



Dr. Ballantyne in Vernon

## Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

Vernon School

P.O. Box 83 - Vernon, Ontario

### Newsletter

VOLUME 6 1980 NUMBER 3

The community which we used to call OSGOODE STATION, now OSGOODE VILLAGE, has recently enjoyed a Centennial Celebration. Mrs. Gordon Blair writes of the spirit of the varied festivities.

"Margaret Robb's book, FROM THEN TO NOW, set the theme of the week-long celebration of the Osgoode Post Office. From the first sound of the Osgoode Township High School Band on May 24, when, as well, the R.C.M.P. performed their Musical Ride, until the last note of "The Real McCoy" at the wind-up dance, every event was well attended. After two pancake breakfasts, two chicken barbecues, a bean supper, a strawberry social, and a beef-on-a-bun supper, it is back to mother's cooking.

There was a real spirit of friendliness and of good fun throughout the celebration, a spirit which we hope will continue so that newcomers may have a sense of belonging, and those who have been here for many years may have a sense of pride in all that has been accomplished.

The Centennial committee and all who helped are certainly to be commended for the fine job they did."

Grace Saunders Blair

Indeed it was a great community effort, and bystanders caught the contagious spirit mentioned above. Mention has been made of the short history of the 100 years. Over 40 pictures portray many aspects of the past, and most of these pictures were processed by our good friend and member, Wilf Kearns of 2069 Saunderson Dr., Ottawa. He restores old pictures at reasonable rates. If you do not know the excellent quality of his work, phone him at 613-733-6325. A pictorial record of the activities themselves would make a splendid book. There was a miniature Museum in each of the Churches and Public buildings. At the school we saw a great variety of artifacts: there was a very old hand-made cow bell, an upright galvanized bathtub that has been in the Mussell family for 150 years, an instruction book printed in 1808, a small 150-year old picture album belonging to Michael Murdock, a rifle stamped 1864, a double-barrelled hand gun from U.E.L. days, fine cutlery and china brought from the old country, and many more items. There was the Robb Orchestra playing for the square-dancers, the finery displayed at the fashion show, the busy quilters, the Senior Citizens, the Osgoode Township Men's Choir, and the present Postmaster and his gifted nephew leading a large group in old-time songs.

Stewart Cleland, popular Postman, son of John who was the 10th and youngest child of Robert Cleland and his first wife, Sophia Eliza Wright, can trace his ancestry back to the Wrights of Kent, England, 1600, where the farm was beside that of General Wolfe's family. Benjamin Wright and his wife, Eliza Allen, are buried in the old Methodist Cemetery on the Old Prescott Road. Benjamin's uncle, Philemon, founder of Hull, has recently had a plaque erected in his honour in Boston.

A Directory of Osgoode Landowners and Tenants (alphabetical) for 1896 gives names, lots, concessions, and postal addresses. The concessions number from the Rideau to the Russell boundary and are Broken front to number 11. The lots number 1 to 44 from Gloucester southward. Below, we give the post offices for some of the over 1000 names;

