



Trafalgar Township Historical Society

"Documenting, celebrating and preserving the agricultural heritage of North Oakville"

Spring Newsletter 2012

michelle@tths.ca 905-257-9080

2431 Dundas Street W.

Board Report

Our board members were all re-elected at the Annual General Meeting. Ed Butts spoke on Sheridan Nurseries and provided some great information on the history of the nurseries that was new information for all of us who attended. We want to congratulate our Chairperson Gordon Kaitting on becoming a first time grandpa.

Watch for an article on Sixteen Hollow in the next Town Council Update Magazine written by Susan Crossman with help from Judy Bourke.

Burl-oak Theater Group used the school house to practice their play "Schoolhouse" that was presented at Oakville centre for Performing Arts in April. Photo courtesy of Oakville Today.



The Oakville Players also rented the schoolhouse last month and put on a performance. We understand that the Oakville Players present who used to use the schoolhouse were quite happy to see it restored.

Lend A Hand -

We are in need of more board members and volunteers urgently. We really need a few more people who could pitch in. We need people to help with the following...



Scan all our documents so we have back-up copies of everything for safety.

Co-ordinate renters at the schoolhouse.

Write funding proposals

Dust & clean monthly

Help file and sort everything for the archives

Put together the newsletter 4 times a year

Assist with organizing the fair & distributing posters

Schoolhouse Speakers Series

Alison Little joined us in April and shared with us some great information on setting up a schoolhouse program. She gave us lots to think about and was a wealth of information.

Tuesday, June 26th at 7PM we are delighted to have Matthew Wilkinson from Heritage Mississauga join us to speak on "Historic Mississauga and the War of 1812"

Schoolhouse Archives

You are welcome to visit our archives on Friday July 20th and Friday October 19th between 1:30-3:30. We are always adding family histories, journals, relevant school texts (elementary), photographs and postcards. Items can be scanned and returned..

Heritage Fair Saturday September 29th from 10-4

Join us at the school house for exhibits, war of 1812 reenactment, BBQ, book sale and more. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer for the fair or have an exhibit.

Donations

Thanks so much to Erchless Museum for the donation of two desks to add to our classroom collection.

Thanks to Charlie Hughes for taking an old door that was donated and refinishing it so that we can now have a locked door on our archives!

Scanning

We are preparing to move our scanned photos to a new site in the next few months. The site we currently use has lost its government funding and we are not able to afford the new fee to continue to be a partner. We will let you know as soon as we have finalized the new location for the scanned photos. Anne has added 25 records since our last newsletter. Some of the records contain more than one photo so don't forget to click on the arrow key at the top left side of the online record to see the other photos.

Can anyone help us add some details on this 1st photograph? It is thought to be a home in Agerton. The second photograph is a cute little home that used to sit on the west side of Sixth Line just north of Dundas. This picture was taken about 1929- wonder when it was torn down? John Hoey who was a Trafalgar Detective lived in the house and Fred Oliver put his name forward to be recognized in a street name in the new development. The 3rd picture is part of some new photos that were provided by the Wendover family that show the previous Palermo schoolhouse and the building of our current schoolhouse home.



Queries & Contributions

Absalom Smith

gordlaur@mymts.net My name is Gordon C. Smith. Absalom Smith was my gr.gr.Grandfather. Very little is known about the ancestors of William Homer Smith. I have been able to track them thru to Rev. John Smith who came to the USA in 1630. I was born in 1924, and I know they were all long lived. I would appreciate any information that you could give me, as well as contacts to any relatives that are connected to these early Smiths.



Pinch family

The only official Halton Co record I've ever found is John Pinch's baptism in 1857 at the elusive "Trafalgar Wesleyan Methodist Church". I have the family's immigration record into New York (1853), purchase of land in Mersea Twp (Wheatley) in 1860, and verbal history of older siblings born in Trafalgar. What drew them to Trafalgar? I've looked for Yorkshire neighbours that might have provided farm employment but came up blank. Was there railroad, bridge, building construction that occurred here in mid-1850. The father was a stone mason and perhaps that was a draw?

