

The Pioneer Times

News vehicle of the Cloyne and District Historical Society



Copyright, May 2012,
Cloyne & District Historical Society

Cloyne and District Historical Society

Box 228

Cloyne, ON K0H 1K0

Tel: 613-336-6858

E-Mail: pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca



It's a Party!

Although we are not expecting the ten thousand people who were in Cloyne for the 1947 Lumberman's Picnic, we do hope that you will gather up your friends and family and come to the Museum Opening and Kick-Off for our museum expansion campaign on June 23rd. There will be our usual lunch time barbeque, some special entertainment and of course, a cake.

Preserving the Past for the Future

Volume 10 #1 May 2012



The Pioneer Times

Vol. 10, No. 1, May 2012

Editors and Production Committee

Margaret Axford
brumford@mazinaw.on.ca

Carol Morrow
carol.morrow6@gmail.com

The Pioneer Times is produced semi-annually by the Cloyne and District Historical Society. It is distributed free-of-charge in printed form and by e-mail. <http://pioneer.mazinaw.on.ca>. Products, services and positions of the advertisers, correspondents and contributors are not necessarily endorsed by the Historical Society.

Cloyne and District Historical Society

Box 228
Cloyne, ON K0H 1K0
Tel: 613-336-6858
E-Mail: pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca

Chairperson

Carolyn McCulloch

Secretary

Eileen Flieler

Treasurer

Ian Brumell

Directors

Dave Deacon, Elinor Duncan
Catherine Grant, Carol Lessard,
Trudy Deacon

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



Chairman's AGM Report

by Carolyn McCulloch

It is a pleasure to report as your President for this past year, and I thank you for that privilege.

Our activities in this community reflect our mandate, to care for our past, so that future generations will be able to enjoy our history.

There is a certain excitement that comes with planning for the future. It can be felt each time that we mention The Historical Society's newest venture, an extension to our remarkable Museum and Archives. Our expansion will be 1400 square feet, and will cost approximately \$95,000. It will provide a research area, a much needed bathroom, space to display our many photographs, genealogy collections and our new acquisitions.

Because of the assembling of information, folks are arriving from afar to explore their roots. The descendants of the Winters family found us and traded stories. Those who claimed Rhena Pollard Cole as an ancestor came from across the country as we honoured one of Charles Dickens' charges at her graveside. Chris Anstead, postal historian, was able to bring us the stories of Cloyne's past, and Ontario's beloved writer, Ron Brown spoke to us and later claimed that we were the most responsive audience that he had ever had.

Our trips in the spring and fall of the year are attended by a mix of members and non-members. This year we visited Canada's first Prime Minister's home town haunts, as well as the lovely scenic O'Hara Mill.

In June, we were again able to contribute a team to Flinton's Relay for Life with proceeds to the Canadian Cancer Society.

We have updated and refined our website, and digitized the old Methodist Records of the local United Churches. We have attended the events of the surrounding Heritage Groups in Plevna, Tweed and Belleville. Our sought-after historical calendar has become a source of pride to the organization.

Perhaps my most memorable personal recollection of this year was the morning of Saturday Dec 10th when our Old Fashioned Toonie Christmas Party completely fell apart. Because of unforeseen circumstances from every quarter, it would seem that we would have to cancel it. Four hours later, we produced undoubtedly the best Christmas Party that our community has ever had. That is what volunteers do!!



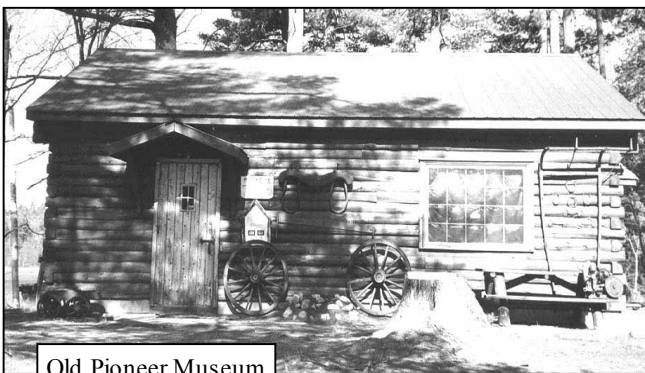
On The Move Again!

