

The Old Iron Horse

The above picture brings vivid memories of an era long gone, memories of steam trains, of huge steam engines snorting and puffing with black smoke rolling back as these old iron horses worked to get their heavy loads moving. What was more haunting, though far from ones sight, was the far-off sound of a steam engine's whistle as it continued on its way to some far distant destination.

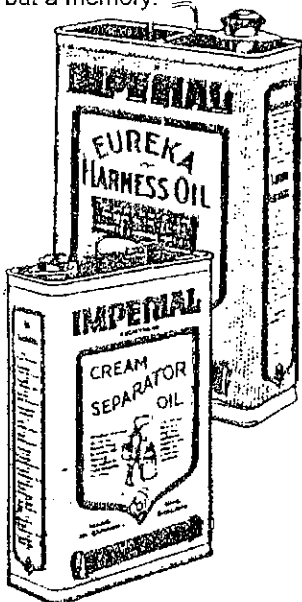
The picture above taken of the Edwards Railway Station, from the "Frances Iveson Collection" in the archives of the Osgoode Township Historical Society, shows left to right; unknown, Tomally. Upper centre; Leona MacKay. Upper right; Bob Monaghan. Lower right; unknown, Frank Dowser, the mail courier on extreme right.

Between 1892 and 1957 Edwards was a stop on the New York Central Railway with terminals at Ottawa and Tupper Lake, New York. Located on the Osgoode-Gloucester boundary, it was situated on Lot 1, Concession 9, Osgoode. The land for the siding was donated to the New York Central Railway by Colin Patterson, an inducement for the company to build a siding there. Livestock feed, etc. was delivered to area farmers from Edwards, and cream was shipped to Ottawa dairies when cheese factories closed for the winter. Mailbags for neighbouring villages were loaded and unloaded there also.

Four passenger and two freight trains passed this way every day for many years. Area High School students boarded the train in the morning to attend High School in Russell and returned home on the evening train. Their fare was \$3.00 per month.

It is interesting to note that quite a few freight cars were loaded with willow logs cut in the area and shipped to Hangar Standard Limb Co in the United States where they were made into wooden legs. On Feb. 14, 1957, the last freight train of the New York Central made its final run through the quiet little hamlet at Edwards. The once bustling Edwards Station, like the far off sound of a steam engine whistle, is now but a memory.

submitted by Michael Daley



DON'T FORGET

1996

MEMBERSHIPS

NOW DUE

single - \$8.00

family \$9.00

Osgoode Township

Historical Society & Museum

at the
Old Vernon School

Newsletter

VOLUME XXIII

NO 1

MAR 1996

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another year has rolled around and here we are in the declining decade of the nineteenth century. Hopefully this year will be as promising as 1995 was.

Recently, I had a request from one of our local teachers, Mrs. Sloan of Metcalfe Public School. She was wondering if she could obtain a letter of recommendation from the museum. For the past 2 years, grade seven students of Metcalfe Public School have been involved in a project on "Country Living." The assignment involved the pupils visiting the museum to trace their family tree. Students use our many resource books to find answers to the numerous questions in their exercise.

This is a great way to encourage the younger generation to be interested in "the way things were." After all, they are the ones we hope will carry on where we left off.

The school is applying for an award for this project and wanted a letter of recommendation from the museum. I wish them luck and hope they continue the good work. I would also like to add, the schools are always welcome to visit our museum without remuneration.

Food for thought: A happy childhood is something one cherishes the rest of their lives.

Murray Little

NEW PUBLICATIONS SOON AVAILABLE

About 25 years ago, Ian Crerar, Clerk of the Osgoode Presbyterian Church, allowed me to examine the valuable and informative records kept by their first Ministers. From the first Membership Roll I found the date of death of my great great grandfather, Alexander McNab, recorded beside his name - Feb. 4, 1849. There was no other source that could have given me this information. According to the record of the first permanent Minister, **The Rev. Wm. Lochead**, the first members had joined in 1840 - no mention of any previous documentary proof. Most of the original members had joined in 1840 - no mention of any previous documentary proof. Most of the original members were enrolled in 1846, a 150 years ago when Mr Lochead assumed his duties in a Parish that included Gloucester as well as Osgoode and Russell. His first home was the log church previously built on the present Spring Hill Cemetery grounds in 1838. The congregation, largely of Highland Scotch from Perthshire, had been waiting in vain for many years to have a bilingual minister who could converse in both English and Gaelic.

