



St. Johns R.C. Church 1854

Osgoode Township

Historical Society & Museum

Hernon School

P.O. Box 83 - Hernon, Ontario

Newsletter

VOLUME 3 1977 NUMBER 1

For the year 1977 we are fortunate to be able to use the picture of a landmark that has been gone for 60 years. The picture of the Church was supplied by our Vice-President, Michael Daley, who has done considerable research on his own family, those related to him, and other aspects of our Township History. He states:

"The picture was taken by Catherine Teresa Dewan, daughter of Patrick Dewan and Ellen Jane Blanchfield, in 1906. The Church of St. John the Evangelist, situated on the Old Prescott Road at Dawson-Inniskerry was built on lots 19 & 20 in concession 3. The stage coach from Bytown to Prescott passed by the door. The Parish was founded by the Oblate Fathers on August 2, 1854. Monsignor Guiges, Bishop of Ottawa, came in person to choose the site for the new Church. The land was donated: three acres by John McEvoy and wife, Anastatia Powers, one acre by Patrick McEvoy and wife Ecelia Doyle. The church, a frame building, 60 by 36 feet, was situated in the midst of the solitude of a great wilderness. It was a mission of South Gloucester for some years with Father Thomas O'Boyle in charge. There were sixty-five Catholic families comfortably situated in the area.

Monsignor Guiges, seeing the goodwill of the people, promised to send a resident Priest if the people would build a house for him. Work began immediately and ended in the summer of 1859. The result was a fine stone Presbytery 36 by 26 feet in size, to which a wooden kitchen was attached.

In 1860, Father Thomas O'Boyle was appointed Parish Priest. The first account in the Register of this new Parish was the Baptism of an infant, Catherine Johnson, on October 12, 1860, signed by Father Thomas O'Boyle."

Additional information in the Census Records of 1860-1 state that the value of the land was about 12 dollars per acre, and the Church and land was valued at \$1040. The building was capable of accommodating 600 people. The 'Stoan' building on the same ground cost about the same.

As early as 1834 we know that there was a stage coach that went from Bytown to Prescott cutting across lots in the third and the second concession. Banford McKendry, son of Wm. McKendry and Fanny Marlin, tells in the story of the McKendry family that his father was on the stage coach, a springless wagon, that went no faster than a man could walk, when he first arrived in Osgoode and got off at the Allens, in the year 1834.

An inscription on a tombstone in the R.C. Cemetery, Metcalfe, states that in March 1827 Archibald McDonell was the first with his family to settle in the wilderness of Osgoode. Mr. Edwin McDonald of St Andrews West is very much interested in this family and has supplied us with valuable information from the Church records there. Archibald and wife Catherine McDonall were married September 26, 1805, and had a family of eight children when they moved in 1827 into Osgoode Township. Shortly afterwards a ninth child, George, was born, and a great granddaughter of George, Mrs. Leinweber of Jasper, Alberta, is planning on sending us her account of her ancestor. Many of us Senior Citizens were asked in our Elementary School days to write a composition on the topic, 'If I Had a Million Dollars.' The situation seemed so improbable that the teachers believed the thought of it would 'stretch our imagination'. Some of our schoolmates can now say, "I have a million dollars". Probably the topic today that would require the greatest imagination on the part of our young people would be "I came to Osgoode in 1827". We wish someone of the McDonell family or others who came here so long ago had kept a diary. We can't imagine the trek of a family of ten through miles of snow taking their belongings with them, and enough provisions to feed

a large hungry family, knowing that when spring came they would be virtually prisoners in the midst of giant trees with no escape through territory cut up by swamps and rivers.

In order to record as much of our past history as possible, the Historical Society feels that it is time we made a special effort to study the early Pioneers and the contribution they have made in order that we might have comforts they never dreamed of. In November 1976 we printed Volume 1 of PIONEER FAMILIES OF OSGOODE TOWNSHIP. We should like to print a volume each month throughout the year and until the supply of family histories runs out. There are ten one-page accounts in each volume and as soon as any ten are ready there will be a new volume printed. Each edition sells for \$1.00 plus 10¢ if mailed. The families in

VOLUME 1

Duncan Campbell
Widow Daley & son Thomas
John Ferguson on the 4th
David Fraser
Timothy Iveson

River Road Kelleys
The Loneys
Hugh McKenna
Henry Robertson
John Stuart (Stewart)

VOLUME 11

John Blanchfield
Truelove Butler
Duncan Carkner
John Donaldson
Anthony Doyle

John Ferguson on the 6th
The Herberts
George Hunt
Wm McKendry
James Quail

Other families in preparation include Anderson, Boyd, Campbell, Cleland, Dempsey, Dewan, Dow, Ferguson, Kelley, Latimer, Simpson, Scrivens, Taylor, Reaney, McCaul, McDonald, McDonell, Meldrum, McVey, Crerar, McEvoy, McQuire, Wood, Fader, McNab, Kearns, Saunders, McConnell, Kennedy, Reid, Shepperd, McLaurin, Galbraith.

