



Who Are We?

Do you recognize us.....
if so, please contact the Osgoode Township
Historical Society & Museum



Message from the President

We are all still struggling with the loss of Ann Leighton-Kyle. She was present in so many aspects of our Historical Society and Museum, as well as, the community at large. She took on many projects and saw them through, always doing her best. Thank you to all the kind people who have sent condolences over the past while. We are planning to plant a tree in remembrance of Ann this coming spring.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Kim Sheldrick-Bates to the position of Chair of the Membership Committee, as of October 13, 2009. I have also appointed Coreen Atkins-Sheldrick as Newsletter Committee Chair and Editor as of November 2, 2009. I congratulate both of them and thank them very much for taking on these responsibilities.

The hope is we will be able to find more volunteers, in the New Year, for the Board, various committee and other projects.

A Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

Russell Johnston
President
Osgoode Township Historical Society

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

at the

Old Vernon School
Newsletter

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Label That Photo, Please

With the upcoming holiday season, digital cameras will be flashing in many homes.

The next question is, what will be done with all those pictures. Will they stay in the camera or on the memory card for years, with nothing to identify the people in the photos but a number? Will they be printed and then stuffed in a box, to be placed in an album, *someday*. Then discovered years from now by a family member, who is uncertain as to when the pictures were taken or who are in the images.

I have found myself in just such a situation, only with photos that were taken from the early 1900's to the 1970's.

Do you have a relative who has been tasked with the job of cleaning out an elderly family member's home. While there, he/she locates boxes (or bags) of old photos. Then they remember that you are one of the family genealogists. So they lovingly package up those hundreds of photos (200+) and ship them to you. You are thrilled, honoured, humbled and, yes, a little overwhelmed (Thank You for thinking of me Doug - I will attempt to do you proud).

Or are you, as a much loved granddaughter and lover of all things historic, faced with the job of cleaning out that old family home. As part of the process, you find a treasure trove of old photos, 90% of them not labelled.

I have found myself the recipient of many hundred family photos, both from my own Paternal family from Nova Scotia and my husband's family, here in the Osgoode-Winchester Townships area. And if you are like me, you have several banker's boxes full of clippings (lovingly saved by my late Mother-in-law over 60 years) and photos, some partially sorted, still waiting to be placed in albums.

Do you recognize yourself in this picture ?

Armed with this situation, I would like to relate to

you what I have done, so far, to try to deal with this situation.

The first thing I did was to break down the task into smaller tasks and goals and worked in stages.

Based upon the fact that the 200+ photos, sent to me by Doug SHELDRIK, came from the home of my husband's Aunt Annie (SHELDRIK) and Uncle John CARSON from St. Catherine's, ONT, I knew that the photos were probably either Sheldricks or Carsons and related families from the Osgoode area.

First came the sorting. In this case, I was able to sort the photos into three groups.

The first group was those that had a label or some identifying mark on the front or back of the photos. Those are the "knowns". These were scanned, labelled, backed up onto CD. Those which pertain to my husband's immediate family have been placed in a photo album and labelled, both on the page and on the back of the photo, using photo-safe marking techniques (not ink pen). The others, from the "known" pile have



been dispersed to the appropriate relatives.

One such example was the photo of two young girls (above), circa 1910-1920 (based upon clothing) with the note "Florence age 9 Margaret age 11" on the back. Using that information, and my husband's family genealogical file, I was able to identify the girls as sisters Margaret and Florence GRIFFITH, the daughters of Isaac GRIFFITH and Emma SHELDRIK. I was able to pass the original photo onto the daughter of one

of the young ladies (Shirley (McCORMICK) DOWSER, the daughter of Florence).

The second group of photos are those which are "possibles". It was here that I called upon my husband's (and his brother's) memories to identify places and possible people's identities. These too were scanned, backed up and placed in an album, with post-it notes, which can be removed once more information is available.



The third group, the "Unknowns" were sorted as to approximate age based upon clothing, style of furniture or other identifiable images (car, wagon, tractor, etc.). Then they were scanned and placed in a photo album. This has become my "Travelling Road Show" album which I take with me when my Husband and I get together with family or if I go to a Historical Society event.

This travelling road show and its appearance at the most recent Pioneer Day resulted in a new "known". A meeting with one of the "cousins", and his viewing of the photos resulting in his recognizing one of the photos as one that he has, with labels.

The photo above, taken on or about the 10th of September 1910 is that of Rachel E. COOPER (1891 - 1970) and Chester SHELDRIK (1883 - 1970) on their wedding day. This photo has now been labelled in the album as such and mentally removed from the "unknown" group into the "known".