We secured photostats of the records, now being carefully preserved in Knox College in Toronto and no longer available for reference in Osgoode, and we are putting into print the Baptismal Records kept by Mr Lochead. From late in 1845 to early in 1858, there are 240 occasions when he administered baptism to children. Sometimes up to 5 children were baptized on the same date. There are 65 additional baptisms that were administered at St. Andrews Presbyterian before Mr Lochead settled and 30 others that were recorded in other places.

Since there is no Personal Census of Osgoode for the year 1851, these birth records are very valuable in the history of our township.

(cont'd page 2)

HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM EVENTS

As of the Annual General Meeting on Feb 6, 1996
the **SLATE OF OFFICERS** were:

Past President Robert Usher
President Murray Little
Vice-President Doug Hughes
Recording/Corresponding Secretary Shirley Lowe
Treasurer/Curator Ann Leighton-Kyle

Directors: Fred Alexander, Jim Bowman, Lorne Craig, Michael Daley, Doug Hughes, Don Lowe, Robert Usher, Bill Zandbelt

Archivist Donna Bowen
Maintenance Bill Zandbelt
Membership Alice Craig
Program Convenor Fred Alexander
Newsletter Michael Daley
Social Committee Alice Craig, Edna Presley, Ollie Cameron
Auditor (by appointment) Joan Walker

SPEAKERS & EVENTS

Heritage Day: On Feb 17th, a roomful of people came to hear David Gray, natural biologist and former program director at O.T.H.S, speak about the history of Canada's Northernmost lands. (see "Alert Showcased" following pages) Also old time music lead by Norm Robinson.

March 5, 1996 - Steve O'Halloran of Osgoode, enthusiastic computer whiz and Net surfer, on getting on the Net and doing your genealogy on the Net. Also his ongoing project of putting Osgoode on the WorldWideWeb. To see the Rideau Web site, click on <http://www.igs.net/~rideauweb>

Gene-o-Rama - March 22-23 Sponsored by Ontario Genealogical Society at Nepean City Hall, Nepean. Info trading, lectures and market place.

THANKS TO.....

those who donated time and money to the society in 1995.
Receipts over \$25.00 to:

Catherine McKercher	\$100.00
Greely-Manotick Station Women's Institute	\$150.00
Richard Cowan	\$59.00
Lorne Harrison	\$110.00
Senior Citizens Wednesday Club	\$25.00
Robert Usher	\$142.00
Margaret Robb	\$500.00
Norma Morrison	\$40.00
Hugh Blair	\$40.00

- ✓ **Osgoode Township Council and Don Reid** for continuing to support us via a grant
- ✓ **George Neville/Margaret Cooke** - donation of a settee (orig - Smiths Falls)
- ✓ **Keith & Audrey Last** - donations of local history with photos of the Last homestead E 1/2 Lot 36, Conc 7 Osgoode Twp.
- ✓ **Carrie Wynn Campbell** - donation of "A Family of Cheese Makers" a history of 3 Cheese Makers - Edward Wynn, James Earl Wynn (son) and Harold MacDougall Campbell (son-in-law at Dalmeny 1927-28, Marvelville 1940-41 and North Branch 1947-48
- ✓ **James Gillett** for The family history of **McCOEYE** by James Gillett beginning with Ol' Red Tom, who settled about 3 miles north of Metcalfe
- ✓ **Harvey Linton** for the Linton Cutter. Restored to its finest by a Museum team. Stamp on back says "McLaughlin Carriages". According to Harvey it was believed to have been made in the early 1900's and was owned by the Misses McPhail's who were retired school teachers. It was bought in 1942 for around \$100 and used to go shopping and to church. It was well-kept for these years, kept indoors.
- ✓ **David Gray** for the donation of On a Sunday Afternoon, Classic Boats on the Rideau Canal ed. by Alec Douglas and Larry Turner (Boston Mills Press) A celebration of heritage wooden boats in the Rideau Waterway and the survival of many special recreating boats.
- ✓ **Bob Usher** for the donation of the large 33" x 42" photo of a steam engine circa 1918. Man at front believed to be John Monahan. A great deal of time and trouble was needed to acquire this huge specimen, which now graces the west upper wall of the main room. A great deal of effort was needed to hang it as well. An afternoon was spent with this heavily

mounted photo as well as the equally heavy brass sousaphone donated by **Fred Alexander** earlier in the year. Originally played in the Metcalfe Brass Band and weighing in at about 35 lbs, we marvelled at the strength needed to carry it and play at the same time. It now resides in the south room, upper corner.

