



S.S. No. 7 situated on Highway 31 Circa 1904

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

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

Newsletter

VOLUME XIV 1988 No. 1

The Stone School House, as we knew it (or Blair) was situated on lot 16, Con 6 in Osgoode Township, opened in 1852. The 1863 map of the Township shows it as a vacant lot. The 1879 map shows the property owned by F. McMenemy. The following are names of some of the students given to me by Howard Leahy (deceased). Front row standing: Annie Gleason, Jennie Keough, Iva Savage, Edna Jeacle, Violet Sully, Ruby Morris, Alice Blair, Clara Stanley, Ivor McCooeye. Back row standing: Bill Gleason, Charlie Howes, Hughe Howes, Ethel Scrivens, Gertie Jeacles, Josie Sully, Merel Morris, May Creighton, Ida Leahy, --- Reaney, unidentified, Miss Fannie Whiteside (teacher). Kneeling: Wallace Blair, Howard Leahy, Walter Dennison, Tom McMenemy. Sitting: Packy Keough, Arthur Dennison, Thomas Stanley, Unidentified, Unidentified, Stewart Jeacle, Forest Jeacle, Harry Morris, Wilbur Morris, Edward Morris, Richard Reaney.

For over one hundred years this stone building served the community where countless numbers of boys and girls learned their reading, writing, and arithmetic. Some went on to higher places and learning in their search to achieve their individual goals. Others travelled to other parts of this vast country, and they in turn like their fathers before them pioneered the lands which they called their own. Others who married and settled in the immediate area, watched as their children in turn received their early education in that little Stone School House.

In the nineteen sixties this landmark was demolished and replaced by a modern two-room school, but in a few short years this new building, due to the amalgamating of the various schools, became obsolete. In 1975 the Metcalfe and District Lions Club took over the vacant building, remodelling the building to serve the Community as The Metcalfe Medical Centre.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Shirley Lowe

The 1987 year has been one of progress and many rewarding experiences in our endeavor to collect, preserve, and display the history of Osgoode Township. Our members and friends deserve sincere appreciation for their leadership, support, and hard work in our projects. Letters and visits from researchers far and near have made us very proud of our collection of records and artifacts.

Heritage Day in February brought a large and interested audience to our display of 'Cheese Making in Osgoode Township'. David Gray organized activities to present the theme. Guests related their experiences as Cheese Makers and Patrons in local factories. Several artifacts and records related to our factories have been added to our collection.

In July the group sponsored a week-end of Pioneer activities, displays, and crafts. This new project was well attended. We look forward to another Pioneer exhibit with local people participating in our programme. Several members attended workshops offered by the Ontario Historical Society and brought back ideas which can be adapted to our site. Displays were set up at Gene-o-Rama in Carleton University, the Heritage building at Ottawa Exhibition, and at Metcalfe Fair. Members have also attended meetings of local Historical Societies to share information and problems.

New publications were offered during the year including two volumes of Pioneer Families and a book on Marvelville. We are grateful to the people who contribute to each publication.

The entrance hall to the museum was renovated and painted to give more display space and a brighter, cleaner appearance. We plan to convert one of the washrooms to a picture storage area. The large picture collection is very valuable and we feel obligated to provide the best possible storage conditions.

For some time we have recognized a need to expand our facilities to include space to collect and display the large artifacts which were a part of the agricultural and related activities of the pioneers. Our Board of Directors met with the members of Osgoode Township Council in the fall to request financial and planning assistance. The Council has agreed to work with us to erect a new building in 1988.

We express our appreciation to members and visitors for donations of money and time. We must work together if we are to continue to preserve and display our rapidly-growing collection. There is interesting work for anyone who is able to volunteer a few hours of time at home or at the museum. Please call a member of the Board or the Executive if you would be willing to work with us.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT by David Gray

This year our public programmes were focussed on the theme "Cheesemaking in Osgoode Township". Having a single theme for our research, exhibits and public events, for a full year proved to be a valuable and productive step forward.

