

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

at the

Old Vernon School

Newsletter

EARLY CEMETERY, KENMORE

The above picture was submitted by Mrs Grant Bowman of the village of Kenmore. The lone tombstone, ravaged by the mists of time, creates a link with the past and hopefully continuity with the future. It stands in what was known as "McTavish's Grave", later known as the Fetterly farm. Mrs Bowman recalls how at one point in time there were two tombstones on the site, but sad to say, one Hallowe'en night they were both removed from their site. However, Mr Fetterly happened to find one of them on his property and returned the stone to its proper place. The other one was never recovered.

The first death in the Township of Osgoode occurred at Kenmore. It was that of Colin Campbell, who was buried on the banks of the Castor River in what was later known as McTavish's Grove. The funeral was attended by a group of men and there were just enough for "one change" in carrying the coffin along a blazed and partially cleared path to the grave site. Others known to be interred in this early cemetery include Squire McLaren's father (James) and sister, Samuel Doty and Mrs James Baird (Louise Clement) with her newborn baby.

Today this memorial of the past still stands deep amidst the brush and trees in McTavish's Grove. A stark reminder of those early pioneers who carved their homestead out of the forest and along the banks of the Middle Castor.

The stone, in memory of Mrs Baird, bears the inscription "He weakened my strength in the midst of my journey and shortened my days." Emblazoned in the stone beneath the inscription lies a little lamb.

Michael Daley

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Mar 2001

President's Report & Annual Report

March 2001

As we enter our 30th year there are new opportunities and challenges to be addressed. At the Annual General Meeting held on February 6th we elected the slate of officers for the coming year. With great regrets we accepted Jim Bowman's request to step down as Vice-President. Jim has been a great support to me in his VP roll and we very much appreciate his continuing on as a Director. We are very fortunate in having Ron Isaac agree to take on the VP position.

On behalf of all the members I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Executive, the Directors, the positions, and the committees for their dedicated work in support of the OTHS &M throughout the year. The efforts of all the volunteers is a critical element in the ongoing success of the organization.

Special events included a very successful Heritage Day held on Saturday, February 16th and The Strawberry Social and Pioneer Day on July 24th. The fine weather and the extensive exhibits drew a large crowd which enjoyed the afternoon. On Saturday November 10th we hosted a Remembrance Service at the Vernon Cenotaph followed by a reception in the Museum.

Our funding application for the addition of a mezzanine level in the Agriculture Museum was approved by the Township and they gave us \$6,855 this coupled with a generous donation of \$3,000 from the Metcalfe and District Lions and contributions from members allowed the project to get underway. The construction was completed by year end with the finishing touches of painting/varnishing and lighting to be completed when warmer weather returns. The mezzanine will increase our Agriculture Museum display space by almost 20 %.

Outreach during the year included participation in March with an interesting display at the Gene-O-Rama Conference of the Ottawa Branch of the O.G.S. and a presentation to the mens group in the Township of Osgoode Care Centre.

During the year we enjoyed many interesting speakers including David Shanahan's insightful talk on the Influence of the Irish in Canadian History and George Hobson who took us on a slide tour of historic sights in the Canadian Arctic.

Cecil Reaney has continued his work collecting the history of the Metcalfe Rural Telephone Company to the point where we hope to publish the story this year. Ron Isaac work on documenting the first two settlers in the

OSGOODE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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township: York and MacDonell. has resulted in Heritage Ontario approving our proposal to erect an Historic Site Plaque to recognize these two pioneers.

We would like anyone who reads this newsletter to give us their ideas for any projects we could consider undertaking. Please send your suggestions to us at the mailing address given in the Newsletter or email to OTHS@magma.ca Your feedback will be greatly appreciated.

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As I write this we are almost ready to launch a web site for the Society. Check it out at: www.magma.ca/~oths

Doug Hughes

Heritage Day 2001

The parking lot at the museum in Vernon was full on Saturday, February 17th, as we held a most successful Annual Heritage Celebration. Heritage Day is to commemorate our ancestors and the pioneers who helped make the area what it is today. This year it was a very busy afternoon with well over 60 people attending with Ron Isaac being the Master of Ceremonies.

