



Trafalgar Township Historical Society

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

Fall 2014 Newsletter

Societal News, Events, & Updates

We are sad to report that a good friend of TTHS, Charlie Hughes, passed away in early June. Many of us called him "Uncle" because of course that is how Jane introduced him, and he became a part of the TTHS family. Charlie was our resident carpenter and built our wonderful archives table, our speaker podium, enlarged a heritage door for our archives room and built our play table for our wood toys. We will miss his friendly face at our events.



In early May the Palermo schoolhouse hosted a family reunion. The school yard was used for games and activities, and everybody enjoyed the vintage school desks and books.



Picture Postcards Presentation: A little rain didn't prevent twelve people from attending the June 24th presentation at the Palermo schoolhouse. Images of Bronte and Oakville were shown on the screen. Most postcards, showing waterfronts, roads, churches, schools and homes, date to the period 1900-1940. Ross Wark commented on each of the fifty images, with audience members adding comments and questions of their own. At the conclusion of the evening's presentation, refreshments provided by Jane Watt and Margaret Wark were served.

Above: Colborne Line (Lakeshore Road) Circa 1900. Note: No cars, unpaved roads.

S.S. #3 Photo: At one Archives Afternoon at the Palermo Schoolhouse, Carol Lyon brought in some photographs. Of particular interest was a photograph of the 1852 brick building of Munn's School S.S. #3. The society lacked a picture of the building itself and appreciates the donation.



TTHS Project: Joan Garside, daughter of John Thomas Moulding, contacted the society in early July to express her delight at discovering information regarding her father's service as a private in World War One. She came upon a photograph of her father in TTHS's digital collections and was thrilled to read and learn about her father. TTHS members visited her at her home in Oakville to learn more about Private Moulding and to accept her modifications to the existing information. Photographs and information are being added to the TTHS "Family" files in print and to our digital collection at: <http://images.ourontario.ca/trafalgartownship/search>

Following the visit to Joan Garside and the additions to the digital collection, TTHS received an email from Rod Moulding, an unofficial family historian of the Mouldings. He was delighted to discover the several photos and historical data relating to John Moulding. "The information fills in a number of gaps in my own genealogical record, notably the reasons why John Thomas emigrated from England to Canada in 1910," he exclaimed. He was very interested in the fact that a lot of the information had come from John's daughter Joan Garside, as he had lost contact with her since the 1930 US census in Connecticut. He stumbled upon the TTHS website while researching for the next issue of the informal Moulding Family History Newsletter. He requested that TTHS help him contact Joan Garside, as she is one of the few remaining Mouldings of her generation. TTHS members are thrilled that their efforts did some good!

TTHS Project: In August, TTHS members visited the Lazy Pat Farm to photograph and note its history as recounted by long-time farm manager, Lance Pocock. So close to encroaching suburbia, the property remains a gem once renowned for its beautiful gardens as well as its award-winning livestock. TTHS members also visited with Joan Garside to learn more of the history and story



of her parents, Jack and Jenny Moulding. Photographs and information are being added to the TTHS "Family" files in print and to our digital collection at: <http://images.ourontario.ca/trafalgartownship/search>

Heritage Mississauga News: On August 6th, a Heritage Mississauga program called Mississauga Remembers hosted its *First World War "Kit Bag" Exhibit* to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the beginning of Canada's involvement in the First World War. The first in a series of exhibits, publications and presentations, the "Soldier's Kit-Bag" exhibit examines the life of a soldier on the front. For more information on the contributions made by members of the Mississauga community, please visit www.heritagemississauga.com

Queries

In late July, Liisa (Tovell) Taverner contacted TTHS with an inquiry regarding information and photographs of the Elmbank Farm in the digital collections. She is working on the Tovell family history and found the information available in the digital collections to be useful for furthering her research. Liisa provided TTHS with further Tovell genealogy information that was not in our collection. She can be contacted at ltaverner@kempenfeltbayschool.ca

Note of correction: In the previous newsletter it was stated that the Hanham house was also the clubhouse of the Oakville Golf Club. While Anne Choate Little was analysing photographs of each property, she realized that the clubhouse did not look like the Hanham house. After a comparison of the 1848 Tremaine map with a present day map showing the Oakville Golf Club, Laurie Dougherty has confirmed that they are not the same house. Robert Hanham's property was located east of 7th Line at Lot 10 Concession 2 SDS, whereas the Golf Club is located 56 acres west of 6th Line.

Upcoming events:

TTHS Heritage Day Fall Fair & Book Sale

Saturday, September 27, 2014

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

TTHS will be hosting its annual Heritage Day Fall Fair at the Palermo Schoolhouse. This fun day will consist of heritage displays, a wooden artifacts display, photography displays, a digital collection display, a book sale, a BBQ, and more!