Thanks to the growth in both artifacts and archival items, the Museum and Archives building in Cloyne is straining at the seams. To alleviate the overcrowding, the Board of Directors has decided to erect another addition, this time on the back and to the south of the current building. This is basically a two year project, with outside work being done this spring and summer, the building erected this fall after the tourist season is over, and the inside and redesigning of the interior space to be finished in the spring of 2013.

The new addition will incorporate two new features, a washroom for staff and a classroom/presentation area. The current storeroom will become home to the Archives, with additional storage space being designated elsewhere in the building. Also to be incorporated in the design is a gallery to display photographs. After the gift to the museum/archives of approximately 1,000 photographs from the estate of the late Mary Lloyd Johnson of Northbrook, it was decided to plan for a space which would house this collection.

A fundraising committee is hard at work planning a capital campaign. With new floor space of about 1,400 sq. ft., the committee is anticipating costs of approximately \$95,000. Applications are being prepared now for The Ontario Trillium and other foundations. About \$20,000 will come from our own funds. We are hoping that you will help as well, so don't be surprised if someone from the CDHS contacts you!

Because 2012 marks the 40th anniversary of the CDHS and its parent organization the Pioneer Club, the Board felt that embarking on a new addition would be a suitable way of celebrating this anniversary. Our mandate, to record and preserve local history, is as important now as it was in 1972. It is our hope that the renovated larger Museum and Archives will be an inspiration to those who will carry our mandate into the next 40 years. ☐



Old Pioneer Museum

Isobel (Meeks) Wood

Extraordinary Entrepreneur and Job Creator

While our families have interacted since 1920 at Loon Lake, (now Skootamatta), due to the Meeks' proximity to the Lake, and ourselves being cottagers, I had not talked to Isobel for over 50 years until the last week in August, 2011. However, I had followed her business career both as a customer and as a venture capitalist interested in success stories. While I live in Winnipeg, I have gone to the Lake since 1947 for holidays and now for 3 months of the 5 between mid-May and mid-October. When I called Isobel 'out of the blue' and met with her, I said I wanted to write her story in the technical language of my world. Her achievements are remarkable, more so given the lack of opportunity for advanced education and business skill development. She may be the most remarkable woman born in this area since Flora Macdonald Denison, suffragist, columnist and spiritualist of Bon Echo fame, born on the Skootamatta River in 1867. In the summer, Isobel may be AH's largest non-government employer.

Addington Highlands, extending over 50 miles north of Kaladar and Hwy #7, 100 'crow' miles west of Ottawa, is the rugged, remote and most northern Township in Lennox and Addington County, (arguably so different from the other L&A townships that one wonders why they are grouped together). A logging area for close to 200 years, it has had one of the highest unemployment rates in Ontario for over a century, as logging, by 1900, had exhausted the 'old growth' forest. It is suffering from a diminished and centralized school system, although it now has a modern school in Cloyne, (built long after Isobel's school-days). The area lacks a large employer base - except for the various levels and agencies of government. The continuing exodus of young people is now being offset somewhat by an influx of retirement-aged people looking for a full time residence in the scenic community of lakes, rocks and forests. For many of the long-time resident families, it has been a hardscrabble existence where you had to be tough to survive. You likely went to work as soon as it was legally possible to leave school, and while you never got rich, you supported your community, those less fortunate in times of hardship, and had pride in your accomplishments and in those of others in the area.

Dennison Meeks, born in 1826, came to Ontario in the early 1840s from New York State, and moved again to homestead 1½ miles north of the Cloyne area on the Addington Road in 1858, lured, like others, by cheap land to clear and farm, and logging

jobs. However, the soil was poor for other than subsistence farming and the sale of vegetables and other products to the logging camps. The Meeks had to be tough for a long time and many Meeks continue to live in and around these original land grants. They and other pioneer families that have stayed, despite the temptation to go elsewhere for better education and job opportunities, ARE the core of this community and the stamp of its identity. The words 'toughness' and 'perseverance' are redefined by these people.

