



Remember the Corman House

Stoney Creek Historical Society

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

NEWSLETTER

February 2001

Edition #22

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W-I-N-O-N-A

July the 1st, 1901

By "Goffe"

From Winona Centennial Publication 1867 - 1967

Electric lines to suburban districts radiating from populous centres have become popular as well as necessary, and the matter of course way in which the public take and use these conveniences proves their timeliness. It has been said by some one that service of any kind will compel its own patronage. This is true, and the best service always commands a commensurate return. The Hamilton Grimsby Beamsville Electric Railway Company operates a line "Through the Garden of Canada", for a distance of 24 miles all totalled. From Hamilton, at the head of Lake Ontario 23 miles eastward, with a branch a mile long into Grimsby Beach Park. Cars leave James South in the very heart of Hamilton every hour and run through Stoney Creek, Winona. Grimsby to Beamsville and returning from Grimsby Park every hour also This, one of show places of the Dominion of Canada. The traveller passes literally in the midst of orchards and vineyards and by the very doors of dozens of palatial residences belonging to the fruit growers here about, forming a district which is without question the most successful fruit producing on the continent of America. The rolling stock comprises seventeen cars, passenger and freight all of course motor cars. This is the pioneer electric radial railway in Canada, and this being so, one does not wonder at the perfect service, both passenger and freight, maintained by the company. The passenger cars are the finest available. They carry the mails, and from the express doors are put off the daily papers of Hamilton. The Dominion Express Co. gives a service each way three times daily, besides a local express. Four freight services are given each day; in the fruit season this becomes almost continuous. Fruit graded by shippers anywhere along the line. up to as late as six p.m. may be shipped to Ottawa or Montreal, arriving at their destination by six a.m. next morning, with out transhipment. Freight or express may be shipped or received from any railway or express office in the world.

To give the reader some idea of this line of railway and

NEW MEMBER:

We are happy to welcome to our membership
 Stella Clark, Bev Gray, Audrey Guthro, Malcolm Hughes,
 Marilyn McDonald, Diane Sardo, Syd Snell, Richard Skrtich,
 Kay Smith,

Current Membership -145

its services, the following statistical data; Passengers carried last year, 258,000; tons of freight, 8,705; packages of fruit, 280,000. And one considers that this great amount of fruit was carried without the loss of one single package, the fact that it is truly well managed institution is apparent.

When this line was started a right of way was being sought, a great many people opposed and other rights being granted, but today not one vote would be registered against it, while there is scarcely a land owner along the route who would not jump at the chance to invest in it's stock. Mr. A.J. Nelles is the manger, a capable man, and one who as the spirit of the time running through his makeup.

January 1st, 1967

This writer occupied the store near the C.N.R. station from 1939 to 1961, and we have seen many people, listened to many a good story. One of the great story tellers we like to remember was the late Mr. John White. He was over eighty, but very bright and witty. He told us he was born in a house across the track from the store, lived there until he was twelve. His parents took the job carrying the mail out of Smithville. When he was twenty-two he returned to Winona with his bride, and lived near what is now the Q.E. highway the rest of his life. He told us about apples that were brought down from the mountain, there were large apple orchards on top in those days, before fruit was grown below the mountain. He could remember the teams of oxen and horses with loads lined up all the way from the upper road "Queenston Road", now No. 8 highway", to the lake waiting their turn to unload at the dock at the lake. They were shipped from the dock at Winona to such faraway places as England, France and Germany. The apples had to be gone before winter set in. Willsons had grain warehouses and other shipping from their dock.

There were two hotels near the station at that time, one north across the track from where the station now is, the other on west side of Winona Road.

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*This Newsletter
 is sponsored by
 Members
 James & Dorothy Reid*

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Milt Henderson, our treasurer for 14 years, did not seek re-election this term.

Milt retired from teaching more than two years ago and immediately enrolled as a student in the Tyndale Seminary in Toronto, a gruelling task that has required many hours of study, preparation of essays and at times the need to stay in Toronto through the week. As well he is the director of worship and music at Centennial Park Baptist Church in Grimsby. He was a valued member of the now discontinued L.A.C.A.C. committee, all the while ably looking after the financial affairs of the Stoney Creek Historical Society. Milt is now going through the process of ordination which again requires a tremendous amount of time and dedication. I, as president will miss the help he gave me, we all will miss him and his expertise in our executive. Fortunately Milt and Helen will remain members of our society. Milt, on behalf of the membership we wish you luck in your new venture and thank you again for 14 years of your time.