To date, I have completed the sorting, scanning and mounting in an album, of approx. 80% of the photos.

Once I have finished scanning all of the photos, they will all be copied onto CD which can be sent

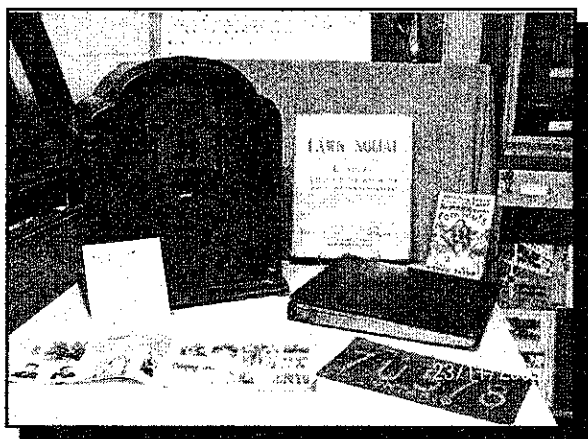
to and shared with other family members in the hope that more of the “unknowns” will be come “knowns”. Even if not all of them are identified, they will be safe in a album for future generations of family to admire and continue with the identity search.

Oh, and by the way, if you want to have a look at the Travelling Road Show album, please contact me and we can meet at the Museum. Perhaps you can help me identify more of the Unknowns.

Contributed by Coreen Atkins-Sheldrick



New Display at Osgoode Township Museum



Thanks to the hard work of our Curatorial staff, one of the new displays prepared at the Osgoode Township Museum is the Great Depression and its effect on Township Life. Part of that display represents the Local Entertainment scene in the 1930's, including Music, Sleighing Parties, Concerts, church events and sports.



A Strange Request

Sept 24, 2009 - A strange car arrived in our yard, two women came to our door, with a question, “Are you Michael Daley”. I answered, “yes”.

For 83 years, two sisters, Gwyneth [O’Mahony] Berest from West Sussex, England & Angela [O’Mahony] Pomenoy, from Kent, England and have searching for info as to the location of the McGrath farm situated in Osgoode Township. This was where their Great-Uncle, Ray O’Mahony, was placed, as a “home child” at young age. Fortunately, I knew of this farm family, as it was noted for taking in home children. Situated on part of lot 1, con. 5. Ray was not happy there and moved, down the road, Highway 31, to the farm of a Mrs. Doyle [widow], situated at the top of Brian Doyle Hill, [just north

of Rideau road}. Mrs. Doyle was the widow of Brian Doyle who was killed [age 45 yr.] on Feb. 14, 1870 when his sleigh load of Basswood logs, bound for the mill in Manotick, upset on him on Rideau Road at Moor’s Corner, killing him instantly. Ray O’Mahony, eventually left Mrs Doyle and went to work on a Woods’ farm further down the road. I could not place that Woods’ farm, unless it is where the “WOODS CEMETERY” is on Banks Street next to the Jewish Cemetery (old Gloucester Township). I would appreciate hearing from any one that can identify where the Woods’ farm was. O’Mahony did not stay there very long; he moved on, I know not where. In that interview, I was answering questions not asking them.

Contributed by Michael Daley



1901 Irish Census Returns

In the last newsletter, I wrote about the 1911 census of Ireland and some of the interesting entries that appear in it. Work is proceeding on the 1901 returns and they too will soon be accessible on the website of the National Archives of Ireland.

I recently came across a return for a household containing three officers, their families and servants. The youngest of these was a boy of 12 with the name “Fine Boy Currie”. He was born in West Africa and his religion is shown as “Heathen”.

It makes you wonder: how did he come to be in Cork? How did his life differ from that of a slave in earlier times? What life and family did he leave behind and whatever became of him?

Contributed by Patti Mitton



FROM BYTOWN OR BUST, in part only

Live and Let Live Hotel E-mail dated Nov 15 2008 to Al Lewis reads:

“Hello, I am interested to find out about a Hotel in South Gloucester circa 1900 called “Live and Let Live” The Hotel Keeper was William Thomas O’Dell. Al Lewis replied “I was interested to hear that it was located at South Gloucester, I heard the term,”Live and Let Live” often while growing up in the 1950’s. It was our family philosophy and as an adult, I assumed that the phrase referred to relations between Irish Catholics, and Irish Protestants as tensions eased. My ancestors lived in the South Gloucester neighbourhood for many

generations and the Live and Let Live Hotel would have been within walking distance / buggy ride from their farm. I know that the Last Chance Hotel on Preston Street got its name because in the early 1900's it was the 'last chance' to get a beer on your way out of town towards Prescott, or Bells Corners.

