



Trafalgar Township Historical Society

## December 2019 Newsletter

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- ❑ Explore our internet collection at [Trafalgar Township Historical Society Digital Collections](#)
- ❑ “Like” us on Facebook at [Trafalgar Township Historical Society](#)
- ❑ Follow us on Twitter [@TrafTownHistory](#)
- ❑ Contact us via email at [michelle@tths.ca](mailto:michelle@tths.ca) or phone by 905-257-6029 x101
- ❑ Visit our website to read and learn more at [www.tths.ca](http://www.tths.ca)

#### **TTHS Board Members**

Chair: Michelle Knoll  
Secretary: Robert Cook  
Treasurer: Lara Rowles  
Archivist: Ross Wark  
Jane Watt  
Syzan Talo  
Gordon Kaitting

# Society News & Updates



**October 1, 2019: Our host for this evening was Councillor Jeff Knoll, pictured here with J.D.M. Stewart. Jeff, thank you for your interest and support for the heritage of North Oakville.** Note and photograph by A. Choate Little

The night was very stormy, so many thanks to author J.D.M. Stewart who drove through torrential rain to tell us stories of our Prime Ministers. Over the years, Mr. Stewart found very little personal information about these people to attract the interest of his high school history students in conventional school texts. His time spent researching, meeting, interviewing and talking with our PM's has resulted in showing us their personalities and interests.

Here is a link to the Dundurn Press page where you can read more or purchase the book, *Being Prime Minister*, either as an ebook or a paperback. It is also sold on Amazon.ca.

<https://www.dundurn.com/books/Being-Prime-Minister>

We learned that the Harper family often adopts rescued cats. Just as we see today, Prime Minister Pearson was personally threatened during the national flag debate in 1964. The threat stated, "you will also receive a bullet in the head like the President of the United States".

Prime Minister Richard B. Bennett received many letters from desperate people during the depression, asking him to personally assist them. He would often send them money from his own pocket. Canadian newborn babies named Richard received a silver goblet. (He was a millionaire).

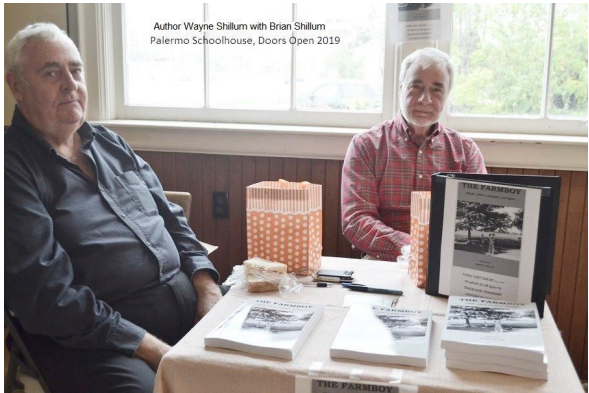
Pierre Elliot Trudeau had a glamorous personal life, dating Barbra Streisand as many of us remember. Apparently, Jayne Mansfield also talked about his appeal as a strong, dominant man. Of course, we remember "Trudeaumania".

It was interesting to hear that Sir Wilfred Laurier, Brian Mulroney and John Turner loved to meet and talk with people, their personal affability made them very approachable.

After hearing a selection of the stories, the TTHS audience understood this statement by Lester Pearson in 1964, "*To be Prime Minister of Canada, you need the hide of a rhinoceros, the morals of St. Francis, the patience of Job, the wisdom of Solomon, the strength of Hercules, the leadership of Napoleon, the magnetism of a Beagle and the subtlety of Machiavelli.*"

## Doors Open & Heritage Day 2019 at Trafalgar Township Historical Society

Note by Anne Choate Little and Ross Wark. Photos by Anne Choate Little



Many of the 44 visitors were new to the area, eager to learn of North Oakville's history. One man brought a clay jug marked H.M. Switzer, General Dealer, Palermo, Canada to share. His photos will be added to our internet collection (note on this donation below). A woman and her teenage children bought one of the old school desks that we had for sale.