This year a very meaningful ceremony was held as the former Mayor of Osgoode, Doug Thompson, presented the Museum with the former Township of Osgoode Flag, the impressive Mayor's Chain of Office and the Mayor's Gavel. As Doug Thompson wrote in his newspaper column the following week

"I presented the three precious pieces of Osgoode Township municipal history to the Vernon Museum to preserve the former municipality's 150 year history. Accepting on behalf of the museum was the venerable Mike Daley of Stagecoach Road fame. With his "Irish Eyes" gleaming, one of Osgoode's biggest boosters accepted the Mayor's Chain of Office, the Gavel and the Township Flag, all of which will be displayed with honour at the Museum."

Coral Lindsay, a well known local historian, gave an incredibly interesting account of "The First Families of Ottawa: 1790 - 1830." Coral brought to life interesting stories of numerous pioneers in all areas of the new Ottawa. The discussion following her talk brought out additional interesting information. We heard familiar names such as Stevens, Burritt, Dunning, Faubert, Lindsay, Spark, Billings, McDonnell, York, etc. One vivid description was of how one family who, in their canoe, got swept over Hogs Back Falls in the early 1800's, the mother with a young infant in her arms. They lived to tell their tale!

In keeping with this years Heritage Week Theme of transportation, Michael Daley had many maps covering the area from the 1830's to 2000 which clearly illustrated the evolution of the roads system.

FOUNDING FAMILIES TO BE HONoured

Osgoode Township's two founding families, the York's and the McDonells, are soon about to receive recognition by having their names inscribed on a Heritage Ontario Foundation's Provincial Plaque. These plaques are the blue and gold signs erected throughout Ontario that mark the province's important historical events, and persons who have made some major contribution to the development of the province. The families of William York and Archibald McDonell are certainly worthy of such a tribute! The arrival of both families in 1827 was the true beginning of what eventually became the Township of Osgoode and, as of January 1, 2001, is now a ward of the new City of Ottawa.

Before the American Revolution, the area north of the St. Lawrence River had been the hunting territory of several First Nation tribes. In the latter part of the 18th century, the Mississaugas occupied this region. During the Revolutionary War, large numbers of United Empire Loyalists moved into this area and the British government then acquired much of the Indian territory for settlement of their loyal subjects. Under the direction of Governor General Haldimand, Captain W.R. Crawford negotiated with the Mississaugas for what would become known as the "Crawford Purchase".

Although the final survey of the area was

completed in 1822, and many of the first land grants in this district were made to United Empire Loyalists between 1799 and 1827, now settlers were attracted to the area at first due to the fact that early visitors had described the territory as impenetrable swamp unfit for human habitation.

Why did they come? Although too much water was a definite drawback, it meant the area was accessible however. The three branches of the Castor that crisscrossed the township, and which also connected to the tributaries of the Nation River, provided a route to and from the older settlements on the St. Lawrence River Front. Frozen over during the winter months, these rivers provided an "ice road" through the region. The rivers also provided a way of harvesting the mighty white oak and white pine which grew tall and thick along the river banks. In fact, it was lumbering that attracted the earliest settlers. Once the forests were cleared and the fertile land exposed, farming became an important industry and encouraged more settlers to take up residence in the township.

The distinction of being Osgoode's first settlers goes to the families of William and Anne York (ne Embury) and Colonel Archibald McDonell and his wife Catherine (nee McDonell). Even though they had known each other in Cornwall, neither knew the other was setting out for the wilds of Osgoode at about the same time, nor did they realize that they both had arrived at their destination at about the same time (March, 1827), settling along the banks of the Middle Castor River only a few miles apart from each other.

FOUNDING FAMILIES CONT'D

York settled on Lot 21, Conc. 9 and McDonell located on Lot 25, Conc. 8.

Both families set to work immediately building their cabins and clearing their land. Both families assisted later arrivals with their settlement. Both families took an active part in the development of the area. "Squire" McDonell opened the first store, operated the first sawmill and served as the township's first magistrate representing the district at L'Orignal, and as such, made many petitions to the government requesting improvements to the district for the benefit of its residents.

