



Remember the Corman House

# Stoney Creek Historical Society

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

## NEWSLETTER

May 1995

Edition #5

### CONTROVERSY SURROUNDS NAMING OF STONEY CREEK AND SALTFLEET (From the Stoney Creek News - July 1967)

Local historians have for many years been involved in heated discussions about such questions as the exact position of the road at the time of the Battle of Stoney Creek or the exact position of the American guns during the Battle.

The most interesting conflicts, however, surround the naming of the town of Stoney Creek and the township of Saltfleet.

Three theories have been put forward to explain why the name "Stoney Creek" was originally chosen, and each has a wide following. The most obvious theory is that the town was named after the creek and the creek was named because of the stones in the bottom. This theory was put forward as early as 1796 when Mrs. John Graves Simcoe, while travelling through the area, wrote in her diary: "A mile before we came to this descent we passed Stoney Creek, seven miles from the "Head of the Lake," so named from the stony nature of its bottom." The chief flaw in this argument is that the adjective formed from "stone" is "stony" without the letter "e". In the 1920s the Postal authorities tried to correct what they thought was just an error on the part of the inhabitants and dropped the "e" from the name. A flood of protests followed and the letter "e" was restored to its traditional position. Those people who wanted the "e" left in the town's name claimed that the town was named after an early resident of the area, a mysterious Mr. Stoney. New confusion arose when, not one, but two Mr. Stoneys were produced.

Many people in the locality stated that their parents had often spoken of a Reverend Edmund Stoney, an early Anglican clergyman in the area.

Some have even heard a story of how Rev. Stoney's cabin was once filled with stones from the Stoney Creek during a spring flood. While there is some romance concerning the idea that the town got its name from a man of the cloth, there is no proof to substantiate this claim. Neither the Ontario Public Archives nor the Archives of the Anglican Church in Toronto have any record of such a figure.

( continued on pg. 2 )

Life is worth living, if it is not, make it so.  
*by Charlotte Bronte*

### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

One of the goals of the Stoney Creek Historical Society is to preserve the history of our city. I recently announced at our general meeting our intent to set up archives for the City of Stoney Creek. If you are interested in helping us with this new project we would be happy to hear from you and welcome your participation.

Dorothy Kinsman has been doing a wonderful job of recording all donations given to the Historical Society for safe keeping and we thank her for her work well done.

Many people "Spring Clean" and if you are offered artifacts, letters, post cards, photographs etc. of old Stoney Creek, please accept them on behalf of the Society or contact Dorothy Kinsman or myself. We need your help.

We are happy to announce the upcoming audio tape of the Story of Billy Green read by the author, James Elliott. We hope to have the tape available at the Battlefield House during the Battle week-end in June. Look for it there.

Don't forget to join us for our annual "Pot Luck" supper on June 20th. at the home of Estelle and Chub Baxter - Copes Lane. We share this special evening with our friends from Battlefield Museum.

Have a happy, safe and historical summer.

Mary Lewis.



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome new members Paul and Carole Miller.

### FINANCIAL REPORT:

Account balances to March 31, 1995

GENERAL ACCOUNT \$ 584.75  
PUBLISHING FUND \$ 4259.96  
MUSEUM FUND \$ 5041.75

### PLEASE NOTE!

The May meeting will be the last held at the City Hall this season. Please try to join us for the Pot Luck Supper on June 20th. Have a safe, and enjoyable summer. Our meetings will reconvene with the September meeting at City Hall.

( Continued from Pg 1 )

### The mysterious Mr. Stoney

The other Mr. Stoney, from whom the town may have derived its name, was a trapper and hunter who apparently lived along the shores of the stream. That such a figure did exist we have definite proof, for in 1816 D. Slater, a Stoney Creek school teacher mentions him in his diary. The teacher was recording the story of Billy Green's ride told to him by the young scout and the following sentence appears: " We all went back to the mountain to one of Jim Stoney's trapping huts." While one can argue that the town was not named after Jim Stoney, one cannot deny that he did live in the area of the creek.

It is possible that Jim Stoney may have lived along the stream before the first settlers came to the area. Mrs. Simcoe, like so many people after her, may simple have assumed that the town was named after the stones and made no further inquiries. That there were trappers in the district before 1796, is shown in Mrs. Simcoe's Diary: for, three days before she came to Stoney Creek she had spent the night in a trapper's cabin at the Twenty-mile Creek, where she slept well in spite "of the smell of muskrat skins which had been drying in the house."

