



LUMBERING IN CANADA.

Osgoode Township
 Historical Society & Museum
 at the
 Old Vernon School
 Newsletter

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Lumbering in the Valley:

By the mid 1800's, Bytown was the supply depot for the timber trade of the Upper Ottawa Valley. Its lumbermen cut the white pine in the woods along its banks and up its feeder streams, squared it, or merely trimmed off the branches and rolled it

into the water, once afloat the timbers and loose logs were linked together in cribs, which grouped in large rafts, were floated either to the riverside sawmills or to the waiting sailing ships at Quebec.

At that time there were 15 sawmills in the Ottawa Valley, two of them in Bytown. The lumber these mills cut was either used locally or sent down the river by barge, bound for the eastern United States via Lake Champlain and the Hudson River. The barge owners had a monopoly. Their rates made it difficult for Canadian lumber to compete in the U.S. market- besides the river was frozen for five or six months of the year and no lumber could be shipped. The sawmill could not get logs, and they too, closed.

Thomas McKay, the scottish born contractor whose profits from the Rideau Canal had grown to include a group of mills at Rideau Falls and the nearby home which was to become the residence of Canada's Governor General, regarded both the barge owners' monopoly and his inability to operate his mills year-round as challenges, he began to promote the idea of a railroad. Thus it was that a charter was granted on May 10, 1850 for the construction of the Bytown and Prescott Railroad.

Michael Daley

Note of Interest:

*First Osgoode Township Council—
 21 January 1850*

Reeve: Arthur Allen

Councillors: Peter McNab, John Lee, Thomas Cangla, John McDermied

Clerk: Thomas Bailey

March 11, 1850: By-law to divide the township into five electoral wards, to be known as...

North West Ward
 North East Ward
 South East Ward

South West Ward
 Middle East Ward

Bob Usher

100 Years Ago: from Assessment Roll of Osgoode Twp.

Steam Boilers 1894

Owner	Location	#	Use
Duncan Carkner	Kenmore	2	sawmill
Judson Krup	Metcalfe	1	tannery
John Higgins	Metcalfe	1	plaining & grinding
James Grant	Metcalfe	1	pump making
Thompson Eastman	Metcalfe	1	cheese making
William Craig	N.W.1/4 L16 C10	1	cheese making
William Eager	Kenmore	3	cheese making
	Marvelville, & S. of Osgoode Station		
Donald McArthur	Kenmore	1	plough factory
John M. Campbell	Vernon	2	sawing & grinding
Ambrose Schwerlfeger	Lot 27 Con 3	1	sawmill
William Reid	Reid's Mills	2	sawing & cheese making

Bob Usher

Archivist Report:

On May 26, an enthusiastic group of Grade 7 students and teachers from Metcalfe Public School came to visit the museum and agricultural building. This was part of their course "Country Living".

The first half of the class (approx. 45 students) arrived in the morning with the remainder in the afternoon. Students were instructed on the process of tracing their family tree by Shirley Lowe. Bonnie Foster and myself described artifacts in the main building that was of particular interest to the group. Bob Usher and Murray Little gave interesting information on the farm implements in the agricultural annex.

Several students returned to do more research and have lent us posters, family trees and games made for this project. These are on display at the museum in the study room. Although it was a cold and rainy day everyone had a memorable day.

Donna Bowen

Scotch School S.S. No. 12: - "110th Anniversary"

How interesting it is to delve into the paths of history, and in so doing, so one often recalls his or her early days of education. Mine was in a little red brick school house in Osgoode Township- S.S. No. 12. It was called the Scotch School primarily because it was a Scottish settlement.

Early settlers realized the importance of education, so a site of learning was established as soon as possible. In 1838, a building of log construction was erected, then as the community grew, a better one followed. In 1907 this was replaced by the remaining structure, even though it is no longer used as a school. It is now a family dwelling!

The one particular year I am reminded of is 1948. My father the late Robert Little was at the time secretary-treasurer of the school section. Along with trustees of the board, they decided to have an anniversary, which would be the 110th year. The interest throughout the community was tremendous.

Invitations were sent out to those who were far away, and notes were put up in local meeting places. On July 24, 1948, almost 500 men, women and children gathered to celebrate the occasion.

