



ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 51, Georgetown, Ontario, Canada L7G 4T1

www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.com

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SHARING LOCAL ANECDOTES



1917 Airplane Tragedy Recalled

The crowd gathers around the aircraft in Moore's field.
EHS00660

In 1917 airplanes were still considered something of an oddity. Very few people had seen one close up, let alone flying, so when a plane landed on the James Moore farm in Georgetown it did not take long for a crowd to gather. No one wanted to pass up an opportunity for a closer look at one of those flying machines.

It is at this point that all sorts of rumours start about the tragedy. These are the events that are agreed upon. At around 4 o'clock on the afternoon of November 13, 1917, Cadet Skidmore was flying by when he noticed he was running low on fuel. He alighted in the field east of the bush on the James Moore farm. (Now the present Moore Park subdivision.) While he was getting the gasoline a crowd gathered around the plane.

After the plane was refueled the crowd moved back and Cadet Skidmore attempted to take off. For some reason the plane was turned around and ran into the crowd. Several persons received minor injuries and Mrs. Isabelle Cleave was killed instantly. The plane ended up along the stump fence.



Cadet Skidmore in his flying machine at Georgetown. EHS00661

Miss Isabelle Moore in later years claimed that as the plane crossed the field one of its wheels caught in a furrow. This swung the aircraft around so that it was rushing down a slope towards the stump fence. Mrs Cleave, unfortunately, had been watching events from this angle and could not escape.

The site of the tragedy has long since disappeared. The James Moore farm was sold in the mid-1960s for the development of the Moore Park subdivision. Houses now

cover what once were plowed fields.

-This edited tale was written by Anne Lindsay in 1986.

Halton's Winds and Twisters

By Gwen Clarke, 1955

The next twister to strike Halton occurred in 1890... This twister struck a section of Esquesing -Concessions 1,2 and 3 -and was described as a Terrific cyclone in the *Canadian Champion* dated 12 June 1890. The *Champion* says in part: - "It descended with a loud roaring sound from the Mountain near the Terra Cotta Brickworks (Milton Heights). It struck first the orchard of Wm. Hill and gained force as it reached Wm. Center's barn (now Dan McGibbon's) which it uprooted and badly damaged. Then on to Malcolm Chisholm's, where it carried away a roof, blew down chimneys and did considerable damage."

Limehouse – Halton's Hidden Valley

By Gwen Clarke, 1955

Limehouse is the Hidden Valley of Halton County, situated on the 5th Line, Esquesing and the Dublin Sideroad. It nestles among stately trees and high banks of limestone rock, a short distance from No. 7 Highway between Acton and Georgetown. Because of a deviation in the road at two points -one south and one north-west of the village – strangers find their way in but have a lot of trouble in finding their way out.

As an Amusing illustration of this the late William Gowdy used to tell the following story. About 12 o'clock one night there came a loud thumping at the side door of the Gowdy residence. Mr. Gowdy threw up the bedroom window, asked who was there and their business. A strange voice replied –"I want to know how to get out of this ---- ---- place! I've been driving around now for over half an

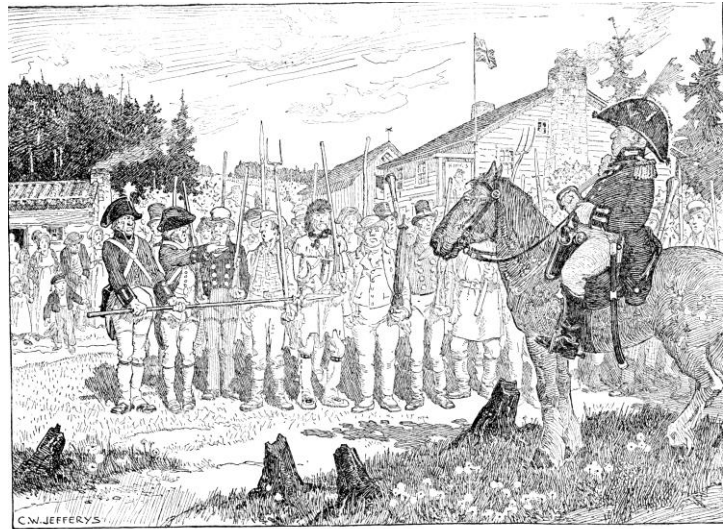
hour.” Mr. Gowdy directed the gentleman and went back to bed. An hour later he was aroused again – by the same man and asked the same question, but with a few more adjectives thrown in. There was only one thing for it: Mr. Gowdy got dressed and escorted the stranger through the village and put him on the right road to Acton.