Location: Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

Wed., September 10, 2014
7:30 p.m.

Esquesing Historical Society: "WORLD WAR ONE – THE HALTON STORY"

A century after the start of the first world war (August 1914), Rick Ruggle will consider how it was experienced by the people of Georgetown, Acton and Esquesing. Major Ruggle is chair of the Lorne Scots museum committee, and author of a history of the regiment.

Location: Knox Presbyterian Church, Main Street, Georgetown

Trafalgar's Story, 1817 continued...

Below is the second half of a letter sent from 16 residents of Trafalgar Township to Robert Fleming Gourlay, in response to a series of 31 questions he posed to landowners of Upper Canada in 1817. The first half of this letter is included in the previous TTHS Summer 2014 Newsletter, which can be found on the TTHS website, or <http://www.tths.ca/Newsletter-Summer2014.pdf>

16th Labourers, one hundred dollars per annum; by the winter months, eight dollars; per summer months, 14 to 15 dollars. For a day in harvest, to such as can cradle wheat, or rake and bind after a cradler, it is a bushel of wheat, or its price, prompt payment. For those who can only rake or bind, it is half price. Women servants have mostly a dollar per week, in all cases boarding and lodging included.

17th The price of mowing grass for hay and reaping grain is from four to five shillings per day according to the price of wheat (as the greater part of wages here is regulated by the price of wheat), cradling wheat is a bushel of wheat or its price as above.

18th Clearing and fencing of land when all the timber is cut off, costs twelve dollars per acre; so that a field containing five acres would cost sixty dollars, but the common custom of our Township is to cut down no more at first than the timber which is a foot in diameter, measured about two feet and a half measured about two feet and a half from the root of the tree and all under that size, and the rest they girdle and kill with the axe; in that state, it will produce nearly as good a crop as if all were cut down, and this only costs six dollars per acre, in both cases boarding and lodging included. The rest of the timber is cut down by degrees, for fencing and firewood.

19th A good work horse may be had for from fifty to sixty dollars. Good cow from eighteen to twenty dollars; a yoke of oxen four years old, from fifty to seventy dollars; a good sheep of the same age, from two to three dollars.

20th The average quantity of wool produced by a sheep is two pounds and a half. Its price is one shilling and ten pence half-penny per pound.

21st Beasts are turned out about the first of May and taken in about the first of December.

22nd Sleighting lasts about three months, that is beginning about the 1st of January and ends about the last of March. Plowing begins about the 20th of April.

23rd Seasoning of sowing wheat, it is from 25th of August till the first of October. The time of harvesting of said grain is from the 20th of July, until the end of August.

24th The quantity of wheat to be sown on one acre is from a bushel and a peck to a bushel, an average crop is from fifteen to twenty-five bushels per acre.

25th Respecting pasture, as the wild woods constitute our principal pasture lands, we have not yet made sufficient experiments to enable us to answer your query, but our meadow lands will generally produce one ton per acre, and an ox of four years old will gain two hundred-weight by a summer run in our woods and his meat will be well flavoured. Our dairy produce is of excellent quality; butter sells for a shilling per pound, cheese the same price.

26th The ordinary course of cropping on new land is wheat the first year, harrowed in, and sometimes a crop of oats are harrowed in the spring on the stubble, then it is sown down with timothy or clover, or both together and is used for meadow for three or four years until the roots rot in the ground and then plowed up, after which

buckwheat or peas are generally sown first, and then wheat perhaps the same season and then buckwheat or oats. Little or no manure is used, but new land and orchards require it most.

27th Land is frequently let on shares on the following terms: if new the leasor finds the leasee in term in boarding, in farming utensils and in half the seed, and then receives half the produce; if old land and the leasee finds everything, the leasor has one third of the produce; if the leasor finds everything, the leasor has only one third of the produce; enough of land can be had on either of these ways.

28th Land at the first settling of our Township sold for a dollar and a half per acre; it now sells for from four to five dollars per acre with 110 acres cleared in the customary way, may be had for fifteen hundred dollars, if frame buildings are upon it, a greater price, but seldom in proportion to the buildings.

29th The quantity of land for sale we cannot justly describe, but we suppose three or four thousand acres, and there are but few farmers in our Township who would not even sell the improved farms if they had the offer of a good price.

