

Agricultural Museum, Vernon, Ontario

Osgoode Township
Historical Society & Museum
at the
Old Vernon School
Newsletter

VOLUME XX NO. 4 1993

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As this will be the last newsletter for 1993 and the end of my first year as president, I want to extend my gratitude to all you valued readers who have faithfully retained your memberships and those of you have become new members. I also want to thank our directors and committee members for their confidence in me as their new skipper. It has been a pleasure working with them.

We have had a very gratifying year with such activities as Heritage Day, a good crowd attended considering the blustery snow storm that day. Ian Crerar gave us a very informative talk on operating an Apiary.

Canada Day was also rewarding and the local ladies had a bake sale which helped with our much needed funding. Our Pioneer Day was also well received by the community. Another one of our highlights was the release of the Historical Society's newest publications, "Growing Up on the Castor River" by Allison Dempsey. A special thank you to David Gray for his research on the project. On September, we paid tribute to those military personnel who gave their lives to the cause during the span of 2 world wars, by unveiling a cenotaph in their honour. It was erected and is proudly displayed in front of our historical museum. Thanks to the efforts of the Osgoode Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, we had good representation from the federal level as well as municipal. We gratefully thank all who participated and attended.

Hopefully with your loyal support, we can merge into a new year with optimism. Let me wish you a very happy Christmas with your loved ones.

Murray Little

THE 1901 CENSUS

In our previous newsletter Elizabeth Stuart explained the condition of the 1901 Census Records and the work required to extract the information we require for our archives. This has been finished and we now have a readable copy, but providing an index remains to be done.

With 4,800 names (approximately 950 families) the traditional method of typing the information on index cards would be impractical with our limited resources and the obvious solution which can provide a hard copy and which can be altered to allow for proof-reading corrections. Such a system must then be capable of

sorting the entries into alphabetic order, printing the data and also printing an index of surnames. The capability exists within the community, but the amount of work involved is quite formidable.

We would welcome any suggestions from our readers which may expedite the publication of this very interesting and valuable record.

In the interim, anyone who has a need for the census information may certainly examine our transcribed records, but should expect that a certain amount of digging may be required.

submitted by Bob Usher

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

The first Remembrance Day service at the new cenotaph, in front of the museum in Vernon was well attended. The Osgoode Legion Branch 589, conducted the service followed by refreshments served in the museum by our members.

Mrs. Joan (Hyland) Franklin of Ottawa has made several visits to the museum this year. She is researching the family of John Hyland and Jane Waddell. They lived on Lot 7, Con. 7, Osgoode Township. Any information on this family would be appreciated and can be sent to the Society.

The following material has recently been donated; (1) Photos and negatives of Osgoode Township schools, a newsletter from 1939, Short Course Class held in Metcalfe, an additional 5 copies of "150 Years St. Catherine's" by Jim Rowan of Metcalfe (2) Photos of New York Central Railway Station, Bernie Campbell's store (both in Edwards), framed photocopy of an article regarding the closing of the N.Y.C. Railway in 1957 by Margaret Jean Allen, Edwards. (3) Will of James Logan, report of an Abstract of Title in the centre part of Lot 28, Con. 1, Twp. of Osgoode by Doreen Porteous, Osgoode. (4) A number of fiction and school text books by Floyd Fisher, Ormond.

Thanks to all of our donors, the archival material is steadily increasing.

submitted by Donna Bowen



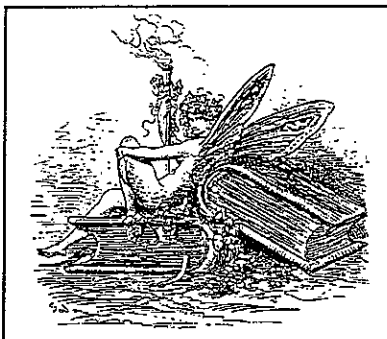
FRANCES IVESON STORIES

William Morgan, brother of Ira, lived on the north side of Victoria street, west of Harry Iveson's Harness Shop. He served the community in various ways. An episode occurring in his family experiences, I often heard related in my home and also by other early residents, one of them being Russell Blair. The story went somewhat like this;

The family was smitten by a scourge of some such contagious disease as black diphtheria or smallpox and in those days quarantining was the mode of treatment to curtail the spread in the community. Mr. Andrew Imlay and my father took turns in putting food supplies on door steps. Such needs were relayed through a window by Mr. Morgan to either of these men. One day they learned that Mrs. Morgan was a victim of the dread disease. How to pursue burial was her husband's problem. Several days passed by but no undertaker wanted to perform such a duty.