Ron Place

ERLAND LEE (MUSEUM) HOME

by Michael Gemmell

Happy New Year from the staff and volunteers of the Erland Lee Museum. We hope that you and yours had an enjoyable holiday season. We would like to extend our appreciation to all those who came out and showed their support as part of the Historical Society's 9th Annual Christmas House Tour. The turnout was tremendous.

The Lee will continue to welcome visitors throughout the winter with our expanded winter hours. We will be open to the public Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please come in and see our display of historical maps of the area on loan from the Historical Society archives. We are also offering group tours and education programs by appointment. Events to mark on your calendar for the coming months include:

- February 19** WI Founding Day, 10 am - 4 pm. Free refreshments.
- February 22 -24** Heritage Week celebrations. Discover Stoney Creek's history. 10 am - 4 pm Regular admission.
- February 24** Children's trace your family tree workshop. 9:30 am - 12:30 pm \$4.00 (preregistration by Feb. 22) includes materials, refreshments.
- March 12 - 16** March Break fun with the T.H. & B. model railroad display 2 sessions daily from 9:30 - 11:30 am and from 1:30 - 3:30 pm Cost \$4.00 (\$3.00 if preregistered by March 10) includes craft, refreshments. Ages 7-11.
- April 7** Maple Syrup Day - Lee Sugar Bush display with pancake & sausages

breakfast. (yummy!!) 9:30 am - 1:00 pm
ages 6 - 10 \$4.00, ages 11+ \$6.00

For more information about these events or to book a group tour or program please contact the museum at 662-2691.

P.S. For those of you at the January meeting, Marcus' first wife was Ida M. Crosthwaite, and his daughters names were Ethel, Muriel and Irene. His second wife was Mamie and her daughter's name was Helen. Thank you for allowing me to share a little more of the Lee's family history with you.

* Erland Lee Museum Home *

Birthplace of the Women's Institutes
552 Ridge Road, Stoney Creek, ON, Canada, L8J 2Y6

2001 ELECTIONS RESULTS:

President: Ron Place
Treasurer: Judy Green
Corresponding Secretary: Anna Orr

It is always a pleasure to have new people join our executive, fresh ideas help to make this Society a better and more successful group. We welcome you Judy as our new treasurer; we hope you will enjoy your time with us. I know you will do a great job.

REPORT FROM BATTLEFIELD HOUSE

by Marnie Hutchinson

Happy New Year from the staff and volunteers at Battlefield House Museum! The beginning of the year 2001 means that we are now part of the "New" City of Hamilton. Nevertheless, we remain committed to the preservation and interpretation of the pioneer and social history of this community and the commemoration of the Battle of Stoney Creek.

We received a very exciting donation this past fall. A painting of the Gage house done by Sara Calder, granddaughter of James and Mary Gage and founder of the Women's Wentworth Historical Society, came to Battlefield House via the generosity of Calder descendants from Michigan and Georgia. The painting is currently undergoing some restoration, but will soon return to take its place in the hall of Battlefield House.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those local residents who lent us their toys and childhood possessions for our holiday exhibit "A Lifetime of Memories". Visitors to the Museum this December delighted in the childhood memories the exhibit elicited in them. Thank you to Ali Afering, Connie Cage, Leonarda Ciardelli, Catherine Lee, Irene Marcaccio, Cheryl Murray, Marilyn Sheere, Marguerite Taylor, Audrey Duncan, Cathy Heinbecker, Owen Jackson, Mary Lewis, Pat Mewse, Bill O'Reilly, Carol Taylor, Don Turner and Ron Robinson.

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REPORT FROM BATTLEFIELD HOUSE

Continued from page 2

Despite the snow storms in December, our Christmas special events and educational programmes were well attended. It was wonderful to see so many members of the community at the Historical Society Christmas House Tour and to have many people from outside of the city visit our house and the historically and architecturally significant homes of Stoney Creek.

Volunteers continue to be the mainstay at Battlefield House. We will be conducting new training sessions in the coming weeks for current and new volunteers. Sessions on the Nash-Jackson family history, historic clothing, artifact handling and more, with special guest speakers and an off-site visit at the end, will run for approximately 10 weeks, once a week, for two hours on a week-day morning and will begin in mid February. If you are interested, please contact the Museum at 662-8458. We are also looking for Junior Volunteers to assist us with special events and in the summer months with visitors and summer camps. If you know someone who is interested in meeting new people and is between the ages of 13 and 17 give the museum a call at 662-8458 for more details.

Upcoming events at Battlefield House include our March Break programme, when the House is open daily from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and two full-day programmes for children will be offered. If you are fascinated by the Antiques Road Show and have always wondered about that certain object tucked away in your attic, come out to our Antiques Identification Clinic on Sunday April 22. For more information on these events, please contact the Museum.