Edward Boyd, KARS bf/25

Jas. Buckles, OSGOODE STA. c1/28

Wm. Kenny, WEST OSGOODE c2/39

Jas. Blanchfield, WALLER c3/26

Michael Daly, DAWSON c3/14

Chas. Bray, BRAY'S CROSSING c1/15

M. K. Dickinson, MANOTICK M/8

Henry Tomkins, MANOTICK STA. c3/1

Wm. Downey, SOUTH GLOUCESTER c4/5

John Cahill, GREELY c4/5

John Hawkins, LIME BANK c2/1

Alex Leclair, CORNWALL c4/17

J. P. Grant, DUNBAR c10/24

Harvey Bower, KEMPTVILLE c1/31

Archibald Alexander, OTTAWA c9/3

Charles Acres, VERNON c6/43

Wm. Kelso, REIDS MILLS c1/40

Jas. Donaldson, DALMENY c3/35

Samuel Fisher, METCALFE c9/24

Geo. Anderson, KENMORE c9/32

Daniel Rutherford, ORMOND 9/44

Sam Brunton, Marvelville c10/35

John Cochrane, RUSSELL c11/24

Finlay McNeil, SPRING HILL c7/31

Wm. Dempsey, North Branch c11/22

Jas. Brown, EASTMAN'S SPRINGS c7/2

John Kimmond, RAMSAY'S CORS c9/2

James Robinson, NORTH GOWER c1/28

Wm. Eggar, MORRISBURG c9/28

Henry Wood, BILLINGS BRIDGE bf/38

Michael Fenning, NON-RESIDENT c10/12

Since the turn of the Century, it is evident that the Post Office addresses have changed a great deal. Another feature that is apparent is the frequency of certain family names. Most names appear at least 4 or 5 times in the old Directory. Below is a list of those which appear 7 times or more:

- 7 times: BURNS, HERBERT, KERR, MCCALLUM, SCHARF, WADDELL, WILSON  
 8 times: HALL, LONEY, PORTEOUS, SAUNDERS, MCLAREN, SMITH  
 9 times: ALLEN, CAMERON, MCEVOY, WALLACE  
 10 times: KENNEDY, STEWART  
 11 times: CLARK, GRANT, MCDIARMID, O. CONNOR, STANLEY  
 12 times: O'BRIEN - James, James, James jr., James sr., John, J.W., Matthew, Michael, Patrick, Patrick sr., Richard, William  
 15 times: YORK - Andrew, Bernard, B.D., Charles, Ephraim, Henry sr., H.D., Isaac, James, James jr., John, J.W., Nancy, William, F.S.  
 22 times: CAMPBELL - Alpin, Archibald, Colin, Daniel, Daniel, David, Hugh, John, John, J.A., J.D., J.M., Mrs. J. M., Mrs. J.P., J.R., J.S., Matthew, Miss M., Peter, Robert, Thomas, W.F.

In the wall of the neighbouring house, Michael Daley found a letter addressed to his uncle Terrence Daley, Sec-Treas of the School Section at that time. The address, HERBERT CORNERS, was stroked out and R.R. 1 Osgoode inserted. The letter was from Thos. Jamieson, Strathcona Avenue, Ottawa. Those of us who were in Elementary School during the 2nd decade of this century well remember the awe in which we looked upon Mr. Jamieson, the School Inspector of the time. This austere man took his responsibilities very seriously. When Mr. Thos. P. Maxwell succeeded him, the tone of the inspection changed completely and both teachers and pupils seemed to enjoy the encounter.

Michael has, as well, another letter addressed to Mr. James Downey, HERBERT CORNERS, Sept. 24, 1908. Inside is a beautifully printed invitation (in green).

### LEAP YEAR PARTY

under the auspices of the young ladies  
of St. John's Temperance Society and held in

ST. JOHN'S TEMPERANCE HALL, OSGOODE

(Prescott Road) on  
Monday, September 28th, 1908

#### FIRST-CLASS ORCHESTRA

Gentleman \$1.00 Ladies, in charge, free

Three Door Prizes

N.B. The slightest sign of infringement upon rules and principles of St. John's Temperance Society or of infraction of the Local Option By-Law of the Township will be severely dealt with.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE

As shown by the artifacts that came to light in the Osgoode Celebration, there are still countless items of historical interest in most of our homes. George Neville sent us a clipping: Special to the Globe and Mail

#### PLAID PRESENT

Suit that sailed from Scotland returned by pioneer's descendant  
EDINBURGH - A Malton man, last of a line of Scottish pioneers, has astonished the staff of a Perthshire Museum by walking in unannounced with a piece of his heritage.

Alexander Cooke went to the Museum of Scottish Tartans in Comrie to present a tartan dress suit brought to Canada in 1817 by his great-great grandfather, John Stewart.

Mr. Cooke took museum curator Dr. Micheil Macdonald by surprise when he walked in and took the suit out of a suitcase. "The suit has been handed down from generation to generation," he said. I remember as a boy seeing it aired once a year and then carefully packed away again...I decided the suit should go back to Scotland.

