



Remember the Corman House

Stoney Creek Historical Society

P.O. Box 66637, Stoney Creek, On. L8G 5E6

NEWSLETTER

February 2000

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The History of Albion Mills

by J.E. Turner January 1946

The village of Albion Mills situated on the Mountain at the western side of the Township of Saltfleet, is six miles south-east of Hamilton and equally as old.

Albion is the ancient and poetic name of Britain and has been used many times, for many things, in many parts of the world. Three saw-mills and a grist mill accounted for the last name. Since 1880 the name has been Mount Albion. There were in the other days fifty persons all English, Irish and Scotch, in the community. For a time school was held in the village during the winter season, the nearest public school being too far away.

Three hotels, two blacksmith shops and one general store served the district. These taverns were patronized daily by dozens of men hauling cord wood and farm produce from distant points to Hamilton.

Mail was brought every Friday afternoon by a carrier on horseback from Ryckman's Corners, four miles west, where it was received from the stage coach running between Hamilton and Caledonia. The first post office was kept in the home of the miller Mr. James R. Cook, whose garden was a beauty spot and where hospitality was enjoyed by many people of all classes.

Travelling, by oxen, on horseback and in horse drawn vehicles was very slow, three miles an hour, over mud roads, especially in the spring. The main road through the settlement, was and still is called Mud Street.

A stone and toll road to the city was built in 1880 by Messrs. Carpenter and Waddel. This was one of the first of the country's macadam roads, now tar macadam and named after the inventor Sir George Macadam, later improved by his son, the Honourable Tar Macadam. The toll-gate keeper collected fifteen cents return for one horse wagons and twenty cents for two horse wagons.

This village has a strong sulphur spring of brackish water pouring up from a shallow drill hole. This has continued from the earliest history of the place. The water does not freeze easily but it is too strong for domestic use, yet valuable for farm stock. On the same farm there is a small but well kept cemetery, where

many of the pioneers are interred. Here in former times a church, known as the "Auld Scotch Kirk" was built of frame and white rough cast. It had a steeple, gothic windows, a heavy plank floor, pews with doors, both trimmed with walnut, a high pulpit and large sounding board above. The collection was taken in the little wooden boxes on the end of a walnut staff five feet long. This kirk built before the disruption in Scotland in 1843, was pulled down in 1878.

In the early forties, [1840's] a survey party of engineers, for the Great Western Railway, ran a line through this community. One of the stakes was in the lawn of my home for years after the present railway was opened.

It is a curious fact that four decades later, surveyors for the T.H.&B. Ry. followed almost the same route in their first survey for the line as it is today.

Half a mile west of Mt. Albion, the Hamilton North Western Railway was built in the twenty years following 1850. The road as far as Caledonia including the steep hill section, cost one million dollars. Near the top of the grade up the mountain, there is a long deep rock cutting. This work lasting almost three years, was done with hand tools by a large force of Irishman who lived in a group of shanties called the "Patch", close to the job. Their one recreation was on Saturday nights when paid, then cheered by gallons of village whiskey, they held a Donnybrook Fair, fighting each other like a colony of Kilkenny cats. The women added to the hilarity with sticks, stones, screams and maledictions.

Passenger Pigeons

The residents of this region about 1860, frequently saw vast flocks, millions in numbers of Passenger or Wood pigeons flying from dawn till dusk, east to west, over the area between Mt. Albion and Red Hill. The flight of the birds was not high, about four hundred feet. At the corner of the mountain above Bartonville, many of them were struck down with sticks by the residents and used for food.

Forty years later not one of these pigeons could be found in America, although a reward of one thousand dollars was

Continued on page 5

NEW MEMBERS:

We are happy to welcome to our membership
Greg & Susan Armstrong, Barry Baine, Marion Bone, Nick & Gladys Demy, Doug & Judy Green, Gord & Connie Hamilton, Eleanor Malin, Mike Paquet.

*This Newsletter
is sponsored by*

*Member
Marie Brown*

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

HISTORY ON THE MOVE:

Sunday November 7th 1999 we saw the unusual sight of a 170 ton white house rolling east on King Street towards Stoney Creek, (what a motorhome). A large gathering witnessed this historic happening which preserved a part of our history which had been lost to us when Hamilton boundaries were changed.

The Nash/Jackson house returned to Stoney Creek. Not everyone was happy to see this happen, but it did and I feel very confident when renovations and landscaping are completed and the house officially opened, the citizens of our city will appreciate the addition to Battlefield Park. Criticism was everywhere when an inflated cost of the move was published in the press, not taking into consideration the many donations of materials and digging of the basement as well as not mentioning cash donated to this project or the ongoing fund raising that is and will continue to support this cause. Hats off to the fund raising committee.

As the Historical Society brochure says!

**We have only one past,
And if it's destroyed,
It's gone forever.
Preservation is the one thing
we can do
to ensure that future
generations have
a past to appreciate.**

Ron Place

OYEZ OYEZ OYEZ

A TOWN CRIER FOR STONEY CREEK:

The Stoney Creek Historical Society with the cooperation of the Community Services Department and Stoney Creek City Council will hold a competition Saturday June 3, 2000 to choose a *Stoney Creek Town Crier*. This will be a no uniform competition and is open to residents of both genders. A prepared contest proclamation will be supplied by a member of the Ontario Guild of Town Criers.

