



Remember the Corman House

Stoney Creek Historical Society

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

NEWSLETTER

May 2000

Edition #20

Circulation 350 copies

The Battlefield Cemetery - Smith's Knoll

70 1/2 King Steet West

In the afternoon of June 5, 1813, an American force of several thousand marched from Forty Mile Creek (Grimsby) encamping near the James Gage homestead, now known as Battlefield House. On a prominent hill just east of the creek that flowed by the Gage farm at least four American artillery pieces were positioned so as to guard against a possible attack from the west by a British force.

About 2 a.m. on June 6, 1813, a company of 704 British regulars of the 8th (Kings) and 49th Regiments, under the leadership of Colonel John Harvey and guided by nineteen year old Billy Green, engaged the American forces in a surprise encounter lasting approximately 45 minutes.

As the American field guns were brought into action, Major Plenderieath and a small force of thirty British regulars charged the enemy cannons putting them out of action. Two of the guns were spiked and pushed down into the ravine beside the knoll. Brigadier-General John Chandler, one of the two American commanding officers taken prisoner during the battle, was likely captured during this skirmish at Smith's Knoll.

Later that day, after the American forces had retreated to Niagara, the dead of both sides were buried. Those who had fallen during the attack on the American guns were interred in Smith's Knoll where they had fallen while the remainder were buried beside the Methodist church that stood to the west of the Gage farm.

The monument consists of a 4.0 metre high truncated pyramid constructed of uncoursed fieldstone laid in cement mortar. The base of the pyramid measures 4.6 metres by 4.0 metres and the top measures 1.4 metres by 1.8 metres. With the exception of the front, three faces of the pyramid are accented by four bands of projecting stones, one at the base and the others at one metre vertical spacing. The front, or south face, has one projecting band of stones just below the inscription

stone. The top of the truncated pyramid is capped with a profile cut limestone slab which supports a carved sandstone lion facing south-west.

At the top of the south face of the monument, the stonework is cut and laid in such a fashion that it depicts the Union Jack.

Below the Union Jack is mounted a marble stone measuring 1.2 metres wide by 0.9 metres high with the following inscription:

*The Battle field Cemetery
6th June 1813*

*in memory of 20 good and true King's men who
in fighting in defense of their Country, died and
were buried on this Knoll*

This revised inscription and stone re-dedicated June 6th
1956

by Her Majesty's Army & Navy Veterans' Society of
Hamilton.

In addition to the monument to the British soldiers, a gravestone for the United States soldiers is located to the east of the monument.

The gravestone measures approximately 480 mm by 620 mm and the inscription reads:

*To commorate and honour
those United States comrades
who fell in the war of 1812*

Laid in 1972 by the American Legion Post 18

The monument site is protected by a mortared fieldstone retaining wall with a concrete cap located to the south of the

Continued on page 3

NEW MEMBER:

We are happy to welcome to our membership

Sharon Kresak

*This Newsletter
is sponsored by*

*Member
Winona Garden Shop
1381 Highway 8*

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

(Letting History slip away:)

How easily history can slip away from us. The original Land Registry Records dating into the late 1700's have been microfilmed by our government, a great move in preserving records of the land transactions for our earliest residents, well not quite the earliest but from the U.E.L migration north to Canada.

But what about the original documents? These were slated for destruction, shredding, or burning. Because of the microfilming, the ease of searching for information and the much smaller storage space required made this option attractive.

Apolrod, a local group got word of the proposal, spent a great deal of time indexing the registries, then contacted area historical societies whose boundaries were involved.

The Stoney Creek Historical Society had sent letters to the registry office more than a year ago requesting the registers for Stoney Creek and Saltfleet. Finally, with the help of Apolrod we have acquired ownership of 7 Stoney Creek and 48 Saltfleet registers which are now in safe storage at our City Hall. Public access is not available to these valuable documents at this time, but, when an archive area is acquired these registers will be part of the display.

Thanks must go to Mike Costello of Apolrod, Dorothy Reid our genealogist for her help in the acquisition and to Bill Mitchell and Jim Reid for their help in transferring these valuable documents.

The Stoney Creek Historical Society members have once again been invited to hold our **Potluck Picnic** Friday June 16 at the beautiful home of Ed and Anna Orr, 1376 Highway #8 with social time beginning at 5.30 pm. with supper at 6.00 pm. Your phone contact will be in touch. This will be our final function until Wednesday September 6 at city hall. Have a safe and happy summer.

