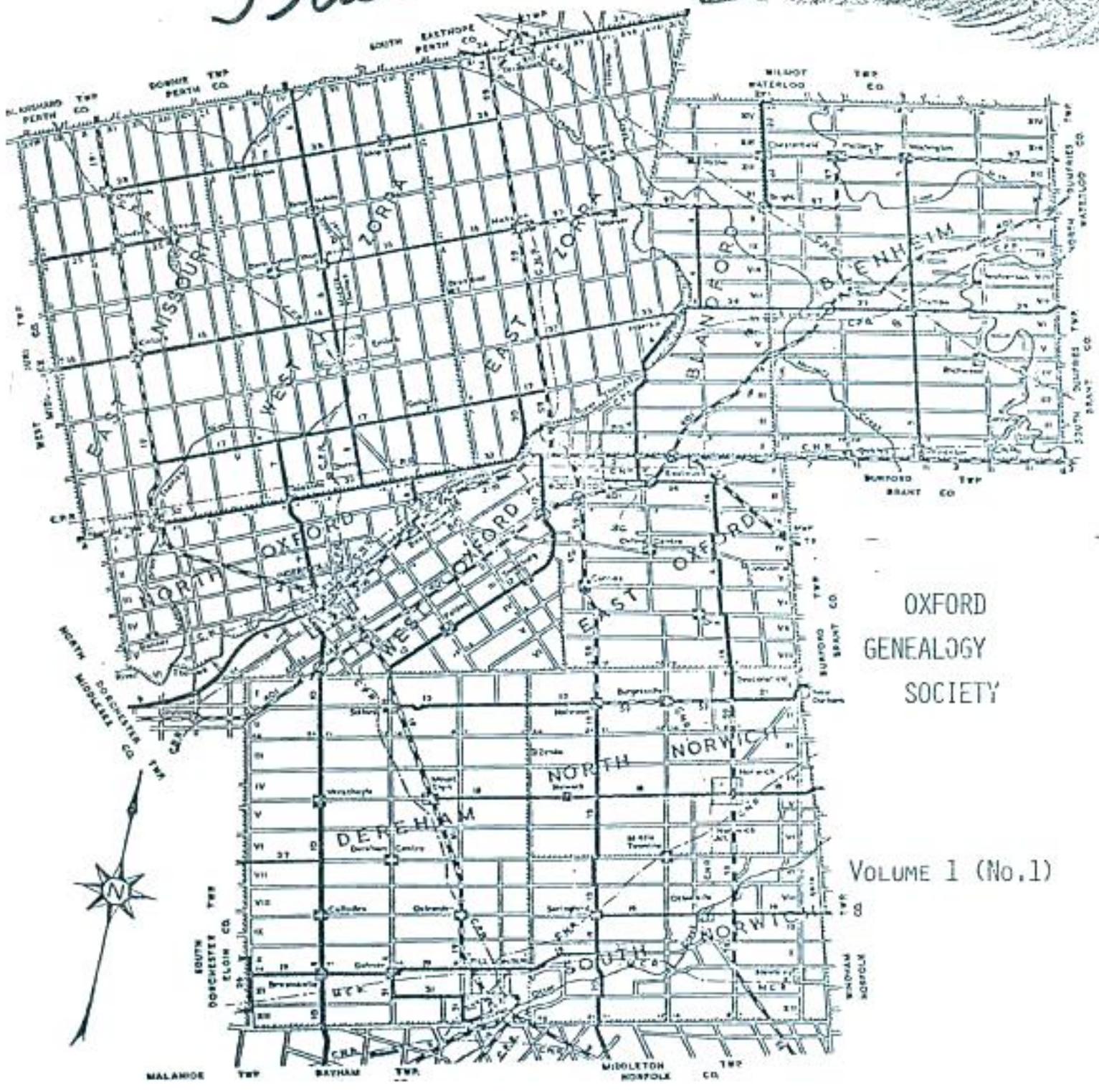


MAR 2 1979

O.G.S.

ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY

Oxford Tracer



OXFORD GENEALOGY SOCIETY

VOLUME 1 (No.1)

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It has been exciting and gratifying to watch the growth of the Oxford County Branch, O.G.S., Growth, not only in the number of members, but in their enthusiasm for learning, doing and recording their family genealogies.

Genealogy is relatively new to the Woodstock area and we as a branch should try to encourage people to see the importance of it. It has been suggested that a good way to spark an interest in people is to ask them about their surnames. Tying their surnames into our Oxford County History would be most useful, and helpful.

Because of the number of members who are "new" to genealogy, there will be in the near future, a workshop to help them learn how to record family history, fill out pedigree forms and family group sheets. The date for this will be announced at our next meeting.

