvina Harris

The following appointed fence viewers: Patrick Shiffington, Jas Buchanan, John Bowers, John S. Campbell, Moses Tobin, Jas McDo, John O'Brien, Rich Hepinstall, Hugh Mathews, John Kennedy and Duncan McDonald.

Motions, presentations in regards to school sections, roads, etc. were presented at that first meeting. Some were carried, others laid over till the next session.

One interesting item reads "Wm. Lee gives notice that he will move for the township to be divided into rural wards, at the next session of the Council. Carried."

>>Two signs at the intersection of Highway 31 and Regional Road 6 were recently erected and read "Snake Island Road".<<

M. Daley

Query:

An inscription on a large trophy cup, donated by Philip Evans of Kemptville reads "Dr. D.H. Baird, Bowling Trophy, 1910". The cup was found in a Mountain Township roadside ditch. The doctor is known to have been present at the birth of Gordon Simser in Osgoode Twp. many years ago. Any information on this gentleman, sent to the Osgoode Historical Society would be appreciated. Did he reside in Vernon, Mountain, or elsewhere?

HISTORY OF THE QUINNS ON 7th LINE:

The John Quinn family settled in Canada from Ireland in 1843. John Quinn obtained ownership from the Crown for 100 acres on May 3, 1855 (Lot 8, Con 6 - Osgoode Township).

David, one of John's sons, farmed with his father. David had six boys. William moved to a 100 acre farm (W 1/2 of Lot 8 Con 7), but sold it in later years. In the early 1900's James with his father (David) moved to Lot 14 Con 7, a 100 acre farm, where James' son Alvin farms today. John moved to Edwards, but his son Milton bought 200 acres on this road where his son Lee Quinn lives today. Andrew had two sons - Mervin, who moved to a 100 acre farm (Lot 9 Con 7) and many years later sold. Mervin's wife Grace lives today on 50 acres (Lot 7 Con 7). Earl stayed on the home farm and had three sons. In 1974 Leonard married and Earl moved next door. Leonard is presently farming the same farm that has been in the Quinn name since 1855.

At the present time, we have six Quinn households including over 500 acres on this road. All of these families originated from the John Quinn of 1843.

Leonard & Shirley Quinn

Possibly of Interest:

One of our visitors asked why the concession roads are one and a quarter miles apart, when it might have been simpler to have them a mile apart. The answer is simple enough but possibly there are some who don't know.

It all goes back to pre-Norman England (Before 1066) when farming in southern England was done on a community basis. Fields were laid out in lengths of one-eighth of a mile, or 660 feet (or 40 rods); so a furrow length (or furlong) became established as a recognized unit of length.

When ploughing with animal draught, a lot of time can be lost turning at the end, so, by custom, when the distance across the end was as much as 66 feet (or 4 rods) a new land was struck out. The amount ploughed was called an "acre". Thus an acre became an established unit of area.

At some time someone decided that 100 acres would be a nice size for a farm and if 100 acres were established side by side, the length of a farm would be 1 and 1/4 miles (or 10 furlongs). - Don't give up, there's more to come! ----->

In laying out a township, it was decided that roads 1 1/4 miles apart would be nice, so we have our concession roads at that interval. Then if we have cross roads the same distance apart, we now have a square grid, with each block consisting of 1000 acres. Voila!!

Just as simple as that. You may ask why are the cross roads sometimes called "nine mile roads"? - Good question, but I just don't know!

Bob Usher

New Acquisitions:

Mid-summer we were grateful to receive from storage of the Township offices a number of documents for safekeeping as well as for our own research purposes. These are in the form of nearly 150 large, bound ledgers concerning Osgoode Township residents from the 1850's to 1952. There are 16 volumes of minutes of Township Council meetings, and Assessment and Collection Rolls numbering about 130 volumes.