The winner will be supplied with a uniform and will be free to represent Stoney Creek in competitions and be able to ply this trade for personal remuneration.

At present there are between 800 to 1000 criers world-wide with 40 in Ontario, 80 in Canada and another 20 in the United States. However, more are being appointed all the time.

For details and entry forms please contact Ron Place at 662-8856.

Community News 1926

The cement curb that is contemplated being put down on Lake avenue will certainly improve the roadway, but a sidewalk continued towards soldier's plot from Mr. Timm's house would be a much better improvement in the village — at least, so the residents say who live up there.

REPORT FROM BATTLEFIELD HOUSE

by Clark Bernat

This Christmas season saw unprecedented numbers of school children visiting the Museum for the Holiday Programme. The sold out programme allowed over 2000 children to experience Christmas circa 1830. The Museum also entertained many more through bus tours, Saturday openings, Brownie, Girl Guide troops and the very successful "Twelve Nights of Christmas." The many people who came enjoyed decorating gingerbread people, the music, meeting Mr. Gage, and the usual hospitality that our volunteers provide for all visitors to the House.

Father Christmas made several visits to Battlefield House this year, as he was present for the "Twelve Nights" as well as the sold out Breakfast with St. Nicholas. The Park was also the site of the Stoney Creek "Country in the Creek" New Year's Eve party. Approximately 1000 people saw in the Year 2000 at Battlefield Park, watching the live entertainment and fireworks display. All events over the holidays were a great successes, and could not have been possible without the support provided by our volunteers.

Battlefield Park has seen a drastic change since November. On November 7, 1999, hundreds lined King Street to witness "History on the Move" as the Nash/Jackson House methodically plodded along to its present home in the Park. We hope that the newest addition to the site will allow for bigger and better programmes, events and activities in the coming years.

With the year 2000, the staff and volunteers are undertaking some very important projects to ensure that the site is just as important to the community this century as it was during the last century. These ongoing projects will not overshadow some very important events that have crept up on the calendar. The ever-popular "Valentine Romance - an 1812 Wedding" is scheduled for Saturday, February 5, 2000. Don't miss out on this splendid occasion that sees the guests of the happy couple enjoy a delicious five-course dinner followed by music, dancing and merriment. Contact Battlefield House for tickets.

We would like to remind all the Society members that the Heritage Day presentations at City Hall take place on Sunday, February 27, 2000. Other important dates on the calendar include the Children's March Break programme and our Daffodil Tea will take place on Sunday, April 9, 2000. The weekend following the Tea, April 15 and 16, Battlefield House hosts a two day Architectural Conference, "If Walls Could Speak." For more information on any of our events, please contact us at Battlefield House.

All the staff at Battlefield House Museum hope that everybody had a safe and happy holiday season and we hope to see you in the new year.

LOYALISTS AND PIONEERS:

CARPENTER

History states that William Carpenter of Cobham, Surrey, England, was granted armorial bearings in 1663. He was named "Gentleman of his Majesty's Honourable Chamber Extraordinary".

The American branch of this family descended from one William, who with his wife, Abigail and son, John, came to America on the ship "Bevis". They first settled in Long Island and were connected by marriage with the Bridgeman and Pettit families there. Pettit records show that one of the Long Island Pettits married a daughter of Increase Carpenter and they also had a son bearing that name and no doubt quite appropriately so.

The time that a part of this family moved from Long Island to New Jersey is not known but before the War of the Revolution Ashman Carpenter, a descendant of the above mentioned William and John, resided in Hopewell, N.J. He was born in 1725, married Mary Boyle of Maidenhead, N.J. and, being a Loyalist, emigrated to Canada after the war. He died at Queenston in 1786 and was buried there. There after his wife, Mary, with her sons and daughters moved further west and settled in Saltfleet and Grimsby township.

It is said that Mrs. Carpenter resided with her son, Gershom, until her death in 1815. She was buried in St. Andrew's churchyard, Grimsby, and only a portion of the stone which marks her resting place, can be seen embedded in an immense tree which, it is recorded, was planted by her grave shortly after her death.

Children of Ashman and Mary (Boyle) Carpenter:-

ALEXANDER, born 1757, married Elizabeth Smith, died 20 Oct. 1813, buried in St. Andrew's churchyard, Grimsby.

SARAH, born in 1761, married John, son of Jonathan and Deborah (Robins) Pettit, d. 24 Oct. 1813, buried in St. Andrew's churchyard.

RUTH, born about 1763, married Joseph Willson, whose name was on Lot 22 Cone. II, Grimsby twp. in 1811.

GERSHOM, born in 1765, married Sarah, dau. of Charles and Mary Pettit of Saltfleet. d. 6 Jan. 1845, buried in St. And-Andrew's churchyard.

JOSEPH, born 1767, married Mary, dau. of Col. Adam Hope of N. Jersey, came to Canada in 1817, settled in Saltfleet.