During the War of 1812, McDonell had served as Assistant Deputy Adjutant General of the St. Lawrence Militia. While a resident of Osgoode, McDonell acted as Colonel of the 3rd Carleton Militia. William York was responsible for providing for the spiritual growth of the township's populace. He held the first ecumenical service in the township at his home as well as eventually founding the first Methodist Church in the area. McDonell provided the land required for the first Roman Catholic Church and burying ground, both located just west of the junction of present day Highway 31 and Snake Island Road.

Both York and McDonell were responsible for the construction of the township's first roads. Col. McDonell built a road from his home north into the present village and York build a road westward to connect up with McDonell's road. Today, this is Metcalfe's main intersection of Victoria and Albert Streets. (Duncan Cameron, a resident on the 9th Conc., slashed a road northward to meet up with the road built by York.) Their major road project, however, was the slashing of a road (now named "8th Line Road") running north from Baker's Corners (now Metcalfe) to connect up with the road running southward out of Bytown and passing through Billings Bridge. For the first time Osgoode residents could obtain their supplies from only 20 miles distant rather than the arduous, and often dangerous, trek to the Front.

Although there were only five other families living in the township five years after the arrival of the first settlers, following the completion of Colonel By's Rideau Canal in 1832, the population of the area increased rapidly. The two railways that crossed the township, the New York Central R.R. and the Ottawa-Prescott R.R., also brought more settlers and more industry to the region. Osgoode Township, named in honour of William Osgoode, first Chief Justice of Upper Canada, was incorporated on January 1, 1850 - and the rest is history!

Heritage Ontario's Provincial Plaque will carry an abbreviated version of the above information. It is hoped that the new City of Ottawa will give the Township of Osgoode Historical Society and Museum permission to erect this plaque in Metcalfe's "Victoria Park." A special "unveiling" ceremony will take place in the park in late spring or early summer. Descendants of the Yorks and McDonells will be invited to attend along with other municipal dignitaries and the general public.

The O.T.H.S. and Museum would like to thank the former Osgoode Township Council and the township's Lion's Clubs for sponsoring half the cost of the installation of the Provincial Plaque and the two Provincial Markers. The Heritage Ontario Foundation will pick up the other half of the cost.

Ron Isaac, Director

McARTHUR FOUNDRY, KENMORE circa 1860-1917

written and researched by Cecil Reaney, Metcalfe



The story of an agricultural industry located in Kenmore, Ontario has left its mark on the history of Osgoode Township. The production of the well-known McArthur Plow" manufactured by the McArthurs in their foundry is written from information available to the writer and provides sketches of the early founders and a knowledge of methods employed to construct various agricultural implements. The best record of information available tells us the foundry operated during the period 1860 - 1917. The famous McArthur Plow was first known as the "No. 1" with total construction of cast iron. In later years, the "No. 2" was manufactured using wooden handles, making the plow lighter in weight and easier to manage.

Historical records indicate that Donald McArthur, along with his wife, his eldest son Donald and his brother John arrived in Kenmore from Perthshire, Scotland about 1857. They had a close relationship with another of the early Kenmore families, the McLarens, who had emigrated from Perthshire as well. It was Peter McLaren who had named the small village Kenmore" after his native Kenmore, Scotland.

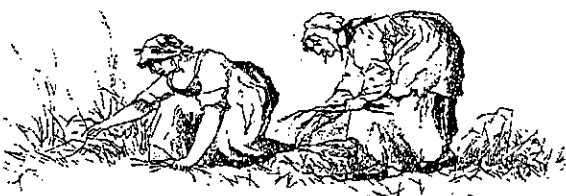
The McArthur brothers, both of whom had mastered the blacksmith trade and had worked in a foundry back in their homeland, soon after arriving in Kenmore, established their business on a small plot of land, and a short time thereafter, constructed the foundry that operated for more than 50 years from about 1860 - 1917.

Belden's Historical Atlas of Carleton County, published in 1879, illustrates the McArthur property located on the main road running through the village of Kenmore situated on Lot 30, Conc 10. About 1870, additional land had been acquired on the easterly and southerly limits of the village and the original property was eventually sold.

In the early years of operation, it was evident that the farms being carved out of the forest were rich in soil and as a result, the farming community grew and the demand for farm machinery and other equipment increased rapidly as well. Donald McArthur's keen interest in every aspect of farming and community development and his spirit of working together with the area farmers for the betterment of agriculture, would become highly beneficial for all parties concerned for many years.