The Assessment Rolls have vertical columns giving names of residents, their lot and concession number, and running horizontally, information concerning the occupant, and the property. The 1891 Assessment Roll for example, lists the age of the main occupant, the school section, whether separate or public supporter, the number of acres, the number of acres cleared, the value of the property, the aggregate value of personal property and income, the number of days labour owed, number of dogs, number in family, religion, number of cattle, sheep, hogs, the number of family births and deaths within the year and whether registered or not, acres of woodland, acres of swamp, acres of orchard and garden, acres under wheat, number of steam boilers, number of children between 5 and 21 years, and number of children between 7 and 13 years of age as well as date of delivery of assessment notice.

These facts are valuable in comparing year by year occupation of land as well as other valuable information. For example in 1891, Patrick McEvoy - age 75 occupied the north half of Lot 19 Con 3 with 100 acres, assessed at \$1550. He has 45 acres cleared, owes 5 days labour, has 8 persons in his family, is R.C., has 6 cattle, 6 sheep, 1 hog, 3 horses, three children between the 5 and 21 years and one between 7 and 13 years. In 1934, that same acreage is owned by Thomas Shields (Shields), age 45, who has 100 acres, 80 cleared, 10 acres woodland, 10 acres in slash land, valued at \$1500 - buildings valued at \$300, for a total of \$1800. He is R.C. and has only 1 person on the premises and has one dog. One half acre of this lot is owned by Lindsay Lorne (no age), valued at \$25, building valued at \$300. He is assessed at \$275 for business associated under section 10 and there is only one person on the premises.

The Collectors Rolls are of a similar format giving rate of taxation for the property. Patrick McEvoy in 1892 owes taxes as follows: \$4.80 for county property, \$0.77 for county school tax rate, \$2.48 for Township property tax, \$3.87 for local school tax, \$2.79 for separate school tax, and a general rate at 1.8 mills for \$2.33. His total tax for the year of 1892 is \$17.83.

When adequate person/hours are available it is hoped to gather this material into groupings for easier handling.

Ann Leighton-Kyle

During the summer of 1990, we have had over 1,000 visitors to the museum, many of which came to do genealogical research. Some, like Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Hoy and Mr. Gavin McEwen, made several trips from Ottawa and were very pleased to find so much valuable information. Mr. McEwen found a great deal of information on both the Kennedy and the McDiarmid side of his family.

Mr. Tom Carkner of North Bay, who is related to the Carkners of Kenmore, the McLeans and other Ormond families, left photocopies of obituaries for our files on his visit.

We also had another descendant of Archibald McDonell. Donald McDonell from Vernon, B.C. left us material on his branch (Presbyterian) of the family.

Our own members have donated family histories - Lorne and Marv Harrison; the Morrow and Wm Booth descendants, Muriel (Blair) Cameron; the Blair, Hall and Cameron descendants.

Ollie Cameron also donated a booklet about the Boyd brothers of Osgoode, called "Two Boys From Osgoode". It contains pictures of homes built in Osgoode and Ottawa using bricks made by the Boyd brothers.

Recently Doug Hughes of Dalmeny on a business trip to Ireland researched his Hughes family history and left us several copies of his published booklet.

We appreciate all the material that everyone has so generously shared with us.

Donna Bowen, Archivist

First Settler of Carleton County at Kars Fair:

The Kars Fair this summer celebrated the 200th anniversary of the first settler in Carleton County, Roger Stevens. On hand to officially open the Fair was Roger Stevens' last connection and charter member of the Osgoode Township Historical Society, Elizabeth Stuart. After the skirl of bagpipes from the Ottawa Pipe Band there was a youthful actor and actress in period costume portraying Roger Stevens and his wife Martha Burritt. Elizabeth was recognized as being the last descendant of Roger Stevens' family through years of historical research.

The Roger Stevens research began 20 years ago and Elizabeth hopes to have a partial compilation ready soon. She has in her possession a parcel of letters

from 1821-1865 in which important information is to be gleaned. Roger Stevens known to some as the "Forgotten Patriot", was a UEL (United Empire Loyalist) with foresight enough to settle on both sides of the Rideau River on land dense with trees and build a sawmill. He lived there 8 months without seeing another single person. It was his vision and his responsibility that settlement began. Having worked with the British government and having familiarity with the native Indians, he had familiarity of the region and the knowledge of the waterways to which settlement depended. He was exploring with William Burritt on the river when he met his death by a mysterious drowning. We hope to have a more complete version of this pioneer's history in a later issue.

