



Trafalgar Township Historical Society

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

Spring 2016 Newsletter

TTHS Joins Social Media!

The Trafalgar Township Historical Society is ready to earn likes, get retweets, and go viral! The Society has joined social media in an effort to reach new audiences, and to share updates and news quickly and directly with our followers.



Connect the TTHS to your profile - please "Like" the [Trafalgar Township Historical Society](#) page on Facebook, to receive up-to-date event and archive information.



You can also join our conversations on Twitter - follow [@TrafTownHistory](#) and see regular tweets about upcoming events and society news in your timeline.



Call for Proposals: Celebrating Canada's 150th Birthday

In 2017, Canadians will gather to mark the 150th anniversary of Confederation. Sesquicentennial activities, programs, and projects are in the works across the country, and the TTHS is seeking proposals for our own celebrations! If you have ideas for events, speakers, or initiatives to help us commemorate this milestone, please send your suggestions or proposals to the Society by emailing Secretary [Shelley Weichel](#).

The [Community Fund for Canada's 150th](#), announced in March of this year by the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage and administered locally by the Oakville Community Foundation, will provide thousands of small grants to local projects that build community and encourage engagement in the 150th anniversary of Confederation.

TTHS Board of Directors

- Chair: Michael Reid
- Vice Chair: Gord Kaitting
- Secretary: Shelley Weichel
- Membership: Michelle Knoll
- Treasurer: Mario Testa
- Archivist: Ross Wark
- Members-at-Large: Cathy Duddeck & Syzan Talo

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Society News & Updates

- Halton Region Museum/Heritage Services has recently embarked on the development of an exhibition entitled *Who is Halton?* and are **looking for our help in developing content**. The exhibition is intended to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the founding of Halton County in 1816, and while it will discuss the history of the County and its historic people, they are also looking to hear the stories of current residents. Their team are gathering information via an [online survey](#); if you have any questions regarding the project, please follow up with Claire Bennett, Assistant Curator/Collections Coordinator at claire.bennett@halton.ca or call 905-875-2200, ext. 22.



- Many thanks to Dina Zambito for taking additional photographs of the property at 1158 Burnhamthorpe Road East (at left), expanding on photographs taken at the site taken in 2014. You can view all the images on OurOntario [here](#).



- In their January 2016 newsletter, the Bronte Historical Society featured a photograph from the TTHS archival collection - "[Bronte Train Station Camp, World War I](#)" (at left) was used to help announce the publication of *Training for Armageddon ... Niagara Camp in the Great War 1914 – 1918* by Richard D. Merritt ([FriesenPress, 2015](#)).
-

TTHS Recognizes Jane Watt

The Society would like to extend its warmest thanks to outgoing Board member **Jane Watt** for her contributions to the work of the TTHS. Jane was one of the founding members of the Society, and has been active in outreach and public events - her leadership of the TTHS Heritage Fair, regular presence at archive open house events, as well as her willingness to answer all queries has made her an invaluable member of the Society. Her presence on the Board will be missed, but we are very pleased to say she will continue to support archive open house events. **Many thanks Jane!**





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Recent Donations to the TTHS

From Ross Wark - the Society has seen a recent influx of donations, including the following new additions:

- A framed watercolor **painting of S.S. #15, Merton**, donated by Lorna (Lawrence) Wilson of Bolton, Ontario. Lorna remembers the painter rented a house from her father on the south side of Upper Middle Road. The painting signature seems to be: *Tolatter 1938*. View it in our digital collection [here](#).
- Two **metal plaques** donated by Palermo United Church. One in memory of [Henry Heeks](#), the other commemorating the [Palermo Community Hall, 1912-1974](#).
- Seven **matted early pictures of Palermo and Dr. Anson Buck**, ca. 1912-14, given to us by Bronte Historical Society. View the photo of Dr. Buck, and an accompanying 2-page essay about his life [here](#).
- Two framed **photographs of Sunday School picnics** held by Palermo Methodist Church, c. 1919 and c. 1930. The digital records are still in progress for these images, as the oversize landscape photographs have to be digitally pasted together. Please stay tuned for this addition to OurOntario!
- A large framed aerial photo of the **Tovell Brothers Farm** in the Dundas/Third Line area and a copy of ***Places and People on Bronte Creek***, written by Dorothy Turcotte and featuring notations by the late George Atkins of "errors" made in the Merton section, donated to the TTHS by Myrtle Tovell.

Biggar, Munn, Conover, & Fleming Family

Photographs Added to OurOntario!

