

The Pioneer Times

(News vehicle of the Cloyne and District Historical Society)



Cloyne and District Historical Society

Box 228

Cloyne, ON K0H 1K0

Tel: 1 (613) 336-2203

E-Mail: pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca



Preserving the Past for the Future

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The Pioneer Times

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Editors and Production Committee

Margaret Axford
brumford@mazinaw.on.ca

Carol Morrow
ncmorrow@sympatico.ca

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Cloyne and District Historical Society

Box 228
Cloyne, ON K0H 1K0
Tel: (613) 336-2203
E-Mail: pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca

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Carolyn McCulloch

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Eileen Flieler

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*Dorothy Pethick, Muriel Vanness,
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Archiving

The task of archiving is meticulous and slow, not a barn-burner activity. However, in spite of its essentially boring attributes, our two summer students took quickly to the process and worked steadily at the job all summer. Well, maybe “steadily” is the wrong word. They worked hard in great spurts, which were interspersed with periods of goofiness to help to alleviate the boredom. If you happened to be in the museum and were introduced to “Earl the Squirrel”, who was an early summer visitor, or to the “Employee of the Month” signs, you would have caught them in one of their sillier modes. These two were terrific workers, who got along well, and who accomplished lots of archiving - over 1000 items at the moment.

One of the two is working weekends throughout the winter. We have a work area set up for her in the storage room, which is heated. For those of you who know this room, it has been seriously cleaned up and reorganized - so much so that there is room for Robyn’s desk and the computer. Now let’s hope that there isn’t as much snow as last winter, so that she can navigate those banks in order to get into the building!

We will offer a spring report in the April issue. The Trillium grant covers 2 years, so we have funding enough to continue on into next year.

Five Historical Society members went to the Hastings County Historical Society banquet in Belleville on November 1. Their organization is involved in archiving as well, but they have no suitable home for their documents. After years of deliberation about their problem, they have launched an ambitious project to build a suitable building which will be mould, mouse and bat free. Upon completion of the building, Hastings County has promised to take it over and do the maintenance, a huge commitment.

Hopefully, there were several takers from the 180-strong audience at the dinner for what

Doug Bible

(1917 -2008)

by Carolyn McCulloch

Doug Bible shared the memories of his childhood on Loon Lake (Skootamatta) with us shortly after his ninetieth birthday in the summer of 2007. He was feisty, sure of foot, full of fun, with an acute memory when he welcomed us to Big Island on that bright day. Sadly, he died in February of this year. We'll miss him, and dedicate this story to the memory of one of the Lake Skootamatta's earliest pioneers.

Doug was the son of the original "Poppa Bible" who came to the Lake when Doug was seven years old. Poppa built the original cottage close to where the existing cottage is, but it was destroyed by fire before 1926 while his mother, Dorothy, was away at the store with his brother. Next, the family stayed across the lake in an isolated cabin owned by people whose name was Dunlop. They remained there for two or three summers while their cottage was being rebuilt. *(There is a window frame that still exists from the ruins of that cabin, and remarkably, a mature maple tree now fills the space in the center of the frame. It may be seen on the property at the entrance to the narrows, now owned by Don and Hannah Bailey.)* That early cabin was identical to the one on the opposite side of the narrows that is owned by Darrien and Gord Kissman.

Young Doug and his family eventually came back to spend happy summers on Big Island. What summers they were! What fun they had! Can you imagine four little boys out in a boat with two sets of oars in the locks, creating so much speed that they could troll for fish? And to make it even better, one of those little fellows was Clayton Moore who in later life became the Lone Ranger. Doug remembers that Clayton also had brothers, and that with the same boat they made a sail with an old sheet, held it to the wind and sailed it across the lake.

Mrs. Wise ran a store in the village that had everything hungry little boys could ever want. They soon learned that she was a generous soul and would give them marshmallow-filled chocolate-covered cookies when they were damaged, as she could not sell them. While she was busy, the children would go in front of the tray, and make sure there were some broken ones. When Doug was older he learned that Poppa Bible and Sadie Wise were a team. Poppa always settled the account for the broken cookies.

There were blueberries growing all over Big Island. Doug attributed this to the fact that blueberries require a lot of sun. He remembered that there were many tall spired trees with no limbs at the bottom, and the sun shone through to the berries. He was not sure, but wondered if these were trees that had survived the forest fire that raged on Loon Lake earlier in that century. Presently, there is second growth which creates shade and there are few blueberries.