JOHN, born 1769, settled in Saltfleet, died 1815, buried in St. Andrew's churchyard.

MARY, born 1770, married John Pettit in 1814, being his second wife. Buried in St. Andrew's churchyard.

Martha, born in 1772, married Jonathan, son of John and Dinah (Pettit) Moore, died in 1813, buried in St. Andrew's.

WILLIAM, born in 1774, married Martha, dau. of Silas and Esther Smith, died in 1853, buried in St. Andrew's churchyard.

PHOEBE, born 1776, married 1. Stephen Coon. 2. Ebenezer Colver.

SAMUEL, born 1777, married Mary Templar, died 26 Sept. 1845.

JAMES, born 1780, married Sophia Simons, died 26 Jan. 1813, buried in St. Andrew's churchyard, Grimsby.

Taken from the Annals of the Forty book #4 page 7& 8

CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOUR:

Thank you Gladys and Nick Demy, Tom and Elaine Gravelle, and the museum staff at Battlefield House and the Erland Lee, who spent so much time getting your properties ready for our 8th Christmas House Tour. A special thank you to the firms (who wish to remain anonymous) who generously donated to this event, your participation is appreciated. Not to be forgotten are the members and friends who gave their time (and delicious baking). Your help in making this tour successful is very much appreciated.

The weather co-operated making it a wonderful start to the Christmas Season. 80 tickets were sold and the money earned was divided between the The Erland Lee (Museum) Home, the Battlefield House Museum where the proceeds will help with their operating expenses and to our Historical Society Publishing Fund.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

The Jackson House grand opening date at Battlefield Park has not yet been determined, BUT! volunteers will be needed to work in the different areas of the house.

If you would like the opportunity to help out at either Battlefield House Museum or the Jackson House please contact Susan Ramsay at 662-8458 or Ron Place at 662-8856 to have your name added to the list.

Training sessions will be conducted during February and March.

COUNTY COUNCILS 1867:

A.G. Jones, Warden Saltfleet Twp.

Moss I. Olmstead, Deputy Reeve, Saltfleet.

Alonzo Egleston, Reeve; William Sexton, Deputy Reeve, Ancaster Twp.

R.R. Waddell, Reeve; Mic'L Burkholder, Deputy Reeve, Barton Twp.

Peter Wood, Reeve; J Malcom & W. Nesbet, Deputy Reeves, Beverly Twp.

Dr. Walter McKay, Reeve, Binbrook Twp.

Thos Stock, Reeve; John Creen, Deputy Reeve, Twp. of Flamboro East.

Dr. Thomas Miller, Reeve; Matthew Peebles, Deputy Reeve, Flamboro West.

Dr. Alex Bethune, Reeve, Glanford Twp.

Philip McMahan, Reeve; George Bickell, Deputy Reeve, Dundas.

G.S. Counsell, Clerk

James Kirkpatrick, Treasurer

D.C. O'Keefe, Engineer

ERLAND LEE (MUSEUM) HOME

Winter/Spring 2000

The Erland Lee Museum would like to thank everyone who participated in the Historical Society's Christmas Candlelight House Tour. The staff and volunteers of the Lee were delighted to meet so many people from the local community when *Stoney Creek's Social History Museum* was decorated for Christmas. Special thanks goes to Stoney Creek Flower Shop for providing the floral arrangements.

The Erland Lee Committee is sad to report on the passing of Hilda Beachin, former Hostess for the museum, on January 1, 2000. Hilda and her late husband, Victor, were caretakers of the Lee Home for the majority of the 1970s and again for several years in the 1980s, by far the longest serving staffers in the museum's 27 year history. As many local Women's Institutes members will attest, Hilda's name was synonymous with the Erland Lee Home. Even at the age of 88, she was actively involved in the Erland Lee Museum's programming, as recently as October 1999. Hilda will be sorely missed.

The Erland Lee Museum is looking ahead to the spring of 2000 as we welcome the millennium with new exhibits on the community's heritage. Our focus in 2000 is on the rise of Stoney Creek from wilderness frontier to agricultural village to suburban city. Join us throughout the year for exhibits on this theme.

The Lee will be open for **March Break, March 13-17, 2000**. Feature attractions for the week will include a **Victorian View of the Future (Science Fiction in Erland Lee's time)**, and **A.D. Lee and the T.H. & B. (Model Railroad)**, plus Past Meets Present, Pioneer Games, and Take-home crafts for the kids. All this for a regular admission of only \$3.00 per person. Preregistration is recommended. Call 662 2691.

The museum officially opens for the 2000 season at the beginning of April. **Pancake Day for the Lee is April 1, 2000**. Come and savour a sample of the Lee sugar bush on top of your flapjacks, cooked before your eyes. 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Coffee, tea, juice, pancakes, syrup, and toppings; Please help support our annual fundraiser, and look for a special guest or two to drop by.

