



Stone House in Osgoode Township

## Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

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

— ❖ — Newsletter ❖ —

volume xiv 1988 No. 4

The picture of the Doyle House (Taken 1979), the Carroll's (1949) situated on N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  lot 16, con. 3 Osgoode (Herbert's Corners) was loaned to us by Kevin Carroll. The assessment sheets for Osgoode Twps. dated 1838 shows Sylvester Doyle situated on N  $\frac{1}{2}$  lot 12, con. 4 in 1839. He had two of those acres under cultivation with two cows. March 14, 1850 he sold 50 acres to Michael and Thomas Daley for 100 pounds. It appears he then moved to lot 16 con 3, on the 16th day of March 1853. He gave his sons, Andrew N  $\frac{1}{2}$  of lot 16 and son Moses the S  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Maud Herbert wife of Andrew, died Oct. 21, 1911, Andrew Dec. 24, 1914 (no children), leaving the farm to their nephew and niece Andy and Mary Ann Doyle.

The headlines of a story in the Ottawa Citizen, dated Saturday Feb. 25, 1923 reads. The Great Free Fight that Marked First Public Picnic Held in Osgoode Township 1872, the last week in September was held in the field in front of this house (a story in itself).

Picture with me if you will, 45-50 years ago picking potatoes on this farm (2 acres), two men, Andy Doyle, and Henry Nolan digging with potatoe forks, one stroke and the hill of potatoes would be spread out. I would fill a pail and dump it into a dump cart pulled by a heavy horse walking along side of me. (no heavy bags to lift). Dinner at 11 a.m. Tea, light lunch at 3 p.m., supper at 6 p.m., memories of a well built carriage shed, U-shaped barn yard, where sheep were called in every night, rubber tire buggy with a top on it (to church every Sunday). Memories, of one cold Sunday night of 1944, as Andy had passed away suddenly that morning, as was the custom of sitting up all night to keep the corpse company, listening to the old fellows of that time reminisce of earlier times and similar situations, where as one elderly gentleman stated, more fun at a wake than at a party now.

And then the scene changed. The Doyles are no more. In 1949 Albert Carroll, his wife Aletha Thompson, bought the Farm. The once quiet and dark rooms of that century old and more stone house, became alive, alive with the sound of laughter, music, and children playing. A fireplace discovered in the north wall was opened up and used. Mixed farming, Holstein cattle, pigs, chicken and horses were carried on for many years. And then as it were, the wheel turns with death and time, the scene changes once again.

The E  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the lot now owned by Jack and May Pederson, the house occupied by Jeff McDougal and family. The barns are gone, the house stands forlornly amidst the piles of screened topsoil, the green fields, the fiddle music, stepdancing, the songs that were sung at the Carroll's place, are now but a memory.

### A PART OF OUR TOWNSHIP HISTORY

Patrick Michael Dewan returns to the land of his birth. Friday, Aug. 5, six stalwart young men carried the casket of Patrick Michael Dewan into St. John's Church, in Enniskerry for an 11 o'clock funeral Mass celebrated by his son Reverend Wilfred Dewan, with Bishop Spence from Kingston in attendance, with the Church Bell gently tolling. His family and friends formed a silent procession to the beautiful, and well-kept Parish Cemetery. And there in the quiet solitude of that Pioneer Cemetery, where oft times one can listen to the wind sighing through those stately pine trees, a century old, and more, that stand like sentinels, their shadows everreaching to embrace all those entered beneath them. The body of Patrick Michael Dewan was laid to rest beside that of his wife, the late Olive Tierney.

P. M. Dewan, son of John Dewan and Margaret Shields, was born Dec. 23, 1890, lot 17, con 2 Osgoode Twsp. At the tender age of eleven years, he left school, to work on the family farm. At age 21 years he started High school, finishing in two years. He attended the University of Ottawa, and St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, and in 1922 graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph. Mr. Dewan was M.P.P.

from Oxford County from 1934 to 1943. He served as Agricultural Minister from 1937 until 1942, and was one of the last surviving members of the Cabinet, of Mitchell Hepburn, Liberal Premier from 1934-1942. He was by far one of the outstanding men in Hepburn's Cabinet. He was responsible for introducing the Ontario Credit Union Act, and for helping to establish marketing boards. He also made sure farmers were paid Cheese and Hog subsidies during world war two, when Britain wanted to buy Ontario produce but could not afford to pay full price. He quit politics when he was not reelected in 1947 and became a dairy farmer at Ingersoll. Political involvement still runs in the family. His grandson Philip is Premier David Peterson's Director of policy. Mr. Dewan's commitment to Oxford didn't end when he left Provincial Politics, a very community-minded man, he served as Ingersoll's Industrial Commissioner, a long standing member of the Ingersoll Kiwanis Club, who served as its president in 1955, and served on the Ingersoll Chamber of Commerce in the 1960's. He also received a human relations award from the Canadian Councils of Christians and Jews. Dewan Park in Ingersoll is named after him.

