



## OUR NEW SIGN

A picture of Orval Prophet of Edwards, one of Canada's top recording artists and Country Music Hall of Fame now graces the new sign advertising the Museum of the O.T.H.S in Vernon. Seeing the need for a sign at Highway 31 in front of the museum, members suggested a rural yet typical sign reflecting Osgoode Township's rural roots. Murray Little came up with a photo from an album jacket of "Orval Prophet, The Canadian Ploughboy." Deesign Makers of Inkerman made it up and installed it.

Elected to the Canadian Country Music Hall of fame, in 1980 Orval resided with his wife Laurette at Edwards till his death Jan 4, 1984. Poor health plagued him throughout his life, It prevented him from joining the armed forces, but during the Second World War he worked all day on the family farm in Edwards and in the evening he would take his guitar and walk to an Ottawa hospital to entertain the wounded soldiers.

Son of Mr & Mrs William Prophet (Alice Tomalty), Orval was born on their 200 acre farm in the north east corner of Osgoode Township. At the age of nine, in PS #20, Osgoode, he sang his first public song. As an adult he kept performing, working as a clerk in an Ottawa wholesale firm until his break came. Wilf Carter heard him sing in Ottawa and invited him along on tour. Later Decca records took him on and provided the publicity. His first recording "Going Back to Birmingham" was on Billboard Magazine and Variety's Western Hit Parade for 8 solid weeks. Throughout his 30 year career, Orval was regarded by many artists as a singer's singer. Among those he influenced were Waylon Jennings, Dallas Harms, Johnny Cash, Gary Buck, Dick Damron and Hank Snow. Many of the Canadians artists said of Orval, that he was a Canadian and an inspiration to try to achieve the same. His song "Mademoiselle" was on the Hit Parade in the 60's, second only to Perry Como's "Catch A Falling Star."

At his funeral in Metcalfe United Church was hard pressed to accommodate those who traveled many thousands of miles to pay their last respects to an artist and a friend. Many of the late entertainer's friends, including Tommy Hunter, Hank Snow, Johnny Cash and many others, unable to be present at his funeral, sent telegrams of condolences."

The focus of the sign was to draw attention to the museum from the many motorists who pass through the village of Vernon. The intent was to draw on the agricultural aspect of the museum with the photo of the singing farm boy with a walking plough and the well trained horses teamed with the eye catching lettering of the professional sign maker.

Ann Leighton-Kyle

## LANDS FOR SALE

The West-half of LOT No 40 in the 6<sup>th</sup>, and East half of 48 in the 5<sup>th</sup> Concession of the Township of OSGOOD. For particulars apply to ARCHD. McDONELL, of said Township.

Osgoode. 11<sup>th</sup> Sepr, 1836

# Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

at the  
Old Vernon School

## Newsletter

VOLUME XXVII

NO 1

Mar 2000

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

#### & Annual Report

February 2000

As we enter a new millennium and our 29<sup>th</sup> year there are new opportunities and challenges to be addressed. At the Annual General Meeting held on February 8<sup>th</sup> we elected the slate of officers for the coming year. With great regrets we accepted Don and Shirley Lowe's request to step down from their positions due to ill health. Over the years they have dedicated much effort to the Society and held most positions on the executive, being at various times directors, secretary, vice-president, president, chairman of the board, and more. We all miss them very much and hope that Shirley's health improves to where they can again become active. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

On behalf of all the members I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Executive, the Directors, the positions, and the committees for their dedicated work in support of the OTHS&M throughout the year. The efforts of all the volunteers is a critical element in the ongoing success of the organization.

Special events included a very successful Heritage Day held on Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> and The Strawberry Social and Pioneer Day on July 24<sup>th</sup>. The fine weather and the extensive exhibits drew a large crowd which enjoyed the afternoon. On Saturday November 6<sup>th</sup> we hosted a Remembrance Service at the Vernon Cenotaph followed by a reception in the Museum.

Our funding application for physical improvements to the main building was finally approved at the Provincial level. All exterior wood on the exterior of the museum has been clad in steel and the south wall of poor quality windows has been replaced by a fully insulated wall. In addition the contractor has built us three 4' by 8' showcases on the new wall which will be covered with glass doors made from the old windows.

Outreach during the year included participation in March with an interesting display at the Gene-O-Rama Conference of the Ottawa Branch of the O.G.S. and a presentation to the seniors group in Osgoode.