The suit, in Royal Stewart tartan, has been dated by one expert at about 1790. "I've never seen anything quite like this in Scotland before." Dr. Macdonald said. For its age the suit is absolutely in superb condition. This is undoubtedly a great treasure for Scotland."

George sent another article concerning the dispute over the plaid worn by the men who stormed the Plains of Abraham. More will be written later.

There is a very special celebration being observed in Canada in the year 1980 - the 75th anniversary of the formation of the two provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan as part of The Dominion of Canada in 1905. Our Township has a special interest in these celebrations. Mrs. Audrey Leinweber, great granddaughter of Archibald and Catherine McDonnell, recently visited the Museum and presented the President and Secretary with two letters. One, a personal one, expressed delight at being present in the Township during the time of the week-long celebration in Osgoode Village. The roots of her ancestors grew deep

here. The other letter to our President was from Mr. R. W. Dowling. Part of the letter reads:

*Dear Sir:*

*On behalf of the 75th Anniversary Commission and the Province of Alberta, I would like to extend our greetings and best wishes to your Historical Society ...I should like to extend my congratulations.*

*We are aware that Alberta's first Premier, A.C. Rutherford, was born in your Township and therefore your work is very important to us.*

Mrs. Leinweber left us some commemorative Alberta pins and reminded us of the proud name our Township bears. By the Constitutional Act of 1791, our Country was divided into Upper and Lower Canada. In 1792, Wm. Osgoode was sent out as the first Chief Justice for Upper Canada. He observed that some of the Loyalists had brought their slaves along with them. In the first Parliament it was decreed that never again would anyone enter Canada in the category of slave. Those who were already here were to be given their freedom when they reached the age of 25 years, and Loyalists were to be given free land regardless of colour. Thus Canada was the first place in the British Empire to outlaw Slavery. It took a Civil War 70 years later in the U.S.A. to get the same freedom decreed in Parliament by Wm. Osgoode after whom our Township was named.

It is true that Alexander Cameron Rutherford was born in Osgoode Township on Feb. 2, 1857, probably in a shanty, the son of James Rutherford and Elizabeth Cameron. The tombstone of the parents in the Ormond Cemetery states that they were born in Aberfeldy, Perthshire. Alex was born shortly after the family arrived here. Grace, Peter, Daniel, James had been born in Scotland. Younger sisters were Jessie and Christy. In 1861 they were living in a log house on lot 44 con 9, part of the original Grant to Donald McIntosh and Christy McArthur. A beautiful stone house was erected about 100 years ago and it is being occupied by young McDonald relatives. The Rutherford name left the Township with the recent death of Laura Grace, but a silver tray hanging in the Ormond Baptist Church is a memorial to the many, many years she served at the organ and piano there. Alex went to the "Scotch School" about 2 miles from his home. Later he taught in the same school, as the parents of some of our members. As a lawyer, he had offices in Ottawa and Kemptville before moving to South Edmonton, Strathcona. Many of our documents carry his signature.

The Rutherford family settled amongst relatives at Ormond, many of whom had come to Osgoode many years before. Alexander McDonald, Pioneer Missionary to Manitoba in 1873, who later lived and died in Edmonton, was a cousin. Alec McDonald's grandfather, John McDonald of Bolfracks Land in the Parish of Fortingal, married Janet Menzies December 1, 1798. John's sister, Elizabeth, married Duncan Cameron of Logierat Parish April 22, 1798. Another sister, Grace McDonald, gr-gr-gr-grandmother of the writer, married Alexander McNab 15 Feb. 1798.