On Aug. 6, 1977 Mr. Dewan was the Guest speaker for the 150th Anniversary Celebrations of the settlement of Osgoode Twsp. which were held on the grounds of the Osgoode Township Museum. Mr. Dewan is one of a number of descendents of our Township pioneer families who have left indelible imprints in the annals of our Township and our Country.

#### PIONEER DAYS AUG. 6

Once again Program Director David Gray excelled in his expertise in good planning to produce a memorable occasion. Well over 100 people attended the pioneer celebrations. A number of members dressed in period costume reminiscent of years gone by, added to the display of artifacts on the lawn and in the building. The theme this year focused on children and old time schooling. The youth aspect also included 4H Clubs of to-day and calf clubs of yesteryear. The pioneer school teacher (David Gray) with his students enacting a recess of long ago, along with the Lowe brothers, Don and Russ and their huge but gentle team of oxen provided an atmospheric scene of years gone by.

A number of VIP were present - Mayor Albert Bowers, M.P. Norm Sterling (Provincial), M.P. Bill Tupper (Federal) and Maureen McTeer.

1932 Carleton Calf Club members unveil plaque. This plaque will remain on display in the Museum as a permanent recognition of the Club role in the History of the Dairy Industry in Osgoode and Gloucester Townships. The Club organized by Ag. Rep. Moff Cockburn, had 31 members, a forerunner of to-day's 4H Clubs. It was sponsored by the Metcalfe Agricultural Society and was the first such Club in Carleton County.

Elizabeth Stuart, Co-founder and Archivist of the Society paid tribute to Archie and Iris Stuart (Deceased in a tragic traffic accident) for their contributions to the Society. Daughters were introduced. Maureen spoke movingly of the \$500.00 donation by their Uncle Herb Stuart to purchase display cabinets for the Museum in memory of their parents.

The Historical Society set up a booth at the Ottawa Exhibition (10 days) and Metcalfe Fair (3 days), manned by volunteer members. Our thanks to Alice Craig for co-ordinating the quilting of a quilt and selling raffle tickets on the same (\$430.00). Joyce Dingwall of Finch, Ontario held the winning ticket, drawn by Cecil Waddell at Metcalfe Fair.

Note of Interest VOLUNTEER TYPIST NEEDED - could take work home.

MEMBERSHIP due January 1st, 1989.

We appreciate your past, and, hopefully your continuing support.

Your Editor, Michael Daley

#### CURATOR REPORT BY Ann Leighton Kyle

The Museum is continually receiving artifacts of interest. Some are noteworthy in the respect that they represent a local pioneer and his or her occupation and some are common only to a narrow confined period of time serving as a reminder of those days. Others are noteworthy in their beauty and craftsmanship, having been used little but are still much admired. In addition there are those with little information about them and then there are those that give information. In this last category are the hundreds of books, newspapers and photos that we are continually adding to as well as letters, ledgers and grave markers.

In the occupational artifact category, we have received the Mortor Hod used by the mason Edward Bowen of Vernon. Gordon Bowen of Vernon who donated it, relates it as being used by his Grandfather, Edward as well as by his father John (Mac). It was found in the house on Rideau St. built for Edward and is still occupied by a Bowen, Gordon's brother Ross. Other occupational artifacts that we received are the 2 Swedge Blocks used by John Howell in the Blacksmith shop which was located behind the Porteous store. They were donated by Winston Belanger, the previous Alice Chalmers dealer, whose shop coincided with that of the Blacksmith shop. An occupational item of clothing possibly also fits this category. We have received a military dress jacket of Lieutenant Ella Campbell of Vernon who served as a nurse

in the First Great War. Ella was the daughter of John Mungo Campbell and Esther Kennedy and as some may well know, lived out her days in the Campbell house on Rideau Street. It comes to us from Daniel Cameron of Frederickton who lived sometime later in the Campbell house.

