

Osgoode Township  
Historical Society & Museum

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

Newsletter

Volume XVII 1991 No. 1



A load of cheese boxes from Carkner's Mill.

**A Glimpse Into The Past:**

The above picture from the archives of the Osgoode Twp. Museum, though faded and worn, portrays a glimpse into what was once, one aspect of the agricultural industry in the thriving village of Kenmore in Osgoode Township - the manufacturing and delivery of cheese boxes. The following names of the men standing - (left to right) Gordon Loney, Alex Stewart and George Warren, given to me by Mrs. Willard McCormick, daughter of George Warren. The well matched team hauling the load were named Jess and Harry.

**The Carkner Mill** - In 1875 two young men came to Kenmore to start a mill to prepare building materials for houses and barns. They were so young, they had difficulty getting anyone to sell them land, but eventually they bought on the bank of the Castor River and began with a sawmill. In 1883 they enlarged their plant to manufacture cheese boxes.

George Warren (1886-1971) worked at the Carkner Mill for the better part of his life. His brother Carl worked on the manufacturing of cheese boxes that were delivered to the many cheese factories scattered throughout our township and surrounding townships- Winchester, North Gower, etc., etc. A sash and door factory was also constructed on the property with a young man- Hugh Watson- as the carpenter in charge. He continued on the job for 56 years without a break, producing windows and doors of the finest craftsmanship. In its heyday the mill employed 30 men. In the early days many logs were driven down the Castor River to Kenmore from Mountain Township. In the 1940's the mode of transporting cheese boxes and hauling of logs changed from horses to the more modern, and faster transportation system, trucks!

Today with the vast technology relating to the agricultural industry at one's fingertips; the once thriving industrial village of Kenmore- with its blacksmith shop, the cheese factory, the Carkner mills, the telegraph office, continuation school and the home of the McCarthur plough- now, like the turning of a page in the book of time- are but a memory!

Michael Daley

**President's Report:**

As we begin a new year, it is customary to look back at the one just passed, consider where we went wrong or fell short, and try to develop a plan which may get us through the year ahead with the least amount of failure and calamity.

One year ago we agreed that the plumbing in the museum would be our major maintenance project for 1990. When the furnace exploded we deftly shifted priorities and now have the newest and most expensive furnace in the township. 1991 will be the year for the plumbing.

If this sounds more like the janitor's report than that of the President, it is simply that most of my efforts are devoted to the administration required to keep the building in repair, which in turn demands fundraising in order to pay for the repairs. All of the above leaves little time or inclination for the activities which an historical society president should wish to pursue.

While this is hardly the place for levity or witty anecdotes, I just can't resist. One day in the heat of the summer, when faced with the latest of a series of frustrations, I asked our treasurer "Why in Sam Hill do we bother trying to keep this organization together and operating?" to which she blandly replied, "Because it is fun." And so it is!

It was a tough and busy year but we got through it, thanks to the usual dedicated few who took part in many activities, and to the many who contributed funds so that we could pay the bills.

During the last couple of years we have made a concerted effort in the areas of publicity and public relations with some success. It is my intention

that we continue in the same direction. Therefore, let me close by suggesting that we all put a bit more effort into promoting our historical society in 1991.

-----**Bob Usher**-----

**Membership**— The membership fee for the year 1991 is eight dollars. If your membership card is not with this newsletter, then your membership fee is now due. If there is an error please inform us. We sincerely appreciate your past, and hopefully, your continued support - and your comments too- as we strive to portray a picture of our township history.