Tiny Osborne organized all the activity on the lake, and there certainly was a lot of spirit. Archie Meeks, who had been blinded in WWI and who lived on Loon Lake Road, rented out boats to the cottagers. At that time a well known resident, Harold Ballard, owned old time racing boats. They were called Sea Fleas, and the Bible Sea Flea was called the Galloping Ghost.

The early development on the lake was at Trails End. Everyone gathered there to buy milk at Fennells store *(later owned by Harold Maybee)* and to share the news. In the beginning, most cottages had an ice house, and during the winter, villagers would come out to cut and supply ice for the cottagers. People eventually turned to propane as a source of refrigeration as the ice on the lake had become too thin to support the weight of the horses and the blocks of ice. Perhaps global warming is not as recent as we think.

There was a sawmill in the bay in front of Doreen Wood Howard's house *(where Ken and Cathy Hook now live)* and Doug remembered an intriguing map on the wall. It was entitled *The Plan and Field Notes of the Sub Division of Big Island in Loon Lake: 1922*.

Life moved along and Doug enlisted in the army and went overseas with the Royal Canadian Artillery in WWII. He was involved in the liberation of the area around Nijmegen in Holland. He remembered those war years, and the part that Loon Lake played. There was an RCAF training base in the Upper Lake, where an airplane was forced down and the fuselage broke off. *(The large propeller was retrieved and now rests at the Dacuks property on Hughes Landing Road).*

He married, had children, and Skootamatta became the center of their family life. They even traveled there in the middle of Hurricane Hazel. The waves were so high that Doug had to arrive at the back of the island with his wife Bev, two children Mike and Lynn, and Poppa Bible. He jokingly shared that Bev pronounced him crazy after

the ride. The lake had been so churned up by the high winds that it was covered with a white froth for days after the storm.

The original Poppa Bible died, and soon with still another generation on the lake, Doug proudly became the new Poppa Bible to his grandchildren. Over the years, although the island is still officially Big Island, people referred to it as Bible Island. Because of its location and accessibility it became a refuge.

A Shel Drake Bay cottager fondly remembers Doug Bible: *"I remember the first time I was ever on Lake Skootamatta—1963. I was trying to get to Shel Drake Bay with my elderly parents. We had a little boat with a small engine on it. A storm arose just as we were in front of Bible's Island, and we decided to move into the dock there for refuge. And from the age he would be today, I suspect that Poppa Bible was our major host. They took us in, fed us, served us coffee and let us get dry. We never made it to Shel Drake Bay that day, but we surely had a good introduction to Skootamatta hospitality. I am sure that there have been countless times since then when the Bibles have rescued our friends and families in distress."*

It was very clear that we were talking to a man who had lived well, laughed often, loved much and gained the respect of his friends and family. He contributed much to the history on Lake Skootamatta. We'll miss him.



Cover Photo

This photo of our museum sign depicts Fred Scott, of the Vennachar area. Fred was an interesting fellow who played the bagpipes and wrote poetry. Here, we see him working with a pike pole at the Sawyer-Stoll lumber mill in about the early 1940s. He is said to have entered a log rolling contest at a lumbermen's picnic on Benny's Lake, playing his bagpipes the whole time. Collections of his poems are available for reading in the museum.

Genealogical Reminder

To save a whole lot of time, be sure to "Bookmark" those important genealogy websites to your computer.

Patron Committee Report

By Marcella Neely

It's interesting to note that the attendance at the museum this past summer was up, yet the donations were down from previous years. Expenses do not seem to go down, however. Thankfully our faithful Museum Patrons continue to support us with their donations and fees and volunteers from the C&DHS continue to maintain and administer. The two summer students working at the museum were partially subsidized by a Canada Works grant and a Canada Summer Jobs grant leaving us with only a small amount to make up. The kinds of museum expenses we need funds for are liability insurance, hydro, stationery, cleaning supplies, display materials, and museum grade supplies such as display cases, picture frames, paper, etc. We are learning that standard storage facilities and procedures are not acceptable for the long term and are working on redoing each area as time and funds permit so that our artifacts and genealogy will be preserved for our descendants.

We are aiming at increasing our Pioneer Museum Patron roster and ask that all our readers consider coming on board and inviting friends, neighbours and family to do likewise. The annual patron fee is only \$25.00 for which you receive a copy of this newsletter twice a year, a window decal and the privilege of attending all or any of the meetings and activities of the Cloyne and District Historical Society. We issue a charitable donation receipt that can be used for income tax reduction for all donations of \$10 and over. We encourage everyone to direct more of their charitable dollars to this valuable community landmark. Bequests are graciously received and commemorated.