So one day, to my mother's horror, my father came in to announce that he and Andrew Imlay, the shoemaker next door, were going down to remove the bodies from the house through the window for burial - in the meantime one of the children had died. This man's plight of having 2 dead bodies on his hands, over ruled any pleas to resist such a decision. They could not stand by with a neighbour in such distress. So to both family and neighbour amazement, they went to a window whence Mr. Morgan passed out the bodies, each wrapped up tightly in a sheet and stretched out on a board. Thence, the remains were taken to the cemetery for burial. A lonely vigil but truly a neighbourly act.

On returning home, wash tubs of water treated with carbolic awaited my Dad in the drive shed. His clothes were deposited in bags for burial at the back of the lot. He bathed thoroughly and donned other clothing. Look at it whatever way you like - either the good Lord approved their act or it was just plain Lady Luck at their side.



Paddy Burns had a meat van with which he toured the vicinity selling meat both summer and winter. Customers were served from the back of the van. Open doors displayed cuts and scales weighed out portions, flies or no flies. He was known to have told some customer who complained of excessive bone in the meat, "The very first cow I get without bones, I'll save you a big piece of it."

Adeline Campbell, sister of Wm. J. Campbell, was very musical. She was the organist in the Methodist church. Mrs. George Blair was very concerned that she was not entertaining marriage. When the Ladies Aid were in the process of making a quilt, Mrs. Blair invited Ad to make a block along with the others. Ad's response was somewhat negative saying, "I never made a quilt block in my life and I'm not doing it now." Mrs. Blair's reaction, "Now Ad, would it not be wise to learn and then you'd have a quilt for your hope chest." Ad's reply, "If the good Lord sends me a man, He'll likely send the quilts too. If not, I'll buy a buffalo."

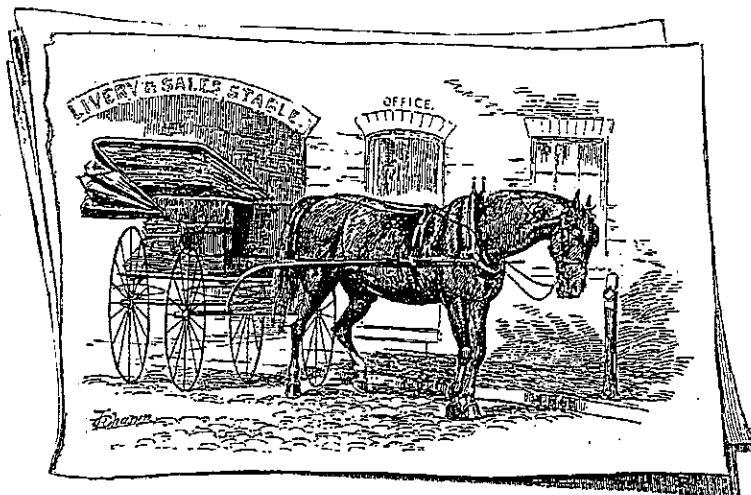
When Bill Iveson was about 6 years old he had to recite at the Methodist New Years concert. He tripped going up the steps to the platform, and fell flat on his face. Once he hit, he started to recite. The chairman stepped forward, picked him up and planted him upright. He never stopped reciting. He just went off like an alarm clock. Imagine the reaction of the audience.

The Pendergrast family lived in a house between the Catholic church and grist mill on the south side road. Mrs. Pendergrast was an invalid but she was addicted to smoking a pipe. She kept a long rope of tobacco tied to a bottom bedpost. Bill Iveson as a boy, driving the cow to pasture across from the fair grounds, frequently visited her. He was fascinated with the manner in which she lit up. Giving the cord a jerk she pulled the twist of tobacco towards herself, then skilfully cut it, rolled it in her hand, filled the pipe and then lit up to puff and puff rings of smoke into the small bedroom.