All the best in 2001 as we look forward to helping Stoney Creek make its mark in the "New" City of Hamilton

THE TELEPHONE in WINONA

Perhaps the most significant communications development in Winona, since the time of the first telephone exchange took place Sunday, Feb. 2, 1958, when The Bell Telephone Co., opened its new dial building on Barton Street. The possibility of a phone user placing a call without the assistance of an operator, would have been beyond the comprehension of Winona's first subscriber.

The Bell Telephone Co. of Canada was incorporated April 29, 1880. About 11 years after W.K. Secord a general merchant on Lake Street now known as Winona Road, near the Railway Station, where Ilics store is now, was the first subscriber, and appointed the local manager. In 1892 the exchange was known as Ontario Department of Eastern Exchange, and listed eleven subscribers for Winona.

Winona's first operator was Mr. John Budge. He became manager in 1893. It was in 1900 that phone numbers were introduced.

The telephone service as we know today was first introduced in this community during the year 1906.

Those anxious to come to grips with new instrument and listed as subscribers were George W. Cline, C.P. Carpenter, Wm. M. Orr and M. Pettit all shown as fruit growers and shippers, and E.D. Smith, J.W. Smith, J. Tweedle and Ira J. VanDuzer, who were listed as fruit growers and nurserymen.

Continued on page 10

HISTORY of the CLINE FAMILY CEMETERY

This cemetery is located on Con. 8 Lot 25 some 700 feet west of highway 20, near Highland Road., Elfrida, Saltfleet Township. The area was called Swaysie's corners, Clinesville, Fraserville before being called Elfrida. It was established in the early part of the 18th century but over the years the burial plot has suffered much vandalism and when last checked (1988), only a dozen or so markers remained. Records in the Saltfleet Township office show only 10 names on actual plot locations.

The oldest date of death given in a transcription is that of:-

Mary Jane wife of
Jonathan P. Cline
died 27 June 1819
aged 19 yrs 10 mos 29 dys.

The historical book "Saltfleet Then and Now" (1975) states that there have been no burials here for more than 20 years.

This cemetery was transcribed in April 1970 by Mrs. Ida Crozier, member of Hamilton Branch of O.G.S. #368.

DESIGNATED HOMES IN STONEY CREEK The LEWIS HOUSE 265 LEWIS ROAD

The Levi Lewis homestead occupies a very prominent site on Lewis Road. As United Empire Loyalists, the Lewis family left New Jersey to take up land in Upper Canada around 1780. Both the father and grandfather of Levi Lewis were members of the First Municipal Council of Upper Canada held in Grimsby on April 5, 1790. Levi's father was also a member of the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada to which he was elected in 1808. Both Levi and his son George were elected as Reeves of the Township of Saltfleet

The Lewis home was built in 1843 by Levi Lewis himself. The bricks used in construction of the home were made on the original farm, while the pine timbers used in the framework were cut on the Lewis farm and on the nearby mountain brow. The Lewis House represents a Georgian style colonial, two-storey home with its principal front to the south and a formal elevation to the road on the east side. Important to the preservation of the Lewis House are the original features of all four facades, the porches each with four octagonal columns, the entrances with six panel doors and transom lights, as well as the false wall, chimneys, shutters, original windows and roof. Levi Lewis and his early homestead have both enjoyed a very noteworthy position in early history of Winona and Saltfleet Township and that the Lewis House should rightfully receive LACAC designation as a site of historical importance to the City.

W-I-N-O-N-A Continued from page 1

It is said the first Governor General of Upper Canada stayed at the hotel across from the station for several days while he waited for his mail to catch up to him. Winona "Ontario as it was called then" was the only post office in the district. The railroad station was near the tracks on West Ave.

The first railroad through had wood rails, the cars were pulled by horses or mules. The first engine was built in England and assembled at Kingston. A special track was laid from Willson's dock to the track at Ontario ("Winona"). The name of that first engine was "The Middlesex".

In the old days the farmers would get together and take their produce to market or the lake for shipping, several wagons in a group, a cavalcade as it were. There would always be one of the older men along to keep the younger fellows straight. There were lots of hotels to stop at and lots to drink. The old fellow would dress up in his best clothes set up front, plug hat and all.

Many a fine song was sung. One went like this.