For questions or discussion, please feel free to contact me at 613-336-9670 or by email at [\[kmneely@mazinaw.on.ca\]](mailto:kmneely@mazinaw.on.ca).



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A Lack of Vice

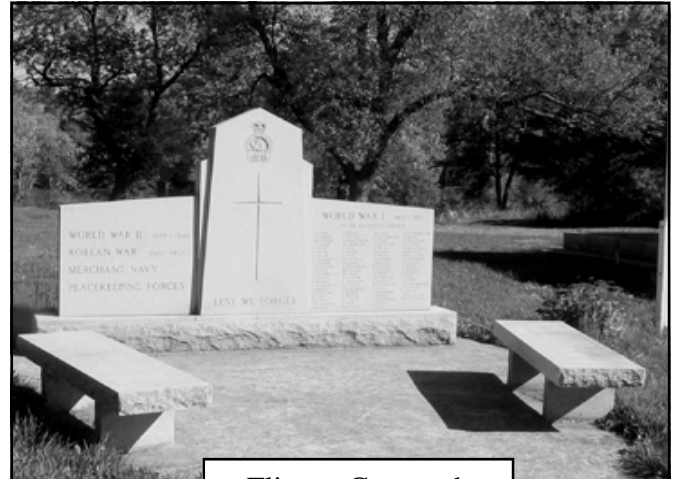
Margaret Axford

Worrying about vice, or lack of it, is not something we do a whole lot at our age. However, there is a specific type of vice that is of major concern among boards of organizations, and ours is no exception. The kind of vice to which I refer is that pesky little position on all boards called the Vice President, or Vice Chair. Now most sane people avoid this job like the plague, because of course it leads to the big job. There's been considerable talk in recent days about this position in the US election, as it might apply to one particular female candidate, with phrases like "a heart-beat away" always coming up in the discussion.

After the Annual General Meeting in October, the Historical Society finds itself in the position of lacking in vice. We have a candidate, but right now she's so busy with other responsibilities that she barely has time to breathe, and since she's a very valuable member of the board, we want nothing to happen to her, in regard to heartbeats or anything else! She has promised to review her situation in 6 months and reassess her "busyness" quotient.

In the meantime, here is a perfect opportunity for someone to gently dip his or her toes into the Board of Directors' pool, to see if the water temperature is appealing. You might be interested in being a Board member for a few months, with specific tasks as assigned by the president. The Board is a congenial group, meeting once a month to make decisions about things like guest speakers, upcoming events, expenditures and so on. The qualifications for the job are that you be a member of the C&DHS and have an interest in the organization and the work that it does.

The position could be for just six months, or it could be for a year. If you would like to volunteer, please send an email to <pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca> or call Carolyn McCulloch at 613-336-6858. If several people offer their services, then we'll be in the enviable position of having a "VP pool"! This is a dynamic organization with lots of interesting projects. Please consider helping to solve our vice problem!



Flinton Cenotaph

WW1 Recruitment in Rural Canada

Margaret Axford

A couple of factors have come together to raise questions about WW1 recruitment tactics in our particular part of rural Canada. One of course is Remembrance Day, which always generates thoughts about Canada's role in the two world wars and who participated in those wars. Further questions were raised at the medal presentations by the Ball family in Denbigh this past June.

One of those questions is why so many young men from our area joined the military.

If you go to Flinton or to Denbigh and look at the lists on the cenotaph of those killed in the wars, what you will find is that the numbers for WWI are disproportionately larger than for WWII. Is that just because everyone was wary of war after the huge casualties of the Great War? Certainly that was a big factor. But there may have been other factors at play in the recruitment procedures being used after the outbreak of hostilities in 1914.

This is a topic about which much has been written. I have a list of publications which I'd like to have a look at over the winter, and promise that I will do a report for you in the next fall issue of the Pioneer Times.



AGM President's Report October '08 *Margaret Axford*

As this is my last report to you as president of the Historical Society, with your indulgence, I'm going to reminisce a bit about where we have been and where we are now. Those of you who are new to the organization perhaps aren't aware of our beginnings. Those of you who do know may now go to sleep!

The C&DHS is an outgrowth of the former heritage society in the area which was called the Pioneer Club. These were the hardworking people who did all the research for, and then produced, *The Oxen and the Axe*, and their second book, *Unto These Hills*, and who built the original museum. This group began in 1972.