Perhaps a similar trapper's hut existed along Stoney Creek. It is possible that the first people through the area referred to the stream as Stoney's Creek, and that it was later shortened to Stoney Creek.

Whether or not the original Stoney Creek was especially stony or not, we can never know for the stream has changed its course many times since 1796. Since this stream was probably no more stony than other streams in the Niagara Peninsula, the early settlers would have needed a more important reason for giving the stream a special name. The other creeks in the Peninsula were named simply by their distance from Niagara so that the traveller through the peninsula would pass Twelve-mile Creek, Twenty-mile Creek, Forty-mile Creek and so on.

That Stoney Creek received a distinct title instead of being referred to as Sixty-mile Creek, seems to indicate the town was named after its first citizen, Jim Stoney, trapper.



### CHARLOTTE BRONTE

At the time of the great war, one of my brothers at the age of 72, a native of Toronto went to the recruiting centre in that city and offered to serve in the army. The recruiting officer advised him to run home and get a letter from his parents.

*Submitted by Juanita Mitchell*

### DID YOU KNOW ?

That the first edition of the Stoney Creek News was printed August 26 1948 with Bob Hamilton as the editor. Subscriptions sold for \$2.00 per year.



## THE BATTLE OF STONEY CREEK

**Saturday, June 3rd, 1995**

*Arts & Crafts, Entertainment,  
Sutler Square, Period Food,  
Period Hospital,  
Dusk Battle at 8:30 p.m.*

**Sunday, June 4th, 1995**

*Military Demonstration,  
Arts & Crafts, Entertainment,  
Period Food, Court Martial  
and much more.*

77 King Street West  
Stoney Creek, Ontario  
(905) 662-8458

### ADMISSION

\$3.00 per adult and \$1.00 per youth  
(ages 6 to 16) per day.

Children 5 and under are free.

This fee includes admittance to Battlefield House, Craft Show and Monument.

There is no parking on site.

Free shuttle bus service from  
Eastgate Square  
(Kenora & Queenston Road)  
to Battlefield Park.

## HUNTING FOREBEARS

### TWEEDLE GRAVESTONE

After a housefire in Caledon East, Ontario a gravestone was found in a bedroom closet of the house. The house had been vacant for some time and the last tenants of the house have been untraceable. The slightly damaged monument was inscribed as follows:

Daughter of Joseph and Isabell Tweedle  
died 21st September 1891  
aged 4 months

Research reveals that no Tweedles have ever owned this farm, nor have there been marriage connections between this family and previous owners of the farm, which is located on Lot 24, E 1/2, Concession 10, former town of Albion (now Town of Caledon). The town of Caledon, wanting to return the monument to the correct family or cemetery, or receive relevant information put a notice in the Ontario Genealogical Society Newsletter in May 1994. They were particularly interested to locate the burial place of the parents Isabell and Joseph.

Aware that the name Tweedle is found in the Saltfleet area, a search was made of burial records and the following record was found. Grace Lillian Tweddle who died at Stoney Creek on September 14, 1914, aged 33 years and 11 months, was born in Stoney Creek, the daughter of Joseph Tweddle and Isabel Jane Thomas. Her funeral was recorded by the Robinson Funeral Home and her burial took place in the Hamilton Cemetery, York Blvd., Hamilton, Ontario.

The child that is inscribed on the monument in Caledon was possibly a younger sister to Grace, who would have been about 10 years old at the time of the child's death.

Information was sent to Heritage Resource Officer, Heather R. Broadbent about the Hamilton burials and contact was going to be made with the cemetery.

*(Tweddle, spelled as recorded)*

If you have any information that would help Heather with her pursuit to find the rightful place for this stone, please contact Box 1000, Caledon East, Ontario L0N 1E0 or phone 905-584-2272.

*by Dorothy Reid*



## ERLAND LEE (MUSEUM) HOME:

A thank you to the 170 people who attended the April 8th. PANCAKE EXTRAVAGANZA at the Erland Lee (Museum) Home.

### Coming Events:

Saturday, June 3 & Sunday, June 4: June Days at the Lee. This year our theme is "A Market Place of Ideas." Our Drive house will be full of wonderful ideas and projects that our members have been involved in over the past year. Plan to stop by and learn how the W.I. is working in your community. Demonstra-

tions and free information on such timely topics as the Environment, Recycling, craft items, etc., will not only inform you but inspire you to take a more active role in your community! Our General Store will also be open, full of home-made crafts & jams.