Mrs. Krupp, wife of a mill owner in the village visited my Mother very often with her baby. To keep the child amused, she gave him her watch to play with. My sister, Sadie kept her eye on the baby who happened to have a very large mouth and persisted in putting the watch in its mouth (in went the watch). Sadie very much disturbed lest the child would choke remarked, "Oh, Mrs. Krupp, he will swallow it." Mrs. Krupp, "Oh, he's safe, it's on a chain."

Prude York went to my Mother for first aid. She reported in a jocular way, "I have bats in my belfry." Apparently she was being driven almost insane during the night with a fluttering sensation in one of her ears. Mother heated sweet oil in a teaspoon over the lamp chimney flame. This she cooled slightly and poured it into the ear. Hot water via a syringe was then administered. Lo and behold, a huge big moth rolled out. Prude had the night before attempted closing a door during a summer storm and a moth had entered her ear. She walked to the village but the doctor was away so she appealed to my Mother to fill the bill.

* The late Frances Iveson was a local teacher and historian whose writings and documentations about her beloved Metcalfe have been received into the archives of O.T.H.S.



ONTARIO VITAL STATISTICS

The Birth Records below are a sample of those registered in Ontario during the years 1869-1896. These records are now available to the Public - free of charge. Until recently, all records were confidential and could only be obtained at a cost of \$25.00 each. Because of the continued pressure from genealogists, the policy of the Registry office has been reversed. The Mormon Church - L.D.S - has been allowed to microfilm, first the index and then the actual records of Births - for the above years. Marriages for the years 1873-1911 and Deaths for the years 1869-1921.

The massive job is now completed ahead of time. The 26 reels of indexes give event, date, place of event and registration number. This number leads to the full record found in some 800 reels. The Family History Centre of the L.D.S. on Prince of Wales Drive, just north of the Green Valley Restaurant, has bought all the reels at a cost to them of \$5,000. Donations from researchers will help pay for the service. Photocopies

cost 25 cents each. Their 12 microfilm readers are in great demand.

The Marriage Records are written three on a page. Each record gives the ages of the parties, their marital status, religion, place of residence and place of birth, the parents' names, (sometimes the mother's maiden name), witnesses and the name of the Clergy performing the Ceremony. For example; John PHAIR, ae 24, bach, Presb., shoemaker born and residing in Osgoode - son of Wm PHAIR and Jane KITLESS (?) - and Susan SHEDRICK age 23, spinster, residing and born in Osgoode, Baptist, daughter of Alfred SHEDRICK and Susan SHELPS were married by Rev. Wm. MOORE August 15, 1873.

Each film has 4 or 5 groups of records arranged by year and by area. Those for the Carleton area for a given year do not appear in every reel and a great deal of time is required to accumulate this vast amount of priceless information.

submitted by Elizabeth Stuart

	001451 GENERAL No. 451.	001452 GENERAL No. 452.	001453 GENERAL No. 453.
When Born.	14 Decr. 1869.	14 Octr. 1869	6 Augt 1869.
Name.	Harry	Caroline	John P. Gillis
Sex. (M. or F.)	M.	F.	M.
Name and surname of Father.	Michael Cassidy	Frederick A. Finn	Michael Gillis
Name and maiden surname of Mother.	Mary Ann Murphy	Caroline Blomann	Ellen Borcoran.
Rank or profession of Father.	Teacher	Farmer.	Farmer
Signature, description and residence of Informant.	M. Cassidy Teacher. Carleton	F. A. Finn Farmer. Carleton	Michael Gillis Farmer. Osgoode
When Registered.	29 Decr. 1869.	30 Decr 1869	19 Augt 1869
Name of Accoucher.	Mrs E. Proctor	Mrs Giffel	Peter Mc Gougall M.D.
Signature of Registrar.	Ed. Savage	Ed. Savage	Jno Kennedy
County.	Bruce	Bruce.	Carleton
REMARKS.	✓	✓	✓
	001454 No. 454.	001455 GENERAL No. 455.	001456 GENERAL No. 456
When Born.	6 Augt. 1869.	9 Novr. 1869	15 Decr. 1869.
Name.	Ann Edw ^d Tompkins		Arthur William Mc Rostie
Sex. (M. or F.)	M.	F.	M.
Name and surname of Father.	Henry Tompkins	John Logan	James Mc Rostie
Name and maiden surname of Mother.	Ann Tompkins	Margery Richardson	Eleanor Howes.
Rank or profession of Father.	Yeoman.	Farmer.	Farmer
Signature, description and residence of Informant.	Henry Tompkins Osgoode	John Logan Osgoode	James Mc Rostie Farmer. Osgoode
When Registered.	31 Augt. 1869.	15 Novr. 1869	23 Decr. 1869.
Name of Accoucher.	Jane Tompkins	John R. Boucens M.D.	P. Mc Gougall M.D.
Signature of Registrar.	Jno. Kennedy.	Jno. Kennedy.	Jno. Kennedy
County.	Carleton	Carleton	Carleton
REMARKS.	✓	✓	✓

