



Trafalgar Township Historical Society

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

Winter 2017 Newsletter

Our Annual General Meeting Approaches!

Join the Trafalgar Township Historical Society on **Wednesday March 8, 2017 at 7 p.m.** for our Annual General Meeting. The evening will feature noted local historian **Richard Collins**, former President of the Mississauga South Historical Society. Collins' presentation - "Suffer Us Not to be Driven Off" - will examine the creation and impacts of treaty agreements between the British Crown and Mississauga Nation.

Please note that all **current members** will receive copies of the Society's financial statement and annual report two weeks prior to the AGM.

Unpaid membership dues - \$25.00 per single member & \$35.00 per dual membership - should be sent to the following address:

*Trafalgar Township Historical Society
c/o Oak Park Neighbourhood Centre
2200 sawgrass Drive, Oakville ON L6H 6M8*



Historian Richard Collins will speak at the TTTHS on Wednesday March 8. Photo: Mike Douglas for *Mississauga Life*.

TTTHS 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

- Are you interested in joining the TTHS Board? We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers who can help bring attention to the Society's work and support our ongoing programs. The Board meets up to six times per year on Friday afternoons. If you would like to join us, please email Michael Reid at mreidattths@hotmail.com.
- The TTHS hosted another **successful Archives Open** day on Friday January 20, with several visitors and a new membership sold! Many thanks to Ross Wark, Jane Watt, and Anne Choate Little for hosting this event.
- Carolyn Van Sligtenhorst, Heritage Planner, District East/Central Planning Services, Town of Oakville, has allowed

the TTHS to add images of the **new heritage panels** placed in Memorial Park on Oak Park Boulevard. The TTHS contributed historical information and expertise about Trafalgar Township families throughout the development of the plaques.

Originally granted to Amelia (or Aurelia) Jones in 1808, this lot changed families numerous times throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. In more recent history, the Hays family used the property for their cattle auction business. The family operated a purebred livestock auction and exported top purebred cattle all over the world, resulting in three family members being inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame. Nearby Hays Boulevard is named after this family.



Lot allocation from 1877 Township survey, Lot 14 highlighted.



Tom Hays Sr. running a cattle auction in the new barn, 1960s.

This property once contained an early 20th century brick farmhouse located close to Dundas Street. To the south and west of the house was the hired man's house and several barns built over the years, including the original gambrel barn and other structures built later for the auction business. Former MP of Halton Centre Barbara Sullivan grew up in the brick farmhouse in the 1950s.



Munn's School S.S. 3A, early 20th century.

To the west of the farm, the third Munn's School was constructed in 1900. The original school for the hamlet was built on the cemetery lands on the southeast corner of Sixth Line and Dundas Street.

An excerpt from the "Local Farms" plaque in Memorial Park. Image: Town of Oakville.



Installed in November 2016, the new plaques in Memorial Park commemorate area farming settlers in Trafalgar Township. Image: Town of Oakville.

Including this information in the TTHS digital collection allows researchers to more easily find the photographs and information, and to connect it to other online local area history collections. The full plaques can be seen in Memorial park or [easily viewed online](#).



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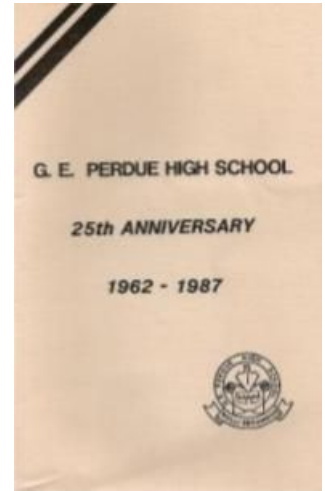
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Recent Donations to the TTHS

- Jane Watt has established a new collection in the TTHS archives on Oakville's **Gordon E. Perdue High School**, by donating the [programme booklet](#) for the school's 25th Anniversary in 1987.

While preparing the digital record, Anne Choate Little found that Roger Sanders had organized a reunion of the class of 1966 in October 2016 through a newspaper article by David Lea in the Oakville Beaver. Roger has since contributed the programmes from the graduating classes of 1963 through 1967 as well as two photographs of the high school to our collection.



Programme from the 25th anniversary celebrations at Gordon E. Perdue High School.



Gordon E. Perdue High School, 1967-68.

Opened in 1962, the school was named after Gordon Perdue, who had worked as a teacher but became general manager of the Oakville Basket Company while serving as elected Chair of the local school board from 1949.

The school was located at 124 Dorval Drive on the southwest corner of Rebecca Street and Dorval, Oakville, Ontario, and was sold to the Halton Catholic District School Board in 1990. It now operates under the name St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School. To read more about the history of the school, [visit the TTHS archives](#).

- The TTHS has recently acquired **photographs taken in 1935** by Merton resident and famed radio/television host George S. Atkins, from his property at 1242 Bronte Road on top of the Twelve Mile Creek bluffs. The black and white photographs were shared with the TTHS by the Bronte Historical Society, along with information on the owners of the property. Many thanks to the volunteers at Bronte Historical Society for providing these records - they have a wonderful collection of information, and their well-researched essays are always of great interest! [Visit the TTHS archives to see the full donation.](#)



View of Bronte Creek from "Woodlands" property, taken by George S. Atkins ca. 1935.



