



John Bulger Family

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

at the

Old Vernon School



Newsletter

Volume XXIX

No 4

Dec 2002

After many years without a new issue the Society has issued Volume XXI of Pioneer Families of Osgoode Township. It includes interesting information on the following ten families:

Thomas Bulger	McEwen	David Campbell
Patrick Nash	Patrick Christopher	Michael Nolan
Cooper Family	Reoch	MacTavish
Sheldrick-Shelp		

As with all new or reissued volumes of Pioneer Families a full index of names is included. This index is also on our web site. Members are encouraged to submit family history stories that would be suitable for inclusion in future volumes or in other publications.

Also, as you renew your memberships for 2003 it would be appreciated if you could include your email address with your renewal if you have not done that before. Your input is most important so that we may plan projects and programs to meet the members needs.

Best wishes to you and your family for 2003,

Doug Hughes

PS: We try to keep current information on our web site: www.magma.ca/~oths

A BRIEF REVIEW

In 30 years, a milestone and an achievement has been attained by dedicated volunteers in their pursuit of family histories, the compiling of names and places in the township, and the compiling of artifacts relating to the agricultural industry in the years gone by.

I would be remiss if I didn't pay tribute to those volunteers of the past and of the present who have given so much of their time and talents. Countless number of hours have been spent researching and compiling, recording the many documents and artifacts that have been donated to the society.

The Osgoode Township Historical Museum Society was first known as the "New Horizon Historical Group." I would be remiss not to mention those responsible for its beginning - Miss Elizabeth Stuart, retired teacher of Dalmeny whose roots run deep in Osgoode Township and Miss Louise Stearns of Marvelville, also a retired teacher. Both had a mutual interest in their search for their ancestral roots. They soon found people in many parts of the township with the same mutual interest.

An historical group was necessary. The New Horizon Group came into being Nov 23, 1972 for the purpose of doing research, collecting data, preserving and publishing a history of Osgoode Township Genealogy. The group was formed with Elizabeth Stuart, president; Miss Louise Stearns, secretary-treasurer and Donald McKercher, accountant; number of Directors 12; participants 30; staff 5; consultants 3.



The above picture taken on south-west part of Lot 6, Concession 2, Osgoode Township. Left to right, back row: Mark, Edmond, Tom, Nellie, Annie, Kate, Mary, Jack. Front row: Dolly, their parents, John, born Nov. 16, 1845, son of Thomas (Bulger, Bolger) and Catherine Gorman of Cloughbawn Parish, New Ross, Wexford, Ireland. John married Catherine Ellen O'Brien Jan 9, 1872, daughter of James O'Brien and Bridget Walsh. For more information on this family, see Pioneer Families of Osgoode Township, Volume XXI.

Michael Daley

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - December 2002

With Christmas just around the corner we can look back at what has again been a very busy year as we celebrated the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Historical Society.

This fall has been an exceptionally busy season at the Museum. With the museum and archives now open 40 hours each week the public is finding it easier to access the facilities. This has brought more visitors and members of the community continue to donate numerous articles and artefacts related to the history of the Township of Osgoode. This is most encouraging as it important to acquire these many stories, artefacts and data in order to preserve the history of our Township. Old photographs, artefacts and stories enrich our understanding of the rich history we have.

We have had some very interesting speakers this fall. At the October meeting well known local historian Coral Lindsay had her extensive display of articles related to the life of Queen Elizabeth II which we had on display for several weeks as part of the celebration of the Queen's Jubilee. Her subject was "Reflections on the Queen's Early Life as the Princess of York".


This was followed in November by Jim Brownell, President of the Lost Villages Historical Society. Jim gave us an insight into the activities of the Lost Villages Historical Society, their efforts to collect the ten buildings they now have on their sight and the lost villages themselves. The Lost Villages Historical Society has an extensive and informative web site,

Service of Remembrance

On Saturday, November 9th the Royal Canadian Legion-Osgoode led the regular Service of Remembrance at the Vernon Cenotaph (in front of the Museum) followed by a reception in the Museum hosted by the Historical Society. The service was well attended and many people took the opportunity to look at the interesting displays put together for the occasion.

