

# The Pioneer Times

(News vehicle of the Cloyne and District Historical Society)



**Cloyne and District Historical Society**

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Preserving the Past for the Future

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***The Pioneer Times***  
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The Cloyne and District Historical Society is a Registered Charitable Organization, organization number 89756 8217.



**Chariman's Message**

*by Carolyn McCulloch*

What a pleasure it is to be with you as president of The Cloyne and District Historical Society. Stepping into a vital organization that shapes this community is an honour and privilege. Our awareness raising projects relating to the fascinating history of this area are as endless as our imaginations.

We hope to see all of you at Cloyne 150 on August 8-9, 2009 to celebrate the naming of Cloyne in 1859. Join us at the Museum and the Barrie Township Hall to relive our past. Have you ever wondered what it was like in those days? Step into the Museum in Cloyne while you are here and you will sense it immediately. The Museum continues to be an attraction for tourists and local residents.

You will learn elsewhere in the Pioneer Times of the archiving and digitizing of our collection. In the future, we will be able to offer a venue for family historians and genealogists to accumulate and disperse their knowledge.

Next fall we will be moving a remarkable building from Big Gull Lake to a location near the Museum. This pre-confederation cabin, the former Viking Lodge, will peak still more interest in the colonization period of this significant part of the country.

Never doubt that the projects of the C& DHS are all we do. We fund-raise. Our yard sale is on Saturday May 16 and our Bake Sale is on Thanksgiving weekend. Contact us if you have donations. If you want to learn more of the local lore, join us at our monthly meetings on the third Monday of each month. Most recently we have gained knowledge of the old Methodist (now United) Churches of the area, the history of Myers Cave Lodge, and the story of the Thompson family of Gull Lake. Our members enjoy road trips in the spring and fall to discover intriguing spots that unearth our past.

Sharing is everything in an organization like ours. If you have knowledge that you think would be of interest, we invite you to get in touch and be part of the adventure. □

Come and celebrate the naming  
of Cloyne...

*150 years ago*

*Fun for the Whole Family*

*Exhibits*

*Crafts and Games for Children*

*Refreshments*

*Old time Music*

*Contests*

*Family Reunions*

*Genealogy*

*Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup> and*

*Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup> 2009*

*at the Museum and*

*Barrie Township Hall*

## **Pioneer Museum Patron Program**

*by Marcella Neely*

Into year four of this effort, we look back on enthusiastic support and commitment. We are proud and grateful. The museum belongs to everyone from Kaladar to Griffith to Ompah and Flinton. It is the "go to" place for local history and genealogy and we want it to continue to grow for future generations.

Originally our Pioneer Museum Patron program was set up with the hope of covering the cost of museum liability insurance as previously there was none. We have been able to do this and do small improvements such as reframing old photos into acid free, light protective conditions. Many more preservation projects are waiting for funding so we continue to ask for additional donations.

We continue to look for more museum patrons as we are sure there are many folks who share our desire to maintain the museum for children and grandchildren. We are a registered charity and issue charitable donation receipts. Our organization does not use donated money for administration. The museum is operated by dedicated volunteers, from gardening to administration to setup, take down and maintenance. Please keep us in mind when calculating your annual donations.

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## **It's Spring House Cleaning Time !!!!**

Bring your unwanted items to the

### **Pioneer Museum**

On Friday afternoon, May 15th

### **Yard Sale of the Year**

**May 16th at 9am**

**Barrie Township Hall**

## Our own “Telephone Girls”

Were there “telephone girls” employed locally? Indeed there were! What follows is a summary of the history of telephone service from Kaladar to Denbigh, taken from a presentation which Ellery Thompson made to the Historical Society in September of 2007. The quotations are Ellery’s own words.

Jack Flake, who also built the Denbigh service, began telephone service in the Northbrook area in 1910, with a line that stretched from Kaladar north. At some point between 1910 and 1954, when Ellery Thompson purchased the business, the service had passed to a man named J.J. Vogan who lived in Northbrook, approximately where the liquor store is now. In an aside, Ellery recounted that Mr. Vogan kept chickens, white leghorns, and sold eggs. When he went out of the chicken business, he converted the hen-house into three apartments, known locally of course as “the Leghorn Apartments”. Mr. Vogan also had a feed mill on his property, which eventually became the telephone office. In these years, the service ran during “working hours”, Monday to Saturday, with no unimportant calls allowed after about 6 in the evening. Sunday calling was restricted to between 2 and 4 in the afternoon.

An interesting footnote in the complex history of Bon Echo was that between 1926 and 1929 there was a Bon Echo Long Distance Telephone Company, consisting of one phone, presumably to make arrangements for visitors’ holidays at Bon Echo Inn. The months of November to April must have been slow ones for the Bon Echo Telephone Company!

In 1954, the end of the Northbrook line was the Mazinaw Boys Camp on Lake Mazinaw, with no service north of that until Denbigh. There were, however, lines that went into Loon Lake, as Skootamatta Lake was known then, and to Harlowe with some 20 customers, and to Flinton with 24. Those must have been very busy lines, as people attempted to operate businesses as well as households on just one line.

