

The Pioneer Times

NEWS VEHICLE OF THE CLOYNE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The sign on the general store in Cloyne says Harvey Spencer General Merchant. Harvey and Rachael Spencer bought the store from Rachael's father Stanley Wheeler in 1933 and ran it until 1949. You will notice that today Highway 41 is at a lower elevation than the road was when this picture was taken. *Photo: Sandi Wickware Album and the Postcard Album, Flickr.*

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Cloyne & District Historical Society
"Preserving the Past for the Future"

The Pioneer Times

Volume 24, No. 1, Spring/Summer 2024

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Catherine Grant, Carolyn McCulloch*

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2002, 2012, 2021 Recipient

CDHS Report

The CDHS Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on March 19. Catherine Grant and Ken Hook stood for re-election and were approved. Cindy Austin was confirmed as our newest board member and, as of the April board meeting, our new secretary. The board and members would like to thank Warren Anderson for his guidance over the past year as President. Warren is remaining on the board, Ken Hook has taken the President's position for the upcoming year, and Cathy Newcombe Vice.

The CDHS has 63 members, and at the AGM Carolyn McCulloch told us a little bit about each one of you. It's great to have you in our organization.

Our last newsletter was published in November and since then we have enjoyed great speakers – Margaret Axford and Cindy Austin and been entertained by Joe Grant. (Read more on page 7).

Our annual Christmas luncheon was held for the second year at Hunter's Creek Golf Club on December 4th. Thank you, Marlean McLean, for organizing a fun event.

Upcoming events are on page 12. I hope you can join us. 🌸

Treasurer's Report – Spring 2024

The writing of the year-end 2023 financial report shows that the CDHS was as successful in 2023 as it has been for the past many years, the Covid period notwithstanding. That period did put a bit of a damper on the activities in and associated with our Museum and hence the financial successes of those couple of years were curtailed. However, in the past couple of years the Society has been able to bring the financial situation back to the same levels as before Covid.

The success has been attributable to more folks being able to get out and travel, camp, explore and enjoy the "touristical" activities available in Eastern Ontario. Bon Echo Provincial Park has been full the past couple of summers and lower fuel prices have contributed to people being able to travel more economically. This visiting and attendance to our area meant visits to the Museum. This meant that with the external sales events and book sales

and donations at the Museum, we received about \$3,500 this past summer from visitors.

Further to this, the Society has had the pleasure of a closer financial involvement with the local Lions Club through both the Speaker's Forum and their weekly farmer's market. Much praise must go to Carolyn McCulloch for her attendance and organization of the external sales events. The CDHS is supporting the Speaker's Forum through the use of its charitable number so that grants can be more easily obtained for the Forum.

Still further to the above and following our usual granting from all three levels of Government, we were able to again fund three students last summer. They were Jacob Heyman, Libby Lessard and Elizabeth Lemke. The Society thanks them for the work they did.

The Provincial Heritage Organization Development Grant, as usual, contributed to the operational costs of the Society as well. We are grateful for their contribution.

The CDHS Endowment Fund ended 2023 with a value of nearly \$102,000 which gave the Society a windfall of \$3,360 which assisted with operating expenses and salaries. We anticipate a further payment this summer from the Fund. I would point out that contributions to the Endowment Fund do initiate a charitable receipt with any donations directly to the Fund helping to finance and provide funding over the foreseeable future. Donations can be made directly to the CHDS or directly to the Community Foundation for Lennox and Addington. Both organizations can issue suitable charitable receipts.

The year end financial reports are elsewhere in this newsletter and show the financial stability is sustained due to the capable and appreciated financial contributions from members, the Museum and outside sales endeavours and the generous granting by various Government organizations. Without the help of its members and supporters, our organization would not be the recognized success it is. Thank you.

If there are any questions about the financial reports or anything else, we welcome your communicating via our address of pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca.

Ian Brumell, Treasurer. 🌸 Financial Report Page 5

The Bookstore salutes Bon Echo

Generations of people have found spiritual solace in the Mazinaw Rock. Rock climbers have climbed it, artists have painted it, and eagles have perched on its granite peak. At the Bookstore, we celebrate the writers who have written about it. We are fortunate in the Cloyne Pioneer Museum Bookstore to have the most comprehensive collection of all of these stories about Bon Echo.