For the past several years the museum and archives were on reduced hours during the winter months. Fortunately this year the hours of operation will continue:

Tuesday	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Wednesday	noon to 8:00 PM
Thurs, Fri, Sat	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
closed on Sunday and Monday	

 2003 membership now available

30 YEARS - A BRIEF HISTORY CONT'D

Activity was to begin November 1972 and to end 1977. Directors - Elizabeth Stuart, Jennie Dow, Lawrence Brunton, Henry Robertson, Mrs R.H. Saunders, Kate Brunton, Mrs Earl Taylor, Mrs May Shelp, Donald McKercher, Louise Stearns, Gerald Hill, William Dow. Of this group, Elizabeth Stuart is the only one remaining.

Nov 30, 1972 - A meeting at the home of Elizabeth Stuart, the group discussed the type of material wanted
Feb 9 1973 Meeting - Budget - The first portion of \$6,000 grant was to be sent prior to March 31st. Office equipment was needed, filing cabinets etc. Fred Wilson, Township Clerk, contacted inquiring the possibility of getting the use of a room in the vacant school house.

March 9 1973 - A meeting held at the home of Jessie Robertson. Discussion on building available for the Horizon group. Those present Margaret Robb, Laura Taylor, Gerald Hill, Jessie Campbell, Elizabeth Stuart, Jessie Robertson, Michael Daley, Lorne Brunton, Helen Cavell, Jennie Dow and Sarah Lee.

Aug 8, 1973 - Elizabeth and Jennie Dow signed on behalf of the group with the Corporation of the Township of Osgoode for the use of the vacant Vernon Public School. The official opening was held Sept 21, 1973.

Nov. 25, 1975 - The name was changed, the Osgoode Township Historical Society was incorporated.

1977 - A year to remember, 25 meetings were held under the guidance of President Connie Sallens, a 150th Anniversary booklet was published. A Sesqui-Centennial Committee was formed to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the township. Chairman Phillip McEvoy coordinated the many festivities throughout the township. There were 17 in all from June 6 to October the 2nd. The outstanding achievement of the year was the designing of our beautiful township crest. A contest was held among school children, prizes were awarded to the best entry. Winning entries were 1st Beth McEvoy of Greely, 2nd Bruce Griffin of Metcalfe, 3rd Chris McEvoy of Greely. They were combined to form a colourful and attractive crest by Mrs Ruby Young of Osgoode.

A giant parade of floats, bands, antique vehicles, etc was organized by Keith Acres and Archie Sayant on behalf of the Historical Society held in Vernon on Aug. 6th. Lorne Craig looked after a large display of old engines on the museum grounds. Meals were served at Club 31 convened by Heather Bellinger. Demonstrations and displays, weaving, spinning and quilting also took place. The festivities were opened at 2:30 p.m. Philip McEvoy introduced the guest speaker, Mr Michael P. Dewan, Osgoode native, who was the former Minister of Agriculture in the Hepburn government. On Sunday Aug 7th there was a Musical Program between 2 and 4 p.m. featuring The Harmony Six, Dwayne Acres and family, and the Osgoode Village Community Sr Citizens Group. The guest speaker was Rev Axford, descendent of pioneers Adam J Baker and Janet McDonell.

1978 - Margaret Robb with the help of Arlowa Ferguson undertook a project - microfilming the Kemptville Advance. Project completed in 1983.

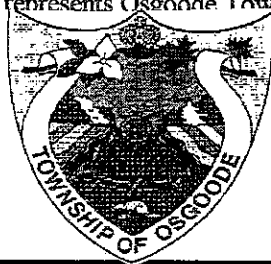
1979 - 15 meetings were held, a 16 day tour of Scotland in August. A Men's Choir was formed, led by Archie Stuart.

Feb 2 - Annual Meeting - all offices to be held for 2 years. Terms as follows: Past President - Connie Sallons, President - Michael Daley, 1st Vice Pres - Effie Morris, 2nd Vice Pres. - Harvey Linton, Recording Secretary - Grace Blair, Corresponding Secretary and Membership - Harry Anderson, Treasurer of Historical Society - Jennie Dow, Treasurer of Museum - Margaret Robb, Maintenance - Gerald Hill, Harry Anderson, Richard Blanchfield, Curator & Archivist - Arlowa Ferguson,

Assistants - Vivian Shorey (Curator), Amy Daykin (Archives), Katie Campbell (library), Records: Township - Alice Craig, Church - Anne Carkner, Schools - Harry Anderson, Agriculture - Harvey Linton, Receptionists - Program Convenor - Vivian Shorey, Aline Anderson, Anne Carkner, Care taking - Alice Craig, Editor - Elizabeth Stuart, Publicity - Effie Morris, Social Committee - Sarah Lee, Alice Craig.