When Ellery took over the business under the name Kaladar Northern in 1954, the service became 24 hour, 7 days a week, with the switchboard being in the bedroom. “At the time I think there were about five or six lines and you’d put these extension bells [which were] little wooden boxes with bells on - and you’d take a hack saw and cut notches in them [to] give them a different tone. So after we had split up two or three lines in Northbrook, we didn’t have enough bells to go around, at least for tones to go around, so I put a button on the little flapper dome and as soon as that rang, we turned around real fast to see which button was swinging, then you knew that was line 2 or line 4, so that was the way it was done at night.” Talk about a 24 hour job!

In that same year, the line was extended from Northbrook to Denbigh, including service to Sawyer-Stoll Lumber Company, which had started in 1939. For every call that was made at Sawyer-Stoll, to the planing mill at

Kaladar, for example, there was a ten cent ticket made out which Lands and Forests at that time collected on. But prior to that too, there were tickets made out for every call and time. It was very important that whoever was on the switchboard log the call accurately. “If you weren’t very prompt on your timing, that was lost revenue and when a girl - it was all girls on the switchboard - [wasn’t] alert to that [she] probably got let go, because they weren’t keeping track of the tickets very well.”

In 1954, the Northbrook service had 125 customers. As time went on, “we knew everyone by name. You knew how many acres they owned and everything else about them. When you pick up the phone book now, it’s hard to find some of the original names.”

Long distance lines in those days consisted of one line to Belleville and one line to Tweed. Prior to that everything went through Tweed: for a call to Florida or Vancouver, for example, the customer would ring Tweed, where they in turn plugged into Belleville. After that, the call would be routed through many centres and many switches before arriving at its destination.

Dial service was brought in in 1968.

In 1921, Jack Flake built the Denbigh service, from Lavant which had a major stop on the K and P Line, to Denbigh, taking in Matawatchan and Griffith. Around Denbigh, some of the older people might remember that telephone wires were literally on fence posts. There might be bad joins in them, but a person still could talk. After Hydro came in, there was a lot of noise on the lines, so the telephone lines had to be upgraded. There was an operator at Denbigh; at one time it was Mrs. Burgess. “A call to Matawatchan meant that she would ring Mrs. Gregg at Vennachar, who had one of those old phones, with two sets of bells and a double throw jackknife switch. She would answer, ask who you wanted to talk to, because there were no numbers, then she would close the switch one way and then ring Mrs. McLaren in Matawatchan and then close the switch. When Mrs. McLaren answered, you gave her the name of the person you wanted to talk to and she went through the same procedure. So you went through three of these jackknife switches.” More “telephone girls”!

Mr. Flake sold that service to Lands and Forests in 1929, mainly for their forest protection program. There was a line from Denbigh to a tower at Myers Cave. There was a line into the bush at the foot of Eagle Hill. Over the years, there were a number of “tower guys”. Myers Cave had a Lands and Forests cabin, where workers stayed over night, climbing the tower for the day. Their job was to watch for smoke, which would have been pretty boring most of the time. According to Ellery, they spent the day watching and listening in on conversations and making their own calls. As a result, they would wear out the batteries in the phones pretty quickly. “Three batteries went in those old wall phones. So I can remember having to go to Myers Cave and climb the tower with the batteries and put them in the phone there quite often.”

Lands and Forests sold the Plevna service in 1929 to Burdon Morrow in Sharbot Lake, who owned it for a while and then sold it to Garnet Sproule of Ompah, the Reeve of that area for a long time; then it went to Bob Sproule and then Ellery bought it in 1962. There was a line to Dacre because the Lands and Forests had an office there, as well as one in Plevna. Every time there was a wind storm, just any kind of a wind, a trip to Dacre to maintain that line was necessary.

On the social aspect of the telephone business, Ellery had this to say:

“Every house had identifiable house noises to it. Mrs. Parks had asthma. When she was on the line, you could hear her wheezing; she brought her chickens in the house in the spring too. Mrs. Ireland had one of those big old tick-tock clocks right by her phone and nobody hid the fact. You could hear the old clock ticking away and you knew Mrs. Ireland was on. Then there was Beatrice McPherson who lived in Matawatchan; she never missed a call and if you phoned anyone on that line, you’d just ring once and she’d come right on and say, “If you’re calling Maggie, they went to Renfrew today and they won’t be home before six.” So her presence served a good purpose! Another advantage became apparent if there was a fire. The fire ring was five longs, and if you rang five longs, you’d have two thirds of the subscribers asking “Where’s the fire!” The minute they found out, they were headed out to help. Today, you would have to stand outside your house and holler “Help”, for a long time, hoping that some of your neighbours were home. It was an interesting business.”

Bill payments went from once a year to every three months, not a happy change for most people. When long distance became more popular, billing had to be done monthly, another change that was met with resistance! Most bills were paid in the fall, after the turkeys and cows had been sold.

As a matter of interest, in 1954 there were 628 independent telephone companies in Ontario; now [2007] there are about 6. Sharbot Lake is still independent, as are Westport and Lansdowne.