By 1998 I had retired and decided to join the Pioneer Club, which was looking for "new blood". This hunt for new people is a very necessary activity in any organization. Over the next 3 or 4 years, several new people came into the fold, including Ian Brumell, Eileen Flieler, John Bolton, Marcella Neely and others. This core group went on the move. By May of 2001, we had incorporated through the Ontario Historical Society as a not-for-profit organization, receiving our charitable status a year later. Current incorporation rules require that the organization's name reflect the business that you are in - in our case, researching history - and where you are doing it - Cloyne and area. Hence the name change. In the summer of 2001, we held a reunion of Sawyer-Stoll employees and families, achieving a crowd of approximately 300 people; the success of this event indicated that we had the potential to do lots more. Two years later, we had completed and opened the addition on the museum, with help from our local contractors and a Trillium grant. Marcella Neely was the force behind that successful grant, with Ian Brumell serving as the general contractor.

These organizational changes gave us a structure from which we could operate more efficiently, and brought more volunteers and more donations into the organization.


I have been privileged to work with a very

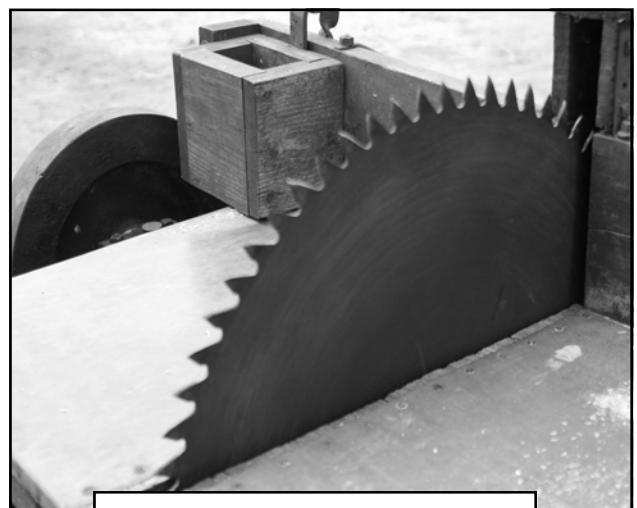
dedicated board over these years, people with vision who have not been afraid of challenges. Together we have been able to create an organization which is well respected in the community and which, each year, continues to do its main job, which is to record and preserve the history of our area.

Our first communications team of Karyl Steinpatz and Carol Morrow established a solid framework for our communications efforts, and through newsletters, newspaper articles, calendars and advertising, we gradually came to be known in the community.

Eileen Flieler and Ian Brumell have been the secretary and treasurer respectively from the beginning. Both have put many hours of work into their roles, and both have been very effective. Careful husbanding of our money has meant that we have been able to accomplish much more than our rather meagre annual income might indicate.

We are healthy, active, and working hard. It is a pleasure for me to be able to hand over the reins of the organization to Carolyn McCulloch, who, I know, will do a terrific job.

Thank you first to everyone who has supported my efforts over the years and secondly to everyone who has supported the organization in any way over the past year. Our future is a very positive one. Let's maintain the momentum, and continue the good work which is a hallmark of our organization. 



Saw Blade, Roy Berndt Collection

Denbigh Heritage Bus Tour

At the end of the summer is our own history/colour tour, this year a return to Denbigh and area, where we had some unfinished business from the 2007 trip. A walking tour of downtown Denbigh illustrated how much has been lost over the years, from hotel and “stopping places” to the blacksmith shop and Hartman’s store.

Unexpectedly, we received permission to go to the former site of the Denbigh Grist Mill, on private property now. With mental images of what the mill looked like before its demolition in 2007, we were able to marvel at the serenity of the property, a decided change from what it would have been like a century ago. Thanks to Mrs. Petzold, who offered permission for us all to tramp over her lawn to the mill site.

