

Remember the Comman House

Stoney Creek Historical Society

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

NEWSLETTER

February 2004

10th Anniversary Edition #31

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American slaves found freedom in Ontario

House stands today as a reminder of the courage of early black settlers.

Stoney Creek News Heritage edition. by Christa Smith

Nestled in the heart of the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority stands a house on a hill that serves today as a testament and reminder to the will and determination of black men and women who escaped slavery and found a new life in southern Ontario.

Little, if anything was known about the historic roots of the Griffin House when the estate was purchased by the Conservation Authority in late 1988.

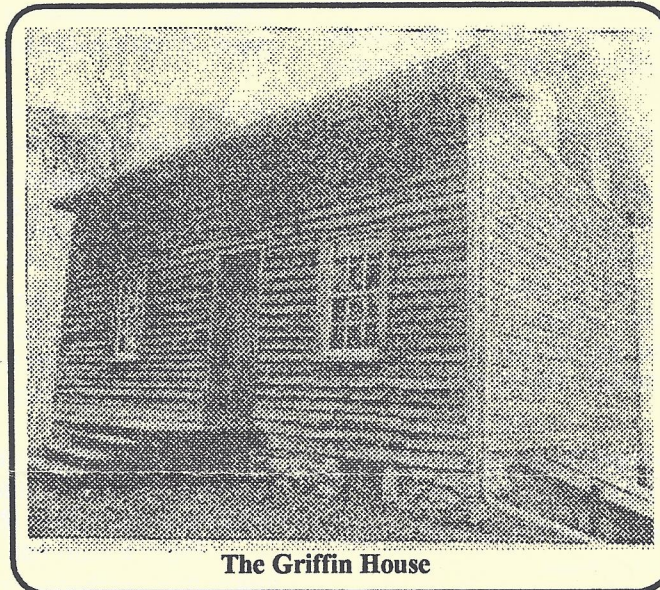
The 45-acre property on Mineral Springs Road in Ancaster was simply seen as a natural addition to the lands already in their possession, and it was decided the stucco-sided house, small barn and chicken coop that remained on the land would be torn down.

But before a demolition permit can be granted, the applicant is required to do a little homework, and it was through that process that researchers discovered the house was a historical gem, rich with heritage, a surviving link to the past.

Jennifer Dunkerson, curator at Fieldcote Memorial Park and Museum on Sulphur Springs Road, leads guided tours of the house regularly and has done extensive research into the background of both the Griffin family and the underground railway. She said once it was discovered the house was historically significant, the stucco siding was torn off revealing 1870s board and batten, followed by the original clapboard siding.

"We came to the conclusion that the house was built in 1827," said Ms. Dunkerson. "We discovered we had a real gem here and couldn't tear it down."

The house was built by John Lawrason, then sold, to George Hogeboom and his wife Henrietta Ryckman, before being purchased by Eneals Griffin in 1834.



The Griffin House

Eneals Griffin was an African American born in Virginia, who is believed to be one of the thousands of blacks who escaped slavery and formed what came to be known as the underground railroad.

"To have been black, born in Virginia in the late 1700s, leads us to believe he escaped slavery," said Ms. Dunkerson. "The story of the underground railway has also been passed on through the oral history tradition. " Mr. Griffin and his wife, Priscilla, along with their infant son,

James (born in 1833), moved into the house on the hill in 1834. While it remains unknown whether Priscilla was black or not, it was discovered that James was recorded in the census as being Mulatto, leading historians to believe Mr. Griffin married a white woman. (James also married a white woman, Euphemia and had nine children).

Perhaps most significant about the story of the Griffin house is that the family remained on the site for close to 150 years. Seven generations of Griffin descendants have lived in the house, (the last leaving the home upon his death in 1983); and while it was modified and changed slightly over those years, it has been restored to its original splendor:

"The house was covered over with a number of wall treatments, a mud room was put on the back of the house, and a number of barns were built on the site," said Ms. Dunkerson. "But the floor; wood moulding, doors, basement foundation and glass panes on the windows have all remained original."

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NEW MEMBERS:

We are happy to welcome to our membership
Joan Darby, Howard Martin, Robert W. Smith,

*This Newsletter
is sponsored "In Loving memory of
Bob Pergentile
By his family"*

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

The year 2003 was a very successful year for our organization, as membership increased and the attendance at our monthly meetings is very gratifying.

Barbara Green has been our program convenor since we began and has provided us with many interesting speakers on numerous historical events. Barbara has now felt she needs a break and we sincerely thank you for all you have done. We need a new convenor.