The creation of sand moulds, the construction of wooden patterns, the foundering of iron and the fabrication of farm equipment and other hardware required by the community were requisites of the foundry. A steam engine utilizing a line-drive assembly was installed to run a drill press, a bed lathe and other associated tools of the trade. The second storey of the building was used to store line items and certain finished products. A track and lift mechanism allowed items to be raised or lowered through a trap door that opened over what may be described as a balcony extending out over the front entrance of the foundry.

The property had an artesian well, the overflow of which drained into the castor some five hundred feet to the east. This well was an asset for the steam boiler



McARTHUR FOUNDRY CONT'D

and was also used to temper the iron castings to the correct hardness. (The "chilled iron" mould board was a feature of the McArthur Plow.) This lasted long after the demise of the foundry.

In the early years when roads and communications were limited, obtaining raw materials such as iron, foundry necessities and tools presented a hardship and often resulted in production delays. The original methods of transportation were by making use of the waterways leading to Cornwall and later to Bytown and by using cross-country wagons and sleighs pulled by oxen or horses. In the latter part of the nineteenth century, a railroad, The New York Central, running between Messina, New York and Ottawa was a great improvement in the transportation of goods and people and provided easier access to materials and markets.

The marketing of the finished foundry products was initially done from the foundry premises where farmers came in person to purchase their requirements. Later, the building of several general stores in neighbouring towns provided many more outlets for foundry products that could be sold along with mill feed and other farm items. The last known products produced at the McArthur Foundry were located in the former R.M. Warner Feed Store, Russell, Ontario about 1965 - 1970, and they were two brand new McArthur Plows!

In the years 1860 to 1900, as the surrounding land was transformed from forest to agricultural use, there became an increased demand for farm equipment such as walking plows, drag harrows, cast iron kettles, sheep and swine feed troughs, and other items such as ends for school desks, parts for church pews and small household utensils.

The draught horse was quickly replacing oxen and with the advancements in farming, there became a need to improve upon the walking plow. This challenge presented to the McArthur Foundry was accepted by Donald who at periods of production had a staff of six to eight craftsmen. His keen interest and skills acquired working with farmers gave him an understanding that the plow must be improved, even with the obstacles at a time when a widespread drought plunged farming economy to low levels, and this coupled with the decision by his brother John to leave the business and pursue other ventures in the west. Even though it would be tough going, Donald, joined by his son Duncan, decided to continue the foundry operations. Perhaps, the incentive to carry on resulted from the opening of a second wood mill in Kenmore by Carkner and McMaster in 1876 and the opening of a general store by Hugh and C. F. McArthur in 1884.

In 1874 when Carkner and McMaster decided to go into the sawmill business in Kenmore which was some six miles from their home, the venture was difficult for various reasons. Some area residents questioned the wisdom of the plan. At the time, because Duncan Carkner was too young to legally sign the necessary ownership papers, his father had to do so on his behalf. The property on which the desired to locate was then owned by Donald McArthur. At first Donald refused to take their advances seriously and only when Carkner-McMaster bought property in another area did he change his mind and offer them a site of their choice. The remains of the old wood mill are now privately owned and stand partly along the present day McRuer's Lane Road.

McArthur's development of the "high coulter" plow was a great success during this period. The high coulter and the improved shape of the chilled iron mouldboard was tempered with a hardness that could withstand abuse by stones or gravel. This was very effective during a period of time when the breaking of

the land was still rough after carving out the bush and clearing the land of stumps and stones. The more the chilled iron mouldboard was used, the smoother it became and resulted in turned soil departing freely allowing the triangular cut sod to fall into a tighter position over the previously overturned furrow.

From the early days of the foundry operations, Donald McArthur worked with farmers to create an interest in plowing that eventually became quite competitive. These events became larger and larger, and soon were known as plowing match competitions at agricultural meets such as the present day "International Plowing Match and Farm Machinery Show."

The history of plowing in Carleton County provides an account of a particular plowing match in the year 1900 at the J.R. Booth Farm located beside the Experimental Farm in Ottawa, Ontario. The Gold Medal Event was a special class in which Donald McArthur & son of Kenmore, Ontario, offered a gold medal to the best plowman in the field using a "McArthur Plow." John Johnson of Winchester, Ontario collected the gold.