Starting with Heritage Day with speakers on all aspects of Cheesemaking we achieved a good amount of publicity in the local newspapers and on radio. Our theme was picked up by several radio interviewers and several long articles were published in the newspapers.

Canada Day was celebrated at the museum with a new temporary exhibit highlighting Canada's National emblems; The Maple Leaf, the Flag, and the Beaver.

Pioneer Days for 1987 returned to its roots at the museum with the Historical Society responsible for the entire event. This meant more work for us, but the results were worth the effort. Once again the local media were generous with coverage and we look forward to continuing the tradition.

Our Society again sponsored a special entry in the Metcalfe Fair, as well as participating with our usual booth and our exhibit on Cheesemaking.

Although we did not have as many public speakers at our monthly meetings as we had intended, we closed off 1987 with a well-attended Nov. meeting, jointly-sponsored by the Osgoode, Cumberland, and Gloucester Historical Societies. Hugh MacMillan from the Ontario Archives gave his entertaining talk as Ontario's leading "Manuscript Sleuth".

For 1988 the theme for our public programmes will be the "Schools of Osgoode Township - looking back. The year will feature invited speakers, a new exhibit and research into this popular aspect of our local history. The first event will be Heritage Day February 20th, which will feature an afternoon of reminiscences on "Life in the schools of Osgoode Township" from the points of view of teachers, students, trustees, inspectors and parents.

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REPORT BY ANN LEIGHTON KYLE:

Under a Provincial grant, a pair of us students were hired to work in the Museum. When we began, a number of interesting projects were awaiting us, but we decided to organize the photos and documents, removing the valuable photos and documents from family and often used files to a more protected environment. All in all over 1300 photos and approx. 300 documents were removed from the regular files, xeroxed (the copy put back in the file) and the original catalogued and stored in an acid free envelope. Among the photos are a number of unidentified photos. We still hope that someone will step forward and identify some of the charming people, events and places not yet completely forgotten. To round out our collection, we appreciate even the briefest loan of a photo to make a zerox copy. Part of the collection of photos is some 650 loose postcards and some pasted in albums. There are some valuable ones showing the main streets of some Osgoode villages, the likes of which few will remember.

The museum also had a busy year in sorting through the artifacts donated. During the year 235 items were received and catalogued. From the MacDonald Estate in Metcalfe, we received 40 items alone mostly handmade childrens clothing and home furnishings. The smallest artifact received was a set of curling pins from the Russell Curling Club donated by Mrs. Walter Kinkaid. The largest artifact donated was a floor model butter-making table from Joyce and Malcolm Ellis of Metcalfe.

Lorne Craig who scouts around and is good for quite a few artifacts a year has come up with a piece of oak veneer found between the walls of a house now belonging to Doug Acres. The house was built for Byron Moses, who was the owner of the Sawmill in Vernon which was located near the site of the museum. The piece of veneer which seems not to have seen much light of day was quite likely cut at that same mill.

A number of displays were set up during the summer. A display was set up to show material from David Gray's Cheesemaking research and some material from David and artifacts from the museum itself. Part of this display went to the Manotick, Ottawa and Metcalfe Fairs. Later, a display of the symbols of Canada seemed in keeping with Canada Day and Pioneer Day and we combed through the Museum and members homes for a surprising number of articles. That display was replaced by a Fall Fair display to show off some of the fine trophies we have. It was supplemented by photos and ribbons from Alex Campbell and his prize winning sheep.

Thanks to those whose donations and effort made this possible.

LIBRARY REPORT:

Kay Hill reports. Thanks to the assistance of Mrs. Stuart Brown, of Metcalfe, the cataloguing of the book collection is almost completed. Hopefully in the near future, we will have shelving available to display this collection in a more accessible area.

A valuable book collection was donated to the Historical Society by Ted Bernard, formerly of Spencerville. This collection belonged to his family for a number of years. "The Holy Bible" 6 Vols printed by Thomas Bensley for Thomas Macklin, London 1800. Macklins sumptuous edition, embellished with engravings from pictures and designs by the most eminent English artists, Vol. 1-4 contain the Old Testament and Vol. 5-6 the New Testament.