From the heart of this environment came Isobel Meeks, (married name Wood), an extraordinary woman who has transformed the wholesaling and retailing of blueberries in her 40 years in the business. Her successive pattern of innovation over the years rivals that of any Harvard MBA business leader, and her work ethic, in a different environment and with greater opportunity for higher education, likely would have led her to being the CEO of a significant enterprise. In her 40 years in the blueberry business she has provided over 1000 direct and part-time and seasonal jobs; hut employees, bakers, drivers, chip wagon servers, maintenance workers and many more indirect jobs. Who else can match this record in Addington Highlands? These jobs have provided extra income to residents, summer employment for students, and entry level work skills necessary to go on and obtain better-paying future jobs. She currently has 3 students from Loyalist College in Bancroft working with her for this summer as part of their education in a business course. Loyalist College is a long term partner of hers. At an age when most people have long retired, Isobel, with some additional administrative help, continues to be clearly in control of her operations down to the smallest detail: purchasing, distribution, managing inventory and all aspects of her work force, bookkeeping and government filings.

This area has long been known for its blueberries - picked by farm families for home consumption and/or sold to the travelling public from a stand along the highway, (or even out of the trunk of the picker's car). Gradually, permanent huts appeared, individually owned, many on farm laneways within 20 miles of the intersection of Highways #7 and #41. Isobel built her own hut and entered the retail business. However, she later decided that if she built more huts, maintained ownership, and placed them on the highways, (by leasing land from a farmer and perhaps employing a member of the farm family), she could bring chain-store efficiencies, expense discipline and quality control to blueberry hut retailing. At her business peak, she had her huts from Sharbot Lake to Madoc along #7 and from Kaladar to Bon Echo on #41 north. This was a radical concept and soon she had a dominant position in the

At one point before she entered the hut chain venture, Isobel was a driver for a blueberry buyer who sourced his berries in Quebec and wholesaled them to markets in Ontario. After his death, Isobel continued the business, with her own drivers, as she rolled out her multiple hut concept. While Addington Highlands produced wonderful, wild berries in good growing years, (my mother had us pick at Skootamatta Lake when I was a kid), some years were not that good, and the local, independent pickers followed their own schedule. The inconsistent aspects of supply, problematic to her expanding requirements, were solved by using berries sourced from elsewhere - as far away as the U.S., Quebec and BC, with her drivers traveling to markets up to 4 hours away. Demand quickly exceeded local capacity. However, true to her roots in the Township, Isobel has always bought any locally-picked berries that were brought to her in good condition - and continues to do so. While she now has fewer huts than at her business peak, her need for berries remains significant, as she wholesales to the huts owned by others, as well as to markets in towns in Eastern Ontario. In addition, her Chip Stand and Pie Factory continue to have a large need for blueberries.

This is a complex business requiring accurate forecasting of retail and wholesale demand, in order to provide suppliers with a reliable estimate of her needs. Wastage, from the berries' limited shelf life is also a constant enemy of profitability.

While other retail food establishments have come and gone over the years, Isobel's Chip Wagon at Northbrook is one of the most successful food operations from Kaladar to Denbigh - and I suspect her 'return-on-assets' is higher than any. Her food is widely recognized as excellent-tasting. While primarily a 'fast food' outlet for hamburgers, chicken burgers, fish, sausage and fries, she also sells ice cream and bakery products, including her famous blueberry pies and muffins from one end of the 'wagon'. In the summer, it is obvious that the gas station on the same property is experiencing a greater volume, (due to the Chip Wagon), than a similar station at Kaladar, on the very busy intersection of #7 and #41. Isobel's reaction to this comment is very gracious: "We both benefit from each other's business." The Chip Wagon is an extraordinarily successful business in AH, with a small capital cost. Though it remains mobile, it would be missed by many customers, employees and others, if it was relocated or ceased operations.