Ann Leighton-Kyle

Query: "In Search of Missing Links"

The Osgoode Township Historical Society and the Museum have been fortunate to have many unusual artifacts donated and we are very proud of them. Among these articles are four autographed quilts or bedspreads.

Two Vernon ladies have been trying to unearth the history of one of the quilts which was crafted by The Maple Leaf Mission Band supported by the Osgoode Presbyterian Church (Vernon) ladies. The researchers have discovered there are several missing links in the quilt's history. If only inanimate objects could talk!!

In the Mission Band's minute book, it is recorded that at a meeting on April 8th, 1922, the members planned to make an autograph quilt. In an amazingly short time one hundred and sixty-nine people had paid ten cents to have their names embroidered, in red on a white background. A few more generous folk paid fifteen cents or even twenty-five cents for the privilege.

Most of the people who had their names on the quilt were from Vernon or nearby communities, but some were from faraway places. One name was of a Mrs. Ogilvie from Glasgow, Scotland; two from Edmonton, Alberta; one from Kenora, Ontario; another from Stratford, Ontario; and one from Balderson, with several from Dunvegan in Glengarry County.

Mrs. Samuel Craig was the leader of the Mission Band at that time. Mothers of the Band met to do the quilting and in a few weeks the quilt was finished.

Then the missing information puzzles us. Who did the tremendous task of doing the embroidery? Who acquired the completed quilt? Where was the quilt from 1922 until it was discovered at a sale in the Montreal area - nearly sixty years later? We have been told that Audrey and Keith Last bought the quilt to help settle an estate - whose estate? Could any of our readers supply the missing information?

From then on the history is fairly well known. Miss Verna Levere discovered the quilt at the Montreal sale, bought it and gave it to her sister and brother-in-law (Vera and Wilfred Folkard) and they donated the treasure to the Historical Society.

We would be interested to learn more about the history of the quilt. How interesting it would be if the quilt could tell its own story!

Katie and Phyllis Campbell of Vernon in their search to determine the whereabouts of the aforementioned quilt (missing for sixty years) would appreciate any information in regards to the above quilt and also the other three quilts.

Query: - A memorial plaque in the shape of a cross with an inscription that reads "James Burns/ Died August 7th 1885/ Aged 7 years 5 months" was found by Terry Goral on Lot 29 Con 7 - formerly the Ed Ryan farm. Please forward any information to the Historical Society.

From the Archives literary file: MOTHER SHIPTON'S PROPHECY

It is supposed to have been written by Mother Shipton, a witch, in Knaresborough, Yorkshire England, in 1559. A portion appears as follows:

*A carriage without horse shall go,
Disaster fill the world with woe;
In London, Primrose Hill shall be;
Its centre hold a Bishop's See.
Around the world men's thoughts shall fly
Quick as the twinkling of an eye,
And waters shall great wonders do -
How strange, and yet it shall come true.
Things shall become more great and weighty
Before the year eighteen and eighty,
Then upside down the world shall be,
And gold found at the root of a tree.
Through tow'ring hills proud men shall ride,
No horse or ass move by his side.
Beneath the water men shall walk,
Shall ride, shall sleep and even talk;
And in the air men shall be seen.
In white, in black, as well as green.*

*Of what shall be in future time:
 For in those wondrous far-off days,
 The women shall adopt a craze
 To dress like men and trousers wear
 And cut off all their locks of hair,
 They'll ride astride with brazen brow
 As witches don on broomsticks now.
 Then love shall die and marriage cease,
 And nations wane, as babies decrease
 And wives shall fondle cats and dogs
 And men live much the same as hogs.
 In nineteen hundred twenty-six
 Build houses light of straw and sticks,
 For then shall mighty wars be planned
 And fire and sword shall sweep the land.
 When Gabriel stands on sea and shore;
 And as he blows his wondrous horn
 Old worlds shall die and new be born.*

From the Kemptville Advance - "1891" - compiled by Shirley Lowe:

July 24 - John Ross of Winchester was in town Tuesday. He had just shipped a carload of horses to Manitoba and is thinking of sending another shortly.