Our most recent publication, *In the Shadow of the Rock*, by Margaret Axford, reveals the period before Dr. Weston Price purchased Bon Echo. This new information has not been published before.

The Mazinaw Experience Bon Echo and Beyond exemplifies the orderly way that history can be learned. It is a chronology of the area, with many charts and pictures.

The Rock is loved by geologists, botanists, and bird watchers as a guide to the natural science of Bon Echo.

The Good Echo makes for wonderful summer reading. It is the fictionalized story of the original owners of Bon Echo.

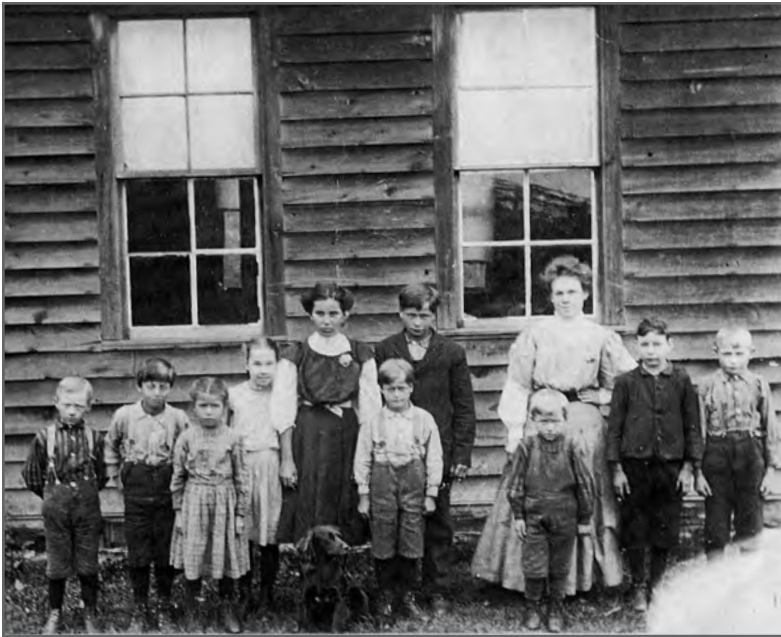
If you are curious about Flora McDonald's son, Merrill Denison, and his gift to the people of Ontario, you will find all the answers in *Bon Echo, The Denison Years*.

Five of the Group of Seven chose to paint in Bon Echo, along with many others. It started with the Algonkian painters who created the mysterious pictographs. The highly illustrated book *Massanoga, The Art of Bon Echo* preserves the famous art created there.

In 1916 suffragette Flora MacDonald produced the first of 6 little books that celebrated Bon Echo and Walt Whitman. We have had them reproduced. *The Sunset of Bon Echo* will delight Mazinaw history lovers.

Visit the Bookstore in the Museum this summer. It is open 7 days a week from 10AM to 4PM. You may also order them from our website: cloynepioneeremuseum.ca

Carolyn McCulloch 🌸



Eileen Flieler went searching for the history of SS#8 Barrie school. She had this picture of her husband Arnold's mother, Eveline Bauder, 4th from the left, and his father Otto, 7th from the left, posing for a school picture. Eveline looked to be 6 or 7 years old. She was born in 1898 so Eileen thought the school must have been built before 1900.

At the township office in Plevna, Eileen found five ledger books of township minutes each spanning 5 years and spent 6 1/2 hours over two days looking through them. She discovered when the school was built, how much it cost, and how it was financed.

The rest of the history is from the Flieler family.

SS#8 BARRIE SCHOOL by Eileen Flieler

This former school is located along North Frontenac Rd. 506 - on part of Lot 10 Concession 8 in the former Barrie Township (now North Frontenac).

In 1891 the township council of the day was approached by a group of parents for money to build a school – at that time there was no school between Fernleigh and Marble Lake. The cost of constructing and furnishing the school was estimated at \$300.00.

The Council agreed to loan \$100.00 to be paid back in four years at a rate of 7% interest! The remaining \$200 had to be raised by the parents.