MEANING OF THE OSGOODE TOWNSHIP CREST

- ✓ The beaver represents the fur bearing animal that brought in the early trappers. The Castor River in Osgoode Township was also named after this animal.
- ✓ The log fence and ploughed ground above the fence are a reminder of the early farming settlers
- ✓ The wheel is a symbol to represent those who arrived in the wilderness country by steam or paddle boat
- ✓ The strips of blue on each side of the wheel stand for the two rivers running through the township - the Rideau and the Castor Rivers.
- ✓ The maple trees (to the left of the wheel) bring to mind the pioneers making maple sugar and maple syrup. The maple trees and the Pine trees (to the left of the wheel) stand for the logging and lumbering carried on by our ancestors.
- ✓ The Crest is encircled by a horseshoe, a reminder of the animal used by the Pioneers in inland travel, logging and farming. The horseshoe also holds forever the continued good luck in Osgoode Township.
- ✓ Across the top of the crest we have - the crown representing the United Kingdom, the Maple Leaf representing Canada, the Trillium representing Ontario. This whole crest represents Osgoode Township.



Nov 16 - A Scottish Evening was held on Nov 16 with Harvey Linton, Chairman of the program assisted by Walter MacDonald and a lively entertaining evening it was with the haunting melodies of the Bag Pipes played by Dave Robb and the Dance Group from Ottawa. The story was told of the bus tour to Scotland, the songs that were sung, the story by Eric Ferguson and Walter MacDonald - truly a night to remember.

1979 cont'd - A special meeting was held in the museum called by the Reeve, Mr Bowers. A discussion was held regarding the exchange of buildings, Club 31 for the museum building.

1981, Sept 1 - A meeting with Township Council, a discussion, feasibility study, need for a recreation centre and an historical site.

1982 - A busy year for members, an anxious time because of the uncertainties to the future of the society. The study done by Harold D Kalman, consultant, resulted in a number of options suggested - one that we remain in our present location approved by Council and the society.

1983 - Springhill Cemetery was recorded by members of the society.

1984 - A new roof was put on the museum building

1985 - President Shirley Lowe. A very productive year with many projects having been accomplished.

Nov 23 - A special ceremony to unveil a plaque to honour Alexander Cameron Rutherford who was born Osgoode Township 1857 and who became the first premier of Alberta in 1905.

1986 - October 11 - Erected a commemorative plaque on the museum building to commemorate two of our native sons, the brothers Joseph Archibald and John

A BRIEF HISTORY - 30 YEARS CONT'D

Mungo Campbell. They built the first flour and sawmill in Vernon where the museum now stands

1987 - President Shirley Lowe with Directors met with Township Council to request financial and planning assistance to erect a new building to house agricultural related artifacts in 1988.

1989 - President Bob Usher reports a very busy and satisfying year. Thanks to Bob and Vice-President Murray Little, their sincere dedication to achieve their goal - an agricultural building 100 feet in length and 50 feet wide to house antique agricultural related farm implements. The building was erected with the assistance of the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communication, the Metcalfe and District Lion's Clubs and the rate payers of Osgoode Township.

Thanks to Lorne Craig, Bill Zandbelt, Murray Little, Bob Usher this shed is packed with artifacts relating to Osgoode's past, a display that is second to none in Eastern Ontario.

1993-97 - Murray Little, president. Various projects taken on and completed in his term.

1997 - to date - Doug Hughes, president - whose expertise in many historical aspects and in the computer world have brought the Historical Society into the 21st century. Michelle Lachance, curator has excelled at her job - displays in the museum building, many photos and artifacts of earlier times, and answering many requests from our records and of those in search of their roots.

Michael Daley

TWEEDSMUIR HISTORIES - THE COWAN FARM

The Women's Institute, Tweedsmuir Histories is the source of one of the following home histories. Written by her mother-in-law Mrs. E.T. Cowan and submitted to the Tweedsmuir History by Evelyn Cowan in 1965 when she was Historical Research Convener at the Vernon W.I. This is her and her husband's former visible hilltop house on the 8th line road. Evelyn & Harold now live in Metcalfe.

