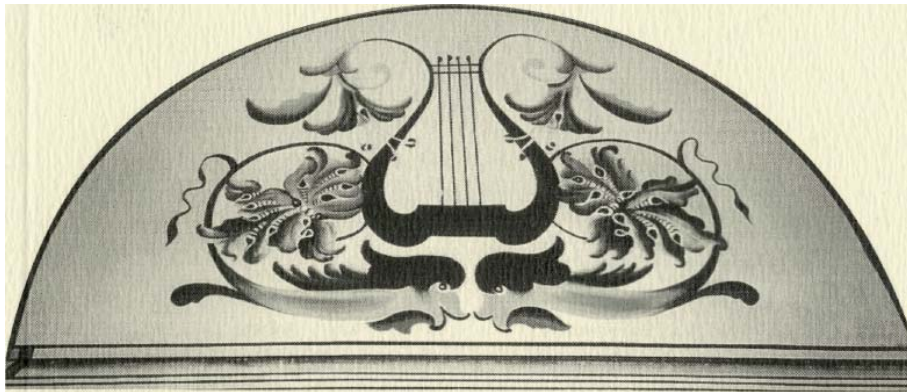


ISBN 1186-6195

# Wellington County History



Wellington County Painted Houses in Drayton, Mt. Forest  
Beatty Bros, and the Fergus Brass Band  
Survey of Arthur Township  
Food Preservation in Wellington County  
Bucko McDonald • Tom Longboat  
Drayton, North Dakota • Book Reviews  
Archives Report

Volume 13 • 2000

## PATRONS

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Estate of Lillian Rae Benson, London

Estate of Grace C. Black, Fergus

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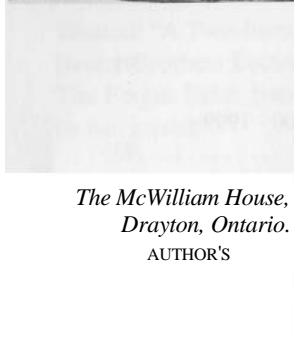
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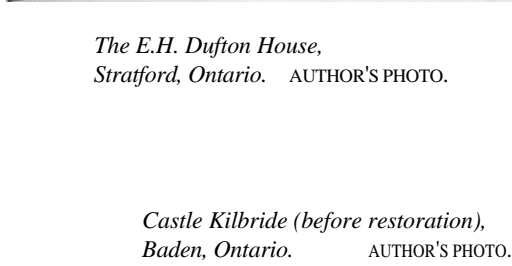
*Livingstone  
Manor, Listowel,  
Ontario.*  
AUTHOR'S PHOTO.



*The McWilliam House,  
Drayton, Ontario.*  
AUTHOR'S



*The E.H. Dufton House,  
Stratford, Ontario.* AUTHOR'S PHOTO.



*Castle Kilbride (before restoration),  
Baden, Ontario.* AUTHOR'S PHOTO.



# **The McWilliam House: A Wellington County Painted Hallway in Historic Context**

*by Nancy-Lou Patterson*

The painted hallway of the Robert McWilliam House, built in Drayton, Ontario in 1885, has been the subject of attention since it was discovered in 1984. (Bird 1984, Patterson 1987) It complements at least three other houses with painted rooms in the counties of Wellington, Perth, and Waterloo. The McWilliam House paintings are part of a context of imagery and ornament that can be compared to the E.H. Dufton House, built in Stratford, in 1882 (Stewart 1986), Livingstone Manor, Listowel, built by John Livingston in 1878 (Ingolsfrud 1987; Kelly 1995), and Castle Kilbride, built by James Livingston in Baden, Ontario in 1877 (Knowles 1994).

Castle Kilbride (1877) is a handsome and imposing house built in the Italianate style, and its interior painted walls, ceilings and hallways clearly express James Livingston's wish to present himself as a man of wealth and taste, worthy of his success in the flax oil industry and political office. The effect is sumptuous, although there is an eclectic range of styles, so that the various painted spaces suggest a series of differing hands. The styles begin with gorgeous and assertive Italianate elements and end with charming pastel coloured works suggesting the 1890s, perhaps reflecting a watershed in taste and cultural preference.

The painted ceiling of the Castle Kilbride library, apparently painted by H. Schasstein, displays a fully developed and intense program of abstract ornament, representational images depicting classical themes, and exuberant floral ornament in the Renaissance style in harmony with the Italianate style of the house. Among these images is a pair of repeated motifs, one depicting a Lyre from which bright floral ornaments spread out like a fan and one depicting a pair of central and interlocked Dolphins surrounded by floral ornament. The implication of these repeated motifs combines the symbolism of Orpheus, whose symbol was the Lyre, and Dionysus among whose symbols was a pair of Dolphins, to express a highly cultured taste for music and festivity.

The motifs of the Lyre and the Dolphins appear in three post-Kilbride sites, but instead of being separate, they are depicted together, always in the same composition, as being a pair of confronted dolphins supporting a single, centered Lyre amidst swirling floral ornament. It is because of the presence of this pair of motifs in all four houses that I have undertaken to study the similarities and differences in the decorative programs in Castle Kilbride, Livingstone Manor, ET Dufton House, and Robert McWilliam House.

Livingstone Manor (1878), built for John Livingston and his wife, Anna Schmidt Livingston and painted by Karl Muller, probably owes the presence of its elegant painted hallway and adjoining rooms to the example of Castle Kilbride, built for his brother James and wife Louise in 1877. It is likely that in both houses artists Muller and Schasstein worked with assistants. Part of the decorative program in each is the use of *trompe l'oeil*. Here the entire assembly of images contained in the faux archways is presented on the ceiling of the library as part of a vertical arcade supported by a faux Colonnade. This is also true of Livingstone Manor, Dufton House, and McWilliam House.

All four houses have hallways with stairways leading from the main floor. In three of these (Livingstone Manor, Dufton House, and McWilliam House) the hallways were decorated with a *trompe l'oeil* arcade along with a decorative program on the ceiling. In Livingstone Manor, only the arches that surmount the arcade are adorned with painted images, leaving the vertically-oriented rectangular spaces between the columns free of ornament. This provided for doorways and the placement of furniture along the walls.

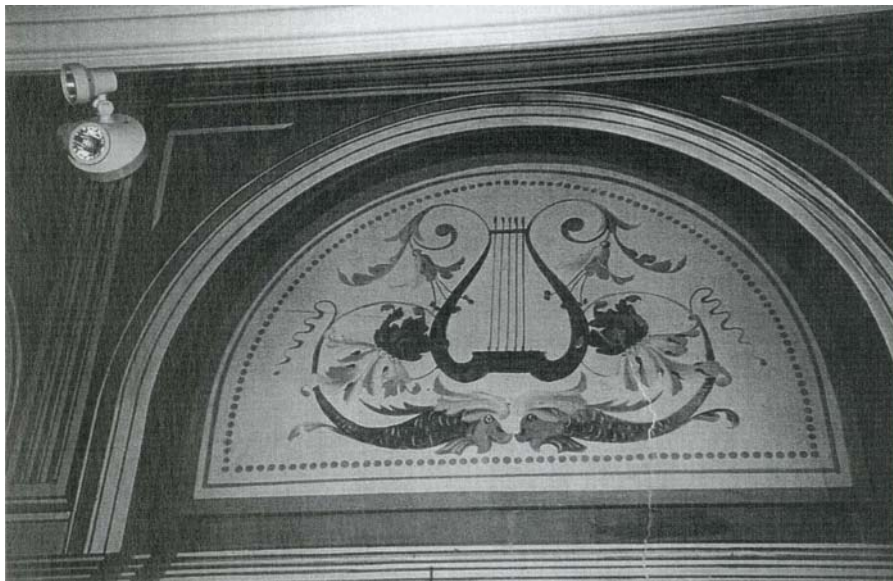
At the Dufton House (1882), built for ET Dufton and his wife Ann J. Frickleton, these rectangles are filled with landscapes. At the McWilliam House (1885), built for Dr. Robert McWilliam and his wife Josephine, these rectangles provide spaces for the depiction of major public figures of the late nineteenth century. Landscape paintings were left for the arcade. Although the execution of the archways at Livingstone Manor, Dufton House, and McWilliam House are similar, and share certain decorative motifs, it seems clear that the latter two were not painted by either of the artists who painted Livingstone Manor and Castle Kilbride.

The decorative elements in the Livingstone Manor arches present two programs. One makes use of two decorative motifs, the first repeated on the viewer's left and the second on the viewer's right, though most of the imagery would be hidden by the stairway, rising not far from the entryway. On the left is a series of repeated depictions of a Lyre flanked by floral designs and supported by a pair of confronted Dolphins. The repeated motifs on the right depict a pair of doves, one descending with a tiny *billet-doux* or lover's letter in its beak, offering it to the other dove perched on a bough tied with red ribbons to a pair of arrows, obviously those of Cupid, the god of Love.



*Castle Kilbride, library (ceiling). Ornamental motif with lyre, circa 1877. Photo of work after restoration.*

AUTHOR'S PHOTO, 1999.



*Livingstone Manor, wall "Lyre and Dolphins" motif, circa 1878.*

AUTHOR'S PHOTO, 1999.

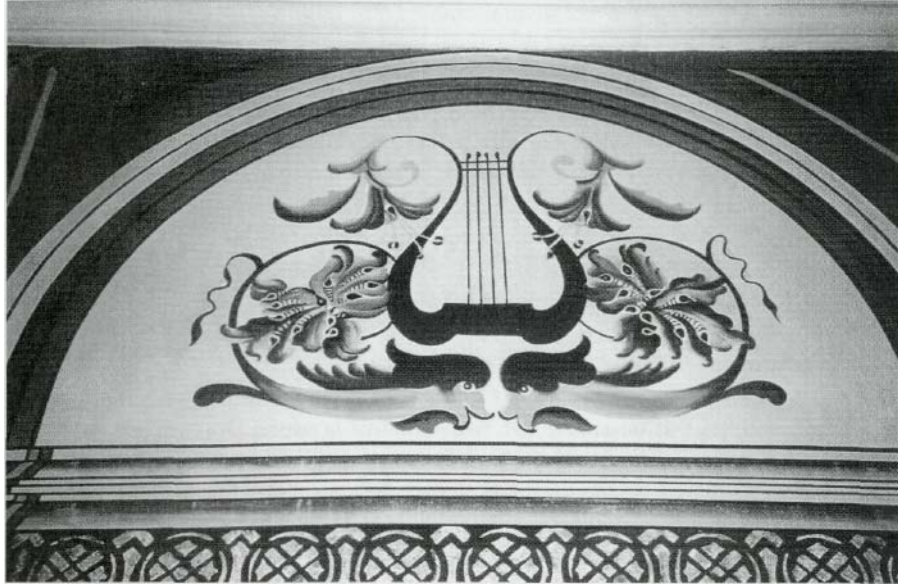


A second program presents, in the arches above the doorways, five beautifully painted figural compositions. One of these, located above the door at the far end of the hallway is unique amongst its fellows in that it depicts not children, but a group of adult nudes in a forest. One figure reclines – his nudity modified by a spray of leaves – as he wields a flute-like instrument. The other turns his back to the viewer. Between these musicians are two males, one with a shepherd's crook and another with a lamb.

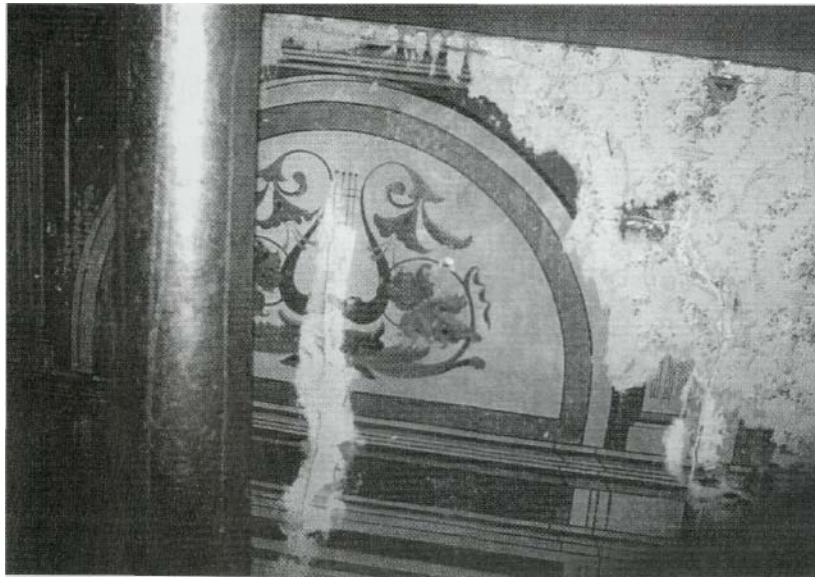
The other arches that surmount the four doors leading from the hallway depict groups of nude or partially clad children, delightfully engaged in seasonal revels and activities. In the depiction of spring, two children cradle a nest of tiny birds, while a standing child directs three others in song, and another plucks a red flower springing up from the earth. In the depiction of summer, three children dance while another plays a flute and a fully clothed child plays the triangle. A reedy pool and a patch of blossoming greenery flank the children. Fall shows a lively little boy brandishing a sickle and flail – clearly an image of harvest. Evidently his task is complete for his five companions struggle toward the viewer's right with a large wheelbarrow containing a sheaf of wheat. Finally, four children occupy a winter landscape in snow, as an escaping rabbit runs to the left, and two girls huddle under a cloak beside a brace of ducks awaiting their role in the feast.

Of the two sets of ornamental elements depicted at Livingstone Manor, one – the Lyre and Dolphins – also appears at the Dufton House in Stratford and the McWilliam House in Drayton, placing this element in three neighbouring counties. The second motif from the Livingstone Manor – the Doves with the billet-doux and arrows – is repeated at McWilliam House. Of the five seasonal tableaux at Livingstone Manor, two reappear at the McWilliam House. These include the group of adult nudes engaged in playing musical instruments, and the group of children celebrating spring. These images in Stratford and Drayton are markedly varied in style and execution. Although the repeated motifs of Lyre and Dolphins, and Doves and Arrows are carefully painted in all three houses, the two nude groups at McWilliam House are naively executed.

At the Dufton House and McWilliam house, there are additional motifs and images in the arches and panels that do not appear at Livingstone Manor or Castle Kilbride. I was able to examine and photograph the Dufton and McWilliam houses before they were restored, and can verify that the Dufton House paintings are more intensely overpainted than those at McWilliam House. The original appearance of both combined refined precision in the arcade and motifs, while the landscapes on the Dufton House panels and McWilliam House arcade share a soft, delicate, romantic, and naive treatment of great charm. A final element in common is a stencilled border below the arcade. It seems likely that the same hand or hands painted these motifs.



*E.H. Dufton House, "Lyre and Dolphin" motif, circa 1882. AUTHOR'S PHOTO, 1999.*



*Robert McWilliam House, "Lyre and Dolphin" motif, circa 1885. AUTHOR'S PHOTO, 1984.*

The Dufton House has several emblematic motifs in common with the McWilliam House, most notably the Lyre and Dolphins, and the British Royal Arms with Crown, Sceptre, and Sword. The McWilliam House has in common with Livingstone Manor both the Lyre and Dolphins and the Doves with billet-doux and Arrows. The landscapes at Dufton House are larger than the landscapes at the McWilliam House due to their position in the rectangular areas. Presented with larger areas, the painter at Dufton House produced expansive landscapes, loosely and freely brushing in mountains, sailboats, swans, and distant houses. The landscapes in the McWilliam House arcade include the depiction of a high bridge crossing a river. The bridge divides a small house from a stand of trees, with a river with trees in the foreground and mountains beyond.

In addition to its program of images in common with Livingstone Manor and the Dufton House, Dr. McWilliam's house in Drayton possesses unique features, comprising a complex set of political and royal portraits, along with images on the stairway walls. In the rectangular panels of the arcade, the busts of political and royal personages are presented. These include Sir John A. MacDonal, George Brown, Oliver Mowat, Prince Albert, Queen Victoria, and the Prince of Wales. Portrayed in the upper section near the entrance door is Robert Burns, and on the wall below the staircase is Mary, Queen of Scots, depicted from the waist up in all her decorative finery. Above the stairway is a trompe l'oeil stair rail, leading down to a depiction of a pair of putti (cherubs) copied from the angelic pair who gaze upward in Raphael's "Sistine Madonna". The words "Home Sweet Home" are painted beneath. At the lowest rung of the faux rail is a floral motif of great delicacy.

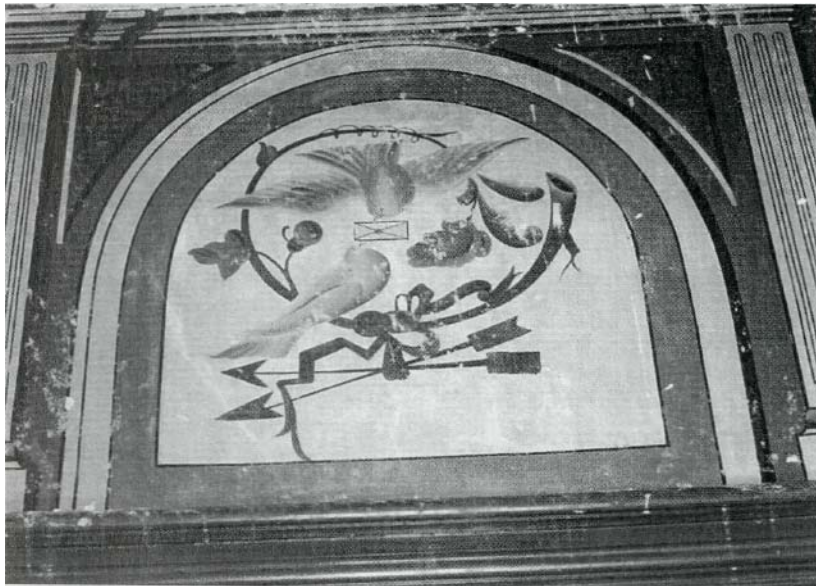
All of these images are based in part on the print media of the day and are painted vigorously and naively while the floral motif is in the style of the Doves and Arrows. Presumably the portraits, unique to McWilliam House, were painted at the request of the politically active Doctor and were executed by the same hand as the rest of the program. Yet there is a belief among Drayton residents that the doctor's wife Josephine was the artist. It is possible that Dr. McWilliam did recruit Josephine to add these unique features; however, these renderings vary from other works in the community attributed to her. Those works suggest a woman trained in refined oil paintings of decorative landscapes.

Actual contact among the owners or artists of Livingstone Manor, Dufton House, and McWilliam House is not documented, but they all shared a common intent of expressing cultural values and impressing visitors. The Livingstone brothers and their wives became wealthy through their participation in the flax milling industry and were able to employ highly competent professional decorators, artisans, and artists. They achieved an elegant result. Mr. and Mrs. Dufton, and Dr. and Mrs. McWilliam may have



*Livingstone Manor, wall "Doves and Arrows" motif, circa 1878.*

AUTHOR'S PHOTO, 1999.



*Robert McWilliam House, wall "Doves and Arrows" motif, circa 1885.*

AUTHOR'S PHOTO, 1984.

shared an artisan or artisans of competence but lesser skill whose capacity for formal ornament, romantic landscape, and political imagery matched their own tastes.

In her 1931 study of nineteenth century ornament, Joan Evans remarked upon "the incongruity of fashionable furnishing in the antique manner". She did add that "As a rest from the stress of the present, men "made believe" in their own homes, trying to capture the peace and beauty of the bygone past in rooms set as scenes in that past." (Evans [1931] 1976; p. 186) In nineteenth century southern Ontario, most immigrants laboured not only to become wealthy, but also to exhibit their wealth, each in accordance with their tastes and financial resources. For those whose homes are still in place, the images they chose for expression and the works of the artists they employed remain available to delight and inform us today.

#### **NOTES:**

*The author would like to thank the following people for their assistance, advice, hospitality, courtesy and encouragement: Dan and Melba Bingham, Bradi Borman, Susan Carson, Ian K. Easterbrook, Anne Kelly, Paul Knowles, Tracy Loch, Bill and Marjorie Miller, Kenneth and Judy Moreley, Vivetta Noecker, Mr. and Mrs. Hank Reinders, Margaret Rowell, Rosemary Wagner, Kathy Wildman, and Gerald Wright, along with, as always, my husband and fellow scholar, E. Palmer Patterson.*

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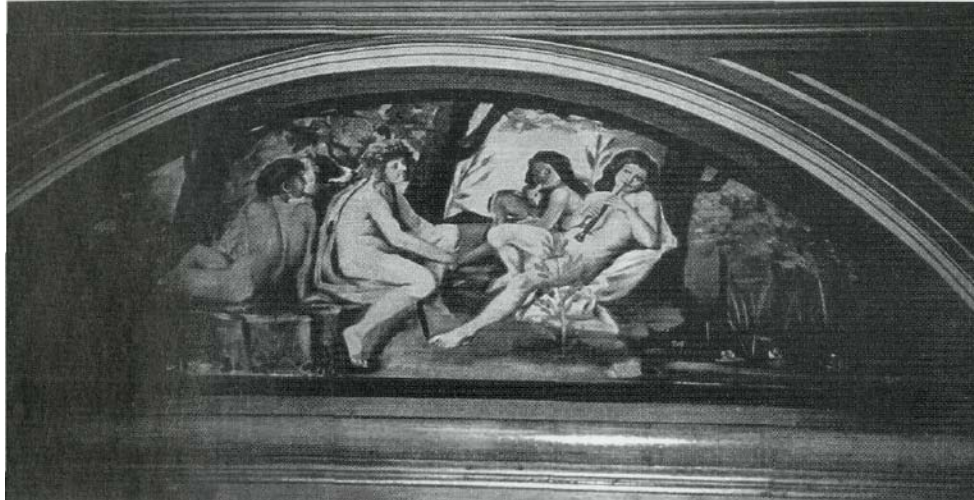
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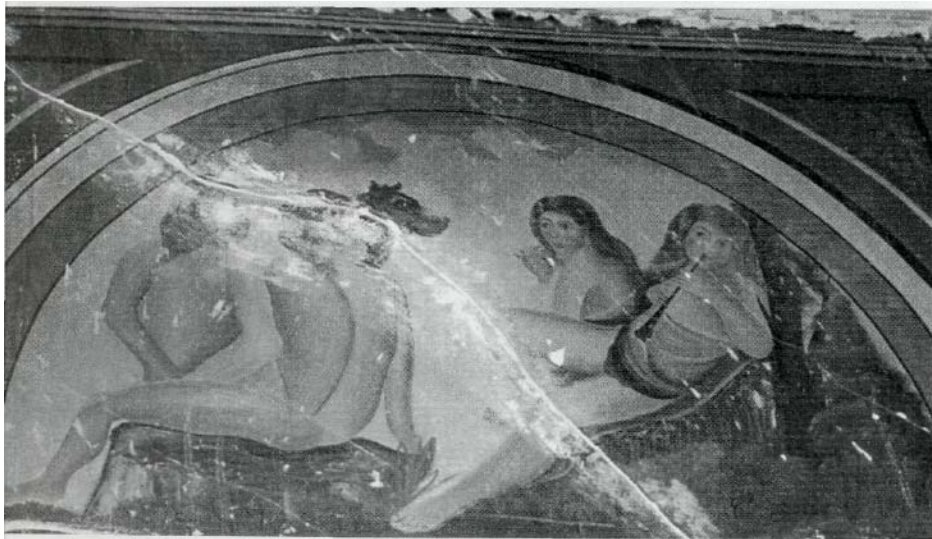
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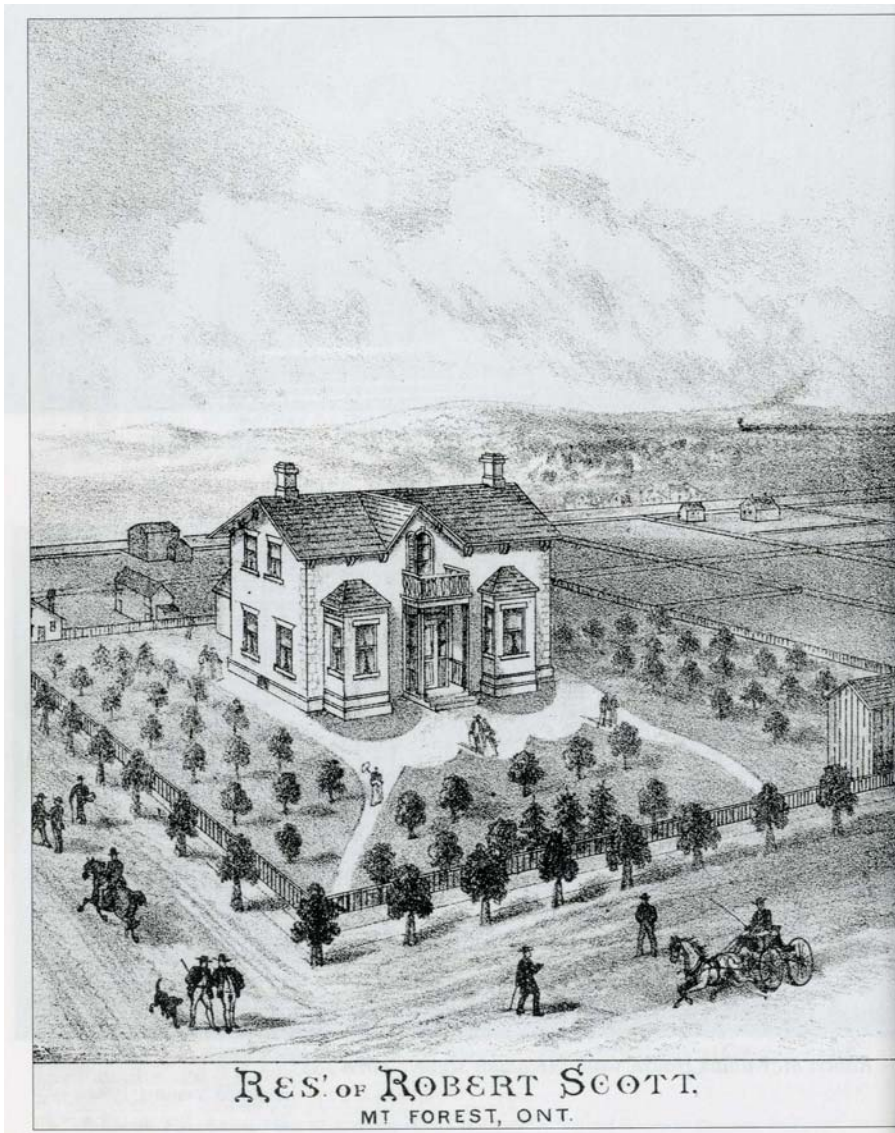
*Livingstone Manor, wall "Arcadian Scene", circa 1878.*

AUTHOR'S PHOTO, 1999.