*"Old Danny Tucker was a fine old man
He washed his face in the frying pan
He combed his hair in
a wagon wheel*

*And he died with the toothache in his heel."
Another sung to the tune of Irish Washer Woman:*

*There once was a man with a double chin,
Who played all night on his violin,
He played all night on the very same tune,
But he never played anything but old Zip coone.
He played all night and he played all day,
Until he drove his friends away,
He played all night on the very same tune,
And he never played anything but old Zip Coon."*

In one of the old churches where services were held irregularly, a verse was written on the wall, it seems a minister was supposed to be there to preach, but because it rained, the did not get there. A Mr. Kent a local man of some doubtful character preached. For a long time after words on the wall read:

*Last Sunday was a rainy day,
No preacher came to preach or pray,
But the devil in compassion sent
His humble servant William Kent.*

The house behind the Winona Plaza was built in 1790. It was known as the Halfway House on the Upper Road, and was a stopping place for travellers between Niagara and the western districts. During the War of 1812 and 15 the Americans controlled all this area, and travelled over the roads at will. One day during the seeding time in the spring of 1813, two American officers came to this house and asked for and got their dinner. They refused to pay and when they were leaving they took some hams that were hanging in the kitchen. The women folks were there alone and not able to stop the thievery, when the farmer came for his dinner he was terribly mad. He got his horse with his squirrel gun took after the soldiers, overtook them about Fruitland Church, shot and killed them both, and returned with the hams.

LOYALISTS AND PIONEERS:

DAVIS

The Davis family, said to have been descendants of King David of Cadwallader, came from Wales to the New World. Two brothers went to New Brunswick and a third, Thomas by name, with wife, Mary, settled in Maryland near Baltimore.

A son, William, was born on the plantation 23 December, 1741. He married the beautiful Hannah Phillips of Yorktown, Virginia, and settled in Orange County, North Carolina, where their seven children were born.

During the War of the Revolution this Davis family remained loyal to the British Crown and, as many other Loyalists, suffered losses, which decided them to emigrate to Canada. In 1792 William Davis, with his wife and family, many of their slaves and with 20 pack horses, began their long journey to the new country. They reached the Genesee river in New York state in the fall and remained there during the winter. In the spring Governor Simcoe, a friend of the Davis and Phillips families, sent a gun-boat to the mouth of the Genesee river, where the family embarked and proceeded to the Niagara frontier.

They lived here until 1794, when William's wife, Hannah, in delicate health and never ceasing to mourn for her southern home, died. Family tradition states that she was buried in the Anglican churchyard, Chippawa.

William Davis and his family then moved westward to the Head of the Lake settling on Lots 31 - 32, Cone. VI and Lots 32 - 33 Concs. VII and VIII. They built a log-cabin and later erected a grist and saw mill on the stream near the present site of Mount Albion. Their large residence of Colonial design replaced the log-cabin and was called 'Harmony Hall'.

The children of William and Hannah (Phillips) Davis

ELIZABETH, b. 29 Oct. 1772, m. Thomas Ghent, probably in North Carolina, as he was a Loyalist from that, state, who settled on Lot 31 Cone. VII.

ASAHEL, b. 1774, d. 24 March, 1850. He married 1. Nancy Morden. 2. Hannah Bates.

WILLIAM, b. 12 May 1776, m. Mary Long.

MARY, b. 27 Oct. 1777, m. James Gage.

JONATHAN, b. 25 January 1783, m. Jane Long.

KEZIA, b. 1785, married John Cline.

SARAH, b. 2 November 1787, m. Col. John Chisholm.

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FUTURE SPEAKERS

Mar. 7, Rita Griffin-Short - Smith's Knoll, Archeological Dig

Apr. 4, Bob King - Wooden Spoon Maker. *rescheduled
from January Meeting*

May. 2, To be Announced Later.

Loyalists and Pioneers:
Continued from page 4

"Harmony Hall", Mount Albion, the home of William Davis. Loyalist, one of the first settlers in Upper Canada. The land granted to this family is now the location of the Glendale Golf Club.

ASAHEL DAVIS lived first on Lot 2 Cone. VI, Barton twp. Later he settled in Wellington Square, now Burlington.

Children of Asahel and Nancy (Morden) Davis:-

JAMES, b. 28 May 1798, m. Sarah Ghent. 2. Helen McDougal. 3. Margaret Lunt.

JOHN, b. 8 March, 1800, m. Sarah Hopkins.

SYLVESTER, 8 Sept. 1802, m., Amanda Freeman.

GILBERT, b. 26 Jan. 1804, m. Lucy Campbell.

CATHERINE, 6 April 1806, m. John Freeman.

WILLIAM, b. 4 Nov. 1809, m. 1. Azubah Hopkins. 2. Lucin,, a Springer Everett. 3. Mary Elizabeth Fonger.

Children of Asahel and Hannah (Bates) Davis:

RACHEL, b. 5 June, 1816, m. John Buck. MARY, b. 31 Jan. 1818, m. James P. Gage.

