



# Trafalgar Township Historical Society

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

## Winter Newsletter 2014

[michelle@tths.ca](mailto:michelle@tths.ca) 905-257-9080

2431 Dundas Street W

### **Annual General Meeting**

Our Annual Meeting where we elect our board, review the year and look forward to the year ahead will be on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. We are in need of at least two new board members. Please consider joining the board. Contact Michelle if you would like to learn more about the commitment.

[michelle@tths.ca](mailto:michelle@tths.ca)



Our guest speaker will be Richard Collins, Port Credit Historian, Museum Interpreter, and President of the Mississauga South Historical Society. Richard will be speaking on: The Lorne Scots & WWI (Remembering the 20<sup>th</sup> Halton and 36<sup>th</sup> Peel Regiments) Today's Lorne Scot Regiment traces its origin back to the 20th Halton Battalion during the Fenian Raids. This presentation will focus on the early years of the regiment and their contribution to Canada's Expeditionary Force during World War One.



### **Membership Renewals for 2014**

Everyone should have received their membership tax receipts for 2013. If you haven't please let us know. Membership is \$25 for an individual and \$35 for a family.

Trafalgar Township Historical Society

Jane Watt, 3089 Jaguar Valley Drive, Apt. B2, Mississauga, Ont. L5A 2J1

### **Family Day Monday February 17<sup>th</sup>**

The one-room school in Palermo is back in session!

Bring the kids and drop by the Schoolhouse from 10 am to 3 pm.

Help the Schoolhouse's new Edwardian teacher decorate the classroom by making chains, snowflakes and snowballs from paper. Take in some old-fashioned lessons, write on slates, and participate in a Spelling Bee.

### **New Staff**

We welcome Katherine Belrose (see picture to right) to our Trafalgar Township Historical Society team. Katherine brings a wealth of experience as a historical interpreter and summer camp co-ordinator at schoolhouses and museums. Katherine will be our school teacher, playing the role of Mrs Maud Norton. M. Maude Norton was the teacher at Palermo in 1905.



### **Grade 3 Classroom visits**

Our first Grade 3 classroom visit will happen at the end of February and we have 2 other schools booked for this school year. We are very excited about this new venture and will report back in the next newsletter.



Last month we said good bye to long time Trafalgar resident- Myrtle King 1912- December 2013. Born to Joseph Orr Peacock and Mary Elizabeth Slacer, she grew up on the farm on Lower Base Line Rd. She attended Glenorchy school, travelling by horse and buggy. She was the organist at Knox 16 Presbyterian church for 60 years. Myrtle married Howard Caverhill King at Knox in 1942. Myrtle and Howard had 3 daughters and farmed her parents land until 1975 when Howard passed away.

We are pleased to announce that John Summers has joined the Halton Region Museum's Heritage Team as Curator. John will be responsible for overseeing the care and preservation of the Museum's 35,000 artifacts, managing volunteers and assisting with educational programming. John can be reached at 905-875-2200 ext. 27 or [john.summers@halton.ca](mailto:john.summers@halton.ca) John has already been a huge help to us at TTHS and we look forward to working with him.



### Speaker Series



Our speaker at the pre-Christmas meeting was Professional Genealogist, Ruth Blair. She took us through a "walking tour" of her book "Remembering Trafalgar Township." Highlights included villages such as Agerton, Boyne, Bronte, Drumquin, Hornby and Merton. Fond memories of local residents....everyday on the farm, schools, shopping, entertainment, Christmas and winter were warmly received by members and friends of TTHS. Refreshments were enjoyed by those attending. Please join us at our next meeting February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. (see annual General meeting note above)  
Ross Wark

### Archives Open House

Come visit with us at our Friday open houses from 1:30-3:30.... research in our archives, and share your family history and stories. March 28th 2014, May 16, July 18 and Oct. 17th

### Donations

Thanks you Councillor Jeff Knoll for paying for our "Our Ontario" membership to maintain our digital archives on line for another year.

Jordon Kaitting volunteered to change all the outside lights at the school for us. Jordon has his own Painting company called JK Painting 905-484-1893 and does fantastic work. Call for a quote for your home or business.

Jim Kinnie donated some desks, a handmade pointer that was his grandfathers, a glass ink well, an old slate and a teacher's desk.