This farm is west 3/4 lot 37, Con. 8 in the Township of Osgoode in the County of Carleton consisting of 200 acres. It is long over a century ago in 1836 when the first settlers, Mr and Mrs Peter McEwen and their three children came from Scotland and settled on this farm which was a dense bush. They built their shanty about 40 rods east of where the present barn now stands. They built it over a huge pine stump, this they used for a table, the only one they had while they lived there. In 1837, they held a logging bee and had a number of men help them. They had two little girls, aged 6 and 4 (the former being the mother of Dr Neil Mallock of Winchester) and the other one was Mrs Alex McDougall of Marvelville and my second neighbour during my childhood. They liked to help their mother with the work. There were no real brooms in those days, so the little girls were sent out to look for twigs to make one. They went out into the cedar bush, strayed too far and became lost.

The men were called on to search for the girls. They were found about midnight at the

edge of the Castor River which flows through south of the farm. They were crying and said "if we could only get across there, we would be at our old home." Many a time their father told the story and said how he regretted in those hours that he had every come to America. They had 2 more girls born to them, but one died when she was



seventeen. Mr McEwen bought the land from what was then called the Crown, a few years later he sold 50 acres to Mr McLaren (Stewart Fisher's grandfather) only to regret it in a few years for selling it.

The first trace of the farm on the assessment roll was in 1859 and the taxes were figured in English currency (4 pound 5 shillings). I can't find out how long ago it is since the present house was built, but it is well over a century ago. It is now 80 or 90 years since the little frame house, which is standing now to the south of the buildings was built for the shepherd to live in. The first ones to live in it were Mr and Mrs Thompson McDonald.

In 1869 Peter McEwen willed the farm to his son Alexander McEwen, a bachelor, and he hired help and looked after the farm. I have often heard my father say that Mr A McEwen and hired help lived upstairs and the sheep had the run of the downstairs. The hall floor was worn right out from the sheep from door to door and some of the steps has the worn look as well. In 1876 the taxes on the 150 acres of which 80 acres were cleared was \$20.56. Mr McEwen was Reeve of the township for three years.

In 1892 Mr Edmund E Cowan bought the farm and in 1893 he and his wife and family of three children, Willie, Rose and Eddie moved from the village of Metcalfe to it. This farm is the birthplace of May (Mrs Stewart Jeacle), Alvin deceased in 1948 and Violet (Mrs Robin Campbell). There were 68 tillable acres and 30 cleared but not broke up. Taxes in 1893 were \$34.00.

There was a great advancement in the township from then on. Rural mail delivery started about 1905. The rural phone lines were put up in 1910. Mr E.E. Cowan was a Councillor for Osgoode for three years. In March of 1920, he purchased the adjoining farm on the south side from John McDiarmid. On August 1st he and wife and family moved over there. On August 4, his son Edmund (Eddie) and I (Hope Hume) were married and we came right here to this farm. In February 1922 there came along a son, Harold Edmund Cowan.

In 1926, Alvin married Mabel Boyd and he took over the adjoining farm. In 1927, Mrs Cowan was called to higher service. Mr Cowan came back to live with Eddie and I where he enjoyed ten years of retirement and on August 17, 1937 he also was called to the great beyond.

My husband and son and I being the second and third generation carried on under much difficulty with poor health for a few years, but we added many conveniences to our home such as electricity in 1937, a century after the first land was cleared. In 1942 Harold and Evelyn Gilliland were married and lived with us. In April 1946 the dear little blond baby was born called Joyce. In 1948 Mr and Mrs E.T. Cowan purchased a home in Metcalfe and moved into it in Nov. Having lived on the farm for 28 years, the same length of time as E.E. Cowan had. In 1950 Alvin was born to Harold and Evelyn, a brother for Joyce. Alvin and Joyce made the fourth generation of Cowan's on this farm.

