



# Trafalgar Township Historical Society

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

## Fall 2017 Newsletter



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# Society News & Updates

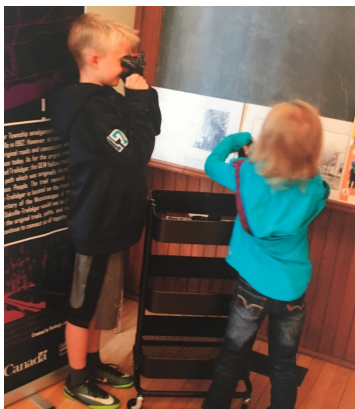
## Trails to Township Banner Project

Thank you to Oakville Community Foundation and their Larry Wilson Fund for funding through the Federal Government for The Trails to Township project. Thanks to Kayleigh Jalsevac for the amazing job she did on the content and design, and to Julian Kingston from the Town of Oakville for all his support. Thank you to Sherry Saevil and Stephen Paquet for advising on the content to help with the completion of the Trafalgar Historical Society Exhibition from Trails to Township.



## Heritage Day September 30th, 2017

Our Doors Open event was very successful as 50 people checked out displays in the Palermo schoolhouse. Four, floor to ceiling panels, showed the development of Trafalgar Township from Indigenous trade routes to amalgamation with Oakville in 1962. Viewmaster reels, showing Township history, attracted lots of attention. Tria Cafe and Bakery, on Old Bronte Rd., donated bagged lunches for visitors. Submission and photos by Ross Wark.



## Family History Fair

Oakville's first Family History Fair was held on Saturday, October 28th at Q.E.P.C.C.C. One hundred and fifty attendees, including exhibitors, had the opportunity to network with people with common interests. The Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nations display provided conversation and informative handouts. Elise Cole, local collections librarian at the Oakville library, is already preparing for next year's Fair. Submission and photo by Ross Wark.

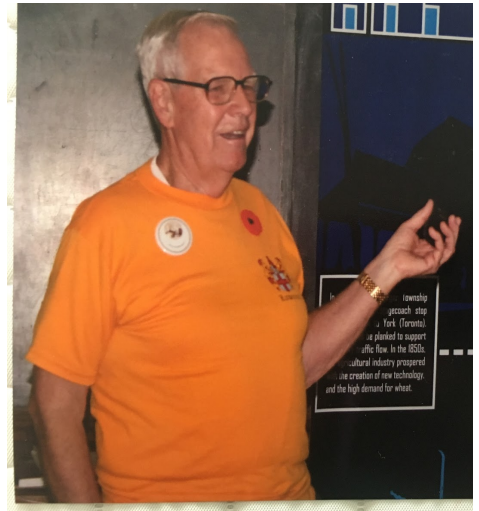


### **November 8th Guest Speaker Evening**

Doug Kirkwood did a PowerPoint presentation on the life and times of Orange Lawrence, (1796-1861), great grandfather of his wife Aletha. Although Orange is credited with the founding of Orangeville, Ontario, Doug focused on his years in Trafalgar Township...a farm on Lot 1 Concession 2 SDS (Sheridan). Orange and his wife Sarah had nine children. Descendants of their son, Ferris (1831-1913), kept the farm in the family until 1977.

At the time of the Mackenzie Rebellion (1837), Orange was a captain in the local militia, but may have been sympathetic to William Lyon Mackenzie's cause.

Doug's presentation was interesting and informative, shedding light on a time important to life in Trafalgar Township. Submitted by Ross Wark.



### **Research for the Halton Regional Police**

The Halton Regional Police turned to TTHS for assistance for history related to early constables. Michelle Knoll did microfilm research on early Township papers and found with constables and some others of note!