Many who received their primary education here went on to the halls of higher learning, one of such was the late D.B. McTavish a Carleton County judge; another, the late Honourable Alexander Rutherford, first Premier of the province of Alberta. Judge McTavish's father was one of the first teachers in the first log house of S.S. No. 12. Dr. McGregor Fraser became a professor at Acadia University of Wolfville, Nova Scotia; also Dr. James Stewart of McGill University attended this school. These are only a few of the distinguished people who received their early education in this one room school house. The quality of education here was apparently adequate.

Many returned from as far away as Saskatchewan, New York, Montreal, etc. We are planning to photo-copy the guest book of that day and in the near future it can be viewed at the museum in Vernon.

Murray Little

The land for the above school house was donated by Peter McEwen one of the early settlers in the neighbourhood (1830). One half acre on the South West corner of Lot 35 Con 9 was donated in 1838, and a building of log construction was erected. Some time later another half acre was purchased from the McEwen family. The present structure dates from 1907, and is now the family dwelling of Jim and Gloria Benedict, but is still known as the Scotch School. The adjacent farm is still under the name of the McEwen.

In Search of Their Roots:

Earlier this year the museum received a plea for information from Mr. L. White of Rochdale, England. Mr. White wanted the museum's help in uncovering any information concerning his great-aunt Lydia White, known locally as Lida. Of particular importance was the locating of Lydia's grave, as Mr. White sought the bonding to one's own past, experienced when finding the grave of a long lost ancestor. This emotion had been experienced earlier by Mr. White, when he found the grave site of Lida's sister Suzan.

Lida and Suzan came to Canada from Manchester, England on May 17, 1897. Suzan married into the Bellinger family. Lida however, remained single while working in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Uriah Saunders. Lida dwelt with the Saunders from June 2, 1897 until the time of her death from T.B.(consumption) in 1910.

Although all of this preceding information had been known to Mr. White, he was unsure exactly when Lida died, and had no information as to the location of her grave. This information was provided to Mr. White in a letter sent by R.S. Usher during March of this year. The letter revealed to Mr. White that Lida had been laid to rest at Elmview Cemetery in Kars and that she had died on November 15, 1910 at the age

of 21. The museum held this information in two publications- Who's Where: A Guide to the Cemeteries of Rideau Township and in a listing of the graves in Elmview Cemetery, published by the Ontario Genealogical Society. The letter also revealed that Lida had lived with the Saunders on the SW 1/4 of Lot 39 Con 1 in Osgoode Township. We sincerely hope the letter sent to Mr. White will place to rest all his uncertainties and that any future quests to discover his past will be successful.

David Garby

A Tribute to Elizabeth Stuart:

May the 14, 1994 the District of Russell Orange Lodge No. 5 hosted their 2nd annual Certificate of Merit dinner in the Kenmore Community centre at 1 p.m. The original idea of the Certificate of Merit was put forth by Worshful Brother Mark Alexander in February 1990 and after being passed through various levels of Orange Lodge it was finally approved by the Grand Orange Lodge of Canada in June 1991.

The recipients for this year's awards were Elizabeth Stuart for her efforts and involvement in starting the Osgoode Twp. Historical Society in 1972, also for efforts in organizing the Osgoode Twp. Male Choir.

Ida Craig for her years of dedication and involvement with the Metcalfe Agricultural Society as treasurer-manager, and her church and community.

Gerald Bennett, Osgoode Township Fire Chief for his dedication to the Fire Department staff, and efforts to educate and teach fire safety, and his concern for the residents of this township.

Elizabeth Stuart was born on the fifty stony acres of land that she now lives on- the only piece of property along the Dalmeny Road that has not changed hands during this century. Her early education was gained at Dalmeny Public School, Kenmore Continuation School, Lisgar Collegiate and Ottawa Normal School.

With five years teaching experience in continuation school she was prepared through summer school and correspondence courses to enter Queen's University at Kingston in 1931, and graduated the following year with an Honours degree in English and History. She was fortunate in getting a job at Tweed High School at a salary of \$1800 (annual) which was reduced 10% in October (the year of the Depression). Ten years later she would be paid a salary of \$1725 which she had received as principal at Lyndhurst before entering university.

In 1944 when teaching Physical Education at Peterborough Collegiate she was unfortunate in being laid up for months with arthritis when the wrong medication was given for pneumonia. During four years spent in Kingston, she regained her health, taught veterans and studied three years at Queen's- also teaching Junior Math for those three years; graduating with first class Honours in 1949 having passed her actuarial exams.