NOTES

Publication of Work: In This Country Canada #9 an article by David R. Gray - Pig's Teeth, Pottery and Portland Cement about his discovery and research into a long-abandoned Chinese Village on Todd Inlet. A once thriving community, Todd Inlet was the first cement plant in Western Canada. The quarry, it's limestone exhausted was transformed into the now-famous Butchart Gardens.

compiled by Ann Leighton-Kyle

* **MUSEUM WINTER HOURS** *

12 noon - 4:00 p.m. Saturdays
longer opening hours planned for May

NEW PUBLICATIONS (CONT'D FROM PG 1)

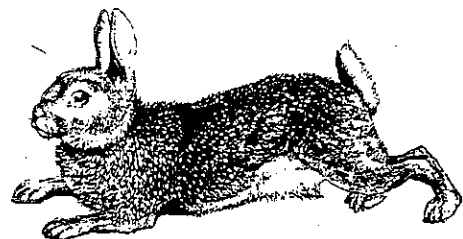
The very popular minister who followed Mr Lochead in the fall of 1858 was the **Rev James Whyte** who was born in Perth, Scotland. His records too, were carefully kept and include the births until 1877 - 477 altogether. The first baptism recorded is that of the beloved blacksmith "**Jimmy**" Kennedy, who was given the name James Whyte Kennedy. The name James Whyte was given to several others, an indication of the love and respect that the immense community had for this saintly servant. It is said that he held a Bible Study and Prayer Meeting some place in the area every night of the week. Comments made by Mr Whyte at the time of the baptism indicate the extent of his travels through the wilderness of that time.

Both gentlemen, Mr. Lochead and Mr Whyte, ministered in Rideau township as well as in Osgoode. The Packet of Feb 3, 1966 reports on the work of **Larry Ellis** who is printing a history of the Presbyterian Church in Manotick for its 150th anniversary: A History of Knox Presbyterian 1846-1996. Mr Whyte and members of his family are buried in Springhill Cemetery.

Our publications have been produced by Ann Leighton-Kyle, Donna Bowen and Elizabeth Stuart. Some copies will be donated to the Creerars. The Rev Lochead's Baptismal Records will sell for \$8.00. The Rev Whyte Baptismal Records for \$8.00. For mailing out the cost will be \$10.00.

As well, we are reprinting a much sought-after publication From Then To Now - The Story of Osgoode Station written by Margaret Hill Robb, retired school teacher, now living in Osgoode village. It sells for \$6.00

compiled by Elizabeth Stuart



OSGOODE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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

Editor: Michael Daley, 2100 Stagecoach Rd.
Greely, Ont. K4P 1M1

Membership: Alice Craig, Typsetter/Layout: Ann Leighton-Kyle

Mailing Address: Box 74, Vernon Ont. K0A 3J0
Telephone: (613) 821-4062

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

HERITAGE DAY AT THE MUSEUM

by Sally Gray

About 70 people at the Osgoode Township Historical Museum in Vernon celebrated Canada's Heritage Day on Saturday by listening to old tyme music and to a talk about the history of a little known part of Canada -- Northern Ellesmere Island.

Norm Robinson on the fiddle, Al and Isobel Herbert on guitars (Al also played the mandolin) and Allan Findlay on the guitar first entertained the crowd gathered in one room of the museum in Vernon.

David Gray of Metcalfe then showed slides and talked about the history of a part of Canada unknown to most Canadians, Alert, on Ellesmere Island. Gray is presently writing a commemorative book about Canadian Forces Station Alert and has visited this most northerly community in Canada several times to do research. The area was already familiar to Gray, a biologist, because of wildlife surveys he had done for Parks Canada.

Gray told the crowd that about one third of Ellesmere Island National Park is glacial ice. He showed slides of the remains of a paleo-eskimo community which probably existed between 3,000 and 4,000 years ago.