Ron Place

REPORT FROM BATTLEFIELD HOUSE

Spring has sprung at Battlefield House. Sprung indeed! We are in full swing here in Battlefield Park, having just hosted our fifth annual Daffodil Tea, where we were pleased to have a fascinating and fun presentation by the Mobile Millinery Museum. These two ladies, with their huge collection of hats, added a wonderfully whimsical element to our elegant afternoon tea.

As for future events, work on a new pavilion for Battlefield Park is currently underway. The addition of the Nash/Jackson House to the Park has already begun to change the face of Battlefield and the addition of a new pavilion in a new location will certainly make for an interesting Battle weekend. Yes, that Battlefield staple is fast approaching and the year 2000 brings

with it a very significant ceremony marking the re-dedication and re-interment at Smith's Knoll (the Battlefield Cemetery). The ceremony will take place on Sunday, June 4 at 11:00 a.m. and will involve many Veterans groups as well as re-enactors and, as we anticipate, many members of the community.

We are also working diligently to complete a new exhibition for the upcoming summer season. "The Patriotic War of 1812" will compare the Russian struggle with Napoleon's Army and the War of 1812. This exhibition will chronicle Napoleon's thrust into Moscow and their retreat, with special attention being drawn towards the Battle of Borodino. This direction comes as a result of the twinning of Battlefield House Museum and the State War Museum and Reserve of Borodino. This exhibition is scheduled to open Victoria Day.

We look forward to seeing you over the summer season and into the fall for our annual Apple Festival on September 24. In the meantime, enjoy the gentle warmth of spring!

ERLAND LEE (MUSEUM) HOME

by Cheryl Gemmell

The Erland Lee Museum is up and running for the 2000 season. The Museum kicked off its millennium season with an extremely successful Pancake Breakfast April 1, 2000. The event set a new attendance record for the second consecutive year with over 200 people enjoying pancakes and Lee's Own pure maple syrup. Many thanks to all of the Society members who came out to share in this event. Your attendance was a big part of our success!

As part of our millennium celebrations the Erland Lee Museum has decided to thank the community it has called home for the last 192 years by mounting an exhibit highlighting the **History of Stoney Creek/Saltfleet from 1796-1976**. This exhibit will be unveiled August 19, 2000. Any Historical Society members who would like to provide the museum with artifacts or photos on loan would be appreciated. Please get in touch with Cheryl or Michael Gemmell if you have anything you wish to contribute 662-8876.

Continued on page 2

TOWN CRIER:

Plans are proceeding for the Town Crier competition on Saturday June 3, at 2.00 pm. Battle Week-end. Posters are being placed in various locations, advertisement with the help of local media, judges recruited and information packages being mailed to potential candidates **who have contacted us**.

We look forward to a fun filled week-end with example cries from members of the Ontario Guild of Town Criers. Our hope is that a town crier will assist in maintaining our Stoney Creek identity.

If you know of a possible candidate, try to convince them to call for an application package at 662-8856

WESTFIELD VILLAGE:

by Rob Wunniger

Time Travel Trade Fair June 25th, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Westfield Heritage Village explores life at the dawn of a new era, when inventions promised to revolutionize the way we worked. Costumed interpreters demonstrate early woodworking, blacksmithing, printing, leather work, medicine and fashions.

American Civil War Battle Re-enactment August 12, 13th, 10 am to 4:30 p.m.

Explore Canada's connection to the American Civil War. This exciting battle re-enactment honours over 50,000 Canadians who fought in this conflict.

Anne of Green Gables Day September 17th, 12:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Used as a key location for the shooting of Sullivan Production's Anne of Green Gables movie, Westfield takes you to Green Gables and Avonlea in this tribute to LMMontgomery and this important contribution to Canadian Literature.

Halloween at Westfield October 27th and 28th, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Explore history and folklore through a celebration of Halloween. Bone up on your history and become part of the legends and myth that arrived with our early settlers and has remained to this day.

Christmas in the Country Dec 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17

Travel through time and experience the evolution of Christmas and its traditions in Ontario from the 1700's to the 1950's. Enjoy horse and wagon rides, musical entertainment and much more.

SOMETHING NEW:

Now! available to those interested in researching their families.

