

The Pioneer Times

(News vehicle of the Cloyne and District Historical Society)



Cloyne and District Historical Society

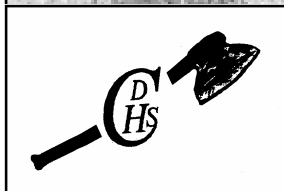
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Preserving the Past for the Future

Volume 4 #2 November 2006



The Pioneer Times

Vol. 4, No. 2, November 2006

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From the Editor

Karyl Steinpatz

You Are Right! This newsletter really is heftier than its predecessors. The C&DHS is growing and *The Pioneer Times* is following suit. Carol and I have increased the number of pages to 16 in order to include all information and articles. Your contributions are so welcome and we thank all who give us articles and tidbits. Keep 'em coming!

As well, we've made a few changes to the look and content of the newsletter. Readers will notice the new cover photo which better reflects the up-to-date mien of the museum. The other was fine for a few issues but we've decided to let the covergirls (Mary Jane Turner and me) fade away gracefully. Notice also the change in the pictorial centrefold which is devoted to a montage of this summer's events.

We are determined to impress upon our readers the importance of recording family histories for posterity, and to this end Carol has written a comprehensive article detailing a method of researching your family tree. The Society is beginning to accumulate an impressive store of local histories and we will welcome yours with open arms. Any Board member will be delighted to accept your contributions. The genealogical archives are housed in the Pioneer Museum.

More faces from the olden days (my olden days in any case) are appearing at the monthly meetings now, bringing their knowledge of the area with them, which is wonderful.

Interviews with area elders are gathering steam. Some members have done a lot in this direction already, but I've procrastinated. However, I am now getting started (with help). In this issue, Margaret Axford has written a marvelous story about one of her interviews.

Changes have taken place in your Board of Directors. Check out the masthead to the left of this note for those particulars.

President's Message

Margaret Axford

So What Is Going On?

In spite of a public surge in interest in subjects of a historical nature, our governments are turning their financial backs on the heritage community. At the federal level, the current government has just made significant cuts to funding for museums, in particular to MAP, which is the Museums Assistance Program, a self-explanatory title. Another program within the federal Heritage Department, called "Cultural Spaces Canada", has already been cut. In 2002, when the Cloyne and District Historical Society applied to CSC for funding to help build the museum addition, this was a 3 year national program with a budget of \$80 million, an inadequate figure given the number of applications. When our application was rejected, 18 months after submission, we were told that while we were eligible for funding, our proposal was judged "not to be sufficiently high priority to receive a contribution". You can make your own judgement as to what that implies, but the terms "backbencher" and "backwater" sprang to my mind. So now a sister program, MAP, is about to disappear as well. I guess if too many groups clamour for a piece of the pie, it's easier to cut the program than to develop a budget and a funding formula which are fair for everyone. As for the government's contention that cuts were made only where "waste" was found, that is nonsense. The museum community is not one that is known for its flagrant misuse of public funds!

And at the provincial level, in case you are thinking that being miserly to heritage programs is just a Conservative tactic, the Ontario government, of any political stripe, hasn't increased funding since the early 1980s. The budget for the CMOG program (Community Museums Operating Grant) is a mere \$2.7 million, which subsidizes fewer than 200 museums across Ontario. We do not have access to this fund, as we can't meet the standards re-

quired. However, we do get provincial funding designated for smaller museums through the Heritage Organizational and Development Grant, which is also much too small. Our portion for the last 2 years (we haven't heard yet about this year's application) has been \$1,200 a year, exactly the amount of our annual insurance bill.

On a more positive note, we are much better off than some groups, and for that we are extremely grateful. Careful husbandry of our money and a very supportive community have been huge factors for us. This past summer, we became the benefactors of a sizable amount from the estate of Isobel Stewart. Please check out the treasurer's report for further details. This bequest will mean that we should have operating capital for a considerable period of time. In light of this, you may be asking why I am raving about low levels of funding for museums and historical societies. Because money also means being committed to the cause espoused by the group! Do governments not care about the work which everyone is doing to preserve our people's history? One wonders.

If you are personally acquainted with either your MP, or your MPP, you might find an opportunity to talk about their woeful support for the heritage community. I would be interested in hearing about any responses which you receive.

And that's my rant for today!



Old Settlers' Recipe

Cure for

A cold in the head:

"Pare very thin the yellow rind of an orange, roll it up inside out, and thrust a roll into each nostril". [Ed Note: Picture this!]