We need the support of all our members to contact as many families as possible to assure that some one is providing a family story. If there were several members in an early family, each member should be recorded separately.

A year ago we printed a letter from sons James and John Taylor to their parents John Taylor and Sarah Nixon, just before the parents left Omagh, Ireland, for Canada. Another letter supplied by Herbert Donaldson Taylor written by this same John Jr. to another John, a nephew, informs us of local conditions in the Prescott Road area over 100 years ago. John, about 45 at the time, was married to Emily Elizabeth Dillon (1837-1880).

West Osgoode, August 18th, 1875.

Dear John I now sit down to write unto you a few lines to let you know how we are at present for my part I have been this last few years much the same... but i must be still wasting away. I am nothing but skin and bone... little Joseph was intending to write you a letter this while back but he is all over and could not do so without some help... You will have hard work to make this out being wrote with the pencil and my lame hand - my right hand is drawn up this last 4 years and I can write none except with the pencil but I expect you will be able to make it out through time and no stranger will see it. I tell you John the night that Joseph got your letter at the office he came home in great heart and asked us to guess what he had in his pocket... you are intending going to William this fall ... if you can spare the time you might take a run over to see us before you go west - you spend nothing in tobacco or whiskey nor anything foolish I know therefore you may come to see us before you go - had you been stopping where you are its most likely some of the boys would have gone over there soon I was intend when they would get a little schooling to have let some of them go over to you and you could have had a care over them. Joseph is going to make a very smart boy I believe that is if he got a little schooling... James is going to be a stout boy he is stouter than Joe by far... James is living over in North Gower with one of the Thompsons a very fine place he has \$50 these summer 6 months. Lizey is in Wm John Moses this last year. There are a good many changes took place since you were here some deaths and some marriages. Mrs Grant died a few days ago of consumption. Wm Knowles but perhaps you heard loose his wife and 3 of his children this last 3 or 4 years from consumption. Jane Armstrong that is William wife is dead she died this spring she lived in Kemptville for some time

previous to her death we have not heard anything from William this long time he is in Missouri if alive - the scarlet fever took a great many children of a year ago this spring - we lost the finest child we had - she had a very handsome head of hair - so beautiful in ringlets ... her name was Agnes she was 5 years and 8 months old when she died I must let you know something about the season we had a very wet spring here to the middle of May and the drought set in and we had no rain to the 24th of June when there came up a great storm it was frightful to hear and see about five o'clock P.M. I was watching it coming it came like snow along the ground rolling and when it struck the house the chamber window blew in and the roof was almost taken off it started a few of the rafters and shook it to the foundation - it took the roof off the barn and 2 round of the logs part of the roof was carried 8 or 10 rods into the field it blew down many fine buildings and swept the woods before it wherever it went - I heard of no lives lost but a good many cattle in the woods our place looked dismal after the storm to see the fences all level to the ground we had to close the cows in the barn over night and since then I may say we have had a wet season... (to be continued)

The little Joe mentioned became a well known carpenter in the Township as did his son Joe who worked with him and were distinguished by 'Old Joe' and 'Young Joe'. With five Joseph Taylors in the Township at one time each needed his own nickname.

Wm Knowles' property was east of the Prescott Road along the present Dalmeny Road. In 1871 there were 8 young children in the family. The oldest son John later lived on 'Windy Hill'. Hugh Cameron lived there too for a time after coming across from the Quebec side. Son John Knowles had to report a death in the family 14 Sept. 1879 when brother James age 12 died of consumption after being sick three years.

Some of the children who died of scarlet fever were:

A son of Mathew Gleason - Patrick James, age 4 years, 1 month, sick 6 days, who died 2 April 1874; two children of Henry York - Mary, sick 4 weeks died 15 May, 1874, - Brown, sick 5 weeks, died 21 May 1874; two children of William Wood, Marvelville - Andrew, age 4 years and 4 months, sick 2 days, died 29 June 1874, and Chas Lindsay, age 1 year and 8 mos, died 4 July 1874. A daughter of John L. McDiarmid, Dalmeny - Mary Jane, age 1 year and 9 months, sick 6 days, died 25 June 1875; a daughter of Abraham Guy - Isabella, age 9 months, died 10 February 1875; and Mary Knowles, age 11 years and 11 months, died of scarlet fever 15 January - sick 3 days. As well, 2 young men in the neighbourhood died of consumption: - Alex Allen, son of James, died 27 July 1875 age 26 (a blacksmith); and Patrick Cangle died May 4, 1876, age 24 - sick 12 months - farmer.