As her mother suffered poor health she returned home and worked for four years at the National Research Council. When South Carleton High School opened at Richmond, she returned to teaching as Head of the Mathematics Department there, and later at Quinte Secondary School in Belleville, and at Thousand Island Secondary School in Brockville. For two summer sessions she taught at the Teachers College in Kingston.

In 1968 Elizabeth retired from teaching and began a new life as a farmer. To those countless number of students that came her way, I am sure, Elizabeth you have left an indelable imprint in the minds of many.

In November 1972 Elizabeth, local historian and genealogist whose roots run deep in Osgoode Township along with Miss Louise Stearns of Marvellville had a mutual interest (their search for their ancestors). They soon found people in many parts of the township with the same interest. A historical group was necessary. The New Horizon Historical Group (now Osgoode Twp. Historical Society) was formed with Elizabeth Stuart as the first president and Miss Louise Stearns the secretary (Miss Stearns passed away August 30, 1973).

Today the collection of artifacts, family history, census, church and school records etc., are a major source of informative information for all those who visit or research their family genealogy or other aspects of our township history; and an agricultural museum that stands second to none in Eastern Ontario. "All these provide a link with the Past and continuity into the Future."

In May 1979 Elizabeth Stuart coaxed a modest group of fifteen men into singing as a male choir to celebrate the township's 150th anniversary- men from the surrounding countryside, many of them farmers. Mr. Archie Smith, Director of the Osgoode Baptist Church Choir at that time, agreed to direct this assorted group with Miss Iris Ferguson of Dalmeny as their accompanist. Today this noted Osgoode Male Choir consists of 55 to 60 men performs in many of our towns and villages in eastern Ontario, and have recently returned from their second tour of Holland.

Yes, we can look with pride and affection and gratitude to Elizabeth Stuart, and the many others who under her "guiding hand" have accomplished so much in so short a time. Michael Daley

Road Making in Osgoode Twp: excerpts from Twigs of the Oak -D.G.Cameron

When the pioneers had each cleared a small piece of land and had erected a shanty as a temporary abode for their families they still felt the urge of other necessities of both family and community life. Those whose land not in close proximity to the water courses were under the immediate necessity of digging wells. Next to that came the opening up of the surveyed roadways, not only those that would affect communication between the several homesteads, but also to provide the most convenient outlet for the whole settlement to the frontier centre of commerce.

Several years before any form of organization had been affected for such purposes, the men had commenced opening roadways nearest to their own homesteads. William York began at his place Lot 21 Con 9 and worked westward clearing away the brush and smaller timber, thus making it possible for a yoke of oxen to haul a sleigh along the swerving trail, avoiding large trees and other obstacles. Archibald McDonell also started clearing from his place on the eighth concession, northward about a mile, to the point now marked by the village of Metcalfe; thence eastward to meet his neighbour, making together a distance of almost two and a half miles. During the following year, Mr. McDonell assisted by Messrs. MacIntosh, Hanna, McRostie, Daniel Cameron and others opened the road from the Metcalfe corner westward a mile and a quarter to the seventh concession, thence southward toward the Springhill corner, while Samuel Loney, Dennis Kearns, Robert Grant, Duncan Cameron, Peter McLaren and Richard Hall cleared from York's corner, southward on the tenth concession to the South Branch of the Castor, at which point the village of Kenmore now stands, making a total of almost eight miles of local communication.

Thus until 1832 there appeared to be no immediate prospect of any means of communication with the outside world except by the cumbersome routes by which they had entered. Cornwall was about fifty-five miles away, could be reached during the winter by following the winding rivers for more than half the distance. Other settlements along the St. Lawrence lying directly south of Osgoode were about thirty miles distant and accessible only when the swamps were frozen. This situation became a problem for the whole settlement.

While Duncan Cameron was becoming as anxious as any of them with regard to a convenient outlet, he was also wrestling with another problem which was altogether his own. His lot No. 25 in the 9th Con. was well watered by the middle branch of the Castor. It was a good lot as were also the adjoining lots to the north and south, but beyond in both directions the roadway lay in deep miry swamp. He was then the only settler on that part of the ninth concession. The task of clearing a mile and a quarter to connect with the other roads was one that offset the advantages which first attracted his attention, a good well watered lot.

But an incident occurred early in that autumn (1832?) which threw a flood of light upon both problems and brought fresh courage to the whole settlement regarding a general outlet.

