

Chronicles Simcoe Island

Sanford Eves publishes book privately

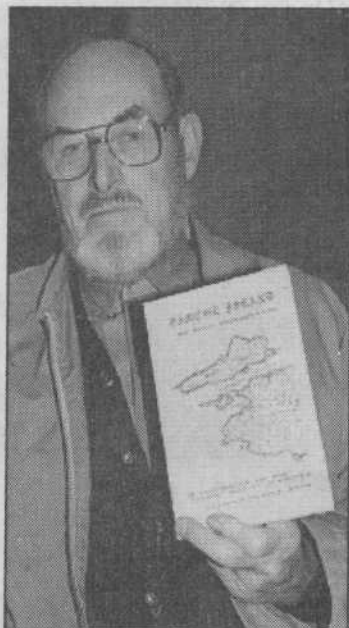
By Jack Evans

The Intelligencer

Fear that "a good story might be lost" led a retired Belleville carpenter to write a history book.

Sanford Eves said his privately-published book called "Simcoe Island — An Eves Perspective" is "a chronicle of the island and its people," but is also, essentially, a history of the Eves family since it arrived in Canada from England in 1847.

At that time, the young, relatively wealthy pioneer family, which came here to establish a new branch of the family business, settled in Belleville, but both parents died within a short time of arriving. That left seven children who scattered to various parts of North America in ensuing



Sanford Eves

years.

Some went to the Kingston area, and eventually Simcoe Island, where Eves himself was born and spent his early life and

has enjoyed a cottage residence for 12 summers. His great grandfather had settled on the island in 1877.

Part of a cluster of islands off Kingston that marks the start of the Thousand Islands chain, Simcoe is about 5.5 kilometres long and 1.5 kilometres across at its widest. It lies immediately to the southwest of Wolfe Island, a bare narrow channel separating them, and about 5.5 kilometres south of Kingston. It has a year-round population of about 12 and a summer population of about 50, says Eves.

A disputed area even before white settlement, it varied between Mississauga and Iroquois indian control, Eve's research shows. With the French arrival, it became part of a seigneurie granted by the French king to the famous explorer, LaSalle, which extended about 10 miles to the west of Cataraqui (Kingston.)

Eves credits the papers of his late Aunt Lydia, which faithfully recorded family records, with

both his inspiration and source for much of the material, coupled with "a sharp memory of my own early childhood."

Many Quinte area residents will identify with the names, events and activities recorded, such as early agriculture, commercial fishing, boat building, sailing schooners, and constant exposure to the prevailing storms and winds howling off Lake Ontario.

Drawings and photos are frequently used in the book. There's also a section of a 1910 diary in which frequent reference is made to "gales" along with social events and farming chores.

In an area where cheese factories played an important part of Quinte area history, Eves documents what he has established to be the first commercial cheese factory in Upper Canada located on the small island.

Copies, at \$15.95, are available at Greenley Book Sellers, Titles, or directly from Eves at 962-6982.