Preliminary matter includes Dedication to the King (dated 1791 and "List of Subscribers"). Text is printed in very large type Double Columns with 29 lines to the full column. The words generally printed in italics are distinguished in this edition only by a Dot placed under the first vowel.

NOTES OF INTEREST:

Query for whom the Bell tolls (Newsletter Vol. (3 No. 4) To tol means to give forth a slow regular ringing sound as a bell in announcing a death, 9 strokes for a woman, 8 for a man, 12 for a child. This informative information (as he remembers) supplied by Ken Thompson of South Gloucester.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership fee for the 1988 is \$5.00 single \$6.00 family. (Receipts on request) If your membership card is not with this newsletter, then your membership fee is now due. If there is error please inform us. We sincerely appreciate your past and continued support as we strive to portray the Historical aspects of our township history. Your membership fees help to cover the ongoing expenses of the Society (printing, supplies, fuel etc.) We are grateful to those of you who out of kindness, charity or sheer humanity, have made encouraging remarks.

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MISTAKE: Volume 13 No. 4 My regrets.

Correction: In regards to the ownership of Cheese factory at Enniskerry should have read, Mrs. Lorne Lindsay.

NEW PUBLICATION BY LOCAL AUTHORS

Muskoxen of Polar Bear Pass by David Gray

Polar Bear Pass is on Bathurst Island in the High Arctic, a remote desolate windswept land which in all seasons was David's temporary research abode for about 50 months between 1968 and 1978. The book explains the social behavior of a fascinating Arctic animal and its adoption to its terrain. Even more it explains the Arctic to us Southerners who have never experienced it. David is a staff member of the National Museum of Natural Sciences. For information phone area code 613-821-2640. David is programme Director for Osgoode Township Historical Society Museum.

BOWESVILLE, A PLACE TO REMEMBER by Grace Johnston

Here is a comprehensive story of people and times of Bowesville, a quiet countryside which was suddenly disrupted and lost to make room for the Ottawa International Airport. Prepublication offer special price \$12.50. After publication (April) \$15.00. Send enquiries, cheques or money orders to Gloucester Historical Society, P.O. Box 124, R.R. 5, Gloucester, Ontario, K1C 3N3. Phone 838-4053 after 7 p.m.

FROM SWAMP AND SHANTY by Wendell Stanley

From Swamp and Shanty 1827-1987. This book depicts the General History of the village of Russell (formerly Duncanville). It relates to the pioneer families of the village and the western part of the township. It relates to Industry, Manufacturing, schools, churches, etc. Available from Scharf Graphics, 83 Mill Street, Russell, Ontario KOA 3B0.

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SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1988

Executive - Past President	Michael Daley
President	Shirley Lowe
Vice - President	Murray Little
Recording Secretary	Patti Mitton
Corresp. Secretary	Harry Anderson
Treasurer	Ann Leighton Kyle
Register Curator	Ann Leighton Kyle
Archivist	Elizabeth Stuart
Librarian	Kay Hill
Maintenance	Doug MacMillan
Newsletter	Michael Daley
Social Committee	Allice Craig, Anne Carkner Verda McNaughton

(Continued on next page.)

<u>Directors</u>	Gerald Morris	Murray Little
	Bob Usher	Don Lowe
	Lorne Craig	Margaret Robb
	Terry Otto	Michael Daley

Ninth director to be appointed

Retiring Directors	Shirley Lowe, Harvey Linton
Retiring Treasurer	Jennie Dow

Our thanks goes out to Mrs. Jennie Dow, retiring treasurer.

On Aug. 3rd 1973 the New Horizon Historical Group met at the home of Miss Jessie Robertson to announce the possession of the Vernon School, and to appoint Jennie Dow as Secretary Pro Tem, due to the ill health of the secretary Louise Stearns.