ASAHEL, b. :7 July 1823, m. Caroline Wilson.

WALTER, b. 7 Dec. 1826.

WILLIAM DAVIS, second son of William Sr. and Hannah (Phillips) Davis settled about a half mile west of Stoney Creek where, before the War of 1812, he built 'Red Hill House'. This residence had 16 rooms and, it is said, was used as an Inn in those early days. During the War it was a place of some importance where army scouts and military men gathered to discuss the events of the day. The road ran close to its front door and there was a watering-trough there, which served to wash the wounds of men injured in the battle of Stoney Creek. At this time William Davis Jr. served as an officer with the 2nd Flank Company of the 5th Lincoln Militia.

Children of William and Mary (Ung) Davis:-

JOSEPH DAVIS, b. 21 June 1805, m. Barbara Chisholm.

RALPH LONG DAVIS, b. 6 November 1806.

HANNAH DAVIS, b. 4 July, 1808, married Henry Lutz in 1833.

MARY ANN DAVIS, b. 5 January 1811, m. Wm. Gage 17 April, 1830.

CATHERINE DAVIS, b. 25 March, 1813, m. S. Hopkins.

WILLIAM DAVIS, b. 7 March 1815.

HAMILTON DAVIS, b. 6 April, 1817.

HARVEY DAVIS, b. 4 April, 1819.

JONATHAN DAVIS, b. 5 June, 1821.

SIDNEY DAVIS, b. 29 May, 1824.

JONATHAN DAVIS, third son of William and Hannah (Phillips) Davis, lived on part of the home farm, Lots 31-32, Conc. VI.

Children of Jonathan and Jane (Long) Davis:-

DANIEL, born 27 September, 1808, m. Mariah Emeline DeWitt.

CATHERINE, born 10 July, 1810, m. James Hannon.

MATILDA, born 15 November 1812, m. W. T. Barnes.

LOUISA, born 8 February, 1814, m. Sam Pew, 15 May 1832.

GEORGE, born 27 December, 1818.

SAMUEL born 24 September, 1816, m. Nancy Larlee.

JAMES G. born 7 February, 1821.

MARY JANE, born 20 April, 1823.

HANNAH, born 4 March, 1825.

SARAH, born 30 October, 1827.

JONATHAN, born 15 November, 1829.

The above history of the Davis family was given to the compiler by Mrs. J. B. Mundie, Curator of Dundurn Museum, Hamilton. Ont.

MARY DAVIS, widow, married Jonathan Woolverton, widower, Grimsby, 25 Jan. 1806. She had three children:-

ELIAS DAVIS, b. 7 Aug. 1786.

SARAH b. 12 May, 1788, m. Israel Wilcox, 31 March, 1805.

PHOEBE, b. 13 April, 1792, m. Gabriel Hopkins 8 June, 1808.

There were other Davis families, who settled in Saltfleet and Barton townships. JOHN DAVIS, whose name appears on the first map of Saltfleet, on Lots 20-21-22-23, Cone. V. THOMAS DAVIS and WILLIAM DAVIS, JR., on Lot 45, Concession IV, Barton township. As the names of both families are similar, one may assume that they belong to the same family.

From the Annals of the Forty, book #4 pages 51-53

MOUNT ALBION RESIDENTS 1871

(Lovell's Directory)

Albion Hotel, D. Turner, proprietor
Barrett, George C., farmer
Blain, David, blacksmith
Bruce, William F., farmer, hop grower
Cook, James R. J. P., postmaster, miller
Cornell, James B., storekeeper
Davis, Daniel F., farmer
Davis, Jonathan, farmer, cattle breeder
Donaldson, Charles, miller
Dunn, Mrs. Barbara
Freeman, William, farmer, hop grower
Galloway, Andrew, waggonmaker
Grassie, Charles, blacksmith
Laing, William, tailor
Martin, Henry, Victoria Hotel
Soles, Robert, farmer
Turner, Donald, proprietor, Albion Hotel
Turner, John, farmer
Van Dusen, Robert, farmer
Wilson, David, builder

STONEY CREEK 1897

On January 13th the Stony Creek Literary Society enjoyed harmonica solos by Geo. Moore, F. Jackson and Guy Robertson. Miss Ethel Smith, Natty Springstead, F. Galbraith and J. Granner entertained with songs and readings were presented by R. Millen Jr., B. Rogers, E. McPherson and Miss May Walker. The debate of the evening, "Resolved, that females wield a greater influence in society than males." Miss Spera and Miss C. Nash entertained with piano solos.

Black Heritage trail marks escape route of slaves

"I was property - not a man, not a father, not a husband."

