



Remember the Corman House

Stoney Creek Historical Society

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

NEWSLETTER

October 1999

Edition #18

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THE LAST DAY AT STONEY CREEK STATION:

From the Stoney Creek News, February 28, 1973

The official closing was far from official. "It's for the buffs", Clare said.

Clare has been the agent at the station for 19 years. He moved here with his wife and their tiny son John from Sarnia. Clare Brocklebank and company closed the Stoney Creek CNR station in fine style. Brock, as some of his friends call him, is now the agent at the Burlington office.

He has a car, truck and a bicycle. The bicycle was his usual mode of travel from his home at 55 Lake Avenue Drive to the station. He became a familiar sight traveling the route four times a day.

Now that he has to drive to work, he says he'll ride his bike around the block a couple of times each night. He attributes his "Keeping in Shape" to physical exercise he gets from riding. "Look at this", he said slapping himself in the stomach with both hands, "It keeps the pounds down".

Clare made a lot of preparations for the last day at the Stoney Creek Station. He borrowed chairs from Don Brown, had Steve Sawchuck and his food wagon on hand. He let many rail-fans and retired railway men know about the day. And the press - they were all over the place most of the day.

He got help with the details from rail-fan Bob Brattina, of 196 Herkimer Street. He is really very serious about the whole thing. With Clare it seems to be a lot of fun.

Clare is a colourful character, "a show in himself", said Al Kerr, 21 Brentwood Drive, who is another rail fan. Clare sure was entertaining on the last day. He even dressed up for the occasion.

Two rooms at the station were crowded on that last day, even in the morning. The last train to use the order board was scheduled at 2.30. The fans started arriving at 9 a.m. many of them staying the whole day. Some took the day off work to enjoy the day.

Other rail-fans present were Hugh Brown, 998 Main Street West, Ken Edworthy, 96 Nash Road, Phil Sajecki,

397 Lake Avenue North, 17 year old John Spring, 191 Walter Avenue was the youngest fan there.

"Hugh Brown measured the station a few weeks ago", Clare said, "he showed up early to-day and presented me with a model built to scale of the station". The model is complete with Clare's bike and himself, all to scale. Clare was very proud of the gift and showed it off as each person arrived.

Hugh also brought a record player and train records. All kinds of train sounds were heard through the station that day - most of them from the recordings.

When Assistant Superintendent Bill Cant, 227 Fruitland road, discovered the immense interest shown in the "last day", he reversed an order to have the telephone disconnected. This somehow got mixed up and the telephone went dead about 9 a.m.. Clare said "The darn thing's no good anyway", and threw it into the wastepaper basket. Clare had a lot of fun telling the arriving workmen there was a message to phone someone at another office. What fun he had watching them find the phone, then discover it was dead.

Workmen were busy taking light fixtures down and anything else that could come off the walls. They had not room to move, but they kept busy. They almost cut the power off the semaphore before the last train went through.

The station has not seen the hustle-bustle since express has been delivered by truck out of Hamilton. Before that, every bit of express had to be picked up at the station. This is how Clare became so popular in this community. Your editor remembers riding her bicycle down to pick up ad mats many times. Clare was always fun to talk with.

Former station agent Frank Smart said "it was almost like going to a funeral, the last look at an old friend. The Stoney Creek Station".

Continued on page 6

NEW MEMBERS:

We are happy to welcome to our membership
Carol Church, Claudia Day, Judy Lyons, Harriet McInnes,
Jim & Marlene Place, Lavina Jay-Powell, Margaret Tweedle,

*This Newsletter
is sponsored by*

*A Member, in appreciation for
Dorothy Reid's genealogical
research into his family*

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Many things have happened and continue to happen in our community since the May newsletter. The Battle Week-end was, as always, exciting, well attended and successful. The Flag Day parade was dry, sunny and enjoyable. The re-enactment of the 100th Anniversary of the Battlefield Park was enjoyed by many people including the re-enactors of which I had the pleasure of participating. Coming up in November (finally) is the moving of the Jackson house to Battlefield Park, and the millennium celebration on December 31 should be a great finale to this century making 1999 another part of our history.