Financial Report

Ian Brumell, Treasurer

The financial condition of the Cloyne and District Historical Society continues to be very healthy and positive. Labour Day marked the completion of the summer traffic through the Museum. As of the end of August, we had realized a net income of just over \$1,700. This represented a decrease in profit from the year before which was around \$2,000 for the same period. This decrease can be directly attributed to a general downturn in tourist traffic. It is estimated that the number of tourists from the US is down 42% from the previous year. Fewer folks on the road this summer and the very warm weather we had in July were the major factors contributing to fewer visitors, donations and sales at the museum.

However, the Patron programme, various fundraising ventures—including our 4th Edition Heritage Calendar, the Heritage Bus Tour, the Blueberry Brunch and other events—were continued this summer season and made the organization a very financially viable group in the Land O'Lakes area.

The Cloyne and District Historical Society has become the beneficiary of part of the Estate of the late Isobel Stewart. This wonderful lady who has been such an inspiration to our community had the foresight to believe that the endeavours of the Cloyne and District Historical Society were worthy of her philanthropy. Her bequest will provide a yearly endowment to the Society of close to \$3,000, in perpetuity. We all are somewhat overwhelmed and honoured by her bequest. Thank you Isobel!

We are most grateful for the ongoing financial support of the municipalities of Addington Highlands and North Frontenac, for the donation made to us this by the Tweed Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, and for the generous donations from our patrons.

Currently, our bank balance is around \$5,600 with no bills outstanding. We do expect additional Government grants of around \$2,000 to be received before year end.

In all, even given the obstacles caused by decreased tourist traffic, this has been another in a string of stellar years for the Cloyne and District Historical Society. Thanks to everyone who has assisted and helped us become a very respected community organization.

If you are interested, complete financial accounting is available to all members. An email request to the Society is all that is needed for us to send one out.



Toonie Christmas Party

December 9, 1-4 pm

Barrie/Cloyne Hall

Bring the Family for an Old-Fashioned Sing-Song, Sweet Treats, a Visit from Santa, and Entertainment

Admission: One Toonie Each

Order of the Eastern Star Contributes

Karyl Steinpatz

At the season's opening of the Pioneer Museum in Cloyne on Saturday, June 24, Faye O'Brien, Worthy Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star (Tweed Chapter) presented the Cloyne and District Historical Society with a cheque for \$600 to assist in the purchase of local artifacts.

She explained that each year the Worthy Matron chooses a local charitable organization to support and this year, because of its dedication to the collection and display of local artifacts, and its ever-increasing store of knowledge on the genealogy of area families, her choice was the C&DHS. In May, the Tweed Chapter held a fabulous dinner and dance, and the cheque presented Saturday was a portion of the proceeds from that event.

The contribution was accepted with grateful thanks by Margaret Axford, President of the Cloyne and District Historical Society.



Museum Product List

Carol Morrow

Besides the special events which the Historical Society schedules to raise funds, we have products for sale at the Pioneer Museum, some of which are listed below.

Books:

The Oxen and the Axe, by Gene Brown and Nadine Brumell

The Mazinaw Experience, by John Campbell

Bon Echo: The Denison Years, by Mary Savigny

Well-Worn Steps of Time, a book of poetry

Away Back in Clarendon and Miller, a history of that area by Charlie Armstrong

Coffee Mugs: featuring C&DHS logo

2007 Calendar: featuring area scenes of yesteryear, with descriptions

Note Cards w/envelopes: from original pen & ink drawings by Carla Miedema

Framed Prints: from the original painting by Carol Brown, donated last year and on view in the Museum.

Note Cards: from original paintings by Carol Brown; choice of 3 scenes

To purchase any of these products, contact us at pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca or visit our website: www.pioneer.mazinaw.on.ca/pioneer/



Chittick's Cabin and Dog Team, Loon Lake

* * * * *

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Memo Regarding Tax Receipts

When charitable donation receipts don't add up to a significant tax reduction, the Canada Revenue Agency allows receipts to be kept up to five years and to be used on the return of either spouse.

Genealogy Reminder

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

Patron Committee Report

Marcella Neely

As we close 2006 and prepare for our 2007 campaign it is vital to acknowledge the importance of the support of museum patrons. Throughout this newsletter are lists and reports of museum upgrades, activities, purchases and projects that testify to the value of patron contributions. Along with grants, and fundraising by the Historical society, we were also able to employ an additional student staff person for the Pioneer Museum during the summer.

