



MOLAMPHY HOMESTEAD
On the Bytown Stage Coach Route, Ottawa to Prescott.

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

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

Newsletter

VOLUME 10 April 1984 No. 2

THE GREAT PHOTOGRAPH HUNT BY David Gray

As announced in the last newsletter, our society is joining with the Township Women's Institutes in a bicentennial project to collect old photographs illustrating our township's history. We have received a grant of \$810.00 from the special Wintario "Celebrate Together" Fund which will help cover the expenses of collecting and exhibiting photos.

At each of the special bicentennial events in our township, members of our society and the W.I.'s will man a booth set up to collect any snapshots, old prints, postcards, or negatives that township residents would like to donate to our collection.

We are also prepared to accept photos or albums on a loan basis, just for long enough to have the photos recopied by a professional photographer.

For those who have interesting old photographs but do not want to part with them even for a short time, we are planning to have a photographer at the booth for a few hours at some events to recopy the photographs on the spot.

At the same time, we are also preparing an exhibit of old photographs from those already in our collection to take to as many of the community events as possible.

Our booth for collecting photos, and the old photo display will be at the following bicentennial events:

June 2	-	Greely	July 14	-	Kenmore
June 16	-	Metcalfe	July 29	-	Vernon
June 23	-	Osgoode			

Watch for notices regarding exact times and locations.

For those who miss the June and July events, we will have a special day in August, at the museum, on which people can also bring in old photographs.

We are especially interested in photos showing:

- Cheese Factories (and cheese making in all respects)
- Farming activities, especially plowing.
- Township industries, e.g. McArthur plowworks - Kenmore
- Activities and events showing the varied cultural backgrounds of pioneers and later immigrants.
- Activities (fishing, boating, working) along the Rideau and Castor Rivers.
- Any buildings no longer in existence.
- Pioneer families.

If you can spare an hour or two at any of the above events, we would like volunteers to help by working at the booth and recording information as photographs are brought in. Please call:

Barbara Macey 821-2669 or David Gray 821-2640

BICENTENNIAL by Jennie Dow

The Founders of Upper Canada - excerpt from Fourth Reader, 1885 - written by Dr. Ryerson, who, in 1844 was appointed Chief Superintendent of Education for Upper Canada. The name of Dr. Ryerson is held in high esteem, because he gave us our original school system. (continued on the next page)

At the close of the war in 1783, the Declaration of Independence changed the relationship of the British subjects. The Loyalists found themselves exiled and impoverished.

Upper Canada was known only as a region of intense cold in winter, of dense wilderness and swamp, of venomous reptiles and beasts of prey, with no redeeming feature except abundance of fish and game.

Five vessels were procured and furnished to convey the first colony of banished refugee Loyalists from New York to this western wilderness. Arriving in Quebec where they built themselves huts or shanties and wintered. In May 1784 they prosecuted their voyage in boats and reached their destination, Cataraqui, afterwards Kingston, in the month of July.

Other bands of Loyalists made their way via Cornwall, ascending the St. Lawrence, along the north side of which many of them settled. A considerable number came to Canada on foot through the then wilderness of New York, carrying their children and household effects on pack horses, and driving their cattle which subsisted on the herbage of the woods and valleys.

The privations and hardships experienced by many of these Loyalist patriots for years after their settlement in Canada were more severe than anything experienced by the Pilgrim Fathers during the first years of their settlement.

Upper Canada (Ontario) has a noble parentage, the remembrance of which its inhabitants may well cherish with respect, affection and pride.

THE MOLAMPHY HOMESTEAD, situated on the old Prescott Road. Many of the eleven children of Patrick Oolamphy and Julia Keough, as they grew up left their home and loved ones, in search of a better way of life. A number of them settled around Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and made well.

Patrick Molamphy died January 28, 1879 and his wife, Julia, while visiting with her family in Pittsburgh, died May 24, 1885. Her death was tragic, in that, being virtually blind, she wandered into the path of a Railway Locomotive and was killed. Her body was returned to the homestead in Osgoode, and then buried beside her husband in the Roman Catholic Cemetery, South Gloucester. An interesting 'sidelight' is that every person bearing the name Julia in the Kehoe-Molamphy decendency came to a somewhat tragic end. One such, Julia Ann Sullivan, granddaughter of Patrick and Julia died January 12, 1886, age 17 years, while helping her mother with the cooking. Her clothing caught fire as she fed the stove. Her death certificate indicates, Death by burns and shock, duration 6 hours.

(More on the Molamphy family Volume 15 of Pioneer Families)

A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST - reviewing some old papers that we have on Micro-Film, relating to the pioneer settlers in Osgoode Twp, one can picture the hard life they lived, the hard work, heartbreaks, frustrations, land disputes, etc. The following letters give some insight in one particular problem.