To increase the visibility of the museum we acquired a new sign which was installed on road 31 in from of the museum.

During the year we enjoyed many interesting speakers including Paul Catlin with an illustrated talk on native plants in early St. Lawrence settlements, Lyle Van Allen's slide show on the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway, Neil and Julie Kennedy from Blairgowrie, Scotland talked about the Kennedy family in Scotland and their connection to the Kennedy's of Osgoode.

We also agreed to sponsor two classes at the Metcalfe Fair. Other major achievements during the year included the purchase of a renewed copier and a new computer, scanner and printer. Cecil Reaney is continuing his work collecting the history of the Metcalfe Rural Telephone Company. Ron Isaac is working on documenting the first two settlers in the township: York and MacDonell.



We would like anyone who reads this newsletter to give us their ideas for any projects we could consider undertaking. Please send your suggestions to us at the mailing address given in the Newsletter or email to [OTHS@magma.ca](mailto:OTHS@magma.ca) Your feedback will be greatly appreciated.

**Executive:**

Past President, Murray Little	821-1698
President, Doug Hughes	258-1444
Vice-President, Jim Bowman	821-3470
Sec/Treasurer, Ann Leighton-Kyle	821-2301

**Directors:**

Fred Alexander	826-2018	Murray Little	821-1698
Lorne Craig	821-2562	Harvey Linton	826-2338
Michael Daley	821-2054	Bill Zandbelt	821-2541
Ron Isaac	821-2075		

**Positions:**

Archivist/Curator, Donna Bowen	821-2407
Asst. Curator & Mntc, Bill Zandbelt	821-2541
Membership, Alice Craig	821-2562
Program Convener, Fred Alexander	826-2018
Newsletter Ed, Michael Daley	821-2054

**Committees:**

Social Committee	Alice Craig	821-2562
	Heather Hughes	258-1444
Publications Committee	Donna Bowen	821-2407
	Ann Leighton-Kyle	821-2301
Newsletter Committee	Michael Daley	821-2054
	Ann Leighton-Kyle	821-2301
	Jim Bowman	821-3470
Projects Committee	Jim Bowman	821-3470
	Ann Leighton-Kyle	821-2301
	Doug Hughes	258-1444
	Bill Zandbelt	821-2541

As I write this we are almost ready to launch a web site for the Society. Check it out at: [www.magma.ca/~cths](http://www.magma.ca/~cths)

**BRIEF REVIEW OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

The following excerpt is from "Chronicles of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, 1987" by Jacques Legrand

As the twilight of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century has drawn to a close, let us for a moment turn back those pages of time.

- January, 1900**, Canada - Klondike region east of the Alaska border continues to draw folks with dreams of easy money.
- Sept 1, 1900** - Boer War - Great Britain is defeated by the Boers in key battles, bogged down in a frustrating war.
- Apr 26, 1901** - Queen Victoria dies aged 82 years.
- May 14, 1901** - British Prime Minister opposes freedom in any degree for the Irish people.
- Sept 14, 1901** - Feebly mouthing the words of his favorite hymn, "Nearer My God to Thee", President

McKinley of the USA slipped into a coma and died in Buffalo, New York State the victim of an assassin's bullet eight days earlier.

**Sept 1, 1902** - Army brought in as Croats and Serbs clash.

**Dec 17, 1903** - Wrights fly heavier than air plane.

**Aug 12, 1908** - The first Model "T" rolled off the Ford Motor Co. Assembly line. Sold for \$850.

**April 15, 1912** - iceberg sinks the "Titanic" drowning 1595 men, women and children.

**June 28, 1914** - Shock waves were felt all over Europe as Serbian Nationalist assassinated Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary and his wife the Duchess of Hohenberg in Sarajevo in Bosnia.

**Aug 14, 1914** - Britain declared war on Germany which automatically brought Canada into the conflict.

**Nov 11, 1918** at 11:01 a.m - Silence fell like a gentle mist on the battlefields of Europe. The Germans signed an Armistice at 5 a.m, the cease fire taking effect 6 hours later. More than ten million men were killed in the war, and a whole generation wiped out. In a single day the British Armies lost 60,000 in the battle of the Somme, 19,000 killed in the siege of Verdun.