By Anne Choate Little

We have recently had the pleasure of talking and working with Judy Tyson and her father, Thomas, on their collection of family photographs and items. Thomas married Lois Biggar, daughter of Wilbert and Ethel [Biggar of Glenclare Farm](#), 6th Line and Burnhamthorpe. Judy has shared over 250 photos of the family; most records are linked together in the OurOntario "group" of [Michael Lafey Biggar Family, Halton County](#). Click on one of the

following names to see photographs from the [Biggar](#), [Munn](#), [Conover](#), and [Fleming](#) families.





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Preserving History at Lazy Pat Farm

By Michael Reid, Chairperson



The Lazy Pat Farm, which is located at 3269-3271 Dundas Street West in the former Trafalgar Township, has been purchased by a developer and is slated for development. Due to the significant heritage value of the property, the TTHS has been closely monitoring planning for this property to ensure that it is properly preserved.

The land, which is bound by Dundas Street West, Tremaine Road, Highway 407 and Bronte Road, has roots in the early settlement of the area and the farmhouse has been associated with the subject property since the early 19th century. The McQueen and Wilkinson families have strong ties to the property, and were among the first pioneers to arrive and settle in the area. The Wilkinson family in particular had a long association with the property, having farmed this land for nearly a century (c. 1850 to c. 1920). As such, this property contributes to the story of early township development, and illustrates local history and settlement patterns.

The developer has confirmed that the goal of their project is to "create an environmentally and economically sustainable employment district that will contribute to the dynamic character of the Town of Oakville," and "in order to reach this goal the Concept Plan must balance environmental opportunities with economic realities to create an employment district that is visually attractive, environmentally responsible and functionally efficient."

TTHS was consulted by Heritage Planning at the Town of Oakville, and worked with them to preserve this historical property. We voiced our opinion that this property provides us with an excellent opportunity to capture the farming history of Trafalgar Township, and to provide a unique park for the public to enjoy.

TTHS offered a number of recommendations to the Heritage Oakville Advisory Committee pertaining to the preservation of the property, which were contradictory to that of staff in the Heritage Planning Department. The Heritage Oakville Advisory Committee discussed this property on September 22, 2015, and adopted many of our recommendations not contemplated by staff including the retention of the original farmhouse and the summer house.

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Preserving History at Lazy Pat Farm, cont'd.

The Committee ultimately endorsed the following, resulting in a triumph for Lazy Pat Farm:

1. *That the Conservation Management Strategy dated July 2015, be supported in principle for future implementation with particular attention paid to the possibilities of restoration and adaptive reuse of the original farmhouse, the barn and the summer house; and*
2. *That a Notice of Intention to Designate under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act be issued for the identified cultural heritage landscape of the property at 3269 Dundas Street West.*

In early November 2015, the farmhouse windows were secured and the basement was drained of standing water; a pump system was left in place so that water could be routinely pumped out.

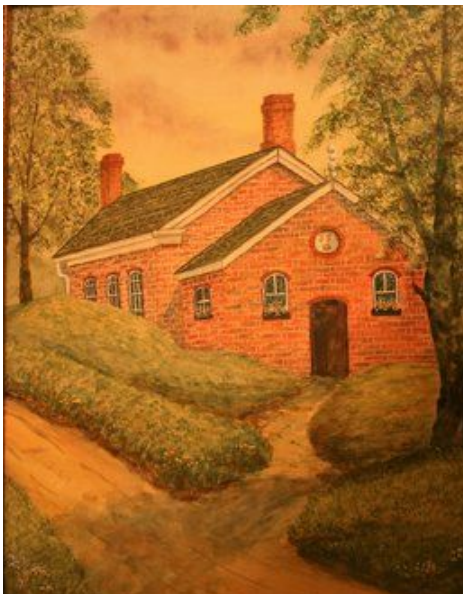
The TTHS will continue to monitor the development of this historical property, to ensure that it is properly preserved and recognized as an important part of the history of Trafalgar Township.



TTHS Report: November 11, 2015 Meeting

Submitted by Ross Wark

About 30 people attended last night's meeting. In my opinion, an interesting and informative meeting. Lots of humour as well. After the meeting, the Kirkwoods presented TTHS with a [framed watercolour of SS # 15 at Merton](#). They have more materials that Doug will scan and share with the Society at a later date. Many pictures of the Lawrence family who farmed in the area of 1318 Third Line in Trafalgar Township. I will send a letter of thanks to the original owner of the painting, a Mrs Lorna Wilson (Lawrence), who now lives in Bolton.





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TTHS Reports: Harvey Morris Switzer

Submitted by Anne Choate Little

Early in December 2015, the TTHS received an email from two cousins inquiring about their ancestor, Harvey Morris Switzer. Specifically, they asked if we had a photograph of Mr. Switzer - we didn't.