In January, 1970, Ellery sold the business to Bell. Technology was changing, and he was ready to retire, letting someone else deal with the next phase of telephone service to the area. Gone now are the telephone girls and almost every other aspect of the initial business. Perhaps sometime in the next 50 years, we will all have cell phone service!

□

Submitted by Margaret Axford

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Cloyne & District Historical Society



Telephone Exchange from Kaladar Northern  
This board was used in Northbrook until the mid 1960s.

### The Telephone Girl

The telephone girl sits in her chair  
And listens to voices from everywhere.

She knows all the gossip, she hears all the news,  
She knows who is happy, and who has the blues;  
She knows all our sorrows, she hears all our joys,  
She knows every time we are out with the boys.

She knows all our troubles, she knows all our strife,  
She knows every man who is mean to his wife,  
She hears the excuses each fellow employs;  
She knows every girl who is chasing the boys.

She knows every woman who has a dark past,  
She knows every man who is inclined to be fast;  
In fact, there’s a secret ‘neath each saucy curl  
Of that quiet, demure-looking Telephone Girl.

It would turn all our friends into bitterest foes;  
She’d start a small wind that would soon be a gale  
And engulf us in trouble and land us in jail.

She could let go a story, which gaining in force,  
Would cause half our wives to sue for divorce;  
She would get all our churches mixed up in fights,  
And turn all our days into sorrowing nights.

In fact, she could keep all the world in a whirl;  
When you think what you owe to the ...

Telephone Girl!

by Ano Nymous

### Editor's Note

The Historical Society has acquired a history of Weiss Point from Dave Boutell. Space doesn't allow us to print the whole document here, but we have concentrated in this issue on Twin Oaks Lodge. We hope to bring you other segments of this fascinating history in future issues. Many thanks to Dave for sharing his work with us.

A great grand-daughter of Carl Weiss, Katie Ohlke, has provided us with the photographs here and a correction to the number of children in the family.

## Weiss Point

Weiss Point is located at approximately 45° 52' N latitude and 76° 57' W longitude, at an elevation of about 266 m. Now called the Township of North Frontenac, the area was formally known as the Townships of Clarendon and Miller, and is still referred to as such in many legal documents. Our residents own property within an area defined as Concessions X and XI, Lots 17, 18 and 19. The original Road Allowance between Concessions X and XI has now mostly been closed (i.e. purchased from the Township by adjacent land owners), along with the relevant shore allowances.

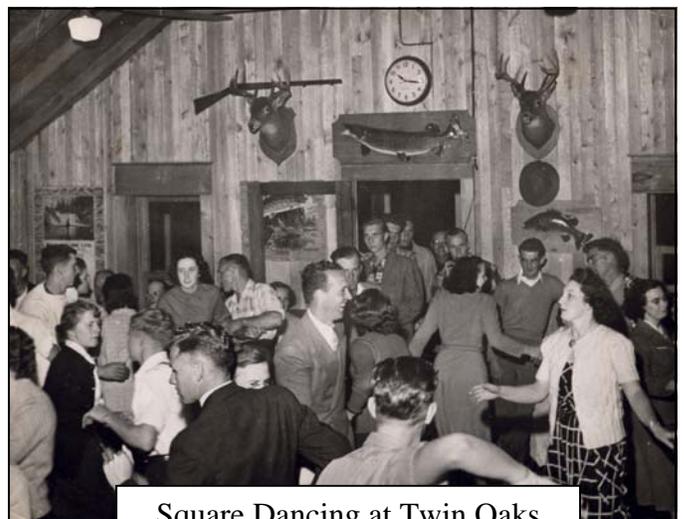
Most of the properties and their access routes belonged to the Weiss family for most of the period 1930 - 1970. No record of an official naming of Weiss Point was found; presumably as a result of family ownership the name came into common parlance.

The Karl Weiss (1856-1930) family arrived from Germany via the USA in 1912. There were four [11] children: Joseph (1884-1963), who eventually moved to Detroit; Catherine [Caroline] (1896-1972) who married a Gutheinz, hence the name Gutheinz Road off Hwy 506; George, father of Grace Kaoukis, still one of our residents; and Anton (Tony) (1900-1975), [Rose, Carl, Martin, Theresa, John, Mary and Grace]. By 1935 Tony had purchased the property across from the Point, had built the original Twin Oaks Lodge along with a couple of cabins, and was in business. Other cabins were built in subsequent years. At about the same time George acquired the farm property we all travel across, and lived there for many years. By the early 1970s much of the property belonged to Mary Savigny (the farm) and two American owners (most of the Point). The exceptions were the very end of the point (Woolfrey), part of the north shore of the point (Kaoukis, nee Weiss) and the small point on the bay (George Weiss, now Boutell).

