



# Trafalgar Township Historical Society

"Documenting, celebrating and preserving the agricultural heritage of North Oakville"

## Winter 2015 Newsletter



### **Heritage Day Fall Fair & Book Sale Brings New Visitors to Palermo Schoolhouse!**

On Saturday, September 27th, directors and volunteers welcomed sixty-two visitors to the schoolhouse in Palermo. Most were new people to the area, with more than the usual number of children and younger adults attending.

Karla Corrigan from the Halton Region Museum had an interesting display of kid-friendly activities and treats centered around the now-extinct passenger pigeon. Several people tried out the early school house desks... a reminder of their schoolhouse days. Pioneer wooden artifacts attracted the attention of many visitors. Other displays included photographs, text books, Canadiana books and historical booklets. The ever-popular BBQ even attracted a Halton Region Police officer for lunch!

Many thanks to Anne Choate Little, Melanie Wark, Morgan Oliver, Marilyn Feth, Kevin Little, Margaret Wark, Gordon Kaitting, and Ross Wark for their contributions throughout the day.

### **In This Issue:**

Heritage Day Fall Fair	page 1
TTHS Welcomes the OHS	page 2
Built Heritage Property Updates	page 3
Queries	page 4
Updates & Society News	page 5
TTHS Stories	page 6
New to the TTTHS Archives	page 7
Upcoming Events	page 8

### **Get in Touch with the TTTHS Board of Directors**

President Gordon Kaitting at 416-801-9932

Secretary Michelle Knoll at 905-617-0068

Membership Jane Watt at 905-281-1701

Treasurer Mario Testa at 905-334-4322

Archivist Ross Wark at 905-844-1677



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Above (L to R): Rob Leverty, Executive Director of The Ontario Historical Society, TTHS member Anne Choate Little, TTHS Membership Coordinator Jane Watt, OHS Program Manager Alison Little, TTHS Archivist Ross Wark, and TTHS member Margaret Wark at the Palermo Schoolhouse.

## TTHS Welcomes The Ontario Historical Society!

Written by Ross Wark

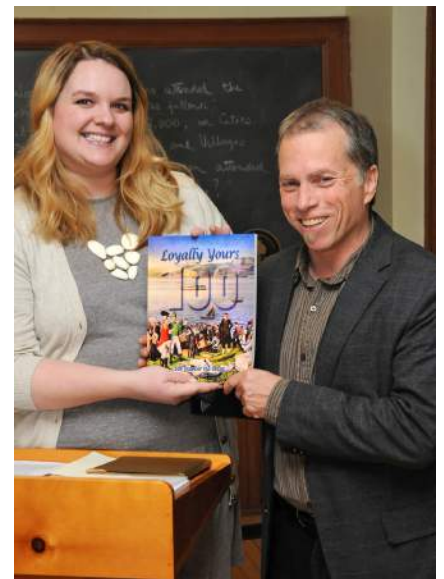
On Tuesday November 25, 2014, the Society welcomed Rob Leverty and Alison Little from The Ontario Historical Society to the Palermo Schoolhouse. Fifteen TTHS members and guests were in attendance. Rob, the Executive Director of the OHS, spoke on the work being done by their organization since 1888 - "encouraging and assisting museums, historical societies, and cultural groups to research, preserve and interpret the artifacts, architecture, and archival resources of their communities." Of particular interest

were efforts to defend threatened cemeteries across Ontario. Many pioneer burial grounds have been transformed into well cared-for sites. Much more needs to be done.

Alison Little is the Program Manager of The Ontario Historical Society - she spoke on her work of planning and hosting webinars, ongoing website management, membership data systems, and planning for online expansion. Our provincial history meets modern technology!

The meeting closed with interesting discussions, with refreshments courtesy of Margaret Wark and Jane Watt.

*Pictured at right: Alison Little and Rob Leverty hold a copy of Loyally Yours - 100 Years of the UELAC, presented to the OHS for their archives. Frederick H. Hayward, a TTHS member, compiled this book as Chair of the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada's 2014 Celebration Committee.*





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### Built Heritage Property Updates

#### ❖ Glenorchy Barn

As reported in the TTHS Summer 2014 Newsletter, due to strong storm winds in early March this building sustained serious damage and was recommended for removal by Niall Lobley of Conservation Halton. The barn was demolished in September. Thanks to efforts by Town of Oakville Heritage Planner Susan Schappert, the date stone from the barn was saved - Lobley indicated that Conservation Halton would try to incorporate it in the planned site interpretation.