To the viewer there was no evidence of such a community, but Gray said a trained eye could pick out artifacts from the lichen covered rocks such as an intricately carved flint scraper still sharper to this day than a razor blade.

Another slide showed a ring of rocks which Gray said would suggest a Thule year-round dwelling which existed about 500 years ago. The Thule were the last people to occupy that part of northern Canada until the 1950's.

Gray also talked about the Nares expedition of 1875, where four men were lost in the effort to reach the North Pole over treacherous an "chaotic" ice. He described the next exploration expedition led by a man named Greely as being a highly successful scientific expedition, though many crew members died on the way home due to the lack of a resupply ship.

Finally an expedition led by Commander Peary succeeded in reaching the north pole in 1909. Unlike the others who carried tinned food, Peary's group lived off the land, hunting seal and caribou as they travelled. However, such a large human population of nearly 40 men eating off the land caused a drop in wildlife that is still noticeable to this day.

Gray also talked about the 1950 ice reconnaissance flight which crashed while trying to drop supplies into Alert during the establishment of the weather station. Another DC-4 crash in 1952 had no casualties. A Hercules crash in 1991 left five dead. Gray said the remains of the three crashes are still visible near Alert.

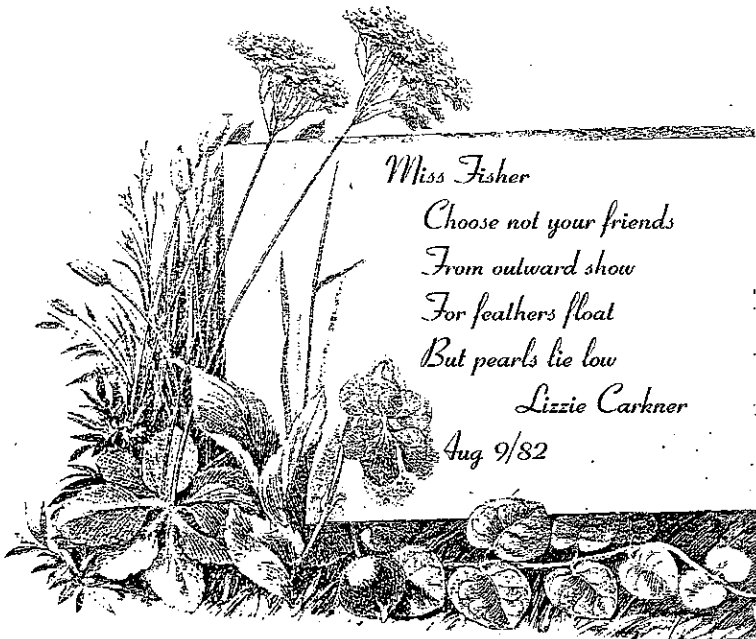
During the 1950's the cold war prompted a sudden push to learn more about Canada's northern lands. Alert became a military surveillance centre in 1958.

Gray also displayed a muskox skull and other artifacts related to northern expeditions.

After the slides an talk, the musicians again took up their instruments, and then everyone enjoyed a mid-afternoon lunch provided by the museum members.

Printed by permission by the Tri-Valley Crier

AUTOGRAPH BOOK - belonging to Mary Fisher (Mrs. Walter Carlyle) of Vernon. Donated by grandchildren Lora, Pat & Bill.



Miss Fisher

*Choose not your friends
From outward show
For feathers float
But pearls lie low*

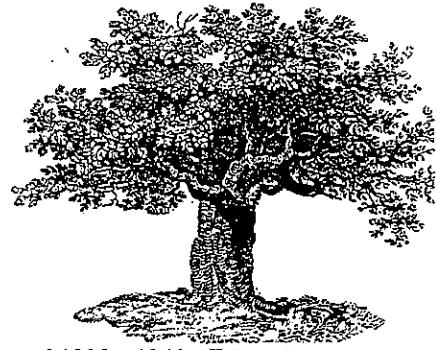
Lizzie Carkner

Aug 9/82

IN SEARCH OF THEIR ROOTS

QUERIES

Seeking information about



MORRIS, THOMPSON and BROWN families in

Fitzroy Township in decades of 1830 - 1840. Edward MORRIS, married Anne THOMPSON both of Fitzroy 1837, were they the same couple who settled in W 1/2 Lot 33 Conc 7, Osgoode in April 1839?