Our cemetery recording program is being organized, with plans being made now to have some of the abandoned cemeteries in the area cleaned up so that the recorders can go in to work and it will be much easier for them. There seems to be a great deal enthusiasm amongst members to get the cemeteries recorded.

Our library, of course, is small at present, but what we do have is interesting, instructive and informative. I hope that you will take advantage of these materials.

We are much appreciative of the support of Mr. Arnold Nethercott, past chairman, London Branch. His assistance in helping us organize and then coming as guest speaker on several occasions is surely most generous.

I do hope the members of the branch will be most successful in their research, and find much joy in their endeavours. Your success stories would be a valued part of our newsletter, and it is hoped that you will share them with us.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Bessie Diebel

FUTURE MEETINGS

Our next meeting will be held on April 12, 1979, at 8 p.m. with guest speaker Mr. Ken Holmes, chairman, Kent County Branch. Mr. Holmes will be speaking on Kent County Records and Irish research. He will be bringing with him slides on Irish research and the film entitled "In a Granite Mountain", a film showing the repository of the L.D.S. records in Salt Lake City.

"The New LDS Genealogical Library in London", will be the topic for Professor Frank Wilkinson of the University of Western Ontario. This meeting will be held on May 10, 1979.

To help us with our cemetery recording, Mr. Dan Brock, chairman of the London Branch Genealogical Society, will be presenting a program of "Grave and Other Tales of Cemetery Recording," June 14th is the date of this meeting.

During July and August, there will be regular times scheduled for the recording of the cemeteries in Oxford County. It is hoped that wherever possible, the members of the branch will participate in this project.

SEMINARS

Ulster Genealogical and Historical Guild - Saturday, April 21, 1979. Irish Genealogical Research Seminar conducted by Mr. Brian Trainor, Esq. B.A., Deputy Keeper of Records In Northern Ireland . Registration Fee - \$20.00, which includes morning and afternoon coffee, lunch and valuable handout materials. Send registration to Mrs. Donna R. Hotaling, G.R.S.-DRH Associates, 2255 Cedar Lane, Vienna, Virginia, U.S.A., 22180. Telephone 703-560-4496. Master Charge and Visa accepted.

LDS SEMINAR - Saturday, April, 28th, 1979 sponsored by the Hamilton Branch of the LDS genealogical Library. Conducted by Carol Burdick Holderby from Idaho, a member of the Halton/Peel branch, and Patricia Kennedy of the Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa, this should be a most instructional seminar. Advance registration \$4.00 per person, \$7.00 per couple. At the door, \$5.00 per person and \$8.00 per couple. Mail advance registration to Helen Johnson, Box 4425, Station D, Hamilton, Ont. L8V 4L8. Mark, Seminar '79 on envelope.

ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SEMINAR '79 - May 11, 12, and 13 at the University of Western Ontario, London, Ont. Theme for the seminar will be "Crossroads To The West," with display, books for sale, tours and guest speakers. Queries may be addressed to Mr. Dan Brock, Chairman, London Branch, OGS, Box 871, Station B, London, Ont. N6A 4Z3.

SHERIDAN COLLEGE SUMMER SEMINAR - June 13-22, 1979, Oakville, Ont. Faculty - Ben Bloxham , Director, Genealogical Studies, BYU, Carol Holderby, AG - England, Ireland, U.S.A. and David Pratt, English Research specialist; BYU, plus local guest speakers. Topics - Beginning research, basic and advanced classes in English, Scottish and Irish, plus Ont. and U.S.A. Workshops on reading old manuscripts, planning genealogical trips to Britain, preserving documents and family histories and photography, plus special excursions. Contact - Don Wilson, Co-ordinator, Genealogical Studies, Sheridan College, Oakville, Ont., L6N 2L1.

OXFORD COUNTY (1798)

Names that to fear were never known,
Bold Norfolk's Earl de Brotherton,
And Oxford's famed De Vere.
----Scott

The county takes its name from Oxford City, the capital of Oxfordshire, an inland county of England, having the river Thames for its eastern boundary. The history of the city of Oxford cannot be traced beyond the time of Alfred the Great, who established schools and literature there. The name is derived from a ford of the river Ouse. Ouse-no-fourd, altered to Oxnaford, and Oxford, hence the city arms showing an ox crossing the river.