30th The state of the public roads at present is but indifferent, but they are capable of improvement at a moderate expense, as the face of our country is generally level. Great improvements might be made by means of canals and locks respecting our navigation. We are situated on the coast of Lake Ontario, and thence we have the benefit of all the adjoining waters; besides we have two very fine side streams called the twelve and the sixteen mile creeks. These can be made navigable for boats some part of the year, four miles from the mouth, to communicate with our mills on Dundas St., the mouth of the sixteen, where it empties into Lake Ontario is navigable for vessels of a considerable burden, and forms a safe and commodious harbour.

31st The causes which retard the improvement of our township and the province at large are various --- the first and principal caused you have already very justly observed, that is the want of a Capital. This may perhaps be best illustrated by facts. Know then that the greater number of our farmers, when they first settle in the wild woods, have little more property than a cow, a yoke of oxen, a log cabin, and an axe, and some have little or no property but their axe alone.

The family generally consists of a man and his wife and a number of young children. Unable to hire hands, the whole of the labor naturally devolves upon the man; and hence, it is that for six or seven years till such time as the roots of the timber begin to rot in the ground, so that he can use the plow, and until the oldest of his children grow up to help him, the toil is incessant.

Four or five acres is all that he is able to clear and sow in a season and that is generally put in so late that it produces but little, so the whole of his crop will scarcely support him through the year, but many times he has to work out for a part of his bread. Clothes he must have for himself and the family, and these must be got out of the store, and merchant goods are very dear in this province, and as he has nothing to pay with, he is obliged to go on credit.

These in a few years soon run up high, so that by the time he gets his farm in such a state of improvement as might enable to live comfortable, he is frequently obliged to sell it, in order to pay off his debts. Such is the consequence of beginning poor. But this you will observe, is only the gloomy side of things; for those who are fortunate as to weather out the storm of the first ten years without sinking their plantations, are generally enabled to spend the remainder of their days in comfort.

The scarcity of labourers and the very high price of labour, so that the produce will scarcely pay the hands, forms of another hindrance to the improvements of our township and province at large.

Another hindrance is that in many places of this province, large tracts of land have been granted to certain individuals, and these being generally men of fortune, are under no necessity of selling their lands, but hold them at so high a price that poor people are not able to buy them.

Again, there are many of these gentlemen gone out of the province, so that there is no opportunity to purchase from them, so it still remains a wilderness and the poor people who are settled around such tracts have roads to make, and every other public duty to perform at their own expense, which greatly enhances the value of such land, to the great injury of the inhabitants.

Another hindrance respecting our township is that a great number of lots are reserved for the Crown and the Clergy and notwithstanding that these lots might be rented for 24 years for a very small sum of money, yet the lands in this province has hitherto been so plentiful and cheap that no one cares for renting land who can have it in fee simple; but when settlers become numerous, this evil will soon be done away.

What in our opinion would most contribute to the improvements of our township and the province at large, would be to encourage men of property into the county to purchase the waste lands of our province, which if sold even at a moderate price would, would introduce such a flow of capital into our province as would not only encourage a respectable race of settlers of every description to come in and cultivate the face of the county, and turn the wilderness into fruitful fields, but it would also make trade and manufactory of all kinds flourish, then would our province no longer remain poor, neglected and unknown to the rest of the world, but would become a respectable colony, not only able to support herself but she would add a revenue to the British crown and her redundances would contribute to feed the hungry and clothe the poor.

Sir: We have also seen your second address with your additional queries, which we answer as follows:

32nd We know of none in Upper Canada whom we would sooner trust to publish the statistics of our province than yourself.

33rd We are willing therefore, to trust the whole of your own veracity, and may the highest success crown your labours. It is true we have seen a parcel of heterogeneous stuff in the Niagara Spectator printed against your plan, which like the Palace of Vanity, appears to have no foundation; and like it. Too, shall vanish into air, yes thin air, and leave not a trace behind.

Indeed, such ill-timed jargon, quite unsupported by reason, will only serve to urge the business on more rapidly, and here, sir, is a striking proof, for it has reminded us at the end of our work of what we should have done in the beginning, namely to jointly offer you our warmest thanks for the strenuous efforts you have made, and the spirit of benevolence you have displayed in endeavouring to promote the prosperity of our province and the happiness of our fellow subjects. We have used provincial currency in all our calculations, which is five shillings to the dollar, excepting where we have mentioned dollars.

Signed by

James McBride J.P., Daniel Munn, Charles Biggar, Duncan McQueen, Absalom Smith, James Biggar, Amos Biggar, Michel Buck, Timothy Robbins, James Thomson, Benzamin Smith, Nathaniel Cornwall, James Hoppert, Henery Loucks, Lawrence Hager, Joseph Smith.

No. 1, Trafalgar, 27th November, 1817, to

Mr. Robert Gourlay,

from the Township of Trafalgar