## Scanning

Lance and Vera Pocock have shared many items of family memorabilia and documents of the family of their friend, Reginald Smith, with the TTHS. Reg died in 2010 but his great-great grandfather Isaac Smith b. 1779 NJ. M. Elisabeth Pettit 1804 purchased Trafalgar Township's lot 34, Concession 1, S.D.S. in 1809 (present day north half of Bronte creek Provincial Park, south of Dundas and above Upper middle if it were extended) . In 1831 the 200 acres went to his grandparents, John Dorland Smith with his new wife, Margaret Book Walker. In 1890 the land was left to their son, John Walker Smith m. Victoria Keturah Inglehart on the condition he pay \$300 to each of his sisters Elizabeth Harrison, Almira Hager (Addison), Amanda McLaren (David) and to Walter Almond Hager ,& Ada Jane Hager a legacy of \$300 (these were the children of sister Maria who must have died) to be divided equally between them. The land continued in the family in 1918 going to sons John Russell Smith and Arthur Albert Smith. John Sold his 100 acres to Trafalgar Township and Arthur with his wife Mabel Bridgman continued on the land till selling it to the Province in 1971. The Smith family had come to the Niagara/Grimsby area from New Jersey as United Empire Loyalists by 1787. The family was very large with relations to the Wilcox, Biggar, Pettit, Walker, Inglehart, Bridgman and Nixon families. The land was taken for Bronte Creek Provincial Park in 1971 but even after moving to Tremaine Rd. at that time, Reg threw nothing out. I took photographs and/or scanned the items and documents and have been working away to upload them into our digital collection. There is a wonderful chest that had been made for John Durlan (or Dorland) Smith from wood and covered with hide that contained eyeglasses and their cases - in particular, a pince-nez with an ear hook and a wooden case carved specifically for it, a large scrap book made on linen for John D.'s grandson, Arthur Albert Smith, children's books including a "Public School Drawing Course" book from Palermo School that had belonged to Arthur, a Robert Simpson Company Spring & Summer 1901" catalogue, family photographs and more.

To commemorate this family and their Palermo connections, our digital collection has the photographs connected by the "group" called "John D. Smith Family, Palermo". It will be some time yet before all is added to this digital collection. Submitted by Anne Choate Little

Jim Kinnie donated some desks, a handmade pointer that was his grandfathers, a glass ink well, an old slate and a teacher's desk.



## Queries

I have come across someone called "Buddy" Killer who our church history says lost his life in the war. His mother was Mrs. E. N. Killer. There is no mention of him on the Knox church commemorative plaques. It sounds like he may have been killed in the First World War. Anyone know who this would be?

In response to the query in our last newsletter about the Bronte Dairy, Sandy Bray writes.... As far as I know, the Bronte Dairy was in a small building right across the street from where I know work (Heaneys Barbershop - 100 Bronte Rd). The building is on the List of Properties of Heritage Interest / Value and currently a Jewelry store.

## Forbes Murder- Written by Alan Norton

### Prudence & Alex Forbes

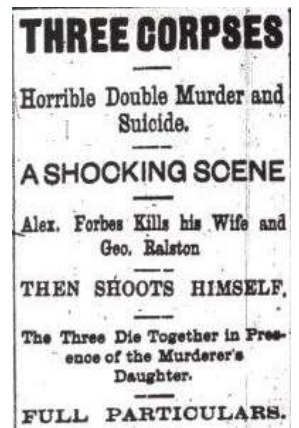


Prudence Norton 1843-1882 was the 4th of eight children of John Norton & Elizabeth Clark of Tapleystown, Saltfleet Twp., Wentworth Co. Three of her siblings, Louisa, Hiram and Demarius married Wilkinson siblings of Palermo, Trafalgar Twp. Halton Co. They were Robert, Elizabeth and James "Andy" respectively. It is family lore that Hiram Norton, the two times great grandfather of the author Alan Norton, was a hired hand of Francis Wilkinson and Clarissa Simons and that is how he met their daughter Elizabeth. They married in 1867. How he got to be in Palermo is not known, a distance of 35 kilometres. Interestingly though, Robert W and Louisa N married in 1865. So who actually first made the Wilkinson-Norton connection and where is open to speculation. But obviously there was a close relationship between the two families, regardless of the distance which likely took 3 or 4 hours by horseback.

Prudence, the 4th Norton to be connected to Palermo, was married to Alex Forbes about 1864 in Hamilton, Canada West. Very little was known of Prudence's life however, for today's family historians. This all changed very dramatically in October of 2009 thanks to the author's fourth cousin, Catherine Richards of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. She was able to determine that a Prudence Forbes had been killed in Hamilton, Ontario in June of 1882. Further investigation in the Hamilton Spectator archives by Alan Norton at Burlington Library, showed that she had been shot to death by her husband Alex Forbes. He also murdered Prudence's employer George Ralston before taking his own life. The date was 21 June 1882.

From the first article on 22 June 1882 it became immediately apparent that this was Prudence Norton, sister of Louisa, Hiram and Demarius. As stated in the newspaper, Prudence's father John Norton had been visiting her only an hour before and while on his way home to Tapleystown was overtaken at Bartonville by someone on horseback with the horrible news that his daughter had been shot and killed.