A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE EARLY HISTORY OF VARIOUS AREAS OF OXFORD COUNTY

BLLENHEIM

The first township to be settled was Blenheim. Thomas Horner, the first settler had a mill operating on Horner Creek near Princeton by 1795. Unfortunately it burned down but was rebuilt and operable again within two years. Mr. Horner was a prominent citizen and was Oxford's first Registrar as well as Oxford's first Member of Parliament. He was also actively involved in the First Regiment Oxford Militia. He was captain of the Blenheim Company. Due to friction among the Officers of the Oxford Militia, Captain Horner's loyalty to Canada was questioned. He had come from New Jersey, and he was stripped of his rank. During the war of 1812, he served as a private, but later in 1822 he was completely absolved and appointed to command the Regiment, with full rank of Colonel. This was the first time a non-military trained man was given such a high command.

INGERSOLL

Thomas Ingersoll and his family were the first settlers in Ingersoll. He was given a grant in recognition of his loyalty to Britain in the Revolutionary War. He is perhaps better known as the father of LAURA SECORD, the heroine of the War of 1812. Unfortunately he was robbed of his land and left the district. However, some years later, his son, Charles, came back to the old homestead and named the village of Ingersoll. He, also, was a Member of Parliament. His brother, James, was Registrar of Oxford County for fifty-two years succeeding Thomas Horner. He held office from 1834-1886.

NORWICH

Another area that was settled early by United Empire Loyalists was Norwich and District. Peter De Long and Peter Lossing with their families and about fifty other families including the Motts, Moores, Hillikers, Emighs had a community well established by 1810. This was largely a Quaker settlement. The Norwich Museum today is located in the former "FRIENDS MEETING" building at the north end of Norwich.

NORWICH cont'd

This is a great little museum with exceptionally good displays. At the back is the barn with a good collection of old machinery and at the north is the Norwich Archives with an absolutely splendid, indexed display of old photographs.

One of Norwich's most famous people is Dr. Emily Stowe, the first woman doctor in Canada. , Her daughter, Augusta, was the first woman to graduate in medicine from a Canadian University.

ZORRA

The Zorra's were opened up around 1820. Most of these pioneers were from the Highlands of Scotland. They wore proudly such names as MacKay, Matheson, Munro, Ross, Sutherland and Fraser. It is said that this area sent more young men into the Ministry than any other place in Canada. Next to the Church in importance were the schools and the Zorra's produced many great citizens of Canada. The Zorra's also brought fame to Canada with their Champion Tug-of-War team. From 1883 to 1890 they won all the Tug-of War Titles of the World and invariably they were piped to victory by the bag-pipes playing battle songs. Another local celebrity from a Zorra farm was BOB HAYWARD who brought international fame to Canada when he drove the world champion speedboat MISS SUPERTEST III to victory, winning for Canada the Harmsworth Trophy in 1959.

DEREHAM

This area in the southwest section of Oxford produced one of the fieriest politicians of Canada West. A university graduate of scientific farming he arrived in Dereham in 1817 from England. He immediately decided new settlers were needed and he published a statistical account of the province as a guide for settlers and government. He was soon in hot water and deported back to England within two years. However, his ideas were probably responsible for the rebellion of 1837 in Ontario. Incidentally, the Rebellion of 1837 caused an uprising in Norwich which resulted in prisoners being taken and jailed in the tower of Old St. Paul' s Church in Woodstock. Not many places in can boast of a Church being used as a jail!

WOODSTOCK

Governor Simcoe made a trip on foot from Brantford to Detroit in 1793. When he stood at the top of the hill on Dundas St. at Vansittart, he was so impressed with the site that he designated it as a future Town Plot.

Early settlers were United Empire Loyalists and included the Burtch's, Levi's, Ludingtons, Babbits, Hills, Barraclough and Col. Hatch. They built their log cabins along the south side of Dundas St. The first school was at the corner of Dundas and Chapel St. The first church was also started here by the Baptists in 1822.

But the most prominent early figures were Admiral Vansittart and Captain Drew. With their arrival the nucleus of a village was formed and named Woodstock by the Admiral in honour of Woodstock, England. They were half-pay officers from the British Navy. Many of their friends followed them to Oxford and they built beautiful estates in and around Woodstock. This brought a new era of prosperity to

WOODSTOCK cont'd

Woodstock, shops opened up on Dundas St., industries started and new homes were constructed, but mostly the early growth of Woodstock was related to the surrounding agricultural area. It still is for that matter.

Woodstock became a town in 1851 and a city in 1901. The Town Hall, now known as the Oxford Museum, was built in 1852.

The railroad arrived in 1853 and a colourful story is told in old newspapers of champagne flowing like water amid the cheers of the spectators as the train rolled in the station at the fantastic speed of six miles an hour!

Woodstock has grown slowly but steadily from those days until we now have a fine city that we can be proud to live in.

OXFORD COUNTY

Oxford County, too, has grown steadily but has remained a rich agricultural county. We have a right to be proud of our dairy, cattle and hog industry as well as cash crops. At Beachville we have the largest open-pit mining in the world. Tobacco is still strong and the Tobacco Clock in Tillsonburg is unique.