*Robert McWilliam House, wall "Arcadian Scene", circa 1885.*

AUTHOR'S PHOTO, 1984.



*Residence of Robert Scott, Mount Forest, as it appears in the **Topographical and Historical Atlas of the County of Wellington** (Toronto: Walker & Miles, 1877; [reprint] Port Elgin: Ross Cummings, 1971).*

# Mount Forest House Paintings Reveal Early Cultural Heritage

*by Rosemary Wagner*

Built in the Confederation period, Robert and Mary Scott's family residence was a monument to the family's new wealth and social status in Mount Forest. Overlooking their Main Street grocery and department stores, the house on its finely manicured lot was a key site in town, located on the corner of Queen and John Streets just off the main thoroughfare. Its grand exterior and handpainted interior, an intriguing example of Ontario's early cultural heritage, is the focus of this article.

When the family dwelling was built circa 1875-1876, the Scotts were one of the most affluent families in Mount Forest. The Scott mercantile business catapulted their social status to the point where Robert paid to have his residence illustrated for posterity in the 1877 *Atlas of Wellington County* along with those of other prominent county families.<sup>1</sup>

Robert and Mary Scott were well-off merchants. Robert was a successful Scottish immigrant, who worked hard to establish a thriving mercantile monopoly in Mount Forest and surrounding municipalities in Wellington and Grey counties. He was born in Rothes, Morayshire, Scotland in 1832 and immigrated to Canada in 1854 with his brother James. They inherited a sum of money to invest in Canada West (Ontario) from a small estate in Drumuir, Scotland where their father had worked as the ground officer.<sup>2</sup> The following year, the brothers purchased 400 acres of Crown land in Proton Township, Grey County and began to clear the land for agricultural use. Like many young men during the first years of the opening of the Queen's Bush, Scott worked off his farm, going as far south as Hamilton and Caledonia to earn money during the harvests.

The Scott brothers also earned extra income closer to home. "In 1856, with his brothers James and John, he opened the county road from the corner of Proton [Township] to the village of Clifford."<sup>3</sup> The next year, Robert stepped in to finish an incomplete contract excavating the road from Mount Forest to Clifford, now known as Highway 89 and Wellington County Road 1.

After returning from a trip to Scotland in 1859, Robert bought a span of





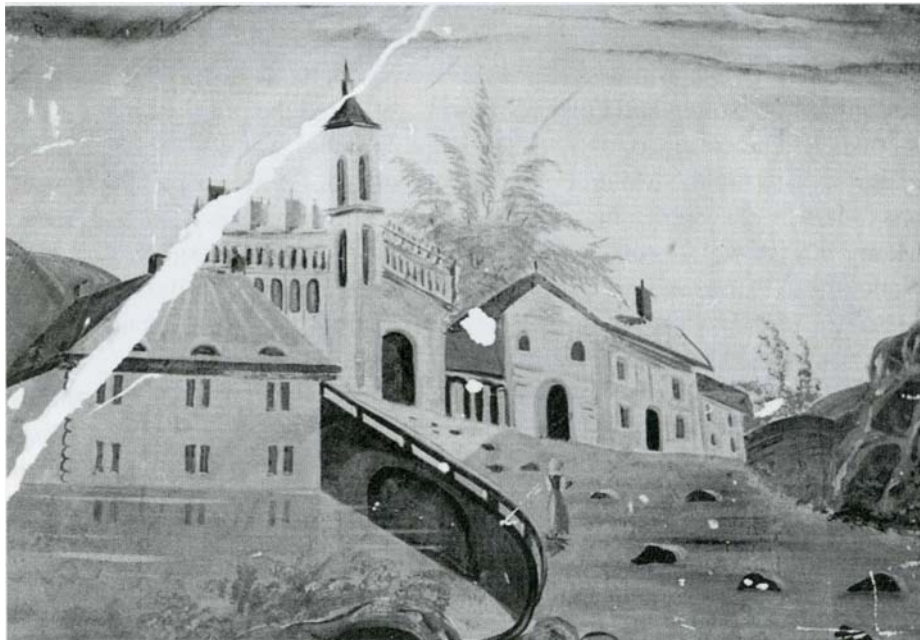
*Scenes from the Robert Scott residence, Mount Forest.* AUTHOR'S PHOTO.

horses, a wagon and harness, and until 1863 was engaged in the teaming trade. He hauled food and hardware goods north from the Town of Guelph, the centre of commerce and agricultural markets, to pioneering families in the newly opened Queen's Bush beyond Fergus and Elora. On his return trip to Guelph, Scott transported local produce, such as winter wheat for milling and cattle for sale. A year after marrying Fullerton-born Mary Jane Reid in 1866, Robert entered into a partnership with his brother, James, who owned a dry goods store in Mount Forest.<sup>4</sup> Along with his retail store, Robert also added to his wealth by speculating on lots in Mount Forest. Later he and his brother-in law James Reid bought out his brother's business and formed R. Scott & Co. The firm ran a grocery shop, creamery and ice-house, and then expanded into a women's and men's department store on the north end of Mount Forest's Main Street. The enterprise was part of the Scott Block, and was the largest retail clothing and fine goods store in North Wellington until the family sold the business in 1938.<sup>5</sup>

The European tradition of handpainted residence interiors has marked the high social and economic stature of families for centuries. This status symbol was one of many cultural traditions easily transferred to early Canada. Midwestern Ontario has a number of sophisticated painted houses. Drayton's painted house is another example in north Wellington; portraits of conservative Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald, *Globe* founder and editor George Brown and Queen Victoria, reflected the political interests of its owner. The entrance lobby of the Drayton house was painted to impress visitors, just as in the Mount Forest painted house. Two other painted houses are found on the border municipalities of Wellington County. Livingstone Manor in Listowel, Perth County is only a few kilometres from Drayton. Dr. Nancy-Lou Patterson's research has uncovered several similarities in the Listowel and Drayton painting styles, suggesting that the work may have been done by the same itinerant artist.<sup>6</sup>

Patterson's research on the phenomenon indicates that wealthy families commissioned travelling painters to decorate their residences. These artists took their basic repertoire on the road looking for work. It is believed that they circulated throughout the province, taking on assignments from well-positioned families. The artists generally copied landscapes or portraits from engravings that were commonly found in magazines of the time. These images were combined with suggestions from the home owner to make the work more reflective of the individual family's tastes. Itinerant painters rarely left their signature or a date when the paintings were rendered; this is the case in Mount Forest. It is difficult to establish the date the walls were painted in the Scott home. Fifteen layers of wallpaper were stripped-off in 1995. This suggests work was done in the late Victorian period.<sup>7</sup>

The Scott house was built of local red brick from Egremont Township (which borders Mount Forest to the north), and mirrors other important red



*Scenes from the Robert Scott residence, Mount Forest.*

AUTHOR'S PHOTO.

brick buildings like the Roman Catholic and Presbyterian churches built about the same time.. Around the turn of the century, the original two-storey dwelling had built on to it, a large addition which fronted onto John Street. This was most likely the same time an imposing Italianate tower was added to the Queen Street entrance. Extra space gave the Scott children - James, Edith, Thomas, Jessie and Robert - more room, and also provided boarding space for a hired labourer, Alexander.<sup>8</sup> These further architectural flourishes and additional size enhanced both the aesthetic and economic value of the house and also the status of the Scott family in the community.

The house's interior walls reflect the values, heritage and personality of the Scotts. The upstairs hallway and the first floor Queen Street entrance hall were painted a deep green colour and were framed in bold red borders with golden and brown scrolls. Opening the ground floor main door, visitors would have been struck by five unique handpainted pictures with hand-rendered frames on green plaster. One painting depicts a Mediterranean-style landscape with palm trees, mountains and a lake with a single figure and a sailboat. Another shows a landscape with a large villa near a semi-tropical waterfront. On the facing side of the stairwell are three paintings. The first depicts a rowboat race, with a Union Jack flag in the background; the next a Scotsman, with horse and dog beside a lake; a final painting depicts a cosy lodge with alpine trees on a cliff edge.

Although completed by a painter less technically sophisticated than others whose work is known in the area, the Scott house is an important example of Wellington's early cultural heritage. Patterson suggests that the naive murals represent typical late nineteenth century romantic landscape paintings. The images reflect Victorian values of recreation and beauty through depiction of the Italian villa, rowboat competition and picturesque natural scenery. The foreign landscapes may be real scenes from Scott's travels in Europe and the United States. The Scotsman in his full tartan dress and dog beside a loch (lake) confirm the merchant's Celtic roots.<sup>9</sup>

#### **NOTES:**

*The author would like to thank Dr. Nancy-Lou Patterson, Distinguished Professor Emerita, University of Waterloo; also Wellington County Archivist Karen Wagner, and Ian Easterbrook for their assistance with this research project. The author first reported on the Scott house paintings in the **Wellington Advertiser**, 9 October 1995.*

1. The original Scott house is illustrated in the *Historical Atlas of Waterloo and Wellington Counties, 1881-1877*, page 49. (Toronto: H. Parsell & Co., 1881; Walker & Miles, 1877; reprinted Fort Erie: Ross Cummings, 1972). Later architectural additions included a central tower. Mount Forest Assessment roles show Robert Scott's real and personal property holdings and his accumulation of wealth. In 1873, Scott owned four town lots with an assessed value of \$400. By 1878, Scott's business holdings on Main Street had a total assessed value of \$5600 and his Queen Street house had a value of \$1600.
2. Robert Scott was born in 1832 and died in 1924 in Mount Forest (Mount Forest Cemetery, No. 688). Also see Scott's obituary in *Mount Forest Confederate* November 30, 1924. The trip to British North America as stated in the newspaper suggests, "They walked from [Drumblade, Scotland] to Aberdeen some 40 miles, and the next day took the boat to Edinburgh, where they stopped overnight. Next day, by train and boat they embarked on a sailing vessel to Quebec. They had a ... trip of six weeks. About July they reached Hamilton. As cholera was in the boat they came from Quebec in, they had to spend the night on the wharf. He and his brother James worked on farms near Ancaster and Caledonia until February 1855, when they started for the woods. They walked from Hamilton to Guelph, took stage to Fergus, then walked to Mount Forest."
3. Robert Scott obituary, *Mount Forest Confederate*, November 30, 1924 and "R. Scott & Co." in undated excerpt from the *Mount Forest Confederate* [*Confederate Clipping Collection*, Wellington County Museum and Archives].
4. Mary Jane Reid was born in 1848 and died in 1923 in Mount Forest (Mount Forest Cemetery, No. 688).
5. *Mount Forest Confederate*, November 30, 1924.
6. Interview with Dr. Nancy-Lou Patterson October 6, 1995.
7. Patterson interview.
8. 1871 North Wellington County Census, District 15B, page 70; 1891 Census District 126, page 68.
9. Patterson interview.

**Wanted:**  
**"A Two-fisted, Temperate Man":**  
**Beatty Brothers Factory,**  
**the Fergus Brass Band and**  
**the 1919 Bandmaster Search**

*by lian goodall*

Formed in 1855 and probably the second-oldest Canadian brass band in operation, the Fergus Brass Band is an organization with an important and interesting history.<sup>1</sup> There are many colourful stories in its one hundred and forty-five years of existence. One that took place just after the First World War in 1919, the hiring of a Bandmaster, is particularly well documented through letters that have been preserved by the band. This collection of correspondence, written by or directed to Beatty's Advertising Manager regarding the hiring of a new Bandmaster, gives us a fascinating glimpse at the attitudes of employers and employees in a small industrial town in Southern Ontario toward things such as: their town, work, finding and giving employment, and of course - music.

The origins of the Fergus Brass Band can be traced back to a band which had been in existence in the town as early as 1855.<sup>2</sup> This was only several decades after the improvement and availability of certain instruments gave rise to brass bands in Europe. Once it began, band music took off around the world. Understandably, in a time before electronics, live music was very important. Learning to play a brass instrument and joining a band had several advantages, especially in small industrial towns with fewer entertainment possibilities than larger urban centres. Important social bonds were made as people got together to play music. Not only did they gather for practices, but playing in public sometimes provided them a chance to perform out of town. It also gave band members increased social status when, dressed in their uniforms, they played before appreciative audiences. Crowds of people enjoyed the stirring music that brass bands offered at events and parades. During the time when the famous John Phillip Sousa was marching along,

people thronged to brass band concerts and competitions by the tens of thousands.

In Fergus, the band served the community by playing at important events. In the past, such performances included: leading the Fergus Rifle Corps to Guelph on their way to defend the nation from the Fenian Raids in 1866; and, pulled in a wagon by four prancing horses, playing at the sod-turning ceremony which marked the start of construction on Fergus' first railway on June 29, 1867.<sup>3</sup> The band blew up a storm until the First World War, when its numbers were reduced.

Although Beatty Brothers had been making farm implements in Fergus since 1874, they did not become financially involved with the band until the First World War.<sup>4</sup> As was the case with Britain, it was not uncommon for brass bands to be supported by a local sponsor.<sup>5</sup> People with a common musical interest often got together at their place of employment, most often a factory. Factory workers could rarely afford the expenses which bands incurred. They had to buy music, pay for uniforms, transportation to out of town, concerts and so on. The town of Fergus assumed some of these costs for its community band, but by 1916 they needed assistance. The town was prepared to pay half of a five-hundred dollar budget when Beatty's stepped in and agreed to provide the other half.<sup>6</sup> Not only did Beatty's assume the above costs until 1922, but it went even further to foster a professional band.

Why in 1916 did Beatty's decide to devote so much of its resources to transform a volunteer organization into a paid factory band? During the war, brass band music was considered more than important - it had become vital. An information sheet regarding Toronto's *20th Canadians Band* states that they formed in 1914 with the *20th Canadian Infantry Battalion* and arrived at the battle line in France on September 15, 1915. "The Band... has ever brought renown to the unit, whether in the midst of the fiercest fighting or at a concert." When not playing, members served as stretcher bearers, and ammunition and ration carriers. However, playing was their main focus, and they performed over 600 concerts "for the enjoyment of the troops and sorely stricken civilians of France and Belgium."<sup>7</sup> During "the big show," supporting one's country was on everyone's mind, and linking up with the local brass band certainly did not hurt Beatty's image.

To Beatty's, soldiers coming back from overseas in 1919 meant a bolstering of their labour force. This was a time of expansion for the firm, which had just built a new addition to their Hill St. factory.<sup>8</sup> While men were drifting away from some small towns in Ontario due to lack of work, this wasn't the case at Beatty's.<sup>9</sup> However, keeping workers in a small town seemed to be something of a challenge.

Beatty's offered steady work with moderately appealing wages. They proudly claimed:

"THE WORK IS STEADY, THE YEAR ROUND. We attract many men for this reason. We do not lay men off in the winter or any other time. The men who work on houses and factory [construction] in summer are given factory jobs in the winter. We often get men to come and work here for lower wages than they are receiving elsewhere because the work is steady." The firm was proud that at \$3.25 per day their wages were "as high as paid in towns this size."<sup>10</sup>

They admitted that they did "not pay city wages, but there are other privileges here and our men are contented and stay with us." In order to keep men in the small, sleepy town, the company sweetened the package with lodging, building 13 "modern" houses for their workers.<sup>11</sup> They also promoted Fergus as a good place to live, "an enterprising little place, of about 1,700, rapidly growing owing to expansion of this firm," with "good schools, churches and [a] library."

The band seems to have been part of Beatty's plan to encourage people to put down roots and stay with the firm. As one candidate for Bandmaster was aware, "The best boosting a town or a factory can have is a good band."<sup>12</sup> Beatty's expected that the Bandmaster should be able to "attract young men who work for us, to the band, teach them and bring them along until they are good bandsmen. We will hire outside players to help when needed, providing suitable jobs for them in the factory, but aim to build up the band with home material." "The most important qualification of our Bandmaster is: He must be able to attract to the band the boys of musical taste, keep them interested and develop them into good players."<sup>13</sup>

Strong supporters of temperance, Beatty's also wanted their workers to stay away from the Devil Drink. Like some of their contemporaries who sponsored factory bands in Britain, Beatty's hoped that a recreational outlet with a non-alcoholic emphasis would keep the boys out of trouble, and fresh for work the next day.<sup>14</sup> The 1919 search for the Bandmaster testifies to what degree Beatty's hoped to use the band as a stabilizing tool for their work force.<sup>15</sup>

In September of 1919 the band consisted of 35 of the 200 male employees at Beatty's. They had "a number of first class players," mostly returned men and Beatty employees. Beatty's provided direct financial support for the band. The firm controlled "the band in a money way through [a] finance committee consisting of Mr. W.G. Beatty and four.... executives in the office and members of the firm. But the band is run by a business committee consisting of 3 of the boys, the Bandmaster and Band Manager." Since they had decided to create a professional band Beatty's paid employee bandsmen an extra stipend of 50 cents a day, depending on ability. They also organized classes during factory time, paid for train fares out of town, new



uniforms, and assisted members in purchasing their instruments.<sup>17</sup> They boasted they had a good library of music, having branched out from marches into "heavier stuff such as *Faust*, and would "BUY ANY GOOD MUSIC THE Bandmaster RECOMMENDS."<sup>18</sup>

Beatty's also built up the band by seeking out employees with musical aptitudes. When writing to the Metropolitan Employment Agency in Toronto, presumably in search of employees, the Advertising Manager made no mention of any industrial skills his prospective workers might need. Rather, he requested a clarinet and a saxophone player with "their own instruments."<sup>19</sup> In another letter, Mr. H. A. Lay of the same firm was informed that "at present time we require a foreman for our Tool Room, musician preferred....."<sup>20</sup> Elsewhere they stated that indeed, "the firm is willing to hire any player who is contented to locate here and can do any of the work available in our plant. In a pinch the firm will hire a man to play a part, even if he is not likely to be permanent, provided work can be got for him in our factories."<sup>21</sup>

Beatty's intended to make a band of which they and the town of Fergus could be proud. They felt that in 1919, the band was considered to be "in transition from [a] small town band to [a] good band."<sup>22</sup> Still, Beatty's were clear that while they expected professionalism, they did not want the relaxed social atmosphere of the band to be sacrificed. In one communication they explained that "the band is for the town and for the boys. We want a good band to entertain the citizens, but at the same time we are not aiming to compete with Sousa and want to get along with home material as much as we can." "If high class players do not like our music they are not compelled to stay," they said in another communication.<sup>23</sup>

The Bandmaster was the linch-pin in the program. The former Bandmaster, Mr. White, was retiring from the position after several years. He was also a foreman and "has to spend so much time at his work that he feels he must give up the band. Also he is building a new house, and desires to finish the inside himself as he is a skilled carpenter."<sup>24</sup> Beatty's preferred "a man whose main consideration will be the band."<sup>25</sup> By 1919 they had "been running the band for three years and we know what we want."<sup>26</sup> But it is clear from the Bandmaster search, which lasted from June of 1919 to October of 1920, that what Beatty's wanted was a man of near-heroic talents who would act as a role model both as a musician and employee. The search for the dream Bandmaster was on!

Each candidate was asked by Beatty's to respond to a series of questions, and the answers were graded out of one hundred possible points. All applicants were to write if he would "stick if we give him a good proposition," send references or testimonials, list his experience, which instruments he could teach and play, if he drank and what salary he wanted. Permanence, temperance, age, the ability to teach and play instruments, and



*Fergus Brass Band, 1919.*

FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE WELLINGTON COUNTY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES, PH 12590.

energetic leadership at the right salary were critical issues in this hiring process.

Finding the right Bandmaster apparently occupied a good deal of the time of D'Alton Potter, Advertising Manager and Band Manager, and presumably his secretary who typed all the correspondence. To find the ideal candidate they advertised in the *Canadian Bandsman*, the *Toronto Globe* and the *Mail and Empire*. He also contacted Thos. Claxon Limited, "Canada's Largest Musical Mail Order House", and the Metropolitan Employment Agency in Toronto. They received more than thirty applications from as far away as Winnipeg and Regina. Sometimes several letters went back and forth. Different from today's job searches, these were delightfully revealing about the personality of the writer. A letter signed "Jas. Malone" explained that although the candidate would like "a personal conversation" he could not "come at present very well, as I am having my teeth extracted, and you would not wish to meet a fellow with no teeth. I look like a "toothless Biddy."<sup>27</sup> While Beatty's professionally typed correspondence is unquestionably business-oriented most of the time, it is also often apparent that caring about their employees/players and indeed, image, was part of the paternalistic philosophy of the day. This is reflected in a letter to the Metropolitan Agency which reads as follows:

After I called you on the 'phone the clarinet player who was leaving was called up and said he would be in a bad way if we let him out at the present time, as he had rented his house and could not get another. Furthermore he had his furniture all packed and ready to ship to Fergus. Under these circumstances we felt bound in honour to stand by him and to give him a situation in the factory in spite of his poor health. We are very sorry to have put you to trouble for no account and hope that the circumstances of the case will excuse us in your eyes."<sup>28</sup>

Concern for how people viewed Beatty's appears in another letter in which they declined to hire an employee away from "our good friends the Anglo Canadian Leather Company. We have great admiration for the work being done by Mr. Shaw."<sup>29</sup> In 1919, life in Fergus was still unfolding on a personal basis, and it was important how the people you dealt with, your employees and your neighbours regarded "you" - the company.

The idea of a "home", as in "home town", was central to Beatty's search. Beatty's made it crystal clear that permanence in the town and dedication to it were essential.<sup>30</sup> Primarily, the firm was concerned that their applicants would want to live in a small town. In a letter of Sept. 19, 1919 they stated bluntly that:

Mr. A. Dobney  
2293 Dundas St. Toronto, Ont.

Permanency . He says he would settle. He started with Methodist Book Rooms 15 years ago and is with them yet, so I think he would be quite permanent

Experience A Toronto Band for 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  years  
Weston Town Band 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  years  
(won Ont. Championship)  
169 Battalion Band  
(won competition with it)  
51st Battalion Band in France

Organizing Ability As he is only a proof reader, he could hardly be much of an organizer.