Tony Weiss continued to play an active role at Twin Oaks Lodge until his death in 1975. The original lodge building was enlarged; more cabins were built, along with a boathouse and accommodation and for seasonal

workers. During the early years of the WPR, Tony's daughter Mary and her husband Arnold McNeil ran the Lodge. They both passed away relatively recently (Arnold 2004, Mary 2007). Tony's granddaughter Carla, assisted by her brother Donald, is now in charge. Tony's other daughter, Rosie, now in her 80's, continues to assist a few days a week in the kitchen and still masterminds the traditional Friday Night Fish-Fry. The plans offered now are reduced (e.g. no lunches); less advertising means fewer guests, with most being returnees. When the WPR first came into being, dinner was available at the lodge for non-residents by prior reservation; many of our cottagers have availed themselves of that service.

In its heyday the Lodge was a busy place, often serving well over a hundred meals to guests and staff three times a day. Visitors came from all over North America, some even arriving by floatplane. Many were returning visitors, drawn by the hunting, guides, fishing, good food, fun and poker, often late into the night. One acquaintance, Lesley McCambridge, then a teenager living in Madoc, spent the summer of 1962 working at Twin Oaks with her two friends, Marie Foley and Bev Ketcheson. She described it as hard work, but said it was a well-run and nice-looking resort with a likeable boss who retained a slight German accent. She also described how a German singing group came from Kitchener and entertained in the lounge. The signatures of many such workers from decades ago are still to be seen on the walls of the residence. Rosie recalls a Thanksgiving when, under Arnold's direction, about a hundred and thirty were served a Turkey Dinner, first the guests, then they, in turn, served the staff. According to Lesley, Arnold made the best beer batter in the world.



Square Dancing at Twin Oaks



Meanwhile, Tony's brother George had purchased the Point and Farm property. The farm consisted of a barn, farmhouse and sugar shack. The farmhouse eventually burnt down, the barn collapsed and only the metal parts of the sugar shack remain. George planted apple trees; occasionally bears still seek out the sweet decaying fruit of the now-wild trees. The maple syrup produced on the property was sent to relatives in Kitchener for sale. The date of the buildings is unknown, but nails found around the sugar-shack were of the old hand-made square variety, so they may well have preceded George's ownership. The property had some shoreline to the north and to the west. There was even talk that he also might set up a lodge. Many of George's descendants remain in the Ardoch area. By the early 1970s, however, the farm was in the hands of Mary Savigny. Over the next thirty or so years Mary gradually severed lakeshore lots and sold acreage to existing adjacent owners. She and her husband, John, retained one lot for their own use (Bonhams) and were frequent summer visitors until 2003.



Twin Oaks Lodge

**Pillar Rock** - The narrow pillars of stone supporting this huge rock were probably carved by water rushing through a cave. Most of the cave roof has collapsed, except this part. This and other odd geological formations can be seen at the Hell Holes north of Napanee.

Photo by Chris White



## New Historical Atlas Publication

What does Lennox and Addington look like from the air?

You'll see it all in a modern full-colour heritage county atlas to be published this fall by the Napanee Beaver. Prepared by Orland French of Wallbridge House Publishing, Belleville, it will feature dozens of aerial photographs of L & A from Addington Highlands to Adolphustown. Seen from the air, Bon Echo in the autumn is a gorgeous sight - but what created such a sheer cliff?

Find out how the forces of geology deposited the sand pits near Cloyne, laid down the limestone pavements of the Napanee Plain and carved the flowerpot pillars deep in the Hell Holes of L&A.

It was a wilderness settled by the Loyalists whose descendants, to this day, leave their mark upon their land. And to this day, much of L&A remains unmarked!

This atlas will be bound in hard cover, approximately 200 pages, and full colour throughout. It will be available in mid-fall from the Napanee Beaver.

Orders can be placed at the Napanee Beaver, 72 Dundas Street East, Napanee ON, K7R 1H9 or at [beaver@bellnet.ca](mailto:beaver@bellnet.ca). Price has not yet been determined.

### Genealogical Reminder

To save time, "Bookmark" those important genealogy websites to your computer.

## Financial Report

Ian Brumell

Providing financial information for the spring edition of the Pioneer Times is always difficult since not much in the financial area has transpired since the last fall edition. There always are small transactions taking the form of sales of *The Oxen and The Axe* and calendars, as well as depositing donations, membership payments and patron donations.

The year end numbers showed us with a bank balance of \$8,863. In our reserve fund, which is invested, there was a total of \$19,967. These numbers appear impressive, but we must remember that most of it is made up of the grant we received from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, a couple of municipal grants and product sales. Because of these incomes and related expenses, our year end Net Income was—\$1,828. Accounting is a weird and wonderful science.

This past winter has seen your historical society employ a student part time for the express purpose of continuing our development of the Community Archive. Currently, we are spending funds on the purchase of stock for sale in the museum this summer as well continuing to pay our student for data input to the archive project.

Since not too much goes on from a financial aspect during the off-months from October to May, let me outline some financial items we have commenced regarding this summer. We have applied for 4 different student employment grants in hopes of being able to fund 3 students who will be able to substantially complete the Archive we have begun. In so doing we hope to make accessible to the public, most of our documents, pictures and writings.

There are many ways that you can become involved with The Cloyne and District Historical Society. We have in the order of 65 paid up members, even after increasing the membership to \$8. The Patron program, under the direction of Marcella Neely, has been a wonderful resource and has shown the true dedication a lot of folks have to our Museum. Our Endowment Trust Fund stands in excess of \$30,000, but, as with most investment funds this past year, has not been as productive as we had hoped.