Museum patrons proudly invest in our community and witness the results of their contributions first hand. We all regularly donate to worthy charities but, more than the tax-deductible receipt, the museum stands as a constant reminder of what we are capable of. With continued support future generations will have a source for history, genealogy and artifact collections from our region. We can only imagine the warmth they will experience with the discovery of information on their own ancestors.

The 2006 patron roster boasts 74 generous supporters. As costs increase and expenses are ongoing, we urge everyone who has an interest in our community to climb on board the patron train and invite neighbours and acquaintances to do likewise. We only require an annual patron fee of \$25. Apart from that, donations of any amount are most welcome. Charitable donations receipts are issued for all amounts over \$10.

We are now accepting 2007 patron fees. Please send your contribution to P.O. Box 228, Cloyne, or hand it to any member of the Cloyne and District Historical Society. □



Garnet Martin Family Barn, Fernleigh area

Fundraising Flash

Margaret Axford

For the year 2006, the big winners in the Fundraising field have been the May Yard Sale, and the August Blueberry Brunch. In spite of rain, and, yes, snow, \$750 was the bottom line after the yard sale, and after fingers and toes had been thawed out. Many thanks to Peter and Mary Jane Turner for the use of their front yard and porch again this year.

A steady stream of visitors at the Blueberry Brunch, from 10 a.m to 12:30 p.m, ensured a very healthy profit of \$627, \$200 more than last year. Thanks again this year to Bill Scott, of Scott's Shopping Centre, and to Andy and Donna Anderson, for their generous contributions.

The Bake Sales and the Heritage Bus Tour continue to do well, although the public interest in "slimming" has meant a slight decrease in Bake Sale profits.

One event has been cut from our list this year. The Christmas Craft Show is not being run by the school. The Board is looking at the possibility of the Historical Society running something similar next fall, and would appreciate any input you may have on this question.

One event remains on our calendar this year, and that is the Toonie Christmas Party, being held at Barrie Township Hall on December 9, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. This is a family Christmas party, with carol singing, readings, a visit from Santa, and lots of hot cider, hot chocolate and Christmas cookies. We hope to see you there!

Be sure to check out the spring edition of *The Pioneer Times* for a complete listing of 2007 events. □

Old Settlers' Recipe

Cure for Drowned dead person:

"Rub the trunk of the body all over with salt. It frequently recovers them that seem dead."

Acquisitions List - 2006

Because of donations of artifacts and the monetary generosity shown by Patrons, members, and interested area families and businesses, the Pioneer Museum has in the past year been able to collect the following:

1. Carpenter's Apron, belonging to William Salmond, donated by his daughter, Pat McCallum. Used at Sawyer-Stoll Lumber Company. Mr. Salmond started at Massanoga in 1939, then moved to Kaladar in 1945. He continued to work there as a millwright until it closed.
2. "Findlay 24" stove, donated by Jackie Wickware Philpps and Sandra Wickware. The stove has been in the Wickware cottage for 70 years.
3. Doll, cradle and photo of Billa Flint, donated by Helen Wilson
4. Child's rocking toy, assorted bottles, a container of "Dance Floor Wax" - Joan and John Flieler
5. Very old Bible, from St. John's Anglican Church, Ardoch
6. Reproductions of WWI war posters - Kay Wright
7. Large kitchen cupboard from Wally Federson, from a cottage on Kashwakamak Lake
8. Various farm implements from Odie and Phyllis Snider. Originally from the Snider farm.
9. Luggage racks, used on the runningboards of 1930s and 40s automobiles - Bruce Phillips
10. Hand painted cup, with the expression, "Think of Me" on it - Ellanora Meeks
11. Various books for the schoolhouse - Shirley Shouldice and Norm and Carol Morrow



Alfred Ross Osborne and Bryce Brown



Billa Flint

In 1858 Elzevir township came into being and Billa Flint was its first reeve, a position which he held for 21 years. In 1859, the village of Flinton was laid out in 98 lots and Billa donated the land for the first school, town hall, church and cemetery. Now, Billa was a teetotaler of grand proportions and no liquor would be served in his village! So the Stewart Hotel had to be built just outside the village limits. The Bridgewater road was built to service his business interests in Actinolite. Discouraged after the Actinolite fire of 1879, he retired to Belleville and died there in 1886.

Vignettes of our 2006 Season



Allan Kay & his antique lamp collection, 2006 October AGM



2006 Season Opening - Guest, Duke of Richmond Robin Derrick, with Marg Axford and Faye O'Brien



Barbeque by the Museum, June Opening 2006
Sheila & Hugh Rose, RJ Vermuelen



Interior of Old Actinolite Church
Heritage Bus Tour 2006



Wesley Alkenbrack gave a fascinating talk of early days in the Flinton area at the May meeting of the C&DHS.

