



HOW STRONG
IS **YOUR**
CONSCIENCE
?

Victims of the Hurricane and Floods need the financial help of those who were fortunate enough to escape the horror of rampaging water. Your family escaped. How much will you help the families of those who didn't?

In Acton, Citizens may Donate 3 Ways:

- AT EITHER OF THE LOCAL BANKS
 - THROUGH A CLUB, ORGANIZATION OR CHURCH
 - THROUGH YOUR PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(By collection or payroll deduction, as arranged)
- TEMPORARY RECEIPTS WILL BE GIVEN IN EACH CASE

REMEMBER:
The Need is Great.

THE ONTARIO HURRICANE
RELIEF FUND, STILL SHORT OF
ITS \$10,000,000 GOAL WILL BE
FORWARDED ALL DONATIONS FROM ACTON
AND DISTRICT. IF YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN, GIVE NOW!

There Will Be No Door-to-door Canvass

SEE IT NOW!



THE ENTIRELY NEW
1955 PONTIAC

ON FRIDAY, OCT. 29th

COFFEE WILL BE SERVED AFTERNOON AND EVENING
ANSWER A QUIZ AND GET A PRIZE

- 100 gallons of gas goes to every person who signs an order with deposit for a new 1955 Pontiac on Friday or Saturday, Oct. 29 and 30.
- FREE television set given away with each of the following 1954 cars still in our stock:
Pontiac 4-door Laurentian
Buick 4-door Century

WHAT A CHANCE!

DON'T MISS IT AT

LORNE GARNER MOTORS

MAIN ST.

ACTON

Haltom's Pages of the Past

**Omagh and Boyne Named After Irish Places
By M.P. After District Settlement Around 1818**

BY GWEN CLARKE

Olden Days n Villages of Omagh and Boyne are two small communities in the Township of Trafalgar. To think of one is to remember the other, in fact it is hard to know where Boyne ends and Omagh begins. Both places are designated as villages in the Haltom Atlas of 1877 and were settled about the same time—around 1818—and were named by John White, M.P., after places in his own native Ireland.

The Sixteen Mile Creek winds its way through most of the farms bordering Highway 25. On what was known as the Maxwell farm there used to be a salt-lick that attracted the deer from the nearby forest. At that time the Sixteen abounded in salmon, said to have been so thick a settler could back his wagon up to the "rick" and spear them with a pitchfork. So naturally, venison and salmon were frequent items in the daily diet of the early settlers.

Dam Washed Away
The Boyne is situated on Highway 25 and No. 5 Sideroad, about three miles south of Milton where there is a service station and an attractive schoolhouse. The service station belongs to G. E. Dolby and Son, the property having been in the Dolby family for nearly 70 years. The first owner was a Mr. McLarnen who had a blacksmith shop. There was also a carriage and paint shop on the premises. On the opposite corner stands a brick house, recently remodelled but which was built in 1854. In 1861 Stephen Emmett had a dry goods store here and did a good business. Some time in the early days of the community there was a sawmill on the Sixteen,



GENERAL STORE at Omagh in 1914 is shown above in this reproduction of an old photo. The child held by Guff Robinson is Bobby Beatty, son of Mrs. Clifford Beatty who was shopping at Robinson Bros. store when a passing photographer asked to take their picture. To the right are Mrs. Beatty and Miss Lillian Robinson. Old blacksmith and carriage shop at the Boyne is shown in the reproduction below. The property has been in the Dolby family for nearly 70 years.



known as English's Mill. After it ceased to function the mill dam provided a grand swimming hole for the boys. Now the last of the old dam has long since been washed away.

On the farm now owned by Mr. Wm. McCartney there used to be a very busy woollen mill, run by Bousfield and owned by Logan McCann who did a good trade in custom work. It shared the same fate as many another mill in the olden days—destroyed by fire—and was never rebuilt.

First Teacher Arrives
The first Boyne school was built in 1828 upon ground donated by one Peter Schram. Families sending children to school agreed to pay the teacher seven shillings and sixpence per head every three months, and single men to be boarded out with the children's parents. The first teacher was J. Dickinson, from New York State. The second came from Pennsylvania and is said to have had "a great knowledge of toads and hoop-snakes." There was also William Frees who was accustomed to use the strap unmercifully. One day, acting on the theory they might as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb, young Willie Pettigrew and two other boys pried open the teacher's desk, took out the hat-strap, dropped it into the old box stove and watched with delight as it was consumed by the flames. The aftermath is not recorded!

On July 2, 1839, a reunion was held at the Boyne School at which the late Austin Buck was chairman and delighted those attending with his reminiscences of the early days at the Boyne. He had with him the student roll of 1876 when Miss Lizzie Bousfield was a teacher. Ten were present to answer the roll call.