In 1956 Harold turned the hall floor of the house upside down to take out the sheep path and had inlaid covering put on. The house had brick siding put on for warmth as well as improvement. In 1959 Harold built a cement silo and had an iron roof put on the big barn. He also took some of the fence down to make little horse worked fields into good sized fields for tractor working. In 1963 Harold put in a stable cleaner in place of the litter

carrier. The weather was terrible in 1964, very little hay or grain, no pasture land. 1965 was a repeat so in Aug 28, 1965, Harold had an Auction Sale, sold his cattle, some of his machinery, but he hopes to carry on farming for some years yet without cattle.

Vernon Branch W.I. Tweedsmuir Histories Convener Ann Leighton-Kyle

TALES FROM THE PAST

Historians of Upper Canada settlement are familiar with the Johnsons, Sir William and son Sir John Johnson. Researchers will be familiar with the role of Sir William Johnston (1715 - 1774) who amassed a fortune in the Mohawk Valley, NY and cultivated close relations with the Six Nations Indians. Superintendent of Indian affairs, he solved a number of problems on Indian-white relations and led Indians and irregulars in several actions in the Seven Years War. Son Sir John b. Mohawk Valley, NY Nov 1742; d Mount Johnson, near Montreal Jan 1830, organized and commanded the 2 battalions of King's Royal Regiment, a Loyalist Provincial corps. Also known for assisting in resettling the Loyalists especially along the upper St. Lawrence

The following was found in "The Shopkeepers's Guide" Publ. London 1853 (Houlston & Stoneman). Suggesting the many aspects to becoming successful by the successful.

Soon after Sir Wm. Johnson had been appointed Superintendent of Indian Affairs in North America, while the states were still colonies of Britain, he wrote to England for some suits of cloths, richly laced. When they arrived at Sir William's, Hendrick, King of the Five Nations of Mohawks was present and particularly admired them, but without saying anything at the time to Sir Wm. In a few days, Hendrick called on Sir Wm. and acquainted him that he had dreamed that Sir Wm. had given him one of those fine suits which he had lately received from over "the Great Water." Sir Wm. took the hint and immediately presented him with one of the richest suits. Hendrick, highly pleased with the generosity of Sir Wm. retired. Sir Wm. sometime after this, happening to be in company with Hendrick, told him that he also had a dream. Hendrick, being very solicitous to know what it was, Sir Wm. informed him that he dreamed that he, Hendrick had made him a present of a particular tract of land (the most valuable on the Mohawk River) of about 5,000 acres. Hendrick presented (it to) him immediately with this shrewd remark. "Now, Sir William, I will never dream with you again, you dream too hard for me."

Submitted by Ann Leighton-Kyle

CURATOR/ARCHIVIST REPORT

Visitors for September, October, November: 509

Researched in-house during the 3-month period:

Stackpole, Craig, McGregor, O'Brien, Stanley, Waddell, Lot 20 Con 6, Wilson, Switzer, Genoe, Guy, Petten, Allin, Coulter, Moses, Taylor, Wood, Wyatt, Cameron, High School Yearbooks

Queries via e-mail for the same period: Phair, Mariborough Forest, Gillissie, Salmon, Waddell, Monahan, Bouck, Curry, O'Brien, Haynes, Wyman, Douglas, Hill, Spratt, Cowan, O'Neil, Roman Catholic Cemeteries and Hospices.

Fall Activities: We have completed a new display on Sports in Osgoode Township. There are several photographs and items which will bring back cherished memories to many visitors.

Board member Coreen Atkins-Sheldrick has re-vamped our military collection, tracking down descriptions of many of the artefacts we have and enriching the information we have for the photographs on display. A very time consuming task, extremely well done. Coreen continues to collect information regarding any person from Osgoode Township who served in the military in any capacity, in any era. If you have information and have not yet spoken with her, please feel free to call anytime at 821-3950, or by message at 821-4062.

In November-December, the O.T.H.S. & M., with

the personal sponsorship of Osgoode Ward councillor, Doug Thompson, held an Olde Fashion Christmas Ornament Contest. Open to children in grades 3, 4 and 5 of Osgoode Township schools, entries had to be made with materials that would have been available to children at the turn of the century. This is a first effort of this kind, and a small number of ornaments were brought in for the contest. The open house and party to celebrate the participants was held on December 14th.

New to the Archives and/or Reference Collection:

Moses: An Osgoode Family - Descendants of Robert Moses. This wonderfully compiled and prepared family history was donated by **Tim Moses** of Toronto, Ontario.