John Taylor never realized that his letter written over one hundred years ago would be read by so many 'strangers'. We are pleased that some people have preserved these simple records of the past. We would remind you all that Herb Taylor is anxious to produce a Photographic History of Osgoode that will represent all aspects of life and he and his committee are looking for pictures of barn raisings, prize animals, cheese making, old buildings, etc., etc., etc.

The slate of officers for the Osgoode Township Historical Society and Museum for the year 1977 is as follows:

Past-President - Gerald Hill
 President - Connie Sallans
 1st Vice-President - Michael Daley
 2nd Vice-President - Harvey Linton
 Secretary - Harry Anderson
 Treasurer of Historical Society - Jennie Dow
 Treasurer of Museum Section - Margaret Robb
 Curator & Archivist - Arlowa Ferguson; assistant - Frances Iveson

Program Convenor - Vivian Shorey

Committees:

Social - S. M. Lee, Alice Craig
 Reception - Olive Anderson, Ann Carkner
 Photography - Herbert Taylor, Katie Campbell
 Publications - Elizabeth Stuart, Jessie Robertson, Dan Scharf

Some of the Statistics from the Financial Statement of the Historical Society - (The Museum pays 75% of the Maintenance Costs and 25% of the Stationary and Office Supplies.)

RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURES	
Balance Jan. 1, 1976	\$ 4,920.72	Grant to Museum	\$ 1,634.81
Memberships 1976	192.00	Hydro	182.02
Memberships 1977		Heating	723.73
prepaid	108.00	Insurance	387.00
Bank Interest	114.10	General Maintenance	294.61
Received from Museum		Office Supplies	407.07
for Maintenance &		Office Work	361.16
Office Work	1,417.59	Advertising, Postage, Misc.	90.25
		Conventions & Research	191.50
		Equipment	100.23
Total Receipts	\$ 6,752.41		
Total Expenditures	4,372.38	Total expenditures	\$ 4,372.38
Balance Jan. 1, 1977	\$ 2,380.03		

Jennie Dow,
Treasurer.

The Financial Statement for the Museum will appear in the April Newsletter.

At the time of printing this Newsletter there are 82 paid-up members. We would remind you that the membership fee has been increased to \$2.00 for those who receive the Newsletter. A second membership in a family is \$1.00.

During these winter months we are thinking of Spring and of Sugar Making time. Again this year the Historical Society plans to sponsor Pancake Days at the Stuart Sugar Bush on the Dalmeny Road - County Road #4 - the first two weekends in April, Friday and Saturday, April 1, 2, 8, 9.

As mentioned before, we are celebrating in 1977 the 150th year of the known settlement of Osgoode Township. Before any Township could be settled, the boundaries had to be defined, the name decided upon, the land surveyed, Patents given out, Settlement Duties performed, and Shanties erected while this work was progressing. The Land Surveyor, William McDonald of Cornwall, who finished the actual survey of the Township 30 years after it was partially surveyed, was granted, on November 16, 1826, a great deal of land as compensation for his work.

concession 5, lots 22, 24, 31;	concession 9, lots 20, 25, 30, 31;
concession 6, lots 3, 5, 23, 41;	concession 10, lots 1, 20, 29, 34,
concession 7, lots 5, 8, 12;	broken lot 43;
concession 8, lots 4, 14, 16;	concession 11, broken lots 16, 24.

This made a total of 4510 acres of Osgoode Township that belonged to Wm. McDonald of Cornwall, and the fact that he was from Cornwall no doubt accounts for the fact that a large number of early settlers came from that district, and many deeds have his name as the original owner. Certainly after 1827 there was a continual influx of settlers with a wonderful variety of backgrounds.

The Government has considered it wise to set aside one day in the year to remind all Canadians of our Heritage - the day is February 24. Our Society has decided to hold a special OPEN HOUSE at the Museum on Saturday, February 12, 1977, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. when we shall have a HERITAGE TEA and BAKE SALE. We urge as many as possible to be present and to bring your friends. We would appreciate a contribution of some baking to our Bake Table.

Copies of PIONEER FAMILIES - and our new souvenir pens - will be available, as will copies of Newsletters.