Thanks for helping me search! Jeff Pinch jeff_pinch@yahoo.com

Queries & Contributions Continued

McIntosh Apple Orchard

I have a rare custom built truck that McIntosh bought from the T. Eaton Co. after WWII and used at his apple orchard. I have been restoring it for several years. The truck had hand painted lettering on its sides saying "J. McIntosh Trafalgar Ont." Bob bobpat@nexicom.net

Moses Teeter

I am writing to inquire if your group has any information regarding my 5xgrandfather Moses Teeter. I have some vague references to Moses settling somewhere along Dundas Street in 1806. They had 4 sons and 5 daughters. Related families in Trafalgar Twp. were Trillers and McCraney's. Related families in Toronto Twp. were Van Valkenbergs, Howells and Cooks. Any information would be appreciated. Thank you Kim Johnston kim@gagegroup.ca

Boyd Family

I am looking for my Boyd roots and believe John Alexander Boyd, born 1800 in Ireland may have lived in Trafalgar around 1830. He married Sarah Elizabeth Abbott about that time and they had 2 sons, Sewell Abbott and Silas Ogden, born 1834 and 1839. Around 1840 they moved west to Middlesex Co. Any trace of this family in your records? Thanks. Bill Stoner thestoners@hughes.net



Wilson

George Wilson (my father) is in your WW1 records online. I have some added information to share. His military records listed him as Lieut. and his birthday was incorrectly listed as the 4th of November rather than the correct date of the 4th of October. I am sending you his service record. He was a Trafalgar Township resident living at his father's farm on the Lakeshore highway at the present site of Coronation Park and attended school in Oakville before going to Ontario Agricultural college from which he graduated prior to military enrollment in Guelph in the 43rd Battery of the Canadian Artillery Force in 1915. Sincerely, Alex Wilson,

Byers/Boyers

In 1871 they were living in Trafalgar. The family surname at that time was Byers, however, we now spell it as Boyer. On the 1881 Census they were living in Oakville. My g. g. grandfather's name was William Boyer. His son George was married in 1881 in Milton to Grace Landsborough at the Milton Methodist Parsonage. The family moved to York after the 1881 census. I'm trying to get a more precise location of their home in Trafalgar. Murray Boyer mboyer@cogeco.ca

Postal Service in Trafalgar from "Snider's Corner's" author unknown, submitted by Ross Wark
Early in the 1800's Dundas Street was cleared before the Lakeshore Rd for Military reasons. That was why Postville had the only post office between Toronto and Dundas. It was operated by the owner of the only general store for miles around. Mail was carried by the stage coach line.

Postville was so named not because it had a post office, but took its name from an early settler, Ephraim Post, who built a tavern there.

When the railway reached Toronto from Hamilton around 1850, mail was carried to and from Oakville twice a week. David Snider received a contract to transport mail to and from Postville, later called Trafalgar. A son, Joseph M. Snider took over the contract and was also appointed postmaster at Snider's Corners. When he died, his second wife Rachel (Secord) Snider, continued to work for the post office, and was still delivering mail by horse and buggy or sleigh when she caught pneumonia and passed away at age seventy-four. (b. 1834, d. 1908)

Thomas Chisholm remembered by grandson Frank Chisholm. (1994)

(Thanks to Irene Saunders for this transcription)

The church picnics were held at the grove across from the repeater station on the Base Line (Steeles). A stage had to be built and they always had had a supper out on the lawn. They'd hire a band from Milton or Streetsville – a brass band, not an orchestra. That was Thomas Chisholm's place and there were beech trees there and wild thimbleberries. Frank's great grandfather bought the farm in 1840. His grandfather was born in 1843, and when he was married he came to the farm at the corner of the 6th line & Steeles. Before that they lived up on the 5th Line, lots 3 & 4. They had 200 acres there. The house was on one hundred and the barn was on the other. They paid \$30.00 for the lower hundred. The old house was down in the gully; an old log house. There are still lilacs there.

This is a newspaper article about my grandfather bringing water down to the farm at the corner of the 6th Line and Steeles. You see, there never was much of a water supply on that property. The water pipe started up behind the Hornby Golf Club there, back of Cliff Wigglesworth's on the back fifty. You see, the ground there is just full of springs. The pipe ran down there and I think they were eight-foot logs with metal inserts you see. They had boring machines to bore those out. I would imagine it would be bores out about two inches, or maybe less. That farm up there is so full of springs and yet across the road on the Chisholm farm the present owner has spent money on well, but there's very little water.