I hope that you will take this opportunity to peruse the inserted form and make yourself known to our Society as you feel able. We have complete financial records available if you would like to see them. Please contact us by email to <pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca>. ❀

## In Memory of Mary Axford

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to an enthusiastic member of the Cloyne and District Historical Society. Mary Axford, in her ninety-fifth year, died in the Lennox and Addington General Hospital in Napanee on March 10, 2009. A widow for many years, Mary moved here from Verschoyle Ontario in the late eighties to be near her daughter Margaret. The contributions of this warm and hospitable lady will be long remembered in the community. A volunteer at the North Addington Education Centre, she was affectionately known as “Grandma Mary” by her young admirers. Mary was an artistic donor to numerous craft shows, and a late-blooming artist. It is said that many a pie and preserve for charitable purposes left the kitchen of her rustic home on The Head Road. We extend our sincerest sympathy to the Cloyne and District Historical Society’s vital members Margaret Axford and her husband Ian Brumell. ❀

### Upcoming Events

May 16 - The best Yard Sale ever!  
Barrie Township Hall, Cloyne 9 a.m.

June 15 - Historical Society members bus tour

June 22 - Cloyne Pioneer Museum opening  
Another great season !

July 20 - Members’ Pot Luck Lunch

August 8 & 9 - Cloyne’s 150th birthday party  
See ad for details

September 26 - Fall bus tour

October 10 - Thanksgiving Bake Sale  
Barrie Township Hall, Cloyne 9 a.m.

October 19 - Historical Society  
Annual General Meeting  
Barrie Township Hall, Cloyne 1 p.m.

## **A Genealogy Case Study**

### **Internet Research from Very Few Clues**

*By Carol Morrow*

**D**o you ever want to find out more about one branch line of your family and you have only a couple of clues? It can be done with the resources of the Internet, and here's one way to success. It is expected you will take advantage of a few pre-requisites: i) a paid subscription to ancestry.com; ii) hi-speed download capability; and iii) an inquiring mind. You can purchase a subscription at <<http://ancestry.com>>. There are several choices. I finally (after 8 years) broke down and bought the whole enchilada for one year. I am no agent for the company, but this is the best money I have spent on family research. There is a TON of information there. Dial-up internet service will not handle the large images that come through, and wait time will be so prohibitive you will give up. So, you do need some cable, satellite or broad-band service. The third factor you have to find within yourself. Once you start, you will become a genealogy addict.

#### The Case Study

I have some Mansells in the Brockville area; Mary Ann Mansell married Thomas Earl and they had seven children. One was Eliza and all I knew about her was that she married somebody surnamed Davis. So she is our subject for this case study. I had no birth year for her and didn't know his given name – two big stumbling blocks. I did know that her sister Rachel was born in 1834, her sister Patience was born in 1840, and her brother Thomas in 1846. Given that her parents were married in 1821, I surmised she might have been born in the 1820s. On Ancestry, in the search boxes I entered her name, the surmised birth date (I arbitrarily picked 1826), country and province of birth (Ontario, Canada).

The Ancestry search is very forgiving, and so, many hits came up. One of the first was a death record for an Eliza Earl, at age 77 in 1903 in Leeds & Landsdowne (right area), and the informant was an Edward Davis. This puts Eliza born in 1826 - okay so far. I am wondering if Edward Davis is a husband or a son, and assume it is her husband – because I'm looking for his name as a starter. Further along in the hits on Ancestry is an 1891 census report for Eliza Davis. This revealed an Edward Davis age 73 [ie, born 1818] and Eliza, wife, age 62 [b. 1829] with Edward G, son age 36, his wife Margaret age 22, and their 11 month old daughter, Florence. How good is that? – 3 generations. I have to tell you that these downloads are the originals. You get to see the handwriting of the registrars who took the informant's information, or the enumerators who took the census at the door. You get to see your ancestor's signature on the marriage certificate! Very cool.

As of yet, there is nothing to indicate that I am on the trail of the right couple, that it was 'Edward' who my Eliza married. The 1881 Canadian census has been transcribed in its entirety and is on the internet for free at the Mormons' site [[www.familysearch.com](http://www.familysearch.com)]. It is the most comprehensive census record for 80% of Canadians living at the time of Confederation; you can usually find your grandfather's parents and siblings there and loads of immigrants that came to Canada over the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It also is very forgiving with spelling, pronunciation and you can set your date parameters (I usually opt for 2 years – especially with common names - to avoid long lists to sift through. So I went to <<http://familysearch.com>> and filled in the search boxes: Edward Davis b. 1818 and set the limits to 2 years. On the 1881 Canadian Census section (because there are several sections – 1880 US census, 1881 British census, IGI, Ancestral, etc), there is an Edward, born 1818. I click on him and open up the family view. There are Edward age 63 (b. 1818), Elizanne age 55 (b. 1826), Maryann age 19, Charles age 15, and Edward age 25 in Brockville, Elizabethtown Twp, Leeds Co. Sounds encouraging – a son named after his father, Edward and Eliza the right age. I start to wonder if they were married before the 1852 census.