In 1975 the County of Oxford Act, was passed making us the first county ever with restructured government. It was planned by Oxford people for Oxford people in order to avoid regional government. While there may be a few flaws in it, for the most part it's working very satisfactory.

The strength of our county today reflects the courage, hardships and heroic efforts of our pioneer ancestors.

-by Mary Evans, Local Historian,
Woodstock Public Library

HISTORICAL SHOW

The Norwich and District Historical Show are presenting their 9th Annual Historical Show on June 1, 2, 3, 1979, at the Norwich Community Centre, located on Highway 59 mid-way between Highway 401 and #3. Plans are not as yet fully finalized, but a variety of new exhibits in every section is anticipated.

Steam engines, gas tractors, model engines, horse power and dog power driven machinery and tread-mills, farm equipment and threshing machines will be in operation.

The arena is fully booked for special exhibits and displays of antiques and hobby collections. In the annex is a display of Canadian Handicrafts.

There are mammoth daily parades, a Saturday afternoon children's

variety show, a Friday night dance, and Saturday night variety show, something for everyone at all times. Good food, souvenirs, flea market, rides for the kiddies, camping on the grounds are available.

Admission to all events with membership cards - \$10.00 per couple, \$6.00 per single membership, half price for senior citizens. Admission at the gate without membership \$2.50, .50¢ for children under 12. Pre school free

Queries should be addressed to Donald W. MacPherson,
P.O. Box 27,
83 Stover St. N.,
Norwich, Ont.
N0J 1P0.

Telephone 519-863-2213.

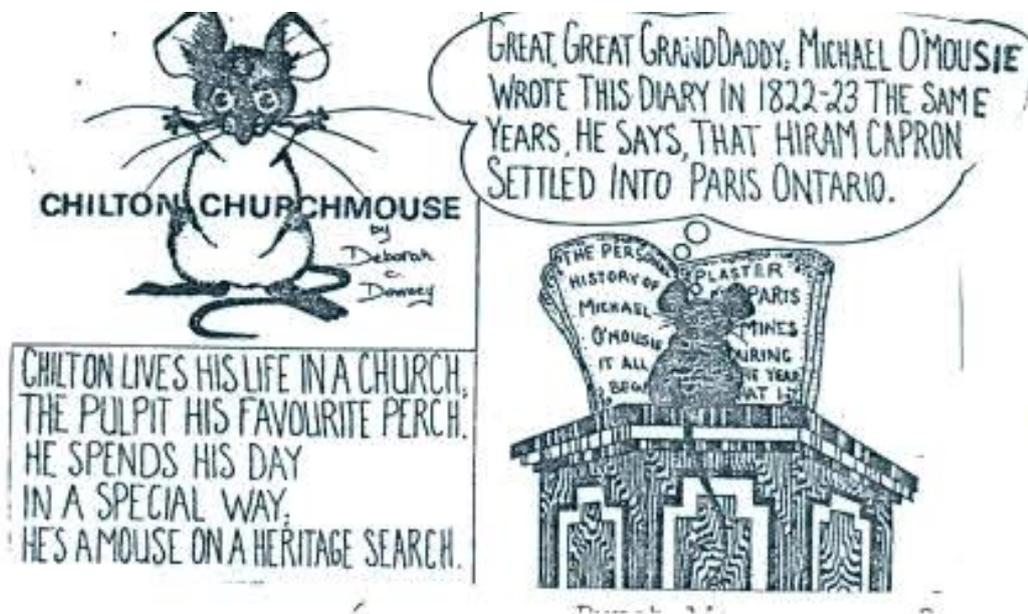
BORDER BAIRNS

We are indeed indebted to Mr. Robert Morden, 47 Bay St. Woodstock, for donating a copy of his family genealogy, Border Bairns - An Ainslie Family History. Mr. Morden has done a fine job, of researching and printing this book, which is most interesting and informative, and certainly hard to put down. Anyone interested in Scottish research, could not help but find reading it helpful to them.

Thank you, Mr. Morden, we're most grateful!

NEED SOME HELP WITH ENGLISH RESEARCH?

Norman and Beth Drayton - branch members, have had a great deal of experience with English records in Somerset House, now called St. Catherines House, and also with the Latter-Day Saints records in Salt Lake City, Utah. Mr. and Mrs. Drayton have expressed their willingness to help members with information on research records and can be reached at General Delivery, Hickson, Ont. or telephone 402-2752.



MISCELLANEOUS SOURCESCont'd

The Hamilton LDS Genealogical Library is on the corner of Stonechurch Road and Upper Sherman. It is necessary to reserve a reader ahead of time and the phone number is 416-385-5009.

