



**Trafalgar Township Historical Society**  
**October 2020 Newsletter**

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### **TTHS Board Members**

Chair: Michelle Knoll  
Secretary: Robert Cook  
Treasurer: Lara Rowles  
Archivist: Ross Wark  
Jane Watt  
Syzan Talo  
Gordon Kaitting

# Society News & Updates

## Image Identification

In the June 2020 newsletter, there is a postcard image (page 7) of Santa's Fairy Land located between the Third Line and Bronte Road in the North Service Road. It lasted a few short years in the mid-late 1950's.

## Can You Answer This One?

Where was the Pig and Whistle Inn located? What is on this site today?

## Post's Corners

James Applebe (1802-1878), opened the first store on the north west corner of Dundas Street and Seventh Line (Trafalgar Line). He was the postmaster (1861-1878). His grave site is located in Munn's Cemetery, Dundas Street and Sixth Line.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Dent operated the store and gas pumps in the 1950's-1960's.

Reference: Oakville and the Sixteen Image; Collection of Ross Wark

Original photograph from Evelyn Pickering



## Rural Schools Music Festival

In 1954, the Trafalgar Township Music Festival was held at Lorne Skuce Public School. The following rural schools were represented: Palermo, Ash, McCurdy's, Munn's, Omagh, No. 16, Coyne, Merton, Snider's, Union, and Sixth Line.

Various classes were held: Solo-girls 7 and under, boys 7 and under, girls 9 and under, boys 9 and under, boys changed voices, choir (enrolment 29 and under), girls solo 11 and under, double trio, boys solo 11 and under, choir (enrolment 30 and over), boys solo 12 and over, girls 12 and over. The day ended around 4:30pm with vocal duets.

The women of Bethel United Church provided lunch for sale at noon.

Several of the later festivals were held at the Trafalgar Township Hall located at Dundas Street and Trafalgar Road.

You may recognize some of the family names represented at the April 6th, 1954 music festival: Heslop, Meredith, Mason, Featherstone, Barnstaple, Aikens, Haight, Marshall, McFeeters, Breakon, Hilson, Bentley, Sargent, Taylor, Peacock, Lawrence, Baxter, Break, Devlin, Watson, May, Ebbs, Barns, Bullock, and Wells.

In my first year of teaching, I led the Palermo School triple trio and double duet at the 1963 April festival. We didn't win, but it was a good experience.

Many of the one room rural schools were closed by 1958.

Written by Ross Wark from the 1954 programme.

## Recent Donations

### **Gerald William Davey; Photography Collection of Pre-Confederation Churches of Halton**

Note by A. Choate Little

Jerry Davey graduated from the Ryerson Institute of Technology with a diploma in Photographic Arts in 1959. He worked as a freelance photographer for many companies including Gulf Canada, Bell Canada, The Toronto Telegram, and he also worked abroad as a photographer and journalist.

Returning to southern Ontario, he joined the Ryerson Journalism School as a teacher of darkroom techniques. His tutelage expanded to take responsibility for student handbook design, the yearbooks, and to be official school photographer for major events and convocation ceremonies. Jerry and his wife Joyce Anne Davey lived in Oakville during his years at Ryerson. Jerry retired from Ryerson in 1994.

Joyce Anne Davey died in 1994, Jerry in 2019. Jerry's family has donated 7 photographs to the TTHS in his memory.

Jerry loved to photograph people and architecture. His favourite medium was black and white.

The seven donated photographs are from a show of his work in 1982 at the Oakville Public Library entitled "Pre-Confederation Churches of Halton County". The Oakville Beaver ran an article about this show and Mr. Davey on July 24, 1981 in the Community section. (The Oakville Public Library has kindly provided a copy of the article for our archives.)

The Oakville Beaver article explains that Mr. Davey took the photographs of Halton area churches because he was upgrading his Ryerson degree and he intended to publish a book from this work for his degree project. He worked from about 1976 to 1981 on the project.

As the Oakville Beaver article points out, these churches are located on busy roads and two are homes. Thus, some of the photographic angles and techniques have been chosen to hide modernity.

The Ryerson Archives holds much more of his work. Jerry had 4 shows over the years: one in New York City featuring photos of the City in the early 1960's, "Faces of Europe", 1962 photos shown at the original

Toronto Four Seasons Hotel ; “Pictures of a Small Town” was black and white stills of life in Eden Mills, Ontario, taken for a 1979 school project and shown at the Eden Mills Library.

Here is the link to the TTHS digital record where you can click on “Pages” “Select” to view all seven photographs: <http://images.ourontario.ca/TrafalgarTownship/3666938/data?dis=dm>

This is a small-sized copy of the Palermo United Church exhibit photo:

The seven stills are:

#1 and #2: St. John's Anglican church, 2464 Dundas St. W, Burlington, at the crossroads of the former village of Nelson. The present church has been in use since 1839. The TTHS has now given these two framed photos to the church, as permitted by the donors.

