

ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

Vol. 49 No. 1

March - April 2024

www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.com

CONFUSING LOCAL NAMES



A local graveyard in 1962. The old-timers know where it is although it is not marked today in any way. Do you know?
EHS04722

Recognizing that some of the colloquial reference names must be more than a little confusing for the town's newer residents, *The Georgetown Herald* compiled a partial list of them in a 1966 issue. Using this article as a jumping off point, a meeting topic was developed. Even old-timers often only know neighbourhood nomenclature, so there may be new names for everyone from different parts of the township.

The March Historical Society meeting will include a chance for attendees to supply some local names that were not mentioned.

The photograph on the left was taken in a currently unmarked graveyard at a location named for the doctor's farm on which it was established. See pg 6.

Local names were usually obvious names applied by neighbours to a place. It could refer to building material, a colour or an adjacent resident. We have names that were officially applied and have been forgotten or no longer exist. We even have a place known to locals only but now officially named – Henderson's Corners. Do you know where that is?

The three pictures below can have five words associated with them. Can you determine which words go where? Stone _____; Stone _____; Mt. Pleasant _____; Mt. Pleasant _____; Henderson's Corners.



WILLIAM NICKELL SETTLED ON CROWN LAND ON THE 4TH LINE ESQUESING IN 1819, HIGH ON A HILL OVERLOOKING THE VALLEY SO HIS FARM SOON BECAME KNOWN AS "THE BEACON LIGHT." - P34 HALTON PAGES OF THE PAST, GWEN CLARKE



. EHS11347



.HHH Photo



. EHS04726



MR. FRED W. BARBER

THIS GENTLEMAN IS THE SECOND SON OF THE LATE MR. JOSEPH BARBER, AND WAS BORN IN GEORGETOWN IN 1859. HE WAS EDUCATED AT THE **ACADEMY** IN HIS NATIVE VILLAGE, AND UPON THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER SUCCEEDED TO HIS ESTATE... TORONTO DAILY MAIL 1893

BARBER DYNAMO

Built in 1888, the Dynamo generated electricity from a head of water created by a dam across the River Credit at that spot. Two wires carried the power up to the Barber Paper Mills on River Road. It served the industrial needs of John R. Barber until 1913, when the Mills were served by Ontario Hydro.



. 1858 Tremaine Map

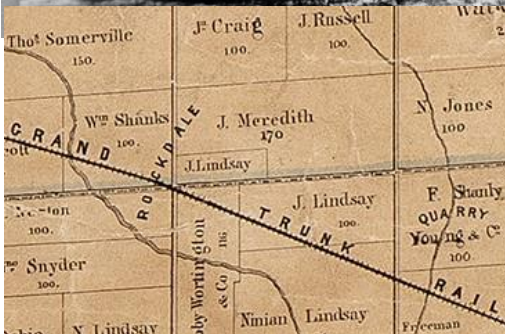
Identify pictures of the iron bridge, the Georgetown Academy, Henderson's Pond and the Barber dynamo on this page!



. EHS00150



. EHS25821





ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

2024

- Wed. 13 March **CONFUSING LOCAL NAMES**
Have you been to Gamble's Corners, McCullough's Corner or Dublin? Which Stone School do you remember? Local names, past and present, will be explored by the EHS.
Knox Presbyterian Church, 116 Main St. S., Georgetown, ON 7:00
- Wed. 10 April **POSTAL HISTORY OF ESQUESING**
Nathan Hillier will draw on his postal collection and the EHS Archives to share the postal history of Esquesing township.
Knox Presbyterian Church, 116 Main St. S., Georgetown, ON 7:00
- Wed. 08 May **OUR HOUSE AND ALL THE PEOPLE WHO CALLED IT HOME**
Pam Dickinson has compiled a detailed history of her house from the Kennedy family to the Dickinsons. She will share anecdotes from her book about the research and sleuthing involved and about the families themselves!
Knox Presbyterian Church, 116 Main St. S., Georgetown, ON 7:00
- Wed. 12 June T.B.A.
Mon. 1st July **GLEN WILLIAMS WALKING TOUR**
Kick off Canada Day with a morning stroll through the village of Glen Williams with local historian John Mark Rowe. The tour will conclude with plenty of time to secure a good spot to watch the noon parade through the village.
Williams Mill parking lot, 515 Main Street, Glen Williams, 10 a.m.
- Wed. 11 Sept. **BEAUMONT KNITTING MILLS**
Samuel Penrice started working at the Beaumont Knitting Mills and later purchased it. His son Doug Penrice, the last owner of the Knitting operation, will share his family story connected to this iconic business.
Knox Presbyterian Church, 116 Main St. S., Georgetown, ON 7:00