Interested in helping our research of Stoney Creek history? The museum is looking for images of the Toronto, Hamilton, and Buffalo Railroad Stoney Creek Station or any other photos about this slice of Saltfleet history to help build the model railroad exhibit in March. The Lee will be featuring a model of T,H,&B R running from Vinemount station to Bartonville station. Any information or volunteers interested in helping put together the model would be welcome. Please contact the museum at 662 2691 (fax 662 2045) or via email at erlandlh@icom.ca

We look forward to joining with our community in commemorating Stoney Creek's past this millennium year. Best wishes to everyone for a prosperous 2000.

Michael Gemmill

HUNTING FOREBEARS:

by Dorothy Reid

In the Hamilton Spectator of April 3, 1911 the headline was printed "Hamilton People Heirs to Fortune" naming several Stoney Creek and area families as heirs to a fortune of \$60,000,000 held in the Bank of England. One Stoney Creek resident had obtained deeds, wills, etc. proving the family connections of many of these people to their ancestor Francis Glover. The item was printed in a recent history of the Glover family, but the author was not certain of the date of the item, which proves the often repeated advice: "Always write the source and date on your newspaper clippings." No doubt the author of the Glover Family History inherited the clipping along with other papers which began her intensive research for her book which can be found at the Stoney Creek Library.

Does anyone know "the rest of the story"? Many families have legends of inheritances that could have been obtained if only the family had the money to travel to England and the proof of their descendency.

"IF PONIES RODE MEN"

The Stoney Creek Historical Society's latest publication is the harrowing, true story of one of the first families of Hamilton, set against the blood and smoke of the American Revolution. It chronicles the real-life adventures and adversities of Loyalist Robert Land as a British spy, backwoods recruiter and comrade-in-arms to the legendary Joseph Brant. Burned out of his home on the upper Delaware in Pennsylvania and sentenced to death for treason, he was saved from the gallows by non-other than George Washington.

One son survived a Rebel hanging and spent the war in irons, a second son joined the Crown forces and fought beside American turncoat Benedict Arnold in the dying days of the war.

And behind the whole family stood Land's wife, the courageous Phoebe who kept her family together through all the dark days of privation and heartbreak. Drawing on thorough research of the historical record and a sound understanding of the times, Hamilton Spectator reporter James Elliott has taken a Hamilton legend and rendered it believably whole in a work of imagination and scholarship that has been praised by novelists and historians alike.

If Ponies Rode Men is a story of war and refuge, the view from the other side in the American Revolution where loyalty to the King exacted a steep price in blood, cost thousands their birthright as citizens and spawned the beginning of a new nation. Published by the Stoney Creek Historical Society with original art by Juanita Mitchell, cover painting "Robert Land on Little Lake", by marine artist, Peter Rindlisbacher. Books are \$16.95 each, if shipping is required add \$2.50. Also available is the Billy Green and the Battle of Stoney Creek book at \$14.95 for hard cover and \$8.95 for soft cover.

Albion Mills

Continued from page 1

offered for 5 single specimen.

Their complete extinction is one of the mysteries of Natural history on this continent.

The Use of Oxen

From the earliest settlements those animals were employed in farm and other work as late as 1875. The standard names were "Buck" and "Bright". They were guided by drivers shouting, "Gee and Haw", for right and left and "Whoa" meant stop. The Yoke over oxen's necks was the only equipment, no reins, no traces and no leather harness whatever was used. Occasionally they were shod with iron shoes like horses. Their rate of motion was three miles an hour. If unruly, the tails would be tied together to prevent them from turning outward, reversing ends, and thus breaking their necks in the yoke. They could not be used on the old horse powers for threshing machines, as horses were, because travelling in a circle made them [the oxen] dizzy.

Candle Light

Candle light was used till the oil lamps came into general use around 1880. For making candles every home had a tin frame with twelve tubes in which wicks were inserted, then filled with melted tallow. A pair of iron scissors with a little box on one blade and the lid on the other end was used for trimming the candles. If these were lacking the good housekeeper could make a "cruse" in a few minutes. This was simply a piece of wick laid across a saucer with grease poured over it. Many times a small boy went off to bed in a large house with this wee light as his only protection and defence from great black shadows, ghosts, spooks, apparitions and yowling banshees.

Cheyne Church

The Reverend George Cheyne M.A. a Scotsman from Aberdeen about 1840 founded and ministered for thirty years to the Presbyterian Church that bears his name.

Mr. Cheyne was the first public school inspector in the Township of Saltfleet.

The church was one mile west of the village and near No. 6 school house.

In the service of worship no musical instruments were allowed. Tuning forks were used in the singing.

The women brought their babies in arms, who, when the sermon exceeded sixty minutes made a vigorous protest.

Dogs followed their masters into the sanctuary and in spite of many admonitions of neighbourly love occasionally fought fierce battles until, like evil spirits, they were cast out.

The congregation built a new church in Stoney Creek in 1918, the original building was sold and moved to Hannon, where it is used as a public hall today.

Apple Paring Bees

The drying of apples for home use every fall season found many young people attending paring bees. The apples were peeled by hand, quartered, cored and strung with a large needle on yards of white cord which hung in festoons around the kitchen and dried in the smells of cooking, the smoke of iron

stoves, clay pipes and open place fires.