Several family record books have been donated to the Stoney Creek Historical Society. They are

The Codling Family, (includes Place)

Ancestors of Blanche and Harold Cox, (Stewardson, Smith, Wall, Gage and Johnston)

A Short History of John Millen

The Smith Family of Glanford Township 1685-1987 (Jacob Smith - Elizabeth Lewis)

Twedle - Tweddle - Tweedle - Tweeddale (Many Families)

Saltfleet Inns by Dorothy Reid

The History of Albion Mills by J.E. Turner January 1946

The Reverend William Case by John Hencher

We encourage members 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.

ERLAND LEE (MUSEUM) HOME

Continued from page 2

Upcoming events at the Erland Lee Museum include the **Women's Association of Hamilton Art Show, May 7- June 4, 2000**. Queen Victoria's birthday will be celebrated in 1897 style, on May 21, 2000 with cake, homemade ice cream, crafts and lawn games for kids of all ages. Be sure to stop by and share in the festivities of a "Royal" birthday. As well, our ever popular **June Luncheon**, will be held **June 23, 24, 2000** offering a scrumptious meal and the Lee's own version of the **Antiques Roadshow!** For a nominal fee individuals will have the opportunity to have family treasures and heirlooms appraised on-site by a qualified appraiser. Please contact the Erland Lee Museum for more information 662-2691.

SPECIAL NOTICE:

It is with regret we announce the resignation of Dorothy and Nancy Kinsman from the Executive Committee. Dorothy has served as Archivist, as a Phone Committee member and greeter at our meetings.

Nancy has served as Recording Secretary and was responsible for making successful applications for grants for the Society. She also served on the Archive Committee.

We appreciate the time and expertise they have contributed to the Historical Society over many years and extend our thanks.

Smith's Knoll

Continued from page 1

site along King Street. The construction, as well as the material of the fieldstone retaining wall, is similar to that of the monument. The wall varies in height from 0.9 metres to 1.2 metres along King Street while the back of the wall rises to 0.6 metres above grade.

Important to the preservation of Battlefield Cemetery - Smith's Knoll is the monument itself including the stone lion, fieldstone pyramid base and the inscription stone. Also important are the six cannons located on the site and the stones commemorating the United States soldiers. In addition, the fieldstone retaining wall and the wrought iron gates at the south perimeter of the site are also important to the preservation of the site.

EDITORS NOTE!

Beginning in July 1999, extensive work was undertaken at Smith's Knoll.

The original stone wall was completely rebuilt because footings were in poor condition, this necessitated the complete reconstruction to change the entrance, add a wheelchair ramp as well as re-pointing the monument. Lighting was added, a sprinkler system and the cannons were refurbished which included new carriages, these will be reinstalled on site as well as landscaping to be added in the spring of 2000 with Re-Dedication ceremonies Sunday June 4, 2000

LOYALISTS AND PIONEERS:

CORMAN

GEORGE CORMAN, according to the family history, was born in Holland of wealthy parents. His name was then spelled Johannes Jerrick Korman and the date of his birth given as 2 March, 1732. The Korman family evidently lived along the coast and, when he was about eight years old, George, with two other children, was kidnapped, presumably by pirates and later taken to the British colony in Maryland.

George was sold to Benjamin Harrison who lived at 'Berkeley' on the James river in Virginia. Here he remained for fifteen years and found such favor in his master's sight that he was allowed to marry the latter's daughter, Sarah Harrison. They were married 21 June, 1758, and lived on a tract of 700 acres in Maryland, where their seven children were born.

During the War of the Revolution the family moved first to British Kentucky, where they were burned out, then to Pennsylvania and thence to Canada. The date of their arrival in Saltfleet is given as 1793 but, as the date of the Crown deed granted to George Corman was dated 1790, there must have been an error in recording. He settled on Lots 21 and 22, Conc. III, Saltfleet township, and his name appears on the Assessment roll of 1803. He died in 1804, age 72 years. The date of Sarah's death is not given.

Children of George and Sarah (Harrison) Corman - order uncertain:-

CATHERINE, married John Yeager, probably before coming to Canada, died 31 January, 1828, age 70 years. John Yeager in 1808 lived on Lot 17, Conc. VI, Saltfleet.

HANNAH, married James Lee. According to Lee history, they were buried in a small lot on their farm - Lots 20 and 21, Conc. IV, Saltfleet township.

ABRAHAM, married Mary Reitter.