David Nolan, writes "where was the "Live and Let Live Hotel," in South Gloucester located. Would it have been on the South East corner of the present day Rideau Road and Bank Street" - there is a bar and restaurant on this site now. There have been other hotels on this site. There was a hotel on this site that burned sometime in the 1870 and I believe run by a man called O'Neil. The story goes that some whiskey and such was saved, much to the enjoyment of the onlookers. Across the road where the now abandoned service station is there was a blacksmith shop operated by Frank Files.

Ottawa Daily Free Press, Saturday, August 26, 1899 reads: "Hotel for sale-on the Metcalfe Road, ten miles from Ottawa, Good reasons for selling" Apply on premises-----W.T. O'Dell, Live and Let Live Hotel, South Gloucester, Ontario.

Note: This was the corner of Rideau Road and Bank Street, the hotel mentioned in my previous-e-mail, that burned in the 1870's. Was owned by Garrett O'Neil and was called the "Hardscrabble Hotel". The South Gloucester Post Office was run out of there and Mr. O'Neil was both Post Master and Bartender. The blacksmith across the road- a log blacksmith shop, Frank Files worked under an apple tree, he was an artist at his trade he heated the shoes, set and caulked and put them on for \$2.00. When early South Gloucester pioneer. James Johnston set out from Capt. Wilson's stopping place on the Rideau River near Mooney's Bay, to find his locations. There were no roads or even a blazed trail - this was 1830-32. There is no record of how he got there but he made it. Upon returning to Capt. Wilson's, Wilson asked how he made out. Johnston replied "It was a dammed hardscrabble". Thus the name, "Hardscrabble". The area was known as Hardscrabble for many years. The Johnston farm was across the road from the hotel, 200 acres stretched from Bank Street to Albion Road. Frank File's blacksmith shop was taken off the property in 1869-70. Johnston sold this farm to Goth's who had come down from Malakoff. This farm remained in the Goth family, till just recently .

From, the Ottawa Citizen, Sept 30, 1930

Reads:

Crowded saved Liquor from a burning Hotel but drank it. Story of the burning of Phil McMahon's Hotel on the Metcalf Road in the year 1870 and the free fight, which accompanied it, A lively night.

In the fall of 1870 there was a lot of excitement on

the Metcalf road at the top of Brian Doyle Hill. One night at about 9.00 Phil McMahon's hotel took fire, there were a number of men in the bar at the time. The shouts of fire and the appearance of fire itself drew many from far and near. One of the first to hear the cry fire was Robert Goth who lived nearby. By the time Mr. Goth arrived on the scene, the men who had already came had taken the Liquor from the bar and carried it to the fields across the road. Then all the men did what they could to save the furniture, but the fire had gone too far to do much. As soon the fire had gone beyond control, some of the men crossed the road where the Liquor was. What followed can easily be imagined. The thing ended in a free fight. Mr. Goth recalls that one man had his jaw broken and a number were more or less badly hurt.

CAME GARRET O'NEIL. Later a new hotel building went up and Garret O'Neil from Nepean went in as landlord. He ran it for many years and it became a famous wayside hostelry under his Land Lordship. About eight years ago while Sid Gibson was landlord, the building was struck by lightning and destroyed. It was not rebuilt, as a wayside inn was no longer required. The present day fast traffic has made stopping places unnecessary. In the sixties, seventies and eighties (1800's) when it took three hours to travel from Metcalf to Ottawa, there were almost a dozen of them spread along the road.

Years later, while in search of family history, etc., I visited an elderly gentleman Patrick Kehoe. He told me of the first fire. In the 1940's, while working for the department of highway's, cutting the grass along Highway 31 in the summer months, one day he stopped in that area at noon, to rest his horses, and to eat his lunch, sitting along a log fence. He reached into a hollow log and discovered two bottles of liquor. Had somebody stashed them there the night of Phil McMahon's Hotel fire, in the fall of 1870, and never came back to claim them?? What about the man with the broken jaw, I'm sure he would not feel up to it for awhile.



Contributed by Michael Daley.

Family Finders

Carol Hoblyn-Winn
choblyn-winn@simpatico.ca

Carol Hoblyn-Winn of Hamilton researching
Kearney family 1880-1950.

