

Attracted by natural beauty

Petersons buy old Rockwood property

Another in the series of prize-winning essays by students on the history of the Rockwood area is published this week. Anna Peterson chose her own house and its surroundings as her subject. Research revealed a much more interesting history than the Petersons suspected when they bought the house.

There are no pioneers living today so all the first hand information is lost, but still there are very many elderly people who are very happy to tell you of their old memories. If this information is not collected in a few years it may be lost. The gathering of old data requires a special interest in history and a great deal of time, but in view of its value such efforts are very worthwhile.

books, township books and early newspapers should be examined.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Our house is located in Rockwood off Main Street, opposite George Street. It consists of lots one to nine and some additional land in concession No. 4 totaling about six acres. Two of them are clear and four are swamp and bush.

In 1963 my father noticed an advertisement in the paper offering this property for sale. When we first visited this place we were attracted by its natural beauty. We were charmed by the rugged cliffs and the bubbling stream. We liked it so much that later on in discussion we children offered our little savings for the down payment.

We became owners of the property on August 27, 1963, when all the official documents were signed by Earl Richardson, who at that time was residing in Guelph.

The property had been in the Richardson family for three generations.

As far as I was able to find out Earl's grandfather, Ralph, bought this land from Henry Strange who owned a large part of Rockwood. It appears that at that time this property was used as a shingle mill. Ralph died at about 65 of pneumonia while he was helping his brother at his mill in another township. He was buried there.

His son John inherited the property and lived on it to a ripe old age of 97 (born in 1864 - died in 1961). He was buried in Rockwood Cemetery. The property came into the hands of Earl Richardson who had another property in Guelph so he sold it to my parents.

At the time of purchase we did not realize the historical background of the various remains and buildings. After we found

various parts of buggies and coffins did we become interested in the past activities of this property. After cleaning up all the scattered wooden parts it was revealed to us more building than we had realized. We found a map in the hydro office in Rockwood which showed us the location of the building.

THE HOUSE

The house which is now two storied was a one storey cottage in Ralph Richardson's time. Around the 1930's the second storey was built on. The contours of the old house can still be seen on the outside. At the same time a porch was added and the basement enlarged. The ceiling are supported by rough cedar beams which still have the bark on them.

An old coal burner was recently replaced by modern gas furnace. The house has ten large rooms and in the unfinished wing there are four smaller rooms which we use as storage rooms.

