



Trafalgar Township Historical Society

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

Summer 2017 Newsletter



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Society News & Updates

Passing of William Cook

This past month we said goodbye to one of our long time members, William Cook. Veteran WWII R.C.O.C., Volunteer with the Trafalgar and Oakville Fire Department and past Mechanic for McDermit's Garage and Oakville Dodge Chrysler and husband of Chris. He will be missed.

June Joint Meeting with Esquesing Historical Society

The joint meeting was notable for the very friendly welcome we received by the minister and our friends of the Esquesing Historical Society, for the tour of the old sanctuary by the Reverend Michael Clarke and the lively presentation by John Mark Rowe about the village of Hornby.

Many photographs accompanied Mr. Rowe's presentation and we also received a pamphlet specially prepared for this meeting with the presentation highlights of Hornby's history.

Hornby was unofficially centered around the intersection of Trafalgar Road and Steeles but in reality, it is so widespread, people refer to "Hornby East" and "Hornby West". It spread into both Esquesing and Trafalgar Townships. The village was named for Hornby Castle in England because of a family connection. We heard stories about the churches, hotels, general stores and several businesses. Brain Brothers Brewery was a well-known employer and Mr. Rowe mentioned that since the founding Mr. Brain thought that anything less than 30% proof beer was not worth drinking, it is no wonder that the temperance movement in the area was so big! Of course, the family of our own TTHS member, Irene Saunders, had a part in the presentation.

Mention was made of the unique "union" school shared by both townships, S.S. #AE. Also of the Orange Lodge, #165 and of the Bell repeater station that was guarded and camouflaged during the war, as well of the first 50,000kw CBC tower built in Canada because Hornby's soil was excellent for conductivity - it was one of the local sights when out for a drive. Today, the Toronto Premium Outlet Mall, opened in 2013, is in Hornby East.

We had to laugh when we heard that an 1850 article by William Glass Stewart in the Hamilton Spectator called the people of Hornby "Hornbergers".

Thank you, Esquesing Historical Society.

Palermo United Church 150th

TTHS provided the Oakville Public Library with photos of the Palermo United Church. Taylor Moore, the digital heritage assistant at the OPL, is creating a video highlighting the Palermo United Church to celebrate their recent 150th anniversary.

CPAC New Series - MP Ridings in Pictures

TTHS was contacted by Cable Public News Channel (CPAC) in Ottawa for assistance with their debut of a new digital series in the fall called CPAC Route 338, a project designed to help educate Canadians about the work of Parliamentarians, democratic institutions and the many ridings across our country. As part of the series, each MP office has been asked to submit 5-6 pictures from their riding, depicting our local culture, history, landscape, flora and fauna and democracy. TTHS provided photos for submission to represent the historical side of Oakville North-Burlington.

July Guest Speaker Evening

TTHS welcomed Geri Tino, an Associate Architect at ATA Architects Inc. in Oakville. Geri currently sits as the Vice-Chairperson of the Heritage Oakville Municipal Advisory Committee. In July she came to the schoolhouse to do an engaging presentation called “An Approach to Heritage Retrofitting/Restoration”. She presented 5 examples from Downtown Oakville to demonstrate the importance of and the best strategy for preserving buildings by giving them new life. She taught us that smaller buildings in Oakville are at risk for demolition due to neglect if we cannot give them a good use, such as for businesses. The buildings she analysed were the following:



- Historic BMO building at 235 Lakeshore Rd. E
- Masonic Hall (Second Cup) at 126-128 Lakeshore Rd.
- Radial Railway (corner of Randall & Thomas) at 139 Thomas St.
- Kit and Ace at 171 Lakeshore Rd.
- Harding Waterfront Estate at 2700 Lakeshore Rd. E (Mississauga)

All of these buildings are significant to the historic fabric of downtown Oakville, and are therefore worth preserving and restoring. They were redesigned to maintain their original aesthetics while incorporating the contemporary visions of their new owners. Geri’s enlightening presentation taught us that there is much to be gained in the process of restoration. We need to advocate for the preservation of these culturally valuable buildings. Investors, land developers, and our counselors need to know the community is committed to maintaining the heritage of Oakville and we need to ask our counselors to advocate for us. Photo courtesy of Morgan Oliver.