Aug. 8, 1973 Elizabeth Stuart - President, Jennie Dow - Secretary, signed the lease with the corporation of the Township of Osgoode, for said lands and premises known as the Vernon Public School.

Aug. 23, 1973 the first meeting in the acquired public school.

Aug. 31, 1973 the second meeting, nine directors attending. Filing cabinets, desk, and chairs had been acquired. A motion was moved by Miss Robertson, seconded by Mrs. Cavell, that Mrs. Jennie Dow be secretary-treasurer.

Jennie's 15 years of quiet dedicated service to the Society has been an inspiration to many.

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SCHOOL DAYS 50 YEARS AGO:

I would like to share a few memories with you and in so doing bring to your mind memories of your school days, your classmates. There was time to laugh, to play, and to work.

I grew up on a farm, eighty rod from Herberts School R.C.S.S. No. 4 at Herberts Corners. My first memories of school were watching my brother and four sisters leaving for school. I recall one morning I decided I was going to go to school. There was no Kindergarten in those days. You didn't start school till 6-7 years old. My urge to go was curtailed when my mother caught up to me at the road with a little switch in her hand. (She didn't use it).

Finally off to school I went in 1932. The teacher, Miss Hilda Kennedy, was my teacher from first class till I passed my entrance exam. The new students were always put at the front of the classroom, in the small seat. It was there we learned our sounds, a, b, c, over and over 'til those sounds, or letters, became words like ball, cat, dog, etc.

As time travelled on, one became more aware of the neighborhood, of other boys and girls. We lived so close to the school, we went home for lunch every day. In harvest time there was always great activity in the neighborhood, the thrashing gangs, silo filling, potato picking. In our part of the township "two thrashers" John Richard Blanchfield and John O'Brien operated what appeared to me this giant Steam Engine, and thrashing mill. I loved to hear that lonesome sound of the steam whistle, sometimes on neighboring farms or off in the distance, a couple of quick short blasts in the morning at 7 a.m. to start the day and then again as the sun set in the West, that long drawn-out sound depicting the end of another day. I remember heading back to school one day when this big team of horses driven by Tom Kehoe hitched to the water tank wagon was passing by to get a load of water from the banks of the Middle Castor on the Old Prescott Rd. The water wagon always accompanied the steam engine. Tom stopped to pick me up. What a thrill, away up there with those mysterious lids, hoses, pails. What a story I had to tell when I got dropped off at the school.

Even as I write memories flash across my mind of learning to read and write. (Spelling and Arithmetic came hard for me). History, Geography were my best subjects and as you read this you will note my grammar wasn't very good either. Memories of getting caught talking to two girls sitting behind me one day. The teacher informed me if I liked talking to them so well, I could sit between them. (That was an order). That was worse by far in those times, to getting a couple of whacks of the strap.

In the Spring there was Arbour Day, clean up time, and after that, base ball. The bats and balls were brought out. I remember this one girl (she could have played for the Bluejays) hit a home run, then threw the bat, connecting with Jim McGuire's head, laying him out flat on the ground which ended his schooling for that day.

Christmas Concerts were what students, parents, grandparents and the whole neighborhood looked forward to every year. I remember well two near tragedies (in my mind) on such an occasion. Picture with me, if you will, Herberts School on a beautiful clear Dec. day 1935-36 two days before the annual event, students rehearsing their parts, recitations, songs, skits, one act plays, whatever. Approximately 11.15 a.m. Miss Kennedy had a group of students rehearsing their parts on the stage at the front of the room. Just prior to this she asked a student to gather up the waste paper and put it in the box stove, which he did. Miss Kennedy walked to the back of the room standing in front of the stove so she could hear and coach those participating students going through their parts. At this

At this precise time, a big roll of burning paper rolled out on to the damper of the stove through the lower draft which was open, immediately igniting Miss Kennedy's gray woollen skirt. I was sitting right next to the stove. With great presence of mind she immediately fell to the floor rolling to extinguish the flames. Fortunately she was wearing a wide tight belt that morning, which kept the flames from reaching her long red hair. She called my sister to bring her her coat. I didn't wait to find out why. A couple of younger ones and I headed for the door, heading for home. Some of the older kids got us stopped at the gate, saying everything was all right.