Militia Training Day in Stewarttown

By Major Lachlan Grant, 1924

The annual 4th of June “training Day” for that district was held there, for every male person between the age of 18 and 45 had to appear and “fall in line with arms.” I have seen some with old flint-lock muskets, some rifles, shot guns, wood boards in the shape of guns, even brooms, staves and walking sticks. They answered to their names and were then given the order to right turn, march, halt at the tavern, dismissed and invited in (it cost 25c a gallon).

It was on one of those days that the following is reported to have taken place. Capt. John Standish (a very large man) had his men in line; next company was in command of Capt. John Murray (not so wide) when Serg’t. George W. Black of Capt. Standish’s company said that he would not change companies for the chance of promotion was so much better in Standish’s company for a bullet could hardly pass his Captain. Some one offered to treat George twice for that but he would not touch taste or handle.



MILITIA TRAINING ON THE KING'S BIRTHDAY

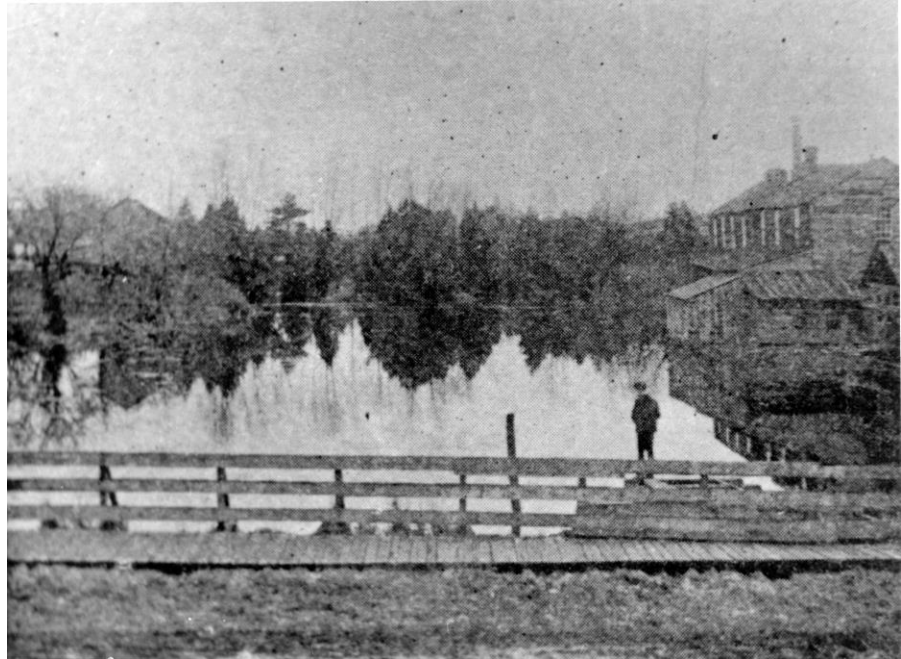
Lots of Ponds

By C.W. Young, 1920

All the boys learned to swim, the big fellows threw them into the pond and made them struggle out. When they could swim across the gates (this was in the Barber pond near the old woollen mill) their aquatic education was accomplished. There were no less than four ponds within the Corporation limits, one at the Dayfoot Tannery, which was on both sides of the Grand Trunk track, passing through a culvert, the Barber pond below and two close together feeding the Travis Mill. The old bridge, as it was called, on the main highway to Toronto, was of logs

and had rotten away when I first remember it and was replaced by a new frame structure which was considered a long stride forward.

Before any time, these ponds were all full of trout, but when I knew them a trout was a rarity, chubs and suckers finding conditions that suited them better than they did the speckled beauties.