July 31 - Rev. H. McQuarrie has been called by Osgoode Baptist Church. The ordination will take place during the first week of August.

August 7 - Reid's Mill at Reid's Mills is running full-handed every day. Mr. Reid thinks his shingles second to none.

August 14 - Competition has put bread down to 3 cents in Almonte. It is 7 cents in Kemptville.

- Old Mr. Clifford of Clifford's Corners made a big catch on Friday, hooking a 42 pound maskilonge in the Rideau near Manotick.

August 28 - The saw and shingle mill at Hallville owned by Messrs. Shaw and Dougall had a narrow escape from burning a few days ago.

Sept. 18 - Byron Fisher shipped 425 lambs from Kemptville, over 200 from Mountain Station and a like number from Finch. They were sent to Boston.

- On Saturday about 3:30 p.m. fire was discovered in the rear of Rolston's lumber shed in Metcalfe. A stiff southwest wind was blowing at the time and in less than 10 minutes the whole building was enveloped in flames. In a few minutes more the flames reached Stringer's tannery across the street. Five other buildings took fire but through determined efforts of willing hands the fires were kept from spreading. Although considerable of Stringer's stock was saved the loss will be upwards of five thousand dollars. Rolston's loss is about seven hundred dollars. No insurance in either case.

Sept. 25 - Mr. W.J. Richardson, much respected merchant of Reid's Mills is leaving town and removing to Vernon.

Oct. 14 - The barge Qua laden with lumber and bound for Oswego sank near Manotick last Saturday. They are now working at unloading and expect to have her raised in a day or so.

- A. Dillabaugh is quite an inventive genius. For the past few days he has been drilling a well for Mr. Dill with the "New Champion" a machine of wonderful power, and of his own invention, which is worked by steam. The first three hours he sank a shaft over 9 feet in solid rock.

- John Porteous intends starting a general store here (Reid's Mills) in a few days. He is very highly spoken of as being perfectly honest. He has a good experience in the business, being in the employ of Thomas Row of Vernon who is a very shrewd straight-forward business man.

Nov. 17 - Dr. Wallace of Metcalfe was in town en route to New York where he will take up special practise for a couple of months. Dr. Popham of Winnipeg has charge of his practise until he returns.

OSGOODE ASSESSMENT & CENSUS - 1836 (An Excerpt)

RESIDENT	LOT	CON	Uncult.	Cult.	Horses	Oxen	Cows	M 16-	M 16+	P 16-	P 16+	Comments	
William Doctor	W 1/2 20	8	92	8	-	-	1	1	1	1	2		
Thomas Mulcoy	22	8	186	14	-	2	3	3	2	3	1		
Thomas REILLY	NW 1/4 8	5	46	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-		
Henry HANNA	N pt 23	7	130	20	-	1	-	1	2	3	1	house	
Archibald SCOTT	E 1/2 19	7	95	5	-	-	1	-	1	3	1		
William POPHAM	S 1/2 19	8	94	6	-	2	2	1	3	4	1		
William CASSERLY	SW pt 23	9	86	9	-	2	1	1	2	1	1		
John CASSERLY	SE pt 23	9	3	2	-	-	1	1	2	1	1		
Duncan CAMERON	W 1/2 25	9	90	10	-	-	2	2	1	-	1		
James ANDREW	N 1/2 29	8	100	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-		
William HERRINGTON	W 1/2 35	6	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Total = 106			113 826	1 124	24	103	183	128	+ 165	+ 149	+ 117	4 houses	
The 1836 population in Osgoode Tp was 165. By 1836 it was 599 - up 363%												Total Population = 559	1 merchant