"Jimn'Shirl"
aj.lsmcc@ns.sympatico.ca
Kenmore Continuation School

I attende KCS for four years I am more than a little interested in obtaining information or a copy of Kenmore Continuation School book.
Jim McCormick
Middleton NS

Andrew Gault
gaultaway@gmail.com

I have been researching some family history after my mother gave me a picture of my great-great-great-Grandfather, Captain Robert Grant. I have dated the picture to between 1867 to 1870 (I am an Army Officer myself posted to Kingston and have access to some military historical data). The picture shows him to belong to the 43rd Battalion of Infantry (Carlton Blazers) as one of the Company Commanders. I found that Captain Grant's father was also Robert Grant, who settled in the area in the late 1820's. There is information on their life in the area in a book called "Twigs from Oak and other Trees", D.G. Cameron, 1933. It is additional history and documentation I seek to further expand my family tree. Anyone wishing to share further information on this family is requested to contact Andrew Gault at the above Email address.

Coordinator's Note: I have some information on Robert Grant which I was able to compile as a result of my extensive Military Research. I will be contacting Andrew in the next week to see if we can share info.

Lily Worrall
genealogist.lily@cogeco.ca

Lily Worrall has recently informed the membership of the OTHS that the SD&G Genealogical Society has closed it's doors and has sent its last newsletter. Genealogical duties have now passed to the Chesterville Historical Society, Lynne Cook of Morrisburg and the Cornwall Library. Lily has included site address to view her collection of early views of Cornwall.
<http://home.cogeco.ca/~lmworrall/>

ruth.rosano@swimming.ca

Ruth is doing research on the history of the Metcalfe General Store in Metcalfe Ontario, now Campbell's Variety Store. She would appreciate receiving any information on the first store, located approximately 100 meters down from the present store. Now Main Street Restaurant.

"Conni"
jamcon2@bell.net

Inquiring about my family of Robertsons.
I am sending a pic. I believe it is Great Grampa and Great Gramma Robertson. His name was Matthew and Gr Grams name was Matilda (nee Meldrum), the two at the back...then there were Eva and Georgina.. Conni Larsen (Hogg and Robertson)



February is the **Historical Society's Annual Meeting** when the new slate of Officers are inducted. *Please consider attending the meeting.*

If you have some spare time, an interest in Osgoode Township history and would like to volunteer your services, We Want You!. We are looking for people who would like to be on one of the committees, on the Board of Directors, help with digitizing one of the many historic documents or the retyping of one of our many older publications (and indexes prepared).



From the Newsletter Coordinator

I have never been overly fond of titles. They do not reflect the fact that most projects or endeavours are a group effort with, often only one person getting the "credit". Therefore I prefer to refer to myself as a coordinator. With that "title" comes the understanding that this newsletter is very much a group effort.

That group effort means that I am counting on and hoping for contributions and submissions from many of our members. Tell other members about your interests, your research and share your experiences. Perhaps you have found a better way to tackle a genealogical "brick wall" which might benefit another. Do you have a favourite web site of research source which you would like to share.

Our Committee has had a couple of meetings to discuss plans for future issues. You may be seeing the result of those discussions in the next few Newsletters. We hope that you like what you see.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

**"Celebrating Canada's Best"
Poppy Plaque Presentations
26 September and 1 November 2009**

The Osgoode Township Historical Society, The Nepean Museum, Scotiabank, Local MP Pierre Poilievre, Local MPP Lisa McLeod, Ottawa City Councilor Doug Thompson and the Royal Canadian Legion partnered together to hold a couple of very well attended and special presentation ceremonies. The event on the 26th of September, held in the Metcalfe Lions Hall, saw over 50 Veterans and currently serving Personnel honoured for their commitment and dedication. Also part of the ceremony was the Children's Choir from nearby Castor Valley Elementary School. The oldest Veteran present was 92 year old Arnold Acres (pictured below).



Arnold Acres with Doug Thompson

Photo Credit: C. Atkins-Sheldrick

A second ceremony was held on the 1st of November at the Osgoode Branch (#589) of the Royal Canadian Legion. On that day, over 70 Veterans and Service Personnel were presented with their plaques.

And the presentations do not stop there. There were plans afoot to go into the Rideau-Perley Veterans Centre to present plaques to all the Veterans in residence.

If you are an Osgoode Township Veteran (have or did at one time reside within the old Osgoode Township) but did not have the opportunity to receive your plaque, please contact the Museum. It is not too late.

LEST WE FORGET!

**OSGOODE TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL SOCIETY &
MUSEUM NEWSLETTER**

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Editor & Typesetter: Coreen Atkins-Sheldrick

Membership: Kim Sheldrick-Bates

EM: oths@magma.ca

Mailing Address: 7814 Lawrence St.

P.O. Box 74

Vernon, Ont. K0A 3J0

Tel: 613-821-4062

Website: www.magma.ca/~oths

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From the Committee Members, all the Board of Directors and Staff of the Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum....

***MERRY CHRISTMAS and
HAPPY NEW YEAR!***