The apples, shrunk to one third their former size, were of a light brown colour and would keep for years.

Later hand peeling machines came into use and the quartered apples were placed in wooden racks suspended over the kitchen stoves and thus dried in a shorter time and more sanitary manner than formerly.

A Loyalist Family

Near the village was the fine estate and home called Harmony Hall, of Mr. Jonathan Davis, whose Loyalist grandfather, Mr. William Davis of Welsh descent, came to Canada in 1792 from North Carolina with his seven young children and a few faithful slaves. For the family losses in the south caused by the Revolutionary War, the British government gave them a large tract of land near Albion Mills. Mr. Jonathan Davis' share of this property contained two hundred acres, much of it was virgin forest of hard maple, red oak, white pine and black walnut. This farm had a distillery, a tannery, an orchard, a never failing spring and a prize herd of Ayershire cattle.

Mr. Davis was the Secretary of the Central Fair of Hamilton, inspector of hotel licenses in South Wentworth for many years, and a highly respected gentleman.

A nephew, Mr James Alfred Davis taught in local schools for a generation; he was a fine teacher, penman, advisor, friend and citizen.

Other members of this family have been prominent in farming, finance, manufacturing, and parliament.

In April 1900, the mill was owned and operated by Mr. Robert Grassie and his brother George.

The ravine, is two hundred feet wide and nearly as deep.

At the base of a tall smoke stack was the steam power plant.

A small stream of water from the turbine drive the machinery; when making the wheel-pit, workman discovered gas. A repair shop was at the end of the building where the mill-stone picks were sharpened. Lover's leap is opposite the falls, and above, the roadway formed the bank of the mill dam; nearby was the old storehouse. The highway to Mt. Albion, is a quarter of a mile to the left. A few steps from the falls on the right was the toll gate, post office and general store.

Cook's Castle stood on the hill close to the barn, and behind it are the two little lakes still to be seen. The Table Rock, near the foot of the falls (large pieces of it are scattered below) underlies the country southward and dips seven feet to the mile. Under this very thick layer are stratus of soft shale, red and green slate.

The banks of the ravine were once heavily timbered. This property is not in the King's Forest Park of over six hundred acres and extends northward for a mile and one-half toward Bartonville.

Continued on page 6

Albion Mills Continued from page 5

The Mill

The grist mill of three stories, built about one hundred and forty years ago, was constructed of huge timbers and fine pine lumber by the best of tradesman. The motive power was a large over-shot water wheel thirty feet in diameter and forty inches wide. A small wheel below the first, used the water a second time. This water came from a dam nearly three acres in extent above the mill, and was fed by a spring creek. Many years later the big water wheels were supplanted by a sixteen inch turbine which gave excellent power and service. During the middle of the last century steam power, for use when the water was low, was installed. The boiler was fired by pine wood, later mixed with cord wood, and finally by soft coal.

The mill stones for grinding wheat were sixty inches in diameter. They were made of many pieces of very hard French burr stone cemented together and bound by wide iron bands. One stone was secured in the floor and the other turning above found the wheat which was then sifted by a long wooden, silk covered, revolving cylinder. This separated the two grades of flour, shorts and bran. Farmers brought their wheat and received these products in return.

These mill-stones required to be dressed by the miller with mill picks, several times a year. A careful operation.

The second stone called a "chopper" ground coarse grain for feeding farm stock. It had a capacity of fifty bushels an hour. On one occasion a farmer brought very poor grain, chaff straw, nails and trash. Said the miller when returning the chop to the owner. "What are you going to do with this stuff? I feed it to the pigs", said the farmer. "Well," returned the miller, "The pigs will laugh when they see this stuff coming."

The mill owners and operators were all Scotsmen, directly or indirectly. As far as it now known they were Mr. John Secord in 1814, Messrs Ness and Reid, Messrs. Donaldson and Cook, Messrs. Cook and Robb, and the Grassie Bros; covering a period of over a century.

The flour mill serving a large farming district, was a busy industry in 1900; today the traveller can scarcely find any evidence that it ever existed.

Well might he say in the gloomy words of Cowper:
"Change and decay in all around I see."

The Gas

Possibly the first natural gas in this part of Ontario was discovered here, when the mill was built. Two Irishmen were quarrying rock for the wheel pit, when one stooped in a corner to light his pipe. The match ignited the gas which flared up, singeing his hair, whiskers and clothing. He was terribly frightened and shouted, "Mike, we've broke through into the infernal regions, and the devil is after us sure. May all the saint's preserve us!"

This gas was used for lighting the mill for 100 years. A flame 16 inches long burned night and day from the end of an iron pipe. It came from the base of the wheel pit 30 feet below. The

odor was unpleasant and wherever used, took the colour out of sale bills or well paper in a short time. It is sulphur gas, only found in this region in small quantities and of no commercial value. At low water, it is seen in the creek bed bubbling up through the water, and can be lit with a match.