Character evidently very good

Evidently has good deal of influence with young players

Age 30

Playing Ability . Evidently very good cornet player

Teaching Ability Evidently good deal of experience but says can only teach valve valve instrument

Wants exorbitant salary and we would probably have to spend some time to show him that he was quite crazy

We want a permanent man, one who will become a citizen of the town and a permanent member of our staff. We want one who will settle here and be contented to live here. If he has a wife, she must be satisfied with the town.<sup>31</sup>

Although another candidate, Mr. Lamiman, was already an employee, he initially received a low score in his evaluation, in part because it was known that "his wife does a lot of agitating about [returning to] the old country."<sup>32</sup> In other cases, being single was the reason behind a poor rating. Mr. W. F. Cummings' score sheet read, he "is unmarried and an unmarried man is never so permanent as a married one." Only eight points out of a possible fifteen were given to Mr. Cummings for the permanence question.<sup>33</sup> Beatty's gave a high score to people who had lived for a long time in one area and worried about those whom they considered tumbleweeds. The application of Mr. Ridgely from Toronto, although recommended by the Thos. Claxon Limited Musical Mail Order Company, concerned Potter. "I think," he wrote on the score sheet, "from [the] tone of his letter he would settle— says he would— but has roved a lot in his day."<sup>34</sup> A letter to him requiring further information warned that "this is not a city... From many standpoints it is a better place to settle than the city. Sometimes men who have been brought up in the city cannot see it that way so we thought we had better let you know."<sup>35</sup> Robert Moore also had excellent qualifications. "He has led some splendid bands," Potter notes on his score sheet, "and the disadvantages of this location might make it hard to hold him. He would probably sicken after losing some of his best players."<sup>36</sup>

Indeed, most applicants stressed the fact that they were willing to come to a town like Fergus - with the exception of Mr. Malone. Coming from Stratford, he felt that he "would get lost up there. You will know," he wrote, "the size of this city, and it would feel rather queer to me, to go to a small town after living here so long." However, he added that "of course this can be overcome by getting down to business, and applying myself closely to it."<sup>37</sup>

What Beatty's offered, besides a nice place to settle down, was a paid position with an established band. In return, the Bandmaster would be expected:

to conduct at least 2 rehearsals in a week and conduct for engagements. He will be given desk in [the] office, will punch in like other executives, be paid a monthly salary for his band work by the firm through the band treasury. His time in the office will be spent in two ways. He will have to give lessons to beginners in office hours. We arrange for a practice room and will bring the boys in from the factory



## LACROSSE - DANCING - BASEBALL

Fergus Amateur Athletic Association will Celebrate

# Victoria Day May 24th, 1920

—IN—

VICTORIA PARK, FERGUS

## Parade

At 1 p. m. a Parade made up as follows will form up at the Bowling Green, St. Andrew Street, headed by the Band, will march to Victoria Park. Parade Manager, Mr. Geo. Anderson.

### PRIZES FOR PARADE

	1st PRIZE	2nd PRIZE
Best Decorated Car or Float	\$10.00	\$5.00
Best Decorated Horse Drawn Vehicle	\$10.00	\$5.00
Best Novelty Turnout	\$5.00	\$2.00

## Lacrosse - Young Torontos vs Orangeville

1:30 P. M.

This will be a great game. Young Torontos are bringing 16 men to work out for places on their Senior O.A.L.A. team. Orangeville, Runners-up in O.A.L.A. last year are stronger than ever, and say they are unbeatable. Do not miss this game — it will be worth the whole price of admission.

## Baseball - Elora vs Belwood

AT 3.30 THESE TWO RIVALS WILL CLASH

ELORA were Champions of the Northern League last year, and are just as strong as ever. BELWOOD have never failed to put a good team in the Northern League and are three times winners of the Clarke Trophy.

## Fergus Brass & Reed Band

ADMISSION:— Adults 50c, Children 25c, Cars free.

## DANCING - Howard's Orchestra

The Amateur Athletic Association have gone to considerable trouble and expense to secure Howard's Orchestra for a Big Dance, May 24th evening, TOWN HALL, FERGUS. Admission: \$1.50 per couple. Extra lady 50c. BUFFET LUNCH.

F.A. BLACK      O.B. BROWN      A.L. STEELE  
Pres. F.A.A.A.    Treas. F.A.A.A.    Sec'y. F.A.A.A.

for the purpose. He will have to look after certain business of band, as for instance to see a player who has missed a couple of practices in succession, to paste new music in binders, etc. ... If band work doesn't keep him busy all the time we can arrange for other things in the office.<sup>38</sup>

On this last point, several applicants were quite agreeable. "I may say," wrote Herbert Lodge of Mount Dennis, Ontario, "that I am a working man, and am not afraid of work."<sup>39</sup> Others were anxious about the nature of this "other work". R. B. Albertson "...would not care to work in the Factory, but might do so in the office."<sup>40</sup> Wilberton Goulde did not mince words. He insisted that "[using] my time otherwise, while not teaching the Band as outlined in your letter does not appeal to me for the reason that music has been my Profession all of my life and would not attempt to do anything else for the reason that I would naturally have to neglect music." He needed all of his time to do work for the band and added that "past experience has taught me that you cannot serve two masters and please them both. One or the other is bound to clash sooner or later. By this I mean it must be one or the other."<sup>41</sup> Quite the opposite, Alfred J. Scott keenly assured Beatty's that he was "a Cabinet Maker by trade, but am willing to tackle anything for the firm that will treat me well."<sup>42</sup>

The firm seemed a little confused about how much "other work" they wanted the new Bandmaster to do. One of the lines on a typewritten note titled "ELIMINATE HUGHES" said he wants a "2 year agreement to learn tool making. We could not give him [a] factory job like that, as we want him to put whole time on band."<sup>43</sup> It seems that he might be expected to do something, but not too much, as lack of focus had been the problem of the retiring Bandmaster.

According to the score sheet, after "permanency" and even before they listed the musical requirements for the job, the Bandmaster was to have outstanding leadership abilities. These, they felt, included some very noble and lofty qualities. The man they were looking for "must be a man of sound character, firm with his men, reliable and at the same time courteous and "slow-to-anger" and able to keep things running smoothly. He must be an energetic man, willing to do what has to be done to make the band go. He will have to put his whole heart and soul into the job. We want an enthusiastic, good, temperate man whom we can all respect." In another letter the "dream" Bandmaster was to "be enthusiastic about the band, able to know what should be done without having to be told and willing to work good and hard to make the thing go. We want a booster, a two-fisted, sound strong man whom we will all respect."<sup>44</sup> Perhaps Beatty's hoped their workers would model themselves upon this imagined hero of industry in order to keep the wheels of capitalism turning smoothly.

They were unwavering in their search for this energetic man and felt that anyone in his forties might be losing the required vim and vigour. Age was a question that employers in 1919 were not afraid to ask and use as a basis for hiring. At age seventy-one, Captain Albertson was prepared to "come with the intention [of] settling in Fergus, perhaps for the balance of my life."<sup>45</sup> He suggested that he was "not too old for the job" and that he "would come on trial for a month." Beatty's felt that "his age is against him."<sup>46</sup> "No doubt permanent," the notes on his score sheet read, "as long as he is alive, but as he is 71 years old his expectancy is not the brightest." It was considered that although he appeared to be a "first class organizer" his age would "hinder him from being as energetic as a younger man." Albertson scored only 55 out of a total of 100 points.

Perhaps all that energy was needed to keep the boys "in line" or, in other words, prevent them from drinking. In capital letters the correspondence often affirmed "WE WON'T HIRE A MAN WHO BOOZES OR BELIEVES IN BOOZE." Drink had no place at the Beatty Brothers' factory. As previously stated, their views on temperance were perhaps one of the reasons why Beatty's had such a commitment to the band. While most letters immediately decried any association with alcohol, Captain Albertson, perhaps hoping to cover all the bases, had a rather "sly" answer. He affirmed that:

I certainly consider myself a temperance man, though not a member of any total abstinence society, and there is no greater opponent than I am of allowing any drinking while practicing, or playing out at engagements. I have in nearly all my Bands issued a standing order forbidding the taking of a single drink, while playing an engagement, on pain of expulsion from the Band. Of course, after the men return and take off the uniform I have no further control."<sup>47</sup>

Even if his age hadn't done him in, this attitude would have most certainly cooked the Captain's goose!

After "experience at leading," but before "teaching" and "playing ability" came a question on "organization ability." This is what contributed to the sinking of Mr. J. Ridgely's application. Potter could "see nothing in his letter to make me believe he has any [organizational ability] ."<sup>48</sup> Mr. Dobney, too, was found lacking in this area. Ranking as "only a proof reader," by profession, "he could hardly be much of an organizer."<sup>49</sup> However, being overly qualified was not always to the advantage of the applicant. Mr. Robert Moore of the 20th Canadians, whose band had won numerous trophies abroad, received only 8 out of 15 points allotted for "Organizing Ability." The explanation reads that "such a thorough musician...



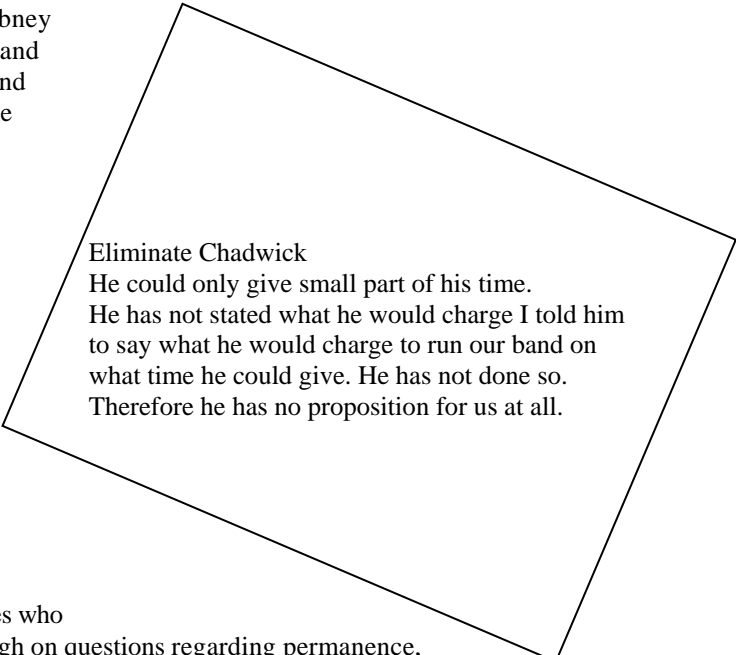
it might be difficult to expect him to put up with the organization difficulties which confront us."<sup>50</sup> It remains unclear what sort of "difficulties" they felt Moore could not handle, - possibly the problem of balancing professionalism with the relaxed pace Beatty's had in mind.

After assessing permanency and leadership qualities in the potential hirees, Beatty's focussed on the musical aspect of the job. They were looking for a "solo cornet player for Bandmaster," giving a low score for playing ability to one candidate who specialized in french horn and to one who played flute.<sup>51</sup> The cornet was considered, as it is by some today, a key instrument in the band. As for musicianship, it comes as little surprise that Beatty's wanted a man with experience who could teach and play as many instruments as possible. There were many with very high qualifications for the job. A number had begun playing as boys and had belonged to or led several bands since their teens, broadening their experience during the war.<sup>52</sup> Some applications appeared on the *Great War Veterans' Association of Canada* or *20th Canadians Band* letterhead. Almost typical is the letter from J.W. Chadwick that says, "I have been a Bandmaster for 18 years and that has been my occupation and profession during that time. I play and teach every instrument used in the modern Band. I was connected with the best of Bands in England until coming to America 10 years [ago]. Then I organized and equipped the Boston College for Military Bands and was Principal of that institution.... I was also 3 years in the service during the late war as Bd Master and was divisional Bd Master at Dulcarties and had charge of 28 Bands... I am the highest certified Bd Master in Canada...."<sup>53</sup> Many applicants had life-long connections to music, as well as passion and impressive global experience. The letterhead of the *20th Canadians* hints at the experience many bandsmen had, and the problems they were facing in post-war period. It lists their performances as: "The Salient, 1915: The Somme, 1916: Vimy Ridge, Passchendaele, 1917: Amiens, Arras, Cambrai, Mons, 1919: Germany, 1919" and then adds "Now Open For Engagements."<sup>54</sup> As one Beatty Bandmaster hopeful noted "opportunities in this line are all too few in Canada."<sup>55</sup>

Competition for the position seemed at times desperate. A lettergram from Captain Albertson worried that he had not received any word "from you this week" and was "very anxious to secure the position." Some offered to bring instruments. Robert Moore of Toronto proposed to bring a set of tubular bells.<sup>56</sup> W. J. Holden of St. Catharines stated that he had a "well selected library of music," and is one of several that offered to bring music and/or instruments.<sup>57</sup>

Salary was a matter of key importance. After all, Beatty's was a business and ran the band as if it were business, too. Although they were not clear about the amount Beatty's offered they did tell one candidate that "we are prepared to pay the right man what he is worth. We cannot afford to hire

a failure."<sup>58</sup> However this generous policy had limits: Mr. Dobney wanted an exorbitant "salary and we would probably have to spend some time to show him that he was crazy."<sup>59</sup> But they also thought little of any applicant who did not, as requested, state what money they desired. The "Eliminate Chadwick" note also observed that "he has not stated what he would charge. I told him to say what he would charge to run ours and what time he could give. He has not done so. Therefore he has no proposition for us at all."<sup>60</sup> The twenty-four candidates who succeeded in scoring high enough on questions regarding permanence, experience, organizing ability, age, playing and teaching ability, had a separate page in their files which lists their salary expectations. They vary from \$1,000 to \$4,000 per year.



Eliminate Chadwick  
He could only give small part of his time.  
He has not stated what he would charge I told him  
to say what he would charge to run our band on  
what time he could give. He has not done so.  
Therefore he has no proposition for us at all.

Who was the successful candidate? In the end it seems that money decided the matter. By early October letters were sent to candidates, stating:

Our Finance Committee met and considered your excellent application. However, our Backers, taking second thought, felt that they could not just at present finance [the] plan which they asked us to carry out. We are therefore appointing one of our own men who has been a Bandmaster, he is an A1 man, and shall have to content ourselves with a day or two a week from him, besides evenings. Our original plans, as advertised, will we hope, be worked out in the course of a few years."<sup>61</sup>

Beatty's continued their support during the rest of the year with band member and employee Mr. Lamiman being promoted to Bandmaster. The 1919-1920 Report of Band Work announces proudly that the band had new uniforms for \$100.00, that they had played 14 concerts, "4 times at rink and 4

parades" and a "good class of music played.. In solid with the people of the town." The townsfolk seemed to appreciate their efforts and contributed money to the building of a new Band Shell and concerts there drew over 1,000 people to hear music in Webster Park.<sup>62</sup> The Report brags that the "Band stepped from village band to city band."<sup>63</sup> So it seems that they flourished without the Dream Bandmaster, making do with one of their own men. Curiously enough, the man hired had not scored very highly. Although he publicly praised his faithfulness to the band, in private Potter was not impressed by him. According to his evaluation, Lamiman was not at all what they wanted, receiving a less than outstanding score, which Potter pumped up by giving him an incredible 10 extra "bonus points" basically for being a local man. More than professionalism, this is what Beatty's wanted all along, and through investigation of their dreams, they may have come to realize this. The home-grown status of the Fergus Brass Band was more in keeping with their financial goals and their efforts at boosting both the town and the firm.

The status of The Fergus Brass Band as a paid professional band was short-lived. By 1922, Beatty's was experiencing financial difficulties, and no longer sponsored the band.<sup>64</sup> The Fergus Brass Band had managed for over sixty years before it became a professional band, and so it has managed over another sixty years, once again as a volunteer organization. The band marched on and continues to march into the Third Millenium (or at least we ride in most parades, comfortably ensconced on a float!).

#### **NOTES:**

*Author lian goodall is a writer and historian who lives near Elora. She plays flute with the band and finds them a delightful group. Her hope is that someday someone will write a full history of The Fergus Brass Band, which might in future, include a full chapter on the rising numbers of female members. She dedicates this essay, most cheerfully, to her favourite Captains of Industry, past and present.*

*The Wellington County Museum and Archives, (a National Historic Site mid-way between Fergus and Elora) will present a music exhibit which looks at the wealth of talent in the county. "Life And Times: The Fergus Brass Band" (May 2000 - January 2001) is a tribute to the long service of the Citizens' Band and their commitment to their community.*

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The author would like to thank the members of the Fergus Brass Band who helped me find sources and steered me towards resources.

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- 1 Oldest or second oldest? The Fergus Brass Band Web page states "the band is probably the oldest, continuously functioning brass band in existence today." It has also been called a number of different names, such as The Fergus Citizens Band. <http://www.icomm.ca/fergusbb/>
- 2 Templin, Hugh, *Fergus: The Story of a Little Town* (Fergus: The Fergus News-Record, 1933).

- 3 Peter Harris, "Fergus Brass Band On Parade," p.3. They also performed in Guelph with several other local bands for the Royal visit of 1860. Ian Easterbrook, "Many Members of the Royal Family Visited Canada's Royal City," *Wellington County History*, Vol. 11, 1998, p. 65.
- 4 Re: Beatty Brothers history. Matthew and George founded the Beatty Bros. Limited in 1874. The enterprise was later supported by their sons, William and Milton. Pat Mestern, *Fergus: A Scottish Town by Birthright*, p.30. Letter to Mr. J. Ridgely (? Pen scribbled through typed name and another illegible name added) Sept. 19, 1919 from Beatty Bros. Ltd. Letter from Executive Committee of Fergus Brass Band to Bandmaster Moore, Sept. 8, 1919.
- 5 "History of Brass Bands," <http://members.geguana.com/thomas/HistBB.html#1>
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- 7 "20th Canadians" Band," Publicity Brochure.
- 8 Hutchinson, Jean F. *The History of Wellington County*, p. 237.
- 9 One applicant had been working with the 33rd Band of Goderich, "stragglng along here all summer and have been trying to bring quite a few young fellows along. Now the season is over. So many men have left town owing to the scarcity of work... . I have just got disgusted." Letter from Alf. J. Scott, Goderich to Band Manager, Sept. 28, 1919.
- 10 Typed letter from Beatty Bros. Limited, per Band Manager, to Mr. H.A. Lay, Metropolitan Employment Agency, Sept. 19, 1919.
- 11 Typed letter from Beatty Bros. Limited, per Band Manager, to Mr. H.A. Lay, Metropolitan Employment Agency, Sept. 19, 1919.
- 12 Letter from Alf. J. Scott, Goderich to Band Manager, Sept 28, 1919.
- 13 Letter from Beatty Brothers Limited, per Band Manager, to R. Moore, Sept. 8, 1919.
- 14 Yep, the opposite is also true. Bands could become a reason to meet down at the local pub. But in Fergus, the roots of temperance were deep and Beatty's certainly espoused this philosophy.
- 15 Pat Mattaini Mestern notes that Beatty's had "a strong influence on Fergus for eighty-six years. The Firm, meaning the brothers, had a profound effect on the way their employees lived, where they worshipped, what they did or did not drink, what they did for recreation... . The Firm believed in temperance and made sure that Fergus remained one of the driest villages in Ontario." Mestern, Pat. *Fergus: A Scottish Town by Birthright*, p.31.
- 16 Letter to Mr. J. Ridgely (? Pen scribbled through typed name and another illegible name added) Sept. 19, 1919 from Beatty Bros. Ltd. Letter from Executive Committee of Fergus Brass Band to Bandmaster Moore, Sept. 8, 1919.
- 17 A carpenter at the factory made between \$3.50 and \$3.75 a day. Letter from Beatty

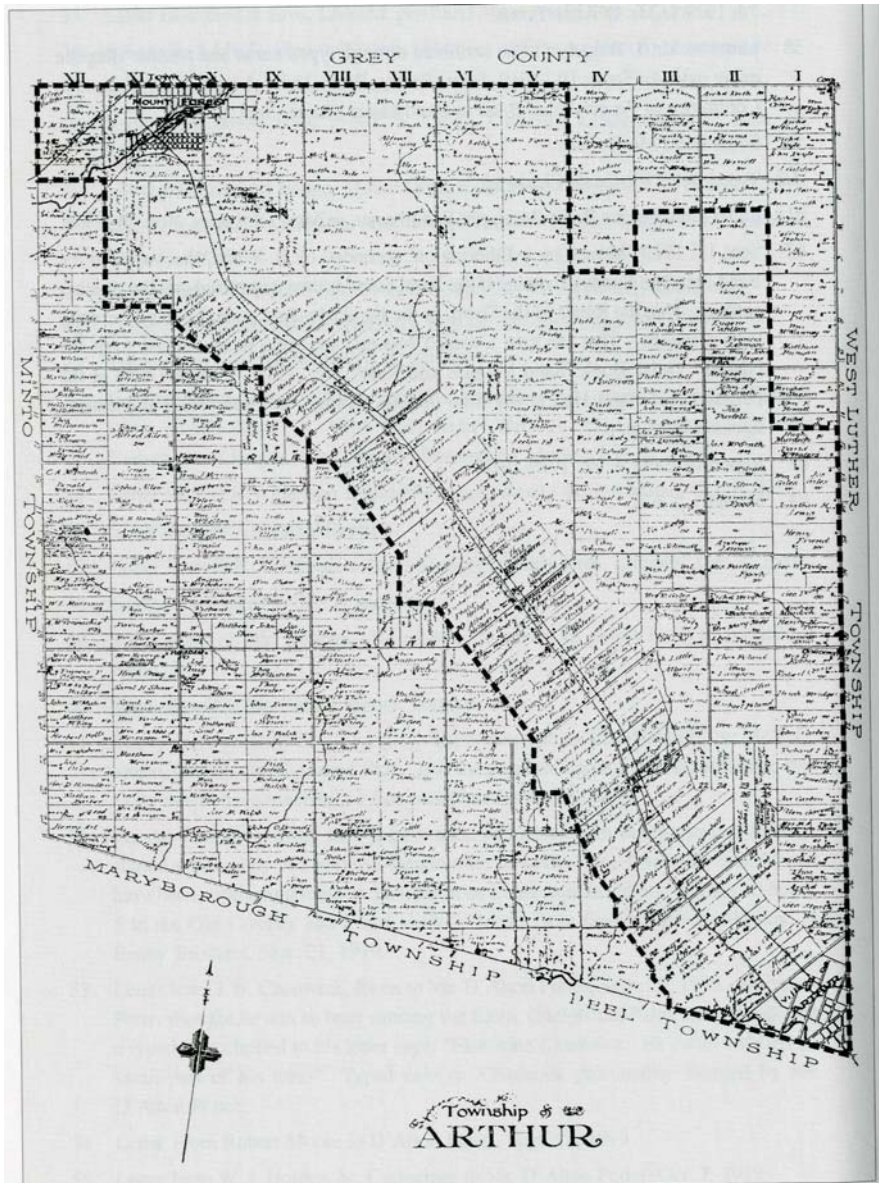
Bros. Ltd., per Band Manager, to Mr. H.A. Lay, Sept. 19, 1919. Regarding classes they expected to "have a class organized in factory hours 5:30 to 6:00 every night but Saturday night," with the "young men leaving the factory at 5:30." Beatty's also stated that they would "Assist members to purchase their horns, by buying horns, and allowing them to pay for them on easy installments." Letter from Beatty Bros. Limited, per Band Manager, to Mr. W. G., July 24th, 1919. Train Fare to Port Stanley in 1919 to one out of town concert is said to have cost the Beatty Bros. \$175.00. Note re: Picture 6. Black binder describing photographs, privately held Fergus Band Hall.

- 18 Letter to H. A. Lay, Metropolitan Employment Agency, from Beatty Bros. Limited, per Band Manager, Sept 19, 1919.
- 19 Letter from Beatty Bros. Limited to Mr. H. A. Lay, The Metropolitan Employment Agency, Toronto, June 5, 1919.
- 20 Letter from Beatty Bros. Limited, per Advertising Manager, to Mr. H. A. Lay, The Metropolitan Employment Agency, Toronto, May 20, 1919.
- 21 Letter from Beatty Bros. To Mr. W. Cronk, Orchestra Leader, Guelph. Sept. 19, 1919.
- 22 Letter to H. A. Lay, Metropolitan Employment Agency, from Beatty Bros. Limited, per Band Manager, Sept 19, 1919.
- 23 Letter to Mr. J. Ridgely (? Pen scribbled through typed name and another illegible name added) Sept. 19, 1919 from Beatty Bros. Ltd. Letter from Executive Committee of Fergus Brass Band to Bandmaster Moore, Sept. 8, 1919.
- 24 Letter from Beatty Bros. Limited, per Band Manager, to Mr. Geo. Sainsbury, Weston Ont., Sept. 11, 1919.
- 25 Letter from Executive Committee of Fergus Brass Band to Bandmaster Moore, Sept. 8, 1919.
- 26 Letter to Mr. J. Ridgely (? Pen scribbled through typed name and another illegible name added) Sept. 19, 1919 from Beatty Bros. Ltd. Letter from Executive Committee of Fergus Brass Band to Bandmaster Moore, Sept. 8, 1919.
- 27 Letter from Jas. L. Malone, Stratford, to Messrs. Beatty Bros., Sept. 19, 1919.
- 28 Letter from Beatty Bros. Limited to Mr. H. A. Lay, The Metropolitan Employment Agency. May 30, 1919.
- 29 Letter from Beatty Brothers Limited, Oct. 2, 1919.
- 30 Applications from afar were not considered as relocation was a big worry.
- 31 Typed letter from Beatty Bros. Limited, per Band Manager, to Mr. H. A. Lay, Metropolitan Employment Agency, Sept. 19, 1919.
- 32 Score sheet, Mr. J. Lamiman, Fergus, Ont.
- 33 Score sheet, Mr. W. F. Cummings, Hamilton. (Total 71 out of one hundred).
- 34 Score sheet re: Mr. J. Ridgely. He ended up with 38 points out of one hundred.