Saturday, July 1 to Monday, July 31: Local Artist Show & Sale. If you enjoy great artwork then the Erland Lee is the place to be! Local artists from the Region will display and sell their work for the month of July. Available will be a good selection of water-colours, oils, and photography (both framed and unframed), all varying in price to suit every budget. Take this opportunity to collect one of a kind originals from some very talented artists! Call the Museum for more information at (905) 662-2691.

Saturday, August 12 & Sunday, August 13: Pioneers at Work & Play. Step back into the early 1800's and discover what pioneering in Saltfleet Township was really like. Gifted old world artisans will be on hand to show their talents. Demonstrations in woodworking, weaving & spinning, dressmaking, and traditional cooking methods will prove both interesting and informative. While at our home enjoy a pioneer helping of our peach cobbler, freshly made! Admission is \$4 per person for the day. Hours are Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday, September 27 & Thursday, September 28: Harvest Luncheon. Once again we will be hosting our wonderful buffet lunch. There are two sittings of lunch to choose from, either 11:30 a.m. OR 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$8.00 per person, and tickets must be purchased in advance of the luncheon. Tickets are available at the Museum by calling (905) 662-2691. Be sure to get your tickets early, this is a sell out event that happens only once a year!

Saturday, November 4: Victorian Christmas Fair. Christmas comes early at the Lee this year, as we gear up for a holiday season full of exciting ideas. Demonstrations on making traditional Victorian tree ornaments, traditional cooking and baking ideas, as well as creative Christmas decorating are on the agenda! If a Traditional Christmas is what you are looking for, then visit the Erland Lee between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The Erland Lee (Museum) Home normal business hours are Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$2.00 per person, except on special events days. For information please phone (905) 662-2691.

*by Mary Kneehone*



## FROM THE PAST

The following is the minutes from the third meeting of the Wentworth Historical Society in Stoney Creek.

Friday, February 28th, 1908

The third regular meeting of this society, was held in the Parish Hall -President Corman presiding.

Quite a large number of members were present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted.

A deputation from the Wentworth Hist. Society and Veterans Association was present by invitation. Business of meeting included reading and correspondence reports.

Moved by A.E. Walker, seconded by E. Kelly, that the rent of hall for past 3 meetings, \$1.50 be paid. Carried.

Deputations -

After the regular business had been disposed of the President called upon the Deputations to address the meeting. Members of Deputations present were as follows -

President Thomas - Army and Navy Veterans Society.

Past President - Wm. Devine.

Secretary - W.H.S. - J.H. Land.

President John Gardener, of the Wentworth Veterans Assoc. These gentlemen gave an account of what they intend to do with the property just purchased, i.e. the Soldiers's Plot where the British Soldiers were buried who fell in the war of 1813 and told use how our Branch could help them.

President Thomas stated that he was sure the committee appointed as trustees in Stoney Creek to have the charge of the ground would be able, with the help of the Branch and Association, to fix it up in a creditable manner.

Past Pres. Devine Spoke in a similar manner and said now that the ground had been purchased the only thing required was to work together and make this neglected spot a credit to the county.

Secretary J.H.Land said he regretted that President Griffin was not present but he assured the meeting that the parent W.H.S. would assist the Branch with its advice and in any way that lay in their power and he was also glad to hear that we intend holding monthly meetings.

Col. Van Wagner then addressed the meeting giving a short but very interesting history of Saltfleet and said he was pleased to see a Branch of the W.H.S. formed in Stoney Creek.

Major Orr briefly addressed the meeting saying he would be pleased to become a member although he had recently joined the parent Branch in Hamilton. He gave us many good suggestions, ie. how to have interesting monthly meetings.

President Gardner of the Veteran's Society was the last speaker. He began by saying he was pleased to see such a large

gathering of the new Branch of the W.H.S. present and he was also sure the Branch now formed would be able to look after the Soldier's Plot and whatever trouble he said they had in securing the ground was doubly repaid by the cheerful and willing manner we had offered to fix it up. He hoped that in the near future it would be a credit to us residents in this village. He also warned all relic hunters who often disturbed the ground for relics, that they would be punished to the full extent of the law.

This brought to a close some very interesting addresses. It was moved by W.G. Davis, seconded by J.W. Green, that the thanks of this meeting be given to the deputations for coming down and giving us so much information and splendid addresses. Carried. Pres. Gardner and Sec. J.H.Land responded to a vote of thanks saying it would always be a great pleasure to any of them to come down at any time.