MARY, married Mr. Verner

ELIZABETH, married Mr. Allen.

SARAH, married Capt. Thomas Pettit, probably after coming to Canada. They settled on Lot 20 Conc. I, Saltfleet and were buried in the family burying ground on their farm, just east of a small pond and creek.

ISAAC, born 1777, came to Saltfleet with his father, married Desire (Keziah) daughter of Adam Green, date of marriage, 11 May, 1801.

ISAAC CORMAN evidently inherited part of the home farm, as in 1808 he was settled on Lot 21, Conc. III, Saltfleet. In the War of 1812 Isaac served with Capt. James Durand's company of the 5th. Lincoln militia. When the United States army invaded the Niagara peninsula and advanced to Stoney Creek Isaac Corman, whose farm was near the scene, was questioned by the enemy regarding the whereabouts of the Indians and British troops and, as he refused to give any information, was taken prisoner and forced to accompany a division of the American army along the shore of Lake Ontario. During the evening, as they waited

for the enemy supply boats, Corman was closely questioned by the officer commanding and the latter upon learning that Corman, like himself, was a cousin of General Harrison, gave Isaac the password for the night - Will-Hen-Har - and released him.

On his way home he was met by his brother In-law, Billy Green, who had set out in search of him. Isaac gave Billy the American password and urged him to take it with all possible speed to the British commander at Burlington Heights, seven miles distant. Corman then proceeded home to his delicate wife and later the enemy, realizing all too late the seriousness of their disclosure, sent guards to watch Isaac Corman for the night. The result of this adventure, the story of Billy Green, the scout, and the night battle of Stoney Creek are familiar episodes in the history of the war of 1812-1814.

Isaac and Desire Corman had eleven children, names and dates as follows:-

REBECCA, b. 28 Oct. 1802, m. Thos. Earl, d. 31 March 1883

ALPHEUS, b. 27 Jan. 1804, m. Rachel Soules, d. 15 April 1853.

MARY, b. 7 Jan. 1807, m. Wm. Manary, d. 8 March, 1853.

JOHN, b. 7 Oct. 1809, m. Mary Blenderhazard, d. 7 Nov. 1887.

BASHEBA, b. 12 Mar. 1812, d. 19 September, 1814.

DESIRE, b. 1 April, 1814, m. 1. Stephen Seaborn. 2. Mr. Gee, d. 3 October 1885.

ISAAC, b. 11 Feb. 1817, m. Anna London, d. 4 July 1879.

GEORGE, b. 12 May 1819, m. Sarah Markle, d. Feb. 1908.

ELIZABETH, b. 9 June 1821, m. Mr. Price.

ABRAHAM, b. 9 May 1823, m. Mary Markle, d. October, 1912.

JAMES F., b. 4 July, 1827, m. 1. Nancy Price. 2. Jean Stewart. 3. Sarah Ann Hunter.

Isaac and Desire (Green) Corman were buried in the Stoney Creek burying ground. Inscriptions and dates on their stones read
Isaac Corman 1777-1863. Desire Corman, 1781-1864.

The above history was secured from the family notes collected by the late Mrs. Nellie (Manary, Corman) Carter of Winona, Ont.

Taken from the Annals of the Forty, book #4 page 33, 34 & 35.

FUTURE SPEAKERS

Please Note!

Friday June 16 Historical Society Pot-Luck Picnic.

Sept. 6, Carolyn Gray - Mrs. Simcoe's Diary
Oct. 4, Jim Green - Town Criers
Nov. 1, Cathy Moulder - Lloyd Reeds Map Collection

The History of Albion Mills
by J.E. Turner January 1946

Continued from Feb, 2000 Newsletter

The Falls

Albion falls is an interesting and moving sight in March or April when it is in flood, of "spate", as the Scotch would say.

The stream has its source in a fine spring at Rymal Station, not far distant. A branch of this creek comes from near Barton Stone Church. The area drained is around a thousand acres. The water fall is not vertical nor so high as the adjacent Ingles or Buttermilk Falls, that receives its waters from the Mt. Hamilton district. The thick ledge of rock on which the water falls is Niagara limestone and underlies the whole country. It is over this ledge that Niagara pours its torrent of waters.

Rumor said lightning struck and shattered this table rock, and huge pieces of it many feet thick are scattered in the channel below. Doubtless the elements, heat and cold, frost and water have contributed to this end.