WAKES AND FUNERALS

It was an August evening 1906. My father's mother, Mary Magee who lived with us died very unexpectedly at dusk. I was young, only in my sixteenth year, and the obligations of the moment impressed me. My father immediately hurried to get our pastor, Father McAuley. I was sent to tell grandmother's daughter and family one-half mile west while my sister took the errand to her son's place, Patrick Edmund, the same distance east.

Within the hour 2 close friends were washing and shrouding the body, a duty performed quietly and most respectfully. It had to be kept in mind that the undertaker would not arrive for 3 or 4 hours yet. To engage him meant a drive of 8 miles to Manotick by horse and buggy. This task was assigned to me. I was accompanied by my cousin who was also a grandchild. I have a vivid recollection of arousing Mr. Bradley from his sleep.

The rural wake, except in the rare case of a tragedy, afforded an interlude of social life for the community. The custom was a 2 night wake. There was a good reason for the limited duration. The body was not embalmed and so 2 nights was long enough. Midnight was the focal point for deciding the length of the vigil. If the departed one died before 12 o'clock that night counted as one of the two, in which circumstance only local friends learned of the death and were present. Only one evening then was left for a large attendance. Friends came in numbers to fill every available space including the large farm kitchen.

These folks signed no register. There was, therefore, no post-tally by writ of those who had attended. But they did remain long enough that the bereaved family would easily recall their presence. They talked and gossiped, the men pipe-smoked and if a Catholic wake, the Rosary was recited more than once. All stayed until a big supper was served commencing about 11 o'clock. Cold ham, bread and butter, cheese and pickles were provided by the family. The rest of the meal consisting of cakes, cookies and pies were brought in by the generous nearby farm women. The largest table available was set up, yet the group had to be fed in relays. It took some few minutes to arrange the first sitting. All feigned a stiff reluctance to it. They pretended to require much pressuring. This behaviour was most beguiling when it was well recognized that mouths had been watering throughout the long evening in anticipation of the sumptuous repast. Just as soon as the feasting finished nearly all left for home.

Upon arrival, or some time during the evening, each friend would clasp the hand of every member of the bereaved family and utter the customary phrase "Sorry for your trouble." If the greeting was hurried or the salutation somewhat inaudible or mumbled it, it was only because of the humble or bashful sympathizer. The words of condolence however awkwardly or ineloquently expressed were nevertheless very sincere.

A few close male friends - never less than 2 volunteered to remain and "watch" with the corpse through the remainder of the night. It was considered an unpardonable act of disrespect to leave the deceased person alone for one moment. These night watchers and the 5 or 6 grave-diggers were looked upon as truly benevolent intimates of the occasion.

In winter, until the grave-diggers had gotten through 2 or 3 feet of frost, the opening of the grave was a very trying operation. At the wake house many were the expressions of feeling for them during their absence. There was great anxiety as to whether they would get the job done before darkness set in. They were warmly greeted on their return, given a "swig" of whiskey and a plenteous warm meal.

Immediately following a death, the women of the family scurried to find suitable attire. If they did not have black dresses, hats and gloves, they bought them. These mourning garments were worn for one year during which period, no dances or parties of any kind were attended. Marriages involving members of the family were frowned upon until, at least 8 or 9 months had elapsed. The men of the family wore a broad black tie and a wide band of black crepe on the left sleeve, to indicate bereavement.