Any info to:

Len L'Émoine
635 Glen Moor Cres
Burlington, Ont L7N 2Z8

McGEE - HUGHS

Patrick McGEE born Co Armagh, Ireland in 1802. His wife Mary Hughs, born 1798 (?) Settled South Gloucester. 4 children: Mary McGee m. Thomas Daly, Terence McGee m. Ellen Hughs, Patrick McGee - single and Francis McGee.

Any info to

M. Quinn
113 Erin Cres.
Ottawa, Ont K1V 9Z3

Or to the Editor Michael Daley



THE LEGEND OF IRELAND'S MAGIC HARP

In the misty hills of Ireland
A long, long time ago
There lived a lovely Irish lass
Who loved her father so.

One day he went to fetch some wood
But he did not return
And so his loving daughter's heart
Was filled with great concern

She searched for him throughout the day
And when a fog came in
She wept, for she was fearful
They would never meet again.

Then suddenly, a little band
Of Leprechauns came by.
They all were very sad
To hear the lovely maiden cry.

They asked if they might have a lock
Of her long golden hair,
Then tied the silken strands
Across a crooked limb with care.

'Twas a magic harp they'd made
And when the maiden touched each strand
The music led her father home
Across the misty land.

And to this day the harp remains
A cherished symbol of
The blessings of the hearth and home
The Irish dearly love.

Author Unknown

submitted by Michael Daley

MacGREGORS IN GLENGARRY - COUSINS IN OSGOODE

At the Maxville Games last summer, a friend, Bob CAMPBELL, a native of Glengarry, in charge of the Campbell display, offered to send me a copy of some of his recent MacGREGOR research. See below.

Forefather: DONALD MacGREGOR

Son: **John MacGREGOR** b. Sept 8, 1765, Boreland
m. Feb 27, 1783 Kenmore, Scotland
Cath McKERCHER d/o John McKERCHER & Isabella McGREGOR
6 children b Tomintivour (Hillock of the Big House)

1. Duncan MacGREGOR 1785-1869	②. Cath MacGREGOR 1787-1876 m Chas ROBERTSON 1777-1857	③. Don MacGREGOR 1789 - m Eliz CAMPBELL 1803-1886	4. Alex MacGREGOR 1792-1875 m Eliz McKERCHER 1811-1888	5. Christy MacGREGOR 1794- m Alex MacGREGOR 1781-1979	6 Janet MacGREGOR 1796-1841 m Alex McKERCHER 1781-1879
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② Cath'ne MacGREGOR m 5 July 1807 Chas ROBERTSON. They had 10 children. At least 3 have descendants in Osgoode.

Hugh ROBERTSON Isabel CAMPBELL	Janet ROBERTSON James DOW	John ROBERTSON Julia McRAE
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Hugh ROBERTSON & Isabel CAMPBELL d/o Donald CAMPBELL & Isabel McEWEN of lot 36/8 Osgoode had 5 children: Catherine, Donald J, Charles, Isabella, Samuel J.

Janet ROBERTSON & James DOW s/o Thomas DOW and Janet McEWEN had Jessie, Thomas, Charles Alex'r, John Russell. John was one of Vernon's first teachers, later Supervisor of Co. Carleton P. Schools; Sons: Milton Osgoode, Gordon Russell, Stanley, Allan. Gordon's daus: Dorothy, Helen, Marguerite. Their farm - Colin Campbell's - now Eastman-Velthuis.

John ROBERTSON 5th Con Roxboro & Julia McRAE d/o Farguhar McRAE had 3 sons and a dau Catharine. Catharine ROBERTSON m George REID, a Rural Route Mailman who moved to Kenmore c1937. Ch: Ian, Eileen, Elenor, Doreen, Stanley, Catherine

③ **Donald MacGREGOR** b 1789 m **Elizabeth CAMPBELL** 1803-1886 3rd child of John MacGREGOR and Catharine McKERCHER above. They had 11 children. At least 4 of the children had descendants in Osgoode