#### Constables for Trafalgar Township

Philip Cody, sworn in Jan 12, 1808  
Ezekial Post, sworn in Apr 12, 1809  
Nicholas Bray on Apr 13, 1811  
John Yearns on Apr 13, 1811

#### Constables for Nelson Township

Lyness Peck on Apr 16, 1808  
Isaac Van Norman on Apr 13, 1811  
Moses McKay on Apr 13, 1811

#### Tavern Licence Trafalgar

Samuel Covenhoven Jan 10, 1810  
Bela Stevens Dec 28, 1811  
David Albertson Dec 28, 1811  
James Hinton Dec 28, 1811

#### Tavern Licence Nelson

Daniel Hopkins Dec 31, 1813

#### Town Officers Trafalgar Oct 1813

Henry Shooke & David Albertson, Assessors  
William Munn, Collector  
Daniel Munn, Town Clerk

#### Town Officers Nelson & Flamboro E. 1814

Lockwood Street, Assessor  
James Thomson, Assessor  
Ephraim Hopkins, Collector  
Ezekial Post, Town Warden  
David Kanaday, Path Master  
John Kaiting, Path Master  
Abraham Lockman, Town Clerk  
John C Harris, Pound Keeper

Samuel Macklem, Assessor  
Alexander Brown, Assessor  
Jacob Patterson, Collector  
Peter Thomas, Town Warden  
John Oliver, Path Master  
Henry Magee, Path Master  
Ephraim Van Norman, Town Clerk  
Peter Smith, Pound Keeper

## **Plaque for the Applebe House**

Michelle Knoll assisted with research for a plaque for the house at 257 Dundas Street East known as the Squire Appelbe House:

### *'Squire' James Appelbe House*

*This historic house is named after James Appelbe who immigrated to Canada from Ireland around 1815, with his widowed mother Patience and older brother William. In 1831, Appelbe married Jemima Kaitting, whose grandparents were one of the first settler families in Trafalgar Township. Jemima was the widow of Peter McDuffee. At the time of their marriage, James and Jemima settled in the former hamlet of Postville, at the intersection of Dundas Street and Trafalgar Road. James, known as 'Squire Appelbe', established a store and post office in Postville, where he served as Postmaster. He was a Justice of the Peace; a Treasurer of Trafalgar Township; the Recording Secretary of Nelson Circuit; and, was one of the first directors at the Bank of Toronto. The James Appelbe House is a vernacular variation of the Gothic Revival architectural style, which was one of the most popular styles in c. 1860s Ontario. The middle section of the house was constructed in the late 19th century, after the original c.1866 front section. The rear section was rebuilt in 201X. The house is constructed of solid brick, a portion of which is covered in a cementitious coating. The symmetrical front façade has five bays with a centre door flanked by pairs of French windows. The front gable has a rounded window opening and decorative bargeboard, typical of the Gothic Revival style. In 2014, the house was relocated from its original location, approximately 95 metres to the southeast of its current site, and restored to its historic appearance.*

*Town of Oakville*

*2017*

## **Demolition Applications In for 191 and 205 Burnhamthorpe Road East**

Town of Oakville Heritage Planner Elaine Eigl informed TTHS that Heritage Planning has received an application to demolish the buildings at 191 and 205 Burnhamthorpe Road East. 191 Burnhamthorpe Road East is listed on the Town's Register of Properties of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest for its historic farmstead, including barns and outbuildings which are historically associated with the agricultural development of Trafalgar Township. Application to be heard December 19th meeting of Heritage Oakville." If anyone has connections or historical information on either of these two properties, please let us know so it can be properly documented.

## **Recent Donations & Contributions**

### **Hornby Store Record Correction and Addition**

Mr. Paul Thompson contacted us to comment on one of our internet photographs of the Hornby store. He was able to correct the date, and he also shared his memories as the son of the store postmaster and proprietor from 1946 to 1963, Wilmar James Thompson. Here is a link to the internet record which now has his short essay, <http://images.ourontario.ca/TrafalgarTownship/17144/data?n=9>



Wilmar James Thompson is second from right.

Paul Thompson has these memories of growing up in the store and post office, and his family life in Hornby in those years: "My parents purchased the Hornby store from Fred Robertson (perhaps it was "Robson" or "Robinson", not sure). He later owned the old brewery property on the 8th Line [that would have been Brains Brewery], raising mink, and later still standard bred horses. My parents had 4 children when they moved to Hornby, 1 girl and 3 boys. I was a late surprise born in 1950. We all worked in the store and post office. We attended the one room school near the store (this was a "union" school because it sat on the line between Esquesing and Trafalgar Townships).