- 35 Letter from Beatty Bros. Limited, per Band Manager, to Sept. 23, 1919.
- 36 Score sheet, Mr. R. Moore, Toronto. Five out of fifteen points for permanence.
- 37 Letter from Jas. L. Malone, Stratford, to Messrs. Beatty Bros., Sept. 19, 1919.
- 38 Letter from Beatty Bros, to Mr. W. Cronk, Orchestra Leader, Guelph. Sept. 19, 1919.
- 39 Letter from Herbert Lodge, Mount Dennis, Ontario to Beatty Bros., Sept. 24, 1919.
- 40 Letter from R.B. Albertson, Arnprior, to Band Manager, Beatty Bros. Limited, Sept. 27, 1919.
- 41 Letter from Wilberton Goulde, Regina, Sept. 21, 1919 to Beatty Bros. Ltd.
- 42 Letter from Alfred J. Scott, Goderich to Band Manager, Sept. 28, 1919.
- 43 Typewritten note "ELIMINATE HUGHES".
- 44 Letter to Mr. J. Ridgely (? Pen scribbled through typed name and another illegible name added) Sept. 19, 1919 from Beatty Bros. Ltd. Letter from Executive Committee of Fergus Brass Band to Bandmaster Moore, Sept. 8, 1919.
- 45 Letter from R.B. Albertson to Band Manager, Beatty Bros. Limited, Oct. 4, 1919.
- 46 Score sheet re: Captain Albertson.
- 47 Letter from R.B. Albertson to Band Manager, Beatty Bros. Limited, Oct. 4, 1919.
- 48 Beatty score sheet re: Mr. J. Ridgely
- 49 Score sheet re: Mr. Dobney. He received 8 out of 15 points for "Organizational Ability."
- 50 Score sheet for Mr. Robert Moore, Toronto.
- 51 Beatty score sheet re: Mr. J. Ridgely. Typewritten note "ELIMINATE" re: Mr. E.G. Smith, Orillia. Smith played flute. It is the personal opinion of the author that this alone would have made him a fine candidate for Bandmaster.
- 52 George Sainsbury wrote that "I have been connected with bands most of my life, started when a boy of 8 and was Bandmaster of a boys band when 17 years old and have been conducting most of the time since I have conducted no less than 10 bands 5 in the Old Country and 5 in Canada." Letter from Geo. Sainsbury, Weston, to Beatty Brothers, Sept. 21, 1919.
- 53 Letter from J.W. Chadwick, Elora to Mr. D'Alton Potter, Sept. 29, 1919. However, Potter thought he was so busy running the Elora, Guelph and Palmerston Bands that a typed note clipped to his letter says: "Eliminate Chadwick. He could only give a small part of his time." Typed note re: Chadwick presumably dictated by Mr. D'Alton Potter.
- 54 Letter From Robert Moore to D'Alton Potter, Sept. 11, 1919.
- 55 Letter from W. J. Holden, St. Catharines to Mr. D'Alton Potter, Oct. 7, 1919.
- 56 Letter from Robert Moore to D'Alton Potter, Sept. 11th, 1919.
- 57 (Re: music) Letter from A. Dobney, Oct. 6, 1919, W. J. Holden, St. Catharines, Oct.

- 7th 1919 to Mr. D'Alton Potter.
- 58 Letter to Mr. J. Ridgely (? Pen scribbled through typed name and another illegible name added) Sept. 19, 1919 from Beatty Bros. Ltd. Letter from Executive Committee of Fergus Brass Band to Bandmaster Moore, Sept. 8, 1919.
- 59 Score sheet Mr. Dobney.
- 60 Typed note "Eliminate Chadwick."
- 61 Letter from Fergus Brass Band, per Bandmaster, to Mr. C. J. Lacey, Nov. 11, 1919.
- 62 Sept 12, 1919 "Moved by J. Etherington; seconded by R. White, that we open the Band Stand on Sunday Evening if the Band Stand is then completed and the weather permits. That the Reeve of the Town, or the Band Manager open the stand formally with a speech. That we give a sacred concert, and have it announced from the church". Order Book: Band Minutes and Rules, etc., 1919. Privately held at the Fergus Brass Band Hall at the time of this writing. Re: numbers, Pat Mestern, *Looking Back*, p. 657.
- 63 Report of Band Work, 1919-1920.
- 64 Mestern, p. 657.





# 'A Most Impracticable Swamp': John McDonald's survey diary of the Owen Sound Road and Arthur Township, 1840-41.

*by Ross D. Fair*

In 1840, John McDonald, a Provincial Land Surveyor for Upper Canada, was instructed by the colonial government to survey lots along a new settlement road and to chart a new township out of the wilderness in the territory immediately west of Luther Township. He was to follow a route from the northern limit of settlement in Garafraxa Township through to Owen's Sound on Georgian Bay that had been explored by another surveyor, Charles Rankin, in 1837. By way of a more complete survey of the southern portion of this route, McDonald



would open a gateway to the tract of wilderness to the northwest of Garafraxa Township. Although his assignment was seemingly straightforward, the diary that McDonald kept of his survey during the autumn of 1840 indicates that his efforts were hampered by swamps, snow, and administrative confusion.

*From the Couling Collection  
#11538. WELLINGTON COUNTY  
MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES*

By 1840, Upper Canada was a rapidly developing and expanding colony. During the 1830s, the province had nearly doubled its population to more than 400,000 inhabitants.<sup>1</sup> Large numbers of immigrants arriving each year throughout the 1830s created a steady demand for new portions of the province's wilderness to be surveyed for settlement. In addition, the growing population within the settled areas created a need to amend the old municipal system of districts throughout the province. At the end of the 1830s, the territory that would become Arthur Township lay at the corners of the Gore

and Home Districts; Garafraxa Township was located at the northwest corner of the Gore District and Luther Township formed the western boundary of the Home District.

The new District of Wellington was established in June 1840. Composed of parts of the Home and Gore Districts, it was a district sizeable in territory but not population. Wellington included the townships of Waterloo, Wilmot, Woolwich, Nichol, Eramosa, Guelph, Erin, Garafraxa, Amaranth, Luther, Melancthon and Proton. Only townships in the southern part of the district had been settled to any extent, with the more northerly townships either surveyed with scattered settlers or surveyed but not yet settled at all. The Wellington District also encompassed the wilderness territory extending from the corner of the old limits of the Gore and Home District northwesterly to the Bruce Peninsula.<sup>2</sup> It was upon the creation of this new district that the Upper Canadian government also issued orders to survey a new settlement road into the upper reaches of the Wellington District, and to create another township within its boundaries.

The person chosen for the task was John McDonald, an experienced surveyor who had been employed in Upper Canada's wilderness for many years. He had studied engineering in Scotland, and upon his arrival to Upper Canada in 1823, McDonald became the first surveyor of the Canada Company. He had been present with John Gait and William Dunlop at the founding of Guelph in 1827, and was subsequently placed in charge of surveying the road from Guelph to Goderich in 1828. During his employment with the Canada Company, McDonald had either conducted or directed the surveys of at least seventeen of the townships between Guelph and Goderich. Known as "Stout Mac" on account of his great strength, he had spent over a decade and a half charting the forests of western Upper Canada when word reached him of his new assignment in mid-1840.<sup>3</sup>

The survey of what would become Arthur Township originated with an Order-in-Council from Lieutenant Governor Sir George Arthur and his Executive Council on 16 June 1840. The primary goal was not the survey of the new township, but rather "to proceed at once with the opening" of what would become the Owen Sound Road. This trail, the Executive Council believed, would pass through lands possessing soil of "great fertility" and would make accessible an "extensive tract of public lands."<sup>4</sup> It had long been the practice, in Upper Canada, for settlers to first take up lands along the colonization roads, with later settlement creeping steadily toward the back concessions of the adjoining townships. In this instance, 50 acre lots along the Owen Sound Road would be given to settlers, with the adjoining 50 acres to the rear available for purchase at a later date, provided that settlers had performed their required settlement duties.<sup>5</sup>

John McDonald first learned of his assignment when Upper Canada's Surveyor General, Robert Baldwin Sullivan, passed along the Order-in-Council

to him on 6 July 1840. As well as opening the road from the Township of Garafraxa to "Owen's Sound on Lake Huron" by surveying lots along its route, McDonald was also instructed to proceed with a survey of the territory described as "the Tract of Land Westerly of the Township of Luther" through which the settlement road would pass. In order to connect this new road to Owen's Sound with the current limit of settlement to the south of the new township, McDonald was told that prior to commencing the survey he was to "examine the line of Road from Filker's Tavern in Garafraxa to the North West angle of that Township deviating as little as possible from the sideroads and concession lines in order that a good Waggon Road may be formed at the least expense."<sup>6</sup>

In early October, 1840, John McDonald reached his starting point, Filker's Tavern in Garafraxa Township. However, as described in his survey diary printed below, John McDonald's assigned foray into the woods west of Luther Township during the autumn of 1840 would be halted much sooner than the surveyor intended. The swamps which he and his party discovered, along with the heavy snowfall, made further surveying impossible. Nevertheless, between 13 October, when he first arrived at the northwest corner of Garafraxa Township, and 20 November 1840, when he was forced to abandon his assignment, McDonald had managed to survey 37,145 acres along the Owen Sound Road and throughout the new township.

After abandoning the survey, McDonald returned to Toronto to complete his field notes and a plan of the township. Along with these documents, he submitted to the government his opinions concerning the suitability of the area for settlement. In his view, the 1st and 2nd concessions of the new township were "principally swamps" to the extent of 10,000 acres, and were "unavailable for any settlement." McDonald assured the Surveyor General, however, that the remainder of the 25,000 acres that he had surveyed was "composed of a good loamy soil, well watered by rivers and rivulets of various sizes." He described at some length how the Owen Sound Road offered numerous sites for the erection of mills, as the road crossed streams in five different places. Yet, despite McDonald's survey, this new part of the province remained in virtual isolation from the rest of the current settlements in the province. The portion of the Owen Sound Road which McDonald had just surveyed could be accessed only by a road leading into this new township that was "for some distance only a mere temporary track, unconfined to any certain regularly laid out road allowance." In order to allow easier access for settlers to the township which he had just surveyed, John McDonald concluded his observations by recommending himself for further work on the Owen Sound Road and for the completion of his survey of the new township.

In his submission, the surveyor also reiterated a point which he had made to the Surveyor General upon his initial foray into the new township in October 1840. He had been impressed by the stream which cut through the southeast corner of the new tract and thought that it would provide a good

site for a mill. In mid-January 1841, he recommended "most strongly" to the Acting Surveyor General, Colonel Kenneth Cameron, "the laying out of some village lots on the reserve at the S. E. corner angle of the Township, to afford mechanics, &c., &c., an opportunity of building." Settlers he had encountered along the way to the new township had expressed an interest in the creation of a village in this area, and McDonald was convinced that if proper lots had been surveyed prior to his arrival, "several buildings would have been either finished or in good progress before this time." John McDonald's recommendations would lead to the creation of the village of Arthur.<sup>7</sup>

John McDonald returned to the area in the spring and summer of 1841 to complete his survey of the new township and the Owen Sound Road. But this survey too, was plagued by its own set of problems. In October 1842, a year after the completion of his survey of the township now called Arthur, McDonald wrote to the new Surveyor General, Thomas Parke, and recalled the manner in which the second phase of the survey had been undertaken. Following the abandonment of his initial survey in November of 1840, McDonald asserted that he had held himself "in readiness" to resume the survey early in the following spring, but Colonel Cameron had not permitted him to do so. Instead, he was to wait for further orders. McDonald complained that he had waited "from day to day for a period of five or six weeks," and recalled:

At length, the Honourable A. B. Sullivan (then Commissioner of Crown Lands) on his returning from Montreal gave me verbal orders to repair to the new settlement of Owen's Sound Road, and to proceed with the surveys...stating that written instructions would be sent after me, when the office became organized at Kingston, the Surveyor General's office being then under removal from Toronto to that place. None however were sent me, but I continued the survey notwithstanding, fearing the settlement might otherwise fall short of the necessary facility to its proper formation.

As a result, McDonald argued, he had lost much time by waiting for the renewal of the survey and had to act on "his own judgement in the prosecution of the surveys."<sup>8</sup>

It appears that John McDonald's survey of Arthur Township had been lost in the shuffle of offices and government officials following the union of Upper and Lower Canada in February, 1841. The absence of orders for McDonald likely stemmed from the fact that the day to day operations of the Surveyor General's office had been set aside in order to focus attention on combining the survey offices of both Upper and Lower Canada (newly-styled Canada West and Canada East) into one office located in the new

capital of Kingston. Furthermore, Thomas Parke had replaced Colonel Kenneth Cameron as Surveyor General, thereby further impeding McDonald's attempts to complete his survey of Arthur Township and the Owen Sound Road.

Despite the confusion in the survey office, between 20 May and 2 October 1841 McDonald returned to the area of his initial survey to formalize the route for the Owen Sound Road and to complete his marking out of a tier of lots on both sides of the road from Arthur Township through to Sydenham Township. He calculated that this second survey encompassed a total of 28,460 acres. While in the area, McDonald also completed the survey of Arthur Township, a task that involved traversing some additional 30,042 acres. As well, the surveyor returned to the southeast corner of Arthur Township and laid out "Town and Park Lots" at the site that would become the Village of Arthur.<sup>9</sup>

As a result of the often imprecise filing practices of a colonial bureaucracy, the diary of John McDonald's 1840 survey of Arthur Township was not filed along with the numerous other accounts written by provincial surveyors and submitted to the Surveyor General's office. Instead, it found its way into the files of the Provincial Secretary. Today, most of the other survey diaries and field notes submitted by Upper Canadian surveyors are found within the Crown Lands files in the collection of the Ontario Archives. However, John McDonald's 1840 survey is virtually lost among the thousands of documents contained within the Upper Canada Sundries collection of the National Archives of Canada.

Nevertheless, evidence of McDonald's initial survey of Arthur Township does exist in the Crown Lands papers, for he wrote several letters to the Surveyor General, keeping him abreast of his progress. When augmented with excerpts from this correspondence, McDonald's survey diary provides a vivid description of the conditions which he faced in his wilderness assignment. They also document the surprising amount of territory that he and his survey crew covered in marking out the new township during the short period between September and November 1840.

John McDonald's diary is printed below in italics, with additional information gleaned from his correspondence inserted at appropriate places. By following the map while reading the diary, John McDonald's route can be charted easily.

*Diary  
Part Surveyed of the  
Township West of Luther  
up to 18th January  
1841<sup>10</sup>*

*July 1840*

*3rd Attended by request at the Surveyor General's office for the object of undertaking  
the Survey to the N. W. of Garafraxa*

*4th Employed at the Surveyor General's office at a Diagram for the above Survey*

*5th Sunday*

*6th Working at the Diagram*

*7th Making a Sketch of the Township of Garafraxa &c.*

*8th Further employed at Diagrams and told the Surveyor General was ready for the  
Survey if my Instructions were prepared  
Received my Instructions but was desired to wait for further orders*

*9th Looking out for Information as to where I could get best furnished with men &  
provisions*

*10th Made an Extract from Mr. Rankin's Field Notes*

*11th Ruled a quire of paper for Field Notes*

*12th Sunday*

*13th Waiting on the Surveyor General for orders to proceed and understanding some  
little time would likely elapse before a final decision proposed to leave Town for a  
few days. Left on the 14th for London, and thence to Goderich and returned to  
Toronto on the 5th August. And on calling at the Surveyor General's office was  
informed the intention of procedure with the Survey was become entirely  
abandoned.*

For an unspecified reason, the survey orders of June 1840 were delayed. Not until 16 September 1840, did the Executive Council inform the new Acting Surveyor General, Colonel Kenneth Cameron, that the delayed survey was to proceed. As a result, John McDonald was again issued orders "to survey immediately a Tract on the line of Road to Owen's Sound" according to the plans that he had received from Robert Sullivan in July.<sup>11</sup>

*September 1840*

*28th Received the Surveyor General's letter of the 16th inst. and replied thereto stating I would make diligence to be at Filker's on Lot \_\_ in the 6th concession of Garafraxa by the 5th or 6th Prox. Sent to Mr. Hopkirk to Oakville to come on for a [?] to Garafraxa*

John McDonald received his instructions while in Goderich, and on 20 September 1840, he informed Cameron that he would "be ready with party & provisions" at Filker's on Lot 16, Concession 7, Garafraxa Township by the 5th or 6th of October.<sup>12</sup>

*October 1840*

*2nd Employed in preparing to start for Garafraxa and sent off Richard Ryan John Ryan, James Ryan, William Hadden to join my party on that place.*

*3rd Left Goderich per Mr. D. Smith early this morning and travelled to Stratford — distance about — 45 miles. (Followed myself early on the 5th)*

*4th Travelled to Woolwich about\_\_*

*5th Arrived at Fergus at 3 o'clock P.M. dist about \_\_\_\_ Hired 3 men at Fergus  
George K. Gray  
George Kempt  
William Wilcox  
and made arrangements for Provisions and purchased cooking utensils*

*6th Went to Filker's in Garafraxa and thence to see Mr. A. Silverthorn who was working at a Bridge across the Grand River.*

On 10 October 1840, John McDonald reported to Cameron that the two parties which he had hired had reached Filker's Tavern a week before him. While waiting for him to arrive, Mr. Silverthorn and his men had set to work building a bridge across "the Southern or main Branch of the Grand River." A Mr. McNab had also arrived early with his party and assisted Silverthorn and his men for a day. Upon McDonald's arrival, the work crews left the bridge uncompleted. However, the surveyor noted to his superior that if settlers were to use the road that he was about to survey, the completion of the bridge was "indispensably necessary, as the Stream is so large as not to be at all times either easily or safely fordable."<sup>13</sup>

*7th Employed exploring the Ground across the 6th concession of Garafraxa in order to select a good line for a Road*



*8th Marked off the Road Line through the 6th and 5th concessions nearly*

*9th Finished the Line through the 5th and across the 4th 3rd and most part of the 2nd concessions (Engaged today Hugh Kennedy & Thomas McCallum)*

*10th Finished the Road Line through the 2nd and then along the allowance for Road between the 1st and 2nd concessions across Lots Nos 20 then across the 1st concession between Lots 20&21 to form a communication with a Road to Fergus, thence back to the Line between the 1st & 2nd concessions of Garafraxa and examined the Same to Lot No 26*

On 29 October 1840, McDonald informed Kenneth Cameron that the settlement of Garafraxa Township had advanced further north than indicated by the obviously dated information provided by the survey office. It was his impression that he had been sent to Filker's Tavern for the reason that Filker "was the nearest Inhabitant to the new Township, which would be a distance of nearly 12 miles." But McDonald and his party had discovered a settler on Lot 21, Concession 1, Garafraxa Township, only about 6.5 miles away from the new township. Furthermore, McDonald noted, Nichol Township was "almost regularly well settled from the lot mentioned above [south] to the Village of Fergus." In Fergus, there was a post office "distant from the New Township about 11 miles." He reported that many of the settlers he encountered were eager to know how the government intended to dispose of the new land he was to survey. McDonald was unable to offer the settlers any information, but buoyed by this interest in the territory he was about to survey, McDonald submitted a request to the Surveyor General that he be allowed to perform a complete survey of both the Owen Sound Road and the new township should the government desire to hasten settlement of the territory.

As for the progress of his current assignment, McDonald reported to Cameron that "Mr. Silverthorn with 6 or 7 men, and Mr. McNab with 15 men and cattle and two waggons loaded with provisions," had opened the road through to the northern limit of Lot 20 on the road allowance between the 1st and 2nd concession of Garafraxa. Based on this rate of progress, he calculated that the party would reach the edge of the new township within a day and a half or two days.<sup>14</sup>

*11th Sunday encamped on Lot No 25 in the 1st concession*

*12th Examined the Line between the 1st & 2nd concessions from Lot No 25 to the N. Boundary and thence to the N. W. angle of Garafraxa.*

*13th Running a Line from the N. W. angle of Garafraxa through the Reserve in the New Township and then along the N. W. side of the Reserve to the Purchase Line Surveyed in 1828. Had some detention in looking over the ground with Mr. McNab for selecting a good building site.*

- 14th Finished the Line on the N. W. Side of the Reserve from Owen Sound Road to the Luther Line and posted off Lots 35, 34, 33 on Owen Sound Road
- 15th Compared the Instrument on the E. Boundary of the Township and found its bearing with the same N.824W  
chained the E. Boundary from the S. E. angle of the Township to Lot 21 in the 1st concession
- 16th Posted off Lots 21 to 16 inclusive on the E. Boundary and Ran across the 1st concession between Lots 22&21
- 17th Running across the 2nd concession and 21 chains of the 3rd — All swamp — Retained until 11 o'clock A. M. with a heavy rain  
showry & wet through the day
- 18th Sunday encamped in the Owen Sound Road Line  
rainy day
- 19th very Rainy day and unable to make any progress
- 20th Posted off Lots 32 to 24 inclusive on the Owen Sound Road  
Fine weather today but very cold and wet on the night proceeding
- 21st Posted off Lots 26 to 14 inclusive on Owen Sound Road  
Fine clear weather after a cold chilly night
- 22nd Laid off Lots 13 to 7 inclusive on Owen Sound Road  
very fine sun shining day after a cold night
- 23rd Running between Lots 13 & 14 E. & W. of Owen Sound Road — also between Lots — Fine weather in the forenoon but cold with hail and snow showers in the afternoon. Encamped on Lot 27 Owen Sound Road — Time a good deal occupied in returning thus far
- 24th Some fall of snow last night, commenced the Line between Lots 27 & 28 W. of Owen Sound Road and after going about 20 chains was obliged to come to a stand from the quantity of snow lodged in the Trees disabling the Brush loppers to open the Line
- 25th Sunday. Encamped on Lot 27 Owen Sound Road  
Snow showers last night and this day
- 26th Completed the Line between Lots 27 & 28 W. of Owen Sound Road [and] also to the E. of Owen Sound Road
- 27th Ran the Line between the 2nd & 3rd concessions across Lots 21 to 19 inclusive  
Cold chilly day progress very slow by reason of swamps & thickets &c  
gave George K. Gray leave to quit and took Mr. L. Lightburn into my party

*28th Continued same Line so far as 10 chains of Lot 10. Mild soft weather and some decrease of the Snow, but cold and wet underfoot. Had some Tolerable good Land today*

*29th Travelled or rather scrambled across the 2nd & 1st concessions through a most impracticable swamp, and laid off Lots 15 to 13 inclusive on the E. Boundary - and ran back through the 1st concession between Lots 13 & 12 — swamps and thickets almost all day — soft day and some decrease of the snow but cold and wet underfoot.*

McDonald again assessed his progress for the Surveyor General on 29 October 1840 and indicated that, "Swamps and bushy thickets in the South and East parts of the Township together with some days of uncomfortable weather retarded progress." Although optimistic that better weather and indications of better land in the northern part of the township would increase his progress, McDonald had to relay the news to Colonel Cameron that the conditions were tasking his survey crew. "During the last few days of unfavourable weather," McDonald complained,

the lodgment of snow in the bushes particularly in the evergreens which had to be cut out in the Lines had been very disagreeable to the bush loppers, as their work brought the most of it down about their ears, and over their bodies. They on occasion indeed baulked work and struck out for quitting the woods altogether but as I did not consider it justifiable to yield, I threatened them on the event, of forfeiting their wages, and to be made accountable for the consequence of stopping the survey all of which was not sufficient, until I chose other persons to take their place, and set them to work as packmen, which they do not now [,] after we are favoured with better weather and better grounds [,] consider any great advantage, on such occasion all of us suffer, particularly from cold and wet feet, none of us can pretend to go dry shod, and I think it were well if I could for better encouraging under such circumstances, be empowered to promise some little increase of wages were the case my own I would do so without any hesitation.<sup>15</sup>

Despite the difficulties that the terrain presented and the complaints of his crew, McDonald soldiered on with the survey.