Library hours are: Monday and Saturday - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Tuesday to Friday - 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Wednesday - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Cost for rental of films from Salt Lake City is \$2.50 per film, plus 50 ¢ extra to hold for another 2 weeks. For rental for six months, the cost is \$3.50. Cost for indefinite loan can only be obtained with permission of the head librarian in Hamilton. -

By Bessie Diebel

QUERIES

"HARRIS-QUATERMASS- Sylvester Harris b. Mar. 1808, New, York, d. 3 June 1881, Mt. Elgin, Durham Twsp. Married Charlotte A. Quartermass b. Sept. 1815, New York d. 22 Feb. 1891, dau. of Martin Quartermass, b. 1785 d. Feb. 1876 W. Oxford Twsp. Both families Baptist from N. Y. farmed near Springford S. Norwich Twsp , from 1827. Buried Harried St. Cemetery, Salford. Would like to exchange any information on these families. Contact – Mrs. Mary Oliarnvk, 2C39 Dovercourt Ave., Ottawa, Ont. K2A OX2.

WOOLLEY - Joseph Lewis Woolley b. 25 July, 1828 - Malahide twsp. d. 4 Aug. 1898, buried Delmer Cemetery, m. Sarah J. b. June 1828, d. 26 Oct. 1857, buried Delmer Cemetery. J. Lewis Woolley m. Mary Ann Durdle b. 31 May 1841 C. E. d. 8 Feb. 1886. Lewis bought farm at Lot 24 Conc.10, Dereham twsp. in 1851 and farmed until He sold farm in 1887. Would like to exchange information on this family. Contact, Mr. Lorne Diebel. 99 Park Row , Woodstock Ont, N4S 1V9



OLD STAGE COACH DAYS IN OXFORD COUNTY

Article written by W.B. Hobson in 1919

Years ago I collected a large amount of stage-day reminiscences and data but have found on reviewing it lately that it contained so much repetition and sameness that I have decided to give a short paper on the old Stage Road with a few essential facts. The old Stage Road was the leading highway of Ontario in early days, with many branch lines leading from it along the way.

Staging is merely a substitute for the term coaching and coaching dates back to the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

In England during the eighteenth century the coaches were great, lumbering affairs drawn by six horses, and it was conceded that a good walker could make better time. The passengers, it would appear, were usually either rich, lazy, fat or cripples. In the year 1718 the first contracts were given to the coachmen for carrying the mail. Up, until that time the mail had been carried by post boys. Staging was introduced in America as soon as the country was sufficiently populated to warrant it, and the stage routes spread with the people, or rather, the people spread with the stage until they had reached all points of importance in North America.

It is my intention at this time to deal with stage days in Oxford, and as my information has been gathered from many sources, it will necessarily be somewhat fragmentary.

In my youth, I heard many stage stories from my uncle, George Hobson, who, in his early life, had some mail routes from Hamilton to London, and ran stages on the old Stage Road for many years, and later on through Woodstock after the Governor's Road was finished. On little incident I remember him telling: The stages passed through Woodstock on sleighs on the 10th day of May, 1844 - an old letter furnished me with the correct date. Winter was surely lingering in the lap of spring that year. I find that one Jed Jackson, in the year 1832, got the first contract for carrying the mail from Brantford to London over the old Stage Road, and from that road into Woodstock with a light rig, although there was no post office in Woodstock until the year 1835. Just at this point in my investigation I made a discovery. I cannot very well understand why the stages had been running over the old Stage Road for many years before the Government gave a contract, for carrying the mail. The question is, how did the people do business or get the mail?

Dorman was one of the first stage proprietors of importance, but I cannot find that he ever carried the mail. Dorman's stables At Sydenham now Cathcart, were noted for their large number of high class stage horses. Two years was the average life of a stage horse.

Up to about 1835 the stages carried nine passengers inside and a goodly number outside. There was always room for one more. About the year 1853 when Babcock & Co., Hiram Weeks, George Hobson and others were staging, the stages were more commodious and carried as many as sixteen passengers. They were known as Concord stages, as they were at that time all built in Concord, New Hampshire.

STAGES Cont'd

The Old Stage Road between Niagara and London was considered the most beautiful drive in the country, winding through varied and ever changing scenery the entire distance, passing a few miles south of Woodstock, and it is said, of which there is no doubt, that this old historic road was originally an Indian trail from Niagara to Windsor.