Osgoode, Oct. 9, 1844

Dear Sir,

I have cleared on lot 17 on the second Concession and I was informed that I should write to you concerning it, if you will send word, if it is for sale, or if to be sold to let me know, or if it be sold please let me know the name of the owner and you will oblige your humble servant.

Patrick Duan (Dewan)

Sir I know you should get some pay for your trouble. I will pay it when I go to Montreal.

This letter was mailed to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Montreal, stamped at Osgoode 9th of October 1844 U.C.

Osgoode Feb. 10, 1844

It is now upward of eight years since I first settled in Osgoode on lot 17 con 2, finding it vacant, and being informed that it was at the Disposal of the Government. In some four years afterwards I addressed a letter to the Commissioner of Crown Lands hoping he would inform me whether the land was for sale or not, or what course I should take in case I would be permitted to purchase. It would appear that my letter was forwarded to your office, as I had the honour of receiving a reply, signed as above bearing the date 9th of November 1844 informing me the land was for sale and some instruction on how

to proceed in purchasing it. I would have went according to your direction but my wife fell sick and died, shortly after I received your letter, and paying Doctors Fees and other expenses, attending her illness and death made it impracticable for me to pay for the land, moreover I intended to the contrary. However, I struggled on until now, when I think I am able to make a decent installment if the land is yet for sale. I am formed by some people, that her Majesty is giving land Grants to people who are some 15 years in the County. I have this on good Authority, that if such is the case, perhaps, I would be entitled to a Grant as I am here more than Twenty years in this County. But if this report is false, I would be willing to purchase the above lot at any reasonable price. If only I knew how or where to apply for it and I beg to trouble you again for an advice in this matter, and I hope you will excuse me for the long neglect I paid the last Instruction you gave me on account of reason I have given. I will satisfy you or any person authorized to sell that I have been the first person who improved there on

I am Sir your most obedient servant

Patrick Duan

There were a number of letters, concerning lot 17 con 2 with James O'Brien also claiming occupant of same lot. The Dispute went on for some time.

April 10, 1854

Sir,

I beg leave to say that I addressed a letter to your office Dated on the 14th of December last in Bytown Post Office with reference to a certain lot of land, lot 17 in 2nd Concession of the township of Osgoode where in I have resided this 13 years past, and for which I wrote some ten years ago to the Survey General Office and received an answer that I should petition his Excellency the Governor General in Council, which I neglected to do not knowing how to go about it, not receiving any reply to the letter I sent you I am somewhat uneasy, lest it might have been misled but if you have received it you would confer a favor from me by sending a reply and let me know whether my request will be granted or not.

I have the Honour

to be your most Humble Servant

Patrick Duan

A Letter in regard to the same lot

Patrick McCormick of the township of Osgoode in the County of Carleton Make oath and saideth that he was acquainted with James O'Brien of the said Township of Osgoode, the Claimant and Occupant of lot 17 in the second Concession in said Township, also states that James O'Brien hath been an Occupant for the last 12 years and hath made Improvements there on.

signed Patrick H. Mark McCormick

Sworn before me in the town
of Bytown in the County of Carleton
the fourteenth day of Dec. 1853

John Porter J.P.

On the 6th day of December 1853 James Darcy and James Johnston made oath said that Patrick Duan settled on lot 17, Con 2 in 1841 and that Patrick Duan was the first occupant on said lot and still reside on same, and has a house, barn and stable erected, also a good well and between thirty and forty acres Improvement.

signed James Darcy

James Johnston

On the 15 day of March 1860

agreement was reached, Patrick Duan (Dewan) paid the O'Briens 5 pounds for the East ½ of lot 17, Con 2.

NOTE: MUSEUM OPENING 4, 5, 6th day of May, 1 to 5 p.m. and all weekends,

and holidays thereafter till the end of October.

NOTE: MUSEUM UPGRADING A much needed and attractive roof has been installed on the museum building, paid for in full by the Historical Society \$10,000.00 plus windows. These monies have been accumulated over the last ten years through Grants, good management, and the dedication of members who have spent countless number of hours researching, compiling, indexing. compiling the

history of families, places, Spring Hill Cemetery in the village. Through Maple Syrup and Pancake days, and other activities, we raise money, to continue the work of the Society and to keep a roof over our heads.

IN SEARCH OF THEIR ROOTS

Many are the visitors, and letters received by the Historical Society from descendants of our Pioneer Families to learn something of their family history. In 1983 two couples Patrick Terry, his wife Jane, his sister Barbara, and her husband Arnold Van Beek from Sun Prairie, and Green Bay, Wisconsin visited Osgoode. The following is an itinerary of their visit.

Saturday June 4th 1983.