My older brothers played softball for the Hornby team (there is a picture of the girls team with my brother Bill coaching [in the TTHS internet collection]). In the winter they played hockey in Milton where they went for high school.

The store sold a little of everything. Groceries included bananas, oranges & grapefruits. Some clothes, hockey sticks, boots and a collection of giftware. Newspapers, candy and tobacco. Ice cream from the Royal Dairy in Georgetown. If a lady came in with a babe in her arms, my father loved to give them their first cone. Nuts and bolts, nails and screws, stove pipes and stove wire, gasoline & oil, seasonal bedding plants in the spring. Fireworks for the 24th of May. Back then we had 3" & 4" cannon crackers which were great for blowing things up.

The post office sold stamps, money-orders, gun and hunting licenses and 3 rural routes (RR#1, #2, #3) were sorted and mail sent out. My dad had to meet the mail train at the Hornby station, south on the 7th (Trafalgar) line to deliver the outgoing mail.

My earliest memory was of Hurricane Hazel in 1954. After some debate my father had headed out to meet the mail train and he was hours overdue returning. Tension in the store was very high as the rain was falling in sheets and people kept coming in and reporting various bridges being washed out in the area. He had to go a long way around, almost to Milton to find a passable route home.

I remember gatherings at the Orange Hall for square dances, Christmas parties and turkey dinners. They were really a lot of fun for the kids running around playing tag. There was never a bar but always quite a few drunks who would go shooting out of a grand reel and slam into a stack of chairs.

We had a Bell Canada phone-booth outside the store and a couple of times it was broken into for the change. One time the hammering woke my parents. My mother ran down and chased the thieves off with a broom. When the police arrived she gave them fits for walking all over the footprints and tire tracks which she thought made great evidence.

I remember when we got the new community ball park on land donated by Busty King at the corner of the Base and 6th Lines. The community raised funds for the lighting, trees etc., by holding euchre parties and an annual summer garden party. All the school kids got free tickets so they would nag their parents into attending. I used

to help Alf Brigdon setting up the plank seats for the live entertainment. His brother Gordon always set up the lighting for the food concessions and stage.

Gordon had a machine shop and fabrication business in the village. He was quite an inventor and had a good business supplying drum snow blowers he designed to the Canadian National Railway. They were attached to the front of a locomotive and could clear the tracks at full speed.

My mother organized a family reunion in the ball park the year Highway 401 was being constructed south of the park. My cousin Donald from Brampton flew in his plane to the reunion and took us up for a ride. We landed on the 401 between the 7th and 6th Line bridges."

### **School Programmes, Photos and Other Memorabilia from Denzil Lawrence**

Fern (Lawrence) Bruce continues to share Township of Trafalgar school board memorabilia from her father, Denzil Lawrence, who was a school trustee in the 1950's and 60's - one of the many jobs he did. She has recently given us photographs taken by professional Oakville photographer Charles H. Osland of the many new public schools that were built in Trafalgar Township. The high-quality photos include Linbrook, Palermo, W.H.Morden, Snider's, Munn's and Pine Grove to name a few. They will be added to the internet collection soon.

Mr. Lawrence was invited to the opening ceremonies of the area schools and a number were built in this era. He was also often invited to speak at student graduation ceremonies. Fern has donated the official opening programmes and speaker invitations, of Boyne P.S., Brookdale, Eastview, Falgarwood, W.H. Morden, Snider's, Munn's, Palermo and more. To bring these documents to life we also have Mr. Lawrence's handwritten speaking notes with remarks to grads.

The collection includes personal photographs, newspaper clippings, election material and meeting agendas saved by Denzil Lawrence. Several photographs taken by Mr. Lawrence of school board friends celebrating the 25th wedding anniversary of Ken and Ella Giles (Ken was in charge of student transportation in the area) in 1950 have been added to the TTHS internet collection.

[Kenneth & Mabel Armstrong](#)



[Amy Merry, Gladys Speers, Dorothy Irwin](#)



[Vic and Reta Lawrence, Gladys Speers](#)



[Ken and Ella Giles, 25th Wedding Anniversary Dinner](#)



To ensure the collection is credited to Denzil Lawrence and our donor, Fern Bruce, the items are kept together under our "Families" category, "Lawrence" subcategory, "Denzil Lawrence Collection" with separate folders for the personal memorabilia, the school photographs and newspaper clippings, and the school opening and ceremonies programmes.