Mr. McDonell had the largest clearing in the township at that period. In addition to his oxen he had several cows and other cattle of various ages, that roamed through the forest during the summer months, but usually returned to the homestead each evening. One evening, however, they were all missing and no trace of them had been found when night had approached. He consequently decided to start early next morning to seek them out at the other homesteads, but when he arose he was delighted to find them in their usual resting place. On approaching to make sure that all were there he was much surprised to find with them a pair of oxen that did not belong to him. They were free from the yoke, but bore evidence of having recently been at work. What puzzled him was the fact that he, knowing all the oxen in the neighbourhood, had never seen these animals before. Where had they come from? Having confined the stray cattle in an enclosure, he awaited developments.

Toward evening of the same day, two men who were entire strangers to McDonell called at his place enquiring if he had seen a pair of stray oxen. The oxen were at once identified and left to rest themselves, while the owners were welcomed as guests in Mr. McDonell's home, where they had much to hear and more to tell.

The strangers were Hugh McKenna and James Telford, the first named being the chief speaker not only because he was an Irishman but because he had come out in 1819 while his companion was a more recent arrival.

They had settled on adjoining lots on the western side of Gloucester near the northern end of Long Island in the Rideau River about the same time as the McDonell's had reached Osgoode. Each of them had one ox, so they yoked them together and used them on both farms. A roadway had been cut along the surveyed line from the Rideau River eastward about five miles, to the Fenton settlement, a short distance north of the southern boundary of Gloucester Township.

Class II Jr.- Etta Lewis
Evelyn Edwards
Jessie Gordon
Ada Rice
Ernest Saunders
Laura Ralph
John Edwards
Ethel Nixon
Claude Saunders
Orval Nixon
Sarah Lewis
Jessie Nixon
Beatrice Saunders

Prim. Class Sr.- Mary Bowers
Laura Nixon
Beulah Saunders
Edward Lewis
Dorothy Wallace

Prim. Class Jr.- Harry Saunders
Russell Saunders

Teacher - E.L. Finnerty

THE OLD SWALE SCHOOL

If you listen to me I will tell you a tale
It was of an old school house called the Swale
It stood on a corner of a farm owned by Alex McCaul
It was where I spent my school days one and all.

On Sunday afternoon it was the meeting place of the Sunday Shool,
Where many children came to learn the Golden Rule
Tuesday night the Baptist preacher came to preach and pray,
Other nights the passing showman held his show,
Who chanced to pass that way.

In winter time it was the meeting place of the singing school
Many a jolly sleigh load came to sing and some to act the fool,
On Saturday afternoon the Women's Circle met to sing and pray
Many women learned to send their money to Missions far away.

We will give you farewell, dear old Swale School,
I do not think the man who burnt it knew much of the Golden Rule,
It was a sad day when you moved away
I think what happened there will be revealed on Judgement Day.

Norman A. McCaul, Vernon Ontario.

Apprenticeship of a Wheelwright:

An apprentice wheelwright early in this century, in a village in England made the following observations: "You've got to have a good eye. When you make the hub of a wheel it has to be morticed once and only once first go. The first job I had to do was to make spokes, and sometimes I was allowed to saw out the shafts for the tumbrils. All the shafts were cut out by handsaw from heavy planks of wood about 3 1/2 inches thick and about 2 feet wide. we planed these and shaped them up fine. Many times I did a shaft thinking I'd done lovely when my father would rub his hand up it and say "Why that ain't half done!" He was a first class wheelwright and was well-known, and my grandfather and great-grandfather were the same. When I got so I could use a plane and wheel shave, I started to make wheelbarrows. They were a difficult job, especially the front pieces which were called the stumps. The stump was another thing you had to cut right first time or it was no good. There was no second chance in what we did. One of the most exacting things was making the fellows for the wheel. There would be 6 fellows and when they were put together they made the rim of the wheel. These were all cut out by an old bowsaw which belonged to my grandfather and the inner part was shaped like an adze. They were made of ash and the wheelwright always chose roadside trees for his fellows. He went right to the hedges, where the wood was tough and hard. He'd walk through the lanes and not the ashes and when he saw a good one, he'd buy it and cut it down and let it lie in the ditch for a couple of years until the bark fell off. For the shaftwood he'd watch for one growing in the shape of a shaft, he'd keep his eye on it until it was just the right size to cut and plane. For making the hubs we always chose wych-elm. It twists in the growth and is impossible to split. You cut the hub out of a ring of the trunk and fix the fellows to it by 12 spokes. The body work of the wagons was made of oak though some had a fancy for poplar. Once a wagon was finished they lasted forever. Our village was full of wagons a hundred years old. It was hard work from 7 in the morning until 5 at night. My apprenticeship lasted 4 years and I was happy."