INVITE YOUR NEIGHBOUR TO BECOME A MEMBER!

- All Meetings are FREE to attend -

MEETING UPDATES: Visit <http://esquesinghistoricalsociety.com>

INQUIRIES: esquesinghs@gmail.com

Society Notes

EHS EXECUTIVE

Stephen Blake	President
Steve McNamara	Treasurer
Karen Hunter	Secretary
J. Mark Rowe	Archivist
David Borrett	Membership
Ray Denny	Publications
Charles Veale	Social Media

Send all inquiries to: esquesinghs@gmail.com

EHS website:

<http://esquesinghistoricalsociety.com>

EHS NEWSLETTER

John Mark Rowe prepared this newsletter.

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

We currently have 30 paid 2024 members.

Our membership year runs from February. The individual membership rate is \$20. The family or institution rate is \$25. Payment can be made via Interac transfer to

EHS.etransfer@gmail.com

The EHS will accept personal cheques from our members. Please note that all cheques must be made payable to “Esquesing Historical Society”, fully spelled out. Cheques can be mailed to our post box, dropped off at the home of any executive member or at one of our meetings. Exact change can be accepted at meetings.

CANADIANA ON-LINE

<http://online.canadiana.ca/search>

ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO

www.archives.gov.on.ca

EHS ARCHIVES

Scott Brooks has now deposited an entire year of the *Acton Monthly* with the Archives and they will all be posted to Halton Hills Newspapers.

Attendees at our sold-out January meeting got a chance to see the Local History kits for library patrons. Kaitlin Sonneveld has used our Archive resources to update the kits now available with your library card.

A detailed listing of our archives is available at

<https://www.archeion.ca/esquesing-historical-society>

EHS HISTORY PRIZE

The executive recently confirmed the continuation of the EHS History prize of \$200 to graduating students at our three High Schools.

AGM REPORTS

The Financial statements and Archival reports presented at the February AGM are available to view on our website.

EHS ON-LINE!

Besides our long-standing website, at <http://esquesinghistoricalsociety.com> managed by Ray Denny your Society is now on Facebook. Search for the Society and follow us. Our finances are also automated with money transfers now available at EHS.etransfer@gmail.com. Members can send their renewals (due in February) electronically!

LOCAL DIGITAL RESOURCES

Our Digital World, host of Halton Hills newspapers, Halton Images and Halton News hosts newspapers from across Ontario. You can start searching at:

<https://ourdigitalworld.net/>

HERITAGE HALTON HILLS

The required notice period has passed and the following properties are now designated:

14 Tweedle Street, Glen Williams; 12 & 16 Adamson Street South, Norval – St. Paul’s Anglican Church and Parish Hall; 129 Main Street South, Georgetown and 55 Mill Street East, Acton – *Sunderland Villa*.