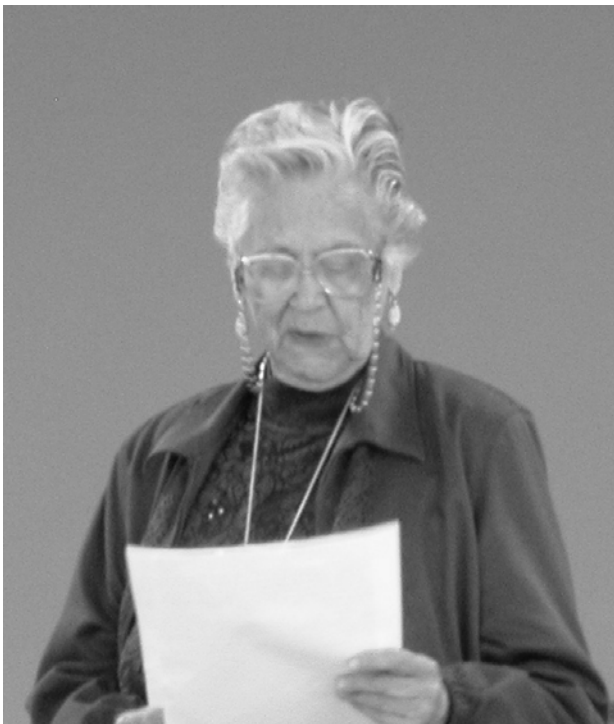


C&DHS receives donation from Eastern Star—Margaret Axford and Faye O'Brien

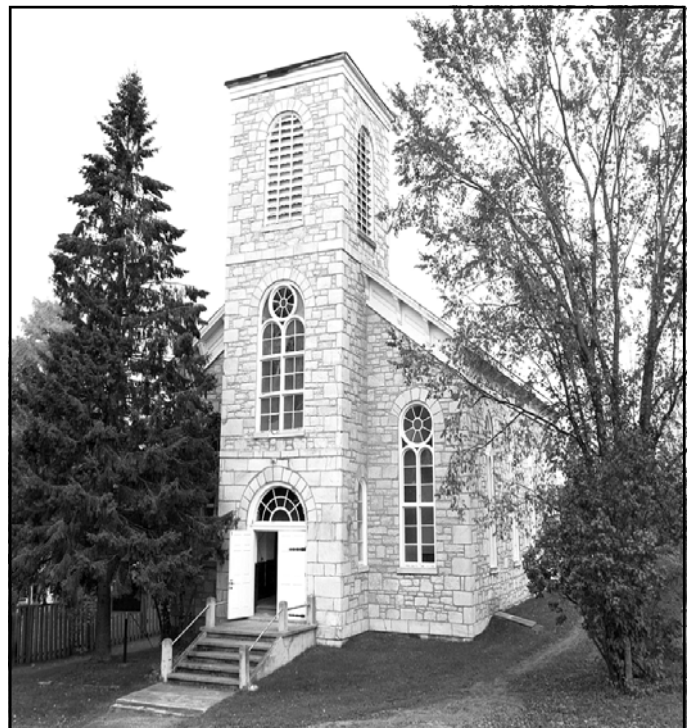
Vignettes of our 2006 Season



Some Cloyne and District Historical Society members gather at Marcella and Ken Neely's house for a BBQ



Nancy Newman, Master Gardener,
speaking at the April meeting.



The Old Marble Church at Actinolite, Ontario
-from C&DHS Fall Bus Tour 2006

Researching Your Ancestors

By Carol Morrow

Using the Internet

This issue's genealogical article will be a how-to of an ancestral search using only the Internet. Having said that, you must prepare for your online investigation by gathering all information that you can about your subject from family interviews and pamphlets, documents, old photos and memoirs or stories handed down through the generations. Then record it all in an organized form that makes sense to you (I use the computer and the Family Tree Maker program). Now you are ready for the Internet. [I am assuming you know something about how to surf the Internet.]

Step 1: Google [www.google.com] your subject, just to find out what is out there. Narrow the Google search with quotations around the name and a location in the search box. I tried "John Black" and "Camden Township", and the 3rd hit was an inquiry with some information on the Rootsweb message boards, where I found out who John's 3 sons married & their birth dates, thus giving me 3 more surnames to search (the girls' & one mother's maiden names).