(from "Akenfield: Ronald Blythe's portrait of an English Village")

Ann Leighton-Kyle

You know you're getting older when...

... The gleam in your eye is from the sun hitting your bifocals.

... You reach the top of the ladder and you find it leaning against the wrong wall!

The oxen given a day off, unnoticed by their owners started an exploration of this new road. The tracks of the cattle were easily followed on the new roadway to its termination. The oxen turned southward through unbroken forest for several miles, when they noticed the tracks of the other animals. Imagine their pleasant surprise when they found the trail which they had been following led to a clearing and a homestead.

In answer to Mr. McDonnell's many questions, he was told of a considerable number of families that had settled along the Ottawa near where Rideau and the Gatineau rivers enter into the Ottawa. The first white settler was Philemon Wright who secured considerable land on both sides of the Ottawa River. Mr. McKenna related to the work being done on the Canal and mentioned the blasting of rock to prepare the way for the Long Island Locks near where he lived. Mrs. McDonnell who had been silent but a keen listener, broke in.

Now I know what that mysterious thunder was that we have heard so long even when there was not a cloud in the sky, and she remembered it was always louder when the wind was from the northwest, all our people will be glad to hear that explanation. Mr. McKenna told of several stories in Bytown where flour and oatmeal could be obtained, and a roadway was being opened southward through Gloucester as far as the Fenton Settlement. Mr. McKenna went so far as to say the place would be a town someday. The unexpected visit of the two strangers seeking their lost cattle was discussed at every fireside in the settlement. Mr. McDonnell proposed they should open a road to connect with the Fenton Settlement in Gloucester giving them access not only to Rideau River but also to Bytown.

Armed with axes the men assembled on a set day and found the tracks of the cattle where they had emerged from the thicket first. They cut the underbrush which was sufficient to identify clearly the general line to be followed till they found the Fenton homestead. Day after day some of them were at work felling trees and getting the trunks and brushwood out of the way so as to provide room for a yoke of oxen to get through with a sleigh. The following winter they were enabled to break a track through the snow, by which means some of them saw Bytown for the first time. From that date it was a case of time and perseverance, the general outlook was northward and Bytown became their trading centre.

Now that an outlet had been found to market, store and mill, a distance of about twenty-two miles. Duncan Cameron decided to forego any further clearing of his farm until he opened up the roadway northward from his homestead, a distance of a mile and a quarter to connect with the already opened roadway from the east to west roadway between Metcalfe and Yorks corners. That project took him two years clearing, bridging the creek, laying and the corduroying a mile of road, on the surface of the water soaked soil. In later years ditches were dug and soil spread on the logs. By this laborious process the swamp impediment was overcome. In those early days riding over corduroy roads padded with cedar boughs in a sleigh drawn by oxen is said to have been an exceedingly comfortable manner of travelling, especially when there was no hurry. The above particulars are here related as a sample of the many hardships encountered by the early pioneers.

Michael Daley

Notes of Interest: - Kemptville Advance

Friday January 14, 1881, Metcalfe: Mr. Casey of Napanee and Starr of Ottawa lectured in the C.M. Church last Sunday evening on the Scott Act. The act will probably be submitted to the counties of Carleton and Russell shortly.

Mr. A.J. Bakker M.P.P. leaves for Toronto in a few days to attend the session of Parliament. Mr. William Wallace, merchant, was appointed Township Lecturer in place of Mr. Alex McDonnell (deceased). A troupe of local minstrels are to give an entertainment in "Victoria Hall" on Friday evening the 14th.

1915 - February 4	Osgoode Station Public School	
Class IV Sr.	- Willie Ralph	Class I Sr. - May McCallum
	Georgina Wallace	
Class IV Jr.	- Lizzie Lewis	Class I Jr. - Tetesea Kennedy
	Florence Nixon	Mildred Saunders
	Minnie Gordon	Wilhemina Nixon
	Ina Nixon	Willie Gordon
		Lambert Cleland
		Newman Edwards
Class III Sr.	- Effie Levere	
Class III Jr.	- Cameron McCallum	
Class II Jr.	- Douglas Wallace	Prim. Class Sr. - Edna Saunders
	Perry Lewis	Madeline Moses
	Valmer Nixon	Winona Nixon