*30th Running across the 3rd & 4th concessions between Lots 15 and 16 and also between Lots 20 & 21 E. of Owen Sound Road — Fine day but cold and wet underfoot*

*31st Running across the 2nd concession between Lots 12 & 13 - swamp & thickets, also across 20 chains of Lot 10 & 15 chains of Lot 9 in the 2nd & 3rd concessions — swamp cedar and Balsam Fir Thickets — cold and cloudy day with some snow showers*

*November 1840*

*1st Sunday Encamped on Lot 11 in the 2nd concession*

*2nd Running the Line across the 3rd and 4th concessions between Lots 12 and 13 and between the 4th & 5th concessions across Lots 13, 14, 15 and to the intersection of the Line between Lots 20 & 21 from Owen Sound Road — Extensive swamps, and slow progress in consequence.*

*3rd Running the Line across the 5th concession between Lots 12 & 13 and 12 chains in the same direction, also the Line between the 4th & 5th concessions across Lots 12, 11, 10*

*4th Running the Line between the 2nd & 3rd concessions across N. part 9 and Lots 8, 7, 6, 5 Foggy and wet chilly weather, and very swampy Land.*

*5th Running across the 3rd 4th 5th and 44 chains of the 6th concession between Lots 6 & 7 — Fine clear sun shining weather — swamp about one half the way the other fine Land*

*6th Running between the 4th & 5th concessions across Lots 9 & 8 & 7 and across remainder of the 6th concession, and the whole of the 7th concession between Lots 6 & 7. Fine weather and Tolerable good Land. Had a good deal of Travelling to-day*

*7th Running between the 6th and 7th concession across Lots 7, 8, 9, and to the intersection of the Line between Lots 13 & 14 from Owen Sound Road and then across the 6th concession between Lots 9 & 10 went also between the 6th & 7th concessions across Lot 6*

*8th Sunday Encamped on Lot 6 in the 7th concession Rainy afternoon*

*9th Finished the Line between the 6th & 7th concessions across Lots 5 to 7 inclusive, and Ran the N. Boundary on the 7th and 20 chains of the 8th concession — Rain last night, and until 9 o'clock this morning — with showers through the day.*

*10th Running the N. Boundary on the 8th & 9th concessions and to the Owen Sound Road also the Line between the 8th & 9th concession across Lots No. 1 and 20 chains of No. 2 Fine weather to-day Had a good deal detention in crossing the Maitland or Saugin River [sic].*

Swamps hindered John McDonald's progress once again. On 10 November 1840, he noted to the acting Surveyor General that he could not recommend any of the land that he had surveyed to the Northeast of the lots "on the Line of Road to Owen Sound for settlement, on account of extensive swamps."<sup>16</sup>

*11th Running between the 8th and 9th concessions across part of Lot 2 and to Lot 6 inclusive, and between Lots 6 and 7 across the 8th concession and 15 chains of the 9th good Land interspersed with some swamps*

*12th Running across parts of the 9th concession with the 10th and 45 chains of the 11th between Lots 6 & 7 Gloomy & showry weather with a heavy Rain towards night*

*13th Posted off Lots 6 to 3 inclusive on the Owen Sound Road  
Sleet and snow for the most of the day Henry Hopkirk obliged to quit from bad health, and swelling of his knee.*

*14th Posted off Lots 2 to 1 on Owen Sound Road and Ran the N Boundary from that Road to near the N. W. angle of the Township  
very hard frosty morning — but a fine day until 2 o'clock P. M. after which it snowed heavy, until night*

*15th Sunday Encamped on Lot 1 Owen Sound Road  
Snowing all day*

*16th Finished the N. Boundary Line to the N. W. angle of the Township, and planted in cedar post at that point, about 5 inches diameter bearing N. 64 E. a distance of 12 links from a Hemlock Tree blazed and notched on the side next to the post. Thence Ran the W. Boundary across Lot 1 and 4 chains of Lot 2  
got into a most impracticable swamp, and obliged to quit work from the depth of the snow and the great quantity of snow lodged in the Bushes rendering further progress on the part of the Brush toppers impossible*

*17th Travelled back to Lot 6 on Owen Sound Road and encamped there for the night —  
Light snow showers through the day  
Running the Line between Lots 16 & 17 E. of Owen Sound Road  
Slight snow showers  
The Bushes very heavily loaded at their tops and all their Branches with snow —  
deep snow and very hard walking encamped on Lot 16 Owen Sound Road*

*18th Travelled to the S. E. angle of the Township — very hard walking from the depth of the snow Tarried over night at Mr. McNab's*

*19th Travelled to Fergus, deep Snow and very hard walking. Discharged Party on condition of mustering again on the event of the weather becoming favorable*

*20th The weather still continuing unfavourable I relinquished the idea of again*

*resuming Field operations for the winter - wrote the Surveyor General to this effect  
- went to McNab 's to wind up about provision matters and returned same day to  
Fergus*

On 20 November 1840, just ten days after his complaint about the swamps in the new township, John McDonald relayed to the Surveyor General the reasons why he was abandoning the survey.

Some of my party having got tired out in a swamp near the N. W. angle of this Township, in consequence of the depth of snow I gave them all leave to quit on the 19th inst[ant] in the understanding of mustering again on the event of the snow disappear [ing]. The snow has however kept at too great a depth since then, to admit of working to good advantage and it is again today a good deal on the encrease. I shall therefore relinquish further prosecution of the survey for the present, seeing that there appears to be more land already laid out than is likely to be settled before spring, and shall set off for Toronto tomorrow or the day after, to furnish you with Field Notes and a correct plan of the survey so far as it is now performed.<sup>17</sup>

But McDonald did not return to Toronto immediately as he had suggested, for he recorded in his diary on November 19th that he was,

*Engaged on Journey to Goderich and back from the 20th inst. to the 29th inclusive<sup>18</sup>*

*December 1840*

*1st Employed at Fergus arranging accounts and settling with some of the men*

*2nd Employed onfornoon [sic] as yesterday and travelled afterwards to Guelph*

*3rd Travelled to Dundas.  
Roads very badly broken up*

*4th Came to Oakville*

*5th Arrived at Toronto this afternoon*

*6th Sunday*

*7th Reported myself at the Surveyor General's office and Commissioner of Crown Lands and enquired whether there was any pressing desire for the immediate Returns for my Survey  
Engaged about private affairs from this time to the 14th instant inclusive  
January 1841*

*12th Arranging Field Notes and completing a fair copy in duplicate as also of Diary — making plan of the Township — calculating oblique distances — casting up contents of irregular Lots making out accounts &c. &c. from the 15th ultimo to this date both days inclusive*

*Personally appeared before me James Grant Chewitt Esquire one [of] Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the Home District John McDonald Deputy Surveyor who maketh oath and saith that the foregoing Diary is true to the best of his Knowledge and belief.*

[signed] *John McDonald*  
*Deputy Surveyor*

*Sworn before me at Toronto this 13th day of January 1841*

[signed] *J. G. Chewitt J.P.*  
*Home District*

## **INDEX OF NAMES:**

### **Officials:**

Sir George Arthur, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada  
Robert Baldwin Sullivan, Surveyor General of Upper Canada  
Colonel Kenneth Cameron, Acting Surveyor General of Upper Canada  
Thomas Parke, Surveyor General of Canada West  
A.B. Sullivan, Commissioner of Crown Lands  
John McDonald, Provincial Surveyor  
Charles Rankin, Provincial Surveyor  
D[avid] Smith, Provincial Surveyor  
James Grant Chewitt, Justice of the Peace for the Home District

**Others:**

Mr. Filker [Felker] of Filker's Tavern, Garafraxa  
George Gray  
William Hadden  
Henry Hopkirk  
George Kempt  
Hugh Kennedy  
Mr. L. Lightburn  
Thomas McCallum  
Mr. McNab  
James Ryan  
John Ryan  
Richard Ryan  
Mr. A. Silverthorn  
William Wilcox

**NOTES:**

1. Frederick H. Armstrong, *Handbook of Upper Canadian Chronology* (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1985), 272.
2. *Ibid.*, 195-6.
3. A. P. Walker, "John McDonald," *Annual Report of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors* 53(1983): 100-103; Frederick H. Armstrong, "Donald McDonald," *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* 10, 459-60.
4. Archives of Ontario, Crown Lands and Resource Records, RG1 A-I-7, v. 15, Envelope 1, "Copy of a Report of the Executive Council..." 16 June 1840; "J. B. Howison to R. B. Sullivan," Toronto, 1 July 1840.
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6. AO, RG1 A-I-1, v.5, Letters received by the Surveyor General 1766 - 1913, "Copy of Instructions forw'd to Depy Provl Surveyor John McDonald...", Toronto, 6 July 1840.
7. AO, RG1 A-I-1, v. 5, "John McDonald to Colonel K. Cameron," Toronto, 13 January 1841. Also see same to same 29 October 1840.
8. AO, RG1 A-I-1, v. 5, "John McDonald to Thomas Parke, Surveyor General," Kingston, 18 October 1842.
9. AO, RG1 A-I-1, v. 5, "John McDonald to Thomas Parke, Surveyor General," Kingston, 28 October 1841; "John McDonald to Thomas Parke, Surveyor General," Kingston, 18 October 1842; AO, RG1, B-IV, v.I, Box 1, Survey Accounts 1796 - 1915, "John McDonald, Abstract of Disbursements," Kingston, 18 October 1842.



10. National Archives of Canada, RG5 B3 Volume 8, Upper Canada Petitions and Addresses, 1792 - 1841, pp. 136367 - 97. For sake of clarity, I have taken the liberty to transcribe McDonald's short-form notations in full.
11. AO, RG1 A-I-7, v. 15, Envelope 1, "James Hopkirk to Kenneth Cameron," Government House, 16 September 1840; AO, RG1A-I-2, v. 31 "K. Cameron to John McDonald," 16 September 1840. Also see John McDonald's 1842 statement that his orders of July 1840 had been countermanded. AO, RG1A-I-1, v. 5, "John McDonald to Thomas Parke, Surveyor General," Kingston, 18 October 1842.
12. AO, RG1 A-I-1, v. 5, "John McDonald to Surveyor General," Goderich, 20 September, 1840.
13. AO, RG1 A-I-1, v. 5. "John McDonald to Colonel K. Cameron," Garafraxa, 10 October 1840.
14. Ibid.
15. AO, RG1 A-I-1, v. 5, "John McDonald to Colonel K. Cameron," New Township west of Luther, 29 October, 1840.
16. AO, RG1 A-I-1, v. 5, "John McDonald to Colonel K. Cameron," Fergus, 10 November 1840.
17. AO, RG1 A-I-1, v. 5, "John McDonald to Colonel K. Cameron," New Township of W. of Luther, 20 November 1840.
18. John McDonald entered this item under the heading of 19 November 1840. It has been moved for the sake of clarity.

# **Preserving the Past: An Examination of Food Preservation Through the Memories and Voices of Wellington County Women**

*by Catherine Reid*

During the harvest season, many kitchens throughout the county become a focal point of activity for processing and preserving food. Preserving food can prevent its spoilage and includes techniques such as canning, pickling, jam and jelly-making, salting, freezing, and placing foods in cold storage.

For many women today, food is preserved for reasons of pleasure or taste, or for controlling the content of foods eaten at the kitchen table. With the year round availability of a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, preserving food has also moved from an act of necessity to an activity arguably done more to preserve the past. For our grandmothers and great-grandmothers, however, the task was not considered optional, but essential. Indeed, if food wasn't preserved in the fall, then, as Betty Lambert of Guelph Township stated, "there wasn't any to be had". Moreover, not only was the task a necessary one, but was labour intensive and arduous. This changed greatly with the electrification of households and the availability of domestic refrigerators and freezers, the impact of which is described below.

This article describes the practice of food preservation through the memories and voices of nine women<sup>1</sup> from central Wellington County, born between the period of 1906 and 1936, and traces how the task of preserving food changed dramatically with the arrival of the freezer.

Before homes in the region had access to electricity, one food preservation technique that was practised was drying. When foods are dried, harmful microbes are deprived of the moisture necessary to encourage their growth.

Mary Clark recalled watching her mother dry fruit, and explained that:

I lived on a farm, and it had a huge orchard. There were all kinds of apples you never hear of now. Some of the farmers around wouldn't have good orchards, so [my mother] asked [neighbour] ladies to come. They brought a pan and sharp knife, and they would sit there and peel apples for dear life. And then they would cut them up, and everybody would have a nice clean cotton bag, and they would put the slices in there. And then they took them home, and these bags were hung up to let the apples dry. At least this is what we did. When they were dried, my mother would take them out, and then she would make a dried apple pie....All the ladies made their dried apple pies.

Another long time resident of the area also recalled how her mother dried this fruit:

[They] had to be peeled and quartered, and if they were big apples the quarter would have to be cut in two again. Then they were put into a rack, a frame that had a fine screen in the bottom so that a fly couldn't get through, and then it was covered over again with cheesecloth because you were drying apples in the fall when it was fly time, so it was difficult. These frames hung from the ceiling, little hooks in the ceiling... This was always over a stove so it got the heat of the stove and of course the heat of the room just from the sun. Every morning my mother would stand on [a] chair and take a long-handled spoon and give them a stir and kind of spread them again so that they would get the heat. When she felt they were dry enough, she would set them out in a place where no flies would touch them, and let them dry a little more....Then she would put them in a bag and just store them anywhere. Then, when she wanted to use them, she would take them out, wash them, and then put them to soak. They soaked until they were soft, so they were easy to cook. And mostly, I remember that she used them in pies, or pudding.

She then continued by explaining that she herself dried large quantities of apples, but this only briefly during the Second World War<sup>2</sup>:

Now when the war was on...the Red Cross sent out a notice of how to sulfur apples...I can't tell you how we did it, but I remember being in the orchard and another



*Home Canning: Up-To-Date Methods and Equipment.* "Presented with the compliments of the Bank of Montreal. Published 1929 by International Harvester Company of Canada Ltd., Hamilton, Canada".

FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE WELLINGTON COUNTY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES, A 1996.52.

neighbour and I, we set it up just the way they told us. You had an arrangement in the bottom. I think we must have put coals or something in the bottom, and then some sulfur. The sulfur fumes went up around the apples that were peeled and quartered. One fall, when food was very scarce...oh we sulfured apples and put them in bags!

Preserving fruits, vegetables and meats through canning was also widely practised in central Wellington County. Although the term suggests the use of tin or aluminum containers (with caps that would have to be soldered shut), the nine women interviewed for this article processed food in glass jars rather than metal cans. And although there are several variations to canning with glass jars, the work generally required women (as it does today) to sterilize jars and work over boiling water or a hot stove.

Several women make mention of the work involved in canning. Joan Bosomworth of Elora recalled the following:

We did a lot of canning the first years I was married. We were still canning the meat and we used to do lots of peaches. We used to go down to peach country, down to Niagara. We knew a family that had a farm down there, and we would come back with bushels of peaches. We canned peaches for about a week. It seemed to me, anyway. We sorted them out and did the ripest ones first....it seemed to go on forever.

Another participant living in Elora, Marion Marshall, recalled how:

My mother did sausage...I can recall that several pigs would be butchered and several men would come, so there would be a lot of help.. ..But everyone would have their own animal to do, and we would have a sausage maker. Of course, it was ground and then it went into this maker, and the casings were threaded onto the spout. Miles of it! And then my mother wound them around in big quart jars and they were put into a canner and done for hours.

Storing was also a popular way to preserve in central Wellington County, and was used mainly to keep root crops. Carrots could be buried in sand in the cellar or left in a trench in the garden, while potatoes could be stored in a bin in a cold room. Cabbages, too, could also be stored in the cellar, as Joan Bosomworth recalls:

## *Preserved Peaches*

**4 pounds peaches**

**3 pounds sugar**

Pare peaches, cut in halves and take out stones. Arrange peaches and sugar in layers in preserving kettle; let stand overnight. In the morning simmer until peaches are tender. Fill jars with fruit. Boil syrup five minutes, fill jars with syrup and seal.

## *Cabbage*

In the late fall before permanent freezing up, the cabbage should be pulled up and stored for winter use. A few of the outside leaves may be taken off. They may be piled on shelves, so arranged that the air will circulate freely around them or they may be tied up in bunches of three and suspended from the ceiling. A pit may be made in the driest part of the garden and the cabbage piled in the form of a pyramid. They should be piled heads down and the succeeding layers bringing the pit to a peak at the top. Earth should be thrown over them as the season advances. If the pit is at all large, an air vent should be left. This may be a piece of stone, pipe or a piece of tile set in the peak of the pit. In severe weather this ventilator should be filled with straw or excelsior.

*From: Ontario Department of Agriculture, Women's Institutes, Bulletin 252:  
The Preservation of Food: Home Canning (Toronto, July 1917)*

Once in early September there was a heavy snow fall...My mother-in-law decided we must save the cabbage in the garden. So we walked way down the lane to where the cabbages were...and truded them up to the root cellar...Back and forth we went...carrying all the cabbages and putting them in a pile in the root cellar.

Another woman from the Fergus area remembers other methods that were used for storing food:

We had what we called a root house, and that was where the turnips were stored. It was always cold but it didn't freeze in there and it was part of the barn, but it was shut off all by itself and the door was closed tightly. We could keep vegetables in there, the same as people do now with a cold room.

In the house, more like the garage of the driving shed, my father had put sort of a bin, closed in too, and then every winter he would go to the river and cut up blocks of ice and get sawdust, and they called that the icehouse. So when we needed ice for the icebox in the house, he'd go and get ice from the icehouse. So that was good for keeping food too.

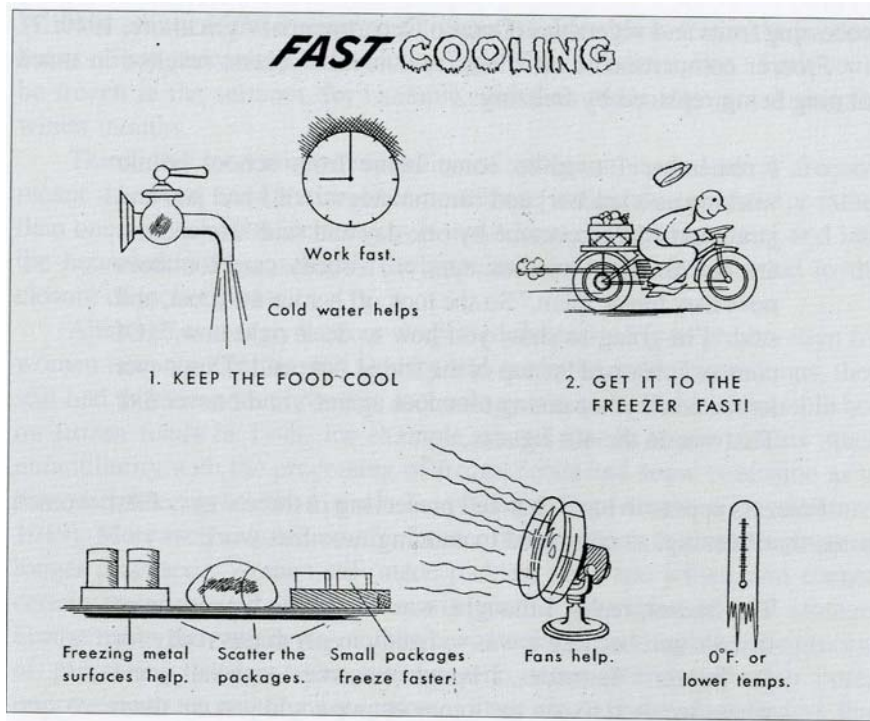
Methods of food preservation changed greatly once women had access to freezers, the adoption of which is shown in the following table<sup>3</sup>:

<b>Household Food Preservation Amenities in Rural Ontario</b>				
	<b>1941</b>	<b>1951</b>	<b>1961</b>	<b>1971</b>
<b>Refrigerator</b>	17%	45%	91%	97%
<b>Freezer</b>	-	-	26%	59%

*Source: Dominion Bureau of Statistics, 1949, 1953, and 1962; and Statistics Canada, 1977*

Aside from freezer compartments in refrigerators and chest freezers, another option for home preservers was to rent a locker at a locker plant, where food could be frozen and stored for a fee (Ontario Department of Agriculture, 1949). Although the above table does not include figures on such lockers, over half of all farm women in Ontario used these lockers by the early 1960s. (Cebotarev, 1995) These food lockers were used primarily for meats, as Joan Bosomworth describes below:

And then of course, gradually freezers came in. But you didn't have them in your own house, you had lockers. You



Teaching readers about the freezing process - from *Frozen Foods*, published by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, Statistics and Publications Branch, Toronto, 1949.

rented a locker. When you needed some meat or something, you would go and get it out of the locker. It think it was mainly meat and fowl. I don't remember that we went to get fruit. I think we were still canning the fruit...! think it was a creamery maybe that made it a specialty, because they had to keep things cold too, the cream and the butter. I think it became a sideline for some of the creameries. There was one in Elora on Mill street.

Mary Rutherford of the Fergus area also described the facility as "community lockers" and stated that "...you could rent a locker...People would kill a beef of their own and sell it by the half or quarter, and cut it up and freeze it. When you went shopping, you had your key and you went to your locker and got a piece of meat." Betty Lambert also spoke of this key, recalling that it wasn't to be forgotten during trips to town.

Locker plants in fact offered more services than freezing and storing foods. Often there were butcher-shop facilities for slaughtering, sausage making, lard rendering, meat smoking and curing. Sometimes frozen foods were retailed while some locker plants even had kitchen facilities for



processing fruits and vegetables (Ontario Department of Agriculture, 1949: 7). Freezer compartments, and later individual freezers, resulted in much canning being replaced by freezing:

I remember I used to come home from school [while working as a teacher] and can tomatoes until I had jars and jars. And Margaret came by one day and said "Helen, you are not canning tomatoes, surely! Nobody cans tomatoes now, they freeze them." So she took off her hat and coat, and said "I'm going to show you how to do it right now." Of course, I only had the top of the fridge. She said "Don't ever let me catch you canning tomatoes again!", and I never did. That was in the 40s I guess.

Freezers appear to have changed preserving in three ways. First, women noted that freezing, as compared to canning, was less work:

The freezer, really, I thought, was one of the biggest helps that we got, because it was so handy to get things ready for the freezer. Tomatoes, I bought tomatoes especially, and where we used to can the tomatoes, we could just cut them up and put them in a plastic bag and freeze them. And that was good for casseroles, soup, and different things...That saved a lot of work. Cooking them and putting them into jars was more work.

Joan Bosomworth stated that:

We didn't start preserving less at home, we started freezing. Instead of canning, we froze peas and beans and corn, and fruits - peaches...In fact we preserved more things with the freezer because it wasn't as time consuming. We got a big freezer of our own so we didn't have to go other places to get the meat. We did have cans too, but I think the big change was preserving to freezing.

Second, not only was it easier to clean, blanch and package fruits and vegetables than to sterilize and process jars, freezing also allowed women to postpone part of the work usually required during the busy harvest season. For as Betty Lambert noted, with preserving "...you have to do it when it's ready. It's not like having the dishes in the sink and being able to wash them in the morning." Indeed, canning fruits and vegetables means that processing has to take place when the produce is fresh or spoilage will occur.

With the advent of the freezer, participants became able to freeze the produce but continue processing the fruits or vegetables at a later date. Fruit could be frozen in the summer, for example, and then made into jam during the winter months.

Third, the increasing availability of refrigerators and chest freezers meant that food preservation became a more individualized activity rather than one with a social element, as it moved out of the community and into the household. For example, the popularity of chest freezers led to the closure of locker plants.

Although access to freezers simplified the task of food preservation for women in central Wellington County and made the work less arduous, they still had to learn about how the technology worked. Guidelines published on frozen foods in 1949, for example, stated that "...there remains much unfamiliarity with the processing of frozen foods and some confusion as to how the freezing method works." (Ontario Department of Agriculture: 1949) Moreover, acquisition of a freezer did not mean that canning was no longer practised. Women still made pickles, jams and jellies, and canned certain fruits as well. They also still placed vegetables in cold storage. Furthermore, the freezer was not the only amenity that simplified the process of preserving food, as the women who were interviewed also noted improvements in canning equipment. They recalled the glass sealers that they once used for preserving, called Crown jars, which were comprised of a glass lid, a metal screw band and a rubber ring. These lids may have been more prone to an improper seal (OMAFRA, 1995), and women would have to watch for bubbles or turn the jars upside down to test for a proper seal. With the availability of metal lids, the sealing process was simplified, as participants could listen for the seal to snap and check for a concave lid.