Over the course of three days, in detail to rival today's sensationalist reporting, the Hamilton Spectator carried the story. On Thursday 22 June 1882 the headline was: "THREE CORPSES. Horrible Double Murder and Suicide. A SHOCKING SCENE.



In reading the articles, Alan Norton was able to confirm Prudence's family lineage and find information pertaining to herself and her children.

- . Prudence was the daughter of John Norton of Tapleystown and had a sister connected with Walker's confectionary store on King Street west.
- . Alexander "Sandy" Forbes was the son of Alexander Forbes Sr. and lived with his father in Hamilton until he married Prudence Norton.
- . After marriage, Forbes and Prudence removed to Palermo and carried on a potash factory, which they later sold and moved to the USA.
- . Prudence and Alex Forbes had lived in Pittsburgh and Erie, Pennsylvania.
- . Prudence and her children had left their home in Allegheny, New York as a result of her husband Alexander Forbes' continued drinking and ill treatment.
- . She had been separated from her husband for about six years at the time of the killings.

- . The house where the murders took place was on Bold St. at the rear of Central School.
- . She had been employed by Mr. Ralson for about six months as a housekeeper and nanny.
- . There were three Forbes children - a daughter Kate and two boys Erney (sic) and Willy.
- . Kate was recorded as both 17 and 19 years of age at the time. Ernie was 9 and Willy 7.
- . Kate Forbes was living with Mr. Bateman on Victoria Avenue at the time of the murders.
- . The verdict of the coroner's jury was that Prudence's murder was premeditated.
- . Prudence was buried at Tapleystown.

The Spectator's 23 June 1882 morning paper carried the following death notice for Prudence Forbes:

"DIED. FORBES - In this city, on Wednesday, the 21st inst, Prudence Forbes, aged 37 years, second eldest daughter of John Norton, Esq. of Tapleystown.

Funeral will start at 10am from 71 Cathcart street north on Friday, the 23d inst, for Tapleystown M. E. Church. Friends and acquaintances will please accept this notice."

In the summer of 2010, Debbie Havens, great granddaughter of Kate Forbes visited the author in Burlington, from her Colorado home. Debbie had been unaware of the tragedy surrounding her two times great grandparents until Alan Norton's investigation the year before. The author was able to show Debbie where the murders took place and the locations where the bodies now lay - Prudence in Tapleystown Cemetery beside her mother and father, while Alexander is in Hamilton Cemetery, in an unmarked grave.

From any indications in Debbie's family, her great grandmother Kate Forbes was a kind loving woman but not surprisingly, never discussed having witnessed the violent death of her mother Prudence. The author has never been able to ascertain where the Forbes potash factory was in Palermo and would welcome any information from readers.

#### **Church On The Hill-** Written by Ross Wark



**Primitive Methodist Connexion Church  
1848-1914**

There has been a church presence in the community of Drumquin since 1823. A sturdy log structure, located across Trafalgar Road from the current Bethel United Church, served as a schoolhouse. Community meeting place, and Methodist church.

In 1848, a frame building called the Primitive Methodist Connexion Church was constructed. By 1851, land for a cemetery had been donated by John and Jane Featherston and Thomas and Mary Wise. The remains of both families rest with many early pioneers to this area of Trafalgar Twp.

Many people helped prepare and haul lumber for the new church. Trees had been cut at Howes' sawmill, while John Featherston transported the first load of timbers for this structure. After serving this community so well for many years, it was replaced in 1914 by the brick building we see today. With church union in 1925, this Methodist church became Bethel United



# 1816 Trafalgar Township Assessment

(editors Note- log cabins were not taxed so not listed.)