Slate of Officers for 1991

Past President	-	Shirley Low
President	-	Bob Usher
Recording Secretary	-	Patti Mitton
Corresponding Secretary	-	Harry Anderson
Treasurer/Curator	-	Ann Leighton-Kyle
Archivist	-	Donna Bowen
Maintenance	-	Bill Zandbelt
Social Committee	-	Alice Craig, Olive Cameron, and Ann Leighton-Kyle
Membership	-	Alice Craig
Publications	-	Bessie Windsor

Directors - Murray Little (Vice-President)	-	Lorne Harrison
- Michael Daley (Newsletter)	-	Don Low
- Fred Alexander	-	Patti Mitton
- Lorne Craig	-	Bill Zandbelt

Osgoode Township Council Representative - Councillor Blaine Ball

-----**Michael Daley**-----

**A Tribute to Arlowa Ferguson:**

Arlowa Ferguson died suddenly at an Ottawa hospital on November 26, 1990; but her contribution to the work of our Historical Society & Museum lives on and will continue to do so. Lora was born on the Ferguson farm at Dalmeny, June, eighty years ago. Her formal education began at the country school across the road. When her father- James Ferguson- became ill, he had to leave his young family (five in number) and go west for a number of years in hopes of gaining better health, but he died in Osgoode village in 1925, to which his wife and children had moved. Arlowa graduated from McMaster University at age 21 and immediately entered the Civil Service where she became an inspector in the Unemployment Insurance Department.

After 40 years she retired to her mother's home in Vernon at a time when she was much appreciated- both by her aged mother and the near-by Historical Society. In 1973, she offered her services to register the many articles that were coming in to our newly-organized Society. To be able to do this work in a professional manner, Lora invited employees from the National Archives to visit our premises. She also took a course at Algonquin College, and engaged the services of an able student from Algonquin College who was also able to do her work experience by setting up the complicated and demanding work of official registration of the thousands of artifacts that were coming our way. Arlowa was also interested in attending workshops and conferences in order that our records would be properly kept. Then for ten years with other capable volunteers, gave a day a week to the continuing work on the artifacts.

For the Sesquicentennial of Osgoode Township in 1977, Arlowa produced as editor "Glimpses of Osgoode Township", a booklet which combines short accounts and pictures of the small areas into which we artificially divided the township. And our publication- "Pioneers of Osgoode Township"- contains a dozen contributions on her Scottish ancestors.

When Mrs. Margaret Ferguson needed additional care, that care could then be found only in Easton's Corners, and the many long trips there required extra time and energy, until the time of her mother's death in 1977 at age 95. Then there was her mother's 100-year old cousin, Johnnie Campbell, who needed her visits. And it was the day that Arlowa took Johnnie's aged sister, Jessie - a very valued member of our Society- to the Dundas nursing home (as its first patient) that Arlowa collapsed on a bed in the room. In spite of reduced health, the Society profited from her expertise until she moved to Ottawa where she continued to search the roots of her Scottish ancestors - Ferguson, Campbell, McDiarmid, McLelland, McClaren, McLaurin, McDonald, McNee, Dow, McEwen- all from Scotland.

Our Society is greatly indebted to the services of this fine daughter of our pioneers. **Elizabeth Stuart**

**A Tribute to Grace Johnston- noted historian:**

The paper reads "Johnston, Grace Philimore Jane, in hospital on Thursday, October 13, 1990; beloved wife of A. Kennedy Johnston."

Grace, nee Whitmore, born in Ottawa June 26, 1912, of parents newly arrived from Gloucester, England; Grace was destined to make a special contribution to Gloucester, Canada. One is impressed with the scenes in which she moved; her student days, First Avenue Public School, Glebe Collegiate, Ottawa Teachers' College, then a teaching career in North Gower, Leitrim and schools under the Ottawa Public Board- in York Street School she taught a little boy named Stephen Lewis who was a commanding speaker even in grades three and four- and attended the University of Toronto to study Library Service.

In World War II (1939-1945) she volunteered as a member of No. 32 Ottawa Central Nursing Division, St. John Ambulance; did volunteer hospital work; married on New Year's Eve to Ken Johnston on his return from five years service with the Canadian Forces overseas they took up residence on their farm at Johnston's Corners. Grace soon became involved in community life. In 1978 Grace started the second Gloucester Historical Society, becoming its first president, having a deep interest in the History of Gloucester, Grace devoted her spare time to researching and writing local history, collecting artifacts for the Society, always with the helping hand of her husband Ken. Grace Johnston has left an indelible imprint on the many and various endeavours in which she participated and the community in which she lived.