We also had an opportunity to see a rather different Mike Schwager painting of Mazinaw Rock which she had just rescued from a garage and cleaned up. Much larger than many of Mr. Schwager’s other paintings of the rock, it in-



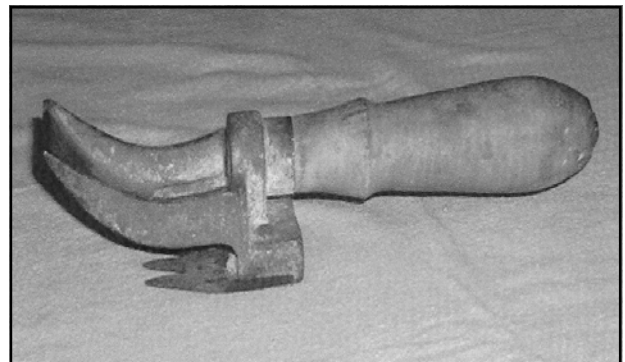
Bus Tour Photos by Cathy Hook

cludes a unique perspective of the narrows. A trip to Roy Berndt’s garage is always an interesting experience, and this year, Roy had a new antique engine to demonstrate.

The Denbigh United Church Women provided a wonderful lunch, which included a choice of 4 home-made soups, a welcome addition on a rather damp day. After lunch, we were taken on a tour of Schutt, Palmer Rapids and Quadeville, a new experience for many of our tour members.



Mystery Tool



In response to the query about this tool in our spring issue, we thank Roger Hermer of Plevna for sending us this explanation from Shop Talk magazine. Check out their web site at [canadianhomeworkshop.com].

The Fork Shovel—A Chipper off the Old Block. Summer drinks of yore benefited from this tool. The mystery tool takes us back to summers before everyone had refrigerators, to the days when ice was delivered in blocks of 25, 50, and 100 pounds to fit in iceboxes. The blocks were cut from local lakes, packed in sawdust and stored in ice-houses for summer use. Many older folks can still remember the canvas-covered ice trucks that delivered right to the door, and the delivery man going into households to place the blocks in the iceboxes. Kids often scrambled into the back of the truck to get small chunks of ice to suck on. The fork shovel chopped ice chips and shavings from the blocks that were then used to chill drinks and place under food trays to keep them cool in the warm summer weather. With the arrival of the refrigerator, ice cubes and commercial crushed ice, this once familiar household tool became a thing of the past, relegated to antique markets and collectibles shops. □

Financial Report

Ian Brumell

The financial record for the Cloyne and District Historical Society since our last report in the Spring is as optimistic as it usually is this time of the year. The financial record of our society has been very positive over the years and it is hoped that prudent Board management of our finances will bode well for the future. There were several factors which have made this summer rather unique from a financial viewpoint.

Summer sales and donations were about the same as usual although the numbers of visitors to the museum increased slightly. Usually over the years, we have found that donations average out to be very close to one dollar per recorded visitor. Our donations at the museum are generally around \$1000 for the summer, with special events accounting for additional donation dollars being received.

The major unique activities encountered this summer had to do with 4 different government grants. These grants have been a blessing since they allowed us to hire two students this past summer, Robyn Godard and Korin Howes. Korin and Robyn did a great job and completed successfully any tasks given them.

The grants we gratefully accepted came from several government agencies, but mainly from The Ontario Trillium Foundation. This two-year grant is to be applied to the re-printing of *The Oxen and The Axe* and the major archiving project we have undertaken.

In addition, we received funding from Canada Summer Jobs Programme (CSJ) through Human Resources and Development Canada and the Young Canada Works (YCW) Programme through the Canadian Museums Association. We also received a grant from an Employment Ontario programme called Summer Jobs Service (SJS) which is a salary supplement. Keeping the acronyms straight was also a major part of the grant accounting this past summer!

In total, the historical society received close to \$26,000 from these various funders. The re-printing of *The Oxen and the Axe* consumed \$5400, the ar-

chiving project, a two-year grant, has used close to \$18,000 and the remainder was used for general operating expenses, including salaries.

Going into the fall and winter slow period, we will continue to consume some of the Trillium funding as the archiving project will hopefully continue over the winter.

Entering the new year we should see a bank balance in excess of \$2,000 with our reserve fund being close to \$28,000, primarily due to the second year portion of the Trillium funding. Our reserve funds are invested with a financial company in Kingston called Raymond James Limited. They have been very helpful with advice and concern about our funds and, although the financial markets have not been good generally, we have not been too badly affected.

Our bank balance as of the end of October is \$2,633.98 and our reserve fund had a balance of \$20,593.57.

I would encourage anyone with questions about our finances not to hesitate to contact us at any time, via email to <pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca>.



Coming up is our “Old Fashioned Christmas” family get-together on Saturday, December 6th at 1:00 pm. Please join us at the Barrie Township Hall for Christmas entertainment, a sing-song, and a visit from the jolly man in red!