So, next I travel the internet to the free < <http://automatedgenealogy.com> > to find them in 1852 in Elizabethtown Twp: Edward 35, Eliza 25, Elinor 5, John 3, and "B" at one year. Keep in mind that in these early censuses the informants were often vague about birth years of their children and sometimes they rounded the years up or down, so don't be too hide-bound by those age numbers – they can vary with the 1881 and 1901 census too. When you are searching the 1852 census, be forewarned that not all areas or counties are transcribed yet. (Be a good genealogy neighbour and join up as a volunteer to help with the transcription. Every little bit helps.) So now I had 3 older children to add to Maryann, Charles and Edward. But I still had to connect my Eliza Earl with Edward. How to do that?

When I was looking at Edward and Eliza Davis in the 1901 census, I had noticed a Brock Davis family further up the page. So, remember to scan down the whole page and you may find relatives living near each other in those early days. Did Brock = B of the 1852 census? In 1901 Brock had a wife "Loesa" and a couple of kids, Ella 18 and Peter 11. I looked for them again on the 1911 census (both of these are on the automatedgenealogy site). There they were, with son Peter (same birth date) and a nine-year old daughter Jennie. Presumably Ella had married & left home. So this just added some possible grandchildren for Eliza. I still needed to nail down her connection to "Edward" Davis. Back to ancestry.com I went and switched to a "births, marriages, and deaths" search (you will see that option along the left side of the site page). I entered Brock Davis b. 1853 and a death record came up for him.

Deaths, Elizabethtown, Leeds Co #19192 - Brock Davis, d. 18 Apr 1925; male, Irish, age 72 yr 6 mo 3 days; b. Con 8 Elizabethtown Tp, 15 Oct 1853; farmer of the land, 72 yrs resident at the place; s/o Edward Davis b. Can and Eliza Earl b. Can; Dr JF Harte of Athens; inf Edw Davis of Elizabethtown, Con 8, brother; bur. Davis Cemetery, Eliz Tp; undertaker Geo T Quirmbach of Brockville; seen by doctor on 18 Apr 1925; cause acute indigestion 16 hours; reg'd 20 Apr 1925.

Bingo!! I had my connection between Eliza Earl and Edward Davis; Brock's parents are named in full. I had been on the right track. I knew Brock was married to Louisa (Loesa); I searched for a Louisa Davis and found a death certificate for her also. Her surname was Scott, her parents were named and the informant there was the son Peter. I found Peter's birth certificate #19276 which just confirmed his parents' names and where he was born. Pay attention to the doctors named in these records because they often treated the whole family over a few decades and are valuable clues in making connections. Sometimes the clergymen in the marriage records can work the same way. I even found a marriage record for Peter in which his full name Peter Brock Davis occurs. So far nobody has moved away from Elizabethtown, Leeds County.

I couldn't find Peter's sisters, Ella and Jennie. This is not too unusual – the women are harder to find because of the surname change when they marry, and Davis is a common name. Now that I had more information on Eliza and Edward, I went looking for death records for both of them – and found them on ancestry.

Deaths, Elizabethtown, Leeds Co #17089 – Edward Davis, male, d. 9 Mar 1907, age 92, res. 7th Conc, farmer, married, b. Elizabethtown, cause old age 3 months, Dr Harte, English Church, inf Charles Burgess, reg'd 10 Mar 1907.

It was interesting that Edward's death record named the informant as Charles Burgess. One of the few clues I started with was that Eliza Earl had a daughter Elinor who was married to a Burgess. I remembered seeing a Charles Burgess on that all-important 1901 census page for Eliza and Edward, so I went back to it for another look. Sure enough Charles' wife was Ellen (ie Elinor) and with them was Edward Davis, father-in-law, age 84. Her dad Patrick Burgess was there, and it named another brother for her: John, b. 12 Feb 1852, age 49 who we had noticed in the 1852 census. When I went to the 1911 census for Ellen, I only found her and Charles, but living with them was another sister of hers, "Lizzie" or Elizabeth b. May 1849, age 62. So I added her to the list of Eliza's children. I now had 7 – Elinor (or Ellen) 1847, Elizabeth 1849, John 1852, Brock 1853, Edward G 1855, Charles 1856 and Maryann 1862.

Then I went looking for the son Edward G. Davis, and found a death certificate for him. I knew he was married to Margaret and had a daughter Florence (1891 census). His death record named a son Edward Albert as informant, and it also gave his parents as Edward Davis and Elizabeth Earl, and used the same undertaker as his brother Brock. Edward Albert Davis I found was married to Frances May Bolton in Nov of 1919 at Brockville.

In conclusion, with these resources I was able to identify the correct couple, Eliza Earl and Edward Davis and track them for about 60 years, practically from when they married until they died. I nailed down 7 children for them, and for 4 of them was able to flesh out some details of their lives. I identified three spouses and five grandchildren by looking at census records in Ontario from 1852 to 1911, at 5 death records, and 2 marriage records. □

## History of Myers Cave Lodge

*By Carol Morrow*

After consulting maps and land records, surfing the internet for some of the family history, and talking to some knowledgeable local people about certain events and occurrences, I was able to pull together a history of Myers Cave Lodge. The events cover eight time frames from 1872 until the present.