Authors Wayne Shillum (*The Farmboy: From 1950's Palermo Ontario*) and David S. Hawkins (*Oakville & Bronte Dairies and Milk Bottles*) had copies of their books for sale. Contact TTHS if you would like a copy of either book! *The Farmboy* is available on amazon.ca [here](#).

Jane Watt and Kathy Baker from Halton Peel Genealogical Society provided information on family genealogy.

TTHS's exhibit had maps and photos that showed "what used to be there" in areas of Trafalgar Township.

The Archives of Ontario travelling exhibit panels "Sports in Ontario" were of interest to visitors.

Bagged lunches were provided courtesy of the V!va Retirement Community which opened recently on Sixth Line north of Dundas Street.

Thanks to the following volunteers and members of the TTHS for their participation: Michelle Knoll, Jane Watt, Anne Choate Little, Morgan Oliver, Elizabeth Whalley, Jeff Knoll, Gord Kaitting, and Ross Wark.



## Granary on the Sixteen

Note and photo by Ross Wark



In the Oakville Historical Society's recently revised booklet, "The Walker's Guide to Old Oakville," is a brief article about The Granary (1855) located at 105 Robinson Street on the east bank of Sixteen Mile Creek.

On this site originally was a warehouse built by Alexander Proudfoot (1836), a Trafalgar Township merchant. Both buildings served the interests of wheat farmers of the Township. Proudfoot sold his local interests and moved to Montreal in the 1850's.

## Recent Donations

### New Information About John A. Foreman Jr of Trafalgar Township and Muskogee, Oklahoma

Note by A. Choate Little

Retired First United Methodist Church minister Reverend Linda Morgan Clark of Muskogee OK saw the photograph of John A. Foreman Jr in our internet collection and contacted us. Thanks to our Foreman family donor, we knew a great deal about his life but nothing in connection with the railroad village of Muskogee, Indian Territory that interests Rev. Morgan Clark.

Here is a link to our photograph of Major John A. Foreman Jr, of the 3rd Regiment of Home Indian guards, Kansas Infantry: <http://images.ourontario.ca/TrafalgarTownship/17451/data?n=3> Our collection also has photographs of him with his wife, Amanda M. Oakley, married in 1847 (they later divorced in 1866). John was owner/master of his own brigantine on Lake Ontario at the age of 16. Looking for better opportunities, he took a group of people to the western United States, starting in Iowa, then on to Kansas in 1858. John brought his family back to Oakville in 1861 as the American Civil War was imminent. He was such an active businessman, there is too much to recount here. Our internet records include all that we know. Once you have opened the link above, you have access to all the Oakley-Foreman records as each one includes a link to all in our collection on the right side of each internet page; click on "Oakley - Foreman Families, Trafalgar Township".

According to Rev. Linda Morgan Clark, he can be confused with a John A. Foreman who fought as a Confederate in the American Civil War. But this other John A. Foreman is not a "Junior", and he was the prominent, somewhat notorious Cherokee son of a local Methodist minister. Adding to the problems of research in Muskogee historical resources, Oakville's John A. Foreman Jr is sometimes named James A. Foreman. Linda had her work cut out and was very happy to learn our archives could help.



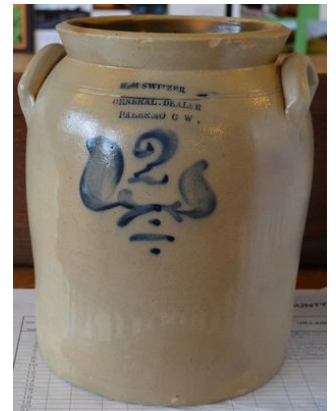
She writes: "I am the church historian and archivist for First United Methodist Church in Muskogee. I've been working for the past 5 years to re-construct the earliest history of the church and its place in the overarching history of the mission work done by the denomination with Native Americans in Alabama before The Removal to Indian Territory. It's been fascinating to associate people and places and historic events with the establishment of this church in 1878. I am not writing a book, nor am I planning to. I have prepared a presentation, handouts, etc. for lectures using my research. The handouts include brief biographical sketches of those people who were parts of the puzzle that when put together present a fuller picture of our history than I've found told anywhere in Oklahoma Methodist History.