1. John MacGREGOR 1819-1910 m Mary McCALLUM- KENNEDY;-FRASER	2 Dunc MacGREGOR 1821-1877	③ Arch MacGREGOR 1823-1898 m Janet McCALLUM 183_	4 Don McGREGOR 1825-1898	⑤ Marg MacGREGOR 1827-1913 M Don FERGUSON 1825-1817	⑥ Mary MacGREGOR 1828-1898 M Hugh CAMERON 1825 -
7. Alex MacGREGOR 1832-1893	8. Jas MacGREGOR 1833-1912 Cath McKERCHER 1834-1908	⑨. Cath MacGREGOR 1833-1914 M Alex KENNEDY 1829-1905	10. Robt * MacGREGOR 1837-1914 m Eliz KENNEDY 1847-1921	11. Isobel MacGREGOR 1841 -	

* Robert MacGregor (#10) m Eliz Kennedy when he was teaching in Osgoode

③ **Arch MacGREGOR & Janet MacCALLUM** had dau Elizabeth m Arch BOYD; son Spurgeon BOYD m Jean STEWART; 4 ch: Albra m Roy DUNCAN. Naim m Patricia HOLBROOK, died at Caen, France July 1944. Kendon, too, died at Caen, France, July 1944. Leora taught school in Etobicoke, m Windram. We have a road sign - "Boyd Road"

⑤ **Marg't MacGREGOR & Don FERGUSON** had dau ELIZABETH m John P McKERCHER; son Bertrum McKERCHER, Banker & Storekeeper, Vernon, m Bessie STEWART; 2 ch: Douglas, John

⑥ **Mary MacGREGOR & Hugh CAMERON** had dau Matilda m Samuel CRAIG of Vernon; 3 ch: - Lorne m Alice DALGLEISH; Katie m Warren LAKE - Eileen; Lillis m Elgin COONS: - Maynard, Mervin, Lorraine

⑨ **Cath'ne MacGREGOR & Alex KENNEDY** of Vernon had 8 ch: Margaret, Donald (Piper Dan), Christian, Duncan Alex'r, Isabella, Elizabeth, Catharine, Jennet Mary.

1. **Margaret KENNEDY & Richard BOWEN**; - 6 ch: Catherine, Mary Margaret, John A., Daniel, Wesley, Calvin died WWI
2. **Dan KENNEDY & Harriet CAMPBELL** had one dau. Piper Dan's music could be enjoyed for miles around Vernon
3. **Christian KENNEDY & George BOWMAN**; ch: Eila ma Peter WYATT; - Jean, May, Hilda, Wilmot, Mabel, Dorothy, Alice, Margaret, Gracie, Florence, Denis; Etta m John A WYATT:-Gordon, Violet, Milton; Wallace BOWMAN had nurse Mabel OGDEN
4. **Duncan Alex'r KENNEDY & Jessie C KENNEDY**; 2 ch - John & Kathleen
5. **Isabella KENNEDY & Sandy McEWEN**
6. **Elizabeth KENNEDY & Peter FERGUSON** had Howard FERGUSON m Lydia ALLIN: - Laura, Harold, James, Donald, Cecil; Pearl FERGUSON M George McDONALD:- Eric Ralph. In the next generation there are FERGUSONS:-Carol, Kevin, Calvin, Jim (Principal of Osgoode P.S.) Wayne, Ronald, Gary, Ken, Myrna; McDONALDS: - Barbara, Doug, Duncan, David
6. (2) **Elizabeth KENNEDY & Duncan McNAB**:-Jean, Ray, Duncan, John
7. **Catherine KENNEDY & Randal CAMPBELL**
8. **Jennie May KENNEDY & Christopher MOORE**

Bob CAMPBELL had previously presented the Society with two valuable books on Glengarry connections:- KENNEDYS, McEWENS, CAMPBELLS, McDIARMIDS, etc. He worked with Doug McDIARMID on the McDIARMID research.

Researched by Elizabeth Stuart

The following are the settlement duties required by pioneers homesteading in Upper Canada in 1830

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OFFICE
YORK, 20th November, 1830

NOTICE is hereby given, by Order of His Excellency the LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL; that in lieu of the Settlement Duties heretofore exacted, the following Settlement Duties shall be required in respect of all Locations made after this date. viz:-

The Locatee shall clear thoroughly the half of the Road width, opposite to the front of his Lot, by burning or totally removing all the Timber, Wood and underwood of every kind therefrom. He shall cut down the stumps for the space of ten feet from the centre of the Road, so low, that a Waggon Wheel may easily pass over any thing that stands within that space, and he shall sow with Grass-seed the Road so cleared.