Twenty years before Charles McGregor built the house for his family, Ebenezer Perry received the land at Myers Cave as a Crown Grant on 21 May 1872, Lot 23 Concession 7 of Barrie Township. Mr. Perry had been appointed the Crown Lands agent along the Addington Colonization Road in 1856. The Perrys were Loyalists of the first order, and Ebenezer himself had served in county politics in southern L& A and was a strong supporter of settlement in the northern parts. Ebenezer continued to live in Sheffield Twp, and upon his death there in 1881, his holdings in Barrie were divided up among his heirs. Through the 1880s and '90s there were various transactions by the Perry boys – mortgages, deed transfers, agreements, and sales to new people moving into the area. There were several farming operations along the road and by 1900, three mines had opened up in the area. Thus, a significant population of farmers, miners and labourers grew up along Rd 506 and the Myers Cave Rd, and around the junction at Myers Cave.

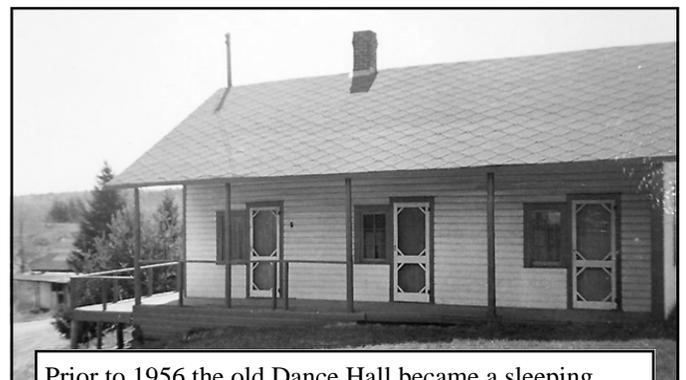
Enter Charles McGregor. His family had emigrated from Massachusetts in 1860 to the Tweed area. In 1881 he married Eva Perry, a daughter of Ebenezer. In 1891 they were living at Myers Cave. Records show that Eva transferred her land inheritance to her husband in 1892, and that year Charles and Eva built a home for their family beside the rapids at the foot of Marble Lake where it joins Georgia Lake. This would eventually become Myers Cave Lodge. Charles is described variously as a miner and a logger in the censuses, and was twice Reeve of Barrie Township in the early 1900s. He and Eva had a large family, and in 1921 passed their property on to their daughter Lillian, who had married Joseph Rogers Perry of the Camden East Perrys.

At this point, the McGregor-Perry home became a tourist operation. "An old register from the lodge shows a William Washington of Scarborough, Ontario as the first guest in 1921." The business grew over time, and other buildings were put up by the Perrys, including a barn, dance hall, a canteen and the cottages. Another of the original structures on the property, a log ice-house, still stands today. The Perrys had a good business at Myers Cave. They had guests from as far away as Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania and of course NY state, as well throughout Ontario and the Montreal area. They had boats on all 3 lakes – Marble, Mississagagon and Kashwakamak. Lillie often served two sittings for supper in the dining room. It was mostly a self-sufficient operation, from the cows, pigs and chickens they kept for meat, from the vegetable garden, from the woods around for firewood, from the ice they chopped from Marble and the maple syrup they made, from the horses that did the work, and the crops they were able to grow to feed the animals. Meanwhile other resorts had sprung up in the area – Salmonds, Marble Lake Lodge, McGregors on Kash, to name just a few. During the 1930s the Hydro started putting up poles across the property, and by 1950 had run tower lines through. Joe Perry died sometime in the

1930s, and Lillie and her boys continued on at Myers Cave until 1951 when she sold it. She built a retirement house up the hill from the Lodge, and in a few years moved to Tweed and died there in 1955.

The next people to run the Lodge were Joseph & Barbara Ballah and Kathleen & David Smith, a father/ daughter combination from Toronto. During their ownership, a lot of the business declined and clientele was lost. Mr Ballah had been a dentist, we think, judging from the amount of old dental equipment located in the shed after their departure. Mr Ballah died up here for he is buried in Dempsey Cemetery. He was probably the motivating factor in the operation, and with his demise, his widow, daughter and son-in-law returned to their Toronto life. So, in June 1956 the Lodge was again under new management.