Eighty years ago, in the year 1839, Woodstock had become of much importance, or imagined so, having many retired military and naval officers living in and about it, who, having influence with the Government, succeeded in having work commenced in the year 1840 on the road leading from Sydenham to Eastwood to join the Governor's Road, through Woodstock. This road was well graded and planked with three-inch pine lumber. It was finished in the year 1843 and for a number of years nearly all the traffic passed through Woodstock, although the old Stage Road was never abandoned; it still had its attractions which led many that way. About the year 1847 the planking and grading on the Governor's road had become much worn and the traffic reverted very largely back to the old Stage Road.

During the construction of the Great Western Railroad there was very heavy traffic over both roads. Often as many as six four-horse stages passed each way every day. Stages travelled at the rate of eight to ten miles an hour, and usually changed horses about every fifteen miles. Some stage lines had relays of horses at Putnam, Beachville, Eastwood and so on, while others ran from London to Ingersoll, from there to Woodstock and from Woodstock to Sydenham. It seems that each stage proprietor allotted relays to suit himself which was not a difficult matter, as there were over thirty taverns between London and Brantford, twenty of which were between Woodstock and Brantford, and all did a flourishing business. Many of the old-time landlords were noted characters, and all seemed to be the very soul of hospitality. The stages made a practice of stopping at every tavern, business or no business. It took but twenty-five cents to treat the crowd, no matter the number. Jokes and songs were the order of the day, and light-hearted merriment seemed to prevail everywhere. The old-timer would be considered illiterate and coarse now-a-days, but he seemed to live as long and get as much pleasure out of life as the people of today. Our better education would appear to be the mother of discontent, and our bigoted social conditions are leading us into chaos. The oldtimers tried to keep the Ten Commandments, but we have added ten times ten to the ten and break most of them. I fear our laws are becoming so drastic and fanatical that Liberty has lost its meaning. The poor uneducated pioneer in his stage coach would compare favourably, mentally, morally, physically and religiously with the educated masses who travel in Pullman cars to-day. The better education and Christianity do not appear to be working in harmony.

The old time stage proprietor was looked upon as the salt of the earth, not that he had any outstanding qualifications as a rule any more than our modern M.P.P or bank manager, but people who hold favors in the hollow of their hands are always treated with great deference. All the proud virtue of this vaunting world fawns on success and power.

Stagecont'd

The highest ambition of the young men in early days was to be a stage driver, not that the remuneration could have been any inducement as they received ten or twelve dollars per month, but the exciting life seemed to overcome many hardships.

During the construction of the Great Western Railroad the fare from London to Brantford was \$5.00 or \$3.00 from Woodstock to Brantford, but this had not been the rule. In earlier days the competition was at times so great that they had rate wars and frequently carried passengers from London to Hamilton free and fed them on the way and treated them at each tavern. It was a common thing for stage drivers of opposing lines to meet at stage stations and fight like wildcats, and a man of pugilistic fame often drew double pay of an ordinary peaceful driver, and fighting qualifications were recognized as a mark of efficiency.

A rather laughable incident is told by one of the stage drivers: being stuck in the mud on one occasion he ordered all the passengers out, and all obeyed excepting one big, burly fellow who sat still. When the driver caught sight of him he said: "Look here, my good man, if you don't get out of there, I will serve you as I did a man here yesterday." The big fellow started to pull his coat off saying "How did you serve the man yesterday?" "Oh" replied the stage driver, "I just let him sit still"

Another pathetic incident I remember my uncle telling. On one occasion he was driving himself, and overtook a poor weary woman, near Martin's Tavern, and having room, he took her on. She had a small sack of flour on her shoulder, and she said she lived somewhere north of Ingersoll and had walked nearly all the way to Hamilton with one bushel of wheat and was returning with the flour. She had no money but had not suffered for food or lodging on all the trip. The hospitable tavern keepers along the way gave her food, bed, and a sup of whiskey, as she called on them, and the stage drivers gave her a lift when they had room.

Very likely this poor woman was the grandmother of some of the fanatics in our midst to-day who would not allow us to bet a nickel on a horse race or drink a glass of ale, yet would doff their hats to the promoter who fleeces the public out of millions, and overlook the thousand greater evils that are leading the world into Bolshevism.

When the stage proprietor was put out of business there was no McKenzie & Mann, or Merchants Bank, to call upon the government and force them to make good; railroad magnates and banks and big interests had no struggle hold on the throat of the government at that time.

But the stage proprietor and the stage driver, and the old-time tavern keeper and the toll gate, have all gone, never to return.

W. B Hobson

OUR NEWSLETTER

Members are encouraged to submit articles of interest for our newsletter. All such articles are to be sent to Vanessa Harkness

STEP BY STEP

My great grandfather, George Johnston, married a second time and moved to California, so I knew very little of his side of the family.

We are told: "First, check some home sources and question family members."

When I tried this, cousins showed me a large family Bible. My son, going through the pages, found a clipping - George Johnston's obituary. It gave his date of birth, May 1842, in Wilmot twsp., Waterloo Co.