Step 2: Go to the Mormon site [www.familysearch.org] and "Search" your subject by name. If you have a subject with a common name, put in an approx. date to narrow the search. The surname Black is a good example. At this site you can search Ancestral Files that have been collected by the LDS library, the US 1880 census, both the British & Canadian 1881 censuses, International Indexes, their Pedigree Resource files, and the US Social Security Indexes. I typed in "Elizabeth Black" and found her "b. 1796 Ireland" in the 1881 census living with her married daughter and her Piper family in Camden East, Addington, Ontario. This gave me the names & dates of her Piper grandchildren. [I didn't search John Black on this site because I already knew he died by 1851.] You can also search those maiden names from Step 1. Sometimes you have to check the "use exact spelling" box. Now you are ready to check out the 1901 and 1911 census for the next generation.

Step 3: Search the 1901/ 1911 census site [<http://automatedgenealogy.com/index.html>]. This site lets you search by name, surname, and location. Once you have a match you can link to a transcription of the census information where you will see your subject's family with birth dates, where they were counted and who all their neighbours were. Checking out the 1901 census, type "Piper" in the search box and a list of 300+ comes up; check the "list by location" link and a "W. Henry Piper" shows up; click on him and the census page (pg 6 D-8) appears showing a Henry & Gladys Piper living in Camden, Addington Co. This is, in fact, Ann (nee Black) Piper's son and his wife Gladys Teskey. [Ann and her husband Noble are deceased by this time.] If we try this for Ann's brother James Alexander who was longer lived (1832-1909), upon typing in "Black" in the search box we come up with almost 3000 Blacks – too many to deal with. In the Filter box, enter "James" and his year of birth (I always ask for a 5-year window) to narrow the search. This gives us 3 Jameses, one at Kennebec, Addington Co, the suspected location – probably our subject. Click on his link and we find James (on pg 4 H-2) as the father in his son Henry's household. Henry married Margaret "Maggie" McCausland, and their oldest child "Mary" Olive b 1900 shows up. If you want to find out if they had any more children, back up to the opening page of Automated Genealogy and search the 1911 census. This one you have to ask for the province first, then enter the name. On pg 6-16, up pops Henry (Maggie is named "May" because the transcriber had a hard time reading the bad handwriting of the original census taker?), and their 3 children born to date (Mary is called "Olive" here). James is no longer there [we know he died in 1909]. Now we are ready to take a side trip.

Step 4: Check out the original 1901 [http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/020122_e.html] census on the National Archives site, because we aren't sure when the Blacks came to Canada; the year of immigration was posed in 1901. "Search the database"; check the province and enter the location; scroll down to H-2; chose page 4 (last box); check "without plug-in". You will have to manipulate the image with the arrows & the zoom, but there are the Blacks, household #31. Scroll across to see if James tells us when he immigrated. Nope. "Born in Ontario, of Scottish descent". (Umm - so he's not owning up to this Irish connection, like so many of the Scots-Irish.) We know that Ann, his older sister was born in 1829 in Ireland, so we can presume that they immigrated between 1829 – 1832. Close enough. Noting the page from the automated census index makes the original easier to find. Did you see that William Black was their neighbour?

Step 5: Check out the maps [<http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/countyatlas/SearchMapframes.php>] at the Digital County Atlas site. Select your county, (you can't choose this township but most you can), search the people list at the bottom of the page. J. Black shows up on page 28; if you click GO on the record column, there he is on Conc 5 lot 24, just south of Centerville west of Camden Lake (west of the Camden East Rd today). You can find Noble Piper's land there also. The maps (c1878) are pretty neat and you can see the actual location of your pioneer's homestead – and who his neighbours were.

Step 6: Find out where these people were buried. Check out the Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid (OCFA) at [<http://www.islandnet.com/ocfa/>]. Click “search” and type in your subject's name & suspected county. The Pipers are there, buried in Centerville United Cemetery; James & Mary are in St Luke's Anglican in Camden East. Henry doesn't show up but Margaret does & some of their children in Harlow United. So with the cemetery index, you can search by name and location. Keep in mind that not all cemeteries have been transcribed, especially in the large centres, and you will have to contact the county or local historical society to find out what cemeteries have been done, and perhaps purchase their transcriptions or find a volunteer to do a quick search for you. Another website to take a look at is Field of Stones where you can “visit” your relatives' final resting place in almost every county (except L&A) in Ontario from home – if someone has photographed their stone & donated to the site. This is a great program and if you get the chance, go grave-hopping with your camera and email your pictures off to Janet Jones at this site [<http://freepages.history.rootsweb.com/~clifford/>]. Let's get some L&A pioneers on there!