A couple of days later was the night of the concert. The one room school was packed, and as usual the little children taking part sat in the front seats and did their parts first. This particular concert I was to make the opening address (a few lines of welcome). The school was well decorated, Christmas tree, colourful streamers stretching across the room in front of the stage. We were all set to go when somebody came in and suggested the gas lantern, which was hanging front and centre of the stage be adjusted just a little bit for better viewing. Tom O'Rourke stood up on a desk to adjust this gas lantern with its two little globes, when it accidentally brushed against the streamers leading to the Christmas tree. Somebody grabbed them real quick, preventing a major disaster. I was sitting with younger students in the front row directly under those falling streamers. After the episode of two days earlier, I was leaving, and not by the isle, but over the top of the desk 'til my Grandfather caught me near the back of the room. From that year forward I have always had a healthy respect for fire.

In 1938, I was hired by the School Board at \$2.00 a month for six months to light the fire starting the first week of November. Wow! \$12.00. I was getting along fine until one morning, after having started the fire, that long line of stove pipes fell to the floor. Stoves it seems were always set at the back of the room. (I didn't run this time). I grabbed the wash basin and set it over the pipe hole. It didn't keep the smoke in but it slowed the fire down. I was glad to see the teacher come in early that morning. I ran home for my father to help get them put together again.

Memories are like a picture, a link with the past, and a continuity with the future. If these few lines have instigated in your minds memories of your school days, that might bring laughter, or a smile, for you or others, then I have accomplished my purpose in writing them.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE WORDS OF THIS SONG?

School days, school days,
Dear old golden rule days,
Reading and writing and arithmetic
Taught to the tune of a hickory stick. (Were there more verses?)
I was your queen in calico
You were my barefoot, bashful beau
You wrote on my slate, "I love you, Kate",
When we were a couple of kids.

HERITAGE DAY February 20, 1988 1 to 5 p.m. to be held in the
Township Museum.

The theme: SCHOOLS OF OSGOODE TOWNSHIP "LOOKING BACK"

VOTERS' LIST FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF OSGOODE FOR THE YEAR 1897

No. on Roll	Jurors	(Continued from Volume 13, No. 4)			P. O. Address	
		NAME	LOT	Con.		
314		Burns, Michael.....	pt w hf 1...	3	m f and o..	1
338		Burns, Lawrence	s w qr 10...	3	m f and fs.	3
71		Buchanan, Robt	n hf 3.....	1	m f and fs.	1
6	j	Campbell, Peter	pt 8	Man.	m f and o..	1
74	j	Condie, John	n hf 6	1	m f and o..	1
76		Condie, Wm. sr	s hf 6	1	m f and o..	1
78	j	Condie, Wm., jr.....	s hf 10	1	m f and o..	1
81		Chambers, James	pt 7	Bft.	m f and o..	1
424		Cahill, John, sr	s hf 3.....	4	m f and o..	15
425	j	Cahill, Martin, sr.....	n e qr 4....	4	m f and o..	15
426	j	Cahill, Martin, jr.....	s hf 3	4	m f and o..	15
428	j	Christopher, Thomas.....	w hf 4 and op	4	m f and o..	15
503	j	Cahill, Patrick.....	n hf 2 and op	5	m f and o..	15
22	j	Condie, Sylvanns	pt 10	Man.	m f and t..	1
9		Clark, Edward J.....	pt 8	Man.	m f and o..	1
7		Clark, Robert J.	pt 8	Man.	m f and o..	1