In the mill dam above, now partially filled with silt, ice was cut in the winter, and the summer brought boating and bathing. Each spring when water is high, river fish or suckers, in large numbers come up from the bay to the foot of the falls, to spawn. When the water recedes, men and boys catch them with dip nets, spears and even with their hands. Those fish are from twelve to sixteen inches long. The flesh is white, very soft, and filled with bones. However, they have been cleaned, smoked and stored for use by the settlers.

The traveller who knew this region in its palmy days, and visits it now, see many changes in all but the babbling brook. To him the words of Tennyson ring true:

"Men may come and men may go,
But I go on forever."

The Lover's Leap

Opposite the Falls, only a very short distance, there is a perpendicular wall of rock one hundred feet high. This is now partially obscured by tall trees that have grown up from the bottom of the gorge. It was from this high point that Jane Reilly, disappointed in love with Joseph Rousseau, flung herself. Hence the name. The time was probably the first of the last century. This story has been accepted as true by residents for three generations.

In recent years there was a fatal accident to a young girl when a light motor truck left the road, went through the fence, and plunged into the valley below. This tragedy was only a few yards from Lover's Leap.

Earlier, in 1907, the miller, Mr. Robert Grassie, a very fine man in character and conduct, met his death by a fall in the wheel pit of the mill; with his passing the milling business came to an end for all time.

The Castle

On the hill above and south of the falls, Mr. William Cook, a Scotsman and Welland canal contractor, about 1840, built a five story stone castle that had fourteen fireplaces. Ten acres of park lands surrounded the house. There were walks,

arbours, pergolas and many kinds of shrubs, fruit and ornamental trees. Two small lakes, each about an acre in extent, connected by a channel and fringed by willow trees, were constructed for boating.

The estate covered four hundred acres of virgin forest and was situated at the cross-roads of four townships; Saltfleet, Barton, Binbrook, and Glanford. There was a stream of fine spring water, a lime kiln and a slat-lick where wild deer came. Huge barns were erected for fanning on a large scale. The home was supplied with domestic water by a hydraulic ram pumping from a spring on the side of the ravine three hundred yards distant. This spring has never failed and is used by many persons today. On this property, at an early date, probably 1817, there was a large house used by British soldiers as a barracks. The spot was marked for many years by the tall white chimney of the former building.

This castle commanded a wide range of vision in every direction of rolling hills and waving trees. It stood high above the ravine, not the King's Forest, and gave a wonderful view of a widening valley, Burlington Bay and Lake Ontario.

Time changes all things. In the seventies the owner died, fire destroyed the barns, the castle was pulled down and the estate lost to the family.

Today, in 1946, all that remains of this show place, are the two little lakes already described.

The Ghost Stories

Half a mile down the valley from Albion Falls, two streams join, one from Buttermilk Falls and the other from the Mill Falls, as it was called. Below this point, in days far distant, there was a dam and primitive saw-mill. In a quarrel among the workmen, a man was killed; for fifty years thereafter, his home hard-by was said to be haunted. The ghost was frequently reported as seen roaming around the house, flitting through the woods, hovering over the stream, and travelling the roads. Years later a wood cutter living in this house spent the day drinking in the Black Horse Tavern at Mt. Albion.

In his absence other men killed a pig for home use, to dress it, they hung it in a tree near their dwelling. This custom is followed to this day. When the tipsy man returned at midnight he saw the ghost, so often heard of, standing under a tree; he was well fortified with spirit and feared not dogs or demons, spooks or banshees. Marching right up to the ghost, he struck it a heavy blow with his fist and broke his right arm.

So endeth the first lesson in ghost stories, of the good old days.

The Phantom Train

At Hannon, a village not far west and south of the falls, in St. George's Anglican cemetery, a man named Thomas English was buried in 1876. He was a trackman and while walking on the Railway at night, was killed by a passing train. For half a century afterward, on summer nights, the lights of the ghost or phantom train that killed Tom English, could be seen moving along the railway line. The residents were quite accustomed to these lights, it was simply the ghost train. The writer saw the lights many times in his boyhood.