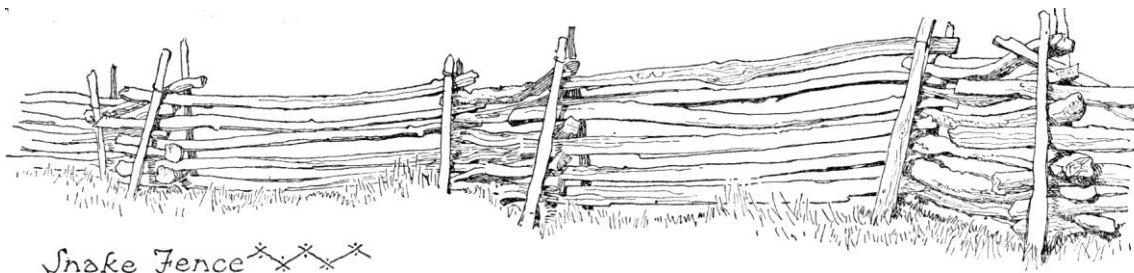


A boy peers into Lawson's Pond, hoping to glimpse a beauty of a trout! The Main Street boardwalk runs in front of the fence with Lawson's Planning mill on the right, about 1895. Golden Fish and Chips appropriately sits on this site, as well as other buildings. EHS00633

RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

James Brown and his father-in-law Asa Hall had taken over Sidney Smith's 1865 shingle mill on Main Street, Acton in 1873. A remarkable incident took place there on Saturday 30 September 1876. While a pine log was being sawn into lumber, workmen turned it after the outside slab and one board had been cut off. They were astounded to see a large toad stick its head out of a hole in which he was imbedded. They calculated that the cavity was about 50 or 60 feet from the ground on the standing tree and it was completely encased by wood. The toad was quite flat, as large as a man's hand and totally blind. This mystery is even today part of Ripley's "Believe it or Not" tales.

-excerpt from *Acton: The History of Leathertown*, John Mark Rowe: EHS 2002





ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

2018

Wed. 9 LOCAL ANECDOTES

May 2018 It's the stories connected to a person, place or event that makes history so fascinating. Join the EHS executive as they share a few good old-time stories with slides and contribute to the fun yourself. Come to listen or come to share!
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 116 Main St., S., Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.

Wed. 13 WALKING TOUR OF DOWNTOWN GEORGETOWN

June 2018 Join local historian Mark Rowe as he leads a walking tour of downtown Georgetown. Lemonade will be served after the walk. Note the early start time.
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 116 Main St., S., Georgetown, 7:00 p.m.

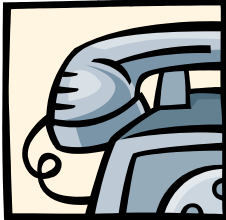
Sunday 1st WALKING TOUR OF GLEN WILLIAMS

July 2018 Start your Canada Day with local historian Mark Rowe, as he leads a walking tour of Glen Williams Main Street before the parade starts.
WILLIAMS MILL, 515 Main Street, Glen Williams, 10 a.m.

Wed. 12 TBA
Sept. 2018

INVITE YOUR NEIGHBOUR TO BECOME A MEMBER!

Refreshments served from 7:00 p.m.



Stephen Blake	905 877-8251	President
Karen Hunter	905 877-7363	Treasurer
Dawn Livingstone	905 877-6506	Secretary
J. Mark Rowe	905 877-9510	Archivist
Jan Raymond	905 877-9172	Social
David Borrett	905 702-0737	Membership
Ray Denny	905 877-3890	Publications

The EHS is still very happy to accept personal cheques from our members. Please note that all cheques must be made payable to "Esquesing Historical Society", fully spelled out.

Society Notes

INTERNET CONNECTIONS

<http://esquesinghistoricalsociety.com/> Note the new website address. Send your e-mail to esquesinghs@gmail.com

EHS NEWSLETTER

John Mark Rowe prepared this newsletter. Submissions welcome. Please consider an electronic newsletter sent to your e-mail address. Not only will you save the Society postage, you get to see the colour pictures!

MEMBERSHIP

Please renew your membership now! We had 81 members for 2017. Our membership year runs from February. We currently have 65 members signed up for 2018. Please encourage others to support the EHS by purchasing a membership. The individual membership rate is \$20. The family or institution rate is \$25. Cheques payable to the Society can be mailed to our post box or payable by cash or cheque to our membership secretary, David Borrett at a public meeting.

ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO

www.archives.gov.on.ca

ESQUESING LAND RECORDS!

Teranet, in partnership with ServiceOntario, has built this web portal to deliver key statutory services relating to land and property ownership in Ontario to land registry professionals and the public called OnLand.

The first phase of the web portal offers customers the opportunity to test out the historical land registration book search and view option only. Customers will still be required to visit a land registry office to print any records.

Full search capabilities are available on OnLand in late 2018.

When fully implemented, OnLand will allow users to search historical and current property records, anywhere in the province, from the convenience of your home or

office, instead of visiting a land registry office.

This link will take you directly to Halton records:

<https://www.onland.ca/ui/20/books/search>

EHS ARCHIVES

The EHS has received funding for a summer student. This year we will be working with the Halton Hills Sports Museum to begin integrating their Archives with our own.

Members have been busy accepting donations and processing them to add to our collection. One recent donation includes negatives of professional photographer Gilbert Milne of Smith and Stone in 1952 and 1953. They were transferred from the City of Toronto Archives.

We also received a minute book for the Stewarttown Orange Lodge and through the Library, an 1856 map of Esquesing Township School Sections, defining the Section boundaries.

The 2017 Archival report is posted on our website.

HALTON-PEEL OGS

May 27 –*Genealogy Road Show* -Burlington Public Library, Central Br., 2331 New St., Burlington at 2 p.m.

DEVEREAUX HOUSE

For a tour or to rent a space in this heritage gem on Trafalgar Road, call Ann Lawlor at 905-877-1861 or email her at

ann@devereauxhouse.ca

HALTON HILLS SPORTS MUSEUM

Five new inductees will be added to the Sports Hall of Fame on 21st June. They are Trent Cull (athlete, hockey), Denis Gibbons (builder, hockey), 1987-88 Georgetown juvenile AAA Junior Gemini (team), Shawn Hill (athlete, baseball) and Harry Lawson (athlete, baseball). Guest speaker will be Canadian thoroughbred racing jockey legend Sandy Hawley. Tickets are available at \$30 each from Glenda Nixdorf at

info.hhsm@bell.net . Also see:

<http://haltonhillssportsmuseum.blogspot.ca/>
STREETSVILLE HIST. SOCIETY

The Society Library and Archives are open Wednesdays and Sundays 1-4 p.m. at the Leslie Log Cabin at 4415 Mississauga Road.
BRAMPTON HIST. SOCIETY

Heart Lake Presbyterian Church at 7:15.
May 17 – Jean Robinson, *Peel One-Room Schoolhouses*.

June 21 -Jim Leonard, *Cecil Chinn Films*.
MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month in the Carriage Room of the Waldie Blacksmith Shop at 16 James Street at 7:30 p.m.

May 17 -John McDonald, *The amazing Fleming Family of Milton 1840-1870*.

OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Meetings are at St. John's United Church, Randall Street, at 7:30 p.m.

BURLINGTON HIST. SOCIETY
May 14 -Ron Danielsen, *History of Railroads in Burlington* at 7 p.m. at Burlington Library.

NASAGIWEYA HIST. SOCIETY
info@nasagiweyahistoricalociety.com

Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, beginning in March.
May 8 -Mr. Parks, *Korean War Experiences* at Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church, 3097 - 15 Sideroad.

TRAFALGAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY
All events at former Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West, Oakville.

TERRA COTTA HALL

Terra Cotta Community Hall rentals:
Contact Kathy Atkinson at
terracottaeventbooking@gmail.com

5th GEORGETOWN BROWNIES CELEBRATE 60 YEARS

The 5th Georgetown Brownie Pack was formed on 2 December 1957 and so they are in their 60th year of operation. The original group met at Knox Presbyterian Church, although now they meet at George Kennedy School. 1st Georgetown Guides started in

1925, followed by 1st Georgetown Brownies in 1929.

MAPLE LEAF DAIRY

A recent donation of a price card notice card is printed below for your enjoyment! Enjoy the prices!



New Price List
PLEASE HANG UP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

	QUARTS	PINTS	HALF PINTS
Milk	23	13	7
Chocolate Milk	24	14	8
Skim	17		
Buttermilk	18	10	
Table Cream	80	50	28
Whipping Cream	120	65	38

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1st . . .