**May 31, 1918** - Russia has been torn apart in blistering Civil War.

**Mar 14, 1919** - An international communist organization with the goal of fostering world revolution has been established in Moscow.

**Dec 14, 1920** - Ireland is partitioned north from the south.

**Dec 6, 1921** - Southern Ireland becomes a free state.

**Jan 27, 1923** - Nazi Party holds first congress in Munich.

**Feb 27, 1925** - Hitler reorganizes his banned party.

**1925** - The charleston is the newest dance craze, the flapper dress is the thing.

**Jan 27, 1926** - A new machine capable of wireless transmission of moving pictures was demonstrated to members of the Royal Institute in London by M. John Baird, a Scottish inventor. Baird calls his invention television. It could someday turn every home into a motion picture theatre.

**June 28, 1926** - Mackenzie King, out, because of scandal. There was cheering in Ottawa tonight, most of it by Conservatives. Liberal Premier Mackenzie was forced to resign. Ottawa is dry and the scandal related to drinking.

**May 21, 1927** - Charles Lindbergh flies Atlantic alone.

**June 23, 1927** - Lou Gehrig hits three homers in one day.

**Oct 24, 1929** - Black Thursday. Stock Market crash resounds around the world.

**Sept 14, 1930** - Adolf Hitler's Nazis are now more powerful than the Communists with 107 seats in government.

**Oct 28, 1935** - Mussolini's armies invade Ethiopia.

**Jan 5, 1936** - George V dies, succeeded by Edward VIII.

**July, 1936** - Civil War in Spain.

**Mar 14, 1938** - Adolph Hitler takes over Austria. Hitler proclaims in Vienna, "Whatever happens, the German Reich as it stands to day, shall never be broken by anyone again and shall never be torn apart."

**Oct 5, 1938** - Hitler's army moves into Czechoslovakia.

**Mar 28, 1939** - Spanish Civil War ends.

**Apr 8, 1939** - Italy invades Albania.

**Aug 31, 1939** - Diplomacy cannot stop Adolf Hitler. Europe is on the brink of another war.

**Sept 1, 1939** - 1.25 million German troops sweep across the Polish border.

**Sept 17, 1939** - Russian troops push in to Poland from the east thus dividing the country between Germany and Russia.

**Sept 30, 1939** - Britain and France declare war on Germany, once again Europe and the world are embroiled

in the horrors of war.

**June 30, 1941** - Germany and Russia are at war.

**Dec 7, 1941** - Japan devastates US Base at Pearl Harbour.

**August 19, 1942** - Thousands of young Canadians dying or being taken prisoner in a daring Allied experiment on the French Coast at Dieppe.

**June 6, 1944** - "D" Day the beginning of the end. The war in Europe lasted five years, eight months and six days.

**May 8, 1945** - Germany surrenders unconditionally.

**Aug 15, 1945** - Japan surrenders. War is ended all over the world.

As one delves into the history books of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, one is amazed at man's inhumanity to their fellow human beings, and at the death and destruction around the world.

Michael Daley

Many of our readers can recall the Stock Market Crash of 1929 resulting in the "Dirty Thirties" depression years. Many people struggling to survive on the family farms had to leave in search of a better way.

The Federal Government set up relief camps designed to get drifters off the roads. Men worked at planting trees etc., in exchange, they received clothes, a bed and food plus 20 cents a day.

Like many of our readers, I grew up on a small farm helping with the chores, haying, stooking grain, picking potatoes, going to school. I looked forward to the threshing bees, fall fairs, Christmas Concerts and Santa Claus. Though not as generous back then as he is today, an apple or an orange, jack knife or maybe a new school bag was always appreciated.

M. Daley

Continuing from other sources:

**1929** - Canada Stood first in the world in the production of asbestos and nickel, third in gold and silver, fourth in copper, fifth in lead, sixth in zinc, eleventh in pig iron and twelfth in coal. More than 2300 mining firms employed over 95,000 men in the industry.

**1930's** - The depression which embraced Canada as well as the rest of the world led to the decrease in volume and value of mineral production in Canada. By 1936, economic conditions were beginning to show improvement. The decade of the 1930's was a period on considerable upsurge in mineral activity following the 1929 crash.