We as a society are fortunate in having a continually growing membership. Those of you who are able to attend meetings tell us that our speakers are interesting and that our chat time after the meetings are much enjoyed, this is what we like to hear. Your support is very important to your executive.

This being the last newsletter of the year, I wish all of our members and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ron Place

ERLAND LEE (MUSEUM) HOME

Summer Report 1999

The Erland Lee Museum enjoyed a successful summer of 1999, highlighted by the excellent August turnout for the joint Quilt Show with Battlefield House. The museum's attendance for 1999 is up 10%, which bodes well for the Erland Lee's on-going plan to focus on the social history of Stoney Creek.

Upcoming events for the last three months of the 1999 season include the Erland Lee's **7th Annual Local Artist's Show and Sale**, taking place from **October 1 - 31, 1999**. See a combination of oils, watercolours, acrylics, charcoal sketches, photography, and sculpture done by talented local artists and displayed in a delightful heritage setting. All the works in the Art Show are available for at the end of the exhibition. Looking for a unique gift for someone for Christmas? Visit the 7th Annual Local Artist Show and Sale, but only until the end of October! \$3.00 admission includes grounds and house tour.

In December, the Lee will be decorated for Christmas, with natural plants complimenting the Lee's Carpenter Gothic Renaissance architecture, and modern displays provided by the Stoney Creek Flower Shop. For those looking for a nice Christmas arrangement, the modern floral displays are available for sale. The highlight of our Victorian **Christmas at the Lee** will be a **caroling performance** Sunday afternoon, **December 5, at 3:00 PM**, by the popular Hamilton-based **Steel City Choir**. The choir will sing a variety of songs for the season in

both the Erland Lee's Drive House, lawn, and in the parlour. Complimentary refreshments will be available for guests, and a special bonus for the first 50 visitors! \$3.00 admission is all-inclusive.

As part of the **Stoney Creek Historical Society's 1999 Christmas House Tour**, visitors can see the Erland Lee Museum decorated for a rural Victorian Christmas at a fraction of the cost of entry into similar sites in downtown Hamilton. Why not take advantage of your local history and visit four historic Stoney Creek homes **December 6th** from 7-9 PM? Complimentary refreshments available. Cost \$15.00 for 4 houses.

The Erland Lee Museum closes for the winter, Sunday, December 12, 1999, but is **open for pre-booked groups** throughout December, January, February, and March, such as schools, Scouts, Guides, Men's and Women's Clubs, or retirement homes looking for a outing to escape the winter blahs. The **1870s Drive House** is also available for rent throughout the year, and **catering** is an option. Please call 662 2691 for more information on any of the above.

Michael Gemmell

CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOUR:

Join us on Monday December 6 for the Stoney Creek Historical Society House Tour. We have four homes decorated for Christmas to view. All of these homes have been designated by the Heritage Committee and range in age from 1793 to 1912. Tickets are \$15.00 each and are available from Battlefield House, Erland Lee Museum, Spera House Antiques, The Picture Palace and Queenston Stationery as well as at the Historical Society meetings.

REPORT FROM BATTLEFIELD HOUSE

by Marnie Hutchinson

It's hard to believe that the summer is over and we are already over half-booked for our Christmas educational programmes. We hope that you all had a safe and sun-filled holiday and are wondering if anyone has got caught up in Year 2000 fever yet. We are having a tough enough time putting our brains around the concept of coming up with super special events for the coming year, considering we have just passed a milestone of our own. On August 21, Battlefield Park marked it's 100th Anniversary with a celebration featuring a re-enactment of the Opening of the Park, a classic car show, Elvis and Tom Jones impersonators, Scottish country dancers, a 1920s Speakeasy and much more. By all accounts it was a success and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people involved

Continued on page 10

LOYALISTS AND PIONEERS:

BIGGAR

The first Biggar to land in America arrived in Philadelphia between 1730 and 1740 from Northern Ireland whither his forefathers, being Scottish Covenanters, had been driven from Scotland in 1660 because of their religious beliefs.