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We express our sincere sympathy to Katie Campbell (long-time member of the Historical Society), her husband Rollo and family in the loss of a loved one, daughter Irene Duncan-Corkill. Irene, wife and mother, school teacher, an enthusiastic sportswoman passed away December 15, 1990 at the Ottawa Civic Hospital of a rare blood aplasia.

-----Michael Daley-----

**From the Archives of the Osgoode Township Historical Society  
- School Sections in the Municipality of Osgoode, 1860...**

**Section No. 1:** Is comprised of that certain parcel or tract of land or territory as follows. Lots 1 to 19 in the first Concession and the west half lot No. 11 in the 2nd Concession owned and occupied by James Henan.

**Section No. 2:** Is composed of lots 22 to 36 in the Broken Front and lots 20 to 26 in the first Concession.

**Section No. 3:** Is composed of the east half of lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 in the 3rd Concession and lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 in the 4th and 5th Concessions; and lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and the west half of 8 and 9 in the 6th Concession. Lot No. 10 in the 5th Concession belongs to Section No. 7.

**Section No. 4:** Is composed of lots 12 to 20 in the 2nd Concession. Lots 11 to lot 20 in the 3rd and 4th Concessions.

**Section No. 5:** Is composed of lots 21 to 30 in the 2nd and 3rd Concessions.

**Section No. 6:** Is composed of lots 37 to 42 in the Broken Front and lots 31 to 42 in the first and 2nd Concessions; likewise lots 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 42 and 43 in the 3rd Concession.

**Section No. 7:** Is composed of lots 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19, and the S.E. 1/4 of 20 in the 5th Concession. Lots 10 to 20 in the sixth Concession and the west halves of lots 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and that part of 19 owned and occupied by John Watson, in the 7th Concession. Also the East half in the 5th Concession, Front part of 19 in the 5th attached to Section 14.

**Section No. 8:** Is composed of lots 27 to East half of lot 32 in the 5th Concession. Lots 21 to 37 in the sixth Concession. The West halves of lots 21 to 28 and the whole of lots 29, 30, 31, 32 and the West halves of lots 33 to 44 in the 7th Concession. Also East half of 28, West half of 33, 34 and 35 in the 5th Concession attached to Section No. 9 by Motion-in-Council, 27th of February, 1861.

**Section No. 9:** Is composed of lots 36 to 40 in the 2nd and 3rd Concessions. Lots 32 to 43 in the 4th Concession and lots 36 to 43 in the 5th Concession. Likewise 38, 39, 40 in the sixth Concession. West half of lots 33, 34, 35 in the 5th Concession attached by Motion-in-Council, 27 February, 1861.

**Section No. 10:** Is composed of lots 1 to 13 and East halves of 14, 15, 16 and 17 in the 7th Concession, and lots 1 to 15, East half of 16 in the 8th Concession. Lots 1 to 13, and the West halves 14, 15, 16 and 17 in the 9th Concession together with East half of No. 8 in the sixth Concession.

**Section No. 11:** Is composed of the East halves of lots 18 to 27 in the 7th Concession. Lots 18 to 27, and the West halves of 28, 29 and 30 in the 8th Concession together with the West half of lot 20 in the 7th Concession, West half of lot 16 and lot 17 in the 8th Concession attached the 5th of March 1862 in the 7th, attached 22 December, 1862.

**Section No. 12:** Is composed of the East halves of lots 33 to 39 in the 7th Concession. The East halves of 28, 29 and 30 and the whole of lots 31 to 44 in the 8th Concession. The West halves of 29 to 44 in the 9th Concession. The West halves of lots 31 to 36 and the whole of lots 27 to 44 in the 10th Concession and 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 in the 11th Concession.

**Section No. 13:** Is composed of the East halves of lots 14, 15, 16 and 17 and the whole of lots 18 to 28, and East half of 29 in the 9th Concession and lots 1 to 30 in the 10th and 11th Concessions.

**Section No. 14:** Is composed of lots 21 to 26 in the 4th Concession and lots 20 to 26 in the 5th Concession- front part of lot 19 in the 5th Concession.