HALTON HERITAGE SERVICES

To book a research time with Heritage Services at Kelso, please get in touch at

<https://www.halton.ca/The-Region>

HALTON-PEEL OGS

<https://haltonpeel.ogs.on.ca/>

March 24 – Janice Nickerson, A 19th Century Ontario Enigma: A case study into the research of the Family of Lorenzo White in Pickering. 2 p.m. On-line meeting
April 28 – Jane MacNamara, Inheritance

Interrupted: About the estate files of WWI soldiers. 2 p.m. On-line meeting
HALTON HILLS SPORTS MUSEUM
Nominations for the Sports Hall of Fame are now closed. Museum will be open on March 23, March 30, April 6 and April 13 at 11:30 to 4. Visit upstairs of Alcott Arena. Free admittance.

<http://haltonhillssportsmuseum.blogspot.ca/>

L.M. MONTGOMERY MUSEUM
The L.M. Montgomery Museum website is <https://lmmontgomerynorval.com/>

STREETSVILLE HIST. SOCIETY
The Leslie Log Cabin at 4415 Mississauga Road is open on Wednesdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m.

BRAMPTON HIST. SOCIETY
21 March -AGM
18 April – Lynne Golding, *The Life and Times of Influential Peel Countians*

Meetings are at Heart Lake Presbyterian Church at 7 p.m. \$5 fee for non-members.

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
21 March – Ireland House Museum
18 April – Alan Norton, *50 Years of Enjoyment*
Waldie Blacksmith Shop at 16 James Street, Milton.

OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
<https://www.oakvillehistory.org/speakers-nights.html>
Apr. 22 -*Mark Rector: OH CANADA! Our Home and Inventive Land!* at 7:30, St. John's United Church.

NASAGIWEYA HIST. SOCIETY
info@nasagiweyahistoricalsociety.com
TRAFALGAR HIST. SOCIETY
15 March Open Archives at Palermo School
2 April – Dave Bartlett, *So You Think You Knew Eaton's Canada*

19 April – Open Archives at Palermo
<http://tths.ca/>

HALTON BLACK HISTORY
Halton Black History Awareness Society is looking for vendors for their emancipation weekend festival at Spencer Smith Park, Burlington. The August long weekend includes a Burlington flag raising, gala evening and an art exhibition at our Helson Gallery on August 4th. <http://www.hbhas.ca/>

LOCAL HISTORY KITS

The kits include resource guides based on school curriculums and common areas of interest, and instructions on searching our online local history resources. They can be signed from the library for six-week periods.

NORVAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Another post-Covid victim to declining Church attendance was Norval

Presbyterian which held its final service on 25 February 2024.

ARCHIVES AWARENESS WEEK
April 2-5 is Archives Awareness Week. Have you ever used the EHS Archives, located in the Georgetown branch of Halton Hills Library? You've probably seen some of our photo collection but do you know we have house histories, family histories and records from schools, businesses and organizations. Have a look at our finding aid at

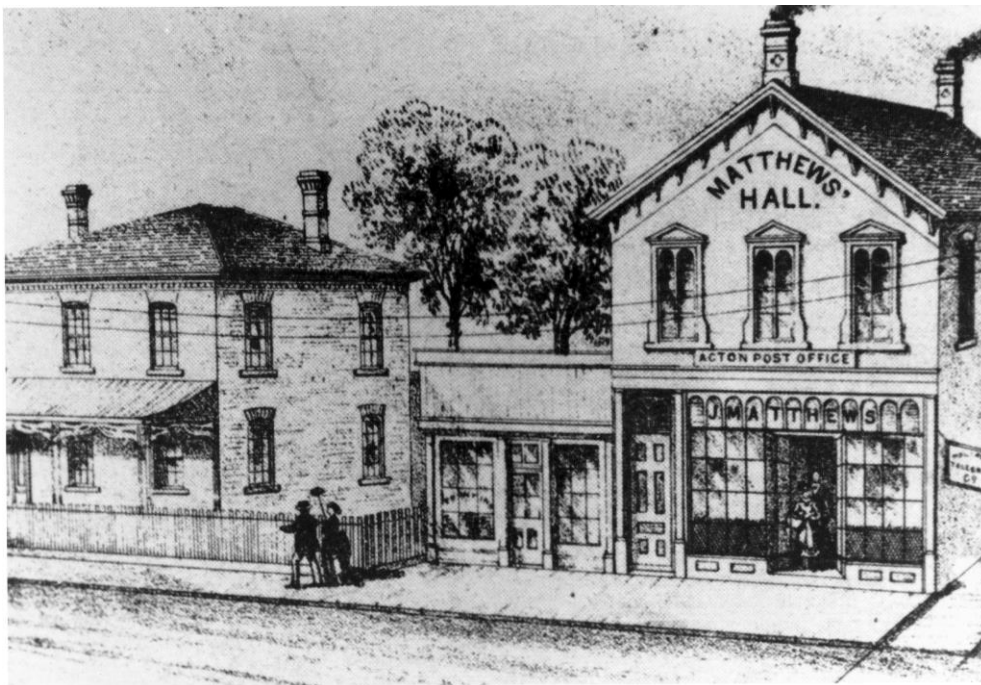
<https://www.archeion.ca/esquesing-historical-society>