It is important to note, too, that there have been other developments in the lives of women in central Wellington County that have affected if not how, but why food is preserved, including their paid work outside of the home and the wide availability of foods in the supermarket. Still, it is hoped that the above tells a story of how a technology, largely taken for granted today, at one time changed the work done by women in homes across the region.

#### **REFERENCES:**

*Acknowledgements: The author would like to thank all those who took the time to be interviewed during this research. The interviews were not only informative, but a pleasure to conduct. Participants include Joan Bosomworth, Mary Clark, Betty Lambert, Marion Marshall and Mary Rutherford. Other participants wish to remain anonymous. The author*

would also like to sincerely thank Ian Easterbrook of the Wellington County Historical Society for helping locate participants and for being interested in this work.

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- 1 Women, of course, were not the only ones to preserve food in homes throughout central Wellington County. Men's responsibilities often included placing foods in cold storage, butchering meat for canning, and collecting ice for the ice house. Still, this article focuses on women because of their central contribution to household work.
- 2 During the World Wars, women across the country were encouraged to preserve food. Wartime canning publications were printed by the Dominion Department of Agriculture, where readers were told that "Food is precious. None must be wasted. Therefore, as much as possible of Canada's perishable fruits and vegetables should be canned for use throughout the winter" (1943: 2). Note that women were encouraged to preserve not only for their own families, but also to send overseas. In 1940, for example, 110 thousand pounds of jam was sent to Europe through the Ontario Women's Institute and the Ontario Division of the Red Cross. See also Linda Ambrose, *For Home and Country: The Centennial History of the Women's Institute in Ontario*.
- 3 Statistics specific to Wellington County are not available; the adoption of these food preservation amenities in rural Ontario in its entirety is shown in the table.

# The Check King of Fergus

by Greg Oakes



*"On hand for the opening face-off of the Fergus Thistles first home game was former N.H.L. player Bucko MacDonald and local lacrosse veteran John Joe Atkinson" May 21, 1975.*

FROM THE COLLECTION  
OF THE WELLINGTON COUNTY  
MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES, VERTICAL  
FILES: FERGUS - SPORTS.

Wilfred "Bucko" McDonald, a bruising body checking defenceman, was one of the most colourful players in the National Hockey League. Though the Fergus native skated for eleven years in the NHL and wore three Stanley Cup rings he is best remembered for his hard hitting checks that earned him the moniker "Bucko"

Born in Fergus on Halloween 1911, Bucko played amateur athletics for many local teams. He played baseball throughout the 1920's and 30's. A better hitter than fielder he ended his career with the Guelph juveniles. He played centre ice for the local Fergus hockey teams. His first love was lacrosse and he started in Fergus, then a year with Guelph, culminating in his senior year with Brampton on the Mann Cup winning champions of 1931. He turned professional but the ill fated national lacrosse league collapsed.

Conn Smythe of the Toronto Maple Leafs often scouted lacrosse teams for hockey talent. Bucko was given a tryout with the Leafs but was not a great skater. Jack Adams of the Detroit Red Wings got wind of McDonald's defensive abilities and placed McDonald on their protected list before Toronto. McDonald gained a permanent spot with the Red Wings the following year. Professional hockey was not a lucrative financially for players during the depression and most had summer employment. Bucko worked in Sundridge, Ontario though his mother continued to reside in Fergus.

Bucko, at 5 foot nine and 205 pounds was a hero to Detroit fans and was often praise as one of the hardest checkers. In 1936 the Red Wings clashed with the Montreal Maroons in the first round of the playoffs. A fan, Harry Jacobson, a Detroit coal dealer used to hang around the dressing room and offer players ten dollars for a goal or assist. That night he offered Bucko five

dollars for every player he sent sprawling to the ice. Neither, offerer or offeree, could have foreseen that game was to become the longest in NHL history ending at 16:30 of the sixth period of overtime. By that time Bucko had placed thirty seven bodies in the prone position for \$185.00.

Ebbie Goodfellow, a team mate recalled a night in Montreal when Jacobson offered \$14.00 for every time a Detroit player knocked down the Canadiens star, number 14, Johnny "Black Cat" Gagnon. Goodfellow recalls:

"Of course everybody on the team liked that, especially our big defenceman Bucko McDonald who really knew how to body check. Well Bucko really did a job on the Black Cat that night, and when the game was over he came tromping into the dressing room over to Jacobson who said "Bucko, I think you got him four times." Bucko roared so loud he nearly blew Harry out the door. "Hell!" he said " I got him five times if I got him once."

The Maple Leafs finally acquired McDonald in 1938 for \$10,000.00 and Bill Thompson. Detroit and Toronto had a rivalry that culminated in the 1942 series when Detroit won the first three games of a best of seven series and lost the next four. Aging, Bucko was playing for the Leafs and had slowed down some. Bucko had his best season in 1942 being named to the second all star team and his worst in the last round of the playoffs. The Detroit players knew his style and took advantage of him in the first three games. The Toronto coach, in frustration benched four veteran players including Bucko. The Leafs won the cup without his help. The following year he was traded to the New York Rangers before retiring in 1945.

Once out of hockey his second career bloomed and he was elected the Member of Parliament for Muskoka for a dozen years, but he was always referred to as Bucko McDonald, a tribute to his bone crushing body checks.

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*Fergus Juvenile Lacrosse Team, 1928, showing "W. MacDonald, goal"*

FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE WELLINGTON COUNTY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES, PH 12318.



STAMP REPRODUCED COURTESY OF CANADA POST CORPORATION

# The Day Tom Longboat Raced in Erin

*by Ken Weber*

By 1908, the good citizens of Erin were well past the stage of getting excited by the prospect of another big race day. After all, over the previous twenty years, Erin had become one of Ontario's racing hot spots. Part of the reason was timing. Shortly after James Long began to build Stanley Park in 1889, a group of local clergymen built a racetrack right next door - just in time for the bicycle craze that gripped North America through the 1890s. Barely a summer weekend passed in Erin without some group sweating it out on the track and then picnicking, boating, and playing baseball in the park.

Another reason was access. The CPR station was almost directly across Main Street, so excursion groups from Toronto had far less travel time than if they chose Elora or Niagara Falls. Even the old horse-drawn mail stage from Guelph was still reporting 100 passengers a week to Erin as late as 1909.

Organizing committees liked the setup too. Because the track and park were adjacent and contained, group leaders didn't have to go searching for people when it was time to leave (unlike Niagara Falls, which apparently reported "train-missers", mostly couples, on a regular basis!)

Then there was the eternal popularity of racing itself. When the fanaticism for cycling cooled at the turn of the century, the Erin Turf Club took over the track for horse racing. And when the horses weren't running, there were foot races. Track and Field (often called 'Caledonian Sport') was never a craze, but its popularity was enduring, especially the sprints, dashes and marathons, where local and national heroes dominated. In 1908, for example, most sports fans in Ontario could still remember champion sprinter William Cook, from Hamilton, who had left to join the US cavalry and died with Custer at Little Big Horn.

All the racing heroes of the day showed up in Erin at one time or another. That's why the villagers were quite prepared to yawn politely when flyers proclaiming September 18th as the annual celebration day of the local Sons of Scotland Lodge also announced a race card.

However those who took a second glance at the advertisement did so with



eyebrows raised. This would be no ordinary day. The S.O.S. boys had snagged Tom Longboat. He would run a five-miler against Percy Sellen of Toronto. Who Percy Sellen was, no one really knew. Or cared. Tom Longboat was the man to see. One of the biggest names in marathon racing would be performing!

Canada had not had a larger-than-life sports figure since young Ned Hanlan had crushed all comers, worldwide, in sculling some thirty years before. Tom Longboat appeared to be the one who might fill his shoes.

In some ways, Longboat was a storybook figure. He was born in 1886 on the Six Nations Reserve, near Brantford on the Grand River. He left the reserve at age twelve to become a farm labourer. Though he did not seem to be a natural athlete, he ran and ran and ran until he'd turned his body into that of a marathoner.

At his first truly big race, the Hamilton Round-the-Bay in 1906, he showed up in a droopy cotton bathing suit and cheap sneakers. The crowd hooted and guffawed and then turned to put their money on the imported English marathoner John Marsh. Longboat beat him by almost two miles! When he broke the record winning the Boston Marathon in 1907, Tom Longboat's star was shining bright.

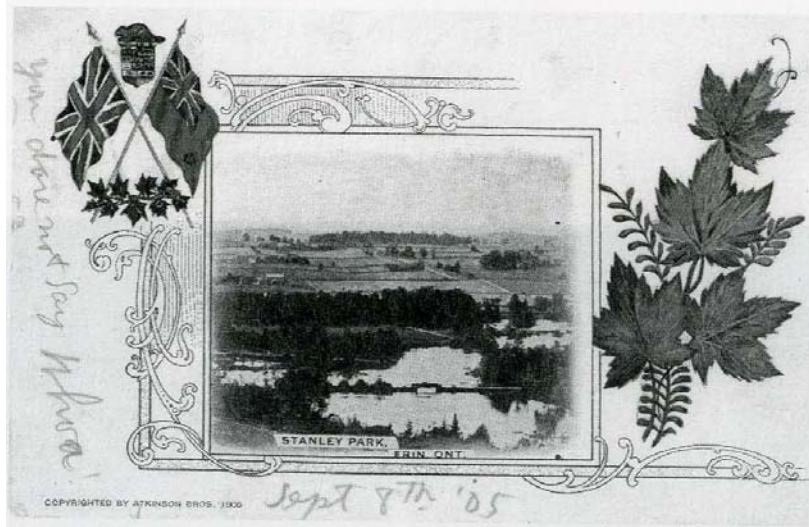
Still, he was controversial. To keep his amateur status, his manager employed him at a cigar store, where he allegedly smoked the entire stock. He was accused of drinking and high living. Just a few weeks before coming to Erin that September, he had collapsed at the nineteen-mile point of the marathon at the Olympics in England. Rumours flew that he'd been doped.

Nevertheless, to the folks on the farms around Erin, Hillsburgh, Orton and Caledon, he was still the famed Tom Longboat, so when the big day came, Stanley Park was full.

The day's preliminaries went off successfully, with sprints and dashes keeping the crowd focused. But all the while, the Sons of Scotland were looking over their shoulders at the train station. The train bringing their star runner was late. Percy Sellen agreed to run a one-miler while they waited, and then a two, winning both handily.

As it turned out, he still had plenty of time to catch his breath before the big one, for when the train chugged into Erin, Tom Longboat was not aboard! The glitch was temporary, though. He'd missed his train in Peterborough but caught the next one to Toronto and was coming on to Erin by car. Thank goodness for the telegraph system!

To keep the crowd calm, the S.O.S. executive brought on the baseball game between Erin and Orton. Always a near-grudge match, they counted on it to keep a lid on things, but the ploy was only modestly successful. Orton's highly regarded team folded to Erin 20 to 5 in a game that was literally squeezed by the fans. By the ninth inning, they were not only standing on the base lines, they were even crowding the batter's box! Just in time, a shiny black model T Ford came through the gates of Stanley Park. Tom Longboat had arrived in Erin.



*Stanley Park.*

FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE WELLINGTON COUNTY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES, PH 7759.

No fault of the S.O.S. Lodge, but the big race was a bust. It had been hastily put together and, because it was so late, the five miles had to be reduced to two. And although the judges gave the winning nod to Longboat, many finish-line spectators were sure it was Sellen who broke the tape.

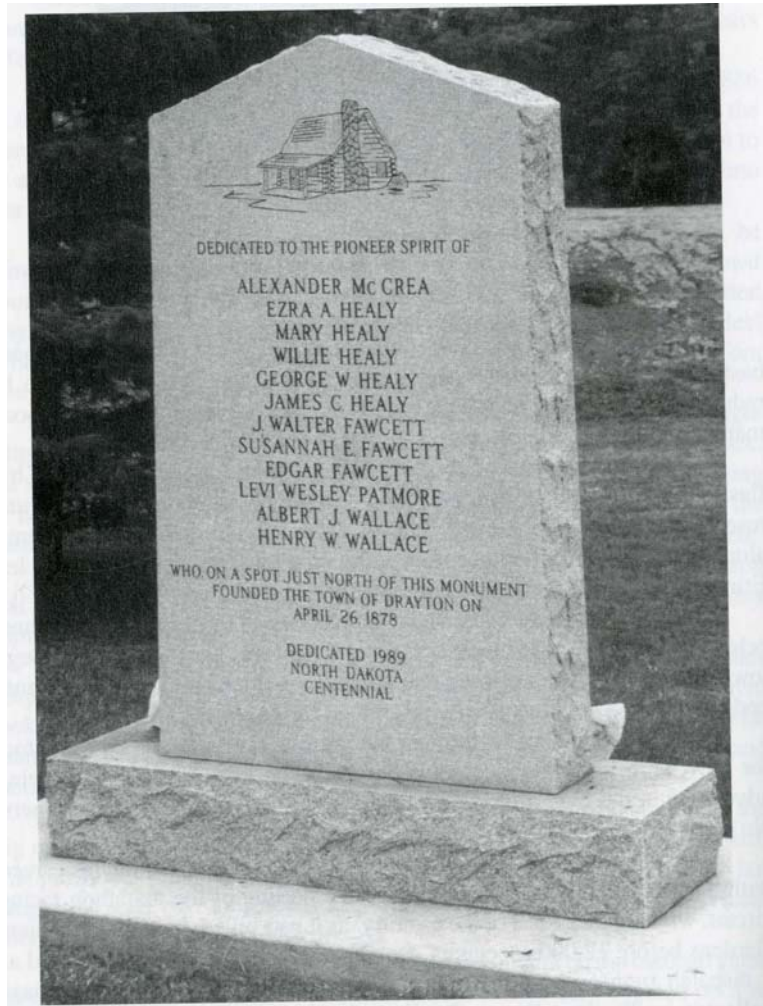
Fortunately, the spirit of goodwill along with the spirited hoisting of hip flasks, both of which had prevailed throughout the day, diverted any resentment or disappointment. Indeed, the latter type of spirit, it seems, along with the spirit of competition, continued long after Longboat had left Erin, and may have contributed to the only real mishap of the day.

About eleven that evening, with Stanley Park in darkness, three celebrating Sons galloped their horse-and-buggy rigs neck and neck through town, and gained a memorable lesson in physics at the point where the south end of Erin's Main Street was wide enough for only two.

Happily, all three came through the crash unscathed. A good thing too, for they were ideal candidates for an upcoming race day currently being advertised in the *Erin Advocate*. Horse races this time. Open to all comers. No entry fee. Perhaps most important: no professionals.

Although Tom Longboat had come to Erin at a down point in his career, within a few months he was once more the darling of the marathon racing circuit, winning the 'Race of the Century' as it was billed, in Madison Square Gardens before 12,000 spectators. During the First World War he served as a dispatch runner in France. On his return, he found work as a garbage collector in Toronto. Eventually he retired to his birthplace on the Six Nations Reserve where he died at age 62.

*The editors would like to acknowledge with thanks, the generosity of author Ken Weber and publisher Signe Ball in permitting the reprint of this article from **In The Hills**, Volume 6, Number 3, Autumn 1999.*



*Drayton founders stone, Drayton, North Dakota.*  
PHOTOGRAPH BY ELLEN PAPENBURG, COURTESY OF BARB MITCHELL.

# Pioneering in the Blood

*by Barb Mitchell*

In 1878, a small party left Wellington County to homestead in Dakota Territory. In doing so, it seems, these children of Wellington County pioneers were following in the footsteps of their parents. The story of the founding of Drayton, North Dakota traces an epic journey from the Pilgrim Fathers' landing on the east coast to the School of Religion at the University of Southern California on the west, it also illuminates the history of our own County.

My grandmother, Myrtle Simmons, a lifelong resident of Peel Township, saved newspaper clippings in her family Bible. In researching my family tree, the item that first sparked my interest was a 1931 death notice from the Drayton *Advocate*. The deceased was Wesleyan Methodist Reverend Dr. Ezra Healy, son of Drayton, Ontario pioneers and founder of another Drayton, in North Dakota. His obituary read, in part:

Besides his widow and his daughter Miss Winifred Healy, Dr. Healy leaves two brothers, George Healy of Ontario, Cal., and Frank Healy of Corona; his sister Mrs. Peter Dayman of Long Beach, and his brother-in-law, Albert Wallace formerly Lieutenant-Governor of California. His colleagues at the University of Southern California and hundreds of friends gathered to pay tribute to Dr. Ezra Healy dean emeritus of the U.S.C. School of Religion who died August [ ] a long illness. Funeral services were held at University Methodist Church...

The obituary was accompanied by this news article:

## **DR EZRA HEALY SUCCUMBS AT LOS ANGELES, CAL**

*Lived in Drayton Previous to Going to Grand Forks, N.D. in 1878*  
The above clipping re Dr. Ezra Healy will be of interest to the readers of this paper. In a letter received from his brother-

in-law, Mr. Ivan Morton Dales of Los Angeles, California, [ ] says that Dr. Healy, previous to going to Grand Forks, N. D., in 1878, lived in Drayton. The homestead, where Henry Healy, Ezra's brother, lived until 1878 when he and his family moved to Drayton, N.D. Henry Healy married Lucy Dales, daughter of Edward Dales. It may be interesting also to many to know that Mr. L. M. Dales is in the newspaper business in Los Angeles, Cal. and is the [ ] and publisher of the *Westlake News Advertiser* a weekly paper which has a circulation of 10,000 copies.

Dr. Ezra A. Healy, 87 years of age, dean emeritus of the school of religion of the University of Southern California and known among thousands of students as "the grand old man of the campus" died early on August 18th at the family residence, 625 West Thirty-fourth Street, following several months' of illness induced by a broken hip suffered by a fall to the pavement.

#### *Native of Canada*

Born at Smith Falls, Ont., Can, March 25, 1844, Dean Healy was graduated from Victoria University in 1872, subsequently being awarded degrees of master of arts and doctor of divinity by his alma matter. He married Miss Mary Priscilla Edmunds July 5, 1872. For some time he lived in Drayton, Ont., previous to 1878. Entering the Methodist ministry in 1867, Dr. Healy was a successful pastor of churches at Stratford, Mitchell and Montreal, Can., until 1878 when he moved to Grand Forks, N.D. at which city he helped to found and became one of the first trustees of the University of North Dakota.

#### *Honoured in Southland*

Coming to Los Angeles more than thirty year ago, Dean Healy soon became influential in the religious and education progress of Southern California. He received the degree of LL.D. from the University of Southern California and in 1907 became dean of the Maclay College of Theology of that institution. He continued as active dean until 1921 then was engaged in teaching for several years. At one time ... was president of the Board of Trustees of the University of Southern Cal.

While my grandmother was probably impressed by her cousin, her interest and that of *Advocate* readers went beyond Ezra's achievements. Drayton, North Dakota was built by Canadians, primarily by The Rev. Dr. Healy's family and friends. On her father's side, almost all of grandmother's relatives had gone to Dakota. She was one of many Drayton residents whose relatives had left a half century earlier for Drayton, ND. The North Dakota pioneers' descendants were also aware of their Drayton, Ontario heritage as this Drayton *Advocate* article from about 1958 indicates:

#### **Recalls Days of Drayton Circuit**

Miss Mary Healy of 215 E. Olive St. Corona, California, great-grand daughter of Methodist circuit-rider Rev. Ezra Healy stationed at Drayton a century ago, visited here last week on her first trip to Canada. Miss Healy told *The Advocate* that her father was born here in 1860, son of Rev. Almon Healy; he was the youngest of eight. The Healy family left here for North Dakota and founded the town of Drayton there, later going on to Ontario, California, where Miss Healy was born. Her great grandfather's saddlebags may be seen in the Methodist Museum in Los Angeles. Her father was Francis Asbury Healy; he was 19 when moving to North Dakota; he died just four years ago in California aged 94. Miss Healy's uncle Ezra was Dean of Theology at the University of California. Her mother was a native of the Maritimes which Miss Healy will visit before returning to Corona. She would be much interested in hearing from anyone who can recall when her ancestors lived in Drayton.

The Rev. Ezra Healy Sr., grandfather of The Rev. Dr. Ezra Healy, was never stationed in Drayton but died near Brockville, Ontario. The younger Rev. Ezra, however, preached in Drayton for a short while. The 1871 Ontario Census lists preacher "Esra" Healy, age 27, living with his parents in Maryborough Township. The Mount Forest *Confederate's* Personal Name Index shows that Ezra was appointed to the Wesleyan Methodist church in Drayton in 1873 and superannuated in 1874, four years before he left for Dakota Territory.

Migrations such as the one to North Dakota are often attributed to hardships suffered in the homeland. The pioneers of the new Drayton, however, were not fleeing poverty or oppression. Nor were they escaping conscription or seeking religious freedom. In general they were seeking opportunity but, for each person, opportunity had its own interpretation.

If family background could explain our pioneers' motivations then we would gain insight from the well-documented Healy history. The Healys

were Puritans. The Rev. Dr. Ezra's ancestor, William Healy was one of New England's first European settlers, migrating from England to the colony of Cambridge, Massachusetts about 1635. While in the United States, the Dr. Rev. Healy's forebears were neither oppressed, nor did they lead especially holy lives. They were, if anything, the oppressors. William was employed as a prison warden. His son Nathaniel, a soldier in King Phillip's War, was wounded in the Great Swamp Fight - the final battle that drove the native people out of Rhode Island. Ezra's great-great-great grandfather, Joshua, a Captain in the French Indian war, marched to the relief of Fort William Henry on Lake George, New York. He was the first white settler in Dudley, Massachusetts. Ezra's great-great grandfather Joshua Jr. was a captain of a Training Company. His great grandfather, Jabez Healy, and his bride were homesteaders in Shoreham, Vermont; they were accompanied to Vermont by two of Jabez's brothers, Benjamin and Caleb. Both Caleb and Jabez fought in the Revolutionary War, where Jabez suffered the loss of a leg. After the war, Jabez took his family even further north, to Potsdam, New York, where he made a living as a shoemaker.

Although the Puritans had been strict in their religious practices, by the late 1700s their descendants were practising a wide range of faiths. Jabez's uncle, Ebenezer Healy, migrated from Massachusetts to New York State where he became the first settler in the town of Sennett. Historian Elliot Storke recorded that: "Deacon Healy was a sincere, devoted and very liberal member of the Baptist Church. In his barn, erected in 1796, now standing and owned by his grandson, Philo W. Healy, the Baptist Association was formed in 1801, and its members were always free and welcome guests in his house." Ebenezer ran a tavern which was "liberally patronized, the 'bar' especially so. Everyone at that time drank intoxicants, dominis, deacons and professors alike."

Jabez's brother Benjamin wandered even further from his Puritanical roots becoming one of the original members of the Shoreham Universalist Society. Although unconfirmed, one Healy genealogist believes that Mormon leader Brigham Young was a descendent of William Healy. It is not known which church Jabez Healy attended, but his son Ezra, the Rev. Dr. Ezra Healy's grandfather, was called to the Wesleyan Methodist ministry in the wilderness of Eastern Ontario. The Reverend Ezra Sr. was remembered in Eastern Ontario church history:

Another preacher of note was Rev. Ezra Healy who went to the Rideau circuit in 1822. Mr. Healy came from Vermont. As circuit preacher, he had to cover a very large territory, but he had great physical stamina. A contemporary described him: (As) the portly, presentable and prepossessing Ezra Healy. He stood six feet and one and

one-half inch in his stocking feet. He had enjoyed but six months of schooling in his whole life - yet many thought (his sermons) wonderful. He had a warm, affectionate heart... combined with a great amount of religious fervour.

An article in the May 22, 1971 *Ottawa Journal* referred to Ezra Healy riding the Methodist circuit between the Rideau and Ottawa Rivers, "in the wilderness". It notes that Wesley United Church in Stittsville, Ontario, started from a class formed by Mr. Healy in 1819.

The records of his children's birthplaces trace out some of The Rev. Ezra Sr.'s wanderings. The first several of his fifteen children were born in Potsdam, NY, then one child was born in Montague, Ontario, one in each of Matilda, August, and Bytown, two in Elizabethtown, and the youngest in Earnesttown. The Rev. Healy Sr. and his family finally settled in the Brockville area where he put some of his great energy into farming and where he was the first minister of Greenbush Church where "Services were held as early as 1831, before the floor was put in.... The church was built as a community church to be used by Methodists, Quakers, and Bible Christians..." Ezra died at the age of 59 helping fight a neighbour's house fire.