### **Halton and Peel Counties Booklet Donation**

Among other items, Jane Watt has donated a copy of the booklet prepared by the Halton-Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society for Canada's 150th celebration in 2017. Titled "Ancestors in Halton and Peel Counties In and Around Confederation", this 75 page special edition includes area maps, county history as well as the following Halton County family stories: Orange Lawrence Family by Aletha Lawrence Kirkwood, William Sinclair by Lawrence Sinclair, Archibald McTavish by Heather McTavish Taylor, John Ramsey by Jennifer Code, Eadies & Camerons by Walter Eadie, George Ludlow by Jane Watt, The Family of James Burnyeat Watson by Al Fisher, William Ribble by Dave Rutherford, William McKerlie by Drew McKerlie, Hiram Clark & Elizabeth (Wilkinson) Norton. This is filed in our print archives under Societal Associations - Ontario Genealogical Society, Halton-Peel Branch.

### **First Nations History**

We met and gathered information and maps from the representatives of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation at the Library Fair to add to our print archives. This includes the arrival of the Mississaugas in Southern Ontario and their history here in past years as well as present, the land, rivers and streams rights governed - or not ceded - in proclamations and treaties. Contact information is included. This is filed in our print archives under Family History & Genealogy - Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation.

## Postcard of I.O.E Orphanage and the Connection of Irene Saunders, TTHS Member

TTHS member, Irene Saunders, told us of her connection from her home in Agerton to the Ortona Barracks at Bond and Kerr Streets in Oakville. It is quite a distance between the two so we were intrigued and made an internet record of it. Jane Watt provided a postcard of the former orphanage on the site for visual interest. Here is the link to Jane's postcard and Irene's story:

<http://images.ourontario.ca/TrafalgarTownship/3446305/data?dis=dm>

This is Irene's story: "I learned a little about Central Command when a uniformed officer rapped at my door in 1956 or 1957. He was looking for a place to rent for Regimental Sergeant Major James Hill and his wife. He had been knocking on doors all the way from Oakville to my place at Agerton, and had no luck.

I knew nothing about Central Command but we came to an agreement as I had extra space. Jim and Grace and their son moved in a few days later. Their furniture was carried in and placed - everything in order. When I asked how they could do it so neatly, I was told they were paraded in and out of every place they lived. Grace was from Scotland, a cipher operator, and was a higher rank than Jim when they met. When Jim had been a prisoner of war, he found a nail and fashioned it into a wedding ring and had it smuggled to Grace. When Grace went to work at Ortona, the door was locked behind her and unlocked at quitting time. When the apartments were built on Kerr Street, they moved closer."

## TTHS Queries

### Shoe Factory North of Dundas St., East of Trafalgar Rd.

Do you know anything about a shoe factory, or a factory that made shoe soles located north of Dundas Street, east of Trafalgar Road? Frances Barber remembers exploring the abandoned one level building with her brothers and neighbourhood children sometime in 1946 to late 1949. The Barbers think it was a shoe factory because there were some heels, soles and papers that looked like invoices or bills scattered on the floor. Frances and her brothers know the building was just north of their family house and orchard on Concession 1, Lot 9 NDS, just east of Eighth Line and Dundas Street. Thinking about it as adults, their thought is that the condition of the building suggests that it might have been a factory working for the 1st World War effort. This is a late 1940s photograph of neighbourhood children with the Barber family house and the old factory building in the background. In 1880, this lot was owned by Hugh Coyne.