A Look Back: Canada's Centennial 1967

Indigenous peoples set up an encampment in Oakville's Coronation Park, as a part of the town's celebrations. The park, created in the 1950s, was on a large farm operated by the Wilson Family, founders of the Gilbrae Dairy. Photo courtesy of Ross Wark.



Bronte Heritage Trail Village Official Opening

The Bronte Heritage Trail Village launch took place on Tuesday July 18 in the park gazebo. In all, there are 19 E-beacons throughout Bronte Village related to the colourful history of this vibrant community. Notable locations include the Outer Harbour Marina, the lighthouse, the Fishermen's Memorial, the Sovereign House, Bronte Bluffs and Beach. Walking the entire trail can take one hour and thirty minutes to complete. The ribbon cutting took place in front of the Fishermen's Memorial (see photo).

Check out the 65+ colourfully decorated Muskoka chairs located throughout the park on your next visit! Photo

courtesy of Ross Wark.

Recent Donations & Contributions

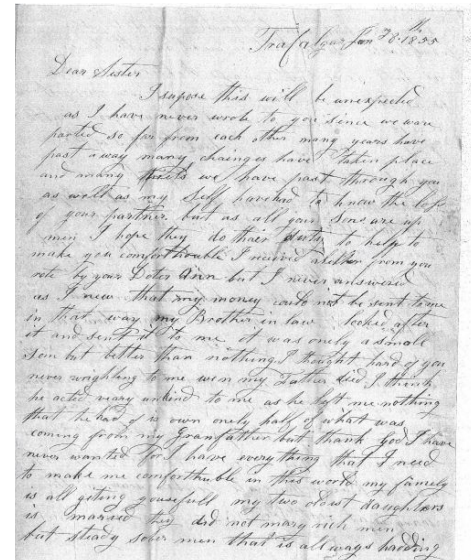
Archives Open House Donations

At the Archives Open House on Friday July 21, 2017, Fern Bruce (Lawrence) donated 15 official opening programs of Trafalgar and Oakville schools when they opened between 1952 and 1967. Her father, Denzel Lawrence, was a member and chair of the Trafalgar Township School Board. Fern also brought many news clippings and board papers from that same time period.

Ken Featherston also attended the Open House and will provide notes on the Ford-Featherston family tree. He also gave a generous financial donation to the TTHS.

Hardy/Gilby/Wilson Family Donation

While researching her family, Anne Chicken from Yorkshire, England came across the TTHS digital collection to view photographs and details of the Hardy family. She offered to provide TTHS with a letter written by Mary Buckton Hardy (1801-1881), wife of George Hardy and mother of George Henry Hardy who married into the Gilby family, to her sister Elizabeth Buckton Coates in England. To the right is the first page of the letter, courtesy of Anne Chicken. The rest of the letter is available on the TTHS digital collection at this link: [1855 Letter from Mary \(Buckton\) Hardy to Her Sister, Elizabeth \(Buckton\) Coates](#). We are all hoping to find a corresponding return letter from Elizabeth to Anne in family memorabilia. Anne's husband is a descendent of Elizabeth (Buckton) Coates. It's always interesting to hear from people looking at our internet collection.



Police Boys Bands, and Other Memorabilia

Our April "Archives Open" afternoon became a lot of fun when Walt and Geri Wilson, and their daughter, Donnalee, came in with a large box of family memorabilia to share with us. The family photos are slowly being added to our internet collection in OurOntario. Some great photos of the Trafalgar Township Police Boys Band as Walt's father, Harry Wilson, was instrumental in working with the young people, the programme from the 1948-49 year of the Palermo Women's Institute and family photos. As Donnalee continues her genealogical work, more information will be added to these internet records. Here is one of the Band photographs, courtesy of the Wilson family, and a link to the descriptive internet record: [Township of Trafalgar Police Boys Band, Late 1950's](#).