#### ❖ John Bray Home & Barn, 103 Dundas Street West

Carolyn Van Sligtenhorst, Heritage Planner with the Town of Oakville, emailed the TTHS to tell us that the application to demolish both the house and barn on this property was passed by Town Council on October 6, 2014. Given the condition of the buildings, the TTHS did not oppose demolition, but worked with the Town of Oakville to ensure the site was documented and photographed in order to capture unique architectural features.

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#### Newly Added to Our Ontario by TTHS



This photograph, showing the 1922 Buck Family Reunion, was sent to the TTHS by Deborah Neelands-Kelman. View the full record [here](#).

The reunion took place at the home of Philip Buck, near Britannia Road and Fourth Line, and brought together the descendents of George Corpdale Buck (1835-1913) & wife Margaret Johnson (1836-1903). Neelands-Kelman writes, "Grandpa Stanley Buck (1890-1944) is sitting on grass [seated, 6th from left]

holding Auntie Ruth Early (1922-2007). Mom (Donelda Neelands, 1917-2006) is standing beside Stan Buck with dark dress & bow in hair [3rd row, 2nd from right]. Grandma Buck (Margaret Hey) is the woman directly in front of the tree trunk with hair parted in the middle."



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### Queries

- ❖ Wanted: Information & photos related to the **Wilson and Featherstone** families
  - From Mary Johnson: "My mother's mom, was Margaret Marie Featherstone, and her grandparents were Marie Wilson De Forest Featherstone and Emerson Featherstone. I would be so incredibly appreciative if you have any information or additional photos I might have missed on your site that you could kindly forward to me? Or perhaps you have these photo's somewhere for viewing in Milton? I also came across a house that was owned by a Wilson family, is this family related through my mom's grandmother Marie? I am also wondering if any of the buildings related to our family are still standing?" Mary can be reached by email at [mary@bikeponcho.com](mailto:mary@bikeponcho.com).
  
- ❖ Wanted: Information on **Rose and Morgan families**
  - From David C. Wold: "Would [the TTHS] be able to help with any information about: James T. Rose, Susan E. Rose (wife), or Kate Frances Morgan (sister-in-law)? All 3 lived on Triller Street in Bronte in 1910-40 period and ran, I believe, a holiday camp/place with small cabins, etc.. maybe named "Breeze Knok" or "Cozy Knok" or similiar. They are relatives and would like to collect some information." David can be reached by email at [dcwold@gmail.com](mailto:dcwold@gmail.com).

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### TTHS Recognizes Volunteer Marilyn Feth



The Society would like to extend its thanks and gratitude to Marilyn Feth for her work as a volunteer at the Palermo Schoolhouse. Feth, a retired teacher, has helped interpreter Katherine Belrose educate, and engage young students visiting the schoolhouse. At the recent Heritage Day Fall Fair & Book Sale, Marilyn mounted a display about TTTHS school visits and promoting the educational programs to all visitors. Thank you for your hard work, Marilyn!

*Image courtesy Justin Greaves for the Oakville Beaver.*



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### TTHS Updates and Society News

- ❖ On June 24, 2014, the Society held its regular meeting at the Palermo Schoolhouse with guest speaker Ross Wark, who spoke on "Postcards of Halton County." There were ten people in attendance, despite the hot and humid weather. Ross wishes to thank Jeff Knoll for his technical assistance and comments.
- ❖ Throughout the Fall, TTHS members Michelle Knoll, Ross Wark, and Anne Choate Little provided the Town of Oakville with input on **plaques to be displayed in Town Hall boardrooms**. The newly-named Trafalgar, Bronte, and Palermo Rooms will display plaques which outline the history of each area from European settlement to amalgamation with the Town of Oakville. TTHS Board members are pleased that the Society was included in this project, and that our North Oakville communities will be represented in the Town Hall!
- ❖ **Correction:** The TTHS recently noticed an email from Bob Johnson of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, pointing out that the Town of Oakville's recent by-law designating James Beatty's store as a property of historical significance incorrectly identifies the owner of the store as "James Beatty, Esq., M.P. for Toronto and proprietor of the Daily Leader". In fact, James Beatty was a textile merchant from Ireland who bought land in Trafalgar Township in 1833 from Amasa Wilcox. James *Beaty* was the Member of Parliament for Toronto and owned a leather goods business in the city under the name "Beaty and Armstrong." The TTHS passed on this correction to Carolyn Van Sligtenhorst of the Town of Oakville, who has sent Johnson's research to the Oakville Historical Society and made a note in the Town's files regarding the error.
- ❖ Future **street names:** the TTHS was asked for possible street names to be used in North Oakville by the Town of Oakville. Carolyn Van Sligtenhorst of the Town of Oakville writes that the following names will be used for the more major streets to be built in North Oakville: Carding Mill, Fulling Mill, Loyalist, Settlers, Scythe, Threshing Mill or Threshers, Steam Mill, and Wheat Boom.
- ❖ **Oakville harbour heritage panels:** the Society was recently asked to contribute a photo of the [Lyon Homestead Cabin](#), built in 1820 and originally situated at Trafalgar & Marlborough Court, adjacent to the area called Vernerville. It is now located at 1 Forsythe Street. The photo will be on one of a series of panels displayed around the Oakville harbour area outlining the history of the town and surrounding communities.