- Rev. Josiah Henson,
1849

BY MIKE KING
SOUTHAM NEWSPAPERS
Dresden, Ont.
August 22 1998

Few people have likely heard of the Henson House in this southern Ontario town. A lot more people, however, know it as Uncle Tom's Cabin.

Harriet Beecher Stowe modelled the hero of her novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin, on the saga of Rev. Josiah Henson, a black slave who fled to freedom in Upper Canada in 1830.

The book, which sold 3,000 copies the first day and more than 300,000 within the first year, was arguably the most influential novel in North American history. Abraham Lincoln described it as "the book that made this great war" referring to the American Civil War.

Before the war, about 40,000 of the 15 million black Africans who lived as slaves in the U.S. escaped to Canada through what became known as the Underground Railroad.

There wasn't really a railway - above or below ground - but railway terms were used to disguise secret escape routes to freedom in the northern U.S. and Canada.

Guides who helped slaves, or "packages," were called "conductors" while safe houses became "stations" and final destinations were "terminals."

Dresden was among seven main "terminals" in south-western Ontario. The others were Windsor and Amherstburg along the Canada/U.S. border, Leamington, Chatham, North Buxton and Sarnia.

The African-Canadian Heritage Tour was launched in 1992 as a self-guided tour of the Underground Railroad network, which takes two days if you spend at least an hour at each site.

Uncle Tom's Cabin, or the Henson House, is the crowning jewel of the tour. The house, which has a \$9.2-million interpretive centre that opened in 1996, has been under the supervision of a direct Henson descendant for the past several years - Barbara Carte, who is a great, great granddaughter.

Henson escaped to Upper Canada in 1830, three years before slavery was outlawed in all British colonies. Upper Canada had already brought in anti-slavery legislation in 1793.

In 1841, Henson and a bought 200 acres near Dresden to establish the Dawn Settlement for refugee slaves. That's where they established the first vocational school in Canada, the British American Institute.

A sawmill and grist mill were eventually added to the settlement and, although the site has been reduced to five acres, it still features many original buildings and artifacts.

Henson's first church burned in the 1940s, but the organ and his pulpit were saved, then placed into the replica chapel visitors can now see.

Henson remained in Dresden, where he died May 5, 1883, at

the age of 94.

From Dresden, the next suggested stop on the tour is the First Baptist Church in Chatham.

Founded in 1841 by refugee slaves, the church was the site of the last series of meetings between abolitionist John Brown and a group of white and black supporters in May 1858.

SOUL-FOOD DINNER

Bus and group tours only can enjoy a soul-food dinner at First Baptist Church followed by a gospel concert, Jones said.

Continuing south from Chatham takes you to North Buxton, one of the few remaining Black Canadian communities (formerly known as the Elgin Settlement) from the pre-Civil War era.

It was started in 1849 under Rev. William King and grew into a self-sufficient population of 2,000 people. Its Raleigh Township Centennial Museum stresses black history and the accomplishments of its settlers.

Going west toward the U.S. border along Highway 2 (parallel with Highway 401), you pass through the tiny hamlet of Puce where the John Freeman Walls Historic Site and Underground Railroad Museum is located.

The "station" there was built in 1846 by John Freeman Walls, a fugitive slave from North Carolina. His journey to freedom was chronicled in the documented novel *The Road That Led To Somewhere* by Bryan E. Walls.

Farther west is Windsor, where the Sandwich Baptist Church - built by former slaves - was the area's first Baptist church.

South of Windsor in Amherstburg, are two more points of interest. One is the North American Black Historical Museum, which features clippings from the black newspaper *The Voice of the Fugitive*, and the other is the Fort Malden National Historic Park.

submitted by Marilyn McDonald

STONEY CREEK-- OUR TOWN:

With the beginning of a new era, "the amalgamation of our City of Stoney Creek to Hamilton," I would like to share with you a thankyou letter I received after attempting to assist a local man with some research on Stoney Creek.

December 27, 2000

Dear Ron:

Thank you very much for your help earlier this month with my research regarding famous people who have called Stoney Creek home for part of their childhood over the years. It doesn't look like any very "great" people came from here. Distinguished, productive, successful citizens yes, but no one very famous with strong roots in Stoney Creek.

That is a little bizarre. One could very seriously make a credible case arguing that Stoney Creek, Canada is one of the best places in the world to grow up. We have everything anyone could possibly want, or rather need, within the confines of the City of Stoney Creek borders. That is why it is truly horrible that we have lost our city. Regardless of any reason, it is truly unjustifiable for the government to have stolen our full identity and all that we have worked for. And already we have read in the

Continued on page 7

FROM THE PAST:

*Wentworth Historical Society Minutes
1908 -1948*

MARCH 3RD. 1913 SALT FLEET HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of this Society was held immediately after the Citizens Assoc. meeting, President W.E. Corman presided. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.