The school was built in 1892. It was to teach students from grades 1 – 8. Often those wishing to go beyond grade 8 were helped with grades 9 and 10 as the nearest Secondary School was Sharbot Lake or Tweed.



In 1946 due to the small number of students, the school was closed, and students were bussed to Marble Lake. (Barrie #6). Later that year the school building was sold to Otto Flieler who, with some renovations, rented it as a cottage for a short time but this wasn't very profitable as it wasn't on the lake.

He then converted it to a workshop where he and his son Arnold built rowboats for several years.

Like most country schools at that time, it was often used as a community centre – one report states that a wedding was once held here.

It was often referred to as Salmond's school – but we're not sure why as the 1/2 acre was originally part of a mining property.

Arnold's mother, born in 1898, went to school here as did Arnold and his siblings.

Ruby Bishop – a former member of the Pioneer club once taught here.

The building, now over 130 years old is owned by Arnold's sons (Otto's grandsons).

SS#8 Barrie School as it appears today. It is easily missed, tucked into the trees at 3608 Road 506.
Photo: Ken Hook

Cloyne and District Historical Society Financial Statements to 31 December, 2023

Profit & Loss

<u>Revenue</u>	
Historical Society Income - 4-1000	
Misc & Museum Donations	\$3,377.23
Other Donations	\$1,210.25
Federal Gov't Grants	\$14,837.06
Provincial Grants	\$1,545.00
Municipal Grants	\$1,000.00
Endowment Fund Interest	\$3,360.00
Membership	\$409.41
Calendar Sales	\$61.00
Other Item Sales	\$1.00
Book Sales	\$2,563.38
Special Events	
- Lions S. Forum grant	\$6,014.93
- Christmas luncheon	\$684.00
Patron Membership	\$475.00
In-Memorialium donations	\$80.00
Misc & Interest	\$185.26
Total Revenue	\$35,803.52

<u>Expenses</u>	
Historical Society Expenses - 6-0000	
Accounting & Office Services	\$683.05
Meeting Expense	\$326.43
Utilities - Hydro, etc.	\$1,766.82
Outside Services	\$1,881.00
Photocopy expense	\$31.50
Maintenance & Repair	\$112.01
Postage & Shipping	\$147.10
Office Expenses	\$28.89
Museum Grounds Expense	\$620.00
Archival supplies	\$15.17
Insurance	\$3,206.52
Book Purchases	\$1,626.20
Special Events - Lion's CF&LA	\$6,014.93
- Opening	\$175.00
- Christmas luncheon	\$573.38
- Books@Market	\$120.00
Patron Expense	\$42.95
Professional Memberships	\$378.82
Endowment Transfers	\$300.00
Misc. Expense	\$875.48
Museum Wages & Salaries	\$18,370.84
Museum Payroll Expenses	\$1,588.87
Total	\$38,884.96

Communications Committee - 6-3000	
Advertising & Promotion	\$155.76
Website Expense	\$83.99
Newsletter Expense	\$365.73
Total	\$605.48
Equipment Expense - 6-1200	
Computer/peripherals	\$177.86
Office Equipment	\$42.85
Other Equipment	610.76
Total	\$831.47

<u>Assets</u>	
Current Assets	
Bank Account	\$3,837.94
Reserve Fund	\$16,957.00
Receivables HST rebate	\$277.42
Total	\$21,072.36

Fixed Assets	
Buildings & Property	\$155,000.00
Display fixtures	\$7,404.00
Computer & Hardware	\$6,160.12
Office Equipment	\$4,000.00
Other Equipment	\$1,555.00
Museum Artifacts	\$23,000.00
Total	\$197,119.12

Total Assets **\$218,191.48**

Liabilities & Equity

Equity	
CDHS Equity	\$92,113.00
Opening Balance Equity	\$58,738.59
Retained Earnings	\$71,858.28
Net Income	-\$4,518.39
Total	\$218,191.48

Total Liability & Equity **\$218,191.48**

Total Expenses **\$40,321.91**

Total **\$38,884.96**

Total Revenue **\$35,803.52**

Notes

- Inventory consists of copies of unsold books, calendars and other sales items.
- The Cloyne and District Historical Society Endowment Fund ended the year with a value of **\$101,794**

Land O'Lakes Speakers' Forum

The Cloyne & District Historical Society in partnership with the Land O'Lakes Lions Club is again this year presenting The Land O'Lakes Speakers' Forum. Mark your calendars for the 4th Wednesday of each month from April to September. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Speakers will begin at 7 pm followed by a Q&A and ending at approximately 8:30 pm.