Many thanks to the House Tour committee chaired by Michael Gemmell for their untiring efforts which made the tour a great success, even the weather co-operated. Much appreciation is shown to members who helped in the homes, baked and served lunch.

Our bus tour to Niagara Falls proved very interesting and enjoyable, thanks to Bill Mitchell and Harry Brown.

This year we hope to publish another history book by James Elliott. More will come on this later.

I am pleased to note that plans are well under way for the restoration work on the Nash/Jackson house and the plans are quite impressive and exciting.

I thank the Historical Society for your help and support given me the past year and wish all our readers the best for 2004.

Bill O'Reilly

REPORT FROM BATTLEFIELD HOUSE

by Marnie Hutchinson

The staff at Battlefield House Museum hopes you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and wishes you health and happiness in 2004. After a very busy Christmas season, during which we were once again delighted to be involved in the Stoney Creek Historical Society's annual House Tour, we are looking forward to a winter and spring full of some very exciting special events.

A new exhibit will go in to the Sara Calder Gallery at the end of January, featuring the collections of some of the members of our community. Entitled "The People's Show", this exciting display will include watch fobs, Depression glass, perfume bottles and butter churns among other things. Visitors will be enchanted by how unique, extensive and personal these collections can be. This exhibit will run until **June 27, 2004** and will be open to the public during our regular hours, **Tuesday to Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

Our youth drama group, the Battlefield Troupers are hard at work once again on what has become their annual winter performance. On **Saturday, February 7**, the Troupers present "Bulldog Saves the Day", a story set in the south that is sure to be a rollicking good time. The 7:30 p.m. show will be performed at the Stoney Creek United Church at King Street and Lake Avenue and tickets will be sold at the door for \$5.00 each.

As part of the Heritage Week celebration in February,

Battlefield House Museum presents a vintage clothing show on **Saturday, February 21 at 7:00 p.m.** Staff and volunteers will model an assortment of authentic and reproduction clothing from the 1790s to the 1970s. Accompanied by era appropriate music, each decade will come alive as we celebrate the unique styles of one hundred and eighty years. Music by Stephen Fuller and R.L. Hyslop Chamber Orchestra will be featured and refreshments will be served. The show will be held in the historic chapel in the Stoney Creek United Church at King Street and Lake Avenue. Tickets are \$15.00 each and may be purchased by calling the Museum at (905) 662-8458. We are also looking for donations of baked goodies from members of the community, to be served at the event. If you are able to assist, please contact the Museum.

We are grateful for all of the community support throughout the year and hope to see you soon.

ERLAND LEE (MUSEUM) HOME

by Michael Gemmell

The museum would like to thank the Society for a successful Christmas Tour on December 7th, with particular thanks to the volunteers who helped out at the Lee on the day, and to Wendy Walkling, who provided floral accents to the decorations.

February is Heritage Month!

February 8th, at 1:30 pm Heritage Talk:

"Once a Garden: The History of Community Beach"

Enjoy a short talk at the museum on the fascinating history of one of Stoney Creek's oldest neighbourhoods. Once a cottager's paradise, this vibrant community was fatally divided by the arrival of the QEW. From research in the Tweedsmuir History of Community Beach, left behind by the late June Williams and the former Community Beach Women's Institute, Michael Gemmell will do a talk Sunday afternoon, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm. Admission by donation. Complimentary light refreshments and public display of the primary source documents and photographs on Community Beach are available afterwards.

February 14, 2004

Hamilton's Heritage Comes Home

Look for the Erland Lee Museum booth, together with a display on the history of Stoney Creek Canada Flag Day (and its 2004 return!) at a heritage fair and marketplace at Hamilton City Hall from 10 am - 3 pm. The museum has nominated **Wayne Rodgers** for a **Hamilton-Wentworth Heritage Volunteer Award**. Please note that the museum will be closed to the public for Saturday Feb. 14th only.

February 15, 2004

Celebrating Life: Creative Memories Heritage album class

The museum offers a class from 1:30 - 4:00 pm on the creation and arrangement of a "heritage creative memories" album.

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American slaves continued from page 1

In fact, during the restoration of the house, great care was taken in uncovering original paint on doors and trim, in order to make the house appear more authentic to the time period.