**Section No. 15:** Is composed of lots 1 to 10 in the 2nd and 3rd Con.

**Section No. 16:** Is composed of the East halves of lots 31 to 36 in the 10th Concession and lots 31 to 39 in the 11th.

**Protestant Separate School:** Is composed of the following individuals... James Riley, N half 26, first Concession; George Kerr, lot 27 Con 1; John Coulter, S half 21 in the first Concession; Benjamin Wright, Robert Johnson, William Logan, West half 26, 2nd Concession; Robert Cleland, John Kerr, William Cleland, Samuel Patterson, Peter Schwerdsfager, John Bower, Peter Grant.

It has been enacted by the Municipal Council that any lot or part of a lot of land forming part of two school sections shall be assessed for school purpose in the section in which the resident owner or occupant resides.

Michael Daley

Excerpts From "Twigs From The Oak" by D.G. Cameron, D.D.

CHAPTER XIV - Community Progress:

**The District Council:** - The year 1833 is an outstanding date in the development of the Osgoode settlement. Prior to that time the people were mainly occupied in the management of their family affairs, although always willing to give their neighbours a helping hand and to promote any enterprise that seemed likely to advance the welfare of the community. But now, a forward step was to be taken, by which the settlement as a whole, should have dealings with other settlements, situated in a somewhat similar manner to their own. There was an increasing desire for a wider knowledge of the country in which they lived, and especially the surrounding communities. Some of them also were becoming anxious to get in touch with the governing bodies of Upper Canada. They had been receiving fragmentary information concerning the manner in which the province was being governed and had heard alarming reports of class distinctions and of special privileges being claimed by some churches which were denied to others. Several were also disposed to seek opportunity of expressing their own views regarding those conditions and various other matters of public interest.

When the news that a District Council was to be formed, that Osgoode was one of the townships to be included and that a representative of their settlement would occupy a seat in that Council, it was received with general satisfaction. When organized, it was named The District Council of Ottawa, for its meeting place was L'Orignal, on the south shore of the Ottawa River, about forty miles from Osgoode.

Mr. Archibald McDonell was chosen as the first representative of Osgoode, in that Council. Whether he was appointed by the Government or elected by the people we are unable to state; but whichever method was adopted, it seems clear that no man in that community was better qualified for the position...

**The First Public School:** - ... When it became known that Osgoode was to have a school, the teacher was practically chosen before the first effort made to erect a schoolhouse. All eyes were turned toward James Grant as the coming teacher... At this time he was about twenty-one years of age and a fine type of athletic manhood. He was slightly over six feet in height and strongly built, popular with the people, fond of children.

The schoolhouse was a shanty about fifteen feet square, situated almost half a mile east of where the village of Metcalfe later developed, and on the north side of the roadway.

Possibly the youthful readers might desire to know something more about this pioneer schoolmaster. As we have seen the ruins of the first schoolhouse and also knew the first schoolmaster as "Uncle Jim", a paragraph regarding the tragedy of his life might here be recorded as a warning to young men who may be inclined, needlessly, to overtax their strength.

The young teacher, on his way home from school one evening, came to where a number of men were logging. He stopped to speak to them as two men were doing their utmost to lift the end of a log to its place on the log heap, but it proved to be too heavy for them. At that moment the teacher stepped forward, waving them to one side with his hand and remarking "Let us see what one man can do." He seized the log and applied his full strength in a desperate effort, but suddenly fell helpless to the ground. Finding that he was seriously injured, the men hurriedly constructed a crude stretcher, on which they gently placed the teacher and carried him almost two miles to his home, where he was placed upon a bed from which he never arose. There was no doctor within reach. Apparently the injury was in the lower portion of the

spinal column. There was left neither power nor feeling in his lower limbs. He had no pain or discomfort. There were three positions that he could occupy; lying on his back, sitting erect in the bed, when lifted to that position and, when tired sitting during the day, a pillow was placed across his ankles and he would lie forward with his head on the pillow. He learned to knit and supplied the family with socks, stockings and mittens. he read extensively and delighted in relating what he had read to any who had time to listen to him. He lived for thirty-seven years in that condition and died in 1871.