The **Cloyne Pioneer Cemetery** project has one more detail to finish up, and that is ascertaining as definitively as possible the names of those buried in the cemetery, so that a commemorative plaque can be erected. Finishing this task will be a winter project.

Where Did You Get your Name?

by Carol Morrow

Noseworthy, Smellie, Blewitt, Vowels, Clapsaddle. Such unusual surnames were all listed on a newspaper index of the early 1900s which I was studying recently. This is not to poke fun at the names because, heaven forbid! they may be very well respected names of dear departed relatives. But these do make one sit up and think, for their mere sound (Blewitt), or maybe the connotations they conjure up (Clapsaddle and Noseworthy). But you should never make fun of a name.

Reader, think about **your own** name. What is the origin or derivative of it? A lot of surnames are automatically associated with a character trait, either physical or personality. Take Tallman – need I explain? King Edward 1 of England was called Longshanks, for being very tall. Or Short which is self explanatory. Almost as easily explained are names such as Miller, Carpenter, and Cooper. So, some names derived from occupations. But what about Peacock? Was the original Peacock a proud, strutting man, handsome and full of himself? Or did he merely raise or keep peacocks? And what of Ketchabaw, a very common name in one community I know of.

A lot of names are automatically associated with a specific country of origin: Irish Flynn, Murray, Donnelly and Kelly; Scottish Barclay, Stewart/ Stuart, Campbell and Graham; German Hagel, Schultz, Friedman and Vogel; and French Lamoure, Coté, Sauvé and Latour. But what about Hawley, Axford, Bolton, Snider/ Snyder/ Schneider, or for that matter, Harper. What is a harper? Someone who plays a harp? Someone who “harps” or is fixated on a subject? Or is there some more complex convolution to the name. On the surface, it seems like a pretty straightforward surname. You would have to do some serious research to make accurate conclusions.

Oh, it’s easy to say, “My great-grandfather came from Scotland”, or “My ancestors were Irish”. Sure. But maybe they were in England or Ireland for only 2 or 3 generations after they migrated from somewhere else; most everyone in England came from somewhere else unless he is a Matthews, which goes back to the Druids before Roman times in England. You have a greater chance of having a surname that derives from a native tribe if your people were “truly” Irish like the Kellys and the Murrys. The Irish were better at hanging onto the old names. Having said that, however, a lot of Irish names in fact come from somewhere else. What of ones such as Morrow, Neely, Kennedy? Does anyone know?

Many names around the world are patronymics: that is, they come from the father. The Scottish Mac- and Mc- and the Irish O- are of this nature, meaning “son of”. Thus, MacDonald would be son of Donald; likewise O’Neill would be son of Neil. Similarly ‘bin’ in Arabic is ‘son of’. Then we have the Scandinavian Olson stemming from Olafson, which was Olaf’s son, or Svendottir for Sven’s daughter. Other such names are Anderson (Ander’s son), Johnson, and Larson.

Names can be locative in origin, referring to a place or feature of the landscape where the family lived: Danbrook = the Dane by the brook. Or Axford. One possible explanation might be the family lived by or at the ford of the River Axe. Hedges would refer to the family that lived over beyond the hedgerow (of a certain village).

We North Americans, unless we are First Nations, have surnames that originated somewhere else. A lot have been Anglicized, especially before the 1900s. It is often interesting – and fun – to discover how the names changed over time, or what variations you find from the same origin. For instance, my Lamoure branch started from Lamoureaux, a French Huguenot (Protestant) name from the Bordeaux area of France. These people were part of the mass migration of Protestant people out of Europe around 1708, fleeing prosecution by the French king. Lamoureaux lived for a time in England at Queen Anne’s pleasure, then sailed to New York (Amsterdam) when it was still under Dutch control. From there, they spread out, first scattering over most of New York state, to Michigan and westward over all the states. One branch settled in Scarborough, establishing a settlement named Lamouraux, and I believe the street name exists today. The name morphed in many ways; ours from the Michigan branch became Lamoure; others from the same origin are Lamore, Lamoreux, Lamour, L’Moreaux. The famous western fiction writer Louis L’Amour descends from old Andre Lamoureaux from Saintonge, France.