The first Griffin family to live on the property made a serious attempt to farm the land, but found the soil to be poor, Eneals Griffin tried several crops, fruit trees and some domestic animals, but never made a successful go at it,

In order to make a living, the Griffins had to lend themselves out to labour on other farms in the area,

Archaeologists have found over 3,000 artifacts during two excavations of the site, Ceramics including red-ware, stoneware and porcelain as well as metallic objects and faunal remains, glassware, clay smoking pipes and pieces of masonry foundation were uncovered and make up the current display at the Mineral Springs Road site,

The house is a typical Upper Canadian, one and a half storey farm house, of solid but simple styling, The kitchen served as the main living area for the family, With a large fireplace in the center, it was where the family did all of their cooking, washing and eating,

The floor of this main room is much in keeping with what it would have looked like when the Griffins first moved in,

It has been documented that 13 members of the family were living in the house at one time, so it's suspected the large living area off of the kitchen was used as a bedroom. . Upstairs are two additional bedrooms, with a hallway that may also have served as sleeping quarters, A piece of original wallpaper (dating back to the 1830s) from the main bedroom was found during one of the digs,

A stairwell now gives access to the basement, but the trap door; the original access, is still evident in the kitchen, The whitewashed walls and tree trunk beams are authentic and the dry storage shelves are still intact. On the stairway leading down to the basement, renovators found a colored lithograph of Eastman Johnson's 1859 oil painting "Negro Life in the South." Commonly referred to as Old Kentucky Home, the print is in the hands of the Canadian Parks Service, . Ontario Region for conservation.

One of the few black families in the area at the time, the Griffins integrated well into white society and soon began to intermarry. In 1991, while work was being undertaken by the HRCa, a group of Griffin descendants gathered to mark the occasion. They were all white, and some of the younger family members were unaware of their connection to the Griffin family or their black past, said Ms. Dunkerson.

It remains a mystery when Eneals Griffin came to Ancaster and why. Several black communities had been started in Windsor and Collingwood as well as other parts of southern Ontario. The answer may lie in the activities actions of Eneals Griffin during a few years that are unaccounted for:

We know he crossed the border in 1829, but we don't know what he did for the years between then and 1834 when he bought this house; said Ms. Dunkerson. "We do know he had 125 pounds to put down on the house. "

Priscilla's maiden name is still a mystery as well, preventing historians from researching her background.

Guided tours of the Griffin House are led by interpretive staff who can answer questions about the history" of the family and the home. For tours contact Fieldcote Memorial Park and Museum at 905-648-8144.

ERLAND LEE (MUSEUM) HOME

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Participants are professionally instructed on starting and maintaining an attractive and practical album for family photographic memories, with particular emphasis on preserving old photographs and other paper artifacts.

\$15.00 workshop fee includes instruction, a starter page kit (with a Victoriana theme) and materials, and an optional museum tour. A portion of the course fee is being donated to the Erland Lee Museum for upkeep and operations. **Pre-registration is requested. Call 905 664 6743 to register.** March 15-20, 2004

March Break Activities: Stoney Creek and the Iron Horse

Model train display of Stoney Creek's H.G. & B. R. (c.1910) opens for 2003 as a permanent display. Expanded train set now covers from the Red Hill Valley to Winona.

New buildings modeled:

- 1: Clinton Hall (Red Hill Valley) built c.1800
- 2: Burton Corman House (the symbol of the Historical Society) built 1864
- 3: Piott Basket Factory (Olde Stoney Creek) built c.1890
- 4: James Moore house (Centennial Parkway and King Street), built c.1877

The From Saltfleet to Stoney Creek display, complementing the model train, will be reopened in the old fieldstone basement of the Lee home, site of the old family water cistern, the coal chute, and the former location of the building's 1900 coal furnace.

Kid's craft also available. \$4.00 admission applies to adults and children alike.

Plus: Mon, Wed, and Fri: 1:30 pm - Old-fashioned Doll making \$5.00 (includes regular admission plus materials) April 3, 2004

Our Annual Maple Syrup and Pancake Breakfast

An all-you-can-eat affair, featuring pancakes & sausages, Lee's Own Maple Syrup from the old Lee sugar bush, coffee, tea, and juice.

\$6.50 for 12 and up \$3.50 for 11 and under - Infants in arms: no charge

May 1-2, 2004

Doors Open Hamilton Visit the museum and other Hamilton landmarks as part of Hamilton's 2nd Doors Open.

VINEMOUNT & FRUITLAND

By Howard Martin

Part 2

The Vinemount Moraine blocks the natural south-north drainage atop the escarpment, and created the "Wentworth swamp" and the "sink-hole" creeks. In Depression years, when there weren't funds to clear the man made "Swamp Drain", the whole area would freeze over and it was possible (for I've done it) to skate from above Stoney Creek to Beamer's Falls above Grimsby and to hold skating parties around huge bonfires. It was much safer than our alternate sport of young men and ladies riding bob-sleds down our mountain roads at night. Upcoming parties signalled at curves with barn lanterns to descending "meteors" to show that the way was clear. There was one lady teacher at Grimsby High School (Jean L. Scott) who used contraptions called "Norwegian snow shoes", but our world was not yet ready for skis.