#3: Bethel Chapel 1172 Britannia Road, Burlington, constructed in 1853 on land provided by John Prudham. The congregation was Wesleyan Methodist New Connexion, a sect active between 1886 and 1939. Weekly services ended in 1874 but annual memorial services were continually held. The Chapel and Cemetery are still managed as a non-profit. **TT Artifact #136d**

#4: Limehouse: This was a Methodist New Connexion Church built in 1860 at Ashgrove, later becoming a United Church. It closed in 1969. A basement was put under it in about 1929. It was moved to Limehouse where it is now a private residence. **TT Artifact #136g**

#5: Palermo United Church: the present building was built in 1867 by the Methodist congregation. In 1925 this church became a part of the United Church of Canada. It is located on the north side of Dundas Street, just east of Old Bronte Road at 2521 Dundas St. West. **TT Artifact #136f**

#6: St. Luke's Anglican Church, Palermo: built 1845 by William Peacock. He also did the beautiful carving inside the designated heritage building. The church held its first service on March 11, 1846. **TT Artifact #136c**

#7: St. Paul's is in present day Burlington, Nelson Twp. A wooden church opened in 1822, which was replaced by a brick church, now a private home, in 1868. Jerry Davey photographed the decorative bricks from this building. The 1867 and present-day 1993 buildings stand on either side of the Dundas Street cemetery. **TT Artifact #136e**

The book by John Shearman, "Nelson and Palermo United Churches; the first thirty years, 1808-1838" provides a lot of information on these churches. It can be found in full text on the website of Palermo United Church, and it is linked to our TTHS record for easy access.

Many thanks to Jim Davey, Sue Davey and family, Janine Humphreys and family and the Fallon family for this wonderful donation and opportunity to honour and remember Jerry Davey.



## Expanding Library Collection

Thank you to the Haldiman County Museum and Archives for donating 13 books to our heritage library.

# TTHS Queries

## Request For Information About the Independent Order of Forester's Orphanage in Oakville

Note by A. Choate Little

This comment has just been written on the TTHS internet record of the I. O. F. Orphanage in Oakville: "My grandfather grew up in this orphanage, and I would love to hear from anyone else who might have knowledge about the site or records about its use".

Click on "View Comments and Add Your Own" to read the comment and add your own. Or share your information with a TTHS member who will put everyone in touch.

Here is a postcard image of the building and this is the link to our record:

<http://images.ourontario.ca/TrafalgarTownship/31685/data?n=1>



We have two other records in our internet collection showing photographs of Norman and William Gordon Evans who were orphaned in England and sent to the home in Oakville as young lads. Their great nephew, Andrew McBain in the UK, believes the boys are in the Oakville High School pictures of 1911-1916.

In the early 1900s the Independent Order of Foresters (I.O.F.) chose Oakville as the location for their orphans' home. It was located at 53 Bond Street. The home was part of their plan to care for children of deceased members. In 1943, the army rented it as a re-training centre for soldiers, and in 1944 the main building became the Women's Service Health Centre and it served as a hospital until its closure in 1946. Today, in 2011, the facility is Central West Specialized Developmental Services with an emphasis on community based services.

## Richard Waggoner Information Request

Ken Waggoner is looking for information on Richard Waggoner who was born in 1794 in Trafalgar Township and died in 1850 in New York. He married Jane Middaugh in 1824. Please forward any information to Ken at [kwaggoner1@roadrunner.ca](mailto:kwaggoner1@roadrunner.ca).

## George and Martha Grant Information Request

John Grant is looking for information on George and Martha Grant (maiden name unknown) in Trafalgar in the 1840's. They had a son named James Grant who was born in 1844 in Trafalgar Township. James married Mary Jane Matthews on 15 August 1864.

## Looking for Any Centriller Public School Class Photos from 1954 to 1958

Mary (Hunnius) Beacock has asked if we can find anyone with a class photo from Centriller Public School from 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957 or 1958. She is looking for any photo of her deceased sister, Beate Hunnius, who attended the school in those years. The Hunnius family lived first in Oakville, then moved to Bronte where they lived on Triller Street, just kitty-corner to Centriller Public School. They lived in an apartment in the house owned by the Lang family. Mary says, "I believe Janey Lang was my sister Bea's friend." Bea was 8 in 1954 so a Grade 2 or Grade 3 photo from 1954, and so on through the years, might include her.

The family then moved to a farm on Rebecca Street, and shared a house with the Dorsch family. Mary's Dad, Ernie Hunnius, often talked about the farm which had "orchards there with apples, pears, plums, cherries." They could harvest what they wanted. Ernie Hunnius worked for Main Lumber in Oakville, then later went to Lansing on Speers Road, which became Rona, working for them combined for the better part of 30 years or perhaps even more. He retired from Lansing in about 1983. He is in his 90's now.

Please directly contact m.beacock@bell.net if you have a photograph that might assist her search. Thank you.

## Upcoming TTHS Events

Dates and Times	Events
<b>Tuesday, November 10 at 7:00pm</b>	<b>Guest Speaker Evening:</b> Halton region Claire Bennett, Assistant Curator - Halton County's 1969 film "The Man & The Boy" (Virtual meeting via <b>Zoom</b> ). Registration in advance is required for this meeting: <a href="https://halton.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcvdO6trzMqGdBJFGaIQ0e1sjvxeNo8WFFP">https://halton.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcvdO6trzMqGdBJFGaIQ0e1sjvxeNo8WFFP</a> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.
<b>Tuesday March 2, 2021 at 7:00pm</b>	<b>Annual General Meeting and Guest Speaker Evening:</b> Richard Jordan – topic TBD



**Open Houses - Archives Research (Postponed temporarily - any donations or information should be directed to Michelle [michelle@opnc.ca](mailto:michelle@opnc.ca) or Anne [achoatelittle@rogers.com](mailto:achoatelittle@rogers.com))**

**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 artifacts 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.

**Guest Speakers & Meetings (Zoom Meetings)**

**Location:** Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West from 7:00pm to 8:00pm

All are welcome to attend our guest speaker evenings to learn more about North Oakville, Trafalgar Township through informative and interactive discussions. Light snacks and refreshments are provided.

Have an idea for a guest speaker? Please contact Michelle at [michelle@opnc.ca](mailto:michelle@opnc.ca)!