I always grew up with the notion that “Mac” denoted Scottish, and “Mc” denoted Irish. Wrong! There is no across the board distinction. Scottish can be MacLean or McLean, or McGregor. Do not confuse McHarg with Meharg. Most people say they are of the same origin, but no, McHarg has a different derivation. My William and Sarah Meharg came from Rathfriland, County Down, N. Ireland, and emigrated from Belfast in 1844. To every-

one we knew, we were “those darn Irish”. However upon researching the name it seems that Meharg is a “sept”, or derivative of the powerful Graham clan so predominant in the Border Wars between Scotland and England before 1600. Graham = Maharg reversed, to escape the law, or distance themselves from the lawless branch. The name Meharg began to surface in Scotland and Ireland after 1610, concluding that these were transplanted Scottish Gaelic people, sent or migrating to Ireland from the Border Wars. Today, many go with the name “Maharg”; ours has morphed to “Meharg”. Graham is a Scottish surname, deriving from the place name Grantham. If you go back far enough in time, it was taken to Scotland in the twelfth century by William de Graham, a Norman baron who held the manor of Grantham, and from whom virtually all modern bearers of the name are descended. Many Scottish and northern English names are Norman in origin, having been brought over at the time of William the Conqueror; he rewarded many of his officers with domains in the northern parts of his new realm. Also, noteworthy is the fact that surnames were virtually unknown until the time of the Domesday Book. This record was taken after the Conquest as a sort of census, and surnames of sorts were assigned to distinguish Peter the Miller from Peter the Cooper who lived down the road apiece. Surnames as we know them, became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation (poll tax). Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to “develop” often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

Everyone should do a bit of exploration of their own surname. Maybe you already know about your ancestors, what country the immigrants came from, but do you know of your name origin? There are many Internet sites which can give clues to the origin of names. Google “surname origin” and several websites come up. One such is [<http://www.surnamedb.com/>] in which you can type in a surname along the right side. I tried “Hawley” and got a nice explanation. Depending on if you are an English Hawley or a German one, this explanation may suit or not. They say it’s Anglo-Saxon and is a locational name after various towns in England. The original hawley, or “hallee” means wood or clearing with a hall, derived from a combining of the Old English pre-7th century “heall”, ie hall or manor, with “leah”, meaning wood or glade (specifically holly) as recorded in Kent in the Domesday Book of 1086.

Bolton is also Anglo-Saxon, and a place name as recorded in the Domesday Book. It means dwelling house, or hall (both) combined with “tun” meaning enclosure or settlement. Early examples of the surname include: Thomas de Bolton (Warwickshire, 1262) and Robert Bolton (Lancashire, 1371). A Thomas Bolton arrived in Virginia in 1634. Twenty-five Coats of Arms have been granted to this illustrious family. (The study of Coats of Arms is a whole other topic.) Neely is an ancient Gaelic name; it is an original Irish tribal name. Broadly it means a descendant of the hound, specifically probably a nickname for a chieftain who possessed the qualities associated with the hound, i.e. speed, tenacity, and strength. Other spellings can be MacNealey, McNeilly, McNeillie, McNillie, McNeely, McNelly, McNeely, Neilly, Neeley, Nealey. One explanation for Axford is as follows: recorded in the spellings of Axeford, Axford, and Oxford, this is an English locational surname. The derivation is Olde English pre-7th century, “aesce” meaning ash trees, and “forda”, a shallow river crossing. A Robert Axford is recorded during the time of Elizabeth I.

Unfortunately, the site doesn’t have it right about the surname Meharg. Be cautious about what you read and accept as truth from these sites. Also, of little value is the surname research you see at fairs. You know the people I mean, who are selling plaques and name research at the mall or the Ex or the Royal Winter Fair. Like the website I went to, those names are generated by a master database and are there simply to make revenue for the seller. Believe me, I sent for one for Meharg, and it was so far off, I wondered if I was a foundling! (Frank, I put in the name Matacheskie and got this response: *Sorry we have yet to research the origin of the surname. There are currently no people matching this surname. But don't despair.*) In conclusion, surname checking is something just to have fun with, and not to be taken too seriously. □

The new edition of *the Oxen and The Axe* has been well received and is selling well. After the Toonie Christmas party, an inventory to determine how many copies were sold in the first year will be done. If you haven’t purchased yours yet, or completed your Christmas shopping, an email to <pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca> will help to solve your problems.