We acknowledge generous funding for this event from Raymond James. Thank you for your support!

April 24, 2024

Terry Fallis

Bestselling Author



Terry worked as a political staffer in the 1980s and a communications consultant in the 1990s. He has been a novelist and humorist for the past 20 years and is an award-winning author of nine national bestsellers. Terry won the Stephen Leacock Award (2008) and Canada Reads (2011) for his book *The Best Laid Plans*.

Speaking Topic

Terry will speak about his career, and about the publishing industry. <https://terryfallis.com/>

May 22, 2024

Rand Simon

Hockey Agent



Rand joined Newport Sports Management just prior to the 1993 NHL Entry Draft. Rand is very active in all contract negotiations and is recognized as an industry leader in salary arbitration preparation and in conducting research for contractual negotiations.

Speaking Topic

An agent's role in representing, managing and marketing hockey players.
<https://www.thehockeyagency.com/agency-team-detail/9>

June 26, 2024

Rita Di Ghent

**Performing Arts,
Musician & Storyteller**



Rita di Ghent is a renowned jazz singer and musician, and for the past 23 years has been a faculty member in the Arts, Media, Performance, and Design Department of York University. Her singular brand of storytelling involves music, singing, and drumming.

Speaking Topic

Rita will speak about "Creating from a Neurodivergent Brain". Rita has a brain wiring known as aphantasia, which is characterized by an inability to form mental images.

<https://www.ritadighent.com/>

July 24, 2024

Dr. John Granfield

**Acting Dean
University of Guelph**



John Cranfield is the Acting Dean of the Ontario Agricultural College at the University of Guelph, and a Professor in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics. John is a noted expert on the economics of food and has been featured in over 70 television, radio and newspaper interviews.

An important aspect of his research involves understanding the factors that drive what people buy and consume, such as the influence of advertising programs.

Speaking Topic

Agriculture and Food in a Post-Pandemic World: Challenges & opportunities for Canadian agriculture.
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/fare/users/jcranfie>

Find additional information about speakers on our website cloynepioneermuseum.ca and at Eventbrite <https://rb.gy/9h13cd>

August 25, 2024

Alana Free

VP Goodlife Fitness



Alana is Vice President of Good Life Fitness Canada. Proudly Canadian since 1979, GoodLife Fitness is the largest fitness club chain in Canada and the fourth largest overall in the world. With over 365 clubs from coast to coast, including GoodLife Fitness, Énergie Cardio, Fit4Less by GoodLife and ÉconoFitness Clubs, approximately 14,400 employees and more than 1.25 million members, GoodLife is helping to transform the health and wellness of 1 in 28 Canadians every day.

Speaking Topic

How to Live Longer and Enjoy a Better Life.

September 25, 2024

Gary Colwell

Astronomy Professor



Gary Colwell is an accomplished Amateur Astronomer and an award winning Astrophotographer, with 58 years in this field. Gary played a key role in the development of the North Frontenac Dark Sky Preserve, and has built 2 Observatories on the Preserve housing a 16" and 14" telescope respectively. Gary resides in Ardoch Ontario and has 6 private observatories on his property which he makes available to fellow observers and astrophotographers.

Speaking Topic

Star gazing in the dark skies of L&A and Frontenac Counties.



Left: At our November meeting, Margaret Axford spoke about the history of bringing medical and social services to our area. In 1971 a "get a doctor" committee was formed. Land O' Lakes Community Services was incorporated in 1976. Thanks to strong-willed, dedicated community members and great fundraising efforts and despite a Ministry of Health official saying "you will never have a nursing home here" we have Pine Meadow, a 64 bed not-for-profit long-term care facility. Margaret's speech can be found at <https://pioneer.mazinaw.on.ca/category/featured-posts/>.

In January we watched a National Film Board (NFB) film entitled "Log Drive". It was filmed in 1957 in Quebec.