Baked goods have been a feature of the huts for a long time-often made by the farm family working at the hut, Isobel's and others. Quality control/consistency of products depended on individual operators. Blueberries

Balance Sheet		
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank Account		\$340.06
Investment Funds		\$24,178.70
Raymond-James		
Trillium - O & A		
Trillium - Archiving		
Inventory		\$2,050.00
Total Current Assets		\$26,568.76
Fixed Assets		
Buildings & Property		\$14,350.00
Play fixtures		\$6,253.09
Computer & hardware		\$2,600.90
Office Equipment		\$4,044.44
Equipment		\$1,514.57
Museum Artifacts		\$21,562.19
Total Fixed assets		\$50,325.19
Total Asset		\$76,893.95
Liabilities		
Liability		\$20,127.74
Unearned Balance Equity		\$58,738.59
Retained Earnings		(\$304.27)
Net Income		(\$1,668.11)
Total Equity		\$76,893.95
Total Liability & Equity		
		\$76,893.95



The Old Sawmill at Rose Hill

The Roses of Rose Hill

by Marg Axford

A road sign on Highway 41 just north of Denbigh points east to the Rose Hill Road. On the day recently that I drove it, it was rocky with the occasional mud puddle, and absolutely quiet and peaceful. Spring was coming on slowly. Wooden fences enclosed what would have been clearings for pasture or crops. Like so many other places however, Rose Hill didn't always look this way.

The past life of this community revolves around well known local names. Death, Birth and Marriage registrations reveal some of its history. Peter S. Rose came to Denbigh from the Cherry Valley area in Prince Edward County and married Caroline Snider. As very early settlers, they were granted land on Lot 10, Concession 6 Denbigh Township.

One of their sons, Melbourne Rose, was born in 1854 or 1855 in Cherry Valley; in 1877 in Picton, he married Louisa Kelly from Ireland. Sometime between 1877 and 1883, Melbourne and Louisa moved "back

north", because one of their 14 children, Charles Wesley Rose, was born in 1883 in Rose Hill.

It was Melbourne Rose who cleared the land to build a house and barn and eventually a sawmill on the shore of Rose Hill Lake. Pictured in the sawmill photo are left to right Charlie Rose, his son Herb, his two brothers Ramsey and Sam and his father Melbourne.

The schoolhouse was built on the long hill close to the farm and served local children until there weren't enough to keep it open, when it was torn down. At that point, the children went to the Glenfield school.

Many thanks to Debbie Neale for the photos and the information, and to Bethany Armstrong who first sent in the sawmill photo and sparked the curiosity which has led to the current display. If you are around this summer, come in to the museum and archives to see further Rose family photos. ☐



Identity of Rose Family members:

Back Row—Joe Seeley holding daughter Annie, wife Ethel Seeley, Jennie Ferguson and Emma Rose nee Warlich

Middle Row—Rev McLean, Melbourne and Louise Rose nee Kelly, John and Mary Ferguson

Front Row—Ramsey Rose, ?? Hudson, Raymond Rose

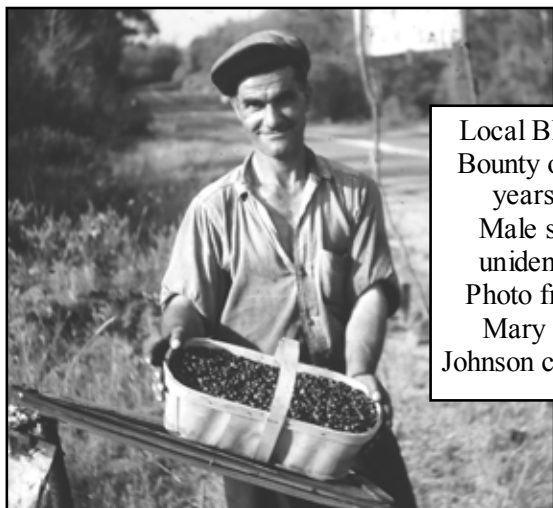


and have low margins and a limited shelf life.