What we *did* have were [photographs of the house](#) built in Palermo by this early, prominent Trafalgar Township citizen (still inhabited and on the Town of Oakville 2007 Heritage Inventory List), and documents and information about Harvey Switzer as he had been a general merchant and Postmaster at Palermo, a County Magistrate and Commissioner in the Court of Queen's Bench. He held the positions of Captain and Paymaster in the 20th Halton Battalion, the volunteer militia. He was a founding member of the Halton Agricultural Society which started in 1853. He was a member of the Conservative Party and also a trustee of the Hamilton and Northwestern Railway.

Thanks to Wilfrid Morrison, James Morrison and Neil Switzer, we have now posted a photograph of [Harvey Switzer in his 20th Halton Rifles uniform](#), and [another studio photograph](#) almost certainly of him (although not absolutely identified as such in the family album).



Queries

❖ Wanted: Information on **Henry Heeks**

- TTHS Board member Ross Wark recently picked up a donation of 2 very heavy metal tablets that once hung in the Palermo Community Hall, c. 1912-1974 - [one of which](#) is dedicated in memory of Henry Heeks. If you have any information about Henry or the Heeks family, please contact [Ross](#).

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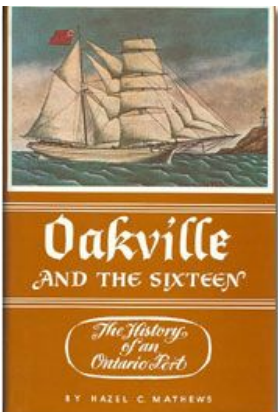
Queries, cont'd.

❖ Wanted: information about **George Morrison**

- An inquiry has come from Bev Trew Palmer, a genealogist in Indiana, asking for information on early area resident George Morrison, a shoemaker as per the 1845 Census; Bev knows that George was born in New Brunswick on March 24, 1803. His father, John Morrison, appears on the Trafalgar Township tax list of 1827 and is on the 1828 Nominal List of people belonging to the 2nd Regiment Gore Militia, Trafalgar. George married Sarah M. Buck on March 9, 1832 - Jordan Munn was a marriage witness. Sarah died on February 20, 1866 in Malahide Township, Elgin County, Ontario. Census information shows that George moved to Michigan in the early 1870s, likely joining other family, and he died there on June 3, 1888. Please contact [Bev](#) if you have information on George Morrison and/or his family.

❖ Wanted: information on the **naming of Trafalgar-area school**

- While working on the OurOntario entry for a photograph of Munn's School, S.S. #3A, TTHS member Anne Choate Little noticed that unlike most local schools, the school section number in the photograph includes an "A." This interesting detail would make a great addition to the record - any members able to clarify why the "A" was included, please contact [Anne](#).



Contribute to *Oakville and the Sixteen*, v. 2.0!

Authors Janice Bradbeer, Wendy Burton, and Kathy Conway are planning a follow-up book to Hazel Mathews' *Oakville & the Sixteen* (University of Toronto Press, 1971), and are seeking our help.

The team of authors are looking for local residents interested in being interviewed for new anecdotal material to be included in their book as sidebars to the main text, exploring colourful characters and events in area history. The overall narrative of this book will focus on amalgamation and growth in Oakville and along the Sixteen.

If you are interested in being interviewed, please contact Wendy Jackson at wendyjacksonburton@gmail.com or 905-338-2787, or Janice Bradbeer at jbradbeer@cogeco.ca.



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Upcoming Events

Wednesday May. 11, 2016

TTHS Meeting, featuring Pauline Grondin

Please join us for Grondin's talk - "When Suffragettes Won Back the Vote" - commemorating the centennial of women's suffrage in Ontario.

Location: Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Friday May 20, 2016

Archives Open Research

Friday June 17, 2016

All are welcome to join us in researching family and community histories!

Friday July 15, 2016

Location: Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

Friday August 19, 2016

Time: 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Friday October 21, 2016

Wednesday July 13, 2016

TTHS Meeting, featuring Gordon Good

Join us for a presentation by Good, Chair of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors' Archival & Historical Committee - "Forty Minutes to Dundas St."

Location: Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Saturday October 1, 2016

Family Heritage Fair & Book Sale

Join the TTHS for a day of exhibits, highlights from the archives, artifacts, and local history as we celebrate Doors Open Halton!

Location: Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Last Shot: Palermo Agricultural Works

This coloured illustrations from the 1877 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton*, published by Walker & Miles, was [recently added to OurOntario](#) as part of a donation of seven matted images by the Bronte Historical Society.