There was a little of no natural or manufactured gas in Canada at this time. Half a mile down the creek was the burning spring, a flame of gas two feet high burning in a pool of water. It attracted many people at that time. A near-by Hotel supplied their wants for food, drink, and shelter. The stone foundation was there in the writer's time. Close to this spring a firm of oil and gas men from Bradford, Penn. in 1884 drilled an eight inch hole 1700 feet deep, but all Messrs. Emerson and Haymaker for their money was experience, a smell of gas, and a taste of salt. Where the adjacent creek crosses Barton Street three miles east of the city, there is the salt works farm. Here salt was found in early days, but the quantity was small and the work given up.

The Storehouse

This building, well constructed in the distant past, has had a variety of uses. Today it is a nice dwelling house and restaurant, owned and operated by Mr. Oliver Carpenter and his capable wife and daughter. The property includes the house, the mill dam, the creek and the hill fields beyond, in all 13 acres.

This storehouse, as it was called, was built and used for a hop kiln. Hops were grown where the city Parks Board now have a fine grove of Scotch pine trees. The hops were dried on the lattice and jute covered floor of the second story, over wood fires in a big iron stove below. They were then pressed into bales and sold to brewers for the making of beer.

A mile down the valley was the Vine Vale farm, part of which is now the Glendale Golf course, where hops were produced on a large scale. The vines grown in hills, and grew up cedar poles twelve feet high, where they formed large fluffy clusters of hops. Picking was done every year, in late August, by a band of forty or more Indians; men, women and children, in picturesque garb, from the Six Nations reserve on the Grand River. They camped on the farm for nearly a month; their earnings were from fifty cents to one dollar a day. Each year the Braves gave a tribal dance and every night dancing was held on the floor of the hop house. Young white men would come and dance with the dusky maidens. Thus for the pickers, it was hops day and night. In a big law suit over the failure of a brewing company in Hamilton one lawyer said, "we had hopes", when a rival lawyer shouted, "what you needed was hops."

Continuation of The History of Albion Mills will appear in the May 2000 newsletter

FUTURE SPEAKERS

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| March 1, | James Elliott - "If Ponies Rode Men". |
| April 5, | Jim Green - A Town Crier. |
| May 3, | Marg Sidawa - Miniatures. |

FROM THE PAST:

*Wentworth Historical Society Minutes
1908 -1948*

APRIL 16 1910
BUILDING COMMITTEE

A meeting of this committee was held in the Parish Hall on April 16, 1910 at 8 p.m. There were present - W.E.Corman, Rev. W.G.Davis, J.F.Walker, Charles Moore, John Gardner.

Mr George Carter was also present through the invitation of this Com.

The plans and specifications (*for Smith's Knoll*) were again gone over with Mr. Carter who promised to submit his tender at our next meeting for laying of foundation, erecting the pedestal according to plan, to furnish cap stone and to set same on top of pedestal in cement and also to set in position inscription stone (provided) according to plan of Hamilton McCarthy.

The meeting then adjourned.

Some More History of Vinemount

submitted by Barbara Oldfield

Post Office

The first post office in what is now Vinemount was the Tweedside Post Office located at the corner of Fifty Rd. (now Eleventh Rd.), and Mud St. in 1861. Later, the Vinemount Post Office was started, Jan. 1, 1895 in the same general location as it is today. For a time the two served the area that the Vinemount Office now serves. The Tweedside post office closed in 1915. When trains were stopping at Vinemount the mail was brought there by train, later by car or truck.

Vinemount General Store

The Store has had 16 owners in two different buildings, and for a brief time they were both active. There is no record of when the first store in Vinemount was started but it was located on the N.E. corner of Vinemount Rd. (now Eight Rd.) and Ridge Rd. The first owner was Mr. R. Lane and had two more owners before it went out of business. The second store was started in 1900 and was located on the N.W. corner of Vinemount Rd. at Ridge Rd. and was first owned by Mr. John Tallman. Mr. Tallman was the son of one of the first settlers in Vinemount and his daughter, Madeline Armstrong, and Grand Daughter, Fern Boyko still live on Ridge Rd. in Vinemount. In 1968 there was a fire in the store and the structure was damaged but the owners repaired the damage and continued to operate. Before the fire the store had an old potbelly stove with a couple of chairs around it. It was possible to get just about everything you needed, work clothes, hardware, boots, groceries and more.

Continued on page 10

THE HISTORY OF FIFTY CEMETERY

This cemetery is located on #8 Highway at 50 Side Road near Stoney Creek

The Crown patentee (Fifty Cemetery) of Lot 2, Concession 2 was Silas Smith (1787) all of 100 acres dated June 30, 1802.

The crown patentee of Lot 1 Concession 2 was Levi Lewis (1786) registered May 16, 1798.

The land on which the Methodist Episcopal Church next to the cemetery was built had been purchased from Levi Lewis and deeded November 20, 1820. The deed for the cemetery was also on the same date.

The trustees were Hugh and John Willson, Esquires; James Lewis and Silas Smith, yeomen of the township of Salfleet in the District of Gore; Peter Bowslaugh and John Smith, yeomen, William Nixon, blacksmith, of the Township of Grimsby, District of Niagara.