Centre: Cindy Austin is a family history researcher with a special interest in genetic genealogy. Cindy spoke at our February meeting about how genealogical research can solve family mysteries and find known cousins and unknown birth relatives.

Right: We were entertained by Herman Keller (played by his grandson, Joe Grant) who worked as a cook in the lumber camps around Hardwood Lake. It was a hard life in the bush, away from family for months in primitive living conditions told through tales, music and song - "as the hands roughen up so do the songs". There was humour – the story of "Skinny Jimmy" who had "Big Rufus" as a bunkmate and what happened when the 8-hole outhouse was not finished on time. A couple of CDHS members were sized up as potential shanty boys. I think Herman was generous in his assessment. Above, Joe's brother Paul was a good sport in helping Herman in his demonstration of logging implements.

The Years of the Depression, An Interview with Rachael Spencer for Mr. Hotchkiss History by Carole Anne Burris

Carolyn and Elspeth McCulloch discovered this article at the Hastings Archives. It was from a school assignment at Madoc High School in 1974. It was part of a fond donated by the teacher Mr. Holchkiss(?).



Harvey and Rachael Spencer in front of Spencer General Store in 1946. *Photo: Bill Harbison Album, Flickr.* The Myer's Cave fire tower was located east of Myer's Cave on what is now Tower Road. *Photo: Gary Long Album, Flickr*

Rachael, during the depression where did you live, and where did you and your husband work? About 46 years ago my husband and I lived in Cloyne and at the time my husband worked with the Forestry. He worked both as a Smoke Chaser if you know what that is, and in the Tower at Myer's Cave.

How much did he earn at this job? He made about \$60 a month for six months of the year and nothing the rest of the time. That was considered a good wage.

Do you recall some of the food prices at this time? Yes, 10 tomatoes were 10¢, and you could buy a shank of beef would only cost you 35¢. Potatoes were 50¢ a bag and I believe if I'm not incorrect that this was a 90 lb. bag. People on the road, they were putting in #41, were working on building the highway because the government were building it because there were so many people out of work. There was no welfare then. They built it so that the

working men could earn enough to get something to eat. They earned 87¢ a day and the man had to board himself. If I can remember correctly, they gave \$2.50 a day for teams and of course, this would buy their hay and grain also. We were in the store right after my husband left the forestry and we bought the store in 1933, and it was a general store and we took over the post office. We used to act as a bank for the people who got their cheques at the end of the week and we would cash over \$1800 worth of cheques on the weekend. My husband would go to Tweed and cash the cheques and then come back for the next bunch. There were lumber camps all around. In the summer we had the tourists and then in the winter we had the lumber camps, and they were as financially good to us as the summer people. The tourists would buy 6 slices of bacon or maybe half a dozen eggs, or 2 slices of liver and you have it you know. The camps would buy 8 by

30 dozen case of eggs and they bought bacon by the slabs, potatoes by the bags and of course that would make the handling a lot easier. If you were near a railroad in those days, we were 15 miles from one, there were an awful lot of tramps you know, railroad bums. They followed the railroad, and they were always asking for a handout. We had a big house, and we'd pay about \$6 a month rent. We heated it with wood and in the winter when my husband wasn't working he'd get hold of a saw and cut a lot of wood and that's what we used for heat.

I worked for the township for ten years as a treasurer and I got \$60 a year for that. I had to be there every day and I even had to look after the land sales. I worked for the school board, I was secretary/treasurer, and I got \$20 a year.

What did the people do then for entertainment? There would be square dances in people's houses or in the old town hall and we had a really good time. We had sleigh

riding parties and we had the front of a toboggan (my interpretation of the word used), the one with runners, and we'd all get on that and have a lot of fun. We had bonfires and we would skate on the lake around a bonfire.

What about some of the hardships you encountered? Well mostly it was the prices because nobody had any money. It was pretty hard to be in the store and see people with kids almost starving and not give them credit and the credit business kills us you know.

Did you give the people much credit? Oh terrible. We lost a lot. We just couldn't do anything about it. My husband was good-hearted. We lost hundreds and hundreds of dollars on every account nearly.