So the name Vinemount will persist, no matter how economics and politics move to destroy it.

As to Senator E.D. Smith, we were of course all aware of his canning factory and of its influence across that part of the peninsula, but mainly I remember, of that time, around 1915, the large, patriotic garden parties held on the grounds of his estate alongside the factory complex. I was at this time living with my Gage grandparents at Fruitland, amidst our Dean, Biggar, Pettit, Stewart, Glover, Dewitt and Jones relatives. I remember sitting on the Jones' front lawn at Jones Rd. and #8 highway -then called "the Stone Road" -as long lines of infantry men marched east to some encampment or training area. Or perhaps the march was itself the training. I remember big brawny highlanders, in the regulation ten minutes per hour marching break, filling their canteens at the pump. At the garden parties, what especially sticks in memory were the airmen of the new Canadian Air Force, who were there as guests from their aerial gunnery school at Beamsville. They also caught the eyes of the young ladies there. Dressed all in blue, they stood out in the sea of khaki -blue riding trousers ("pegged", i.e. tailored tight to the knees and flared above), blue jacket with slash cut front buttoned to the chin, blue wedge cap and carrying a jaunty swagger stick. The story was told that these uniforms had been designed for the Russian Cossack cavalry, and were being manufactured in England. On the 1914 outbreak of war, the English confiscated them for the new Royal Flying Corps. If so, sorry, they had nothing to do with the "wild blue yonder".

The story was told that at one of these garden parties, a young airman had made a date to fly over a young lady's house. I think this may have been a Miss Ellsworth of a family near us on Barton St. While showing off his airman's skills, his poorly-stowed swagger stick fell from the aircraft, necessitating a trip on the radial cars to Fruitland to retrieve it. Speaking of radials -the Hamilton, Grimsby and Beamsville Electric Railway (such lines "radiated" out from cities) -does anyone now remember "MacDonald's Curve" and "the Path"?

MacDonald's Curve was where #8 highway veered furthest to the north, about midway between Glover and Jones sideroads. There was a radial stop there and probably a chalet. (pronounced "shally") to accommodate waiting passengers.

Such stops were lighted by a string of light bulbs connected to the trolley wire; the lights dimmed when an approaching car started up from a nearby chalet -the depth of the dim indicating how close the car was getting. But there was no heat in the chalets and they were open on the side nearest the tracks. At MacDonald's Curve, a short piece of road led north and there were several houses. This road continued north, becoming a footpath leading across a farm field to Barton St. It was a great shortcut for houses in our area. The landowner had tried to block off and close the footpath, but it had become established as a public right-of-way. When we Martins were living with my grandparents, my father used this path daily to go to his bricklayering job in Hamilton. It was there, one Christmas Eve, that he carried home a complete Singer sewing machine, along the "path", as a gift for my mother. I think the path may have been on the land of the Rolfes, the next place east of the Gages. We were all good friends and neighbours, despite the path dispute, for I remember them from years later. Some time after this, my parents moved to the Martin farm at Vinemount. An old lady told me of seeing John Martin bringing "his silver-haired bride" to the farm. Perhaps my mother had her hands full with the farm work, looking after my aged Martin grandparents, and caring for my elder brother, devastated by the 1910 "infantile paralysis" -polio. Perhaps this is why I was left with my Gage grandparents, it seems until 1916 when I started school. It now comes back in memory as flashes of an idyllic time -like the Smith garden party. In Fruitland I played with neighbouring kids, most of whom were relatives. For wherever we wandered, I seem to recall a sense of overall authority -as if they had power to spat our seats and wipe our noses. Mrs. Nelson Dean (she was a Hill) was always good for a beaker of raspberry vinegar, cool from the well. [I remember going with my grandmother on visits to Nelson's widowed brother Sampson, and the certain smell of an old bachelor farm house, with no women to freshen it up.]

The occasional truck coming along gravelled Barton St. was an attraction for small boys, and we ran out front to watch it pass, large, noisy, puffing smoke and fumes, hard tires and chain drive clattering along, with a Napoleonic wave from the driver -we all wanted to be truck drivers. But one day we heard the noise and ran out -but there was no truck. The sound was all around us -then someone looked up. It was our first aeroplane, from Beamsville, and immediately truck driving fell to second place. This probably is why the airmen at the garden party made such a lasting impression. Years later, I too would wear the blue. I don't recall that my playmates and I played at being soldiers despite the war then

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**DESIGNATED HOME in STONEY CREEK:
THE WOOD/FERRELL HOUSE
172 SEVENTH ROAD EAST**

In 1807 this property was deeded from the Crown to Alexander Wood. The single storey frame structure was probably built around that time. The property was sold to Isabel Ferrell in 1854 and it appears that the more significant two-storey stone dwelling was constructed at that time. The stone dwelling was built perpendicular (that is at 90 degrees) to the original north-south frame structure. The Travis family currently owns the property.