Continued on page 7

History of Vinemount

part 3

submitted by Barbara Oldfield

Vinemount Creamery (Later Vinemount W.I. Hall)

Located at Vinemount Rd. (Now 8th Rd.) and Ridge Rd. the creamery owned by Mr. E.D. Smith and Mr. Erland Lee was built in 1900. This venture was the Vinemount Butter & Cheese Factory but locally known as the creamery. This venture didn't last long and Mr. Smith would lend out the building to different community groups for their meetings into the late 1920's including to the Vinemount W.I. In 1929 Mr. Smith sold the building to the Vinemount W.I., who remodelled the inside so that it could be used as a meeting and community hall. The purchase and remodelling was financed by each of the local residents giving \$100. To be paid back as money was raised. To determine who would be paid back next The W.I. drew the names out of a hat. All the money that was paid back and money used to maintain the building was raised by having card parties, plays, dances, dinners and socials put on by the Vinemount W.I. The hall was also used by other groups in the community providing the main form of entertainment in the early part of this century. In the late 1950's and early 60's the hall was badly vandalized and in Dec. 1962 the hall was sold. After the hall was sold, it has turned into a private home, although the outside looks completely different (it now looks like a Spanish house), the stage which was used for the plays and dances that were put on is still an inside feature.

Churches

There have been three churches in Vinemount over the years. Mount Zion was built in 1848, the land and much of the building were given by the Lee Family. It was a non-denominational church and located on Ridge Rd. near 5th Rd. Around 1885 the church was closed and by 1908 after it had been abandoned for many years, it became the home of the Pine Crest Literary Society. The literary society often held debates with the Vinemount Literary Society and at one of these debates Erland Lee (a co-founder of the first branch of the Womans Institute) Was part of a debate on if women should get the vote. He was on the nay side. In 1914 because of the war the Society was disbanded and the building was empty once again. In 1951 the land and what was left of the building was bought by a Mr. Fletcher and was turned into a private home (The stones used in the house were part of the original building).

The next church built was St. George Anglican Church, located on the north east corner of 6th Rd. and Mud St. The land that the church was built on was donated by the Taylor family (decedents of Judge Taylor, the first judge in Wentworth County). There were three buildings on this site, a log building (1857), A brick building (date unknown but built soon after the log building), and the present limestone building (1887). Miss Taylor, Mrs Williams and Mrs Tweedle were largely responsible for establishing the first church on this site. Before the brick building was built the congregation of St. George's raised

funds by selling bricks for the new building. Later when the stone building was erected the brick building became the church hall but was finally torn down in 1934. The stone building closed its doors in 1967 and remained closed until it was purchased in the summer of 1992 by The Independent Anglican Church of Canada (part of the Anglican Church of Canada). In July of 1993 Arch Bishop Peter Goodrich consecrated the church once more. The building, although it had been replastered and painted needed more work, it was missing a furnace and was in need of a Vicar, so when the temperature dropped in late fall, the services were halted till spring. On the first Sunday in May 1994 although the temperature was still low and there still was not a furnace in the building Arch Bishop Goodrich and Rev. Deacon Joe Salm conducted a service morning. The Deacon present on that Sunday in May was soon ordained a priest and became the First Vicar after the reopening of the Church soon after it got a furnace. With the exception of cancelling because of snow the church has held Sunday service every Sunday since May of 1994.

The last church was Tweedside United Church which is on Mud St. between Quarry Rd. (Now 10th Rd.) and Fifty Rd. (now 11th Rd.). Tweedside was originally a Wesleyan Methodists, the first building was built in 1874. The second building which was built on the same lot was made of the brick from the Methodist Church in Bartonville after the third church in Bartonville was built. The cornerstone of this church was laid in 1897 and the church opened it door for service in 1898. Because of a declining congregation the doors of the church closed for the last time in the late 1970's. The building is now owned by the City of Stoney Creek and if a new owner is not found it will be torn down.

Schools

Vinemount had three school buildings all of which closed in 1963 and it had four school districts in its borders. Vinemount was divided in quarters for the school districts. With Vinemount Rd. (8th Rd.) as the east west dividing line. The north south line was different from the west then in the east because the south border of Vinemount came further north on the east side of Vinemount. The two districts on the west were divided by Mud St. and the two on the east were divided by Green Mountain Rd.