MILK & CREAM PRICES
WILL BE ADVANCED TO THE FOLLOWING:

MILK QT. 23c — PT. 13c — 1/2 PT. 7c	BUTTERMILK QT. 18c — PT. 10c
SKIM MILK QT. 17c	TABLE CREAM QT. 80c — PT. 50c — 1/2 PT. 28c
CHOCOLATE MILK QT. 24c — PT. 14c — 1/2 PT. 8c	WHIPPING CREAM QT. \$1.20 — PT. 65c — 1/2 PT. 38c

GEORGETOWN DAIRY Ltd.
118 Guelph Street Triangle 7-2881

It seems Georgetown Dairy was also feeling the need to raise prices. This advert is from the 2 October 1957 *Herald*.

DOWNTOWN GEORGETOWN

Focus on The Moore Block and The O'Neill Block

by J. Mark Rowe

I will lead a walking tour on downtown Georgetown on 13 June which will include a look at the Moore Block and the O'Neill block. While these buildings are in the heart of old Georgetown, a glance at their history reveals why these buildings are not as old as you might expect.



The Moore Block, 70-72 Main Street on 10 June 1987. EHS10477

70-72 Main Street S. –MOORE BLOCK -1888

This fine hardware store was built in 1888 by W.P. Moore. Moore Brothers had been in business since 1876 in Georgetown. They sold to Thompson's Hardware. Elmer Thompson switched to selling insurance here in 1925 and sold the business to Colonel John R. Barber in 1950. Murray Henley joined the travel and Insurance business in 1960, which operated here until 1989.

POT POURRI

Elmer Thompson and John R. Barber who are associated in the Elmer C. Thompson Insurance Service have become local agents for University Tours which can provide a complete all-expense tour to almost any place you could choose for a vacation. The town is fortunate in having someone like Mr. Barber available for travel consultation, for he has travelled extensively and can be very helpful in trip planning... (*Herald*, 1 March 1950)



The O'Neill Block, 56-64 Main Street in 1995.

EHS10940

56-64 Main Street - O'NEILL BLOCK 1923

This was the site of a carriage maker since the 1870s with a harness maker next door. The original building was destroyed in terrible fire in June 1922. Mr. O'Neill lost 25 automobiles that day and Mr. Anthony next door lost a horse in his stable. J.N. O'Neill immediately rebuilt this building you see today.

FINE BLOCK BURNED

J.N. O'Neill & Sons Premises Completely Wiped out – W.A. Bailey's Block Badly Damaged.

One of the worst fires in the history of Georgetown occurred on Saturday morning last, when J.N. O'Neill & Son's fine three storey brick block, consisting of garage, carriage factory and blacksmith shop was totally destroyed; W.A. Bailey's block, consisting of harness store and workshop; H.C. Bailey's electrical supplies and the Oddfellow's, Rebekah's and Orangemen's Lodge rooms, were badly gutted and contents destroyed; W. C. Anthony's large stable and store house was destroyed and the plumbing and tinsmithing workshop of R.H. Thompson & Co., hardware, in the rear of the Anthony block, badly damaged; A.J. Blackburn, gent's furnishings and tailoring damaged by smoke and water.

The smoke was first noticed about a quarter to three by Miss Coleman, telephone operator, who was working at the switch board in the office across the street. The reflection through the windows of the O'Neill block attracted her attention and she immediately called up Mr. O'Neill and gave the alarm. The

firemen responded promptly, but the large building was a mass of flames in a few minutes. A stupendous task faced the boys, but they went to it, and under direction of Chief A. Tost and Deputy Chief Angus Duncan succeeded in getting the flames under control in about two hours.



At first sight it looked as if the whole business portion of the town was doomed and a call was sent out to Brampton, Acton and Milton for assistance. All three towns responded promptly with men and hose. Brampton firemen were the first to arrive with their big fire truck, having made the twelve miles in 35 minutes....
(*Herald*, 14 June 1922)



Firemen from Acton, Brampton and Milton were called to a disastrous fire in Georgetown on Saturday that threatened to wipe out a complete block

of Georgetown's Main Street.

(*Acton Free Press*, 15 June, 1922)

Results of the O'Neill Block fire on Saturday 10 June 1922.

EHS10408

EHS10409

EHS10410