Some of our artifacts are a reminder of earlier times when war was pending. Our attention was drawn recently to a little known and forgotten rifle range used between 1900 and 1915, (or possibly between the Fenian raids and W.W. 1). Lorne Craig and Jim Rawlings investigated the Rifle Range earlier this summer. It is located at the S.E. corner of the west half of lot 18, conc. 8. Lorne brought to the Museum 6 bullets dug out of the backdrop there. The cartridges are dated about 1890 having a pointed rather than a rounded tip. Those who used the range were Jim Dowser of Metcalfe, Dan Kennedy of Vernon, James F. Campbell of Vernon, John Sheldrick of N. Russell and Fred Latimer Sr. Any more information is welcome at any time. Alternate training in inclement weather was done indoors at the Drill Hall in Metcalfe. The rifle range itself is now overgrown with brush but the backdrop survives. The butt or backdrop consists of a 40' x 12' x 7½' high, dove-tailed, cedar compartment much like a log house but filled with boulders. Fifty yards away are one of the mounds from which the marksmen aimed. Lorne and Jim hope to return again to investigate these mounds to see if anything interesting was dropped from pockets there. But not, says Lorne, will they again do much of this in black fly season.

David Gray of Metcalfe has his eye out for and has recovered numerous artifacts from the finality of the dump and the anonymity of the garage sale. These artifacts, though beautiful lack only a little information regarding their history. Recently, David brought in a beautiful arrowback chair which he was told was made in Vernon. Other sources place it to have been made in Ormond by 'Chairmaker Carkner' who made chairs of this type. Readers out there who may have done the unmentionable (ridding themselves of oldies at the dump or garage sale) could make less work for David by calling him or any other member directly.

Many beautiful articles of clothing have also been received, too numerous to mention here, but in particular is an ivory colored wedding dress from Margaret McCaul. The McCauls as readers may know donated the land on which the Swale school was located. This dress was worn by Lydia Evans when marrying Lorenzo McCaul in the 1890's and is a lovely wool two piece made to fit a fashionably tiny trim figure. Other items received with this dress are a number of valuable books and newspapers.

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#### ARCHIVIST REPORT - ELIZABETH STUART

##### Recent Papers, Family Histories, Genealogies in our Archives

**EDWARDS PAPERS** - An Edwards family settled in North Augusta and there was a large family of 14 children. Land in New York city was owned by one of these children. In the 1920's the value of this land was in the millions and there were hundreds of relatives in the Osgoode area who should inherit the property. Genealogies were written up in 1925 and William Boyd of Osgoode Station prepared the necessary legal papers. The families included in the estate included Edwards, Saunders, James, Lewis and others. If there were any winners, they were the Lawyers. The Society is happy to have the information gathered more than 60 years ago.

**DALGLEISH PAPERS** - Wilmer Dalgleish has loaned us 2 boxes of information gathered by his late wife, Mary, over a period of 20 years. Cameron family history is also included.

**TAYLOR PAPERS** - Bessie Kerr Allen loaned us the Family Bible of William Taylor containing the records of his 3 wives and the children. There are as well, many obituaries and other pieces of information.

**ALLEN HISTORY** - John Allen, who fought at Trafalgar, settled in Mountain with his wife, daughter of Henry Merkley U.E. We have a copy of this genealogy along with that of Kerrs and others. Lindsay Allen, blacksmith of Vernon was a great grandson of John.

**BLAIR-KERR HISTORY** has been given by Muriel Blair Cameron of Vernon.

**McKENDRY HISTORY** - Dr. Ralph McKendry of Ottawa contributed an updated history of the McKendry family which settled in the Dalmeny area. As well there are Moses families and others. Ralph left us two other publications - a history of the class of 1931 at Winchester High (grade IX) including brief sketches of all the teachers in the 1930's.

**McDIARMID PAPERS** - Rosemary McDiarmid Wark of Carleton Place is finding more valuable information on the McDiarmids of Glen Lyon and Beckwith and Kenmore. She gave us a map of Kenmore, many old letters - one written from Glasgow in 1820 telling of all the family members in Glen Lyon - one from "Big" John McDiarmid of Dalmeny to his Uncle James of Beckwith in 1845 commenting on a loan to start up the grist mill in Kenmore. These and other valuable letters were discovered in an attic in an old home in Beckwith.

**THE GIRARD FAMILY HISTORY** has been compiled and a copy has been given to us. This family married into the Shepherd and other area families after arriving here from Guernsey.

**KNOWLES PAPERS** include bills from the different merchants in the Osgoode-Dalmeny area: A.P. Wilson of Osgoode, J.C. Stuart of Dalmeny. There are records from neighbouring factories.