On Toronto Circuit
Bow's Methodist Church, just above the Boyne, at one time belonged to the Toronto circuit and was established in 1827. In 1852 it was changed to Milton. Dr. Egerton Ryerson addressed Bow's congregation upon several occasions.

At nearby Omagh, on No. 5 Sideroad, there were at one time three churches, a school, a blacksmith's shop and a very busy little "corner store" which included the village post office. The Methodist church burnt to the ground many years ago; the Anglican church was taken down, but the Church of Christ still has a large following as a Vocational Bible School, students coming from many parts of Canada and the United States.

One of the first settlers in Omagh was John Beatty, who came from Ireland in 1819, and from the Crown drew Lot 7, Concession 4. It was a lonely life for the young immigrant who sometimes did not see a soul

for weeks at a time. Even so, Cupid, in those days, had a way of working his wiles, so that John Beatty and Elizabeth Stewart met, fell in love, and wanted to get married. To do so it was necessary to make use of emergency measures as provided by law. To that end the following notice was nailed up on trees in various parts of the settlement. It read: "Marriage Notice." Whereas John Beatty and Elizabeth Stewart, both of Trafalgar, are desirous of intermarrying with each other, and there being no minister of the Church of England living within 18 miles, these notices are to notify all persons who know of any impediment why they should not be joined together in matrimony, to give notice to James McBride, Esq., Justice of the Peace, Trafalgar, September 11, 1823."

Naturally the Beatty's home was a log cabin which must have required considerable expansion through the years as 13 children were born to John and Elizabeth Beatty.

Frame Church Built in 1838
Between Omagh and the Boyne on No. 5 Sideroad stands the Presbyterian Church, under the same ministry as Boston Church in the Scotch Block. Both the Church and the cemetery, by their well-kept and attractive appearance are tangible evidence of a faithful and hard-working congregation. The present church was built in 1866, replacing the old frame structure, built by the pioneers in 1838.

Prior to 1834 Omagh children attended the Boyne school. Then the community decided to build a school of its own to accommodate students from the 5th and 6th Line. The first teacher in the new school was a single man by the name of Samuel Clark. Mr. Clark was a man of many parts. After about two years he gave up teaching and took up farming on the 1st Line, Trafalgar. But apparently he still was not satisfied. So in 1855 he went into the publishing business and started the first weekly paper to be published in Milton. It was called "The Haltom Journal" but died a natural death after about ten years.

Another teacher who made a name for himself was James R. Howden (1879-80). He later moved to Manitoba and became Attorney-General of that province. There was also Miss Rosalie Cuttler, who later married Captain Fox, son of Dr. Anthony Fox of Hornby, featured in this column a few weeks ago. Of more recent date was Miss Hattie Johnson 1906-18. Better known to the Milton district as Mrs. R. M. McDuffee.

Old Names Familiar
The "Corner Store" is still doing a good business at Omagh. For many years Mr. Wm. Robinson of Milton and his wife made their living there. Now the business is carried on by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rutherford.

Many pioneer names may still be found among the residents of today in the Omagh and Boyne districts. Names such as Beatty, Ford, McCann, Jarvis, Brownridge, Dolby, McCartney, Biggar and others, some of U. E. L. descent. If space permitted, and we followed the lives of teachers and students alike from these two small rural schools, we should doubtless find many besides those already mentioned, who have served with distinction at home or abroad, in civil life or on the field of battle, defending the cause of freedom established many years ago by the pioneers of Haltom County.

(Next feature—"The First Doctors in Haltom County")

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Bear for Punishment

ALASKA'S GIANT Kodiak bear plays rough. But the people who run the Bronx Zoo have found the perfect toy for him. It's an aluminum beer barrel, which in his playful moments he can bang, bounce and generally maltreat without serious damage. Having seen barrels (filled) being tossed around trucks, we can understand why brewers have turned to these rugged, attractive containers. Another reason, of course, is that aluminum is an excellent protector for food and drink, preserving their purity and flavour indefinitely. Aluminum Company of Canada, Ltd. (Alcan).

NO. 10 IN A SERIES . . . YOUR HYDRO AT WORK FOR YOU AND YOURS

YOUR HYDRO
...Lighting
the way

Adequate, reliable, street lighting, made possible by low-cost Hydro electricity, is one of the great benefits of modern living.

Automatic traffic lights speed and integrate the flow of traffic . . . help prevent accidents . . . protect pedestrians.

Street lights safeguard the citizens of a community in other ways too . . . brightly illuminated streets are an important factor in reducing crime.

Thanks to a dependable supply of electricity, provided by Ontario Hydro and your local municipality, the streets of our Province are better lighted than ever before. Another example of . . .

ONTARIO HYDRO
AT WORK FOR YOU AND YOURS

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