How did the people react towards the depression? What feelings were expressed? I think that they just took it for granted. I've seen people go around today that are well off and they're not even as happy as we were. But I saw people with sweaters cut off at the elbows because the bottom part of the sleeve was wore out and really it was just pathetic. No clothes, there was nothing. People didn't even have right shoes to wear. They were wearing those big old rubbers that didn't come up to their ankles. They'd wear them in the summer even. I never felt any bitterness. We were in contact with many people because we were in the post office.

Did the depression help you to learn anything about yourself and your neighbours? Oh yes! I think it softens because the kids today don't know what it means to go without. Imagine having to go out with only 50¢ to spend. I can remember when postage was 2¢ and then it went up to 3¢ and until it kept on gradually going up.

If there was a depression today, do you think that the kids could handle it? No, I don't think they could cope with it. They've always had lots of money. We never had any money in our wallets. We had nothing. There was no money and there was no aid. Nobody had any hospitalization even.

Did the people of your community help each other? They were more social, more loving and they were warmer in their temperament. Kindness meant more then than it does now because if you did something for someone they never forgot it. School teachers of first graders were given \$80 a month and they had to pay their board out of that.

Was there much stealing or crime then? No, there wasn't very much to steal. No I don't think there was as much crime. There wasn't, there really wasn't.

Did the men do much drinking? Well there were bootleggers. One year there was Prohibition and they couldn't sell any liquor of any kind at that time and we lived on the border of two counties. And one was wet and the other was dry. And they used to sell moonshine, especially the Indians. They had stills you see. Of course grain wasn't worth very much. I think flour was worth only something less than \$2 a bag and that would be 100 lbs. I think bread was 2 loafs for a quarter, milk was 10¢ a quart. You were well away if you had a dollar. You could get a lot of stuff for it. I remember beef. They sold fronts for 6¢ a pound and hinds for 8¢. And if the lambs and calves were born and they didn't want to keep them, they'd just hit them on the head. But you have to remember that the population wasn't what it is now.

We used to dance in houses and we'd open the windows right up to the top and put the curtains up high and everyone would just go to town. It never cost anything for the music. Somebody could always play the fiddle.

What could people do to earn extra money? They couldn't do anything. There was nothing to do! They had rabbits and ate deer. Of course in those days there wasn't a ban on deer as there is now.

What were they driving in the early 30s? There weren't that many cars. The first car my dad had was a 1923 Ford. But the first car my husband had was a convertible from 1929 with rumble seats. Cars didn't cost too much. I think that I remember that was ever bought was \$700.

So gas wasn't very dear then? People didn't even keep gas back there. There'd be two or three cars go back on a Sunday sight seeing and they would stop and there'd be nowhere to get gas. And they'd really be stuck.

What was the population in Cloyne? About 50 people.

After the period of the depression did the population of Cloyne increase, decrease or stay the same? Well, I think that more people came in from the city after the depression. There were more houses going up because no-one was building during the depression. We couldn't afford to.

There was just radios then, there was no TV. The first radio we had was about 1937.

Did you have a doctor in Cloyne? No, the nearest doctor was in Tweed. But we had a dentist come in one time every 2 weeks. One came in from Perth and one from Kingston. He used to come in and he'd set up his little shop in the hotel, the old place that was built about 1850. He'd bring his tools with him and boy did it ever hurt! He'd just use it with his foot like a kettle sewing machine. It was really rough. He'd pull people's teeth sometimes 9 at a time. I don't think he even froze them. I know he pulled my mother's and I just thought that that was terrible. Hardly anybody went to the doctor. We couldn't afford it. There weren't too many diseases going around. Nobody could afford to go to the doctor anyways. The fees weren't that high, we just didn't have any money. I think the dentist charged \$1 a filling and 50¢ to pull a tooth.

Did women usually have their babies born at home? Yes. I think I was the first woman from Cloyne that was ever in the hospital to have a child. And that was in 1930.

Considering the circumstances surrounding the first Depression do you feel that we're heading for another one? People say we are, but it doesn't seem similar to me. We never had such good times as this before the depression before. There wasn't that much fun at anytime. (This seems confusing to me)

Was land very expensive? Oh no. We could've bought a house in Deseronto for \$4000 with hardwood floors. But my husband and I were afraid to buy it because we couldn't even keep the taxes up. You get chances to buy things if you had any money but nobody had any.