When Frank and Hazel lived there they raised turkeys. He had a rack on the back of the car, and he had to draw water from Ella's all the time. There was enough to keep cows in the winter time, but you see they had to go down to the creek every day to drink.

The pipe line was put in before Frank's time, probably a hundred years ago anyway. I can remember when they dug the well at the barn there. I think Frank Switzer witched that one, but it never was strong enough. You could get the odd pail of water for the house; that was all. There were several wells dug, and when Frank sold the farm he had to get water in order to sell the place. It was just drilled and the water came right over the pipe. But drilling wasn't the right thing to do.

And across the road where Ellas lived, they dug the house well, and when they went in for dinner they left the shovels in the well, and when they came back – goodbye shovels. The shovels are likely still in there for the water flowed in so fast. The water from that well came out and cooled the tank in the milk house and they never had to put in ice. They built the cooling tank so that the overflow of water would run right through and keep the milk cool.

To put the pipe in to supply water for the Chisholm farm you started by ploughing a furrow using a team of horses. And as the newspaper says, Mr. Chisholm was an energetic man. You plough the furrow each way to loosen the ground, and throw it back, and then as you get going down you split the team of horses – put a long wippletree on, you know – double tree, and you can go down whatever depth you want. You put a chain on the plough, you see, and go down six inches or more at a time. It saves digging because you can loosen it up with the plough.

Frank's grandfather never drove to church – always walked from the 6th Line over to St. Stephen's Anglican. When Frank's father, Will Chisholm went to lodge in Milton, he and Mr. Pewtress used to walk along the CPR tracks to get there.

Frank's grandfather Chisholm attended Milton Fair for the first 50 years.

Around Trafalgar Township Milton Time Capsules assembled by Jim Dills on behalf of Milton Historical Society.

John Sheridan, postmaster at Merton for 32 years, has resigned and it is possible that the post office will close... September 1917

Crushed stone has been ordered to cover the unfinished part of the Milton- Palermo Road, an improvement badly needed.... August 1917

1850's Trafalgar Township council By-Law excerpts Transcribed by Michelle Knoll
Meetings took place at the Oakville Temperance Hall

A bylaw dealing with traveling circuses including wire dancing.

Sidewalks are to be installed for the Village of Oakville from the east side of navy, from Colborne to the pier for \$50. The main street has planks. William Romain, Robert leach and James reid to be commissioners for the sidewalks

Took in \$623 in Taxes.

Guards and posts are to be installed on the west side of 16 Mile creek and Dundas and at 4th Line on the north side of Sixteen Mile Creek. Commissioners for Dundas are Phillip Triller & Samuel Bowman, and for 4th line are Andrew Robertson and John Askin.

A bridge is to be installed at Lot 13 on Dundas without delay due to public safety. Commissioners James Appelbe, Michael Snider and Hiram Post.



The Township established a Common Seal April 24, 1850. In the centre is to be an Oak tree, having a crown in its trunk with her majesty's initials on each side.

Bridge repairs- listed with the individuals assigned
Hallidays Mill- Andrew Robertson, John Askin, George Halliday
W. Branch of 16, 2 & 3 Concession lot 9 – John Sproat, Thomas Baves, William Kennedy
5th Line – John Anderson, Pathmaster
7th Line Joseph Bell Pathmaster
Road Division 51- James Montgomery Pathmaster
Road Division 49 Alan McDougall Pathmaster
Town Line _ William Robinson Pathmaster
56 & 59 – Asa Kendrick & Edward Cavil Pathmasters
54 James Lavery
49 & 52 John Anderson and John Kentner Pathmaster
Between old & new 6 to 5 Conc.- William Raines, Thomas Little & Anthony Fitzpatrick Commissioners
Repair Oakville bridge- Robert K Chisholm, William L Romain, Thomas S Harris Commissioners
Approach to the 16 on 6th line- William Hartley Pathmaster
Division 16 Samuel Jull Pathmaster