His name was James Biggar and he went from Philadelphia to New Jersey and settled in Bethlehem township, Hunterdon Co. He married a widow, Martha Flemen (Fleming) who, according to her will, had three children by her first marriage. James Biggar's will was dated 23 May, 1756, Bethlehem, Hunterdon Co. He and Martha (Flemen) had three sons - Joseph, Robert, and James.

James, son of James and Martha Biggar, married Elizabeth Litel and had children - John, born 1760, Martha, born 1769, who married John Charles Pettit, and William, born 1777. There were other children but the three above named were the ones who came to Canada and whose history has been recorded.

John Biggar, born 22 July, 1760, married Jemima, daughter of another Loyalist, Charles Pettit. These two families settled in Saltfleet township and John Biggar's name is on the first map of that township, 1791, on Lot 5, Concs. I, II, and III. Jemima was born in Sussex County, N.J., in 1764 and died in 1812. John died in 1841 and they are both buried in St. Andrew's churchyard, Grimsby.

John who during his long lifetime was active in the community life of Saltfleet, preserved many letters and documents and they have been handed down in his family through the generations. Today they are a source of valuable information of early life in the province and a delight to historians.

In the first years of settlement there were no stores closer than Niagara so John travelled on horseback to the frontier and bought supplies from Andrew Heron, merchant at Niagara.

In 1802, John Biggar's father, James, lost his life fighting a forest fire near his home.

At the time of the War of 1812 John Biggar, along with other Loyalists, was active in serving his country, as were his older sons, who were attached to the West Lincoln Regiments.

Further information on the Biggar Family is available in the Annals of the Forty Book book No.3 page 45

YEAR 2000 EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS:

The year 2000 general meeting is to be held Wednesday January 5, at 7.30 pm. Stoney Creek City Hall
The following offices are open for nomination.
1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Recording Secretary, Three Directors.
Members will be contacted prior to the general meeting, or you can contact Bill O'Reilly to have your name added to the ballot.

COVERED BRIDGES

By Dick Tatton

A wooden bridge is covered to prevent rain from getting onto the main timbers which support the bridge. If these timbers are exposed to the rain they will begin to rot and within 10 to 15 years the bridge will collapse. If the roof and siding are kept in good condition the bridge will last well over 100 years.

Over 10,000 were built, but only about 1,100 still stand. There are 890 in the U.S., Pennsylvania has 231, Ohio 157, Indiana 103, Vermont 100, Oregon 54 and New Hampshire 52. Of the 203 in Canada, Quebec has 118, New Brunswick 80, B.C. 4 and Ontario has 1.

The first one was built in 1800-04 in Philadelphia. Called "The Permanent Bridge" it was 550' long, 3 spans, 42' wide with two lanes. It was built by Timothy Palmer.

The longest was 5690' with 29 spans, built in 1812 by Johnathan Walcott across the Susquehanna River at Colombia, Pennsylvania. It was destroyed by an ice jam in 1832. The 2nd longest was 5620', built in 1832 by James Moore at Wrightsville, PA over the Susquehanna. It was burnt during the American Civil War in 1863.

The longest still standing is at Hartland, New Brunswick. Built in 1899 it is 1282' long, has 7 spans, with the Howe truss design.

The longest single span was 360' 4". Built in 1815 by Theodore Burr at McCall's Ferry, PA over the Susquehanna. It was destroyed by an ice jam in 1818. The 2nd longest single span was 340' 3 3/4", built in 1812 by Lewis Wernwag over the Schuylkill in Philadelphia. Destroyed by fire in 1838.

The longest single span still standing is at Blenheim, NY. It is 232' long with two lanes, built in 1855 by Nicholas Powers. No longer in use but worth seeing because of its unique construction. The oldest still standing are both in Pennsylvania, built in 1812. There are still standing 474 covered bridges over 100 years old and 13 of these are over 150 years old! All the bridges have names such as Old Red, Bell's Ford, Knight's Ferry, Saw Mill and each has an identification number.

Ontario has 1 old bridge, located at West Montrose across the Grand River. Built in 1881, 190' long with 2 spans, Queenspost trusses. It is well worth seeing. A new covered bridge was built in Guelph in 1992 over the Speed River. It is a pedestrian bridge with a Town Lattice truss, also well worth seeing.