No. on Roll.	Jurors	NAME	LOT	Con.		P.O. Address
429		Christopher, Patrick....	w hf 4	4	mf and fs.	6
75		Condie, Alex. M	n hf 6	1	mf and fs.	1
65		Christian, John	e hf of s hf 3 and o p	1	mf and o.	
77		Condie, James F.....	s hf 6	1	mf and f s.	1
1		Dickinson, M.K.	pt 8 and 9 ..	Man.	mf and o.	1
2		Dickinson, G.L.	pt 8.....	Man.	mf and o.	1
3	j	Dickinson, W.B.	pt 8	Man.	mf and o.	1
4	j	Dolan, John	pt 8	Man.	mf and o.	1
18	j	Dolan, John	pt 9	Man.	mf and o.	1
85	j	Davidson, Alby	n hf 9.....	1	mf and o.	
430		Downey, Wm.	pt e hf 5 ...	4	mf and o.	1
440	j	Daley, Michael T.	pt s hf 9 and op	4	mf and o.	1
512	j	Duncan, Joseph	lot 4	5	mf and o..	1
511	j	Duncan, Alexander	lot 4	5	mf and o..	1
519	j	Dunlop, John	lot 6.....	5	mf and o..	1
19	j	Dolan, Patrick	pt 10	Man.	mf and t..	
322	j	Darcey, Thos.....	e hf 3.....	3	mf and o..	
64	j	Dobson, John	sw pt 2	1	mf and o..	1
87		Davidson, Hebron	s hf 9	1	mf and fs.	
88		Davidson, James	s hf 9	1	mf and fs.	
201	j	Dansey, Wm.....	e hf 2	2	mf and o.	
439		Daley, Thomas	pt s hf 9 ...	4	mf and fs.	
215	j	Evans, Francis	s hf 9	2	mf and o.	
323	j	Evans, Luke	w hf 4	3	mf and o..	
335	j	Evans, Nicholas	e hf 10 and op	3	mf and o..	
196		Fitzsimmons, Joseph	pt n e qr 1..	2	mf and o..	
197	j	Fox, James	pt n e qr 1..	2	mf and o..	
314	j	Fox, John	s hf 2.....	3	mf and o..	
318	j	Fox, Michael	s hf 2	3	mf and fs.	
316	j	Fox, Patrick	s hf 2	3	mf and fs.	
427	j	Fagen, Patrick.....	n hf 3 and op	4	mf and o..	
423	j	Foran, Michael	e hf 2	4	mf and o.	
61		Finley, Rev. D.....	pt 1	1	mf and occ.	
317		Fox, John, jr.....	s hf 2	3	mf and fs.	
319		Fox, Henry	s hf 2	3	mf and fs.	
67	j	Heaney, James	n hf 4	1	mf and o..	
82	j	Harris, Orlando	n hf 8 and op	1	mf and o..	
198	j	Hawkins, John	w hf 1	2	mf and o..	
208	j	Harney, William	3/4 5	2	mf and o..	
209	j	Harney, Patrick	e hf of e hf 5 and op..	2	mf and o..	
68		Jeaney, J.J.	n hf 4	1	mf and o..	
10		Hicks, Peter	pt 8	Man.	mf and o..	
83		Harris, George	n hf 8	1	mf and fs.	
199		Hawkins, James	w hf 1	2	mf and fs.	
200		Hawkins, David J.....	w hf 1	2	mf and fs.	
210		Harney, James	e hf of e hf 5	2	mf and fs	
530		Hassett, Wm.	w qr 10	5	mf and o.	
204	j	Kavanagh, Michael	e pt 3	2	mf and o..	3
63		Kidd, Edward	pt w ¼ 1	1	mf and occ	1
21	j	Knox, Robert	pt 10	Man.	mf and o..	11
506		Lee, Wm., sr.....	s hf 3	5	mf and o.	15
507	j	Lee, James	s hf 3	5	mf and fs.	15
508	j	Lee, Robert	s hf 3	5	mf and fs.	15
509	j	Lee, Wm., jr.....	s hf 3	5	mf and fs.	15
510	j	Lee, Thomas	s hf 3	5	mf and fs.	15
529	j	Leonard, John	e hf 9	5	mf and o.	15

(To be continued next issue.)