Upon proof that this has been done, and that some person has been constantly resident upon the Lot for the space of two years, a Patent may issue without other condition of Settlement Duty. - But in cases where the Lot has not been so occupied, a Patent shall not issue until the Locatee, in addition to the Road Duties, above prescribed, shall have wholly cleared the Timber from the front of his Lot for the space of one chain.

If proof of Settlement Duties, as above required, with, or without residence, be not produced to the Surveyor-General within two years and a half, the Lot shall be again open to Location.

It is further ordered, that the above regulation shall not interfere with the Order in Council of 14th May, 1830 which applies exclusively to discharged Soldiers and in respect to whom, the period of residence is hereby appointed to be three years, instead of five, as prescribed by that Order.

And further, that in respect to all Locations made before this date, the Grantee shall have the option of performing the Settlement Duties either according to this regulation, or to the Regulations which were in force before the making of this Order.

Lastly, it is ordered, that where a Grantee has a Grant of more than one Lot in a Township, and resides upon one of them, the Settlement Duties in respect to those Lots, on which he does not reside, shall consist of the Road Duty, and the clearing the chain in front of the Lot, as above mentioned.

JOHN SMALL, C.E.C

Source: National Archives of Canada
Upper Canada Land Papers
RGI, L3, vol. 113, c18/137(e), C-1727

submitted by Patti Mitton



ST. PATRICK

Those with Irish ancestry often call March 17th, "the 17th of Ireland" - so close is the connection between Saint Patrick and the country who calls him patron. Surprisingly, however, four countries claim his birthplace - none of them Ireland! Though France, Wales and England assert he was born in their countries, St. Patrick was probably born in Scotland, near Dunbarton, in 387.

While a youth he was captured by pirates who carried him to Ireland and sold him to the Druids as a slave. He spent more than 6 years as a swineherd and learned the Celtic language. Eventually, he fled to Brittany, spending eighteen years studying to become a missionary. Since he knew their language, he was sent to preach the gospel to the Celtic peoples.

Patrick converted many Druids to Christianity, which may account for the legend crediting him with driving the snakes out of Ireland. Snakes were a symbol of evil to

Christians but were central to many pagan religions. Druid priests were often tattooed with images of snakes. It's probably coincidence that for centuries, Ireland has had no native snakes!

Patrick died March 17, 493 in Downpatrick, Ireland.

So many wonderful deeds are attributed to Saint Patrick that every spring throngs of revellers - even those with nary a trace of Irish blood - don green apparel and toast him with a pint or two.



O'Toole was going into a local pub when a priest tapped him on the shoulder and said, "Don't you know that when you go in that place the devil goes with you?"

O'Toole replied, "If he does, he'll have to buy his own beer."



A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST

THE ROMANTIC STORY ABOUT ALEX KENNEDY AND HIS WIFE

How They Went from Glengarry in 1846 and Settled in the Wilds on the Banks of the Castor River. Alex Kennedy became a Great Trapper. Son Now Well Known in Osgoode.

Alex Kennedy, father of Dan Kennedy, the piper, when in his early twenties, left Glengarry and established himself in the new land in Osgoode near the Mountain township border. That was in 1846. His story is a romantic one.

Alex Kennedy liked the wild life, and by 1846, Glengarry was becoming too civilized and too crowded for him. He walked west on a tour of investigation. On the banks of the Castor River he found just the spot he wanted. The spot chosen was just about 50 miles from his old home. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that the site chosen by Alex Kennedy in 1846, is now owned by Spurgeon Boyd, who was also of Glengarry descent.

Told His Wife

After locating the place he wanted Alex Kennedy went back to Glengarry and told his young wife (he had married at 18) about the new home. Then he packed a weeks provisions on his back, took his axe and started for the Castor. Arrived there he began to cut the forest and make room for a shanty.

At the end of a week he walked home to see his wife and renew his provisions. In due time (several months) there was a clearing and the house was up.

How the wife and child got to the banks of the Castor is known now, but history records the fact that the wife was brave and helpful.