The early prominent builders were Nicholas Powers, Timothy Palmer, Lewis Wernwag, Theodore Burr, Ithiel Town, Stephen Long, Herman Haupt, William Howe, Peter Paddleford and Daniel McCallum.

Most of the old bridges were destroyed by flood and ice jams, others were lost due to poor maintenance, high winds, fire, overloading and highway improvements.

The favourite woods used were white pine, yellow poplar, spruce, black walnut, yellow pine, southern long leaf pine, chestnut and oak.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

The following proposal will be submitted to the membership at our annual meeting January 5, to be voted on. These changes have been made necessary to qualify our organization for government grants should they become available.

ADDENDUM January 5, 2000

[i] *The Stoney Creek Historical Society shall carry on its activities without the purpose of gain for its members and any profits or other accretions to the Society shall be used for the purpose of fulfilling our mandate objectives stated in the constitution.*

[ii] *The executive of the Stoney Creek Historical Society shall serve as such without remuneration and no member of the executive shall receive any profit from this position as such, provided that a member of the executive may be paid reasonable expenses incurred by the member in the performance of his duties.*

[iii] *Should the dissolution of The Stoney Creek Historical Society occur, all of its debts and liabilities will be paid, and any remaining cash assets will be given to historical sites that operate as charitable organizations that carry out their work solely in the Province of Ontario. Preference will be given to local sites and to the organization (s) that receive our collections of artifacts and archives.*

Motion to accept these additions to the Constitution will be made Wednesday January 5, 2000.

PLEASE NOTE!

THERE WILL BE NO DECEMBER MEETING AT CITY HALL.

Because of the Christmas House tour, there will not be a December meeting at City Hall, instead we encourage our members to bring friends and visit the decorated homes.

Meetings will resume with our Annual Meeting at City Hall Wednesday January 5th. 2000

HUNTING FOREBEARS:

by Dorothy Reid

Are you a descendant of (Maria Emeline Dewitt 1812-1861) who married Daniel Field Davis (1808-1881)? The children of Emiline & Daniel Davis were:
Sarah Ann (b 1830) m David Wilson
Katherine (b 1832)
John Dewitt Davis (b 1834)
Daniel Long Davis (b 1836-
Joseph H. Davis (b 1838)
George L. Davis (b 1840)
William B. Davis (b 1842)
James Alfred Davis (b 1844)
Nancy Jane Davis (b 1846)
Byron Davis (b 1847)
Henry Herbert Davis (b 1849)
Rachel Davis (b 1853)
Samuel N. Davis (b 1854)
Philip Davis (b 1856)

If you have a connection to any on the above please write to
Mr. Robert R. Davis,
132 N Stewart,
Big Rapids, MI 49307

Email has been received from jbarnett@v-wave.com who is researching the London & Davis families of Stoney Creek. If you cannot make contact through email, please contact Dorothy Reid at 664-6355. I understand a Davis Family Reunion is being planned for the year 2000.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

It is good to see a strong membership. At the start of our newsletter of January 1994, we had a membership of 35, now to-day a membership of 128. In 17 issues, only one newsletter failed to welcome new members. There are 12 business/institution members, 9 members out of our immediate area and 6 out of country that strengthen our group. Our success is owed to you the members.

Not sure of your membership status ?? look to the right hand side of the label on your newsletter to determine the year you are paid for.

I REMEMBER

WESTERN SALTFLEET! ANOTHER FRUIT FARMING FAMILY:

by Constance Metcalfe

Continued from May 99 newsletter

Lacking pasture because most of our land was intensively planted to fruit, we rented the use of fields from Mrs. Ferris, who held land on the east side of Green's, between Barton & No. 8. Mrs Ferris was elderly and in any case had never farmed. Her fields were simply open spaces, overgrown with thorn bushes and rapidly reverting to bush. They were, however open spaces for the horses to be turned out on summer nights and on days of rest. Children's chores included taking grain to them and filling the water troughs from the well, — another good one and never failing. There was no lack of good, clean water, underground and in streams, in Saltfleet then. Mrs. Ferris herself was well know within walking distance of her house. She gave the impression of poverty and accepted gifts of fruit and vegetables on her visits to neighbouring farms. She was eccentric and secretive but there was a suspicion that she had at least a small income. It was of great interest when she was discovered to have been possessed of a quarter of a million dollars at her death in the late thirties (perhaps early 40's?) The source of such a fortune was the subject of much speculation, some of it quite imaginative but incapable of proof.

