

## Buster Crabbe will Visit Sheridan Monday

Legendary Buster Crabbe, Olympic swimming star and Hollywood glamor personality, will visit Oakville and Brampton campuses of Sheridan College on Monday, Oct. 30.

The man who played Tarzan, Billy the Kid, Wyatt Earp, Buck Rogers and Flash Gordon, will talk to students on the Golden Age of Hollywood.

Crabbe was a popular sound serial star, made 94 films and some 100 television films. Crabbe called himself "the poor man's John Wayne", but said he was more often recognized as a swimmer than as an actor.

## Married at West Hill

At 64, Buster Crabbe lives in Rye, New York, commutes to Wall Street, where he is a stockbroker, and has a boys' camp in upper New York State. He weighs only a few pounds more than he did when he held 35 national and 16 world swimming records, plus several Olympic gold medals. Last year in Los Angeles he won three events in the annual

Senior Sports International Swim Meet and anchored a winning relay team on one day, broke the world record for 400 meter freestyle swimming in the 60-64 age group on another.

**TRACES CAREER**  
Buster Crabbe's presentation will consist of his personal commentary on a 40-minute film that traces the highlights of his career. He covers the history of sound movies and early TV from the thirties on, and gives sideliights on the lives and times of Hollywood greats.

## Wooley-Biehn Wedding At Bride's Parent's Home



Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Wooley — Adams Photography

Amid their immediate families, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Biehn, 26 Queen Street, Ellen Elizabeth Biehn of London and Douglas Laird Wooley, son of Mrs. Talmadge Wooley of Caledonia, and the late Mr. Wooley were united in marriage.

The ceremony, which took place Thursday evening, October 19, at 7:30 p.m. in a setting of white shasta mums, pink carnations and gladioli, was performed by a friend of the groom, Rev. Andrew Patton, Guelph.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a light-weight wool suit in crimson-tone plaid, with floor length A-line skirt, semi-fitted blazer style jacket and contrasting gold blouse with jabot. Mrs. Douglas Burch, Scarborough, was her attendant.

Groomsmen for his twin brother was David Wooley of Glencoe.

Following the ceremony, the bride and groom and their families had dinner at Spot on 7.

Mr. and Mrs. Wooley are making their home in London, where he is a student at the University of Western Ontario medical school. He is a Physical Education graduate of the University of Guelph.

The bride, a graduate of Atkinson School of Nursing, Toronto Western Hospital, also is a B. Sc. N graduate of the University of Western Ontario this year. She is home coordinator at the Victorian Order of Nurses at Victoria Hospital, London.

## Roszel Family Pioneers In the Ballinafad Area

A history of the Roszel family, closely linked with the early days of Ballinafad, has been compiled by Mrs. Gould of Fergus, as a contribution to historical research in Wellington County.

It contains much of interest to district people, and is reproduced here to help preserve it in print.

Nathaniel Roszel, born July 1788, emigrated with his parents from Pennsylvania to the Smithville area of the Niagara escarpment about 1800. Why did his family leave the U.S.? Had the population explosion hit New England infating land prices forcing his father, Charles, to move to new frontiers so that he could acquire land for sons now reaching manhood — or were the reasons political? I could not find the answer, but we can assume that even if they had not sought it, they had found a political system more to their liking, for we know that twelve years later Nathaniel and four of his brothers fought to retain the country of their adoption against invasion by the land of their birth.

Three of the brothers, Nathaniel, Eldrich and George were given grants of land in Erin Township for their services. Each received 100 acres on payment of \$26 to cover the cost of issuing deeds, etc. George and Nathaniel were to receive Lot 2, Conc. 6 but their deeds were drawn for Lot 1, Conc. 7.

On October 25, 1809, Nathaniel married Christeen Felker who died October 10, 1812. They had two sons — Charles (who he perhaps the first grandchild of the Canadian patriarch) and Jacob who was born and died in 1812. Did Nathaniel while he was off to battle for Gen. Brock lose his wife and infant son as a result of childbirth?

Left with the practical considerations of caring for Charles, then a little toddler, re-marriage was almost immediate — on January 10, 1813 (three months to the day after Christeen's death he married Hannah Fowler who had been born 1793).

They had 15 children — five — one out of three died in infancy. Jane - 1814, James - 1815, Ann - 1816, Joseph - 1818, Hannah - 1819 died in infancy, Matha - 1820, Benjamin - November 11, 1821 the first white child born in Wellington County, Solomon - 1824, Christeen - 1826 obviously named for Nathaniel's first wife.