Thank you to **Joy McGregor** who supplemented the following family files with additional information: **Carkner, McGregor, Armstrong, Bruce, McDermid.** In addition to this, Joy has provided us with an updated copy of the **McGregor** family history.

It was on October 24th that **Maureen Lawther-Thoms** walked into the History Room carrying a box containing original documents relating to the **Cahill** family. And precious documents they were, including wills, deeds of land, photographs, etc. Several hours were spent copying these materials and now, thanks to the generosity of Maureen's mother, **Ann (Cahill) Lawther**, we have Cahill listed among our many family files.

The next day's mail brought a very well documented history of the formation and activities to date of the **Vernon Friendship Club**, formerly known as the "Vernon Gay Nineties Club". The club held its first meeting in our building on May 17, 1974. Thank you to **Daisy Robinson** for adding this valuable material to our collection.

Dwight McRuer of Kenmore donated several scrapbooks which have been an ongoing family project for three generations now. They will be housed in our Archive storage room and anyone wishing to view them can ask for them by name.

The **Treasurer's Records from Unit C, Federation of Women Teachers' Association of Ontario** were donated by **Myra Kelly** of Metcalfe, and cover the period from 1991 to 1998.

New to the Museum:

At our monthly meeting on October 1st, we presented with a lovely quilt which was pieced together and quilted by **Alice Craig**. The quilt shows a jewel box pattern, and Alice says it is the last quilt she will be piecing. If this is the case, we are truly fortunate to have been presented with this lovely gift.

Currently, we have the following collections on loan at the Museum:

- 1) **Kerosene Lamps:** a beautiful display showing a small portion of a collection which belongs to **Gordon and Lorraine Reoch** of Vernon. The display shows various types, styles and sizes of lamps, and provides us with the actual pattern name for each one.
- 2) **Playtime Past:** a collection of c. 1900 children's toys and games which is part of a collection which belongs to **Coral Lindsay** of Kars. Besides being a real hit with our younger visitors, it has been interesting to hear some of senior citizen visitors comment that they have no recollection of many of these items as they were "available before my time"! This collection is supplemented with other items we have on loan from **Bill Zandbelt** of Vernon and **Jim Grey** of Russell.
- 3) **A Lady's Boudoir:** displaying a collection of items a ladies would have kept in their dressing rooms or on their dressing tables. Most of the items on display are on loan from **Lorraine Reoch** of Vernon, supplemented with items belonging to other collectors and the Historical Society.
- 4) **Corporation of the Township of Osgoode: 1850-2000:** is a permanent display at the Museum. Gathered together are several artifacts, photos and other interesting items depicting Township Council from the adoption of the

CURATOR'S REPORT CONT'D

Municipal Act in January 1, 1850 to the amalgamation with the City of Ottawa in 2001. Of particular value in this collection is the Mayoral Chain of Office, donated to the Museum by the last Mayor of the Township and current City Councillor for Osgoode Ward, **Doug Thompson**.

Thank you all for your continued support! All the Best for the Holiday Season and coming year!
 Michelle Lachance

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting for the Osgoode Township Historical Society and Museum will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. at the Osgoode Township Museum, 7814 Lawrence Street, Vernon, Ontario. All are welcome to attend.

The Osgoode Township Historical Society and Museum is seeking nominations for persons to serve on the Board of Directors. If you are interested in serving as a volunteer on the Board, or wish to nominate another member, please contact Murray Little, Past President, O.T.H.S.M. at Box 74, Vernon, Ontario K0A 3J0 or by calling (613) 821-1698.

IN SEARCH OF THEIR ROOTS

BY E-MAIL

FROM: Joseph James Herbert, Santa Cruz, California requesting info on his ancestry, his great great grandparents Alexander Herbert, his wife Mary Parks who were buried in a cemetery in Osgoode Township. His great grandfather, son of the above couple, emigrated to San Francisco for the California goldrush. James Herbert born March 3rd, 1838 in Osgoode was granted U.S. citizenship August 25th, 1868. James married Bridget Desmond, Nov 16, 1873 in Saint Mary's Church in San Francisco, moved to Hollister, California where he lived as a farmer. He died May 14, 1897, his wife Bridget died Dec 1897. Alexander Herbert Lot 11, Con 4 was a brother to my Great great grandfather, Patrick Herbert of Herbert's Corners.