Most of our food was of our own growing. Milk, meat and eggs, fruit and vegetables we had in plenty. Such things as flour, sugar and tea came once a week by truck from Millen's store in Stoney Creek. We "sent in our order" by telephone on Monday, and Richard Millen delivered it on Wednesday afternoon. If no one was about the house when he arrived, he took the groceries in and put them on the pantry shelves. There were no locked doors then, and no need of them. I do not remember even seeing a key to our house.

There were 3 grocery stores in Stoney Creek, Twaddle's, Millen's and Weppers. Our groceries came from Millen's because the other two didn't deliver to the farms. Another businessman who did deliver to farms was Robert Fluhrer, whose butcher shop stood at the east end of King Street in Stoney Creek. If we wanted anything other than our own pork or chicken; it came, again on Wednesday, in Mr. Fluhrer's car. The trunk had been converted to a larder, lined in something white, perhaps linoleum, and containing a large brass balance beam scale, but no refrigeration. Fluhrer's store itself had a refrigerated room at the back, sawdust on the floor, a big wooden chopping block with rails above to hold cuts of meat, as well as a show case and a show window fronting on King Street.

Delivery day was Wednesday because that was half-day closing for all stores, and their owners were free. There was then no evening shopping and most definitely no Sunday shopping. Sunday was a day apart - the Biblical day of rest, for everyone, even for non-church going like ours. Most of our

neighbours attended Stoney Creek United Church, then the largest church in the area. The Anglican Church of the Redeemer in Stoney Creek was tiny and there was also a small Presbyterian Congregation. There was no Catholic Church nearer than Hamilton. Most people went to church on Sunday as a matter of course but we held somewhat unorthodox views on the subject. Nevertheless Sunday was for us a day apart. Except in times of emergency such as a ripening crop and threatening weather, we did only the chores necessary for the comfort of man and animal. There was always something extra for the animals, a little brushing, the braiding of manes and tails, an extra handful of grain were all part of Sunday morning, - pleasure for man and animal.

Children could play, but quietly, and some games, especially card games, were forbidden. The Sabbath was kept, though not in church. Most people made of Sunday a special day, one way or another. Sunday dinner was always a special meal, "dinner" then meant the noon day meal, both Sunday and work day. The evening meal was supper. Lunch was something we carried in a bag to school, consisting of sandwiches, dessert and fruit.

The school was S.S. # 3 Saltfleet, an imposing 2 storey brick structure on Lake Ave. at the foot of the escarpment. It served the whole area from the lake to the mountain and from Fruitland to Red Hill. It was a village school rather than a rural one, with 6 rooms. 5 teachers and a teacher/ principal. Most of the children went home for lunch. Even the teachers did, leaving a little band of country children to fend for themselves for an hour and a half. In good weather we roamed through the village and up the mountain side. When we were older we even went as far as "The Twenty" —[Hwy. 20] to free wheel our bikes down the hill. There was very little motor traffic in the thirties. No one seemed aware of any danger in leaving us alone for so long and no one took any responsibility for us. That long lunch hour meant that school was not dismissed until 4 o'clock. In winter that meant that it was dark before we reached home and it had been dark when we had set out on our morning's walk. There was no thought of publicly funded transportation, nor crossing guards. We were firmly admonished at home to set no foot on the concrete as we crossed Hwy # 8 if we could as much as see the lights of an approaching car. Otherwise we were expected to manage our own lives from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm even as 5 year olds in Grade 1. It was the responsibility of parents, not school boards, to provide all supplies and texts, and the responsibility of children to take good care of these so that they could be sold next year to younger children at half price. The text books we used cost 3 and 5 cents and later, in the forties, perhaps as much as 10 cents. Text books were standard, used in all schools and almost never changed. Generations of children used the same "readers" and "spellers".