Archiving

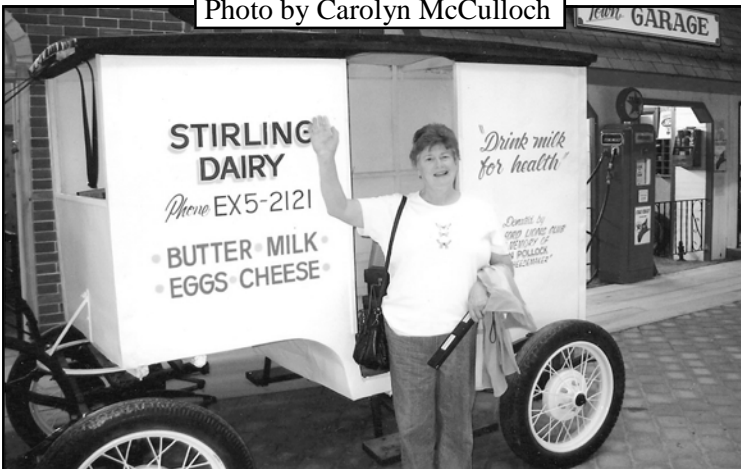
The task of archiving is meticulous and slow, not a barn-burner activity. However, in spite of its essentially boring attributes, our two summer students took quickly to the process and worked steadily at the job all summer. Well, maybe “steadily” is the wrong word. They worked hard in great spurts, which were interspersed with periods of goofiness to help to alleviate the boredom. If you happened to be in the museum and were introduced to “Earl the Squirrel”, who was an early summer visitor, or to the “Employee of the Month” signs, you would have caught them in one of their sillier modes. These two were terrific workers, who got along well, and who accomplished lots of archiving - over 1000 items at the moment.

One of the two is working weekends throughout the winter. We have a work area set up for her in the storage room, which is heated. For those of you who know this room, it has been seriously cleaned up and reorganized - so much so that there is room for Robyn’s desk and the computer. Now let’s hope that there isn’t as much snow as last winter, so that she can navigate those banks in order to get into the building!

We will offer a spring report in the April issue. The Trillium grant covers 2 years, so we have funding enough to continue on into next year.

Five Historical Society members went to the Hastings County Historical Society banquet in Belleville on November 1. Their organization is involved in archiving as well, but they have no suitable home for their documents. After years of deliberation about their problem,

Photo by Carolyn McCulloch



They Left

They left the fields of golden grain swept by summer’s winds:
They left the timbered slopes drowsing in the August heat:
They left the farms where tall corn was waiting to be cut:
They left the grinding din of factory floor:
They left it all, to answer to the War God’s call.
They threw their gay young heads up high
To march to bugle, fife and drum.
They left their loved ones all behind to wait alone and pray.
The ones they fought, those ones upon “The Other Side”
Had left behind the things of home.
And facing foe in foggy dawns had in their mind’s eye seen
The shining fields of grain, heard the crash of fallen tree,
And felt the tremor of the factory’s roar.
They were all moved about like chessmen on a giant board
Thrown against the might and skill of minds
Obsessed with dreams of glory, greed and power,
Until the weaker side would falter and give in.
Now all that’s left to those they left behind
To show their grief are crosses white
Beneath a sorrowing sky.
They ask the age-old question, “Why they had to leave?”
And in their hearts they pray so fervently for Peace.

Gene Brown
Northbrook, Ont.

150th Anniversary

Carolyn has been involved in negotiations regarding funding for our 2009 summer project, “Cloyne 150”. This will be a celebration of 150 years of the village of Cloyne, with historic displays, special events, music and food, to run over the weekend of August 8/9. We are optimistic about our funding, and will begin planning before Christmas. To pull off an event of this size, we will need lots of involvement from all sectors of the community and of course from our own organization. Stay tuned for more!!

The Cloyne and District Historical Society
Box 228
Cloyne, ON, K0H 1K0

We invite you to show your support for local history by becoming a patron of the Cloyne Pioneer Museum, and/or becoming a member of the Historical Society. For all donations, including Patron fees, charitable receipts for income tax purposes will be issued for amounts of \$10.00 or more. Membership fees are ineligible by law for charitable receipts.

I wish to be a Patron of the Cloyne Pioneer Museum. New _____ Renewal _____.

The annual fee of \$25 includes 2 newsletters, mailed free of charge.

Enclosing \$25.00 Patron Fee + _____ Donation = Total _____

On patron acknowledgments, my name or my company's name should appear

as _____

I wish to become a member of the Cloyne and District Historical Society

Annual Membership is \$8.00 per person. New _____ Renewal _____.

Membership\$ _____

Donation\$ _____

Postage\$ _____ (Add \$6.00 if you wish newsletters mailed.)

Total\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Town/City _____

Postal Code _____

Telephone _____

E-mail Address _____

For the Year _____