Architectural Qualities:

The stone structure is a fine example of an Early Gothic Revival interpretation of the stately farm house in the vernacular. The floor plan follows the Christian cross layout with the north-south wing at 90 degrees to the east-west wing. An original front porch over the main entrance would have completed the configuration. The asymmetrical plan along the east-west axis is unusual.

Architectural elements typical of the Gothic Revival, as exhibited in the structure, would include the plinth at the foundation, the symmetrical elevations, the steeply sloped roof (1:1) with gables, the dormers over the second storey windows, the elongated windows with slightly arched architrave, as well as the decorative bargeboard or gingerbread at the gables and dormers.

Proportional and visual elements closely follow the Gothic tradition. The bay windows on the west façade anchor the building and form the base of a triangle, with apex formed by the second storey window. This shape is echoed by the second storey dormer. A similar condition exists on the north façade. The width of the west façade and the north façade of the east wing are approximately the same, which is twice the depth of either wing.

The fenestration on the north and south facades is repeated on the west façade. Four elongated four-pane windows are placed symmetrically about a central axis which intersects the peak of the roof. A decorative circular attic vent can be seen on the north and south facades along the symmetrical axis.

The interior architectural elements of the dwelling are characteristic of the Gothic revival period. The main staircase is robust in design and construction, and the interior is accentuated with heavy wood trim. The interior woodwork at the main entrance is of significant note. The plaster cove mouldings, medallions and ceiling decoration in the two main front rooms of the first floor are fine examples of the period.

Of importance to the preservation are the interior wood trim, staircase, plaster cove mouldings, plaster medallions and ceiling decoration in the two main rooms and entrance on the west side of the first floor.

LOYALISTS AND PIONEERS:

LONDON

The family of London, sometimes spelled Loudon, was prominent in the pioneering days of Saltfleet township. It has not been possible to secure a history of this family and the following information was taken from early records, maps, assessment and muster rolls and from inscriptions on stones in the old burying ground at Stoney Creek.

It would seem probable that Richard, Bartholomew, Jeremiah, Aaron, and Joseph London were brothers who came to Canada from New Jersey. The first map of Saltfleet, 1791, shows the names of Richard London on Lots 16-17 Conc. III and Bartholomew on Lots 18-19, Conc. III. In 1808 the voter's list carries the name of Jeremiah London on Lot 27 Conc. IV.

Aaron London married Catherine Yarns 14 November 1808 and during the War of 1812 he served with the 5th Lincoln Regiment of Militia.

Joseph London's stone in the burying ground at Stoney Creek bears the inscription that he was born in New Jersey in 1786, died 22 January, 1856. Other members of the family buried there are as follows:-

Richard London, died 3 June 1839, age 65 (1774-1839). **
Mariah London, died 28 July, 1840 age 60 (1780-1840).

Andrew London, died 1842, age 31 yrs. (1811-1842). **
Margaret London, wife of Samuel Lutz, died 1839, age 19 years.

Joseph, son of David and Sarah London, no date.

There was a Jacob London, who lived on lot 16 Conc. V, Glanford twp. and a H. London, who lived on Lot 16, Con. VII, Glanford and a Daniel London on Lot 1 Conc. V. Saltfleet. Daniel m. Mary Ann Foster of Saltfleet -(Licence issued 5 November 1838.)

Jeremiah London married Phoebe Cutler 12 July 1825.

Susannah London married Joseph Adair of Clinton 13 July, 1824.

From the Annals of the Forty, Book #6, page # 22

SPONSOR A NEWSLETTER:

Would you like to sponsor an edition of the newsletter? We are almost caught up with our sponsorship list, the next issue requiring a sponsor would be October 2004.

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 905-662-8856

NEED A RIDE TO A MEETING?