Wm H Royle and Lester & Frances Webb from Toronto took over with bookings in place for that season beginning in July. Frances who had mostly worked in a factory, now had to be chief cook and bottle washer for a resort. Being a resourceful type, she confronted the challenge. Together they won back a loyal clientele and improved the services at the Lodge. They continued the suppers to the general public; the Saturday night dances and the animals were already things of the past. They built a beach around the point from the rapids, and put in a road to it from the highway. They upgraded the canteen into a store with groceries and snacks, closed in the open verandah with screens and windows, converted from cooking with wood to gas and electric, and installed the first furnace at the lodge. In about 1979 the MTO re-constructed Highway 41 through the Cave, resulting in some improvement for the Webbs: a new better entrance for the gas pumps, a bigger parking area in front of the store, curbs around the entrances and islands, and a new bridge at the rapids. Also



Prior to 1956 the old Dance Hall became a sleeping cabin with 5 Units. It disappeared altogether when 506 Highway was re-built in 1979. Lodge photo file.

the uphill grade was trimmed down and the road was straightened. In the construction, the Webbs lost the 5-unit sleeping cabin at the corner. After the road work was done, the Webbs tore down the old store in 1981 and built a new one. They freshened up the exterior of the Lodge with an over-all fresh coat of paint. In 1978 a major inside renovation was undertaken brightening up the interior. A drop ceiling was installed in the living & dining rooms. The paneled walls were replaced with sheet-rock and painted. Steel doors,

bells, exit signs, alarms etc were installed in compliance with new fire regulations. Sadly the central staircase was sacrificed for this. Also, a fire escape exit from the second story was constructed.

In 1987 the Webbs retired to Northbrook, and Lester died in Jan 1989. Later that month Frances Webb sold the Lodge to Daphne and Rob Breeze. The Breezes made a lot of cosmetic changes inside the lodge, making the bedrooms very attractive and the dining room inviting with their decorative touches and choice of colours in wallpaper and paint, and window coverings. They ran a tea room in the screened porch as well as taking in traditional guests. They turned the family kitchen into an office, a small TV sitting room and a spot for their own meals; they kept the meal prep room as it was. They turned the store into a residence for themselves by adding a bedroom and a living room at the back. The Breezes stayed until midway through 1994, then sold to John and Susan Garnett in July. To all appearances, Garnetts didn't make many changes. John mostly ran the operation, and Susan was a nurse, commuting to Napanee to work. They had 2 teenage boys. John was active in the Land O'Lakes Tourist Ass'n for a while, and did some off-season work in construction. The Garnetts sold to the Royal Tulip Company in May 1998. Now they live in Kingston, and Susan still works in the medical field.

The Royal Tulip Company was a partnership by Inca Voss and Jean Francois Ah-Chow. During their tenure the Lodge caught fire around noon on Friday, February 15 2002. The structure suffered extensive interior damage, but thanks to the quick response of the local fire departments, it was still standing. Right away the fire took out the main telephone connection inside the lodge but luckily, Dean Salmond of the fire department happened to be passing by and alerted his volunteers. The cause was attributed to the electrical system. With the fire originating between the basement ceiling and the bottom of the first floor, the main part of the building was gutted. The remainder of the lodge sustained smoke damage.

During the Breeze – Garnett - Royal Tulip years, the business wasn't the same as it had been. The face of tourism had changed a lot over the years, leaving traditional lodges behind if they were not quick enough to change with the times. The present owners are Z-Spec Inc. who took over in late Feb 2004. Z-Spec is a company based in Mississauga whose field is consulting for the beverage, pharmaceutical and general packaging industries, specializing in quality control and laser coding for his clients. The company is owned by Szolt Szabo. Mr Szabo does an international business, and has clients all over the world. The web site advertises room accommodations in the lodge at Myers Cave and cabins for rent, or you can rent the whole lodge for special occasion functions. Great changes have come about since Mr Szabo took over. The main floor boasts a living room with a wood-burning stove and 60" TV with access to a billiards room; the kitchen has been totally modernized. The unused attic has been turned into a luxurious pine lounge

with a magnificent view of Marble Lake, a telescope for star-gazing, computer with wireless internet, and a sound system for enjoying relaxing music of your choice. The main floor also offers an executive suite & patio with a BBQ & hot tub. The barn now has a poured concrete floor on the main level, and boasts a new red-clad exterior and new roof. He also added a deck and garage on the back of the former store/ owner-residence where he stays.

The Lodge is a local historical landmark, still standing after almost 120 years. It is the oldest lodge of its kind in these parts. Mr Szabo has tried to return the lodge to its former glory, retaining or restoring as many of the original features as possible – with modern upgrades. My list of its present features is not complete by any means; for additional information + photos check out the Cave website [<http://www.myerscaveresort.com>].

## Archiving Update

What do you call someone who will climb 6 foot high snowbanks to go to work in a cold museum? The correct answer is a dedicated archivist whose name is Robyn Godard. Robyn, who worked last summer in the museum, has been doing archiving for most of the winter, with the exception of a few days in January when it was just too cold!

Before anyone starts to phone the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Archivists, Robyn did have a warm room within the cold museum, where she had the computer and some files, a box of Kleenex, and a bottle of water - the height of luxury. Robyn is a student at St Lawrence College in Kingston, whose timetable this year allowed her time to work for us most Fridays as well as weekends. Over the winter, she has accomplished a great deal; the work is slow and tedious, but in spite of this, she soldiers on, for which we are very grateful. The genealogy files have been entered up to the end of the "O"s at the time of writing.

Robyn will be returning to the museum this summer, so if you have an opportunity, please stop by and congratulate her on her perseverance!



Robyn Godard in her Cubbyhole