I have wandered far from my original purpose, which was simply to add my memories to those of Gordon Dean. To return to that purpose, I can add something to his reference to

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

picking up casual farm labour at the Centre Mall in 1950. At least, I can take it further back in time. In my childhood, in the Thirties, the Jockey Club Hotel stood at the North-east corner of Barton and Ottawa Streets and the race track covered the area now occupied by the mall and its parking lots. This was the eastern-most edge of the city. In berry picking season, our truck went early to the rendezvous at the Kenilworth corner, - as early as 6 am, to ensure that we could have our choice of pickers. Not all were desirable. For those who came regularly and were reliable we promised to come as usual on the day after berry picking was over and provide transportation for a day at the beach with a bonfire and corn to roast in the evening. The corn was field corn, grown for the cattle, but very good eating if picked very young. In the desperate depression years this picnic was lavish entertainment and eagerly sought, as was the money earned by berry picking. Whole families, or more often a mother and her children, came to pick. We paid 1 cent a pint box to pick raspberries. Given enough industry and enough children a family could sometimes earn a dollar a day at the height of the season. This was a significant sum to them, and to us. Raspberries sold for 5 cents a pint and I remember peaches at 25 cents a bushel.

Much of our fruit went to E.D. Smith's for jam. Some peaches and pears were shipped to Northern Ontario and Quebec by rail from the C.N.R. stations at Stoney Creek and Winona. Still more went to small retail stores in East Hamilton. Most of the grape crop went, on contract, to Bright's Winery, in heavy wooden boxes supplied by the winery. A small amount was sold to the large Italian community of East Hamilton for home-made wine. This part of the crop was packed in much lighter bushel baskets which we bought from Parry Sound Basket Factory in Stoney Creek. The other containers we used, - berry boxes and crates and 6 and 11 quart baskets, were also made there. I remember that the factory, which stood on the east bank of the Stoney Creek smelled most pleasantly of new wood.

Only occasionally would we take produce to sell on Hamilton market though many of our neighbours went regularly. The market was then held under 3 or 4 open tin-roofed sheds behind the old City Hall, - where the library now stands. Butter and eggs were sold in a tiled room underneath one of the sheds. Because we had animals to tend we went, if at all, to the early morning market and hoped to be home by 8 am chore-time. Most other farmers stayed all day to sell in the retail market. Most of them drove trucks to market but even in the late 30's there were one or two horse-drawn vehicles. There were still water troughs to be seen on city streets. The last one I remember was on the north side of Barton Street outside the race track fence.

As Gordon Dean suggests, small bush fruit such as currants and gooseberries, was set out between the trees in the orchards to make the most efficient use of the land and to provide shade for the tender fruit. The gooseberries always went to market, never to the factory. We also grew sugar beets, primarily as

fodder, but some part of the crop went to Wagstaffe's factory on Gage Ave. as "filler" for jam. It did not go, I hasten to point out, to E.D. Smith's, whose "pure" jam was advertised as containing only fruit. In fairness, it should be said that sugar beets contained needed pectin, which otherwise might have come from a less wholesome source, and they were themselves nutritious if unpalatable.

Another specialist crop was nursery stock. We grew young plants - raspberries, currants, gooseberries and grapes, on contract for E.D. Smith's. The new plants had to be certified as disease free. Who did this I do not know. Perhaps someone came from the research station at Vineland, which played a significant part in farm life. It was from there that we first learned of and obtained new varieties of fruit. I remember particularly the advent of the "Haven" peaches; originally developed at the University of Michigan. We kept one or two trees of the old-fashioned Crawford and St. John peaches because they were sweeter than the more "show-y" Havens but eventually we had orchards of Red, Sun and Hail Havens. These had the "free stone" rather than cling stone, which was of great value to the canning factories.

We also had the wonderful Burbank plums. They were beautiful in shape, colour and taste, but most especially in the shape of the trees. Our Burbank orchard was a source of pride with rows of symmetrical, gracefully arched trees. Peach orchards were not nearly so pleasing. The trees were more stiff and much less sturdy and there were always gaps where the trees had died and smaller ones planted to fill in. Distressing. And pear trees are even more stiff.