Cline Family Donation

Our June afternoon brought us a wonderfully informative genealogy chart of the Cline family from their arrival in the new world in 1790. Thank you to donors and members, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Colton. If you are researching the family, make sure you also check the following variations of the surname (which was originally German): KLEYN, KLEYN, KLEIN.

TTHS Queries

Henderson Park Bridge vs. Jacquelyn's Bridge - What Do You All Think?

TTHS has records on the opening of Henderson Park along with the bridge that crosses the Sixteen Mile Creek. TTTHS also has a postcard of a bridge that very well could be the Henderson Bridge as originally built, however the card refers to it as "Jacquelyn's Bridge".

Here is the link to the record of the opening of Henderson Park. All 3 photos plus the program are included in this same record: <http://images.ourontario.ca/TrafalgarTownship/3401191/data?dis=dm>

Here is the link to the postcard of Jacquelyn's Bridge with some more information:

<http://images.ourontario.ca/TrafalgarTownship/74047/data?dis=dm>

Take a look at the images and the details of each bridge, and if anyone has any clues on whether they were the same bridge please direct your information to Michelle at michelle@tths.ca. If not they are not the same bridge, where was Jacquelyn's bridge located?

1510 Bronte Street South, Milton Donation and Query: Was the House Ever Moved?

Fern Bruce visited an archives day with photographs and memories of 1510 Bronte Street South, Milton. We have previously posted information and photographs from the Heaven family who lived on the property in our internet collection. Adding the stories and photographs of Fern's Lawrence family who lived there for 53 years to our archives and internet records will provide a much more complete history of this lovely property. Fern's parents, Denzil and Marion Emily Lawrence were given the property as a wedding gift in 1944 by Denzil's parents, Nelson Daviel and Mary Margaret Maude Lawrence. Denzil ran the dairy farm until 1967, then went into real estate for about 27 years. Fern's mother wrote articles for The Canadian Champion for many years. Here is an aerial photo of the property, donated by Fern Bruce, along with a link to more photographs: [Aerial Photographs of 1510 Bronte Street South, Milton Farm](#)



A recent query about whether or not this house was ever moved stirred some confusion, however it was agreed that the house was relocated within the same property. Can anyone can tell us more about the relocation of the old farmhouse during the recent development?

Wrinch family

We were recently contacted by a man doing research for a biography on Dr. Horace Wrinch (1866-1939):

“He has some renown in Northern British Columbia , having built a hospital on the Skeena River in 1902. The Wrinch family settled in Bronte, in Halton county in the mid-1880’s and farmed. The family came out from England in the early 1880’s. His brother, Leonard, farmed there until 1919. Both he and Dr. Wrinch were very active in Methodist and temperance circles: the few mentions I have during this period are from the Halton newspapers about temperance work. He later went on to study medicine in Toronto. He married Alice Breckon, from Halton county on June 16, 1900. She was a school teacher and nurse. She is one of the daughters of Ralph Breckon, whose house appears in the Halton Atlas of the period.



I am looking for a) information about farming in and around Bronte in the period 1880-1900 and b) of course, any information that you might come across about the family. Dr. Wrinch’s sister was the notable painter, Mary Wrinch. I am trying to build upon a picture of what his life would have been like on the farm in 1885-1895.”

TTTHS responded by directing him to our digital collections, however if anyone has any additional information please do not hesitate to contact us!



Halton Regional Police Service Establishment Date

A constable from the Halton Regional Police Service recently contacted TTTHS asking for some history on the original establishment of the Oakville Police, Burlington Police, and Halton Hills Police. In particular, he is in search of a specific date of origination that they can commemorate through a Mess dinner on the anniversary. If anyone has some information to pass along to the Halton Police, please let us know.

TTTHS Query Responses

50 Heaven Crescent, Milton

The owners of the Andrew Suiter Farmhouse located at 50 Heaven Crescent, Milton, recently contacted the TTTHS looking for some direction for finding historical resources to learn more about the house and previous families who have lived there. We directed the inquirer to the TTTHS digital records, as well as Halinet: <http://www.halinet.on.ca/localhistory/forms.htm> in order to conduct research into family histories.