Step 7: Check out Family Trees at Rootsweb [<http://www.rootsweb.com/>]. Click on the 2nd hit and cruise around. Looks like some McCauslands have been ancestor hunting. It's always good to see what the other guy said about your ancestor too, so we checked the 3rd hit and found a list of Henry Smith's siblings. Nobel Piper shows up too in a small way. Rootsweb is a powerful tool for following some family trees a long way; but it should be used with discretion. People out there are putting up information on the site that may be inaccurate or incomplete, so like the guy says, use the site as “a framework to build upon”.

Step 8: Check out the Marriages site [<http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~maryc/ontmarr.htm>]. You can select by year and then county.

*Addington #010889-01 – “Jacob MILLER, 27, farmer, Kennebec, same, s/o William H. MILLER & Martha CARLETON, married Margaret **BLACK**, 21, Kennebec, same, d/o James BLACK & Hannah BELL, witn: Jane LAWLESS of Grafton & Flora MAURISSETTE of Flinton, 27 March 1901 at Flinton.”
(This is Margaret Marsula Black, their youngest.)*

Step 9: Chances are you don't live in the county now where your ancestors pioneered; if you do, you are so lucky! But you will want to learn something about their choice of location. If you want to learn about history of L&A county, check out [<http://www.ihorizons.net/lacounty/history.htm>]. I just Googled “Lennox & Addington” and this was the 4th hit of 71,700. It has some good information. Almost every county or location has a website of some kind; some are better than others genealogically. Some good ones are Elgin County, Norfolk, Lanark, Grey, York just to name a few I have checked out; what you are looking for is settlement or pioneer history. You want to find an official county site as opposed to a commercial site. The L&A Historical Society site is located at [<http://www.rootsweb.com/~onlennox/online.html>]. There are quite a few lists you can search online. Visit [<http://www.waynecook.com/alennox-addington.html>] for the Historical Plaques of L& A County; they contain some history. A list of books relating to the history of the county and environs is at [<http://www.angelfire.com/journal/loyalgen/bookprice.html>]; you can order these books online.

Step 10: No research is complete without checking out the Message Boards at Ancestry.com and Genealogy.com. They can be accessed by surname or by location. The L&A County Board at Ancestry is really busy and the L&A County Museum replies to a lot of queries – the first time I have ever seen this (very helpful). Leave your own query on the boards; you will be surprised what help you can get through them; sometimes the wait is worth it. Make special note of the email addresses of others researching your same family. Contact them, for you may find a connection leading more people to add to your collection.

Step 11: Do your subject's surname search to find out the origin of the name and perhaps you will find an image of a family crest. A couple of sites are [<http://www.allfamilycrests.com/>] and [<http://www.houseofnames.com/>]. You should be able to re-work the dialogue to suit your family's circum-

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Step 12: Now it's time to learn about the county/parish/townland/village from which your ancestor originated. Ireland is great for their county sites. I have yet to see a scarcity of information on any county or diocese. Usually you get a history of the area, a geographical summary, a good map and you can slip your family into the narrative with the occasional surname reference. Maybe your ancestors were some of the warring tribes who played a part in the fabric of the area. Many Scottish locations are well represented on the Internet, as well as England. There is no lack of information you can use as background to your family history. To locate these sites, use Google.

Step 13: No Internet journey would be complete without stopping off at [<http://www.ourroots.ca/e>]. This site contains whole transcriptions of local histories from all across Canada; just enter your surname or location in the search box, and check out the hits that pop up. There is a bit of a learning curve in manipulating this site because of the huge amount of information it contains. I entered "Camden" in the search box and got a history of "The Camden Colony" which was the early name given to the whole Newburgh/Napanee and area settlement; the genealogy shows many connections among early UEL and other immigrant settlers aft 1783.

Step 14: Try to connect up with some online newspapers; use Google to search these. They can be invaluable for local obituaries and general news of the area. Another site for finding obituaries (which are really mini biographies) is at Ontario Daily Times [<http://obits.rootsweb.com>] where you enter your surname and find out if and when your subject died within the last few years. Then you need to find someone to look up the obit for you. Volunteers can be found on Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (RAOGK) at [<http://www.raogk.org/listing.htm>]. Rarely do these people fail to send you what you ask for. Another service for getting volunteered obits is at Jan's Site [<http://www.ontarioobits.com/>] – this is an Ontario only service.