At the Ontario Archives, in the 1851 for Wilmot twsp., Waterloo co., I located the Johnston family.

Margery Anderson, first wife of George Johnston, was raised in Perth Co. and their first child was born in Mar 1868. On asking at the O.A. about marriage records for Perth Co. prior to July 1869, I was told there were not many but was shown where to find the correct microfilm in the open cabinet. I was very fortunate to find what I sought on about the third or fourth page. It gave George Johnston's parents as Thomas Johnston and Elizabeth Hobson.

The Historical Atlas for Waterloo and Wellington Cos. 1881-1888, at the Woodstock Public Library, showed a Johnston farm near the nearly vanished village of Wilmot and very close to another small village of Haysville. It stated that William Hobson and family had been the first settlers of Haysville.

We are warned: "In Genealogy, nothing can be assumed." Milton Rubincan (if you haven't heard of him, you will) says that we must prove beyond a doubt. What you read in print several times may be the recopying of an original error.

My mother recalled that her family had visited Hobsons in Stratford. Roy Smith, her cousin, in Stratford remembered that Robert Hobson, (called Uncle Robert by Roy's mother) had a farm in Downie twsp. and later three of his children - Robert, Rebecca and Louisa - had lived in Stratford. They had married another Hobson called 'Lee' and another Hobson had visited them from Woodstock. The latter had one of the first cars with a lot of brass on it.

On my return to Woodstock, I questioned my father-in-law, who has always been very car-conscious. He remembered the car well and two Hobsons, William and Benjamin.

This was well into the 1900's so it was no problem to locate a William Hobson, who had a shoe store at 459 Dundas St., however, I have yet to find his exact death date.

I did find a Robert Hobson in Perth Co. census 1871 with a family of ten children - a son, William, but none of the other names Roy had given me, except that 'Luella' being given the nickname 'Lou'. I thought I had the correct family but was not sure.

A W.B. Hobson had given a paper to the Ontario Historical Society in 1919 and referred to his uncle George Hobson, who had run a stage line on the old Stage Road for many years. I knew from searching in Perth Archives, Stratford, that William Hobson, Haysville, had a son, George, and that he had had a stage route.

My hope was that William Hobson, Woodstock, would prove to have given this address and that he was a son of Robert and Eliza Hobson, Downie. Next, I hoped that I could prove Robert a son of William Hobson, Haysville, and a brother to my Elizabeth Hobson Johnston. I cannot locate this Elizabeth after the 1881 census.

I thought that my best hope was the index of the Sentinel Review, currently being prepared under a grant to the Woodstock Public Library Board and the Local History Department. When the indexing got beyond 1924, William Hobson's death date would surface.

However, the girls, in indexing, did me a greater turn than that, by recording a death date for Robert Hobson, Downie - - Jan. 31, 1910. His obituary proves most of my ideas, but maybe the hardest is yet to come. I must prove that my Elizabeth Hobson was indeed Robert's sister. Another step!

Obituary for ROBERT HOBSON from the Sentinel Review, Feb. 1, 1910.

The death occurred yesterday at his home in Downie twsp., near Stratford of Mr. Robert Hobson, father of W.D. Hobson, of this city. Deceased was in his 95th year. He had been confined to his bed for the last six years, and died practically of old age. He came of a long-lived family, his father having died at the age of 94. At the age of 70 he used to boast that he could fell a tree as well as any of his sons. Deceased was born in Armagh, Ireland. When a baby he was brought to this country by his parents, who settled on a farm where the city of London now is. A brother born on that farm was one of the first white children born in the district. The father did not remain long on the farm; but, tiring of it, returned to Ireland. In a few years he was back in Canada again, and in the course of his long life he made many a trip across the ocean. The story is told of him (the father) that having cleared a piece in the Canadian bush and built a house, he had the misfortune one day to allow a tree which he was chopping to fall across the little home, crushing it to the earth. The poor pioneer was so disgusted that he packed up his belongings and returned to Ireland. In the course of time he was back again in Canada. At one time he owned the homestead now known as Braeburn on the Governor's Road. He took a great fancy to Old Niagara, and there he died and was buried. His son, the late Robert Hobson, who died yesterday at one time owned and occupied a farm on the Governor's Road, just west of the city, and is well remembered by many in the district. About, forty years ago he sold out, to Isaac Ingram, and moved to Downie, near Stratford, in which neighbourhood he has resided ever since.

(The last paragraph states that Robert Hobson's death marks the first break in a family of fifteen. Mrs. Hobson was said to be in good health and it gives me the other three names that I needed ~ Rebecca, Robert and Levi. William Hobson, Haysville, had a farm in London twsp., in 1818, returned to Ireland and came back in the Spring of 1829, eventually settling where Haysville now is. Braeburn is presently the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Illbury.)