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

CROWN PATENTEES OF SALTFLEET TOWNSHIP:

By Mabel Burkholder and T. Roy Woodhouse

Continued from Oct. newsletter

In the following list, the date of the settler's arrival in Canada (meaning arrival at Fort Niagara in most cases), is shown in brackets. The date of the actual settlement in Saltfleet could be the same year, but might be a year later. These names and registration dates were copied from the County Registry Office by Mabel Burkholder, and elaborated by T. Roy Woodhouse:

CONCESSION TWO

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Lot No.</u>	<u>Pt. of Lot</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Registered</u>
Lewis, Jr. (of (Grimsby) (1786)	1	All	100	May16, 1798
Silas Smith (1787)	2	All	100	June 30, 1802
John Pettit (of (Grimsby) (1787)	3	All	100	June 30, 1801
John Pettit, Jr. (of (Grimsby) (1787)	4	All	100	May 22, 1805
Nathaniel Pettit (of (Grimsby) (1787)	5,6	All	200	Dec.15, 1796
Gershom Carpenter (1786)	7	All	100	May 17, 1802
Jacob Smith (of (Glanford) (1788)	8	All	100	June 10, 1801
Jacob Smith Jr. (of Glanford) (1788)	9	All	100	Dec.16, 1816
Jacob Smith Sr. (of Glanford) (1788)	10,11	All	200	June11, 1801
John C. Pettit (1787)	12	All	100	Sept.15, 1803
Charles Pettit (of (Grimsby) (1787)	13,14	All	200	Oct.24, 1798
John Biggar (1786)——	15	All	100	Dec.31, 1798
Gershom and John Carpenter (1786)	16,17	All	200	June28, 1803
John Pettit, Sr. (of (Grimsby) (1787)	18	All	100	Oct.24, 1798
John Pettit, Sr. (of (Grimsby) (1787)	19	All	100	May 16,1804

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Lot No.</u>	<u>Pt. of Lot</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Registered</u>
Thomas Pettit (about 1790, via N.S.)—	20	All	100	May1, 1798
David Palmer Utter (before 1796)	21	All	100	May 17, 1802
Thomas Bailey	22	All	100	May 6, 1796
Edward Brinley (Ass't. Commisary N.S.)23		All	100	Sept.6, 1804
Augustus Jones (1789)				
(D.P. Surveyor)	24,26	All	200	May 6, 1796
Ebenezer Jones (1789)				
(Ass't. Surveyor)	25	All	100	May 6, 1796
John Rycknian 27, 28, 32, 33, 34	(5 lots)	All	500	June30, 1798
Angus McDonnell (of Niagara)	29 to 31	All	300	June 30, 1801

WESTFIELD VILLAGE:

by Rob Wunniger
Events 2004

Westfield Maple Syrup Festival
Sundays March 7, 14, 21 and 28
10 am to 4 pm

Enjoy this special Canadian tradition and travel back to the Native Canadian, Pioneer and modern eras and discover the origins, techniques and sweet taste of the Maple Syrup season in an historical village of over 30 buildings. Visit Westfield's one of a kind gift shop , hop on horse and wagon rides and have the most delicious pancakes your have ever had, courtesy of the Ancaster Lions Club. All this and more at Westfield Heritage Village, Rockton, Ontario. Tel: 1-800-883-0104 for additional information.

Westfield Heritage Village Hour Open Sundays and Holidays
April 6 to October 26, 12:30 - 4 pm

featuring hourly tours, restaurant and gift shop.

DO YOU HAVE AN ARTICLE FOR THE NEWSLETTER?

After 30 editions of this newsletter it becomes more difficult to locate bits of history, historic events or family stories that will help us appreciate our history. If you have a piece large or small you feel would have a place in our publication please submit it. Please call Ron Place at 905-662-8856.

VINEMOUNT & FRUITLAND

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in progress. My uncle Tom Wylie, who also lived with us, gave me some kind of play gear based on the recent Boer War, but I don't remember playing in or with it, so maybe my grandparents disposed of it. They were not warlike

During the war years when I lived at Fruitland, the former Wylie place next door at 818 Barton St. was occupied by three English ladies. One looked after the agricultural end and either bemused or amused the neighbours by her mannish garb. I had never before seen a lady in overalls. She may have been named Polly, but that was often a nickname for "Mary". I remember nothing of the second lady -she may have been engaged in war work. But the third was Nurse Crawford, and I have a photo of her in uniform. I think she served on hospital ships bringing wounded to Canada. She gave me military buttons, badges, shell fragments and such. I've no idea where it all went, nor anything further about these ladies. But I do have copies of "Princess Mary's Gift Book", received as a Christmas gift in 1914, and the "Blinded Soldiers and Sailors Gift Book": a 1915 Christmas gift. These books were published to raise money for the war effort or wounded servicemen. Both books were given to me at Vinemount in 1922; possibly the ladies were then breaking up their ménage. Princess Mary's Gift Book contains original contributions by G.K. Chesterton and H.G. Wells.