Step 15: For anyone with ancestors or relatives who died in one of the world wars, there is a wonderful site for viewing their official certificate and actually going to the cemetery where they were buried. Search The Commonwealth War Graves Commission site at [<http://www.cwgc.org/>] to find information on your lost soldier. See poignant photos of some beautifully kept military cemeteries across Europe, Great Britain and Canada.

As a final reminder, note every information source. Don't plagiarize. The facts cannot be copyrighted but the form, or style, can. This means, transcribe the facts of your research but format or write them up in your own style. Take yourself off to the county museum and archives for these often have booklets containing miscellaneous information such as voters lists, farmers directories, wills, birth/ death/ marriage records, land transfer records. Sometimes the experience alone is worth the visit. Always ask for assistance because sometimes their system of organization can be a mystery.

I have lots more suggestions for research. Contact me by e-mail [ncmorrow@sympatico.ca]. ☐



Main Street of Denbigh, September 1928



Kaladar Train Station, 1925
Pictured are Roy Spencer & his wife, H.W. Chillick

Annual General Meeting

Karyl Steinpatz

A fine crowd turned out for the AGM of the Cloyne and District Historical Society which was held Monday, October 16, 2006 in the Barrie Township Hall, Cloyne.

Since this is not an election year (Board of Director terms run for two years) little change took place in the slate of officers, although with regret Eleanor St. Amand found it necessary to resign from the Board. Frank Matacheskie volunteered to take her place and was unanimously voted in. Margaret Axford, who has done an absolutely smashing job as President/Chair for the past five years and will be difficult to replace, has resigned her position but will remain on the Board of Directors as Past President. As I write this, the Presidency remains vacant but a series of November meetings should see that resolved. Therefore the slate of executive officers reads as follows: President, (vacant); Past President, Margaret Axford; Secretary, Eileen Flieler; Treasurer, Ian Brumell. Directors: Carol Lessard, Frank Matacheskie, Dorothy Pethick, Karyl Steinpatz. Committee chairs: Margaret Axford, Fundraising; Marcella Neely, Patrons; Karyl Steinpatz, Communications.

Business discussed included: The revamping and reprinting of *The Oxen and the Axe* which will be done over the winter; the forming of a Cemeteries Committee to research the 'old forgotten' and archive the research; the acquisition of various treasures which have been added to the museum displays over the past year.

The Ontario Ministry of Culture has drastically cut grants to museums, which to some smaller museums will mean closure. However, to our great joy, the Pioneer Museum will comfortably survive and thrive because of the prodigious efforts of our fundraising committee, **AND** because the Cloyne and District Historical Society has most gratefully received an endowment from the estate of the late Isobel Stewart which will ensure that the doors of our museum will remain open for the foreseeable future.

Guest speaker at the AGM was Allan Kay, who displayed a cross-section of his treasure trove of lamps and animatedly spoke of their various provenances. Allan told us how to research and find the missing parts of various lamps and how to use (and not use) them. His special lamp is one which belonged to his grandparents. He has not yet been able to trace the provenance of that outstanding piece, but is still researching it.

The AGM ended socially with an excellent feast provided by Carol Lessard. □



Old Settlers' Recipe

Cures for

healing a cut:

"Bind on toasted cheese. Or, pounded grass. Shake it off after twelve hours and if need be, apply fresh ." **or...**

"The oil from the blisters of a fir tree is very healing. It is messy. But if poured in a cut, will heal it without a scar."

Fire at Bon Echo, 1936: A Memory

Margaret Axford

Etched forever in the mind of Jen Elliott, of Arnprior, is the night in mid September, 1936, when Bon Echo Inn burned. A mere 16 years old, Jen McCulloch, of Toronto, had been working as a chamber maid at the Inn since the first of May. Because she wasn't returning to school. She stayed on to help with the last few guests and the clean-up at the end of the season.

On the night in question, Jen and a few others still working had gone to a dance at Salmond's Resort. Their driver for the evening was Mr. Leavens, who, with his wife, brother and sister-in-law, was running an Inn in 1935-6. As they returned up the road toward Bon Echo, well after midnight, they could see flames which they became convinced were at the Inn. Sure enough, they arrived in time to see the Inn engulfed in flames.

Jen stood and watched with the others, in tears, partly because she had very much enjoyed her summer there, but also because, burning up with everything else, were \$35.00, her last pay, and a brand new outfit for fall which she had purchased at the general store in Cloyne not long before. As she watched the destruction, an elderly man came up to her and pressed a \$5.00 bill into her hand, saying as he did so, "I wish it could be more, Jenny, but that's all I have." One wonders who that kindhearted man was!