	Acres	Sq or Hewn Structure	Frame Under 2		Acres	Sq or Hewn Structure	Frame Under 2
Barnet Griggs	440			Michael Buck	235		
William Lawrence	240			Phillip Triller	60		
John Cline	100			Lockwood Street	340		
John Gable	200			Benjamin Smith	200		Yes
Henry Bartley				Bildad Simons	100		yes
John Cronkite	200			Daniel Curtis	160	Yes	
Henry Shook	200			Phillip Sovereign	400		Yes
David Snider	200			Andrew LeBare	198		
Samuel Marlatt	200	Yes		William Rible	136		Yes
Peter Covenhoven				Mahlon Bray	324	Yes	
Samuel Covenhoven	100		Yes	James Hinton	380		
Henry Carpenter	400			John Hinton			
Henry Leppard	100			Peter Kenney Jr.	100		
Frederick Anker				John Kaitting	150		
David Trowbridge	200			Charles Bigger	400		
Jacob Huffman	100			William McCraney	300		
William Tisdale	250			David Platter	50		
Peter Kenney Sr.	50			Henry Cale			
Henry Mowder				Cornelius Tipi	50		
Timothy Robins	100			Joseph Smith	310		
John Deruce	200			Jonathon Stanton	200		
Nathaniel Cornell	100			John Wilkens	100		
John Finch	100			Robert Wilkens			
William Kaitting	100			James Davidson	100		
John Phillips	50			Duncan McQueen	200		
John Jones	100			Edmond Decoo	200		
James Thomson	250			Sampson Howell	296		
Ephraim Post	150			Ephraim Hopkins	100		
William Rose	200			Henry Louks	100		
Isaiah Millard	100			William Smith	100		
George McKinley	200			Elizabeth Hull	100		
Simonson Smith	100			Absalom Smith	200		
John Smith	200			Phillip Buck	200	yes	
John Phoenix	200			Edward Clark	740		
Ezekial Post	200			Thomas Kindree	100		
Michael Snider	200			Charles teetzel	90		
Jacob Kamp	150			Peter Uptegrove			
David Olverson	200			James McBride	1000		
Daniel Munn	410			James Hopperd	100		
David Kenney	300	Yes		John C. Harris	135	yes	
James Bigger	200			Lawrence Hagar	200		

**Selected Information from the Trafalgar Township By-law Books 1856- 18958**  
**pt5 and last instalment for now.**

**Bylaw 90**

To provide against the spreading of infectious or contagious diseases suffered from slaughter houses. They must be 1 mile from villages for slaughtering or dressing, but butcher shops can be in villages. This applies to villages of Oakville, Bronte, Palermo and Milton.

Signed by Robert K Chisholm

**Bylaw 91** SS #5 New Schoolhouse in new survey. George Brown, John Dixon and Johnson Harrison Trustees

**Bylaw 92** Milton sidewalk and fire engine discussions May 1856

**Bylaw 93** SS #15 \$100 to provide school accommodation

**Bylaw 96** SS #14 and the Oakville Grammar school- \$200 to maintain the schools

**Bylaw 98** Erection of Township Hall. On dundas \$500 for the land. Brick building 36 x 80ft and 14ft high. 1 December 1856

(editors note: for 1857 the Bylaw numbers started at 200)

**Bylaw 200**

Election locations and Officers

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Court House Milton                   | Thomas Bowes   |
| 2. Patterson's Inn 7 <sup>th</sup> Line | James Bussell  |
| 3. Post Inn                             | John L. Bigger |
| 4. Oak House                            | Robert Balmer  |
| 5. Thompson's Inn                       | James White    |

**Bylaw 201** Repeal Bylaw 98 Approve \$500 from clergy fund to build the hall.

**Bylaw 203** SS #5 Finish and complete a schoolhouse in the new survey. Meeting was held by inhabitants at the schoolhouse. \$300 Brown Dixon Harrison May 11, 1857

**Bylaw 204** Repeal Bylaw 1 The Town of Oakville is a separate municipality and it would be expedient to provide for a new meeting place for the Township meetings outside of Oakville. Future meetings will be held at Post Inn. 11 May 1857

**Bylaw 205** Milton is a separate municipality 11 May 1857

**Bylaw 207** Clergy reserve portions are to be given to Oakville and Milton

**Bylaw 212** SS #18 to form because of incorporation, leaving out some who had attended  
**SS #14** . Lots 17-23 2 SDS, S ½ 24, 18-24 fronts

## 1858 Elections

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1 Mr. Larmano School | William Willmott |
| 2 Auburn Inn         | James Bussell    |
| 3 Post Inn           | John Bigger      |
| 4. Mr J Classo Inn   | William Pettit   |
| 5. Thompson's Inn    | James White      |

**Bylaw 215** Bronte Plank sidewalks 10 August 1858

### Bylaw 221

- |                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. McLaren's School              | William Willmott |
| 2. Patterson's Store             | James Bussell    |
| 3. Schoolhouse at Post's Corners | John L. Bigger   |
| 4. Schoolhouse at Munn's Corners | George Elliott   |
| 5. Temperence Hall Palermo       | Cyrus Inglehart  |

**Bylaw 222** Road work

Proudfoot Hill, Coutes Creek, Proudfoot's Creek 2<sup>nd</sup> SDS

29 December 1858 Jacob Lawrence Reeve & J L Bigger Clerk

**Bylaw 226** New Road Lots 26-28 4SDS The old road washed away into Lake Ontario. Part of the estate of Mahlon Bray in the centre of triller Street. June 20, 1859

**Bylaw 229** 1860 election locations same as stated above 5 December 1859 William Hood deputy Reeve.