**May 1939** - King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visit Canada on the last of their three day visit to Ottawa. King George unveiled the new "National War Memorial" on Confederation Square to the Canadians who fought in the first Great War. Within four months, Canada was again at war along side Britain against Adolf Hitler's Germany. Once again our country is plunged into a world wide war. A war it was said to "end all wars." Time again has proven otherwise.

Registration of men, women and children began almost immediately. The city of Ottawa was an important recruiting depot. 40,000 Ottawans volunteered for the Armed Services and a similar number joined up from the rural area and surrounding towns in the Ottawa Valley.

The **1940's** placed a heavy strain upon the Canadian mining industry. Smelting and refining facilities at Sudbury Noranda, Montreal East, Trail and Flin Flon were expanded to meet these large wartime requirements.

Between **1947 - 1967** the growth of the Canadian Mineral Industry has been the greatest in the history of the industry.

Agriculture Census in 1901 indicated the value of all Canadian farms at that time was \$1,787,102,630. Prior to confederation, the capital requirements of agriculture were

met by the farmers themselves or others in the community. Loan companies entered the field shortly before confederation followed by Trust and Insurance Companies, particularly in Western Canada. At the time of the drought, mortgages and agreements for sale amounted to \$159,222,961 and were held by those bodies in 1936.

The settlement of veterans of the Second World War and Korean Force was a substantial undertaking. Some 29,951 veterans were placed on farms and 53,153 on small holdings. Reflecting the changing conditions in farming in 1960, the maximum loan was raised to \$40,000 to encourage the development of an economic family farm.

In **1999**, with all the down-sizing of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Saskatchewan with 47% of all agricultural land in Canada, suffered severe loss in 1999. Floods and subsequent, loss of crop land not being seeded, falling prices for products and competition in the world markets left farmers in dire straits.

**1960** - Ottawa wins the Grey Cup

May 5, 1961 - The first American in space - Alan B Shepard.

**1960's** - The Kennedy Era. John F Kennedy sworn in as President of the United States, January 20, 1961, assassinated in Dallas Nov 22, 1963. His brother Senator Robert F Kennedy assassinated June 6, 1968.

**1968** - Pierre Trudeau moves into the Prime Minister's Office in April 1968. He resigned in 1984.

July 20, 1969 - Neil Armstrong - first man on the moon.

Canada's first two Canadian-born Governor-Generals, George Vanier died March 1967; while Vincent Massey, Vanier's predecessor, passed away the following Jan **1968**.

**1982** - The year 1982 will go down in history books as the year Canada cut its last colonial ties with Great Britain.

**Nov 23, 1972** - The first meeting of the New Horizons Historical Group, founded the now-known-as the Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum.

1977 - Sesqui Centennial year. 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary booklet was compiled and published. Thus it is as we continue to delve into the fascinating world of history and genealogy, I would be remiss if I did not pay tribute to those responsible for its beginning. Miss Elizabeth Stuart (retired School Teacher from Dalmeny), Miss Louise Sterns (also retired School Teacher, from Marvelville). Both Miss Stuart and Miss Stearns (deceased) had mutual interest in their search for their ancestors. They soon found people within the township with their same interest.

In **1989** an implement shed was built at the back of the lot, 100 ft long and 50 ft in width to house agricultural implements. Today we have an agricultural Museum that stands second to none in eastern Ontario, with artifacts dating back to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**1981** - Canada's first Solar Post Office was located in Greely, Osgoode Township. Official opening May 29, 1981.

**Nov 27, 1999** - The Ottawa Citizen reads "A City for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" - 150 communities become one. Ottawa-Carleton as we have known it for 30 years will be no more. By Jan 1, 2001 a single city of Ottawa will rise from the ashes of Ottawa Carleton.

To the readers of the above article (if any), please accept my apology for any errors, or omissions. No doubt, there are many as one delves back in the twentieth century. It seems somewhere in the universe, there are perpetually wars, floods, droughts and other assaults on mankind.

Michael Daley

## IN SEARCH OF THEIR ROOTS



Dear Michael

As you know, for the past couple of years I have been trying to track down my many ancestors in Osgoode Township. My great-great grandparents all came to Osgoode Township around 1845, originally from Ireland. Most of them had previously been in Bytown from the early 1830's. Here are their names: (some dates are approximate)

1) My Grandmother's family (CHRISTOPHER): My grandmother was Catherine Theresa CHRISTOPHER 1885-1957. Her parents were Thomas CHRISTOPHER 1836-1898 and Catherine SULLIVAN 1845-1927. Her grandparents were Patrick CHRISTOPHER 1810-1860 and Mary FITZGERALD 1819-1892. This family farmed on Lot 4, Conc 4 from about 1845 to 1957.