The north west district was the Lee School district. There were three different schools built on different locations. The first one was made of logs and located north of Ridge Rd. and east of Lee Mountain (Dewitt Rd.). All though I could not find a date when it was built, in 1853 it held classes. The second building lasted for twenty years and for a while it also served as a Church until 1848 when Mount Zion Church was built. This was a frame building, built by Thomas Lee. When Vinemount School was built the school district changed from S.S. No. 7 to S.S. No.9. The land the last building was built on was chosen at a ratepayers meeting on June 9, 1873, the land purchased from

Continued on page 10

FROM THE PAST:

*Wentworth Historical Society Minutes
1908 -1948*

APRIL 20 1910

BUILDING COMMITTEE

A meeting of this committee was held at Rectory on April 20th. There were present - W.E. Corman, Rev. W.G. Davis, J.F. Felker, Charles Moore, John Gardner.

Mr. Carter was present prepared to tender on work of monument. After much discussion re plans and specifications it was agreed that the Secretary should prepare two copies of specifications & contract between this Com. and George Carter and have him sign the same.

Mr. Carter's tender for work on Monument of \$237.00 was received and it was moved by Charles Moore, seconded by J.F. Felker, that Mr. Carter's tender be accepted. This was carried. The work to be completed by May 24th. 1910.

This meeting adjourned.

W.G. Davis

Minutes confirmed.

HAMILTON TIMES

1900

submitted by Dorothy Reid

A quick search of the "Hamilton Times" for the first twelve days of 1900 was interesting in so far as the most newsworthy item of the time was the "Boer War".

Two births were noted, having occurred on December 30, 1899. One which would be of interest to a recent researcher of the Ghent family, was:

GHENT—At Burlington, on the 30th December (1899), the wife of Fred D. Ghent, of a son.

The other occurred in Saltfleet, the notice printed on January 6, 1900 was:

WATERBURY—At Saltfleet, December 30, 1899, a daughter to Mr. & Mrs. Charles Waterbury.

COMMUNITY NEWS:

1926

Jimmy Patterson, when out cutting hay before sunrise the other morning to take advantage of the mountain dew, reports that a large hawk attacked one of his horses. The bird had a young one near-by.

If anyone wants a big load of ashes to fill a hole, come and collect them at the rear of the Lottridge brick house any time.

THE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY:

After receiving a phone call from a member regarding the "Underground Railway in Stoney Creek", my interest was piqued, so I began researching, checking into material on hand, making phone calls to several of our long time residents. No one recalled hearing stories about this subject in and around Stoney Creek. But! why not Stoney Creek?

The Michigan street Baptist Church in Buffalo NY. (now a Pentecostal Church), built in 1843 by black people was the Western New York link in the underground railway, the church being the final hiding place for people being ferried across the Niagara river from the site now known as Broderick Park to Fort Erie Canada. One of the most prominent conductors of the railroad was Harriet Tubman who helped many black people escape into Canada. These crossings are the subject of a re-enactment conducted every summer.

The British Methodist Episcopal church in St. Catherine's was one of the links used after entering Canada, but where to next?

Ancaster has the Griffin House sitting on Hamilton Regional Conservation Authority property, where it has been determined there was an underground railway link. Fieldcote Memorial Park and Museum leads guided tours of the Griffin House for those who are interested. Hamilton had a fairly large black population in the mid 1800's, as well as Windsor, Collingwood and other parts of Southern Ontario. Was all of this because of the underground railway? Can you help us find information, was there a Stoney Creek link?

Have you had stories handed down from your grandparents or great grandparents?

Please help determine if our area was a part of this history.

If you have any information on this subject, please contact me, Ron Place at 662-8856 or by e-mail at www.rplace@bestnet.org

Albion Mills

Continued from page 5

Now for the cause of this phenomenon. Where this tragedy occurred the railway crosses a depression in the terrain and a large swamp along the Twenty mile creek. This bog filled with decaying vegetable matter and rotting timber, gave rise to a gas, known as jack-o-lantern or Willow-the-wisp. This gas in balls or globules, not unlike toy balloons, became luminous in the warm summer night air, and was blown by the prevailing south-east winds along the railway line, giving the appearance, at a distance, of the head light of a locomotive and other lights of a train. The deception was remarkable. Today there is no swamp, no woods, no decaying vegetation, no ghosts and no phantom train.

So endeth the second lesson in things that are not what they appear to be. May you all sleep in peace this night and wake in joy.