Abraham Snider and Mary Rammage Family Inquiry

An inquirer contacted TTHS looking for assistance in tracking his family heritage. His 3rd great grandfather Abraham Snider came to Canada some time after the war of 1812. He married Mary Rammage who was living in Trafalgar after her father was released from prison at Ohio. The inquirer found trouble placing Abraham in Ontario and struggled to find where the Rammages were in Trafalgar. He did discover that Abraham married Mary, who was 17 years old and 12 years younger than Abraham, and they went to Binbrook to become homesteaders.

We responded to this inquirer with some direction to TTHS online collections. She discovered that Abraham Snider is listed in connection with the War of 1812, on page 94, "3814 Abraham Snider" : <http://images.ourontario.ca/trafalgartownship/3327489/data?n=2>. In addition, she found "Abraham Snyder" in the 1823 Trafalgar Township Assessment records document prepared by Fred Blair: <http://images.ourontario.ca/trafalgartownship/3288035/data?n=1>. She also directed the inquirer to Halton Images aka Halinet, where she found a number of hits for "Ramage" from about 1864 on, as well as a wealth of hits for "Snider". She suggested he check for variations of spelling of the names. She showed him the Halton Images "Surname R" page: <http://news.halinet.on.ca/BrowseByLastName?pre=R> and the Halton Historical and Newspaper Records page: <http://www.halinet.on.ca/localhistory/metasearch.asp> which also provides some Census material.

Ribble, Heaven and McCraney families Inquiry

TTHS was contacted by an inquirer asking about the Ribble line, "In particular a John Ribble who was born in New Jersey in 1797 or so and emigrated to Canada with his father William Ribble in about 1810. His second marriage was to Anna or Ann House in Erin Township. That much I know through a marriage certificate in Jan of 1838.

John although had a first wife. Her name may have been Lydia McCraney. She would be related to William McCraney MP of Oakville during the mid 1800's or so."

TTHS directed the inquirer to our digital collection and databases, and advised her search "Ribble" spelled as "Kibell", "Ribbald" and "Ribbel".

Upcoming TTHS Events

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Guest Speakers & Meetings

Please feel free to attend our guest speaker evenings to engage with fellow community members and learn about some of the histories of Trafalgar Township through informative and interactive discussions. Light snacks and refreshments are provided. If anyone has any suggestions for guest speakers, let us know by contacting Michelle Knoll at michelle@tths.ca!

September 30, 2017 **Fall Fair Doors Open**
Time: 10:00am-4:00pm
Location: Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

Wednesday
November 8, 2017 **Speaker: Doug and Aletha Kirkwood**
What: We are pleased to welcome guest presenters Douglas and Aletha Kirkwood to our meeting. Both are long time members of the TTHS. Doug will lead a PowerPoint discussion on the Lawrence family connections with Oakville, Sheridan, Merton, and Orangeville. Please join us for an informative presentation!
Time: 7:00pm-9:00pm
Location: Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

Open Houses - Archives Research

Location: Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

All are welcome in joining us in researching family and community histories. Do you have something to donate or contribute? Bring your precious documents and artefacts to one of our open houses and we would be happy to learn about your story! We can scan your documents and add them to our archives so that others can enjoy and engage in research.

Friday September 15, 2017 1:30pm-3:30pm

Friday October 20, 2017 1:30pm-3:30pm

Upcoming Events in the Community

TTHS Fall Fair September 30, 2017

The Society is in preparations for the September Fall Fair Doors Open at the old Palermo Schoolhouse. The doors open at 10:00am until 4:00pm and everyone is welcome to attend to get a sense of some of Oakville and Trafalgar's history and culture, while meeting fellow community members. Some things to look forward to include:

- An "All Things Glass" Antiques Display (new)
- A Bethel Church 1823-2014 photo display (new)
- History books for sale
- Lunch
- An extensive school texts collection
- Local History booklets for sale
- A demonstration of our internet collection

Bronte Historical Society Celebrates Trafalgar Day

When: Saturday October 21 and Sunday October 22, 2017 from 1:00pm-4:00pm

Where: The Sovereign House (7 West River Street in Bronte)

What: John McDonald will be speaking, refreshments will be served, music will be played, and admission is free!



Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West
www.tths.ca