OSBORNE CAMPBELL DESCENDANTS - Nelson Campbell and his wife Mary Wood are buried in Springhill Cemetery. Mary died 1854 leaving 7 children including a baby - Albert Nelson. When the father died 4 years later, the young boy was taken by his grandparents - John and Mary Wood of Harmony. There was an Albert Wood in the family and Albert Campbell became Osborne Campbell. In 1877 Osborne was living on the E½ of N½ of lot 43/5. His sister Sarah lived on the W½. She had married Wm. Dockstader. Osborne married the girl across the road at Harmony - Sarah Jane Cinnamon. In 1892 they went to Saskatchewan with their small family. Nothing was heard of this family until July when a descendant at Wasaga Beach wrote a letter to Vernon, Ontario. Diane Kerluke (Campbell) saw the land her ancestors left, including the old, old barn, probably built by Osborne's brother-in-law Hiram Wyatt, a neighbour.

Archives and Elizabeth Stuart

SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS

1. The METHODIST MARRIAGES, METCALFE, typed by Norma Simpson MORRISON in 1987, was taken from a Marriage Register in which entries for a short period were missing. Another Register contained the missing marriage records as well as additional entries for an earlier and a later period. The latter entries, 46 in number, have been printed in an APPENDIX which can be bought by those who have the original edition. Price \$2.00.

The publication which includes 146 entries has an index for each Register. The new price is \$6.50. The years covered are 1897-1923.

2. In the second of the above Registers are the entries 30-100 for the United Church. This publication - UNITED CHURCH MARRIAGES METCALFE - 1925-1957, is sold for \$4.00.

3. BIRTHS, METHODIST CHURCH, METCALFE, 1902-1926, contains 322 entries and sells for \$5.00.

4. BIRTHS, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, METCALFE, 1886-1927, contains 209 entries and sells for \$4.00.

5. BURIALS, METCALFE METHODIST CHURCH, 1902-1926, and UNITED CHURCH 1933 - 1962 has over 350 entries. When complete, the information includes date and place of birth, date, place and cause of death, and date and place of burial. Very seldom is the information complete. The publication sells for \$6.00.

6. COMMUNION ROLL, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TYENDINAGA, MELROSE, LONSDALE, 1862-1893

The information in this Register does not apply to Osgoode Township, but it was printed from a book left in Metcalfe by a Pastor who had brought it from a former charge. We have already met a number of people from as far away as Winnipeg who were delighted to know that the ROLL existed. \$2.00.

7. MARRIAGES, BAPTIST CHURCH, KEMPTVILLE, 1897-1912. There are 41 entries - \$3.00.

8. MARRIAGES, BAPTIST CHURCH, ORMOND, 1896-1968. The 85 marriages entered during this period do not represent all the ceremonies performed by the Pastors of the church. For example, Rev. Burns omitted that of his own daughter, Evelyn, and Fred MacDonald. Price \$5.00.

9. MARRIAGE RECORDS of WINCHESTER AND DISTRICT - Laflamme - 1877-1897. Mr. Laflamme had rolls of Licenses - 336 in number - found by Keith Last and given to the writer. The originals are now at the Ontario Archives) \$6.00.

10. MARRIAGES - OSGOODE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 1897-1959. Price \$5.00.

11. OSGOODE TOWNSHIP - "In the Beginning" - assessment rolls, 1830-1841. CENSUS, 1831 and 1836 (Heads of Families and numbers of Children). This 28-page publication is very valuable for serious research on the early settlement of Osgoode Township. In 1830, there were 14 families living in Osgoode Township. In 1841, 179 families were paying taxes. As well, there are 3 Petitions. Houses, horses, cows, oxen, businesses are enumerated. Price \$6.00.

At the present time, the cost for getting a proof of birth, marriage, or death from the Registrar General is \$15.00. To use any Record Book at the Ottawa-Carleton Registry Office is \$4.00. Our publications give very valuable information.

The Municipal Records were copied from microfilm purchased from the Ontario Archives. The original Assessment Rolls are at L'Original, the Administrative Centre for the early Ottawa (River) District to which both Osgoode and Gloucester Townships belonged.

Elizabeth Stuart

October 7, 1988

THE SEARCH FOR WALTER BONSALE

I never met Walter Bonsale, nor do I recall hearing his name until about two years ago when I noticed a World War I military tunic displayed in the Museum.

What immediately aroused my interest was the ribbon of the Military Medal, a British decoration awarded to Other Ranks for conspicuous bravery in the face of the enemy. The jacket was complete with corporal's chevrons, four years worth of service chevrons and the badges of the Canadian Machine Gun Corps. A tag indicated that the jacket had been donated by one Walter Bonsall.

Early enquiries about who Walter was brought replies ranging from "an old bachelor who used to work on farms around Dalmeny" to "a cheese maker, and a real good one, too", but nothing about his military activities or the character of the man. (So far, I just hadn't asked the right people.)