2) My Grandmother's family (BURNS): My grandfather was John George BURNS 1880-1952. His parents were James BURNS 1840-1907 and Annie ROBB 1851-1927. His grandparents were James BURNS 18100-1871 and Elizabeth WALSH 1810-1875. This family farmed at various times on Lots 10, 11 and 13 of Conc. 3.

To make things interesting, there was another BURNS family (headed by Lawrence BURNS 1804-1879) who I believe was a brother of my great-great grandfather. Lawrence's first wife was Margaret DOYLE (they married at Notre Dame, Bytown in 1831). His second wife was Bridget JORDAN from Lot 12, Conc 3, Osgoode, whom he married in 1845, also at Notre Dame, although they lived in Osgoode by that time.

All of these families were large and often used the same first names among families. I have records of many James, William, Michael, Timothy and Lawrence BURNS and its a challenge to sort them all out!

In gathering all of the pieces of this large puzzle, I discovered that the BURNS and CHRISTOPHER families, after three or four generations of large families managed to marry into almost all of the other Catholic families in Osgoode Township and South Gloucester and I have been trying to sort them all out. Here are a few of the names: FOX, HARNEY, HERBERT, LARKIN, McGEE, O'CONNOR, and SULLIVAN.

I have started a web page to try and track down some of the missing pieces to this puzzle and also have a database of about 4,000 "pioneers" in Osgoode Township in the 1860's. The web page is at: <http://www3.sympatico.ca/ag.lewis/history.htm> My e-mail address is [ag.lewis@sympatico.ca](mailto:ag.lewis@sympatico.ca)

I would be interested in hearing from other people who are researching these or other families in the Osgoode Township/South Gloucester area and will gladly share what information I have.

I can also be reached by regular mail at 1 Basswood Avenue, Stittsville, Ont, K2S 1M5.

Thanks for your assistance over the past few years and also for all the work you've don in keeping our history alive.

Al Lewis

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: public access to post 1901 census records

Dear Mr Daley

Your letter to the Honourable John Manley, Minister Responsible for Statistics Canad, on the subject of preservation and public access to post-1901 census records has been passed to Statistics Canada for response.

There has been considerable public debate and interest on the part of genealogists, historians and archivists who had expected that the 1911 census records would be publicly available in 2003, 92 years after the taking of the census. Recognizing the importance of historical research but also taking into account the privacy concerns of Canadians, Minister Manley, announced the creation of an Expert Panel on Access to Historical Census Records. This Panel will provide independent, expert advice on the legal, privacy and archival implications of releasing historical census records.

The Expert Panel has been asked to recommend to the Minister, by May 31, 2000, an approach which balances the need to protect personal privacy with the demands for access to historical census records. It will:

- \* examine the elements of the difference of opinions between Canadians, who would seek to maintain the protection of personal information and those who would like to examine personal or community histories;
- \* determine what options exist to provide access to historical census records.

Over the next few months, the Panel will review all relevant documents received to date, as well as meet with key stakeholders to get their views. The Panel will also accept commentaries that cover areas of concern not previously submitted. I have been asked to serve as the Panel's Secretary and should you have any additional comments that you would like the Panel to consider, please send them to me, by mail or electronically, at the addresses given below.

A copy of the news release announcing the Panel and its terms of reference is also available on Statistics Canada's web site at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca).

Dr Pamela White  
25<sup>th</sup> Floor, R.H. Coats Bldg.  
Ottawa, K1A 0T6  
(613)951-3255

E-mail: [expert.panel\\_comite.experts@statcan.ca](mailto:expert.panel_comite.experts@statcan.ca)

### URGENT NOTICE - LAST CALL FOR HELP!

We are on the final leg of our journey towards completing Cecil Reaney's short book on the Metcalfe Rural Telephone Company. Needed items such as pictures, old shares (with price paid if possible), remembrances - these are really important, and anything else to do with the Telephone Co. Would be much appreciated. In specific, a picture of the "Willie Car" and trailer that was used by early linemen and then replaced by Alfred Sheidrick's 1950 Truck (picture also needed). Please contact Jim Bowman at 821-3470 if you can help. Thank you.