Farming, as I knew it in the thirties and forties was much more than making a living, - sometimes a scanty one in the depression years. More rewarding was the pleasure taken in such things as the appearance of orchards and fields, the well-being of animals and sufficient food for the family.

FUTURE SPEAKERS

November 3, Marie Robbins - Historical Buildings.
December 1, **NO REGULAR MEETING**
Monday December 6, **Christmas House Tour**
January 5, 2000 Shirley Elford - Egyptian Glass Blowing
February 2, 2000 Lee Staats - Native American Culture.

THE LAST DAY AT STONEY CREEK STATION:

Continued from page 1

Frank Smart retired 22 years ago "from the railway. I don't expect to really retire for a long time yet." He was referring to his beekeeping for which he was well known. Frank started to work for the Grand Trunk in 1909 when he learned to be a telegraph operator.

FROM THE PAST:

*Wentworth Historical Society Minutes
1908 -1948*

APRIL 06, 1910 BUILDING COMMITTEE

A meeting was held in Parish Hall on April 6th, 1910 to consider the plan & specifications and to prepare to call tenders to erect the pedestal for monument. The following were present -

W.E.Corman, Rev.W.G.Davis, J.F.Felker, Charles Moore, John Gardner.

The question came up in regard to the wording of the inscription on monument and Mr.Gardner promised to bring a copy at next meeting.

After considering the plans and specifications and not being clear about the size of the capstone, Mr.Gardner was instructed to write to Mr.McCarthy of Ottawa to get the exact size needed.

It was decided to invite Mr.George Carter to attend our next meeting.

The meeting was then adjourned.

THE HISTORY OF THE FELKER FAMILY CEMETERY

MUD STREET — SALTFLEET TWP. ONT.

From O.G.S. Transcribing 1970, 1984, & 1988

Fifteen year old Johann Friedrick Voelkel left Erndtebruck, Germany bound for America in 1773.

The following is translated from the original German: "This bible is presented to you as a teaching of Christ, and instruction for the welfare of your soul. God grant that you may use it frequently on your journey to America."

Erndtebruck May18, 1773.

John landed at the Port of Philadelphia and went to the area of Sussex, New Jersey, where he worked for John Mingle, later marrying John's daughter, Mary. Johann served the British for a period of time during the American Revolution. He wished to remain under the British flag, so in 1794 he and Mary with their baby son, John Frederick came to Newark. Here he petitioned for land and was granted 200 acres in Gainsborough Township, Lincoln County as a United Empire Loyalist.

In 1820, John acquired 200 acres in Saltfleet Township, Wentworth County. this land was comprised of Lot 30, Con. 6 and Lot 27, Con. 7.

First the Crown Patent went to Robert Isaac Gray, dated 10 Aug. 1801, secondly, from John Gray to James Henry in 1811, thirdly, from James Henry to John Felker, and finally from John F. Felker to John Frederick Felker in 1823. It remained in the Felker Family until the 1960's. John and Mary's eldest son, known as Frederick, married Mary Bentley of Grimsby and they lived on Lot 27 for the rest of their lives.

Their oldest child, Eleanor, was born in May 1825 and died in July 1825. Hers may have been the first burial and perhaps the reason for the setting up of the Felker Cemetery. Johann Friederick Voelkel whose name underwent many changes: Folker, Falker, Fulker, and his wife Mary, were laid to rest in the cemetery that bears the Felker name, he in 1838 and Mary in 1841. Today there are five generations of Felkers in this cemetery.

In the early 1970's with the advent of Satellite City (now Heritage Green), The Provincial Government suggested closing several small cemeteries in the area and moving the bodies and monuments to another location. Descendents of the early settlers who are buried in these cemeteries objected strongly and the plan was dropped.

Even though the Felker Cemetery was turned over to the local government and is no longer a family plot, it remains a tribute to a pioneer family.