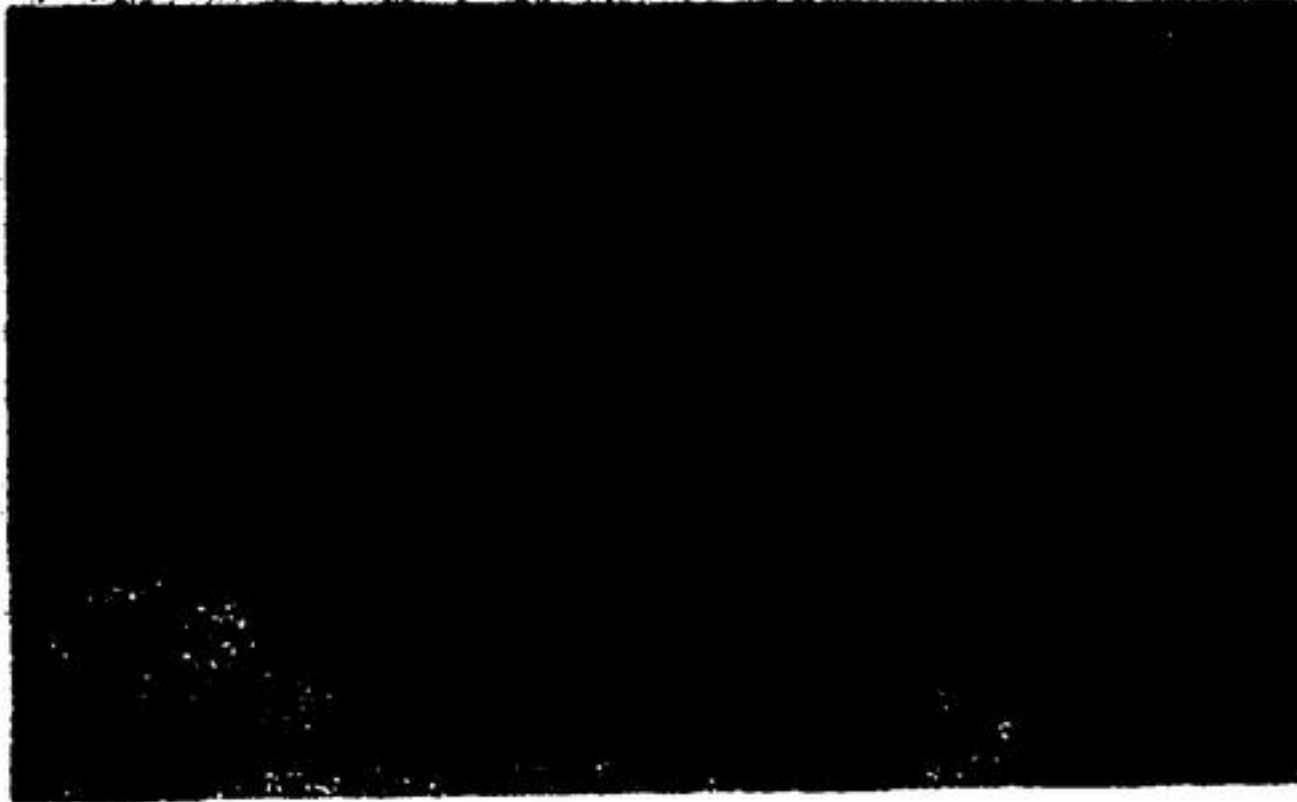


Natural beauty of the area attracted the Petersons to the stone home beside the creek

THE STORY OF OUR HOME

by Anna Peterson

"When history is lost, it can never be recovered again," said Dr. H. Templin in "Here and There in Eramosa," the book by Frank Day.