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

Anne Forsyth Accounting	Anne Forsyth	9 Lake Ave. South	662-2848
Britannia Cleaners	Ed Strecker	17 King St. E.	662-4971
Comicl 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

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

Next newsletter will be issued Wed., Oct 4, 2000

Material deadline is Wednesday, Sept 13, 2000

Stories, News or Queries can be mailed to

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

HUNTING FOREBEARS:

by Dorothy Reid

CAN YOU HELP?

I was a Hildreth, also of strong Burkholder descendency. The book "Satlfleet Then and Now" - photo p 395 John Burkholder home. I would like to see the original and any more info, also at the location of the Club 60 building, King & Lake avenue, a house previously there was a Burkholder house. Any photos? P 21, photo, Charles Hildreth home, do you have this one ? Please contact

Mrs Sharon Kresak (nee Hildreth) 120 Albion Falls Blvd. Hamilton L8W1R6 Phone 905-388-6898.

SUMMER EVENTS:

BATTLE WEEK-END: June 3-4

Entertainment for all the family, Crafts, Wagon rides, The Town Crier Competition, Battle re-enactment.

Sunday June 4, - Re-dedication of Smith's Knoll.

FLAG DAY FESTIVAL WEEK: Sunday June 4th to June 10th.

STREETFEST: Friday June 10, 10.00 am. - 5.00 pm.

PARADE: Something new! A night time parade

Saturday June 10th at 5.30 pm.

For information call Mike Wood 664-3603

WINONA PEACH FESTIVAL: August 25, 26, 27.

Winona Park, Barton Street. Crafts, rides and PEACH SUNDIES.

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.

MEMBERSHIP DUE:

There are still a few outstanding memberships. On the right hand side of your mailing label the year you are paid for is indicated.

Please forward your cheques to **The Stoney Creek Historical Society P.O. Box 66637, Stoney Creek, On. L8G 5E6**

COMMUNITY NEWS: 1926

The village is not going to have the bridge altered this year after all. It seems no money has been set aside by the township for this purpose, so our old bridge has got to be an eyesore for yet another year or so, but it's going to be altered.

**Stoney Creek Historical Society
Year 2000 Executive**

President:	Ron Place	662-8856
Past President:	Mary Lewis	643-3665
1st. Vice President:	Bill O'Reilly	662-2248
2nd. Vice President:	Bill Mitchell	664-4576
Treasurer:	Milt Henderson	662-1035
Recording Secretary:	Michael Gemmell	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,
SALTFLEET ROOM

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

COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS FOLLOW

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION \ RENEWAL \ DONATIONS

(Please print)

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt.: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

(Please check) _____ Renewal: _____ New: _____

Membership

Family\$15.00
 Single\$ 12.00
 Student/Senior.....\$ 7.00
 Business/Institution.....\$ 20.00

Donation to funds

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

HISTORY OF VINEMOUNT

Continued from page 6

trustees and ratepayers quarrelled often over matters with their first log school house. In 1865 the school mysteriously burned down.

In 1865 a new site was purchased and a building was built of stone. This was a more modern building and it was better equipped than the first school. In 1900 the building started to develop problems, in 1907 the building was condemned and torn down and a new one built. The new building was made of red brick but it built on the old foundation using stone from the old building in the foundation. This building was bigger and had a basement. The enrolment reached a maximum level of fifty student and till 1957 there were eight grades in the one room school. In 1957 the school had the grades of 1 to 5. The senior grades of 6 to 8 were bussed to Taplestown. Like the Vinemount school, Tweedside had George Marrit as its music director and at Christmas as part of the Christmas concert he would play his fiddle for all who were present.

Tweedside was closed in 1963 and sold to Mrs Ann Novosel. Later the building was used to make and sell pottery. The building burned in the spring of 1974 and for many years the lot stood empty but around 1990 a new house was built on the site. The South west school district of Vinemount did not have a school, instead the children in that area were sent to Taplestown School. In 1963 when the one room schools in Vinemount all closed all the children in Vinemount were bussed to Taplestown School. In 1964 an addition was added to Taplestown that included a gym.

more in the next newsletter

HAMILTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION:

A grant of \$2000.00 to the Stoney Creek Historical Society was applied for and received from the **Hamilton Community Foundation**. This was to assist our society in;

- (a.) Improving our newsletter from it's current format.
- (b.) To allow an expanded range of speakers for our membership meetings.
- (c.) Maintaining and expanding our current archival system.

A dehumidifier to maintain climate control within our storage area at 99King St. E. was urgently required and has since been purchased and installed.

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