<http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/countyatlas/Images/Maps/TownshipMaps/hal-m-trafalgar-s.jpg> This lot adjoined Mrs. E. Pickering to the west, W.S. Bowbeer to the north of the two. Here is the link to the developer report on the property: <https://www.oakville.ca/business/da-6704.html> This is our our internet record: [Barber Family Children With Neighbourhood Friends, Lot 9, Concession 1 NDS, Late 1940s](#)

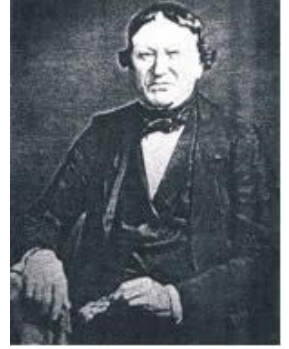


## Call-Out for Post Family Descendants

Looking for Post Family Descendants: TTHS correspondent Tammy Richard would like to hear from descendants of Ephraim Post, .1776 -.1851. Ephraim and his wife Elizabeth Lyon were her great-great-Grandparents.

Ephraim built Post's Inn at Post's Corners in Trafalgar Township, today this is the intersection of Trafalgar Road and Dundas Street. Her Great-Grandfather Ephraim was born in 1823 d.1883. Tammy's grandmother was Florence May Post, daughter of Thompson E. Post who married first, Catherine Charlotte McLean (the McLean family might also be from Halton County), then his second wife was Margaret Frances Stokoe, called "Fanny".

Children of Thompson and Fanny were Anne Mehetable who married Elmer Downs; Herbert Thompson who married Robena Telfer; Laura Irenen; Alice Emma; Frederick. Tammy would love to share family photos and information. Tammy can be reached at: [tammyrichard@hotmail.com](mailto:tammyrichard@hotmail.com)



## Jack Ross and a Building Named After Him

Gayle and Gary Lovell are trying to find out more about Oakville's recreation director, John Watkinson Ross, called Jack. They were told that a building was named after him. If you can tell us more, please email uscontact one of the TTHS Board members.

Jack Ross is mentioned in a TTHS collection of memorabilia about the Oakville Recreation Commission day camps provided by Ross Wark and Janet (Lees) Timbrell. He was director of the camp in 1959 and also attended the leadership training camp with his teenage counsellors. He was born February 27, 1921 and he died November 3, 1966 at Toronto General Hospital. Here is a link to our collection on the day camps and leaders:

[http://images.ourontario.ca/TrafalgarTownship/3291456/data?&fz=0&grd=6963&rows=20&sort=groupid\\_6963+asc&llen=null&lbn=null&ldp=null&v=t&p=2](http://images.ourontario.ca/TrafalgarTownship/3291456/data?&fz=0&grd=6963&rows=20&sort=groupid_6963+asc&llen=null&lbn=null&ldp=null&v=t&p=2)

## Trying to Trace Trafalgar Township Home Children, Surname "Beresford", 1890 to Date

A visitor to one of our recent Archives Open afternoons came with the following request for information. If you can help, please email [pjcgimili@cogegoc.ca](mailto:pjcgimili@cogegoc.ca). Thank you in advance.

On June 1, 1890, sisters Louisa Elizabeth and Sarah Beresford were brought from England to Niagara-on-the-Lake by the home children's society, "Maria Rye Homes". Louisa was 9 years old at the time of the 1891 Census. She worked for George and Elizabeth Pell who had 3 sons.. As per the 1901 Census, she was

still there as a domestic - with a 9 month old son, Stanley L. Beresford (also spelled Bearsford/Berrisford?). Wife Elizabeth is not listed with the Pell household in the 1901 Census, just George, the younger two of his sons, Louisa and Stanley. Stanley was born on July 23, 1900 in Trafalgar, Halton County. Louisa can be traced into her adult life but there is no further mention of Stanley in Halton cemeteries, online newspapers or internet records. The question is: what happened to Stanley?

Sister Sarah (aka Sarah Catherine) was sent to the Thompson Post family in Trafalgar. The 1891 census shows her as age 12, living with Thomas Post, wife Frances and their children May, Anna and Herbert. Thompson was the son of Ephraim Post, nephew of Ezekial and they lived at at the 7th Line and Dundas Highway intersection where Ezekial ran the hotel, and Ephraim farmed, as did Thompson. There is no sign of Sarah in the 1901 census. It is possible that she married a Thomas John Campbell, a butcher, living in Toronto?