1830- 1833 TRAFALGAR TOWNSHIP ORIGINAL LAND GRANTS (By Irene Saunders)

Name of Locatee	Residence	Lot	Conc	Date ID	Issue Date	Trans Type	Type FG	Lease/ Sale	Archival Reference		
1830											
Russel Solon Deed No.		E ½	3 2NS	5 ND	18300109	S	CC	B3	024	086	
Secord Daniel Deed No.	Niagara	4	2SDS	2 ND	183007	FG	COMM		01	C13	090 063
Boylum John Deed No.	Trafalgar	8	3	8 ND	18300727	L	CL		01	C13	152 140
Bulter John JR Deed No.	Trafalgar	12	2	8 ND	18300727	L	CL		01	C13	152 101
1831											
Chisholm William Deed No.	Nelson	?	?	8 ND	18310322	FG	FF		01	C13	033 076
Brown Joseph Deed No.	SW ½	5	1	5 7	18311130 18350926	S			CC	B3	024 203
Cumming Willm Deed No.	W ½	15	1	5 ND	18311229	S	CL		01	C1113	001 057
Brown Joseph Deed No.	NE ½	5	1NS	5	18311226 18350926	S	\		CC	B3	024 208
Jones John Deed No.	Trafalgar	27	2	8 ND	18310407	L	CL		01	C13	152 106
Dowler John Deed No.	Trafalgar	19	2NDS	8 ND	18311103	L	CL		01	C13	152 117
Williams J W Deed No.	NW ½	9	2SDS	5 ND	18310105	S			CC	B3	025 002
Adamson Hellen Deed No.		2	2SDS	5 ND	18310304	S	CL		01	C1113	001 057
Moore John Deed No.		E ½	11 3NS	5 ND	18310818	S			CC	B3	024 168
McCraney William Deed No.		20	4	5 ND	18310319	S	CL		01	C1113	001 057
Brush Rowland Deed No.		12	4NS	8 ND	18310602	L	CL		01	C13	152 115
1832											
Way David Deed No.	Trafalgar	8	1	8 ND	18320522	L	CL		01	C13	152 114
Dexter Ransom Deed No.	S ½	8 2		5 ND	18321226	S	CL		01	C1113	001 057

Name of Locatee	Residence	Lot	Conc	Date ID	Issue Date	Trans Type	Type FG	Lease/ Sale	Archival Reference			
Bowes Josh Deed No.		E ½ 3	2NS	7	ND 18320508	S			CC	B3	024	086
Ransom Dexter Deed No.	NW ½ 9		5	18320931	S ND				CC	B3	025	002
McCraney William Deed No.	Trafalgar	22	2SDS	8 ND	18320628	L	CL			01	C13	152 115
Hardy George Deed No.	Trafalgar	6	2SDS	8 ND	18321108	L	CL			01	C13	152 119
Lake John Deed No.	Trafalgar	E ½ 8	4	8 ND	18320608	FG	M			01	C13	123 086
1833 Chisholm William Deed No.	Nelson	E ½ 12	BRFT	1 ND	18330404	FG	M			01	C13	132 127
Wilson John		2	1	5	18330527	S	CL			01	C13	123 005
Mason Hugh Deed No.		E ½ 12	10	5 ND	18330717	S	CL			01	C1113	001 057
Boyd Robert Deed No.		NW ¼ 12	10	5 ND	18330723	S	CL			01	C1112	001 057
Cobban James Deed No.		12	3	5 ND	18330315	S	CL			01	C1113	002 396
McCraney Hiram Deed No.		20	2	5 ND	18330710	S	CL			01	C1113	001 057
Leach Ransom Deed No.		N ½ 14	2SDS	5 ND	18330615	S			CC	B3	025	119
Kenney John Deed No.	Trafalgar	12	2SDS	8 ND	18330307	L	CL			01	C13	152 130
Bates Richard W	Nelson	3	2SDS	8	18330307	L	CL			01	C13	152 129
Mitchell Charles Deed No.		2`	3	5 ND	18330330	S	CL			01	C1113	001 052
Fisher Peter Deed No.		25	3	5 NC	18330306	S	CL			01	C1113	001 057