Isobel had her own baked goods and was doing some wholesaling to hotels and other outlets, but wasn't capturing much of the margin. In a flash of brilliance, she thought that if she had her own factory for baked goods, she could both produce a consistent, high quality product and capture the greater retail margins instead of wholesale, for little incremental cost. One summer, the Pie Factory in Northbrook produced 12,000 pies. Operating with two shifts a day, it can produce 52 pies at a time, or 100-300 pies for the night shift depending upon the estimated demand for the next day (higher on the week end). One of her employees has been with her for 27 years and my observation is that her employees both respect and like her, testament to her management skills. Due to her focus and insistence on quality in all aspects of her production process, Isobel's baked goods and jams are in great demand and command prices that guarantee a good profit.

This amazing entrepreneurial business woman is 'past due' for recognition. She is 'home grown' and proud of it, without the advantages in growing up and working in the larger urban centres of southern Ontario. Her innovations are not imitations of others; they have been created and implemented by her alone. Many business people go through life and never discover or invent one new concept that changes an industry, or even their company. Isobel has produced four transforming innovations, for the benefit of her employees, her suppliers, competitors, the AH and L&A community and, certainly for herself. Her business has survived while many others in this community have perished. She works hard, has a close attention to detail and costs in a very diverse, complex, interlinked operation, and has earned the respect to which she is entitled.

This wonderful article was contributed by James G. Osborne, a venture capitalist and seasonal resident of Addington Highlands for over 60 years. ☐



Local Blueberry
Bounty of a few
years ago.
Male subject
unidentified.
Photo from the
Mary Lloyd
Johnson collection.

Financial Report

Update to March 2011

Ian Brumell

As a year end financial report, this one is as encouraging as any our society has had in the past. Although the numbers of people visiting our museum was down a bit in 2011 from the previous year, we did quite a good job of attracting funds from many sources. All sources are greatly appreciated particularly the Patron's Committee, which has made a significant impact on our financial stability over the years. We also had benefit from the Young Canada Works programme of the Canadian Museums Association and received funding from the Jobs Connect Programme of the Employment Ontario initiative.

Additionally, our reserve fund, managed by Raymond James Investment Managers in Kingston, has remained relatively constant due to the world financial situation and finished the year at \$24,179. More on this fund below. The ongoing locked-in endowment fund for future Society funding, managed by the Napanee District Community Foundation ended 2011 with a value of \$34,994.52.

The year end financial statements are included in this newsletter.

The big push regarding the financial status of the Society in 2012 will hinge on the construction of the addition to the museum which has been approved by your Board of Directors, the general membership and the Municipality. Everyone will be canvassed by the Fundraising Committee to donate what we are able toward construction costs. There are many pro bono and in-kind contributions being made, but basic materials must be paid for. The reserve fund will be a major resource for funding much of the construction. Our final budget for the addition will be in the area of \$85,000 over the next couple of years. We seem to be well on the way toward that goal.

I would encourage anyone with questions about our finances to contact us at any time, via email to <pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca>. ☐



Making Use of Your Museum In Researching Your Ancestors

So you know when your ancestor was born and when he died; you may know who he married and what line of work he did; you likely have a general idea where he lived. But you have come to a brick wall about his life - his school days, his extra-curricular activities, his extended family, if he ever moved, land deals, his long-lost siblings and parents, just to name a few. Because you are a perfectionist, or just nosy, but mostly because these are details that bring him to life and remind you he was once a vital, breathing person, you want to know these things about your ancestor. And in a lot of cases, these details can be found.

The question is – where do you look? You’ve exhausted all the online websites, you’ve googled him to death (there’s a pun), the census lists and the death records don’t help – so where do you turn? The answer is: start at the local level. Go to the nearest archives or museum where your ancestor spent most of his life, especially the early part of his life.

I am presently researching my long-lost United Empire Loyalist ancestor and have had to travel backwards from myself through eight generations in time to 1738. It has been quite a journey. So I am going to use this research to demonstrate how the small, local and often out-of-the-way facilities are almost irreplaceable as sources of documents, records and the like. Since none of my ancestors came from this county, I will be referring to other locations but such a search is translatable all across Ontario, for that matter, anywhere.