There was an aura of deep gloom about the funerals of sixty years ago. Not only were the relatives in deepest mourning but the hearse was jet black with four shimmering black tassels on top. The outfit was drawn by the traditional pair of submissive black horses. In Catholic churches, the interior was draped in black and priest's vestments were black. How odd it seems now that people who were good christians, who had faith in God and lived in anticipation of heaven should have viewed deaths with such awe. To say the least, the attitude was inconsistent with their belief. How much more reasonable and appropriate is the spirit of hope reflected today!

Happenings at a burial invariably provided a few of the curious parish women with fuel for gossip. This was particularly so in the case of a widow. Anxious absentees were wont to ask how did she "take it." And unless the poor grieving one cried audibly in church and sobbed her head off at the grave she was adjudged cold and without feeling. Any mourning widow knew she was being scrutinized in those last moments. Who could blame her for sometimes faking a performance.

In our time we read "that the profusion of floral tributes attested to the esteem in which the deceased was held." Sixty years ago in the shadow of Ottawa it was the number of "rigs" in the funeral procession that marked the esteem in which the departed one was held. By this measure I submit that my paternal grandmother took first place in the Osgoode district. At her funeral cortege I was sitting in the front seat of a democrat. I turned in my seat and counted as many rigs came around the corner off the second concession onto the McEvoy side road. The number was one hundred and eleven. There could well be several reasons; one only I mention here. There was no doubt, many a father in the cortege who had on occasion aroused grandmother in the depth of the night to accompany him and preside at the birth of a son or daughter. Attendance on the day of burial was but a gesture of warm gratitude. Rural wakes and funerals at the turn of the century gave conclusive evidence of a generous community spirit which has all too soon diminished.

* From the writings of the late Michael Dewan, formerly of Lot 17, Con. 2 of Osgoode Twp., son of John Dewan and Margaret Shields, at one time M.P.P (Lib) for Oxford Co. and Agricultural Minister (1937-43) Retired 1947.

OSGOODE TOWNSHIP 1901 ASSESSMENT ROLL

Population	4667
Acres of land assessed as resident	91,043 7/8
Acres of land assessed as non-resident	110
Acres of land assessed as cultivated	41,420 7/8
Acres of land assessed as timber	5361
Acres of land assessed as pasture and waste	44,372
Value of Real Estate	\$1,508,025.00
Value of personal property	\$7,325.00
Persons rated as residents	4655
Male persons from 21 - 60	1129
Children from 15 - 21	1160
Children from 8 - 14	1142

Presbyterians	1464	Births	86
R.C.	1194	Deaths	53
Methodist	770	Cattle	8528
Epis.	589	Sheep	3277
Baptists	535	Hogs	1314
Brethren	99	Horses	2230
Christian Scientists	10	Statute Labor	4879
Hebrew	5	Steam Boilers	33
Salvation Army	1	Orchards	17
		Dogs	649
		Bitches	7

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ▶ Memberships for 1994 - now due.
 Single \$8.00
 Family \$9.00
- ▶ January 4th/94 - monthly meeting
 Speaker will be Orma Acres Earl who will speak about her "Travels to Ethiopia"
- ▶ HERITAGE DAY - Feb. 12, 1994 at the Museum beginning at 1:00 p.m. Displays of old and rare books, sale of old books. Everyone welcome. Refreshments served.
- ▶ The Museum & Archives will be closed for the holidays on Dec. 18, 1993. Open by appointment with a member. Opening on Saturdays beginning Jan. 15, 1994 from 11:00 to 5:00.

OSGOODE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Published quarterly at the Museum in Vernon. Objective: to promote, preserve and publicize history in the township of Osgoode and to foster genealogical research. Circulation: 250

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Hours of operation: May 24 - Dec. 18, 1993 - 11:00 to 5:00
 (Tues. - Sat.)
 Open after Xmas holidays - Jan. 15, 1994 and every Saturday until mid-May (11:00 to 5:00 p.m.) - subject to change or by appointment

Membership: \$8.00 per year (single)
 \$9.00 per year (family)

DID YOU KNOW?

Past records show many fathers and sons sharing the same interests, dating back to the adventurous John Cabot who was accompanied by his son Sebastian when he made his fortunate landfall in Newfoundland in 1497. The son afterwards reported that the codfish were so thick off the Banks. "they sumtymes stayed his shippes."



MERRY CHRISTMAS
 To our members, friends
 and supporters