Almon Healy, The Rev. Dr. Healy's father, like his father, was both farmer and minister. Born in 1820 in Potsdam, Almon Healy was the son of Abigail Stewart and later the step-son of Eunice Chipman. Eunice was a descendant of at least four of the most famous American pioneers, the passengers of the Mayflower - John Rowland and his wife Elizabeth and her parents Pilgrim John Tilley and his wife Joan. Eunice's relatives were among the founders of Shoreham, Rev. Healy Sr.'s birthplace, arriving in Vermont about 1765. In the early 1800s, Eunice's family made their way up the Champlain River to become pioneers again, this time in the Brockville area where, in 1831, Eunice was to marry the recently widowed Rev. Healy.

The year Rev. Healy Sr. died, two of his children, Almon and his younger sister Melissa (who was to become Myrtle Simmons' grandmother) migrated to Maryborough Township, settling on the outskirts of what was to become the village of Drayton. Almon was accompanied by his wife Lucy Wood, and Melissa by her husband, John Simmons. The Simmons family had also been Brockville area pioneers, emigrating here from the south of Ireland about 1826.

John Simmons worked as a carpenter and Almon Healy as both farmer and community leader. Ezra listed his father's contributions to his Ontario home as "school trustee, township assessor, peacemaker, and general advisor and religious leader in the community." As a preacher, Rev. Almon Healy was probably much like his father had been, as shown in a tribute from his North Dakota congregation: "Father Healy was an old local preacher of the



Canadian Methodist church and a man of missionary zeal. He seems no sooner to have landed in the country, than he took the whole boundless prairie on his heart."

The Reverend Doctor Ezra Healy was Almon's first born. His next oldest son, Henry, chose farming as an occupation; after he married, Henry ran the home farm in Maryborough with his wife Lucy Dales. Lucy was the daughter of Drayton pioneers; her family had migrated here in 1848 from Newmarket, Ontario. Henry's younger brother George Healy wanted to farm but was unable to acquire land or even to find gainful employment on a farm; he reluctantly occupied himself in the manufacture of potash and wished for a farm he saw no way of acquiring.

A monument erected in 1989 at the entrance to Drayton, North Dakota, credits several Healys with the town's founding:

Dedicated to the pioneer spirit of Alexander McCrae, Ezra A. Healy, Mary Healy, Willie Healy, George W. Healy, James C. Healy, J. Walter Fawcett, Susanna E. Fawcett, Edgar Fawcett, Levi Wesley Patmore, Albert J. Wallace, Henry W. Wallace, who on a spot just south of this monument founded the town of Drayton on April 26, 1878.

The Healys were the Dr. Rev. Ezra, his wife Mary Edmunds, and his younger brothers George and James. Willie was the four-year old son of Ezra and Mary; he died of diphtheria during the family's first winter in Dakota. The rest of the Healy family migrated from Ontario to Dakota the following year.

Alexander McCrea was the only Drayton, N.D., founder who was not from Wellington County. The oldest of the group, born about 1830 of Scottish parents, McCrea was from Merrickville, Ontario, near the Reverend Dr. Ezra's birthplace. McCrea had an additional connection to the Healys having married Ezra's cousin. At the age of 21, McCrea had followed the gold rush to Australia. On his voyage home to Canada, he committed himself to religion, specifically Wesleyan Methodism. His next trip was to British Columbia, where he did find gold. McCrea made the trip to Dakota without his family, but they and many others from that area of Ontario soon joined him.

Edgar Fawcett was the young child of Peel Township schoolmaster Joseph Walter Fawcett and his wife Susanna Walker. Susanna was born in Ontario in 1852. Ezra Healy's long time friend, companion and fellow Methodist, J. Walter Fawcett was also born in Ontario, about 1837, the son of Queen's Bush pioneers. The Fawcetts, early emigrants from Yorkshire, England, had squatted on land in Peel and Maryborough Townships, it is thought as early as 1815, waiting until they could make land claims.

Albert J. Wallace was born in 1853, on a Pilkington Township farm located between Elora and Guelph. (Interestingly, there is an Elora Township

located near Drayton, ND.) Henry Wallace was Albert's cousin. Albert's parents and siblings followed him to Dakota in 1879. Albert had attended the same university as Ezra Healy and the two were close friends. Albert described Ezra as the "best-liked man in his class and the most winning extemporaneous speaker in the institution." It seems that, in part, this talent for speaking made Ezra the natural leader of the group. The Wallaces became connected to the Healys also by marriage. Once they were settled in their new home in Dakota, A. J. Wallace asked for the hand of Ezra's sister, Serena, who had been a teacher in Drayton, Ontario, had just graduated from college, but willingly exchanged her teaching career for one in homesteading. A further family connection was made when Ezra's brother James C. Healy married Tillie Wallace.

In his memoirs, written about 1930, Albert J. Wallace noted that his father had emigrated with his family from Scotland in 1825 at the age of nine. They were heading for South America, but after a year they moved to Wellington County, Ontario. After they arrived, the town site of Guelph was platted, and Albert's grandfather was the first person buried in its cemetery (around 1828).

Wesley Patmore, born in Elora in 1856, the son of an English farmer, was a friend and neighbour to the Wallaces. Wesley's sister, Hannah Patmore, married John D. Wallace and the couple joined the migration to Drayton, Dakota in 1882.

Other early settlers to Drayton, North Dakota, from Wellington County included Ambrose and Hannah Smith, of Drayton; John Bellamy and family of Guelph; and George Richmond, of Harriston, all of whom arrived in 1879; Margaret Paterson, from Palmerston, who came a few years later; and my grandmother's Simmons relatives, who left Drayton, Ontario for the frontier starting about 1885.

There were several factors that encouraged the Dakota settlement boom that happened between 1878 and 1886. The gold rush in the southern part of the territory was one; another was the newly laid rails bringing people westward as far as Red River. The good and free land, however, was probably the main attraction. During the eight-year period, over 100,000 people entered the territory, the majority being homesteaders. Some of the founders of Drayton were interested in farming. By this time, the best land in southern Ontario had been pretty much taken up. George W. Healy wrote in his reminiscences:

In the year 1878, my father's farm of one hundred acres situated in Drayton, Ontario... got too small for his family of four boys and three girls still at home, so on the first day of April, my brother James and I started for "the great lone land", Manitoba, taking our ticket for Winnipeg.

The founders of Drayton were actually heading for Manitoba, not the Dakota Territory. They rode the Great Northern Railway across the northern United States to its termination at Fisher's Landing, Minnesota, a few miles from Red River. From here they travelled by steamboat down river to Winnipeg. The Dakota land they saw along the way was free for the taking and very attractive to them. In comparison, what they found in Manitoba was disappointing. Ezra Healy complained of the dampness of the land, and brother George was put off that much of the land had been "reserved for the Mennonites, half-breeds, French Canadians, soldiers, and several other reservations." They had little difficulty deciding to return to Dakota, except for having to relinquish their allegiance to Canada. The Rev. Dr. Healy spoke of this concern, decades later, in his reminiscences:

The Rev. George Young said to A. J. Wallace and me,  
"There has been war between Britain and the United States  
and there may be again. What will you do then?" We replied  
"The going over of such good Britons as we are will prevent  
another war." Who shall say it has not?

The original plan was to go to Manitoba where free land was available. Ezra was aware of this opportunity the year before the exodus, when he took the train to eastern Ontario to visit with relatives and friends, including Alexander W. McCrea: "When I announced my determination that since change of scene and the accompanying activity had done me so much good I would try to arrange a pilgrimage to Manitoba in the following spring." To this, A. W. McCrea responded that he would go too. While McCrea was surely aware of the gold in Dakota, his intention was to join his friend's expedition to Manitoba. On returning from eastern Ontario, one of Ezra's first stops was at his neighbours, the Fawcetts. This family quickly joined the party for Manitoba. Ezra's brothers James and George were easily sold on the idea of the free farmland.

Unlike his brothers, Ezra was not looking for a farm; his trip to Manitoba was "a pilgrimage." Ezra's early professional life had not been a great success. Apparently, he was unable to handle the demands of his chosen profession. His friend A.J. Wallace blamed Ezra's intense studies in university for a subsequent physical and emotional breakdown that kept him from his life's work for many years. Clearly, Ezra did not share his grandfather or father's stamina. Ezra wrote in his reminiscences that Dominion Day 1879 took his thoughts back to "the Stratford picnic 12 years earlier when I was beginning what I had hoped was my life's work, in the ministry of the Gospel, but which now seemed beyond hope of resumption."

On arrival, McCrea surveyed the area and assigned each of the founders both village lots and farms. In addition to planting crops, everyone had a role

to play in the new settlement. For some, however, farming was mostly an investment as their primary work was not on the land. With all twelve of the founders being dedicated Wesleyan Methodists, they quickly established a Methodist church, holding services in the McCrea cabin and then the school house until a church could be built in 1882. The first minister was Rev. Almon; two years later, Rev. Ezra took a two- year stint in the pulpit. Albert Wallace and his brother Frank, who arrived the next year, started the first general store in Drayton. Twenty-one-year old Frank Wallace used the proceeds from the sale of his tree claim right as his investment. James C. Healy became the village's first schoolteacher. Joseph Fawcett drove the stagecoach between Pembina and Drayton; later he also taught school at the newly founded John Bellamy School. The Bank of Hamilton was chartered in 1886; the first trustees were Rev. Ezra Healy, Albert J. Wallace and Bromwell P. Dayman. When the Drayton post office was established, Ezra Healy was named postmaster. Not strong enough to do farm work, Ezra was assigned what were considered easier tasks - notary public, conveyancer, census taker, and school trustee.

Even while Drayton was being established, some of the founders were taking on challenges outside the area. The first winter, A.J. Wallace took a position as pastor in the nearby town of Grand Forks. It wasn't long before Ezra had risen from school trustee to Superintendent of Schools for all of North Dakota. He also got involved in state politics: when the citizens of the north wanted to separate from the south, they sent their preacher to Washington D. C. to speak on their behalf. Then when the University of North Dakota was founded, in Grand Forks, Rev. Dr. Ezra was named to the Board of Regents, a position he held for the next eight years.

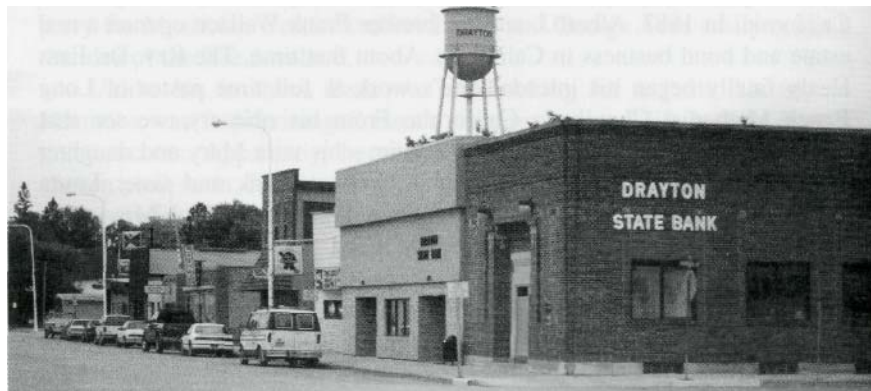
Dakota was not the end to Rev. Dr. Ezra's pilgrimage. Although they blamed the harsh winter weather for the move, perhaps a measure of wanderlust also brought him and several others of our pioneers on to California. In 1887, Albert J. and his brother Frank Wallace opened a real estate and bond business in California. About that time, The Rev. Dr. Ezra Healy finally began his intended life's work as full time pastor of Long Beach Methodist Church, in California. From his obituary, we see that several others accompanied or followed him - his wife Mary and daughter Winifred, parents Almon and Lucy, his brother Frank and sister Laura Dayman. Brother George, after spending seven years in St. Paul, Minnesota, retired to California. Alexander W. McCrea also retired to Ontario, California. Not all of the founders abandoned North Dakota: the Methodist Church history shows that there were descendants of the Fawcett, Patmore, and Wallace families living in Drayton in 1978. Some of the Healys also remained in Dakota; Ezra's brother Henry, busy digging a well on his new farm, responded to The Rev. Dr. Ezra's announcement of yet another move with a disgusted "Oh, Ezra go to Heaven this time!"

Success followed our pioneers to California: A. J. Wallace was made member of the board of trustees of University of California a position he held for 35 years. He also did a term as Lieutenant Governor of California and even ran, albeit unsuccessfully, for the US Senate. In the meantime, Rev. Dr Ezra worked his way up to a very respectable position as Dean of the Theological Department of Maclay College at the University of Southern California. The accomplishments of the pioneers who remained in North Dakota were no less impressive for being less thoroughly documented: the village they started grew into a town that still remembers all its founders.



*Streetscape, Drayton North Dakota.*

PHOTOGRAPH BY GREG OAKES.



*Streetscape, Minto, North Dakota.*

PHOTOGRAPH BY GREG OAKES.

# Wellington County, North Dakota

*by Gregory Oakes*

There *is* no county named Wellington in North Dakota. Nevertheless the state is blessed with an abundance of our County's place names. The eastern portion of the state along the Red River Valley boasts, Drayton, Minto, Harriston, Guelph, Hillsboro, Clifford, Fergus and Arthur. Drayton as the previous article indicates was founded by emigrants from Drayton, Ontario.

Similarly, Guelph, North Dakota was settled by Silas Dales formerly of Guelph, Ontario who opened up a grocery store there. The first post office was established in Dales' store with himself as postmaster and the settlement was named Guelph. Today it is a ghost town, declining steadily since its peak in the 1940s when it boasted 100 residents, 2 schools, a bank, 3 stores, a stockyard, lumber yard and rail depot.

Minto, a village in the Township of Harriston was also founded by former Wellingtonians. Many of the early settlers came from Minto Township and the names they chose for the new village and township are the reverse of their namesakes in Wellington County. Angus Gillespie of Harriston, Ontario was elected as one of the early township supervisors. Today Minto is a rural village, an agricultural depot for Harriston Township that has a population of 169.

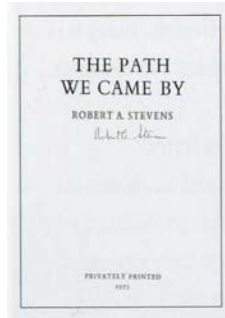
Hillsboro was not named for Hillsburgh, Ontario. It is a rail station on the Great North Western Railway and was named after that railway's chief executive, James Jerome Hill, a native of Rockwood, Ontario. It has a population of 104 today. Perhaps many of the settlers were attracted from Wellington county due to free land and the convenience of the rail line. They certainly would have heard of J. J. Hill. Between 1870 and 1910 up to one third of Ontario's population migrated to the midwest prairies.

Arthur was originally called Rosedale but was renamed to honour Chester Arthur, a U.S. president. Clifford was named after Clifford Jacobs, a promoter of the townsite. Elora was established in 1886 by George Skene, R. Thexton and John Stafford. It was apparently named for a local resident Elora Jennings; however a local man claimed his father, who emigrated from Elora, Ontario, gave the name to the settlement. Fergus appears on a 1926 map just north of Hillsboro but I have yet to discover how it came into being.

In June of 1998, I drove from Winnipeg, south on Interstate 29 to Kansas City along the Red River valley through North Dakota. It is green and flat, and all you see besides crop land is the occasional derelict house, railway lines and distant grain storage facilities. It is confusing for a Wellington County boy: Road signs give the distance in miles to Minto, Arthur, Guelph, Clifford, Drayton, Niagara, Hamilton, Ottawa, Toronto, even Oakes, North Dakota

# BOOK REVIEWS

Robert Stevens, *The Path We Came By* (Great Britain: The Stellar Press, 1973; Staples Printers, 1996; Staples Printers, 1997).



Almost 30 years ago, Robert Stevens, formerly of Fergus, began a daunting task. He set out to chronicle the life, times, toils and joys of his great-grandfather Robert Phillips Sr. In 1973 the author's personal tribute to Phillips - teacher, pharmacist, and storekeeper - was complete. Buoyed on by the tremendous response to his privately-printed tome, Stevens decided to carry on the family's history when he had more time. Twenty years passed before Stevens saw Volumes 2 and 3 printed, but the long wait was worthwhile.

It would be remiss to call *The Path We Came By* a family history. It is far more than that. Volumes 1, 2 and 3 are written in the style of a novel, complete with character development, an intriguing plot, descriptive dialogue and picturesque backgrounds. The dialogue is Steve's work, but the feelings, the hopes, dreams and despairs are those of his family, gleaned from careful research into the written documents they left behind. A hoard of carefully preserved family papers provides the rich primary material for all that is written. The volumes are supplemented with family photographs, copies of family paintings, and various business advertisements documenting the life, times and social settings of Robert Phillips Sr. (Volume 1), Bob Phillips Jr. (Volume 2) and various relatives from the Wilson and Beattie families (Volume 3).

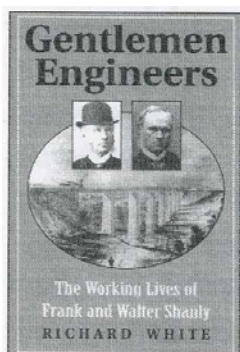
Stevens' three publications are not only intriguing to the reader, especially for those of us interested in the local history of Fergus and neighbouring townships. Their real value is the insight they provide into wider issues. We can read the descriptive dialogue and feel the same pulls and pains our emigrant ancestors felt about taking up roots and relocating to a new and distant land. They give us insight into the difficulties our own ancestors faced when they, too, took on the tasks of clearing land, establishing a farm or business, and raising a family in harder times.

These are not routine genealogies, although they have their requisite

lineage charts, birth, marriage and death dates. They are not routine local history books although they document the names, dates and locations of early settlers and businesses. Each volume in *The Path We Came By* is a tribute to the moral character and industry of the men and women who made up our country's early history. The author should be widely commended for undertaking this task and for succeeding in creating three delightful volumes that read like a novel but are true in the stories they tell.

- Bonnie Callen

Richard White, *Gentlemen Engineers: The Working Lives of Frank and Walter Shanly*. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1999).



Nineteenth century Canada boasted some outstanding engineers, from the Board of Works engineers in the canal era, through the Keefers, Fleming, Gzowski, the Shanlys, and to our famous Wellington County native Joseph Hobson. These men designed and built the transportation infrastructure that was so vital to the growth of other economic activities.

Frank and Walter Shanly's names are known to everyone who has spent any time studying Canadian history, but the totality of their careers has remained something of a mystery. This is all the

more remarkable because so many of their papers have survived, in the Ontario Archives and at least a half dozen other repositories.

This study, in essence, uses the public careers of the Shanly brothers as guideposts in a study of the inner men, their relationships within their family, and their attitude to their profession. To those interested solely in 19th century engineering, Richard White's book will be somewhat disappointing.

Irish-bora (Walter in 1817 and Frank in 1820), the brothers crossed the Atlantic with their widowed father in 1836. He was a man with social ambitions and a desire to live as a country gentleman, though without the means to do so, qualities that resonated in his sons.

Beginning in 1840, Walter Shanly quickly advanced from junior engineering positions on canal and road projects, and in 1846 he guided his younger brother into the profession. By the 1850s the brothers were at work for the Grand Trunk Railway west of Toronto to Guelph. The bulk of their careers would be spent on railway work.

Something of a spendthrift and social climber, Frank continually had to rely on Walter to bail him out of difficulty. For a time the brothers worked as partners, notably on the Hoosac Tunnel in Massachusetts, which, for 40 years, was the longest tunnel in North America. The partnership did not work well, and Frank's insatiable need for more income propelled him into the Ontario railway boom of



the 1870s. His most notable local work was on the Toronto, Grey and Bruce from Weston through Orangeville to Mount Forest and to Owen Sound.

Engineers in the 19th century had no consistent educational qualifications, and their duties as engineers overlapped into surveying, contracting, financing, and what today we would call project management, and often into politics. The Shanlys like to consider themselves engineers, but it would be more realistic to consider them general contractors, though they both acted frequently as consultants and arbitrators. Mr. White describes their relationship to other engineers on some of their projects, but it is not always clear what their exact responsibilities were, or the nature of their engineering accomplishments.

The Shanlys did not become wealthy in their engineering careers, with profitable projects offset by immense losses on others. They did not find work on major projects after the mid-1870s. Frank died in 1882, deeply in debt despite a rosy front. Walter survived until 1899, serving as an occasional engineering consultant, and as an uninspired MR Increasingly, he found himself out of step with the bustling late Victorian economy, and evolving nature of the engineering profession.

The local appeal of this study will be the work performed by the Shanlys on the Grand Trunk line through Guelph, and Frank's role on the Toronto, Grey and Bruce. Unfortunately, Walter's work on the line from Palmerston to Durham is not mentioned here. On a broader level, this book helps us to understand the growth of the engineering profession in Canada, and the fascinating personal lives of two its central figures.

- Steve Thorning

Max Mountjoy, ed., *Portraits of Peel. Attiwandaronk to Mapleton*, (Kitchener: Cober Printing Ltd., 1999)



*Portraits of Peel: Attiwandaronk to Mapleton* will no doubt prove to be the essential guide to anyone interested in the history, genealogy or settlement of Peel Township. In April of 1995 a group of Peel citizens gathered to explore ideas to increase interest in Peel and create a lasting memorial to the settlers of the area. The result of their endeavours is an 840 page tome that describes virtually every aspect of life and settlement in the township. Meticulous research and a profusion of photographs and reminiscences are combined with an excellent layout and style to create a work that is a comprehensive reflection on the community and its history. The contributors to this volume have succeeded in describing and preserving the past and its people in a manner that is informative and a pleasure to read.

The introductory chapter recounts the history of the region from the period

of the First Nations to that of the present. The original inhabitants were the Attiwandaronk Indians, a powerful agricultural society whose presence in the region continued until the 1650s when they were displaced by their more powerful neighbours to the south. What was to become known as Peel Township passed to the Ojibwa Nation and from them to the British Crown. The first settlers were escaped black slaves from the United States who were followed by European settlers in the 1840's. In 1843 Robert Kerr surveyed the township and named it after Robert Peel, a British Prime Minister of the time. Pioneers came and braved the unfamiliar environment, loneliness and the back-breaking labour involved in clearing away the bush and eventually transforming the landscape into the one of farms and villages that we see today. Their stories and the experiences of those who followed them form the basis of this work and serve as a continual thread of narrative throughout the entire work.

The following section describes the history and inhabitants of every lot and farmstead in the township. The incredible amount of work that must have been involved in this research is evident in the wealth of detail that has been gathered. The chapter is divided by concession with a sidebar that lists the owners of each lot and accompanying text and photographs providing more information whenever possible. This section has great value to genealogists and those interested in the histories of the families of Peel. It seems that every family that ever resided in the region and left a trace of their occupancy is recorded. Accompanying this are many stories and reminiscences that enrich the biographical detail and animate the experiences of the residents of Peel.

The history of the churches, schools and communities of Peel find a place in this work as do various aspects of community life such as agriculture, politics, business, roads and rails and Veterans. These sections share the encyclopaedic detail of the previous one and are also full of intriguing narratives and stories. This chapter, along with the material that tells the stories of the various villages and hamlets in the region, describes the varied aspects of social life and the changing economy of the region - all of which complement the individual family histories. Each of these sections provides an introduction to the significance of the topic in the region and then recounts the growth and extent of it in the area. The sections relating to churches or schools, for example, make it possible to see the growth in the size and diversity of the community. The inclusion of maps allows the reader to travel the region and see the site of each and every church or school. The sections on agriculture, travel, medical services and business describe how the residents of Peel adapted to the changing nature of their society as it evolved from the pioneer era, to a more settled state, to today.

There are also detailed discussions of Community sports and clubs, politics and politicians and youth activities that bring to life the day to day existence of the community. The chapter on Veterans is an especially significant section as it names all those who served, as well as giving accounts of different aspects of wartime experiences.

The appendices include lists of the original Black settlers, extracts from Robert Kerr's Diary and Field Notes, grants, deeds and a list of Peel Township officers. There is an excellent index divided into several subsections that make it easy to find a particular family or theme which is a necessity in a work of this detail and size although just browsing through the book and reading random stories is a pleasure.

The strength of this work resides in the reminiscences that carry throughout the text. They provide an insight into the lives of the people of Peel and into the ordinary rural scene of the past - both of great value and interest to any that are concerned with their history. The difficulties of settlement in the pioneer period are animated, as are the more familiar stories of periods closer to our time. Stories recounting going to school in a one room schoolhouse or a soldier's experiences overseas or life on a farm seventy years ago can all be found alongside others that describe virtually every aspect of the past. These stories are not only of value to those who experienced them (or to their friends, relatives or neighbours) but to any who are interested in how lives were lived in the past and perhaps, even with all the changes that are have occurred, are similar to today.