#### Recent Acquisitions:

Some recent arrivals at the museum have been a set of school registers from the Ormond Public School; one very early one dated 1880, years 1919-1929, 1939-1954; plus Record of Promotion 1949-1952; and Ledgers of the Ormond Secretary Treasurer 1907-17 and 1937. These were donated by Erwin Duncan and are a very valuable collection for researchers. Lorne Craig, who has a keen eye for tools and machinery, has donated three vintage and workable tools. An unusual apple peeler that with one motion efficiently peels then ejects the apple, a very rare ribbon iron, and a spoke tapering bit that a wheelwright has used.

A number of photographs have also been received. Harry Anderson has donated a total of 47 photographs- all but three identified as local people and dating back to the 1920's. As well, Shirley and Leonard Quinn have donated a mounted photograph of a steam engine with Andrew, Alice and Baker Quinn as they harvested August 1926. A very rare and large barrel had been donated by Cecil Reaney. Hollowed out from a hardwood tree, it measures about 40 inches high and about 30 inches in diameter, with the date 1856.

#### Recent Publications:

"150 Years- St. Catherine's Parish" - a history of Metcalfe's R.C. parish complete with photos by Joe and Jim Rowan available at the museum for \$10.00.

"Births, Deaths and Marriages- Kemptville Advance, 1911" and "Births, Deaths and Marriages- Kemptville Telegram, 1907" both publications of the Society, selling for \$6.00 and \$4.00 respectively.

Heritage Day - February 16, 1991: - Friends and members are invited to attend festivities on Saturday, February 16 between 1 and 4 p.m. to kick off Heritage Week in Ontario. On hand will be a special fashion show under the lively direction of Audrey Renton of Kars. As well, some entertainment of Old Time Fiddling music from a local Association is expected. Everyone is welcome to this informal drop-in. Refreshments will be served.

Ann Leighton-Kyle

#### Notes of Interest:

##### "QUARANTINED"

*The inhabitant of this place has been stricken with Genealogy fever, a deadly and infectious disease.*

Symptoms- notepapers stuffed in pockets and files; heart palpitations at the sight of gravestones and old trunks filled with letters; bloodshot eyes from excessive microfilm exposure; erratic speech patterns, punctuated with pilgrims and princes; cold sweat upon the arrival of the daily mail.

##### Incurable!!

Ethel (Logan) Russell

##### "Fabury the 15, 1851"

- Mr. Howes plais to let the barer hav three dolors and a halfe worth of hay and you will o blige mee. James Blair.

The following lines were composed by Mrs. Adaline Henderson and given to Miss Eurena A. Otto (of Osgoode Township). Dated Mountain, March 15th, 1857.

Ever round my heart there springs,  
Visions bright, of beauteous things,  
Entrancing joyous golden dreams,  
Like things of life the vision seems.

Unnumbered joys are clustering round,  
My home in dream-land where we found,  
Pure hearted friends from evil free,  
Hope makes it real unto me.

I dream of home a happy home,  
No place great or lofty dreams,  
A simple cot the flowers among,  
Nid far away from sin and wrong.

Rubies rare and brightest gems,  
Enraps the proudest diadems,  
You may possess but I will claim,  
A home and friends unknown to fame.

Bessie Windsor

Obituary 26 April 1848: "At Wexford, Canada West, Daniel Aiken, aged 120 years He had during his life contracted seven marriages, and had 570 grandchildren and greatgrandchildren - 370 boys and 200 girls."

### One Hundred Years Ago (From Municipal Records)

In the year 1891 the village of Kenmore was quite a busy community. The assessment roll lists ratepayers engaged in the following occupations:

1 Baptist Preacher, 3 Blacksmiths, 2 Carriage makers, 1 Cheese maker, 1 Innkeeper, 5 Merchants, 4 Mill owners, 1 Sawyer, 1 Shoemaker, 1 Tailor, and 1 Teacher.