Further investigation of Walter's kit told me quite a bit. Included in the display was a W W II army tunic, with the same medal ribbons, the badges of the Veteran Guard of Canada, two service chevrons and a machine gunner trade badge. The tunic is size 4, to fit a man 5'4" to 5'6", with breast size 31 to 35". This, together with a pair of size 7 boots indicates a man of small stature.

By now I was getting a picture of the man. Knowing that machine gunners in W W I were considered to be a cut above the average, in addition Walter had been promoted to corporal and had won the M.M. I could see a pretty steady, dedicated little bloke who did his duty as he saw it.

Time went by without much thought about Walter, except for the occasional twinge, that he deserved a place in the written record of our township. Then in late June of this summer, while looking for a flag to run up for Dominion Day, I discovered a great mass of military memorabilia in an obscure closet. A small cardboard box contained exactly what I had been looking for. There were cap badges, collar dogs, military souvenirs including an Iron Cross and a German soldier's belt buckle inscribed "Gott Mit Uns." Most important was a W W I pay book and a W W II Service book. To the uninitiated, these two items, about the size and shape of a passport, provide the details which identify a soldier, contain his military history and qualifications and in the case of the former, contain his pay records. Walter's pay book indicates the following;

- (a) His father's name was Robert Bonsall, 108 Metcalfe St., Ottawa
- (b) The assignment of \$20.00 of his monthly pay to his mother.
- (c) His original unit was the 154 Inf. Battalion. (The Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders.)
- (d) His unit in the field was the 2nd Cdn Machine Gun Battalion.
- (e) Full name; Walter Edward Bonsall
- (f) Civilian occupation: Laborer
- (g) religion; Anglican
- (h) Award of the Military Medal Sept. 19, 1918
- (i) Promotion to corporal Oct. 2, 1918

Walter's rate of pay was \$1.10 per day, plus 10 cents Field Pay while serving in a theatre of operations, for a monthly total of \$36.00, from which he sent his mother \$20.00. I conclude then, that Walter did his fighting for the princely sum of 53 cents a day. Of course his clothing, food and shelter, though abominable and sub-standard, were provided.

According to this pay book, he had enlisted in the 154 Bn. on 22 of March, 1916 and had arrived in England Oct. 31, 1916. By Jan. 1917 the battalion had been broken up in order to reinforce units on the Western

Front, with Walter going to the 2nd Bn of the Machine Gun Corps. I was unable to determine if he actually had been at Vimy, but he most certainly had experienced all the discomforts and horrors of trench warfare being in them until the break-out in August 1918 and being part of the subsequent pursuit to Mons.

The pay book also revealed that Walter's wages and field pay were not increased with his promotion to corporal. It seems then that he accepted the responsibility for the health, welfare and performance of his section as an act of charity as he received upon his discharge at Montreal on September 3, 1919, \$4.37 as his last pay. I expect that Walter was familiar with the old "Soldiers Prayer Before Battle" which asks that wounds be distributed on the same ratio as wages, with the officers receiving the larger share.

Walter next surfaces at Vernon where he was cheese maker from 1925 to 1927. Annual certificates from the Ontario Dept. of Agriculture indicate that the cheese he made graded "First Class" 95% of the time. He was cheese maker at North Augusta from 1928 to 1930, at Dunrobin until 1940 and at Oxford Station in 1941. Since cheese making was a summer job, those who knew him in those days mentioned that he worked on farms in the neighborhood for the remainder of the year. His National Registration Certificate lists his residence as Osgoode, Ontario in 1940.

On October 30, 1942, Walter enlisted in the Veteran Guard of Canada at the tender age of 52. By now the army was becoming pedigree conscious, the Service book requiring the nationality of parents at birth. Walter's father is listed as English and his mother as Irish. His parents apparently are no longer living because he has listed his sister, Miss Sadie Bonsall of Hamilton as his next-of-kin.

The service book reveals that Walter was employed at guard duties, that he was in good physical condition and was still a good shot with his Lee-Enfield rifle.

After W W II Walter resumed cheese making at Dalmeny, spending his winters at the farm of John and Jessie Campbell. Area farmers who knew him well recall a conscientious and diligent worker with a good sense of humour and a dry if sometime caustic wit. Since I never knew him, it is difficult for me to visualize him as an elderly person, but I have a clear image of him in his late twenties, physically and morally tough, and an outstanding soldier.

Walter spent his retirement years in Vernon, and in February of 1982 in his 92nd year was gathered to his ancestors and was buried at Poltimore, Quebec his birthplace.

He appears to have been a man who carried his weight, paid his dues and didn't expect any hand-outs. I wish that I had known him.

Bob Usher