Submitted by Mrs. Elsie Felker

WESTFIELD VILLAGE:

by Rob Winniger

September 12th, was Anne of Green Gables Day at Westfield Village. A world-renowned slice of Canadiana. Green Gables and its cast of characters visited showing locations from the Anne of Green Gables and Road to Avonlea film and television productions, an Anne look-a-like contest, games, doll tea party took place. Winners of the Anne look-a-like contest are:

Junior- (Up to 9 years) -	Stephanie Kelly
Intermediate- (10 & over)	Lindsey Stewartson
Talent Competition	Caroline Vukan

October 29th, 6:30 pm to 9 p.m. Haunted Halloween.

Bone up on your history and folk lore. Return to the origins of Halloween and experience an evening like no other by experiencing scenarios from the past featuring ghosts, faeries and other supernatural interpreters. Good for all ages.

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

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

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

PLEASE MENTION THIS DIRECTORY WHEN YOU SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS!

COMMUNITY NEWS:

1926

The trustees of the police village intend bringing up the matter of regular garbage collection at their next meeting.

SPONSOR A NEWSLETTER:

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

A tax receipt will be issued.

Please contact Ron Place 662-8856

Next newsletter will be issued Wed., February 2, 2000

Material deadline is Wednesday, January 19 2000

Stories, News or Queries can be mailed to

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

IF PONIES RODE MEN:

What a title, what a book!

The Historical Societies latest publication about the journey of Robert Land will be available in October. It has been a long time coming but I'm sure you will agree it will have been worth the wait. James Elliott's writing and Juanita Mitchell's illustrating have produced a great addition to the historic publications about our pioneers for the Hamilton/Stoney Creek area .

The cost will be \$18.95 plus shipping if required. Advance orders are welcome by calling Bill O'Reilly at 905-662-2248

REPORT FROM BATTLEFIELD HOUSE

Continued from page 2

in the event. We couldn't have done it without you!

The beginning of our summer season was marked once again by the Re-enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek. It was a record-breaking event, with the most number of visitors, re-enactors and the hottest in years. We were also pleased to present a quilt show in August, in conjunction with the Erland Lee (Museum) Home. The over 100 exquisite quilts on loan made for quite a show. We certainly couldn't have made it through the past three months without the dedication and hard work of our summer students. Amanda, Andrea, Enzo, Launa and Sarah all did excellent jobs in the Museum, the Tourism Centre, the summer camps and in the preparation and execution of our Centennial Celebration.

Now, as the season begins to change, we are shifting our focus to our upcoming events. Our annual Apple Festival takes place on Sunday, September 26 and has always been a family favourite. Christmas comes early at Battlefield House, with the decorations going up by the third week of November. We are excited to be involved in the Historical Society's Christmas Candlelight House Tour this year, taking place on Monday, December 6. We are also involved in a new initiative called "The Twelve Nights of Christmas", in partnership with the Royal Botanical Gardens, Westfield Heritage Village and Whitehern Museum. This "evening passport to a festival of lights, colour, costumes and song" gives the visitor the

opportunity to visit all four sites on twelve separate evenings during the month of December.

This fall also marks a particularly special and long-anticipated occasion for Battlefield House and Park. On Sunday, November 7, the Nash-Jackson House is scheduled to be moved to the Park. This move promises to be a much-appreciated addition to the site.

Wishing you all a happy harvest season from your friends at Battlefield House.

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS:

With Christmas just around the corner and thoughts of gifts to buy, why not pick up copies of "Billy Green and the Battle of Stoney Creek" either soft cover \$8.95, hard cover \$14.95 or audio tape at the bargain price of only \$5.00. ALSO the soon to be released "If Ponies Rode Men", the travels of Robert Land by James Elliott. A gift membership in the Stoney Creek Historical Society, a gift that will last all year.

PROPERTY PRESERVATION PLAQUE 2000:

December 31 1999 is the final date to submit your nomination for the year 2000 Property Preservation Award. There are many properties in Stoney Creek that deserve recognition for the hard work put into preserving their historical qualities. Nomination forms may be picked up at Queenston Stationery, the Chamber of Commerce office, or at the Society monthly meeting.

Archives
c/o Dorothy Kinsman