By 1900, improvements in cultivation using drag harrows and cultivators during the spring planting broke the soil and destroyed the existing growth of weeds and other live plants thus clearing the soil for new seed. This method of cultivation gave less reason for plowing a high quality turned furrow having high ridge accuracy. As a result, the iron plow was replaced with a plow constructed with a lighter steel mouldboard and wooden handles. This type of plow was much cheaper to manufacture and it was much easier to use. The McArthur Plow became less and less popular among area farmers.

The exact date of the demise of the McArthur Foundry has not been recorded. Donald McArthur died July 5, 1907 at the age of 79 years. It is not known for certain just how long after his father's death that his son Duncan continued the business; however, several area residents living today cannot recall the foundry operating after 1920. One area resident is in possession of an invoice dated 1917 for goods purchased at the McArthur Foundry.

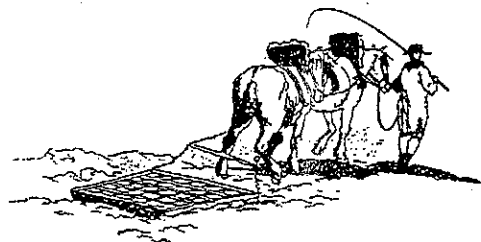
The McArthur name continued in business communities in Russell, Ontario and eastern Ontario for several years. C.F. McArthur moved to Russell and set up shop there after his store in Kenmore was destroyed by fire.

About 1930, the Kenmore Rink Company was formed and they purchased the McArthur property on which to build an outdoor skating rink for community use. The building housing the foundry had been torn down and the lumber used to build several farm structures in the area. The property is now the location of a private residence.

Today, McArthur plows have become quite collectable by those enthusiasts who collect antique agricultural implements. An early manufactured McArthur Plow and a McArthur cast iron swine trough are on display at the Osgoode Township Historical Society's museum in Vernon, Ontario. Another McArthur Plow is reported to be in the agricultural collection at the Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa.

It is the wishes of the writer that any additional information pertaining to the McArthurs and their foundry operations in Kenmore be provided by interested persons. Any actual photographs would be most appreciated.

Cecil Reaney



A LETTER FROM HOME TO JIM MALONE



March 20, 1886
County Cork, Ireland

Dear Cousin

I'm writing this letter slow, as I know you can't read fast. Your welcome letter received, me and your Aunt Bridget thank you kindly for the money. I went out and paid the rent. I had a little money left so I went up to visit Riley, he still has his own still, he sure knows how to make good whiskey. Boy did I get it when I got back.

You have gone to high places in America, "God Bless you" I hope you will not be putting on heirs and forgetting your native land. Your cousin Hughie O'Toole hanged in Londonderry last week for killing a policeman. May God rest his soul. May God's curse be on Jimmie Rodgers the informer, and may he burn in hell, "God forgive me"!

Times are not so bad as they might be, the herring is back and nearly everyone has a heart in making ends meet. The price of fish is good, butter is selling for 11 cents a pound, potatoes sell for 25 cents, hundred eggs 12 cents a dozen, pork 14 cents a pound. Most other things are cheap, "thanks be to God".

We had a good time at "Pat Muldoons Wake" the other night, he was laid out with his big mouth shut at last, he is better off dead. He'll burn till hell freezes over. He had too many friends among the O'Raffertys, God curse the lot of them. Bless your heart, I almost forgot to tell you about your Uncle Dennis. He took a pot shot at Jimmie Rodgers from the back of the hedge, but he had too much drink in him and he missed. That Riley's Whiskey every time "too much alcohol in it." I hope this letter finds you "in good health" and may God keep reminding you to keep sending the money.

The Brennans are one hundred percent strong around here since they stopped going to America. They have gaffers running all over the country. Father O'Flatterty who baptized you is now feeble minded and sends you his blessing. Nellie O'Brien the brat you went to school with has married an Englishman. She'll have no luck, you remember Dan Murphy who married Bridget O'Toole, they had a set of twins about a month ago. Dan was so excited, he went up to Riley's still, he came back in a week, in time for the Christening. Bridget never said a word to him. She just laid him out cold with the frying pan. That was some party. Dan has to work twice as hard now. Bridget hasn't spoken to him since the night the twins were born. That's some pot of stew to be in. May God take care of the lot of you and keep you from sudden death.