### MUSEUM NOTES

☞ At our Open House during Heritage Week a good crowd attended. Featured was Bruce Straby of Green and his collection of Antique Gramophones.

☞ Don't forget your year 2000 membership dues are due - \$10.00 yearly

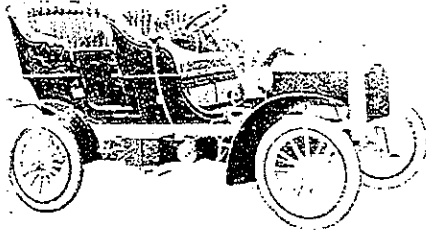
☞ The museum is closed for the winter. Watch for opening dates after Easter. In the meantime if you want to visit or do some research, call 821-4062 and leave a message. Donna will return your call.

**THE THOROUGHLY CANADIAN CAR**

Canadian Material  
Canadian Labor  
Canadian Capital

The  
**Russell**

3 MODELS 5 TYPES





## A LETTER FROM HOME (DUBLIN, IRELAND)

Dear Son,

Just a few lines to let you know I'm still alive. I'm writing this letter slowly because I know you can't read fast. You won't know the house when you get home - we have moved.

About your father - he has a lovely new job. He has 500 men under him - he cuts grass at the cemetery.

There was a washing machine at the new house when we moved in but it hasn't been working too good. Last week I put in 14 shirts, pulled the chain and haven't seen the shirts since.

Your sister Mary had a baby this morning but I haven't found out whether it's a boy or a girl, so I don't know if you are an aunt or an uncle.

Your Uncle Patrick drowned last week in a vat of whiskey in the Dublin Brewery. Some of his workmates tried to save him but he fought them off bravely. They cremated him and it took three days to put out the fire.

I went to the doctor on Thursday and your father went with me. The doctor put a small tube in my mouth and told me not to talk for ten minutes. Your father offered to buy it from him.

It only rained twice this week, first for three days and then for four days. Monday was so windy one of the chickens laid the same egg four times. We had a letter from the undertaker. He said if the last payment on your Grandmother's plot wasn't paid in seven days, up she comes.

Your loving Mother

X X X

P.S. I was going to send you five pounds but I had already sealed the envelope.



## HOME CHILDREN

Director, Research & Projects by Jim Sheardon

Reproduced in part from BIFHSGO Newsletter 9/12/98

A research project undertaken by the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) is helping to put a happy ending to the story of Britain's "Home Children."

Between 1869 and 1930, about 100,000 children were taken from workhouses and homes for waifs in the British Isles and sent by ship to start a new life in Canada. Others were sent to Australia or New Zealand. Many of these children lost all connection with their families and their birth records, becoming orphans in a new world. Their descendants face an enormous gap when they try to trace ancestors who were "home children."

During the past two-and-a-half years, 15 volunteers from BIFHSGO and the Ottawa Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society have been closing that gap. The work begins with volunteers reading microfilm copies of ship's passenger lists at the National Archives in Ottawa. Ten people are extracting the names and ages of home children, date and port of departure from England, the name of the ship and date and port of arrival in Canada. Three other volunteers input handwritten notes into a computer and Denny Lowe formats the information to specifications of the National Archives so that the records can be printed or released on the internet.

The project director, John Sayers says that the

records for 21 years have been submitted to the National Archives, where this information is being used to answer public inquiries and is available for consultation in the third floor reading room.

Fifteen people have completed almost half the work, and are still carrying on. I am asking all our members to join in the work. Please contact John Sayers (747-5547) or Jim Sheardon (593-4453) if you are able to help us finish the job.

Submitted by Norma Morrison

*Note: Information given on "Studio 2" 2/21/2000 updates information available on web site as follows  
[pda.republic.net/othsa/homechild/homeindex.html](http://pda.republic.net/othsa/homechild/homeindex.html)*

## WILLIAM YORK OF YORK'S CORNERS

From "Families of Osgoode Township" in the archives, by the late Frances Iveson.