It was suggested by President Corman that we all try and have the grounds ready for to be consecrated for cemetery purposes about the end of April - the arrangement for seivces to be left to Rev's F.E. Howit and W.G.Davis.

Seven members were added to this Branch.

Moved by J.B.Davis, seconded by A.E. Walker, that this meeting adjourn. Carried.

At the close of the meeting the ladies entertained the Deputations and members to refreshments and a very good social hour was spent together. The ladies were heartily thanked for their kindness.

Secretary - W.G. Davis

President - W.E. Corman

## COMING EVENTS

### Battle Week-end

Saturday June 3rd. Arts & Crafts. Entertainment. Battle Re-enactment.

Sunday June 4th. Arts & Crafts. Entertainment. Military Demonstration.

### Flag Day Week-end

Friday June 9th. Sidewalk Sale, Bed Race.

Saturday June 10th. Annual Flag Day Parade.

Tuesday June 20th

Members Annual **Pot Luck Supper** with Friends of Battlefield House, at the home of Chub and Estelle Baxter.

**Stoney Creek Historical Society**

**1995**

**Executive:**

President:	Mary Lewis	643-3665
1st. Vice President:	Ron Place	662-8856
2nd. Vice President:	Lloyd Corman	664-7161
Treasurer:	Milt Henderson	662-1035
Recording Secretary:	Mary Kneebone	662-2310
Corresponding Secretary:	Gerry Heeringa	664-2067

**Directors:**

Evelyn Wills	664-6150	Bill O'Reilly	662-2248	Barbara Green	662-6920
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**Committees:**

**Programmes:** Barbara Green 662-4582    **Archives:** Dorothy Kinsman 662-2900    **Genealogy:** Dorothy Reid 664-6355

**Publication:** Mary & George Lewis 643-3665    Barbara Green 662-4582    Bill O'Reilly 662-2248

**Plaquing & Liaison to L.A.C.A.C.:** George Lewis 643-3665

**Social Conveners:** Ruby & Lloyd Corman 664-7161

**Publicity:** Evelyn & Richard Wills 664-6150    George Lewis 643-3665

**Telephone:** Barb Green 662-4582    Evelyn Wills 664-6150    Mary Place 662-8856

**Canada Flag Day:** Ron Place 662-8856    Richard Wills 664-6150    Bill O'Reilly 662-2248    Harry Brown 578-9555

**Newsletter:** Ron Place 662-8856

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**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



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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL**

(Please print)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt.: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Families: (List names of family members) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues:    Family \$15.00    Single: \$ 12.00    Student\senior \$ 7.00    Association: \$ 20.00

( Please check )    \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal:    \_\_\_\_\_ New:

Membership Term January 1st. to December 31st.  
Please complete this application and make your cheque payable to

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

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## West Lincoln Historical Society

West Lincoln Historical Society Has purchased the Smithville Railway Station which is the former Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Line. Restoration of the building, which has been designated by the LACAC, is in progress, with the plan to have a local information and heritage resource centre situated there. Fireproof storage for documents and photographs has been built in the station. The Society is interested in obtaining family, church or other local history records about the area to include in the centre. If you can assist, contact Pauline Young, Secretary, West Lincoln Historical Society, R.R. #1, St. Anns L0R 1Y0.



## Black Creek Pioneer Village

May 1st: Black Creek Pioneer Village opens for its 35th season and holds a variety of events throughout the month. On the 6th and 7th is Creative Hands; 13th and 14th, Dressed to Mill; 21st and 22nd, Spring Fair; 22nd, Fiddle Contest; and 27th and 28th, Child Find Kid Check Programme. Contact the Village at 1000 Murray Ross Parkway in North York, (416) 736-1733.

## **Help Wanted**

### Skyway Drive-In Theatre

A former resident of Stoney Creek, Allan Barnes, is trying to locate old photographs and/or information on the Skyway Drive-in Theatre that once stood on the site now occupied by the Fiesta Mall on Queenston Road. This project is for the National Film Board of Canada.

If you can be of assistance to Allan, please call me. Ron Place at 662-8856.



I need your help with the newsletter! Do you have an article to feature in a future edition ?? A short quote, something you have seen or heard and think it would interest or amuse. Please don't be shy send it to me.



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### **\*\*NOTE\*\***



The next newsletter will be issued at the October 4th. meeting. Please submit material as early as possible. Deadline is September 15 th.

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ARCHIVE