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### TTHS Stories: Vernerville, Lyon Cabin, & the Harper Family

In 1853, local schoolmaster Arthur Cole Verner (1811-90) divided his land into small holdings and called the land at the intersection of Upper Middle Road and 7th Line, north of the Town of Oakville, Vernerville. The settlement, however, failed to stand up to the heavy winters, and the dream of an "upper village" came to naught. Today, the Lyon Cabin is the only Vernerville building which remains.



Lyon Homestead Cabin, built in 1820

Robert Harper, an English tailor, moved here circa 1845-50 from nearby Munn's Corners, purchased lot #12 of the second concession south of Dundas Street, and moved his family into the log cabin. His daughter, Martha Matilda (1857-1950), was likely born in this house and lived there for the early part of her life.

When her mother died in 1864, Matilda was sent to work as a domestic servant in the home of her uncle in Leskard, and later for Dr. Weston Leroy Herriman, an Orono doctor with an interest in hair care. Through these experiences, Harper gained the experience which would later serve her in the business world.



Martha Matilda Harper (1857-1950)

Today, Matilda Harper is honoured as a pioneer of women's rights, having created a famous hair salon franchise called "The Harper Method Inc."

A keen entrepreneur, Harper was one of the first

Map showing the location of Vernerville

business owners in North America to allow franchising of her retail concept, name, and products. Harper later returned to Oakville and placed the headstone on her mother's and siblings' graves in the Oakville Cemetery, which still stand today. An inspiration for hundreds of thousands of young women around the world, her story should be included in the commemoration of the Lyon Cabin!

*Thanks to Terry Whelan for providing information which inspired this article.*



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### New to the TTHS Archives: The North Trafalgar Community Club

Written by Anne Choate Little



North Trafalgar Community Club, 1946

This past year, TTHS member Margaret Wark gathered together newspaper clippings and memorabilia about the North Trafalgar Community Club. Some of the material came from her aunt, Edna Ball, and they were assisted by Marlene Bauman. The information has now been added as a [group of 6 records in our digital collection](#), and is also photocopied in our print files at the Palermo Schoolhouse.

The Club started in 1921 when some of the women in north Trafalgar Township learned of a local family in distress. They were able to assist the family with clothing and food donations, and this small beginning in the days prior to government social assistance and health insurance was the start of this community service. The women met monthly, or as often as necessary, to ensure that those in the area dealing with hardship of any kind knew they were not on their own. Their motto was "Flowers for the living". Though, as the "[Reminiscing](#)" [poem by Maybelle May](#) (commemorating the 50th of the Club in 1970) noted, there was a lot of fun, friendship, learning and activity involving children and spouses.



### Reunited at the Palermo Schoolhouse!

Members of the Wilson and Hardy families gathered for a reunion at the Palermo Schoolhouse on May 4, 2014. Many thanks to TTHS members who helped host the event. *Image courtesy of Lois Rose.*



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### Upcoming Events

Wednesday March 11, 2015

#### **TTHS Annual General Meeting**

Location: Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday March 11, 2015

#### **TTHS Meetings in 2015**

Wednesday May 13, 2015

Location: Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

Wednesday July 8, 2015

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Nov. 11, 2015

*Note: The TTHS will now hold its regular meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month!*

Friday Feb. 20, 2015

#### **Archives Open Research Dates in 2015**

Friday April 17, 2015

TTHS members and the public are welcome to join us in researching family and community histories!

Friday June 19, 2015

Friday Aug. 21, 2015

Location: Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

Friday October 16, 2015

Time: 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

March 16 - 20, 2015

#### **TTHS March Break Program**

This afternoon program for children will explore all sorts of fun activities related to Schoolhouse subjects of the Edwardian era, including reading (poetry & theatre), writing (calligraphy & art), arithmetic (magic math), physical sciences (Edwardian inventions), and natural sciences during the Edwardian period. Sign up by emailing [michelle@tths.ca](mailto:michelle@tths.ca)!

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Saturday Sept. 26, 2015

#### **Heritage Day Fall Fair**

Location: Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West



### The Last Shot

**"Bronte Train Station Camp, 1914-1918 War"**

*From the TTHS Collection*