Did anyone in the area have a lot of money? No! Not around Cloyne anyways.

Did all of the children go to school? Yes, they all went to school but some of them didn't even have butter on their bread. We used to take bread to school and toast it on top of that old box stove.

At any time did you ever regret having to go through the depression? No, I really didn't. It makes us, what would you call it, flexible. I can contend with almost anything. It gets so you can contend with poverty. You learn to get

along. Everybody comes and you ask them for dinner. My husband went up north one time and they asked him in for dinner and all they had was buttermilk pop. But they were sharing it with him. That was like they did in the Bible time. You didn't have to have a big spread to ask somebody in to eat. So my husband just had buttermilk pop. He hated it you know but that's all they had for dinner. Everybody was more gracious to one another.

Was there a lot of mail coming through your post office? I sat on the stool in there one morning and made out 34 money orders and never got off my seat. Everybody that pays on their washing machine, car or anything that's financed and all of the orders from Simpson's and Eaton's goes money order. Nobody had any cheques because they didn't have anything in the bank. I think mortgages were only 2 % or 2 ½ %. You see now it's 9 ¾ % at Victoria and Grey. You never had anything given to you.

I could've gone to school in Kingston for \$11 a month but my dad wouldn't let me go. Money was scarce and he didn't think that girls should be educated.

Did you think that the depression was more trying on the men, women or children? I'd imagine the men would have it pretty difficult. You know? He's not bringing in the bacon. I don't think you kids couldn't even imagine what it was like.

People seemed to be happy. They were sliding down hills on tin signs and on shovels. They'd get on the shovels and go down the hill with the handle sticking out the back. I never had a sled in my life.

Was there a scarcity of food? I think there was lots of food, especially meat and potatoes. But the delicacies were scarce because people couldn't afford to buy them. But there was lots of milk but milk wasn't pasteurized.

We used to have corn husking and everyone had corn husking in the fall and everybody'd go. We used to have all kinds of food like pumpkin pie because eggs were cheap and they grew the pumpkins. If somebody got a red ear they'd run and kiss who they like and my husband, before we got married, was at a husking and this Mrs. Milly was there and he thought that he'd go over and grab a kiss so she stuck a hat pin in him. He hated her ever after. She didn't like it but you were supposed to go for it. If they got a red ear they had a right to kiss you.

Well this concludes my interview. It helps to depict better

the hamlet of Cloyne during the depression years. And Rachael Spencer is one of those kind-hearted people who lived during the days of nothing in the early 30s!

Editor's notes: "Buttermilk Pop is made with cornmeal, or sometimes barley, or flour and egg dumplings. The dish may have gotten its name because the buttermilk, when heated, pops into fine curds and whey."
<https://rb.gy/7myg2h>

More about the General Store in Cloyne and Rachael Spencer

The long history of what is now Finnegan's General Store began in 1887 when John Graham bought the property from Charles Benny. Philip Wickware purchased it in 1903, Joseph Wise in 1914, Stan and Elsie Wheeler in 1921. Harvey and Rachael Spencer ran it from 1933–1949 (front cover). Since then Gibson & Watson, Don and Doreen Goodfellow, John Russell & Ed Yanch, Brian Cleland, John Grand and today Stephanie Regent. Read more about the early history of the General Store in the *The Oxen and The Axe – Recollections of the Wickware Family by Ora G. Wickware*. The book was originally published in 1974 when Goodfellows owned the store.

Rachael's mother Elsie (Henderson) died in 1927 and in 1933 her father decided to sell the store.

"so we decided to buy and didn't know if we would ever get it paid for. In those days you know, mortgage interest wasn't so high, but it was pretty difficult to get money."

In 1873 both the Spencer and Wheeler families lived at the head of Mazinaw Lake. Harvey's grandfather, Charles Townsend Spencer, went fishing on June 2, 1873 and somehow got caught in a trolling line and fell into the water. As Rachael recalled.

"My husband's grandfather drowned in Mazinaw Lake, you know, and they never found the body....He had my husband's father with him—they always called him Ab, his name was John Albert—he was 5 years old..."