The incredible bulk of material gathered and the effort necessary to organize it in an effective manner illustrate the advantages of the collaborative approach adopted by Peel Historical Committee and the skill of the editor. This brief review cannot begin to describe the amount of detail and the variety of experiences preserved in this work. *Portraits of Peel* covers so many aspects of community life in this township that it is not only a significant contribution to the history of its own region, it's a welcome addition to the history of rural life in Ontario. *Portraits of Peel: Attiwandaronk to Mapleton* is an excellent example of the best way to approach local history and a fitting tribute to the people of Peel Township.

- John Seitz

Francis Hoffman and Ryan Taylor, *Across The Waters: Ontario Immigrants' Experiences 1820-1850* (Milton: Global Heritage Press, 1999)



Local author Frances Hoffman and her co-author Ryan Taylor have put together a wonderful collection of British emigrant experiences in their book *Across The Waters: Ontario Immigrants' Experiences 1820-1850*. The book is a compilation of diary entries and letters from some of the first pioneers to make their homes in rural Ontario. Besides organizing these documents very effectively, and adding adjoining text where necessary, the authors have allowed the immigrants to tell their own stories. The focus is on a group

from the British Isles, and the authors have done a splendid job of weaving together their comments on everything from the preparation for the trans-Atlantic voyage, to their reflections on their new lives in Canada.

One of the most dynamic tools used by the authors was to take the diaries of several of the immigrants, and follow the personal journey all the way from the home in the Old Country through to the building of a new house and the trials involved in clearing the lot in Ontario. The individuals quoted range in occupation from a doctor who finds that his services are in great

demand on board the ship, to the musings of the homestead farm wife, Susanna Moodie, who later became famous for her literary reflections on life in early Canada. The personal anecdotes of the British emigrants are often funny, sometimes moving, and always fascinating.

Most of the immigrants from the British Isles during the first half of the nineteenth century were from among the poor in society. They had been driven from their homeland by the potato famine, by high taxes on land that they did not own, or by the cruel Master who did. They left their homes and with few possessions, embarked on a journey to a different life on a new continent. Their writings are full of wistful musings and touching memories of loved ones left behind. Perhaps even more poignant is the hope that they hold for prosperity and equality in Canada.

Their journey was not an easy one. Once they had survived crowded conditions, poor food, disease, and boredom on the ship, they were faced with an equally harrowing journey through the relatively wild forests of Ontario. There were unforeseen challenges, such as mosquitoes, the dry heat and the numbing cold, and even when they learned how to deal with these challenges, success was not guaranteed. The first year on a new homestead was fraught with the danger of crop failure, illness, or death. Throughout these obstacles, the pioneers quoted in *Across The Waters* maintain an intense pride in their roots and in their ability to survive. They acknowledge their inexperience with humour, and while at times they complain bitterly, they make an effort to enjoy their new lives, taking great pleasure in community 'bees' and social events.

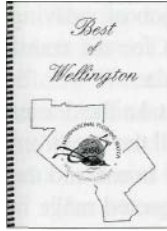
This book focuses on the hardy individuals and families who made the move to Canada, many of whom in time came to think of themselves as Canadian. Hoffman and Taylor have created a book that is not only extremely enjoyable to read, but which is full of very historically important and emotionally touching personal recollections and experiences.

- Amy Dickieson

Cookbook Committee, *Best of Wellington*, (Arthur: International Plowing Match, Wellington County/Arthur Enterprise News, 2000)

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If you like reading cookbooks, here's one for you! Not only does it have a big collection of recipes submitted by Wellington County cooks, but there are



also many amusing and/or serious sayings and verses to fill pages, some household hints, a section of poetry written by clever Wellington County folks, and even some games.

There are a number of other things especially nice about this book. The ring binding lets it lie flat - a big plus in a cookbook. The print is large and clear and the cookbook committee has done a fine job of organizing the sections. The recipes range from old-fashioned things like dumplings and cream puffs, to spur-of-the-moment dishes making use of the many shortcut items available. Along with all these good things, Stephanie Naylor of Drayton has done charming sketches, mostly of farm animals, to start each section.

If there are faults, they are things that are hard to avoid in this type of book. The committee had to count on what was submitted, so there is some repetition. It would be nice to see a few less cream cheese based appetizers, fewer main dishes with canned soup for sauce, and less mixes and packaged whipped toppings in the desert section. A detailed index would have been a useful addition too.

These quibbles aside, I enjoyed reading the book right through at one sitting and seeing familiar names attached to good-sounding recipes, one of which inspired me to go immediately to the kitchen and make it for my lunch!

- Margo Oliver

#### **Another view:**

It is intriguing to consider how those who will follow in our cooking footsteps might view this volume, one century later. Have a thought, as well, for those who attended plowing matches in earlier days, for example, Nichol Township, 1847. What would those folk have made of such a cookbook, celebrating, as it does, International Plowing Match 2000? To begin, could they even guess at the humour in this joke (p.34)?

*The honeymoon is over when he phones to say he will be late for dinner and she has already left a note to say it's in the refrigerator.*

The telephone was invented around 1875; the refrigerator (as distinct from the icebox) became a significant appliance in the 1940s. The residents of Nichol Township in 1847 would have been truly puzzled; the whimsy of the sentiment, driven by today's overstressed families would have no doubt escaped them as well.

But have a look at the recipes themselves: What might readers 150 years ago have made of Bugs Bunny Pizza? Hawaiian Dreams? Even a recipe for Dog Biscuits (p.220) - just above the poem which begins "God is like Coca-Cola, He's the real thing..."

In the 1850s, Wellington County would have consisted mainly of recent immigrants from England, Ireland or Scotland. Foreign to them would be such multicultural culinary creations as: Tortilla Roll Ups, Antijitos, Hummus, Nacho Dip, Bruschetta, Pesto Pie, Birthday Kringel (from Latvia), Pina Colada Bread, Taco Salad, Speedy Gazpacho Soup, Jerk Chicken Satay, Turkey Lasagna, Pizza Casserole, Zucchini Quiche, Picante Salsa.

Luckily, I'm sure, they would have recognized Beef Stew, Meat Loaf, Chicken Casserole, Potato Soup, Chelsea buns, English trifle, butter tarts, muffins and scones; probably the oatmeal cookies and (perhaps) the half-dozen recipes for Brownies.

Most noticeable to this reader - many confections made from peanuts. If they knew them at all, the settlers of 1847 would have called them ground-nuts or monkey-nuts. But now, we happily snap up: Peanut Clusters, Peanut Drop Cookies, Peanut Butter Banana Muffins, Peanut Butter Roundups, Peanut Brittle.

Look at the almost 30 pages of poetry at the back. There is scarcely any sense of the urgent present here: "Looking For Spring"; "Winter On The Farm"; "December - After Days of Rain"; "Country Life." The voice of rural Wellington County speaks of sparrows in spruce trees, lambs in woolly coats, bursting buds and singing birdlings. These are sentiments easily recognized by the settler of 1847. If today there is a crisis in Canada's countryside, it is not being heralded by the poets of this area.

And the contributors? Regard the surnames. Women's Institute members will recognize many of their own, women (and they are mainly women) who have a lifetime of service with one Branch or another. But what of Funkenhauser; Purvs; Gorg; Leies; Vieira; Kroes; Heise; Playle; Machan; Bzikot; DenHoed; Stodolak; Leenders. These names do not appear in the early census. How can we thank them all for coming to Wellington County and sharing their rich culinary traditions?

- Ian Easterbrook

Joyce Blyth, *Guelph Milk Bottles: Dairies and Dairymen 1900-1999* (privately printed, 1999)



"I will deliver good pure milk to any part of the town at 5 cents per quart" announced E.M. Morrison, proprietress of Dawson's Dairy, Guelph 1893, adding "none but substantial customers need apply."

From Augustus Adams (Adams' Dairy) to Norman Young (Home Creamery Co.) and dozens of companies and dairymen (and several dairywomen) in between, Joyce Blyth has compiled an extraordinary resource

which offers a history of Guelph's milk supply from 1900 to the present.

Here are illustrations of tokens, photos, advertisements, bottles, caps, letterhead, signage, licences, price lists, calendars. Each one helps tell the story. In addition, the author's collecting and research over 30 years has permitted, what must surely be, the almost-last word for many years to come.

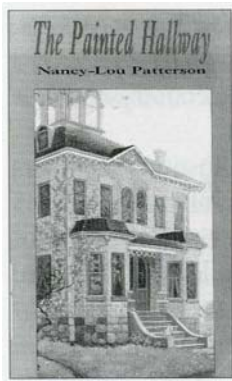
Guelph assessment rolls, city directories and telephone listings have been scoured for the names of dairies and dairymen. A generous index displays the changing corporate history and addresses of over thirty companies and their proprietors.

But how can the reader put a price tag on such an accomplishment, such dedication, amounting to thirty-six pages. How can the collector or historian repay the time so lovingly spent on this labour of love?

- Ian Easterbrook

Nancy-Lou Patterson, *The Painted Hallway* (Erin: The Porcupine's Quill, 1992)

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Although many fictional children's books recreate accurate historical accounts of landscapes or time periods, few are written based on so specific a setting as an actual house. Children's author Eric Wilson frequently uses this technique as demonstrated in his books about Casa Loma, the West Edmonton Mall and Anne of Green Gables' house in Prince Edward Island. It is, however, a rare exception, one which Nancy-Lou Patterson is beginning to emulate having written both *The Painted Hallway* and her newest release *The Tramp Room*.

*The Painted Hallway* presents the story of thirteen year old Jennifer who, while spending the summer with her great grandmother, encounters a series of visions and time transport. These sequences allow her to discover an unknown family secret and to solve the unanswered question about who painted the fantastic murals which decorate the semi-fictional Thistle Manor.

Patterson was inspired to write *The Painted Hallway* after visiting several houses in southwestern Ontario which are unique for the decorative and intricately detailed artwork which adorns their hallways, ceilings and rooms. Approximately ten "painted houses" exist in the province, with the artwork varying depending upon the time period, the wealth of the homeowner or personal taste. In Wellington County, the Dr. Robert Me William house built in 1885 in Drayton is typical of the type of house of which Patterson writes.

A reader wishing to obtain a detailed description of one of these houses

need only read *The Painted Hallway*. Patterson's interest and background in fine arts is exemplified by her ability to convey the enormity, beauty and workmanship of these masterpieces. The ceiling

"...bore complex geometric spaces, edged with intricate stencil-work and touched everywhere with gilding that was darkened by time but still added an aura of richness. Mother's precious first edition of the *Grammar of Ornament...could* have been ransacked for these rioting and rejoicing patterns, exuberantly applied over the entire surface of the ceiling, making it a heaven of geometrical and floral designs instead of stars." ( p.29)

Patterson continues to enthrall the reader with a description of the walls of the hallway, noting that they resemble "...a noble arcade, supported by rows of mighty columns..." which present a vast array of scenes including towns, forests and castles. Her eye for detail, which she transfers to the protagonist, permits her to observe that the towns are "strangely unpeopled" while the forests are crowded. Patterson allows Jennifer, with some help, to later interpret this inconsistency as the painters' perception that the townspeople have abandoned the town life for a simple life in the country, Arcadia. Whether this interpretation of the artwork is real or is based on Patterson's own theory is questionable.

While inter-weaving her tale of past and present, Patterson manages to provide a profoundly detailed description of the house. The exterior of the house, which is featured on the cover of the book, elicits a sense of history in its composition; three story complete with belvedere, handmade window glass, steep roof, stone stairs, massive door, and brass handle. Through Jennifer's thorough exploration of the house one gradually forms a clear and complete impression of the interior of this 1869 mansion. Not only does she describe the layout of the house, but her observations of the intricate features provides a sense of familiarity and visual acuity. In describing an object as simple as a door handle Patterson writes, "Its handle, made of pressed glass imprinted with a complex pattern,...looks like a carbuncle stone set in the walls of the Heavenly Jerusalem...". Indeed, with the exception of the bedrooms, the house is a verbal portrait of mid 19th century southern Ontario architecture. From the kitchen's white-painted tin ceiling and green wooden dadoed walls, to the intricately carved newel post at the head of the stairs, to details of the fabric window hangings, Patterson shares her knowledge and eye for detail with the reader.

In addition to providing the reader with information about these mysterious painted houses, Patterson, through Jennifer's observations, briefly touches on the development of small towns in southern Ontario. As is typical of towns of that period, the buildings are indicative of the surrounding



landscape. The "...yellow Ontario stone...", of which Thistle Manor and several other buildings are composed, hints at the local limestone geology, while the types of churches, Anglican and Presbyterian, and their dates of inception, 1881, provide a more accurate time frame.

Although Patterson manages to paint a vivid portrait of the artistic nature of the painted houses in Ontario, her main protagonist lacks the same reality. Patterson straddles this young girl with the same depth of knowledge her many years of arts degrees and experience have given her. The story does, however provide a fascinating historical and artistic examination of an 1860's Ontario home while blending a mysterious plot with the medium of time shifts. Patterson's ability to capture the essence of the house entices both old and young to visit one of these fascinating buildings, all the more tangible given the presence of the one in Drayton.

- Debbie Hind

William Bell, *TACK* (Toronto: Doubleday Canada Ltd., 1998)



*Zack*, fifth novel by Orillia resident William Bell, tells the story of a teenage boy uprooted from his life in the city by his parent's move to rural Ontario. Zack Lane is the son of a Jewish Canadian father and an African American mother. Like hot sauce on haggis, Zack feels that his alienation from normal life is complete with the move to the country. He describes it this way, "I had been dragged ... to the edge of the known universe, a rural route in Garafraxa Township - ... the name sounded like an incurable disease - with a chicken farm at the dead end, on the outskirts of a no place village called Fergus."

However, Zack's life changes while planting lilacs for his mother. Behind his new home he unearths a rotting, wooden box. A visit to the Wellington County Museum, "a great grey pile of local quarried stone shaped like a shoe box," brings a surprise to Zack. He learns that the box contains artifacts left behind by Richard Pierpoint, the original settler of the property. While studying the artifacts for a history project Zack learns that Pierpoint had been an African slave before the American Revolution. Pierpoint's forced exile from his home mirrors Zack's feelings and initiates a secret trip to Mississippi to find the reason for his mother's separation from her family. The journey leads to a discovery that shakes the foundation of Zack's core beliefs.

Bell's fictional story was prompted on hearing the story of Richard Pierpoint on a CD by Guelph group Tamarack. Their song is entitled Pawpine. The book includes the story of Pierpoint in the history project completed by Zack. The story of Pierpoint is fairly accurate although there are a few facts that

are wrong. Since the essay is supposed to be the work of a high school student it is forgivable. One error that is unforgivable, however, is mixing up Upper and Lower Canada on the maps used in the book. Hopefully the publisher will correct this on reprint.

Zack is a novel that will appeal to many people. Young people will enjoy Zack's road to self-discovery and his coming to terms with his heritage. People familiar with the Centre Wellington area will also enjoy the description of local sites. The novel is well structured with enough plot twists to keep it interesting throughout. Bell's writing flows easily and the interaction between teenagers and adults ring true, as shown by this passage between Zack and his father:

"Hey, Farmer Zack," he said. "How's things on the back forty?" I had no idea what he meant by the back forty and no intention of asking. "Hi, Dad. Mom's making me do slave labour again," I said grumpily. Dad looked at the uneven stripes on the front lawn and the tufts of grass I had missed in my careless swipes to and fro. "Well, you got most of it," he said. "You should be grateful. I'm the son of a musician and an academic. You're lucky I didn't run over my feet."

Zack was chosen as one of the top 3 Canadian children's fiction books of 1998 and has also won the Mr. Christie Award. I would highly recommend it as well.

- Peter Meyler



*Installation of sanitary sewers, George and Smith Street, Village of Arthur, 1960s.*  
FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE WELLINGTON COUNTY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES, PH 14501.

# Archives Report

## WELLINGTON COUNTY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

One hundred and twenty-nine accessions were catalogued into the Heritage Sentinel database by the Wellington County Archives in 1999. These accessions can be single items (ie. a book, a photograph, a map) or larger collections called *fonds* which require series, subseries and item level descriptions (ie. Ivan J. French fonds, 1892-1999).

A collection of over 30,000 primary and secondary research materials relating to the people, places, organizations and institutions of Wellington County can be accessed using the public access terminal in the Ada Currie Reading Room. Archival records accessioned in 1999 included the following items and collections.

The **Municipal Records Collection** grew with the transfer of records from the former town of **Fergus** and the **Township of Eramosa**. These records included council minutes, bylaws, clerk's correspondence, voters lists, assessment rolls, financial records, photographs and maps. In addition, original records relating to **District and County of Wellington marriage returns, 1847-1849** and **Wellington District Wild Lands records, 1828-1854** were donated.

The Archives also acquired a number of new books. Titles relating to Wellington County individuals included the following: **Gerhard Brunzema: His Work and His Influence** (1998); **Theatre of the Self: The Life and Art of William Ronald** (1999); **A Stolen Life: Searching for Richard Pierpoint** (1999); and **Works of Lawrence Vincent Badgery, From the Collection of Donald E. Little** (1999). Book titles relating to Wellington County groups included: **Best of Wellington : IPM Cookbook** (1999); **Wellco Memoirs : 40th Anniversary of the Wellington County Junior Farmers Association; Guelph Milk Bottles, Dairies and Dairymen, 1900-1999** (1999); **History of the Guelph/Wellington Men's Club** (1999); **125 Years of Achievement** (History of the Ontario Agricultural College, 1999). Books that were accessioned relating to Wellington County places included: **Portraits of Peel: Attiwandaronk to Mapleton** (1999); **Places of Worship, Records Inventory (before 1900) Wellington County and City of Guelph, Ont.** (April 1999); **The Confederate, Index to the Confederate, Mount Forest, Ontario from 1875-1878, Volume 2** (1999); **Poems of "Happenings in Minto Township" 1867 to 1888** (1999).

The majority of researchers using the resources in the Wellington County Archives are genealogists. Genealogical researchers will be interested to see the addition of records relating to and documenting the history of Wellington County families including: the **Derby** family fonds, 1869-1909 (Guelph Township); the **Dick** family fonds, 1892, 1898 (West Garafraxa Twp., Fergus); **Kenneth C. Cragg** fonds, 1938-1947-1948 (Drayton); **Ivan J. French** fonds, 1892-1999 (Nichol and Pilkington Twps., Elora) and the **Lennox-Fair** family fonds, ca. 1880-1980 (West Luther and Arthur Twps.) Frances Hoffman and Ryan Taylor's book, **Across the Water's : Ontario's Immigrant's Experiences, 1820-1850** (1999) will also be of interest to family historians.

Newspapers are primary sources of information for many researchers. Long term preservation of these fragile documents is maintained by microfilming in order to reduce wear and tear on the originals. The Wellington County Archives has a very good collection of County newspapers on microfilm. Newspapers are now available on microfilm for Clifford (1889-1891), Harriston (1877-1967, single issues incomplete), and Palmerston (1892, 1897, 1933-1935).

While the majority of the donations given to the Archives are textual or graphic records, audio visual items accessioned in 1999 include the video, **A Year On The Grand May 1998 - May 1999** and an audio recording of the **Melville Players**, Melville United Church, Fergus, ca. 1940.

Wellington County groups and organizations donating records in 1999 included the Fergus and Ballinafad Women's Institute's who donated Tweedsmuir Histories As well, a photograph of the Greenbush W.I. (Minto Twp.) at the Drew Hall in 1925 was also catalogued. Moreover, records from the United Farmers Club of Moorefield (U.F.O. #5), 1915-1975, 1982 and Maryborough Senior Citizens Club (#428), 1971-1994 were accessioned along with **Grand Trunk Railway ledgers, Harriston, 1919, 1922, 1959-1960** and James Gow, Fergus Lime Manufacturer records, 1869-1915, 1930.

Last but not least the **Photograph Collection** was enhanced with the addition of several relevant contributions including: **Harriston Northern Hockey League Team winners of District No. 2, season of 1905; Bird's eye view of Harriston from the Royal Hotel [ca. 1910]; School children of Living Springs, ca. 1890; Installation of sanitary sewers, village of Arthur, [ca. 1960s]; and S.S. #4 Metz, group photograph [ca. 1880].**

The Wellington County Museum and Archives is a National Historic Site, midway between Fergus and Elora, Ontario. The Archives is open to the public Monday to Friday 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m. The Museum is open Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and weekends 1 to 5 p.m. Telephone: **(519) 846-0916** Fax: (519)846-9630 e-mail: **karen@wcm.on.ca** or visit our website at **www.wcm.on.ca**

- Karen Wagner

# Our Contributors

**Nancy-Lou Patterson**, Distinguished Professor Emerita, University of Waterloo, has published extensively on Canadian traditional arts. **Rosemary Wagner** is Past-President of the Wellington County Historical Society. She is completing her MA in History at the University of Guelph, and is the current Edna Staebler Research Fellow at Kitchener-Waterloo's Joseph Schneider Haus. **Ian goodall** is an author, book reviewer and editor who lives outside of Elora. She works at Woodside National Historic Site, the boyhood home of William Lyon Mackenzie King in Kitchener and plays flute with the Fergus Brass Band. **Ross D. Fair** is a native of the Arthur area. He is the author of *Churchless Sundays*, a history of All Saints Anglican Church in Erin. Ross holds a PhD in history from Queen's University and currently, he is a research consultant in Toronto. **Catherine Reid** is a past resident of Minto Township, Wellington County. She now lives in Ottawa, where she works in the field of community economic development. Catherine is an active gardener and food preserver. **Ken Weber** is a Caledon writer with over 40 titles to his credit, and whose latest book is *The Armchair Detective* - for readers who like to solve their own mysteries. **Greg Oakes** fielded for the unbeaten 1972 Fergus Minor Softball League, "The Fergus Chiefs." **Barb Ranshaw nee Mitchell** has lived most of her life in the Drayton area. Although currently living in Ohio, family history research has kept Wellington County very much on her mind. It seems that every branch of her family settled in Wellington County during its pioneer days. **Bonnie Callen** is the administrator of the Wellington County Museum and Archives, long-term member of the Wellington County History editorial committee, dance instructor, wife and mother. She is a resident of Guelph Eramosa Township. Once called the "snake-oil salesman of local history", business historian **Dr. Steve Thorning** pens the weekly column "Valuing Our History" which is now in its 10th year of publication. On moving to the *Wellington Advertiser* in January 1999, his subject matter expanded in scope from the Elora/Fergus area to embrace the rich and varied heritage of the entire county. **John Seitz** is a Masters student in History at the University of Guelph. He has a particular interest in 19th century Ontario rural history. **Amy Dickieson** is currently completing a political science degree at the University of Guelph with a minor in history. Upon graduating, she will begin a ten month work term with the Ontario Legislature Internship Program, where she will work with MPPs and other Legislature employees at Queen's Park. Amy is involved within the agricultural community in Wellington County, and is currently volunteer Co-Chairperson of the Queen of the Furrow Committee for the International Plowing Match, to be held in Wellington September, 2000. **Margo Oliver**, a resident of Elora, was food editor of *Weekend Magazine* for many years. Currently, she writes a cooking column for the *Fergus-Elora News Express*. A self-confessed packrat. **Ian Easterbrook** recently won an award for his costume as "Ian, the Rat-Catcher", at the Museum's medieval celebration. **Debbie Hind** was born reading and continues to pursue this objective as Children's Librarian for the Fergus Branch, Wellington County Library. At last count she had two dogs, one rabbit, one son and one husband. **Peter Meyler** is the co-author of *A Stolen Life: Searching for Richard Pierpoint*. A native of Fergus, Peter now operates his own business in Orangeville providing services in graphic design, forms management and writing. His articles on Ontario history have appeared in a number of publications. Before her permanent appointment as Wellington County Archivist, **Karen Wagner** worked in contract positions with the United Church/Victoria College Archives, Region of Peel Archives, Anglican Church of Canada General Synod Archives, Stratford-Perth Archives, Law Society of Upper Canada Archives and the Archives of Ontario.

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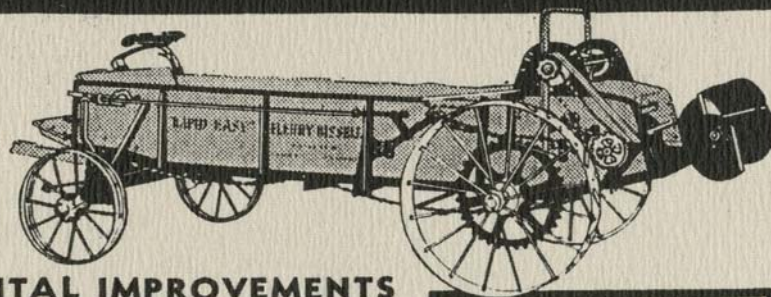
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