Some years ago, researching my Herbert ancestry, a story was told to me of a young Herbert man who left home for the California goldrush. Years later, returning home, he met his father in the yard. Bidding each other the time of day, he asked if he could have a bite to eat. The father invited the stranger into the house. "You don't know me, Dad," he asked? Well in the course of their conversation, the son told how made his fortune and on his way home to Osgoode, stopping in Chicago where he was rolled. Broke, penniless, he went to work for a pig farmer in the area. He told of helping to herd 3,000 pigs to the Chicago Stock Yards, which was noted to be the biggest stock yards in the world in that era. The father told him he was a damn liar, he never seen that many pigs in his life. Sad to say the son left and was never heard from no more. QUESTION: Is James Herbert the man of which I write?

Michael Daley

QUERIES TO THE MUSEUM

"I was born in Ottawa. My grandmother Florence Fitzsimmons was to have been raised in Bowesville. She married Arthur Wyman. Her parents were Joseph Fitzsimmons and Maria Scharfe. Joseph was known as the "Potato King" because he grew the best ones in the area. Can't seem to find any information beyond that. I don't know where my grandmother was born. [Her marriage to Arthur Wyman is supposedly a second

marriage for her]. My grandfather Arthur Wyman was raised on his parents' farm in Edwards, Ontario. A book on Bowesville mentions many Fitzsimmons but not my great-grandfather. Can anyone provide any additional information or give me some direction?"
 Colleen Porcina, Delta, Canada katcol@dccnet.com

"I was wondering if any of you know about the Douglasses of Metcalfe, Ontario. My great-great grandmother, Esther McCooye (nee Douglas) was the daughter of John Smith "Little John" Douglas and Esther Morrison. I also have a bunch of old photos that my grandfather believes are of Douglas family members. I was wondering if any of you might be able to help me to identify them or know of someone who could."
 Kim McCooye, Langley, Canada mccooye@shaw.ca

"Any info on the Bouck family of Ontario would be appreciated"
 Ronald D. Bouck, Warren, USA Hoohra@aol.com

EXCERPTS FROM O.T.H.S NEWSLETTER VOLUME 1, No 2, 1975

Editor: Elizabeth Stuart

Archibald McDonell, wrote from Osgoode, 6th December, 1832 "to His Excellency Sir John Colburn... Lieut Governor of the Province of Upper Canada..."

"The Petition of Archibald McDonell, late Captain in the First Regiment of Stormont Militia...during the late war with the United States of America...Your Petitioner moved into the Bounty of Land granted to him in consideration of his services in the Township of Osgoode, County of Russell, Ottawa District in the year 1827 then twenty miles from any settlement...Your Petitioner devoted much of his time and means to the opening of Roads through the Township, which facilitated the way for many others to follow him, and there are now, Thirty seven respectable Scotch Families, Twenty five Irish, Five English and Four Canadian born, residing in it and a number of other families are coming this winter, and your Petitioner flatters himself with the hope of seeing, in a short time this Township the most flourishing Settlement in the district."

Mr McDonell went on to say that since they were at a distance of 85 miles from the headquarters of the district he believed the settlers were not getting justice from the public treasury and requested that a magistrate be appointed in his Township.

"Your Petitioner is informed that... a man mentioned for the Commission of the Peace... is a man by the name of Billings who left the frontier on the St. Lawrence immediately after the Declaration of the American War in order to avoid doing Duty and settled on the Bank of the Rideau, on a Clergy Reserve, where he had accumulated considerable property... the inhabitants of this County are all true born British Subjects and your Petitioner most humbly prays that none of those Yankees may have a voice over them."

Names mentioned of people known to the petitioner who would be suitable for the position were: Henry Hanna, Donald McIntosh, Daniel Cameron, Alexander McDonell (son Gloucester), Thos. McKay, Urquhart (brother of Rev. Urquhart, Cornwall), John Anderson, Sam Thompson, Elisha Lackey.