It was fortunate that the fire occurred in September. Most of the guests and employees had left for home, leaving only a few staff with quarters on the third floor, and a man and his son, the only guests, on the second floor. The staff escaped without injury; the guests weren't quite so lucky. Both father and son encountered heavy smoke when they opened their bedroom doors. "Jump out the window", shouted the son to his father. Underneath each window was coiled a sturdy, knotted rope, to be used as a fire escape. In his panic, however, the father jumped from the window with the end of the rope in his hand. He sustained a broken shoulder and extensive bruising. Jen remembers him, with his son, being sent by stage to the train station in Kaladar, his arm and shoulder in a sling, obviously in pain, wearing another man's coat, and looking altogether miserable. Not the desired outcome for a holiday, by any means!

And so, one of the more historically interesting buildings in our area disappeared from the landscape, leaving behind many questions, some of which will probably never be answered. How the fire started is a major question. The answer, according to many people, is lightning. Was there a storm that night? Why were the Leavens brothers running the Inn, and where was Merrill Denison? Merrill and his wife Muriel Goggin had been operating the Inn since the death of his mother Flora in 1922. By 1929, the Depression was affecting everyone; few could manage the funds necessary to come to Bon Echo for a holiday, and certainly the Denisons would not have been able to afford to hire the staff to keep the Inn operational.

The Leavens brothers had a cottage on the beach at Campbell's Bay, and so would have been familiar with the Inn. They also were in the flying business, operating a flying school north of Toronto. Jen Elliott remembers guests being flown directly to Lake Mazinaw, and being set down at the dock in front of the Inn, probably a decided improvement on the alternative transportation methods of a long slow bumpy ride from Toronto to the Inn. The roads then were certainly not the highways we know today!

Another query revolves around artifacts. Was anything salvaged from the fire? As far as we know, the only artifacts remaining are some tablecloths and table napkins which appeared in Harry Levere's barn in Cloyne and which were sold at auction nearly 20 years ago. Their existence raises another question. Jen confirmed for us that the laundry was done on site at the Inn. Why, then, were these table items off site? Had they alone been sent off to another laundry somewhere and were awaiting delivery to the Inn? Who were the guests? The son might very well still be alive. He could probably shed a great deal of light on that night. Did the office, which according to Jen, was in a separate building, burn as well? She says that the cottages did not, and so perhaps, the office survived as well. Are there records somewhere

which might tell us the names of those unlucky guests?

These are some of the questions which have been raised. Jen Elliott has helped a great deal. Can we find the rest of the answers?

[...from an interview with Jen McCulloch Elliott, of Arnprior, August 18, 2006, conducted by Ian Brumell and Margaret Axford]

A Sequel to the Bon Echo Story

In a chance encounter at the museum the week following this interview, we learned what went on at the Inn between 1929 and 1933. According to Stephen Deakin, 90 years old and currently living in Montreal, the property was leased to Trinity College School in Port Hope. Mr. Deakin was a boarding student at TCS, and in 1929, came to "Camp Mazinaw" as a camper. He was there for two months every summer up to and including 1933, and refers to those days as "the best years" of his life. This conversation cleared up a major question for us. We had heard that there was a camp at this spot, and indeed we have a 2 or 3 minute video of boys swimming at a location which was obviously on the Inn property, and not at the former Camp Mazinaw property. Documents which we have from the more modern Camp Mazinaw indicate that that camp was formed in 1939. What, then, was the camp so clearly running in 1931, the date on this video? Well, now we know - an earlier Camp Mazinaw, operated by Trinity College Schools.

There is much research yet to be done on this. We are hoping that the archives at TCS will be helpful, both in terms of confirmation data and photos, but in the meantime, we have acquired a very valuable piece of history.

And in a final note, while he was a camper here, Mr Deakin won a prize at a horse race at the camp. His prize was a riding crop, engraved with the words, "Camp Mazinaw/

Grand Mazinaw Handicap/1929 CSD". He had given the crop to his 13-year-old granddaughter, Emma, who, following the family visit to the museum this summer, decided that she would like to donate the crop to us. That fine artifact has now arrived from Calgary. You must be sure to come into the museum next summer, where it will be proudly on display, along with the story of this chapter in the history of Mazinaw Lake.

[...from an interview with Stephen Deakin and the Deakin family, August 2006, conducted by Margaret Axford and Ian Brumell, at Loon Lake Lodge on Skootamatta Lake] □



Bon Echo Inn
Water Tower

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 become a Patron of the Cloyne Pioneer Museum.

The annual fee of \$25 includes 2 newsletters, mailed free of charge, and a window decal.

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