

Reunion Of Staples Clan

More than 500 members of the Staples clan came from various points in Canada and the United States to attend the first reunion held in 33 years. The gathering was comprised of the descendants of Thomas Staples and his wife Jane Bell who emigrated here from Wexford County, Ireland, in the year 1823, with members of their family, to settle in Cavan Township, going through all the hardships of the early pioneers in this country.

A memorial service was held at St. John's Cemetery, Ida, on Sunday, August 10th, where lies the grave of Thomas Staples and where many others of the Clan are buried. Thomas' wife, Jane Bell found the ocean voyage to their new home so trying that she died at sea. Her death was kept secret from the captain of the sailing vessel and she was buried in a quiet spot on the Canadian shore near Quebec. The inscription on their tombstone which was the first stone erected in St. John's Cemetery reads: "In memory of Jane, wife of Thomas Staples, died May 1, 1823, aged 56 years and Thomas Staples, aged 77 years, 1753-1830."

Taking part in the Sunday service were Rev. F. J. Burn, Sharbot Lake, and Rev. David Staples, Emo, Ontario, seventh generation grandsons of the pioneers. Music was provided by the family of Alvin Pitts who are also seventh generation grandsons and granddaughters.

Mrs. Alvin Pitts was soloist singing "Wonderful Peace" accompanied by Miss Jean Lough of Ida. Four Pitts brothers, Dwain, Glenn, Morley and Craig sang "The Glory Road" and Glenn Pitts sang a solo "He Is Mine."

Rev. Mr. Burn expressed thanks to the Wardens of St. John's Church and their organist Miss Lough for their splendid cooperation in making the memorial service so well organized.

Following the service friends gathered for a brief reunion at the graveside of Thomas Staples.

Staples Picnic

On Monday, August 4th, a picnic was held at Nicholls' Oval in Peterborough with races for the junior children and a ball game. It was a fine day for such a purpose and the older generation spent a happy time renewing acquaintances and making new ones.

Mr. O'Fa Staples, president of the reunion committee gave the Clan a welcome on behalf of the entire committee, thanking all those who had helped to make the day so successful. He spoke with regret of the death of Mr. Edgar Staples on July 21st, 1958, which was

a saddening not in the reunion. Mr. Staples had for many years been engaged in writing a Staples Genealogy which will now be completed by Mrs. Ross Carr and will be published in November. Members were asked to make certain their names were included.

Mr. Melville Staples, Newcastle, spoke briefly on the Staples history.

He related that actually Richard Staples, the youngest son of Thomas was the first to arrive here in the year 1818, sailing on the Mayflower and

the voyage lasting two months. He obtained his land from the Crown on Lot 15 on the ninth Concession of Cavan Township and erected a small log house to comply with the regulations of a Crown deed, which called for a small dwelling house to be erected within three years after purchase. A log barn was built soon afterwards. Young and enthusiastic, the hardships encountered in this new land did not daunt his adventuresome spirit. He wrote home such glowing accounts of this wonderful country, the stately maple trees on his land which flowed with a strange delicious syrup that could be made into sugar and the sweet wild berries which lay like a

carpet on the ground, that his parents decided to join him. Richard Staples married Jane Swain.

Thomas Staples was seventy years of age and his wife fifty-six when they came to this country in 1823. After landing at Quebec Thomas and his sons and daughters proceeded on to Cobourg by another boat. From there, walking and carrying their possessions, they made their way along a blazed trail to the 10th Concession of Cavan Township to establish their homestead on the East half of Lot 14.

Thirty-three years ago, a reunion of the Clan was held on August 5th, 1925, at Cobourg. At that time it was estimated

there were over 1500 descendants. Now there are over 6,000.

A large number not present at the 1958 reunion sent messages of congratulations and expressions of regret on being unable to attend. These messages were received from many points in the United States and Canada, and other distant places.

Among these a letter from England was received from Mrs. (Dr.) Herman Staples, Watchman-Warder, Lindsay.

FALL FAIR DATES

C.N.E. Aug. 20-Sept. 6
Blackstock Aug. 22, 23
Port Hope Aug. 29, 30

Mirror-Reporter



J. H. Barringer, Publisher.

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Kinmount..... | Aug. 29, 30 |
| Coe Hill..... | Aug. 29, 30 |
| Marmora..... | Aug. 30-Sept. 1 |
| Napanee..... | Sept. 1-3 |
| Apsley..... | Sept. 5, 6 |
| Lakefield..... | Sept. 12, 13 |
| Warkworth..... | Sept. 18, 19 |
| Kingston..... | Sept. 23, 27 |
| Pictou..... | Sept. 10-12 |
| Campbellford..... | Sept. 23, 24 |
| Bobeaygeon..... | Sept. 26, 27 |



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