Ruins of the first mill

Grade nine course subject for Home, School meeting

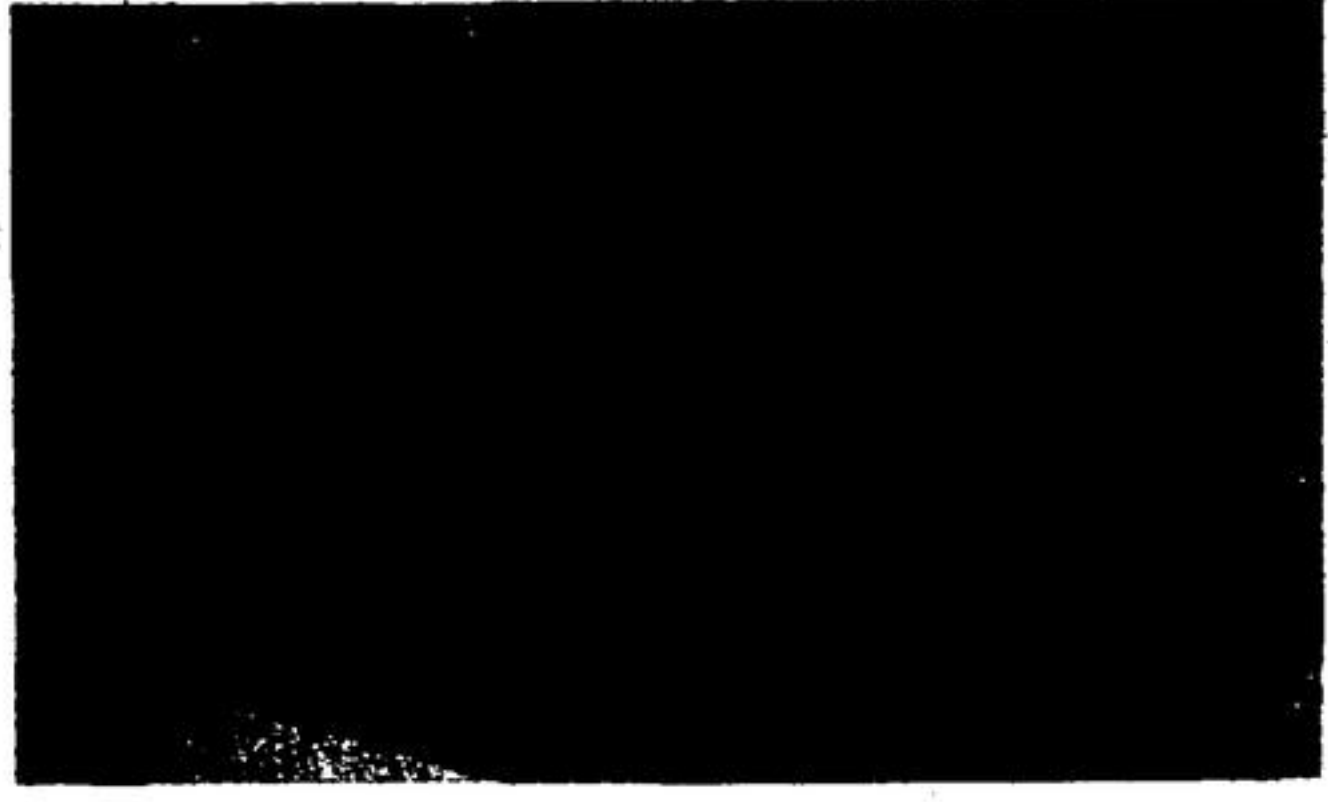
by Mrs. F. Taylor

Selection of Grade 9 courses will be the theme of the November meeting of Rockwood Home and School. It will take the form of a panel discussion with Lorne Cox, principal of J. F. Ross C.V.I. and Mr. Morrison, vice principal also of J. F. Ross, Grant McKee and Bob Love principal and vice principal of Rockwood Secondary School, Ron

Marion, principal of Eramosa Public School and Blair Sinclair and Brenda Smith, students.

Grant McKee will be moderator. All grade seven and eight students in the Township, 167 in all, are invited with their parents to hear this interesting discussion and ask questions about this most important matter.

This is planned for Thursday evening, November 30, in the Rockwood Centennial Auditorium.



Window sills are almost three feet thick



Ruins of the Methodist church are inspected



Remaining walls of water wheel house

The window sills are about sixteen inches wide and are a convenient place for flowers and other articles. In the dining room still stands an old buffet bought in Toronto by John Richardson.

Drinking water used to be at the pump outside but when we moved in it was connected to the pressure system. All rain water is collected and gathered in two tanks under the floor which is used for hot water.

Around the house there are many lilac trees and fruit trees. Some of the apple trees are very old and hollow. In the spring when they are in bloom they are very fragrant and beautiful.

STABLE

A short distance away from the house is the stable. It is a stone structure with four wooden stalls. The upper part where the hay was kept for the horses was blown off during a storm.

The horses were used to deliver cut shingles to the customers. Now the stable is empty and covered with a plastic to protect it from water damage.

MILL

The shingle mill was the main business of the family. It was started by Ralph Richardson and carried on by his son John. The Richardson's shingles

were famous at the turn of the century. Farmers used to bring down their own wood to be cut and then paid by leaving some grain, cowhide, eggs or other produce. They also used the sawdust to bed their animals.

When flooded it was used for skating.

METHODIST CHURCH

Land was given to the church by Ralph Richardson in agreement that if the church was torn down the land was to come back to the owner. The church was finished in 1856 and was located on the west side of the Branch Creek, beside the main road.

A detailed report of the opening day ceremony can be found in the book "Here and There in Eramosa".

The church was a brick building 30 by 40 feet and served until 1925. At that time it joined the Presbyterian Church and be-

came the United Church. After the union they tore down the building and only a few foundations remain.

Not far from the church there was a stable where the people tied up their horses. Mr. H. Edwards went to Sunday School there. Mr. Harris was the church's last secretary-treasurer.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the people who supplied me with information for this write-up. Especially, I am thanking Mr. Earl Richardson, previous owner, Guelph; Mrs. Eva Henderson, his sister, Guelph; H. Edwards, S.S. Royce, C. F. O'Brien, C.H. Harris.