(From Upper Canada Sundries 1832 pp. 8436-9 Public Archives)



**EXCERPTS FROM NEWSLETTER No. 2
CONT'D**

Who were all the 71 families here in December 1832? In the Census of 1842, when the heads of families were named, we see 242 families recorded. This 1841-2 Census gives the number in each family; the country from which the family came, their religious affiliation, and the crops grown. We have copies of this Census in our building so that visitors may inspect it. Most of Ontario have a record of the personal census for the year 1851. That taken for Osgoode has been lost, but there is an Agricultural Census that gives the owners of the property by lot and concession and the crops grown.

The 1861 Census for Osgoode Township is complete. All 4500 names are now recorded, mainly through the persistent effort of Mrs Lorne Craig (Alice Dalglish).

VOLUME I, No. 3, 1975

Editor: Elizabeth Stuart

From copies of two letters we have that were written home to Breadalbane, Scotland by Donald McKercher, we can judge the spirit and struggles of the original home builders in Osgoode Township. English was a second language to these Highlanders.

"My Dear Duncan:

...I am getting my health better but Mary complains her head and pains in her eye the heat of the cast metal does not agree with her and the fire hear is confined in a stove like a cheast to heaten the house and there is cooking stoves with fireholes for cooking at wonce.

...I am still working with Stewart the snow left the ground about the 2nd of April and I am commence ploughing among the stumps and a hard work it is I would rather work a month in Breadalbane than one week in this brute of a place.

...It is getting so hot now you would think the wind is coming off a burning mountain and the flies are commencing now there is a kind they call mysscatties they are verry bad and poisoness and very thick for two months I bought a cow for 5 pounds and little Jessie got a sheep from her cousin...

...There is some hear has got on well them that has a strong family but as for one man to commence in the bush and take his living out and pay the land in 10 year he is a dead man and most of the men hear is half dead with work and heat I went down to the Indian Land to see my friends there and I did nit think much of them there children is like this country... know nothing but tearing among the woods and stumps.



...There is Lairds hear this 15 years that has not a chair or a bed in there house yet but lie on the floor like the dogs but they dae will as the grain is high in prices wheat per

bushel 2 1/2 dollars... this Stewart that I am with made well he has 300 acres and about 100 clear He is saving 50 pounds a year he has 300 pounds out on interest and getting 8 percent and a good stock on the farm... there is 23 years since he came and he had only 23 scoverings when he bought the land but lands were sold at 5 shillings an acre which you would give 16 shillings for now.

...I am sorry I did not bring with me a bagpip for all the

highlanders hear is angry at me for not taking one they would gather a day now and then to help me with the clearing if I had the pips...

...I am a poor hand at writing letters... I think when I go on my own place I will be pleased better... I dont like to be under a master in Canada for they work from sunrises till she sets and that is from 4 oclock in the morning till 8 at night breakfast at 6 dinner at 12 supper at 5 oclock and maybe tea 3 times a day and no sugar in the tea in Canada.

... This country is very rough for a stranger to look at it is so level and covered with woods but sinkholes hear and there and trees are one third longer hear than in the auld countrys and thicker than Drummond Hill three times... you would not see a hill nor a glen hear nor a burn running.

...ask John McPherson if he would sell any of his prize pips...little Duncan he is a smart child he was born on the 28th July 60 miles below Quebec.

Daniel McKercher

adress Lot 24, 9th Concession, Osgoode, Canada West

Comment - A little daughter Ann had died at sea. The pipes came out and Donald McKercher walked from his home near Marvelville to Metcalfe to open the fair over 100 years ago.

MUSEUM NOTES

★ It's Membership Renewal time. Membership with Newsletter is \$15.00 in Canadian dollars for family or individual, if outside Canada payable in U.S dollars. Keep us up to date on any address change. Tax receipts for 2001 available.

★ Jan 7th, 2003 - Monthly meeting. Showing of 1940's Osgoode film converted to video.

★ Annual General Meeting Feb 4, 2003 at the Museum 7:30 p.m. Plan to be on hand for elections and year-end reports

★ March 4, 2003 - Monthly meeting - speaker Jonathan Moore, Parks Canada Archeologist on underwater sites along the Rideau waterway. All meetings at 7:30.



Osgoode Township
Historical Society & Museum
NEWSLETTER

Published quarterly from the museum in Vernon. Objective is to promote, preserve and publicize history in the Township of Osgoode and to foster genealogy research. Funded in part by the new city of Ottawa. Museum & archives are free admission.

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