The burying ground at the Fifty was the only Methodist cemetery for miles around and a letter to the "Christian Guardian" in 1842 from a Grimsby Methodist tells of using "the nearest Methodist burying ground" at the Fifty Cemetery came under the control of the Winona Cemetery Board in 1914. It then passed on to the control and maintenance of the City of Stoney Creek.

The cemetery is still open.

The earliest burial noted on a stone in this cemetery is on Monument #246 which states in part the following:

Sarah dau. of John Sr. & Teny VanDUZER

died Dec. 19 1820

AGE 11 ys. 2 mo. & 17 ds.

This cemetery was transcribed in August, September and October 1986 by members of the Hamilton Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society.

YEAR 2000 ELECTION:

We thank you Bob and Irene Pergentile for the excellent job you did as Social Convenors over the last term. We all appreciate the work put into ensuring us of refreshments at the end of our meetings. Judy Green and Dora Tweedle have agreed to take over this important job.

Nancy Kinsman is moving to a position within the executive that will explore ways to apply for grants and funding for projects the Society enters. Lloyd Corman is stepping down as a Director we thank you for your contributions to the Society.

Welcome to Jim Reid as a Director and to Michael Gemmell as Recording Secretary. I'm sure you will find the executive an easy group to work with (we have fun too).

RESULTS:

1st Vice President: Bill O'Reilly

2nd Vice President: Bill Mitchell

Recording Secretary: Michael Gemmell

Directors: .Barbara Green * George Lewis * Jim Reid.

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS
BUSINESS/INSTITUTION DIRECTORY:**

Anne Forsyth Accounting	Anne Forsyth	9 Lake Ave. South	662-2848
Britannia Cleaners	Ed Strecker	17 King St. E.	662-4971
Comic1 Books	Tom Laing	Elm/King Plaza	664-3777
Erland Lee Museum Home	Michael Gemmell	552 Ridge Road	662-2691
H/W Archaeological Fdn.	Rita Griffin-Short	Hamilton	524-1384
Doug Mays Watercolourist	Doug & Angela Mays	3 MacDui Dr.	643-4541
Picture Palace	Joanne Wynhofen	19 King St. E.	662-4014
Queenston Stationery	Martin Battell	38 King St.E.	664-3360
Rotary Club of Stoney Creek		P.O Box 66655	573-3584
Royal Canadian Legion	Branch 622	12 King St. E.	662-4171
Spera House Antiques	Lyn & Brent Jukes	228 Ridge Road	662-9339
The Snackery	Carol Dushko	Elm/King Plaza	664-2288

PLEASE MENTION THIS DIRECTORY WHEN YOU SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS!

COMMUNITY NEWS:

1926

Mr Depew started his season's threshing on the old Corman farm by threshing one of the best crops of wheat in every way that this farm ever produced.

SPONSOR A NEWSLETTER:

Would you like to sponsor an edition of the newsletter?
A \$30.00 donation helps with the expense of printing and mailing the Stoney Creek Historical Society Newsletter.

A tax receipt will be issued.
Please contact Ron Place 662-8856

**Next newsletter will be issued Wed., May 3, 2000
Material deadline is Saturday, April 15, 2000**

Stories, News or Queries can be mailed to

Ron Place
56 Wyngate Ave.
Stoney Creek, On. L8G 1T6
E-mail rplace@bestnet.org

THE SHIRLEY THOMAS FILES:

Submitted by Neil Clark

The Shirley Thomas files at the Fieldcote Museum in Ancaster, Ontario.

Shirley Thomas (1930 - 1991) was a genealogist, family historian and collector of local history. She was born Shirley Marshall. The Marshall family was a large and well known local pioneer family with connections through marriage with literally dozens of families in Saltfleet, Binbrook, Grimsby and Caistor townships. Her research dates back to the arrival of the earliest pioneer families and, while primarily dealing with families that she was related to, it includes information about more than 400 families.

Her files, some 8,000 pages, have been microfilmed and the film is in the Fieldcote Museum archives in Ancaster, Ontario. The information consists of genealogical charts of many local families, correspondence with other researchers, copies of material from books, clippings from newspapers and some maps.

In some cases, the information is only a death notice clipped from a newspaper. But for the families that interested her most, her records run up to several hundred pages for each family.

I was directed to this small treasure trove by Sharon Kresak as a result of a small notice that I placed in this

newsletter. Sharon's second cousin is Miriam Marshall, Shirley Thomas' mother. I am very appreciative of the help they have both given me in my research.

For me, it is a wonderful find as all of my gg grandparents lived in Saltfleet and the surrounding areas in the nineteenth century - many near Tapleypoint. Some of the family names I am actively pursuing are Clark, Dawdy, English, Fortman, Gowland, Hildreth, Merritt, Norton, Oliver, Patterson, Swayze, Wetmore and Zimmerman. Many of these families were pioneers in the area.

All of these names are included in Shirley Thomas' files along with a great number of others, including Beamer, Burkholder, Bush, Daw, Gage, Horning, Lee, Lymburner, Lampman, Martin, Marshall, Miller, Nelson, Tweedle, Ridge, Thomas and others.