The photograph of Nurse Crawford reminds me that in the Gage memorabilia is a studio photograph of Ed Spera, the local historian. Ed had been my mother's beau -the reason for the picture. Ed was a Gage descendant seems nearly everyone was. Mother told of the dating habits of those horse-drawn days. Coming out of church or a social affair, the young men would have to go fetch their horses and buggies, stow the horse's blankets, make sure all~ was proper -lap robes ready, tasselled whip in the socket -and drive round to the loading platform -if there was one -for his lady to be assisted into the buggy. There were always lads at hand to help the lady in and sometimes, for a joke, in uncertain light they would put a lady in the wrong buggy, which would then be quickly driven off amid general hilarity. A story was told of a swain driving home from a late date; having set his horse on the homeward path, he would habitually fall asleep in his buggy. Pals, aware of this, would wait for them to come along, I intercept them and lead the horse around so when its owner awoke, he might find himself a mile or so out of town and heading in the wrong direction.

Apparently an occasion then most cherished by the young was "Watch Night", New Year's Eve. Everyone went to a church service, then the elders went home while the young were left to roam, meet people of their own age and "see the New Year in". My mother liked to visit her married sister in Hamilton for this event -more activity in Hamilton than back home at Fruitland.

I remember, at about that time in a Vinemount

neighbour's car, and stopping at Millen's Grocery Store in Stoney Creek to get gasoline, which was carried out in gallon jars and poured into the tank. (I'm almost sure it wasn't a Model T touring car, with the tank under the front cushion, which I well recall. It was probably a Chevrolet -these neighbours were "above" Fords). I also remember riding along the raw, new road when #8 Highway finally ran straight from the Monument, bypassing Stoney Creek. There were as yet no houses built along this stretch of highway.

Prepared by J. Howard Martin
42 Maitland St., Box 405,
Richmond, ON KOA 2Z0

Street Names in Stoney Creek

by Jean Baine

Millen Road:

Runs north to south from Lake Ontario to Maple Drive.

Millen Road was named for George Millen whose farm was situated between Lake Ontario and Barton Street on the east side of the road that bears his name. His family came from England.

John Millen was born in 1808 in Kent, England. His family had lived on the same estate as farmers for over 200 years. John was married to Jane Foster and they had eleven children. In 1849 they left England and journeyed to Hamilton. They settled near the village of Stoney Creek in the township of Saltfleet.

One of his sons, George, was born in 1849. He married Caroline Havon. They settled in the aforementioned property where George was considered a prominent farmer. Here they established a cheese factory that supplied the area with this essential product.

The red brick family home may still be seen on Barton Street east of Millen Road.

George and Caroline had one son, James who married Ethel Gray. In 1939, James, or Jimmy as he was popularly known, became the Saltfleet Township assessor - a responsible position. William Spera was appointed assistant assessor in 1961 when the work became increasingly heavy. It was then that Jim Millen retired.

There are many descendants of the Millen family who first arrived in 1849 and a large number of them live in Ontario.

Dwyer, Kay -Saltfleet Then and Now -D. G.Seldon Printing Limited.

Braendle, Edith Millen -A short History of the Family of John Millen -1937.

Why is honey so easy to digest? Because it has already been digested by the bee.

MEMBERS BUSINESS/INSTITUTION DIRECTORY:

Appraiser*Quiltmaker*Lecturer	Judy Lyons	8 Douglas Pl.	905-664-4519
Britannia Cleaners	Ed Strecker	17 King St. E.	905-662-4971
Chamber of Commerce	Dave Cage	21 Mountain Ave. S.	905-664-4000
Comic1 Books	Tom Laing	Elm/King Plaza	905-664-3777
Watercolours by Doug Mays	Doug & Angela Mays	3 MacDui Dr.	905-643-4541
Elm Grocery & Deli	Rick/Mario/Sonia	44 King St. E.	905-662-7900
Erland Lee Museum Home	Michael Gemmell	552 Ridge Road	905-662-2691
Evans Flower Shop	Karen Evans	5 King St. West.	905-664-3712
Forsyth Hagar Accounting	Anne Forsyth CGA	42 King St. E. Unit#2	905-662-2848
Picture Palace	Joanne Wynhofen	19 King St. E.	905-662-4014
Queenston Stationery	Salam Zoghaib	38 King St. E.	905-664-3360
Royal Canadian Legion	Branch 622	12 King St. E.	905-662-4171
Spera House Antiques	Lyn & Brent Jukes	228 Ridge Road	905-662-9339
The Snackery	Carol Dushko	Elm/King Plaza	905-664-2288
Winona Garden Shoppe	Georgina & Jeff Beattie	1381 Highway 8	905-643-2161

PLEASE MENTION THIS DIRECTORY WHEN YOU SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS!

DID YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW THIS?