-by Eileen Whitehead OGS # ~109

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP – OXFORD COUNTY BRANCH

- 1 : Bessie Diebel, 99 Park Row, Woodstock, Ont.
- 2 : Lorne Diebel, 99 Park Row, Woodstock, Ont.
- 3 : Darryl Bonk, 34 Brock St., Woodstock, Ont.
- 4 : Eileen Whitehead, 52 Victoria St., Woodstock, Ont.
- 5 : Aletha Stevely, 561 King St., Woodstock, Ont.
- 6 : Mary Evans, R.R. #1, Burford, Ont.
- 7 : Dorothy Rohrer, 73 Bee St., Woodstock, Ont.
- 8 : Robert Morden, 47 Bay St., Woodstock, Ont.
- 9 : Marion Hansworth , 122 Wilson St., Woodstock, Ont.
- 10 : Eleanor Gardhouse, 156 Oxford St., Woodstock, Ont.
- 11 : Dorothy Bowman , 633 Durham Cr , Woodstock, Ont.
- 12 : Tom Roberts, 835 Houghson St., Woodstock, Ont.
- 13 : Helen Stover, R.R. # 3, Norwich, Ont.
- 14 : Norman Maycock Goodger, 255 Thames St. N., Ingersoll, Ont.
- 15 : Yvonne Ares, 262 Dundas St., Woodstock, Ont.
- 16 : Eileen Moyer, 754 Parkinson Rd., Woodstock, Ont.
- 17 : Dorothy R. Joslin, 326 Spencer St., Woodstock, Ont.
- 18 : Johan Hopkins, Norwich, Ont.
- 19 : Norman Lock, 149 Park Row. Woodstock, Ont.
- 20 : Mrs. Lock, 149 Park Row, Woodstock, Ont.
- 21 : James Bond, Hickson, Ont.
- 22 : Markley Bond , Hickson, Ont.,
- 23 : Beth Drayton, Hickson, Ont. .
- 24 : Norman Drayton, Hickson, Ont.
- 25 : Judy Mitton, 148 Prince Arthur, Chatham, Ont.
- 26 : Donald Holden, 3 Jay Place, Chatham, Ont.
- 27 : Nora Holden, 3 Jay Place, Chatham, Ont.
- 28 : Grace Noad, 381 Wellington St. Ingersoll, Ont.
- 29 : Pat Adams, 10 Pine St., Ingersoll, Ont.
- 30 : Cathy Thompson, 27 Silcox Place , Woodstock, Ont.
- 31 : Ethel Joyes, 52 East Park Drive, Woodstock, Ont.
- 32 : Gerald Lawrence , 770 Houghson St., Woodstock, Ont.
- 33 : Kathleen M. Richards, 312 Parkdale Ave. S. Hamilton, Ont.
- 34 : Dr. Howard Cook, 1850 Hwy. 67, Dousman , Wisconsin, U.S.A., 53118
- 35 : Jean Hogarth, 51½ Victoria St. S., Woodstock, Ont.
- 36 : Lynne Atkinson, 253 MacDonald Drive, Woodstock, Ont.
- 37 : Vanessa Harkness, 163 Dundas St., Woodstock , Ont ,

OXFORD GENEALOGY SOCIETY

Application for membership

Name

Address..... Postal Code.....

Phone No.....

OXFORD COUNTY BRANCH
ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Executive

CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Bessie Diebel,
99 Park Row,
Woodstock, Ont.,
N4S 1V9
539-2130

SECRETARY - TREASURER

Mr. Darryl Bonk,
34 Brock St.,
Woodstock, Ont.,
N4S 3B5.
539-3458

PUBLICITY

Mrs. Pat Adams,
10 Pine St.,
Ingersoll, Ont.
N5C 1A1
485-4048

NEWSLETTER

Vanessa Harkness,
163 Dundas St.,
Woodstock, Ont.
N4S 1A4
539-4481

Membership to O.G.S. is \$12.00 per year and to the Oxford County Branch \$3.00 per year, individual, and \$4.00 per family. In addition to the many Branch benefits, your O.G.S. membership entitles you to voting privileges within the Branch and permits you to hold Branch executive positions. The O.G. S. is attempting to co-ordinate and direct genealogical activity in the province of Ontario. Your \$12.00 membership provides the working funds for this activity.

Oxford County Branch meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. at Central Senior Public School, Hunter St., Woodstock, the doors being open on the Graham St. entrance. Our mailing address is:

Oxford County Branch O.G.S.
P.O. Box 1092,
Woodstock, Ont.