My first challenge was connecting my dad to his parents, because he was never registered at birth – a circumstance that happened a lot in rural Ontario, even into the early 1900s. If I couldn’t get anything from his 1912 birth, then I wondered if his 1987 death would produce any helpful information. Go to the newspaper archives. In my case, that would be the Tillsonburg Library where the Tillsonburg News is archived on microfilm. Tillsonburg doesn’t have a family history centre as we know it and there doesn’t seem to be much genealogy going on there. Sure enough, the newspaper obituary stated my dad’s full name, his deceased parents and also named each of us four children with our spouses – and the grandchildren. A perfect obituary names four generations. Newspaper archives although they may contain flaws, are acceptable as secondary sources because

they are a public record. . Since it’s the female line that I have to follow to the UEL ancestor, I found his mother’s obituary in the same archives, years earlier of course, giving who her parents were. These are all things that I already knew but in making a UE application, the burden is proving the connections between generations. And just to put the icing on the cake, I found my own wedding write-up to prove whose child I was, and to make the connection between my maiden name and married name. Sometimes, proving who you are can be a hassle in this modern day of security issues and privacy concerns.

Next, I wanted to find my dad’s parents’ marriage record to have a primary source for them; this has more credibility than a secondary source. Newspapers for whatever reason can get things wrong. I looked everywhere for my grandparents’ 1909 marriage record – on ancestry, in the T’burg newspaper, etc. From my experience, I have learned that almost everything you want to know is out there – somewhere. We all lived in Houghton Tp, Norfolk County, so I figured they were married locally. I headed off to the Eva Brook Donly Museum in the town of Simcoe (not the county). This is a historical old residence which was willed to the historical society and there the group operates a county museum and houses their archives. They have a great facility right on the main street. They are friendly, helpful, and dedicated – another aspect of small family history centres that make or break a visit. They were very keen to help me and I left them with other small projects. A few days after getting back home from my trip, Robin from the Donly Museum emailed me the correct 1908 record of my grandparents’ marriage – there, I was looking in the wrong year, our family bible was off a year. Also she sent me two newspaper write-ups of the event, giving me where exactly where they were married, in her grandfather’s home and telling me they went east somewhere on a honeymoon. I never figured my grandfather to spend money on a wedding trip in 1908!

By then my grandmother’s parents were both dead, Dennis in 1898 of TB and Ida in 1903 from childbirth complications in her second marriage. But Dennis’ mother and all five of Dennis’ siblings have been a brick wall. Dennis and his dad I know about. But did his mother Catherine re-marry? When did she die? What was her maiden name? And what about his sisters and brothers? I could never find any of them on any census after John’s death in 1874. Robin – bless her heart – “lives” to research family history; she and her dedicated co-worker named Angie found a marriage

record for a sister Margaret, daughter of John and Catherine. This led her to finding Margaret's 1933 death record, naming her parents and the cemetery of her burial. Finally, I had my great-great grandmother Catherine's maiden name – Shea. From this information I could go on and research Margaret and her husband. I found that they moved from Simcoe after their 2nd child to Hamilton, and from the city directory there that he had a blacksmith business for many years, naming the street where they lived. I found eight children for them, and some marriages, even a couple of grandchildren. Plus now – I have another cemetery to tramp, another field trip!

Angie wasn't done yet. She located a Peter J. and a wife Mary in Omaha, Nebraska on the 1930 census that fit as one of Dennis' brothers. This Peter was of the right age, b. Ontario, md c1917 at age 53, parents born in Ireland (which I already knew from our 1851 census), but stated his father (that would be John) was born in Co Down (Ireland) and his mother (that would be Catherine) in the Irish Free State. So that was new. I found Peter again in 1910 and 1920 in Columbus City, Nebraska, single. I checked ancestry.com for "Mary McCaffrey" and found out from the US Social Security Index that she died June 1969. I found a volunteer in Omaha who would look up her obituary and now I know her maiden name was McTaggart, and I cross-referenced with earlier censuses and could find her with her parents and siblings. From the Omaha city directory (ancestry.com) I found out that she and another woman owned and operated a dressmaking business and shop downtown Omaha during the 1940s. Peter's name seems to disappear about 1938 so I can surmise he probably died about then – he was about 20 years older than her. I still have to find a way to get someone in Omaha to find an obituary for Peter to see if we are on the trail of the right Peter, brother of Dennis.