Linda is currently president of the Muskogee County Genealogical Society  
<https://www.muskogee-county-genealogical-society.org/>

### **Stoneware Jugs Used By General Dealers**

Note by A. Choate Little

Eric Szustak brought a glazed, stoneware jug to show us at Doors Open. It is good-looking, clean with a stylized design called a "plow flower" which was typical of the Hart Potteries started in 1849 in Picton, Ontario. The number "2" in the design indicates it holds 2 gallons - most likely, it held cream. Stamped into the jug is the inscription, "H.M. Switzer General Dealer Palermo C W."



Harvey Morris Switzer opened his general merchandise store and business in Palermo, Canada West in 1844. He and Martha Solomon married in 1845. He became Postmaster in 1846. The family lived in a house connected to the Palermo general store and post office until 1868.

Major Switzer was a County Magistrate and Commissioner in the Court of Queen's Bench. He was the Paymaster of the local militia, the Lorne Rifles. He was a founding member of the Halton Agricultural Society which started in 1853. He was a member of the Conservative Party and also a trustee of the Hamilton and Northwestern Railway. He and his family attended St. Luke's Anglican Church in Palermo.

Here is the link to our Switzer jug internet record:

<http://images.ourontario.ca/TrafalgarTownship/3612854/data?n=1>

This is the second stoneware jug from an area general store that we have seen. Jean Bennett brought in a very large jug with a much smaller mouth and different glazing stamped "Hagaman & Co. General Dealers Bronte C. W.". It has the same stylized "plow flower" design indicative of Picton's Hart Pottery. The capacity number is very stylized, likely a 9 gallon jug as it is 13" tall and measures 8" across the bottom. It likely held grease or oil.



Here is the link to the TTHS internet record for the Hagaman jug:

<http://images.ourontario.ca/TrafalgarTownship/3446636/data?n=1>

### Schoolmaster Desk, circa 1840

Pat Turner has donated an antique schoolmaster's desk circa 1840 to the schoolhouse. It is solid wood with original paint and has a slanted top that opens and cubbies in the back. It is a nice addition to our schoolhouse and a generous donation.



## Queries

### Research on Palermo Foundry

Robert Cook is currently researching Palermo foundry and is hoping to speak on the topic in 2020. He is looking to see if anyone has any information on this subject that they would be willing to share with him. Send any relevant information to Robert at [robert@blackstonegates.com](mailto:robert@blackstonegates.com). Thank you kindly!

## FAQs

### *Why is the area of Bronte and Dundas named Palermo?*

Settler Lawrence Hagar established the area in 1805 and named it Hagartown. In 1836 the village was renamed Palermo after Horatio Nelson, Lord of Palermo.

## Upcoming TTHS Events

Dates and Times	Events
Friday, January 17, 2020 1:30-3:30pm	<b>Open House, Research, Reminisce</b>
Friday, February 21, 2020 1:30-3:30pm	<b>Open House, Research, Reminisce</b>
Tuesday, March 3, 2020 7:00pm-9:00pm	<b>Guest Speaker Evening: Danielle Manning's presentation from the Ontario Archives - a Century of Ontario Photographs</b> + <b>Annual General Meeting</b>

### **Open Houses - Archives Research**

**Location:** Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West from 1:30pm to 3:30pm

All are welcome in joining us in researching family and community histories. Do you have something to donate or contribute? Bring your precious documents and artifacts to one of our open houses and we would be happy to learn about your story! We can scan your documents and add them to our archives so that others can enjoy and engage in research.

### **Guest Speakers & Meetings**

**Location:** Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West from 7:00pm to 8:00pm

All are welcome to attend our guest speaker evenings to learn more about North Oakville, Trafalgar Township through informative and interactive discussions. Light snacks and refreshments are provided.

Have an idea for a guest speaker? Please contact Michelle at [michelle@tths.ca](mailto:michelle@tths.ca)!