It would indicate that Hannah hardly fit the popular version of the cold, hard hearted step-mother but must have felt contented and secure in her husband's affection and have been a very warm hearted and compassionate mother for the wee Charles — by then a young man of 16 old enough to appreciate this gesture. Had Hannah and Christeen been close friends, perhaps cousins? Stephen - 1829, Nathaniel - 1834 died in infancy, it seems ironic that in that generation Christeen, born in 1826, survived while Hannah, born 1819 and Nathaniel born 1834, both died in infancy, while the parents for whom they were named enjoyed longevity — Hannah Sr. was 68 years, 4 months and 9 days when she died on July 4, 1861 and Nathaniel Sr. died on December 3, 1872 aged 84 years, 5 months. George and Wilson - 1839 died in infancy, Wilson - 1839 died in infancy, and George — here a question arises in this order, but shows George's birthdate as 1832. It hardly seems credible that one of the twins would have been given the same name as his three year old brother. At any rate he was the youngest child to survive infancy and remained on the homestead.

In November, 1820 Nathaniel, now a mature man of 32, with a wife and six living children, came with his brother George to settle on their land grants in Erin Township. The journey from Smithville was a hard one. Now, night or day, it's about an hour's drive, but travelling over primitive roads in the short daylight hours of November, it would have taken them nearly a week, and there is rarely a week in November without precipitation, cold rains, sleet, snow, frost and fogs. Being the first settlers, they had to blaze their own trail from Georgetown, and we can



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SERMON TOPIC:  
"WHAT IS THE CHURCH"  
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perhaps appreciate some of the obstacles the topography of this area offered to them when we read that the trail they cut to reach their locations was nine miles in length — about twice the distance of the present road — which is still not the most direct route as the crow flies. At that point the crew were probably thankful to the land office clerk, who by a slip of his quill had cut a couple of extra miles from their journey.

They came in November — on the very doorstep of winter. Nathaniel had probably remained in Smithville to finish his harvest, slaughter his winter's meat and cut the winter's wood supply, for it would seem that Hannah and the children would remain at the old place for the winter. Martha, if she had been born before her father's departure, would only be a few months old. Christeen's wee toddler Charles would then be a little man about ten and the others 6, 5, 4 and 2.

The 1906 atlas tells us that George did not like the country and sold his 100 acres to Nathaniel. How long did George take to reach that decision — did he attempt to clear land and build a home? It doesn't seem probable for the Atlas also recounts that having found horses almost useless in this wilderness, Nathaniel sent his team home with George to be returned to him later and that these were probably the first horses in Erin Township.

If we assume that Hannah and the children remained behind, then Nathaniel must have cleared a little land, built his house and returned to his family within two or three months for Benjamin was born November 11, 1821.

Eldrich took up his grant — the West half of Lot 2, Conc. 7 in the Spring of 1821, probably the very early spring. The brothers would be anxious to get the land cleared and ready for the planting of their first crop and they would want to make that arduous journey before the spring break-up made the primitive roads impassable. The going would be relatively easier to Okaville for the roads had been improved around Hamilton Bay to permit the movement of troops and supplies between York and the Niagara Frontier, but were probably, at best of seasons, barely passable between Oakville and Georgetown. From there they would be forced to haul their possessions over the nine miles slashed through the bush by George and Nathaniel the previous fall, while the pregnant Hannah trudged behind, possibly carrying the infant Martha, and encouraging and assisting her chubby legged little quartet over the rough path. Charles would have some responsibilities, possibly leading the cow. Eldrich probably made his home with Nathaniel's family until fall to enable him to clear land, plant and harvest

his crop before he took time to build a house.

Settlement had taken root in Erin Township but for the Roszel family the struggles and hardships were not behind them. Nathaniel cleared about eight acres of land each winter and the grain from these virgin fields had to be taken to Jones Mill on the 6th Concession of Esquesing Township, to be ground.

Nor did Hannah sit idle. Eight children were born after she arrived in Erin. Indeed from her marriage in 1813 until the youngest child, George, was trained she was continuously faced by an unending pile of dirty diapers, a prospect which would overwhelm today's mother, armed with unlimited hot water, modern detergents and efficient laundry equipment — current displays in supermarkets attest to the popularity of disposable diapers, and the average family has two or three children. As well as the laundry, which would involve making soap, carrying water and hand scrubbing, there would be the sewing of the family's entire wardrobe and the ever increasing demand for bedding, cooking and washing up for about a dozen people three meals a day (no TV dinners or automatic dishwashers), bread to be baked, butter to be churned, candles to be made, preserving to be done and the sick to be nursed. Along with this household routine would be the care of the chickens and the vegetable garden, the milking of the cows and the picking of the wild fruit, for the pioneer farmer didn't have time for such chores. Yet an early traveller to Erin Township commented on the beautiful flowers around the pioneer homes.

Ten years after their arrival, the 1830 census shows 75 households consisting of 368 people living in the township. How many of these settlers coming in had found refuge for a night or even a few weeks with this first family? How many times had they set their own tasks aside to help raise a house or barn for a newcomer? Obviously the Roszels took an active interest in the affairs of their community. In the early days their home was the headquarters for the ministers. Nathaniel gave land for the Methodist Church and parsonage, the cemetery, school

(Continued on Page 12)

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