In Metcalfe, action had been taken by council to borrow money, buy a building lot and take necessary steps toward erecting a Town Hall. Council also engaged an engineer to examine and estimate the cost of widening and deepening Greys Creek.

Five property owners north of the present mushroom plant were given permission to do their statute labour on a particular section of what is now known as the 9th Line Road.

—Bob Usher—

### January 15, 1991— World Waits for War!

In a final bid to avert war, United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez De Cuellar visited Baghdad, appealed to Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and "turn the course of events away from catastrophe." Saddam Hussein informed the Secretary General he would not even whisper the word "withdraw".

January 16, 1991 - A night to remember: Millions of people around the world stand subdued in front of their TV watching the events unfold before their very eyes. "The terrors of war unleashed in the Persian Gulf."

—Michael Daley—

### In Search of Their Roots: - January 1991

Mr. Bud Sabourin researching his Sabourins of Gloucester, etc.

Mr. Bob Holloway (Ottawa) researching his McEvoy ancestry; Patrick, his wife Cecelia (Doyle) McEvoy of Osgoode.

Marion Skedgel, descendant of James Johnson and Margaret Dewan. James Johnson of Rideau Township, Margaret of the Dewans of Osgoode.

Any information on the above would be appreciated. To Michael Daley R.R. #1, Osgoode. KOA 2W0.

### From the Kemptville Advance:

**Feb. 5, 1898-** Only a few days ago W.J. Moses & Son met with a severe loss by having their saw and shingle mill and cheese box factory at Vernon again burned to the ground. They have been doing an extensive business in that village and the people so much appreciated their value and had so much sympathy for their townsmen in their loss that they promptly raised a handsome sum of money to aid in rebuilding. The presentation accompanied by a very suitably worded address was made by our townsman Frank Waterson who is teaching school there. Mr. Moses and son are hustlers for within a few days after the fire they had machinery running again.

**March 31-** John Hunt of Osgoode has come to town (Kemptville) to learn the barbering business with George C. Tuck's barber shop.

- Native herbs is an excellent preparation for the blood. It is for sale at Geo. C. Tuck's barber shop.

- The annual excursion to Washington, the capital of the United States is on Tuesday, April 5. Return tickets from Kemptville \$11.40. Parties leaving Ogdensburg at 4:15 p.m. will arrive in Washington at 2:30 the next day.

**May 13-** Metcalfe is an incorporated village!

**July 7-** The Municipal Councillors of Osgoode are not particularly struck on bicycling and have enacted a by-law prohibiting the same in the township. The action of the council is said to be due to the fact that bicycles scare the farmer's horses. Be this as it may it is extremely doubtful if the new regulation would pass a test case and such would be the outcome of the first prosecution instituted. The C.W.A. will see that the rights of bicyclists are not infringed upon.

**Sept. 29-** Only \$5.00 from Ogdensburg to New York return or \$6.70 from Kempvill

**Nov. 3-** Thos. Bow and family intend removing to Kemptville this fall. Mr. Bow who has owned the principal store in Vernon for several years has sold his residence to the people of the Presbyterian church for a manse and expects to dispose of his store.

- Allan Hicks one of the popular young tailors of Kemptville, has opened a business in Metcalfe. The public will find in Mr. Hicks a good reliable man who will also aim at giving entire satisfaction to all his customers.

- In the County Police Court, Mrs. Annie Burns of Bray's Crossing in the Township of Osgoode was charged with assaulting James Kavanaugh of that place. It appears that a herd of cows belonging to the defendant strayed on Mr. Kavanaugh's property, and while the latter was driving them to pound he was accosted by Mrs. Burns, who landed twice on his face with a "four foot". Kavanaugh's face bore evidence of having run up against something and Mrs. Burns was fined \$5 and \$6 costs.

**Dec. 15-** The total number of deaths in 707 of the 745 municipalities in Ontario during the month of October were 272. From scarlatina- 14, diphtheria - 39, measles- 4, whooping cough- 8, typhoid- 54, consumption- 153.

(compiled by Shirley Lowe)