Four run for three trustee seats Dec. 4; two year term in Rockwood

By Mrs. F. Taylor

Rockwood - The nomination meeting for trustees for the village of Rockwood was held on

Friday evening. A good representation of residents met in the Rockwood Town Hall and when nominations closed at 8.30 p.m. the following names had been

slated: Ken Murray, Norm Brain, J.H. Smith, Mrs. Sytko Driber, L.V. Hills, Bert Pinkney, Herb Saunders and D.D. Gray.

An interesting discussion took place on several important issues - incorporation and the highly

unsafe condition of the highway bridge for pedestrians when snow becomes piled on the sidewalk. Also discussed were the sewer system and water mains as well as the safety of school children crossing at the stop signs on Guelph and Inkerman Streets.

Several members of Council (township) present were asked to say a few words.

At the Saturday deadline for qualifying the only names standing were: Don Hills, L.V. Hills, Ken Murray, and J.H. Smith. Three are to be elected on Dec. 4. This is for a two year term.

Election for Eramosa council, school board; reeve, deputy acclaimed

by Mrs. F. Taylor

Clark-treasurer Lloyd Hindley was appointed chairman of the Eramosa Township nomination meeting held in Rockwood Town Hall on Saturday afternoon.

It was the largest attendance at nomination for many years and the increase was attributed by many to the Saturday innovation.

The chairman called on Eramosa's Reeve Warden Cameron Lush who spoke mainly on the workings of County Council as it affects the township. Mr. Lush thanked all who had worked and co-operated with him in the past year and said it was indeed an education and a thrill to be Warden during the Centennial year. He stated he intended to let his name stand for election.

Fred Cox, the township Deputy Reeve, said he felt this had been a year of progress in the township. He said he had enjoyed the committees on which he had served in county council and was as yet undecided as to whether or not he would let his name stand for election.

Councillor Earl McKenzie thanked all for their co-operation in the past and told of many matters attended to during the year by council. He felt this year he would not stand for re-election.

Councillor Dunc McPhedran was as yet undecided as to his stand for election. He was quite combated over the proposed amalgamation of the township school boards into one township board. But these plans are most indefinite at the present.

Jim Milne stated he would let his name stand for deputy-reeve

and reviewed the past years work. He extended an invitation for all to come to the official opening of the Municipal Building and new township garage on Dec. 8. A local talent variety program will be held with a dance following.

Chairman of the Eramosa School Board Murray Smeltzer gave a detailed review of the expenses incurred by the new Centennial School and other schools in the township. He was as yet undecided as to whether or not to let his name stand for re-election.

Doug Buttenham will again run for school board. He reviewed the new kindergarten set up and other items dealt with during the year.

Ross McDougall was undecided as to his plans but gave a good report on the transportation area under the Board.

Bob Leslie who joined the Board during the year to fill the vacancy left by Dr. R.J. Hilton will let his name stand for election.

Lloyd Waddell who covered the area of personnel will also let his name stand. These offices will for the first time be for a two year term.

A short discussion on township matters followed and other nominees were called on for a few words.

The Guelph Suburban District High School Board representative, Bill Jackson was called on for a few words, as was Ross Gordon, a member of the Nassagaweya Township Council.

Those whose names were slated at close of nominations were: Reeve - C. Lush and J. Oakes, Deputy-reeve - J. Milne, D. McPhedran, J. Oakes, F. Cox, council - W. Parkinson, J. Hewitt, D. Storey, W. Oakes, D. McPhedran, P. Dudnick, B. Hill and Wm. Adsett.

Those qualifying at Monday noon deadline were - Reeve - Cameron Lush by acclamation, and Jim Milne by acclamation for deputy-reeve.

For council - Duncan McPhedran, Warren Parkinson, Bill Adsett, J. Hewitt, Burton Hill and Peter Dudnick. Those qualifying for School Board were - Murray Smeltzer, Ross McDougall, Robert Leslie, Lloyd Waddell, George Smith and Morris Wolfe.

Election day in Eramosa is December 4.



I would appreciate the opportunity to serve another term as councillor for the Township of Esquesing RE-ELECT

C. F. (Pat) PATTERSON



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