We entered Ottawa about two p.m. and went directly to the National Archives only to find it closed. We then went over to the Bytown section to the Cathedral of Notre Dame. After trying to communicate with three different French speaking nuns, we discovered that this was not the original church where our great great grandfather and mother were married. Much to our disappointment, the first church had been located where a major traffic interchange now stood. Our next stop was the Ottawa Public Library. There we found many booklets on the early pioneer families of Osgoode. There was no mention of the Terry name in any of them. Jane and Arnie patiently waited while Barbara and I poured over document after document with no results. Finally, in total dejection we set out to find our campgrounds at South Gloucester.

The campground owner was a real talker and he said he had lived in the area for thirty-five years. I asked him if he knew about old St. John the Evangelist church in Osgoode? He said that the town was now called Enniskerry but that the church and cemetery were still there. He gave directions and we set out to find St John's and its cemetery. It was our last hope. Everything else had been so disappointing this day.

The directions were perfect. We found Enniskerry. We found St John's and its cemetery was right alongside. We knew if we didn't find a tombstone, our search for our roots would be over. We all got out of the motorhome and proceeded to check the tombstones. I felt good about this place and went back to the van for some writing material. The Saturday night Mass was still in progress in the church. Having picked up my materials I joined the others in searching for the Terry headstone. Suddenly, Jane shouted "There it is". I got a chill as we all converged on the weathered old obelisk with the Celtic cross marked TERRY. It was incredible. After over one hundred years we had found the burial place of our great great parents and three of their children. We recorded the names and dates of Michael, his wife Margaret, son Michael and two daughters Julia and Bridget. While we were doing this, Arnie was talking to one of the parishioners who had just come out of church after Mass. He told Arnie to go and talk to Father James Whelan, the Pastor, as he kept many of the old church records.

We were met at the door of the Priests house by Father Whelan himself. He invited us to come into his office. After chatting for a while, he produced all of his record books. He warned us that some of the church books had been destroyed in past fires. After a lengthy search, all that he could come up with was the burial records of Michael the son who died in 1889 at age 48. The good Father apologized and then said "I think you should be talking to Mike Daley and told him of our interests, as local historian. Mike Daley's first words when called were "send them over, I was wondering what became of the Terry family. Father Whelan jumped into his car, led us to the Daley farm and then left. Mike Daley met us on the front porch of his neatly kept farmhouse with his wife Betty. They led us into the house where we all gathered around the dining room table where Mike began filling us with all sorts of information that he had on the "Old Pioneer Terry Family". He said, "You passed by the old homestead on your way over here. The old log house still stands. It's a pigsty now. He told us of a poem written in 1915 that spoke of "Terry's by the spring". About eleven thirty, we decided that it was about time to go. Father Whelan's "Mum" had previously invited us to a pancake breakfast at the church hall after "Mass". So, we all agreed to meet at the church steps.

We were no more than seated when from the Altar the good Father made a special welcome to "The descendants of old Mike Terry".

After Mass, we all gathered for pancakes and sausage in the hall across the road from the church. Mike proceeded to introduce us to one and all. William Herbert told of how as a boy he drove his father's cattle to "Terry's Creek" because "the water was so sweet and it never froze". Maning McEvoy offered how a McEvoy family had bought the "Terry place" and had lived there for many years and that it was now owned by Angus O'Rourke. We were the missing link.

1983 (continued - see insert)

(Continued from page four)

they were glad to see us. We made many friends this day and it felt good.

Mike Daley took us to the Osgoode Museum where we were able to determine that Mike Terry had resided in the area since about 1834. We also decided that his son Patt had married, had one child and left about 1854. We copied everything down that Mike Daley could produce for us. The sifting and sorting begins when we return home.

Our next move was to where the "Old Stage Coach Road " crossed the Castor River, The Terry Homestead. We were met at the door by a cautious Angus O'Rourke. After we had convinced him that we were who we said we were, he took us behind the house to show us the pigstye. There covered on one side with sheets of metal, stood the original Terry homestead. Despite the sows wandering around in old Margaret's parlor, you could see that this was once a fine pioneer home. The house was about 30 x 24 and was pridefully constructed of square cut, hand hewn logs about one square foot in size. Standing next to the house was what must have been the Terry barn. The partly skinned log beams spanned over 30 feet and were still as straight as the day they were hoisted into place. Perhaps, they even lived in the loft of the barn while they built the home.

Barbara and I stood in awe of what we had uncovered in the last twenty-four hours. We had found our immigrant forbearers grave. We had found the original pioneer homestead. We had found some very good friends in Mike and Betty Daley. We had found our roots.

I wonder if "Old Mike" wasn't up there looking down on us and saying "Thanks for remembering."

Patrick Terry