Treas. gave his report which showed a balance on hand of \$22.10.

Moved by Rev. Mr. Daniels, seconded by Erland Lee, that this Society pay the expenses of the meeting called to interest the citizens of Stoney Creek in the interests of the Peace Centennial. CARRIED.

The following committee was appointed to act in conjunction with other committees re Peace Centennial -
W.E. Corman, Oliver Nash, Chas. Lounsbury,
Chas. Moore, Arthur Lee, Sept. Corman
This committee to meet at the Court House, Hamilton on Monday March 10th at 2 p.m.

The following members enrolled for 1913 by paying 25 cents annual fee -

W.E. Corman	Rev. Mr. Daniels	Erland Lee
Arthur Lee	Ed Kelly	Oliver Nash
Chas. Lounsbury	John W. Green	Sept. Corman
Chas. Moore	Rev. G.W. Davis	Geo. Millen

Fees collected \$3.00

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year -

1913- Hon. Pres. -

President - W.E. Corman

Vice President -

Sec. Treas. - Rev. W.G. Davis

Minutes confirmed, W.E. Corman

CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOUR 2000:

The house tour this year was bigger and better with more than 270 visitors. We were fortunate to have an additional home added, the **Fred B. Henry Home** owned by Margaret and Nino Favero, joined by **Battlefield House**, **Erland Lee Museum Home**, The **William Horton Jones Home**, owned by Elaine and Tom Gravelle and returning to the tour after a couple of years absence The **Billy Green home** owned by Barbara Green, and the **Lewis House** owned by Mary and George Lewis. Also joining this year the **E.D. Smith Heritage House** as a stopping point for refreshments.

A major boost this year was the sponsorship of **Stoney Creek Furniture** and the merchants at the **Decor Centre**. Their participation made it possible to create a more appealing brochure to cover a much wider advertising area.

DWK design and printing donated the printed tickets, as well the **Stoney Creek News** supplied the information hand outs available at each home. All of this helped put this tour over the top.

To all the volunteers who helped out at the homes and with baking, thank you very much. Without your help we would be lost. Much credit must go to our chair Nick Demi and co-chair Wendy Walkling. The rest of the committee were Barbara Green, Mary Lewis, Juanita Mitchell, Tom & Elaine Gravelle, Susan Ramsay, Michael Gemmel as well as myself. Thanks to Jim Reid for posting signs. Thank you all for an unforgettable 9th Christmas House Tour.

Proceeds from this year's tour are divided between Battlefield House, The Erland Lee Museum operating funds and the Historical Society publishing fund

STONEYCREEK-OURTOWN: Continued from page 6

Stoney Creek News the questionability of significant, or any tax savings. Not that any amount of money could replace what is irrevocably lost. I have always felt that we have always been quite distinct from Hamilton.

Anyway, in the last few years I began walking long distances. I began to have a heightened awareness of the special place we live in. Finding myself at all kinds of different places around this city during different times of the day in all sorts of different weather, it was awesome to think that this was still all Stoney Creek. We can live here for many years and still discover new things we never saw before. I walk through streets and paths I never saw before but somehow each view, each street seemed special. There are some unremarkable things here but very few. The most wonderful thing in Stoney Creek is the variety it possesses. You could show someone many pictures of our town and the stranger would be amazed this could all be one place. We have the lake, the industry, the highway, the suburban parts, the mall, the old town centre, the historical monuments, the railroads, the Bruce trails, the escarpment, the orchards, the farms, the forests. This year I attempted to capture some of these faces of the city in photographs all over our land. I sent some of these pictures with great pride to some of my friends who live in Alaska and North Carolina.

As the year ends and we lose our city I will not forget the bounty of riches we have here and the unique qualities of Stoney Creek. I hope one day my acting career works out. I would very much like to tell the world I come from Stoney Creek, not Hamilton. If I ever become famous I will surely communicate the wonders of our town, with its disintegration I may be one of the last hopes of putting this town on the map. Sometimes when I walk at night in this city and look at the stars, I think it just might be possible.

Zackary Matka

November 29, 1916. Winona Ont.

A cement Highway from Hamilton to Niagara Falls was proposed last night, at the inaugural meeting of the Winona Improvement League, in the Town Hall at Winona.