Also, on that Donly Museum trip, I located a booklet entitled "School Life in the 1920s" by my grandfather's sister (my dad's dad); she was my dad's teacher from 1920-1924. I am always looking for ways to fill out my dad's early life. This booklet tells me how I can re-construct his experiences at school. This is the same school where his dad went – and I went for a little while. In the booklet is pictured Mary the Teacher with her class of c1920, and there kneeling in the first row is my dad - a rare picture of him as a young boy.

Our great-great-grandfather was a civic-minded man and was rumoured to have spent time on township

and county council, even rising to Warden of the County, that position with a lot of political and social status back in the day. Squirreled away on the archive shelves was a booklet on municipal officers through the 1880s right up to the 1960s. The rumours of Squire were correct; all the years of his service are listed in that little book, and I even found out my dad spend several years on school board for Houghton Tp, just at the time the new central school was being planned and bussing was introduced in our corner of the world.

But ALL THIS started with a simple visit to the Eva Brook Donly Museum. Their family history room is manned exclusively by volunteers who are rotate in and out according to a schedule. I am closing in on my great-great grandfather's missing family. So what started out as a Loyalist ancestor search produced much more results than I could ever have imagined.

On another visit to a regional ie local history museum in Southampton, Bruce County to try and local something about my husband's family origins, I made another important discovery. This was serendipitous, an accident of finding something useful without looking for it. While Norm was paying up his photocopying tab at the desk, I was sitting at a table beside a shelf on which was displayed a book - no, a published tome – containing "early Ontario marriages", ie before the 1869 registrations began. I reached for the book, steadied it on my left palm, and with my right hand, riffled a handful of pages. The riffles paused, some swung left inducing the book to part at a certain page. My glance caught a surname; I don't know, your own familiar name must stand out more than every other one. Whatever, there was the marriage date of my grandpa's parents chiseled on the page; it was like it was etched in stone. In family records their marriage date had always been "about 1859"; in fact, it was 19 June 1860. Therein lies a tale – their first child was born 6 August 1860. It was creepy really. What made me look at that shelf in the first place, what made me pull out that book, and why did the pages stop at their record? It was like they were drawing me to that date, they wanted me to find it, they wanted to set the record straight. My great-grandparents were married in a village 3-4 miles from their home in Houghton Tp, Norfolk County, and for me to find that record a couple hundred kilometers away in Southampton is so amazing!

I've had so many amazing discoveries in little out of the way places that I cannot remember them all. I could fill the whole newsletter with such experiences.

2012 AGM Briefs

Marcella Neely reported that the Patron subscription was lowered in 2011 by 20 Patrons and the income by \$1,000. Similarly, the Museum visitors number was down to 2006 levels, with a similar decrease in donations at the door. Both of these situations can be attributed to the economic status of the country. In the case of the museum numbers, the hot dry weather experienced in 2011 is a definite factor in attendance; the lakes are more appealing on a hot day than the museum. To counteract this downturn, the Patron committee has a "new members" appeal going on for 2012, while the museum is planning for a fresh look by doing some revisions to the exhibits.

Another function of any AGM is to ensure that there is an active well qualified Board of Directors. This year saw the retirement of Muriel Vanness from the Board and the election of Catherine Grant of Denbigh to take her place. We thank Muriel for her efforts over the last few years and we welcome Catherine as another voice from "the north".



Making Use of Your Museum, cont'd ...