Your devoted cousin,
Timothy Malone

P.S. Things are looking bright. The Murphy's

and the O'Grady's thinned out the Brennan's at Hooligan's party the other night. Those who weren't laid out are in jail. Thanks be to God.

P.S Keep sending the money.

Michael Daley

OSGOODE TOWNSHIP ASSESSMENT ROLLS 1830

Note - The first families to make their homes in Osgoode Townshiup were those of Archibald McDonell and William York. This fact is shown by the number of acres of bushland that had been cleared since the arrival of the 2 families early in 1827. The next e families to arrive, were those of Richard Hall, Samuel Loney and Robert Grant. It appears that Felix Donely came in 1829 since he has cleared 2 acres. The families of Alexander McLaren, Donald McLaren and Peter McEwen arrived early in 1830. So did the newly married couples Colin Campbell and wife and Duncan McNabb and wife who had gotten married the same day in Killin Parish, Perthshire in 1829 before sailing for Canada. William Page had arrived early in 1830 as well.

Three of the 14 families lived in one-storey house made of timbers squared on 2 sides. The others lived in crude shanties. As well as having milch cows, most of the families had younger cattle.

Hugh Griffin, Wm Smyth, Assessors
June 15th, 1830

POKEY MOONSHINE

The following article was derived from an Ottawa Newspaper dated Feb, 1928

The origin of the Osgoode Settlement nickname has been lost

Years ago around the 1860's there was a section of Osgoode not far from Manotick which used to go by the peculiar name of Pokey-Moonshine. Of course that was not the official name of this section, but that was the name the people of the district gave it. How it received that peculiar name is now a matter forgotten. Mr McEvoy who tells the story does not know. He was only a boy when the name was originated. Anyhow the name stuck for many years. Mr McEvoy heard once from an old time that the settlement was so-called because certain residents made "pokey" or flat brand of illegal whiskey.

But whatever the reason for the nick-name, it is known that the residents of "Pokey-Moonshine" district had a passion for raffles of all sorts and there wasn't a week there wasn't a raffle of a clock, a gun, a fiddle or something of that sort. It must be remembered that a raffle presented the opportunity for a gathering and a gathering meant sociability and the people of Pokey-Moonshine were friendly to a degree and they loved to fore gather for the raffle, there always followed a dance. So can you blame the people of Pokey-Moonshine for wanting to have a raffle. They had few amusements of other sorts.

Michael Daley

P.S. I know where Pokey-moonshine was!



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OSGOODE TWP. HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM, A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE FIRST TEN YEARS	\$2.00	\$2.75
KEMPTVILLE ADVANCE 1891 - 1920 BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES	priced from \$4.00	\$11
(various number of pages, 2 years together in some cases, also includes 1907 Kemptville Telegram)		

CEMETERY RECORDINGS

	<u>list price</u>	<u>mailprice</u>
ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN, GREELY	3.00	\$4.25
CLARENCE, RUSSELL COUNTY	\$5.00	\$6.50
METCALFE, UNION (updated version)	\$5.00	\$6.50
MOREWOOD, DUNDAS COUNTY	\$5.00	\$6.25
ORMOND PROTESTANT	\$3.00	\$4.25
PRESCOTT ROAD UNION	\$2.50	\$3.75
REIDS MILLS, OSGOODE TWP. CARLETON CO	\$4.00	\$5.25
SPRINGHILL	\$8.00	\$9.50
ST. BRIGID R.C.	\$3.50	\$4.25
ST. CATHERINE R.C.	\$2.00	\$3.25
GRANT, RUSSELL COUNTY	\$1.00	\$1.75
ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN, RUSSELL COUNTY	\$3.00	\$4.25
ST. ANDREW'S AND ST. PAUL, RUSSELL COUNTY	\$3.00	\$4.25

note - In the space provided we are not able to provide all the families in Pioneer Families, new volumes are in progress, number of booklets available is as accurate as possible. Mailing price approximates 2000 rates.