Wm York's coming to Osgoode Township c 1827 is recorded as coincidental with that of Archibald McDonell. As neighbours in Cornwall, neither divulged his plan to press into the hinterland via the Nation River. Each dreamed of a home in this vast wilderness - an area, despite a swampy nature, heralded for its sturdy oak and pine. Loneliness might have overcome both had McDonell not followed a chopping echo when one day scouting his newly acquired acreage. Wielding the axe was his Cornwall friend. Both arrived within hours of each other in what became Osgoode Township. Here on York's site - later designated Con 9, Lot 21 at York's Corners - two of the Township's first settlers stood.

Records of the late Mrs. Samuel J Davis, Ottawa, states her Grandfather Wm York with his wife Elener Ebery (Ebury) and nine children, arrived from Sussex, England at Cornwall in the late summer, 1824. Another account of the late J Warren York an Ottawa Lawyer and grandson of George York, says Wm York was a draftsman on the By Canal project and was assigned the Ottawa Byward Market layout. Street names - William, George and York, still in existence - arouse speculation. "Were these a tie-in with his own family names?"

Other sources reveal the first church services in Osgoode Township being held in Wm York's home - joint Presbyterian and Methodist adherents. His temporary election to the elders' board was based on the prospects of a future Methodist congregation. A small log church east of Metcalfe soon fulfilled his dream. Due to membership growth, the fine old structure with its little burial ground (now United) was built on the Methodist Hill in Metcalfe. Here, where several York generations worshipped, Wm York's tombstone inscription bears testimony to his early arrival.

"There were no roads and they were obliged to blaze a trail through the dense forest and over impassable swamps until they arrived at their destination. Weeks were spent in clearing an opening in the bush and erecting a rough, temporary abode. Eventually the remainder of the family arrived, their only possessions being the clothes they wore, a few blankets and two weeks provisions." The foregoing quote of Mrs Davis, pictures her family's arrival. Other reflections tell how the window of her home in the bush, she watched packs of wolves circling the buildings trying to get at the sheep. So pestered, close guard was kept on farm animals - sheep especially. They provided woollen material for clothing. Neighbours gathered at "wool-picking bees" as well as those for "carding and spinning." Cloth was woven in Cornwall. From here a tailoress came to make male outfits. Ladies made their own.

Yes, there were Indians, all quiet, peaceable and helpful to white men. Whole families came to winter in tree-branch shelters. One winter a woman died. He body placed on top of several logs and covered with a rug, was carted off on a sleigh in the spring.

**William York contd.**

Baking and preserving? Maple sugar was used. Also, using a red hot poker slightly cooled in cold water to curl and wave hair was common-place. "It was a painful operation at times but we tried to bear it with a grin."

Two generations - Mrs. Davis' father Thomas and up to the 1920's her brother Joseph, lived on the York farm. John, a 2<sup>nd</sup> brother, for a time farmed n 1/2 lot 11, Con 5. William, son of George and J. Warren York's father, had a flour/feed/grocery store at the corner of Queen St W and Fleet St. (Booth), Ottawa. Their descendants live in Russell, Osgoode, Ottawa, Toronto and W. Canada.

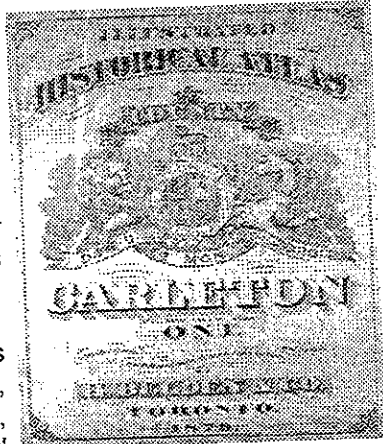
Issue of William York (1775-1850) and Ann Embery (1773-1860/66) include: 1) Wm. (1799-1838); 2) Elener b. 1802 m. Wm Heppenstal; 3) Charlotte b 1804 m M Curry; 4) John (1806-1823); 5) Sophia (1808-1872) m. John Farlinger; 6) Thomas (1811-1891) 1<sup>st</sup> m Catherine Loucks (1812-1841) 2<sup>nd</sup> M Eliza Hanna (1823-1848) b Woolich, Kent; 7) George b 1814 m Eliza MacDonald; 8) Sarah b 1816 m Thos Hanna 9) Mary Anne (1818-1854) m R Wilson; 10) John (1824-1848) m Mary Pepper. Note 2<sup>nd</sup> John named for 1<sup>st</sup> John deceased).

Not only being a niece of Jane Iveson York but close association with the late Eva York Quigg and Mrs Davis created by deep interest in English York ancestry.