I could also write about discoveries in county land offices, in provincial courthouses, large city cemeteries and small rural churchyards. I also have some stories about big city family history centres that never even both to return an email, are so impersonal that the staff can barely give you the time of day to the point where you feel embarrassed to ask your question. But the small, intimate family centres are the best. These are the places that because they are not high profile, do not usually benefit from government largesse but are left to their own devices to raise operating funds. Places like us, "far from the madding crowd" (Thank you, Thomas, for that), trotting out our displays each spring, faithfully housing folders of family trees and archived material, roasting hot dogs on the lawn at season opening, and hosting fall bus trips to revive settlement days. These are the places that ancestor hunters remember.



Another genealogical article from Carol Morrow.

A Family Says Thank You

On October 30, 2011, the Cloyne and District Historical Society honoured the memory of Rhena Pollard Cole by unveiling a plaque dedicated to her. In the days and weeks following this event, Rhena's descendants expressed their gratitude to us through cards, letters and emails.

"I commend your society for recognizing all the thousands of women whose story remains untold, whose past was never glorious but who endured in spite and perhaps sometimes because of the hardships that helped shape them into who they were. These women remind us to be generous to the disadvantaged." Judith Wright nee Bindle, Saskatchewan

"It's unfortunate that so many stories such as Rhena's have been lost in time, but the work being done by your Society will help to 'preserve the past' and ensure that the next generations will have insight into the obstacles that their forefathers overcame to build this country." June Cole Gillies and Ruby Cole Rennie, Manitoba

These are excerpts from just two of the cards, but they express the sentiments of the others as well. Although many of the Cole descendants live in western Canada and so were unable to attend the dedication, they wanted us to know how much they supported our endeavours.



Book Review

The Denbigh Public Library was the scene recently of a book promotion of great interest to the Denbigh community and beyond. The book by Andrew Minigan, "Hardships Not Withstanding", is a collection of pieces from the late 1800s up to the beginning of World War I, taken from the newspaper, The Napanee Express.

The book gives the reader a fascinating insight into the businesses of Denbigh, the families and the hardships of life at that time period, including the losses of young children due to the scarcity of doctors, the difficulties in keeping school teachers in such a remote area, and even the loss of toes due to accidents with axes. The book is available from the Cloyne Pioneer Museum and from the Lennox and Addington County Museum in Napanee.



Reference Books for Genealogy or Local History Studies

1. Frontenac County: County of 1,000 Lakes
Away back in Clarendon-Miller
Back of Sunset, a history of Central Frontenac
Way Back in Frontenac (Northern Townships) - Census Information from 1860-1900
Memories, by Eleanor Flieler
2. Lennox and Addington County: The Smiling Wilderness
Historical Glimpses of Lennox and Addington
Way Back in Addington (Northern Townships)-Census Information
from 1860 to 1900
The Story of Old Hay Bay Church
Lennox and Addington Atlas
3. Cloyne/Bon Echo: Bon Echo - The Denison Years
The Mazinaw Experience
The Oxen and the Axe
Unto These Hills
The Art of Bon Echo
Sunset of Bon Echo
4. Denbigh: This Was Yesterday
5. Flinton: Village on the Skoot
6. Northbrook: When I Was a Boy - The David Trumble Story
7. Ottawa Valley: Eganville, Jewel of the Bonnechere
Lumber Kings and Shantymen - Logging and Lumbering in the Ottawa Valley
Heart and Soul- Portraits of Canada's Ottawa Valley
8. Matawatchan: St. Andrews United Church, Matawatchan
The Carswell Story - 350 Years of Pioneering History
The Strong Family - 150 Years in Canada
Matawatchan, A Glimpse into the Past
9. Eastern Ontario: Whiskey and Wickedness
Historic Sites and Monuments of Kingston and District
Land Roll Book - Land Agent Records 1865-1893 for South Canonto, Palmerston,
Clarendon-Miller, Abinger, Denbigh, Hinchinbrooke and Olden Townships
Where the Heck is Balaheck? - Unusual Place names in Eastern Ontario
Chalk, Challenge and Change - Stories from Women Teachers in Ontario, 1920-1979

These books can be borrowed from the museum on a sign-out list. Contact Margaret Axford for this.