If you thought History boring!!! Listen to this

More facts about the 1500s.

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the dogs cats, and other small animals (mice, bugs,) lived in the roof. When it rained, it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof.
Hence the saying "*It's raining cats and dogs.*"

With the thatched roof, there was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. That posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

FROM THE PAST:

*Wentworth Historical Society Minutes
1908 -1948*

JUNE 4th 1914

A meeting of the Saltfleet Historical Society was held in the Parish Hall, June 4th at ? p.m. to receive the reports of various committees appointed to arrange for the Field Day June 6th. President W.E.Corman presided.

The minutes of our last meeting were read and adopted. Finance Com. reported cash collected & promised to date amounted to \$ 53.75. It was moved by Geo.Millen, seconded by J.Jones, that cash prizes be given for sports. CARRIED.

Moved by J.Clough, seconded by Elvin Corman, that the Secretary and J.B.Davis prepare and distribute the prizes on the day of the sports after each race. CARRIED.

Refreshment privileges: Moved by J.Clough, seconded by Dr.Green, that the selling of refreshment privileges be left to John Lee & the Secretary to make the best terms possible. CARRIED.

Appointment of Judges: Moved by Dr.Green, seconded by G.W.Millen, that John Clough, Oliver Nash, Arthur Lee be the 1st, 2nd & 3rd Judges in place of those who could not act. CARRIED.

W.G.Davis, Secretary.

Minutes confirmed,
W.E.Corman.

Stoney Creek Historical Society
Year 2003 Executive

President:	Bill O'Reilly	662-2248
Past President:	Ron Place	662-8856
1st. Vice President:	Bill Mitchell	664-4576
2nd. Vice President:	Michael Gemmell	549-5949
Treasurer:	Judy Green	662-4065
Recording Secretary:	Cheryl Gemmell	549-5949
Corresponding Secretary:	Anna Orr	643-7653
Newsletter:	Ron Place	662-8856

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION \ RENEWAL \ DONATIONS

(Please print)

Name: _____ Date: _____

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

**HUMEROUS ENGLISH SIGNS FROM
AROUND THE WORLD:**

YUGOSLAVIAN HOTEL: *The flattening of underwear with pleasure is the job of the chambermaid.*

JAPANESE HOTEL: *You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.*

BUDAPEST (HUNGARY) ZOO: *Please do not feed the animals. If you have any suitable food, give it to the guard on duty.*

COPENHAGEN (DENMARK) AIRLINE: *We take your bags and send them in all directions.*

GERMAN CAMPING SITE: *It is strictly forbidden on our Black Forest camping site that people of different sex, for instance, men and women, live together in one tent unless they are married with each other for that purpose.*

SOVIET NEWSPAPER: *There will be a Moscow exhibition of arts by 15,000 Soviet Republic painters and sculptors. These were executed over the past two years.*

SWISS MOUNTAIN INN: *Special today - no ice cream.*

VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT STONEY CREEK CITY HALL,
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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

COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS FOLLOW

LIBRARY ACCESS:

The Stoney Creek Historical Society Library which is located within the offices of Steel Market Place and is accessible to all society members is not staffed.

Please realize that this arrangement has been given to the society at no cost to us and is a greatly appreciated convenience. We ask you not to involve the owners for assistance in your research. We also ask you to leave the room neat and tidy.

New material is added to our collection as it becomes available

Our appreciation to **Karen & Peter Orr** for donating this library space to our society.

*Steel Market Place
(Rear of) 1247 Highway 8, Winona.
Monday to Friday 8:30 am. To 4:00 pm.*

FUTURE SPEAKERS

Wed. Mar. 3, Paul McWhinnie - Canuck Chicks, and Maple leaf Mommas.

Wed. April 7, Bill Dowdell - Stoney Creek Flag Day.

Wed. May 5, Rob Winniger - "Secret weapons of the American Civil War".

January 2004 Election:

Results of the 2004 election are -

1 st Vice President	—	Bill Mitchell
2 nd Vice President	—	Michael Gemmell
Recording Secretary	—	Cheryl Gemmell
Directors	—	Barbara Green, - Mary Lewis, - Jim Reid.

Our thanks to Paul and Sheila Gallea who will continue as social convenors for 2004

Stories, News or Queries can be mailed to

Ron Place
56 Wyngate Ave.
Stoney Creek, On. L8G 1T6
E-mail r.place@sympatico.ca

Next newsletter will be issued Wed. May. 5, 2004

Material deadline is Wednesday, April. 15, 2004

Visit our Historical Society website www.stoneycreekhistoricalsociety.701.com

S.C.H.S. Library

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STONE CREEK NEWS