Frances Iveson

**An Old Research Resource Renewed - 'Belden Atlas'**

During the period 1874 and 1881, about 40 county atlas' were published in Canada, covering counties in the Maritimes, Ontario and Quebec. Most of these atlas' were produced for Ontario by several companies with H. Belden & Co. producing the greatest numbers. The Historical Atlas for Carleton County was published in 1879.



Each county atlas contained a historical text, township and town maps, portraits, views, a patrons' directory and in some cases business cards. More importantly the names of landowners were marked on the lots of the township maps in these county atlases. Only the names of subscribers were recorded on the township maps for the Dominion of Canada supplements. All of these atlas' were sold by subscription. In each atlas many prominent county residents paid an additional sum to have biographical sketches, portraits and views of their residences or businesses included.

In Ontario a township is usually rectangular in shape, unless it borders a major river or lake. Townships are divided into concessions. Each concession is a strip of land 1 1/4 miles wide and divided by cross roads every 1/4 miles, each square block then being 1000 acres which are then divided into five 200 acre lots. A gore is a part of a township that does not fit into the regular shape.

Many of these atlas' had limited editions reprinted in the mid-1970's and again in the mid 1990's and are still difficult to find.

Several years ago the Federal Government's Industry Canada department initiated their Digital Collections Project to facilitate increased access to many significant Canadian historical documents such as the Books of Remembrance which are housed in the Peace Tower, War Posters stored at the War Museum, etc. As part of this

program Industry Canada funded the library of McGill University to digitize the historical maps contained in these county atlas' and make the results available on the Internet. This has resulted in the County Atlas Digital Project, a searchable database of the property owners names which appear on the township maps in the county atlases. Township maps, portraits and properties have been scanned, with links from the property owners names in the database. So far the County Atlas Digital Project has processed 17 Counties of Eastern Ontario, Durham County, Victoria County and everything east except for Peterborough County.

With this collection they have created a powerful surnames search tool with which one can ask all landowners of a particular surname (with optional first initials) in all of the database or a specific county or a specific township. As an example searching for Porteous gives Eastern Ontario 7; Carleton County 3; Township of Osgoode 2.

This interesting collection can be found at the web site for McGill University's Library under the heading: "In Search of Your Canadian Past: The Canadian County Atlas Project" found at:

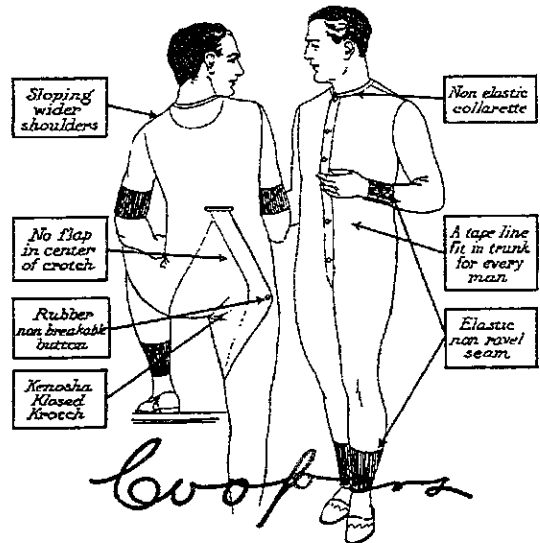
<http://image.library.mcgill.ca/CountyAtlas/>

Doug Hughes

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF BRIEFS**

Age old underwear offered men (and women) not only warmth but also another type of protection: a barrier between valuable clothing and filthy skin. During the 16<sup>th</sup> Century male underwear came to be called drawers due to the action it took to "draw" the garment (quite tight) up the legs. The 19<sup>th</sup> century ushered in a period of extreme modesty in which legs were to be called "limbs", a man's "inexpressibles" were referred to as "linens". Although cleanliness was now a virtue, the body was not permitted to see the light of day. In 1892 Boston boxing champ John Sullivan wore long wool drawers as a boxing costume, they became known as *long johns* and the advance of underwear for men: the union suit.

From the Farmers Almanac (1999) Jockey International™



**Osgoode Township  
Historical Society & Museum  
Newsletter**

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Mailing Address: Box 74, Vernon, Ont K0A 3J0  
Tel: (613)821-4062 E-Mail: oths@magma.ca