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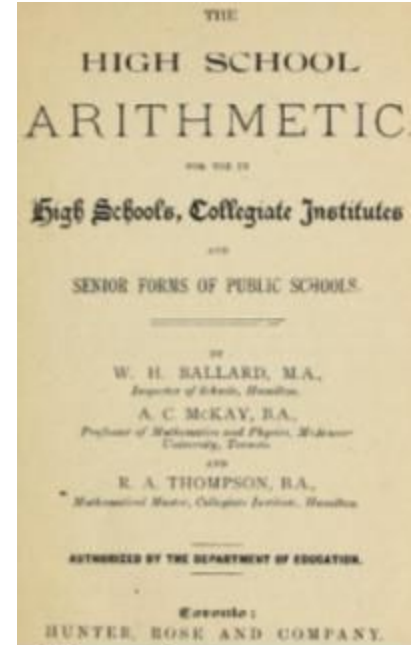
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Recent Donations to the TTHS, Cont'd.

- From Anne Choate Little: "In early January 2017, Betty Hughes donated several **school readers and books** to the TTHS' unique collection of textbooks used in schools of yesteryear. One of the texts donated: a copy of "Ontario Public School Arithmetic" (ca. 1920) used by Priscilla and John Dixon, students at Milton Public School, containing seven postage stamps pasted on the title page - including a commemorative stamp issued in 1917 for the 50th anniversary of Confederation!

Another notable book from this donation was published in 1896 - "The High School Arithmetic For Use in High Schools, Collegiate Institutes and Senior Forms of Public Schools" by Ballard, McKay and Thompson, published by Hunter, Rose in Toronto. The TTHS collection of school readers and books is unique and contains about 330 titles. As a retired librarian, I enjoy seeing that people write notes in books (in pencil only, please!), because that shows the book was used and it tells us a bit about the users. Catching glimpses of the children and young adults who laboured over the school books in our collection them is quite special."



Title page from a recently-donated arithmetic school book.

TTHS Queries

- The Society recently received an inquiry from Dave Rutherford regarding **William Ribble**, resident of Lot 25 Con. 4SDS in

1807 TRAFALGAR TOWNSHIP ORIGINAL LAND GRANTS

Name of Locatee	Residence	Lot & Conc	Date ID	Issue Date	Trans Type	Type FG	Type of Lease/sale	Archival Reference RG Series	Vol	Page
Simmerman Matthias		25 BR FT LONT	1	18070213	FG	MC		01 C14	002	056
Deed No.			8	18070211						

Transcribed excerpt from the Trafalgar Township land registry in 1807, showing Matthias Simmerman as the owner of Lot 25.

Trafalgar Township in 1811. He was interested to know who sold the land to Ribble; the handwriting on the Trafalgar land registry is unclear, but TTHS Board member Michelle Knoll was able to determine the name is "Matthias Simmerman." It is likely that Simmerman was a soldier during the War of 1812, but unknown whether he actually lived on the Trafalgar property before selling to Ribble. If anyone has any further information regarding Simmerman, Ribble, or the land, please contact Michelle Knoll at michelle@tths.ca.



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Upcoming Events

Wednesday March 8, 2017

TTHS Annual General Meeting featuring Richard Collins

Please join us for Collins' presentation, "Suffer Us Not to be Driven Off," on historic treaty relationships between the British Crown and Mississauga Nation.

Location: Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday June 14, 2017

TTHS, EHS, and Silverwood WI Joint Meeting

The TTHS, Esquesing Historical Society, and Silverwood Women's Institute host an evening of local Hornby history and tour of St. Stephen's cemetery.

Location: St. Stephen's Anglican Church, 14946 Steeles Avenue East, Hornby

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Saturday Sept. 30, 2017

Annual 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.

Upcoming TTHS Meetings in 2017

Wednesday May 10, 2017

Location: Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

Wednesday Jul. 12, 2017

Time: 7:00 p.m

Wednesday Nov. 8, 2017

Upcoming Archives Open Research Days

Friday Feb. 17, 2017

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

Friday Apr. 21, 2017

Location: Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

Friday May 19, 2017

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

Friday Jun. 16, 2017

Friday Jul. 21, 2017

Friday Aug. 18, 2017

Friday Sept. 15, 2017

Friday Oct. 20, 2017



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The Last Shot

STORM

By Ross Wark



Photo of the Ball Brothers' Farm, showing the drive shed and old milk house, ca. 1972. Image: TTHS Archives.



Photograph taken at the Ball Brothers' farm, ca. 1972. Image: TTHS Archives.

Snow began to fall
Invisible against
The darkening sky.
With frightening speed
Giant flakes
Dominated the January night.
The ground turned white,
And weathered shed boards
Blended with the closing storm.
The lane filled quickly,
Trapping the distant barn
All was quiet-
No night creatures stirred.
Almost imperceptibly
The towering yard light
Swayed, flickered, died.
Blustery east winds rose
Rattling ancient panes.
The house groaned in
The throes of another
Winter.

Ball Brother's Farm - Lot 3, Conc. 8, Trafalgar Township