Full of Game

At that time the Castor country was full of game, bears, foxes, mink, muskrat, etc. A few beavers were still to be found on the Castor. By nature, Alex Kennedy was a trapper. He took chiefly to trapping for a living. It is told that in the first year he was on the Castor he captured 500 muskrats, 25 foxes, 15 or 16 bears and about a dozen mink. The Kennedys made all the furniture they used in their new home.

Home-made Furniture

The table was made by boring holes in the wall and inserting therein round sticks. Onto the tops of these sticks, split pine boughs were tied. The table did not have any legs. But it held the few dishes they possessed. These dishes, by the way, were carried on Mr. Kennedy's back from Glengarry.

Instead of chairs, the family used benches made from split pine log with four legs (boughs of trees) inserted into the half round side. The bed was made like the table. At first the hardness of the bed was only softened by pine boughs; and they



only had a fireplace to cook with. Later when roads came, a stove was brought in from Prescott. In winter, people could reach Alex Kennedy's farm with sleighs by using old lumber camp roads.

Sheep were Stolen

In later years the Kennedys got in some cattle and sheep but they found it hard to keep their sheep as bears and wolves devoured them.

Alex Kennedy lived till about 30 years ago.

Ed's Note: Alex Kennedy 1829-1905. His wife Catharine Mc Kercher 1833-1914. See #9, MacGregors in Glengarry-Cousins in Osgoode page 4.

P. McCOLL WAS BAPTIST PIONEER IN OSGOODE

Talking about the work of Rev. Daniel McPhail, the Baptist missionary in Osgoode, it is told by Mr. Alex Stewart of Vernon, that years before Mr McPhail came to Osgoode there was one in Osgoode, a layman, who did much for the Baptist cause. This was Peter McColl, who came to the township from Scotland in the year 1831.

When Mr. McColl arrived in 1831, there were only 2 Baptists in the part of Osgoode where Vernon is now located. There were John Fisher and Duncan McMartin. Though only a layman, Mr. McColl preached much and exhorted. He made quite a few converts. To such effect did he labour, that when Mr. McPhail came to the district, ten years later, he found quite a congregation of Baptists ready for him.

From the O.T.H.S Archives. Written by George Armstrong in an Ottawa newspaper under the heading "Old Time Stuff" probably about 1935.

CREAM IN COFFEE, NO SUGAR IN THE OSGOODE PIONEER DAYS

by Mrs. S.J. Davis

All baking and Preserving Was Done With Maple Sugar - All Cloths Were Made Right on the Farm - Those Were Days of Wool Picking, Carding and Spinning Bees.

In those days sugar was an unknown commodity to the farmers of the district. All baking and preserving was done with maple sugar. No, they didn't put icing on their cakes and they didn't use sugar in their coffee.

And they had to make all their own clothes. To begin with, they would have wool-picking bees. All the neighbours would gather at one farm and the wool-picking process would continue until all the sheep had been shorn. Then they would have the carding and spinning bees, after which the yarn would be sent to the mills at Cornwall to be woven into full cloth.

"We used to have a great time." All of us would go about our work industriously in the daytime, but the evenings would be given up entirely to merry-making. And there was always plenty to eat.

A Great Storm

A great storm swept the district when I was a young girl. Trees were uprooted, outbuildings were blown down and hardly a house in the neighbourhood escaped having windows broken. I remember that there were 22 panes of glass broken in my own home. This happened on a Sunday.

The next day there was a great rush to Russell and Metcalfe for glass to replace the broken panes. The merchants in those places could not supply the demand, so 2 or 3 of the residents were despatched to Ottawa to get a supply.

I have good reason to remember that storm. I was out in it. I had just doled up in a new dress, all frilled to the waist and was on my way to church at Kenmore, accompanied by a neighbour, Annable Grant. Both of us got soaked to the skin and our finery was ruined. We managed to reach John McCoy's house, where we were put to bed until our clothes had dried.

From the Frances Iveson Collection. Mrs. S.J. Davis in Old Time Stuff dated Jan 4, 1936, wrote not exclusively about Osgoode but also about her Ottawa neighbourhood. Her father Thomas York had lived in Osgoode township, moved to Ottawa in 1874 and opened a grocery store on corner of Bell and Elizabeth St. He was also the first postmaster of the village of Mount Sherwood (southern part of Dalhousie Ward)