### **Jean (Patterson) Bennett Attends Doug Kirkwood's Presentation and Brings Thought-Provoking Items**



A special visitor came to our November speaker's night. Jean (Patterson) Bennett brought photographs, a large stoneware jug and memories of her Patterson and Riggs families who farmed at Merton for generations. We were pleased to meet Jean and she was able to reconnect with Lawrence family classmates and friends. Anne Choate Little is working with Jean to document several items that will appear in our next newsletter. We need your help on two of the items pictured here....

This is the jug Jean brought. Here is a link to our internet record with more information: [Hagaman & Co. General Dealers, Bronte G.W. Jug](#)

The jug is labelled, "Hagaman & Co. General Dealers Bronte C. W." It was found in a shed at the former Patterson family farmhouse in the old village of Merton, R.R.1 Bronte, Halton County. The interior of the jug is glazed and clean. Around the mouth there is rough, hardened, greyish matter that perhaps originally sealed the cork and could not be cleaned off, or perhaps was from the former contents of

the jug - (but then why is the interior clean?).

The Hagaman business bought and shipped grain as well as importing ready-made goods from family connections in Oswego, New York state for their stores, one in Oakville, the other in Bronte, and later in Ridgetown, Ontario. The Bronte store was managed by Benjamin Hagaman.

Our questions are: What might have been stored in this jug? Since it has the Hagaman & Co. name on it, would it have been made locally and where? Please tell one of the TTHS members or, you can use the "Comments" tab in our internet record to get information to Anne.

Our next questions concern this bridge photograph that Jean brought. [High-Rise Concrete Road Bed Bridge, Trafalgar Township](#) The sides of the bridge look like concrete. It is two lane with a gravel/dirt roadbed. A trail or old road can be seen going down the hogsback on an angle from by the shed to the river, under the bridge. Other old roads are seen to be horizontal under the brow of the ridge. As well, an old road bed seems to be running parallel to the bridge, coming down from by the house and shed. Jean doesn't know which bridge this was. Can you identify it, date it? Please tell one of the TTHS members or, you can use the "Comments" tab in our internet record to get a message to Anne.



## TTHS Query Responses

### Henderson Bridge Mystery Solved

Donna Wilson was able to clarify some misunderstandings for us about the Henderson Bridge and Jacquelyn's Bridge. We were unsure if our images were of the same bridge or two different bridges. Donna and her parents were able to confirm that they were indeed two different bridges; Henderson Park Bridge is on Lower Base Line just off of Hwy 25, and Jacquelyn's Bridge is on the Fourth Line. Now the question is, why was this bridge on the Fourth Line, Halton County over the Sixteen Mile Creek named "Jacquelyn's Bridge"? Here is the link to our internet record of Jacquelyn's Bridge: <http://images.ourontario.ca/TrafalgarTownship/74047/data?dis=dm>

# Upcoming TTHS Events

## Guest Speakers & Meetings

All are welcome to attend our guest speaker evenings to learn more about Trafalgar through informative and interactive discussions. Light snacks and refreshments are provided. If anyone has any suggestions for guest speakers contact [michelle@tths.ca](mailto:michelle@tths.ca)! Palermo Schoolhouse 2431 Dundas St W.

Date & Time	Activity
Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 7:00pm	1) Guest Speaker Evening: <b>Julian Kingston of Erchless Museum - Using New technology to share local history.</b> 2) <b>Annual General Meeting</b>
Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 7:00pm	Speaker Evening (Speaker TBD)
Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at 7:00pm	Guest Speaker Evening: <b>Sean Livingston- Oakville's Naval History-HCMS Oakville</b> Books\$30
Saturday, September 29, 10:00am-4:00pm	<b>Family Heritage Fair Desk &amp; Book Sale: Heritage displays, activities and BBQ</b>
Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 7:00pm	Guest Speaker Evening: <b>Jay Young of Archives of Ontario: Dear Sadie, Loves, Lives &amp; remembrances from WW1</b>

## Open Houses - Archives Research

**Location:** Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West from 1:30pm to 3:30pm

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. Join us from 1:30pm to 3:30 pm

Friday, January 19, 2018  
 Friday, April 20, 2018  
 Friday, June 15, 2018  
 Friday, August 17, 2018  
 Friday, October 19, 2018

Friday, February 16, 2018  
 Friday, May 18, 2018  
 Friday, July 20, 2018  
 Friday, September 21, 2018