Sourced from the CDHS Archives (SF/455/1) a photocopy of pages 27-29 from the book *Them Were the Days (Hungerford Township)*. Published by the *Madoc Review* in 1974.

The Victoria and Grey Trust Company was created in 1950 – it became the National Trust Company in 1985 and in 1997 Scotiabank purchased it. The lowest mortgage rate in Canadian history was 1.44% in September 2021 for a 5 year fixed rate mortgage. The highest mortgage rate in Canadian history was 21.75% in August of 1981 for a 5 year fixed rate mortgage.

Rachael and Harvey sold the store in 1949 and moved to Tweed. For the next 35 years Rachael supplied news to radio stations, newspapers, TV stations and wire services; sometimes 17 of them at once.

The newspaper, *Madoc Review* interviewed Rachael in 1982 when, at 75, she decided to retire.

<https://archive.org/details/madoc-review-october-1982/page/n7>

Rachael and Harvey had one son, Douglas. He owned and operated Spencer Insurance Agency in Tweed for 35 years beginning in 1950. Doug and his wife Marlene had a cottage on Kashwakamak Lake for over 40 years.

A note in the CDHS Archives (G/126/5) written by Bob Blatchford in 2006 mentioned that Rachael's brother, Ezra Wheeler, drove the stage from Cloyne to Denbigh – Harry Levere from Cloyne south to Kaladar.



Perhaps not what initially comes to mind, Harry Levere stands beside the "Old Stage". This photo was taken in 1926 in front of Thompson's Variety Store in Northbrook (where Foodland is now located). *Photo: Ellery Thompson Album, Flickr.*

Harvey Spencer died on November 11, 1970 and Rachael on December 1, 1985. <https://archive.org/details/madoc-review-december-1985/page/n29/>

COMING SOON – A NEW WAY TO EXPERIENCE THE PIONEER MUSEUM

Ken Hook



Bloomberg Connects is an arts and culture app developed by Bloomberg Philanthropies. Downloading the app gives access to expert-curated content from over 380 museums, galleries, sculpture parks, gardens, and cultural spaces – all for free.

The CDHS has been accepted into this organization. Over 13 weeks beginning in May, a committee will create content for approximately 20 of the

museum's major exhibits. The guide will focus on our heritage, including logging, settlement, mining, farming, and tourism. The content will contain text, audio, and video files. The intended launch date is August 23, 2024.

At the museum's entrance, a QR code and signage will indicate that the free museum guide is recommended. A map of the museum will identify key exhibits with a number and a QR code, which can be scanned by a mobile device (cell phone or tablet). Instantly, a photo of the exhibit will appear with an audio file describing its significance. The audio file will also be transcribed if the visitor prefers to read about the exhibit. The app can instantly convert English to any one of 40 different languages with the touch of a button!

More information on Bloomberg Connects can be found at: bloombergconnects.org. Visit the app store on your device to download.

Events - 2024

General Meeting Dates

General Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month, 1 pm at the Barrie Community Hall in Cloyne. Visit our website to confirm meeting dates and speakers ahead of time. cloynepioneermuseum.ca

April 15

Bob Baker from the Community Foundation of Lennox & Addington will speak about our Endowment Fund and the role of the CFFLA.

Ken Hook will do a demonstration of the Bloomberg Connects App.

May 20

Bring-a-Thing and Tell-a-Tale.

Heritage Village Bus Trip

June 17 - Ameliasburgh

The village includes a log cabin, display barns, an operational blacksmith shop, a sap shanty, dairy and bee-keeping buildings, and a large stone building housing the 18-foot 550-horsepower Goldie Corliss flywheel, which is one of the largest steam engines in Canada. Everyone welcome!

Museum Opening June 22

The Garden Club is going to dedicate the Indigenous Garden. There will be a smudging ceremony. Smudging is traditionally a ceremony for purifying or cleansing the soul of negative thoughts of a person or place.

Music by the New Pickled Chicken. BBQ.

July 15

Pot-luck luncheon.

Cloyne Pioneer Museum and Archives

Open Daily from 10AM – 4PM

Summer Only

cloynepioneermuseum.ca



[Cemetery](#)

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