Alex Rutherford was elected to the Legislature of the North-West in 1902 and worked for Provincial Status. His selection as first Premier assured that Edmonton, not Calgary, would be the Capital, and hard feelings resulted. He had run on the slogan "Rutherford, Railroads, Reliability." A book given us by Daniel Scharf, "WHO'S WHO AND WHY", gives a picture of him and a list of the various honours he received. The Hon. P. M. Dewan, who has done so much for his country in agriculture, both in our neighbourhood and beyond, is one of the few people who have remembered Alex Rutherford. He writes:

*"It was a fall day in October, 1909, when I first saw and listened to Alex Rutherford. The scene was Metcalfe Fair. There were two other speakers in the stand. The one was Mr. Dow, who was the chairman of the day. The third was the Honourable Charles Murphy, Secretary of State for Canada and Federal Member of the Commons for the area. For eloquence, Murphy was in first place, but Rutherford was heard with most interest....As an Osgoode boy in my 19th year at the time, I remember the impression it made upon me and how I then became a follower of Rutherford...."*

When Mrs. Leinweber was photographed as she presented letters to Michael Daley and Harry Anderson, she would not realize that her great grandfather and Harry's gr-gr-grandfather had been close friends and had fought together in the War of 1812. John Anderson, living in Osgoode in 1832, was one of those suggested by Arch'd McDonell as a suitable first Commissioner for Osgoode Township.

We extend our sympathy to Harry in the loss of his sister Ella May, a teacher, wife of Austin Bristol of Madoe. Ella, born at Brouseville, was a widow for 50 years. She was well known in our area.

In the October Newsletter we shall write of other young men, born in Osgoode Township, who "Went West" and took with them their philosophy of hard work and reliability. John Campbell Bowen, a Lieut-Governor of Alberta, was the son of Peter Bowen, born Ireland, and Margaret, (Nancy M. in the census) daughter of Rudolph Paupst (Pops, Bapst, etc.) and Ann Wood, both of U.E. Stock, German and English.

Effie Cameron Morris, secretary of the Vernon Pioneer Days group, tells us of some of the highlights of the program for the last weekend in July.

*PIONEER DAYS Celebrations will be held in Vernon July 25th, 26th, and 27th. A Friday evening programme will feature ball games between young and old, and a programme by the Vernon Gay Nineties. A giant parade Saturday afternoon will have floats from far and near. In the evening there will be a chicken barbecue followed by a street dance with country music. On Sunday morning there will be a Heritage Church Service in the Presbyterian Church, and in the afternoon a variety program will be held on the Museum grounds, a bicycle decorating contest for children, and a children's playground. The Arts and Crafts tent will feature displays and Demonstrations, Saturday and Sunday.*

Herb Stewart is planning another Tour of Scotland in 1981. Reports from the Osgoode tour prompted the Superannuated Teachers of Ontario to ask for something similar. Members of our Society are welcome to join the STO tour and will be hearing more about it later.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Jan. 1, 1979 - Dec. 31, 1979

EXPENSES		RECEIPTS	
Furnace Oil and Plan	\$ 1,005.65	Provincial Grant - 1978	\$ 1,365.59
Hydro	221.80	Museum, share of maintenance,	
Repairs (\$107.81) Grass (\$112.)	219.81	donations, printing etc.	5,371.13
Publications - printed	1,301.16	Memberships	545.00
- purchased	496.42	Pioneer Days	280.02
- Families	204.34	Tax Refund	185.17
Heritage Day and Extension	436.00	Donation for Heritage	75.00
Equipment	415.77	Exchange and credit memo	6.44
Advertising	295.89	Bank Interest	99.27
Clerical and Newsletter	634.62		
Stationery	420.88	Total Receipts	\$ 7,927.62
Postage	96.87	Total Expenses	5,863.34
Insurance	95.00		
Membership, Ont. Hist. Soc.	10.00	Excess of Income over Expense	\$ 2,064.28
Service Charge	8.13	Balance from 1978	83.53
Rent	1.00		
	<hr/>		
	\$ 5,863.34	Total	<hr/> <u>\$ 2,147.81</u>
		Bonus Savings	\$ 1,599.27
		Chequing Account	548.00
		On hand	<hr/> .54
		Book Value as of	
		Dec. 31, 1979	\$ 2,147.81

Jennie Dow, Treasurer of Historical Society.

The Osgoode Township Men's Choir, who had their first practice a little over a year ago, have delighted audiences on many occasions. We are proud of the faithfulness of the members in turning out for practice and of the inspiration given by the talented leader, Archie Smith. Later, this year, the choir plans to cut a record of some of their favourite selections. We are sure that there will be a demand for the music of this popular group.