I have prepared an index of the surnames. If anyone is searching for a particular family, I would be pleased to provide you with a copy of the index or let you know if the name is in her files. I can be reached at (905) 262-4369 or by Email at bnclark@cgocable.net

The Fieldcote Museum is located at 64 Sulphur Springs Road, Ancaster, Ontario. Telephone (905) 648-8144. The curator/manager is Jennifer Dunkerson. She is most helpful. The museum's hours are Wednesday to Friday and Sunday from 1:00 - 5:00 pm or by appointment. The fee is \$2.00 per visit and

Continued on page 10

**Stoney Creek Historical Society
Year 2000 Executive**

President:	Ron Place	662-8856
Past President:	Mary Lewis	643-3665
1st. Vice President:	Bill O'Reilly	662-2248
2nd. Vice President:	Bill Mitchell	664-4576
Treasurer:	Milt Henderson	662-1035
Recording Secretary:	Michael Gemmell	545-7386
Corresponding Secretary:	Anna Orr	643-7653
Newsletter:	Ron Place	662-8856

VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT STONEY CREEK CITY HALL,
SALTFLEET ROOM

1st. WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH BEGINNING AT 7.30 pm.
SEPTEMBER TO JUNE

COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS FOLLOW

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION \ RENEWAL \ DONATIONS

(Please print)

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt.: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

(Please check)

Renewal: _____ New: _____

<u>Membership</u>	
Family	\$15.00
Single	\$ 12.00
Student/Senior.....	\$ 7.00
Business/Institution.....	\$ 20.00

<u>Donation to funds</u>	
General Fund.....\$	_____
Museum Fund.....\$	_____
Publication Fund.....\$	_____
Tax receipts will be issued	

Membership Term January 1st. to December 31st.
Please complete application and make your cheque payable to
The Stoney Creek Historical Society
P.O. Box 66637 Stoney Creek On. L8G 5E6

Continued from page 9

a small charge for using the microfilm reader. Or you can become a Museum member for \$15 per year. I have found it is best to telephone ahead. The facility is first class with two microfilm readers and excellent working conditions. There is no facility for photocopying the microfilmed material so be prepared to take notes.

The files for the most part are clear and legible and well organized. The downside to her records is the lack of references to her sources and the one sided nature of much of her correspondence. Some of the information is contradictory and I have noted some errors (my own birth date!). But, on balance, it is an excellent source of data. It gives you a wonderful feeling for these pioneer settlers, their relationships and marriages and life in the community. Her research continued right to the 1990's and includes many contemporary newspaper clippings about family members.

If you are seeking information about your family in this area, it may well be worth a look.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUERY POLICY:

Members may submit 2 free genealogical queries per year. Queries should be typed or printed clearly on separate pages 8 1/2" x 11", 50 word limit.
Non Members must remit a fee of \$3.00 per query, which will be dated when received and printed in the order received as time and space allow.
Please include Name, Address, Postal Code and phone number.

Humorous signs from around the World:

Swiss Menu! "Our wines leave you nothing to hope for."

NEED A RIDE TO THE MEETING?

Let your phone contact know that you require a ride to our meeting. They will try to make the necessary arrangements

Vinemount - Continued from page 7

You could also borrow a book from the Wentworth County Library system going no further then Vinemount Store. The was also the home of the Vinemount Post Office. In the last years of the General Store it was little more then a convenience store and it final closed in 1984. However it is still the post office and the last owners of the General Store, David and Phyllis Diamond still live there handling the mail. In 1997 they opened a craft store called the Home Work Store.

The Vinemount Train Station

The T.H. & B. Railroad Tracks have run through Vinemount since 1897 They ascend along the escarpment to just before Vinemount Rd. and cut through Vinemount on an angle of about 30 degrees to the N.E. The station was built along the tracks behind the creamery. Mail and daily papers were brought to the station by the train and out-going mail and farm products were shipped from the station. A person who wanted to go to Hamilton or Smithville could get there by the train. The first train of the day to Hamilton was at 8:00 a.m. and the last one back was at 5:00 p.m. When people started using cars, the trains lost customers and had to reduce their services to once a day. In 1950 the trains no longer had Vinemount for one of its stops but the tracks are still in use to-day.

Women's Institute

The Vinemount branch was formed on Jan. 26, 1926 and the first meeting was held in the back room of the Vinemount General Store owned at the time by Mr. & Mrs. A. W. Little. At the first meeting the officers were elected and plans for the other meetings in the year were made. The first president was Mrs Little and the first secretary was Mrs W. Johnson. There were 66 founding (or Charter members), the last living charter member was Mrs M. Sturch who died in the summer of 1992 at the age of 100 years old.

The Vinemount W.I. have been involved in fund raising which included the raising of funds to pay for the Vinemount Hall. Another endeavour of the branch is to offer educational programs including the financing of the local 4H club. During the war the ladies were involved with Red Cross work and received a certificate of merit for their work. Members of this branch have been active in the district and area levels of the W.I. This group is still active today and still has members who are district officers.

more in the next newsletter