MEMBERS BUSINESS/INSTITUTION DIRECTORY:

Anne Forsyth Accounting	Anne Forsyth	9 Lake Ave. South	662-2848
Barrister & Solicitor	Richard J. Skrtich	26 King St. E.	662-2855
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
Winona Garden Shoppe	Georgina & Jeff Beattie	1381 Highway 8	643-2161

PLEASE MENTION THIS DIRECTORY WHEN YOU SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS!

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

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

HUNTING FOREBEARS:

by Dorothy Reid

A query by Tom Halderman of California regarding the Bannister Family in Saltfleet.

James Bannister married Elizabeth Marshall, of Saltfleet 18 March 1846 by Baptist Minister Rev. Alfred Booker of Hamilton. Witnesses where Samuel Marshall and Harriet Gorman.

(from Gore District Marriage Register, printed in the Ontario Register Volume 8.)

HAMILTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION:

A portion of the recent grant from the **Hamilton Community Foundation** has purchased a slide projector and case for speakers requiring it, as well as purchasing material required in the preservation of the archive material donated to the society

Our sincere appreciation is extended to the **HAMILTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION** for their assistance.

LIBRARY:

- Albion Mills, The History of
- Annals of the Forty
- Branches of Bruce (OGS letters)
- William Case, The Reverend
- The Codling Family,
- Ancestors of Blanche and Harold Cox.
- Billy Green and the Battle of Stoney Creek.
- Agustus Jones 1758 - 1836
- A Short History of John Millen
- Nash-Jackson House 1790 - 1996
- Nelson Family of New York (includes Saltfleet records)
- If Ponies Rode Men.
- Saltfleet Inns
- History of Stoney Creek Schools
- The Smith Family of Glanford Township 1685-1987
- Stoney Creek Historical Society Newsletters, back issues
- Twedle - Tweddle - Tweedle - Tweeddale (Many Families)

Members are encouraged to use the library and to consider donating a copy of their own completed work. Our appreciation to Anna & Ed Orr for donating library space in their office, located at

Steel Market Place
(Rear of) 1247 Highway 8, Winona
Monday to Friday 8.30am. to 4.30pm.

The Hamilton Times

February, 1897

The 5th Annual supper of the Saltfleet Agricultural Society was held in early February. President George Millen presented various toasts after the singing of the national anthem and Rule Britannia. Responding to the toasts were Thomas Bain, M.P.; Public School Inspector J. H. Smith; Mr. Seeley of Waterdown and A. D. Lee representing local legislature and county council; George Corman on behalf of agricultural interests; J. W. Smith and Wm. Mort on behalf of the fruit growers; agents C. DeWitt and R. A. Glover and visitors John Young of Caistor and D. A. Hyslop of Ancaster, A. Kimmens and Mr. Mahoney on behalf of the ladies. Others mentioned were Dr. Thompson, Erland Lee, Mrs. Rogers, Artemus Ward and Mr. Hicks a teacher of Stony Creek school. Songs were presented by Misses McFarland and Nellie Millen, Messrs. McPherson and Springstead.

submitted by Dorothy Reid

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.

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:	Judy Green	662-4065
Recording Secretary:	Michael Gemmell	662-8876
Corresponding Secretary:	Anna Orr	643-7653
Newsletter:	Ron Place	662-8856

VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT STONEY CREEK CITY HALL,
 SALT FLEET 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.....	\$ _____
<u>Tax receipts will be issued</u>	

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

**THE TELEPHONE
in WINONA
Continued from page 3**

The Grand Truck Railway Station had a phone, as did Dr. J.W. Alway. Also listed was Mr. Secord.

In 1893 a long distance line was built from Hamilton to St. Catharines. This line past through Winona. Mr. Budge had to memorize the names and addresses of all telephone users in Winona, for it wasn't until 1900 that numbers were introduced.

Mr. Budge succeeded Mr. Secord as local manager in 1901. He shared the responsibilities with his brother William.

Continuous 24 hour service much as we know it today, first was introduced in this community during the year 1906.

There have been several inspiring developments in the telephone industry since the days of the Winona's first telephone exchange on Lake Street, (Winona Road).

Today with the exchange on Barton Street, complete with an advanced type of dial switching equipment residents have fresh evidence of headway Winona is making along the path of progress.

*from the Winona Centennial book
1867 - 1967*

MEMBERSHIP DUE??

The date on the right side of your mailing label, indicates the year your membership is paid for.

Please forward your cheques to

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

Stories, News or Queries can be mailed to

Ron Place

56 Wyngate Ave.

Stoney Creek, On. L8G 1T6

E-mail rplace@bestnet.org

Next newsletter will be issued Wed. May 2 , 2001

Material deadline is Monday, April 16, 2001

Historical Society website www.city.stoney-creek.on.ca/events/histori.htm