SOLAR ECLIPSE APRIL 8th
Halton Hills will see a partial solar eclipse, with about 98.87 per cent of the sun being covered by the moon. The eclipse will begin at 2:11 p.m. and will reach its peak at 3:35 p.m. The entire event will end by 4:35 p.m.

All this will be weather dependent, as cloud cover could impact viewing abilities. Schools have been closed because the eclipse occurs during school dismissal times.

CONFUSING LOCAL NAMES
EHS04722 -McCullough's Cemetery, McCullough's Corners; EHS11347 Acton Stone School (Continuation School); EHS04726 Stone School or Mt. Pleasant School at Henderson's Corners; HHH Photo -Mt. Pleasant Cemetery; Tremaine map -The Academy; EHS00150 The Iron Bridge; EHS25821 Henderson's Pond; 1856 map showing Rockdale on the GTR.

POSTAL HISTORY OF ESQUESING

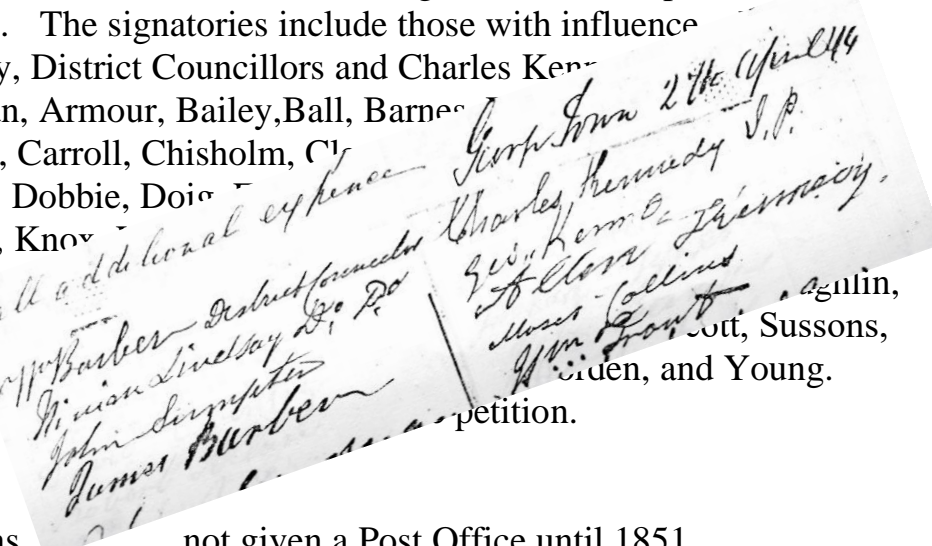


An 1877 sketch of Acton post office store with Matthews Hall upstairs. HALTON ATLAS

Petition from the inhabitants of the Township of Esquesing for a Post Office ... That your petitioners labour under great inconvenience from the want of a Post Office in this section of the country. When application was made some years ago for an Office in this quarter, the only objection to granting our request was the difficulty of finding a

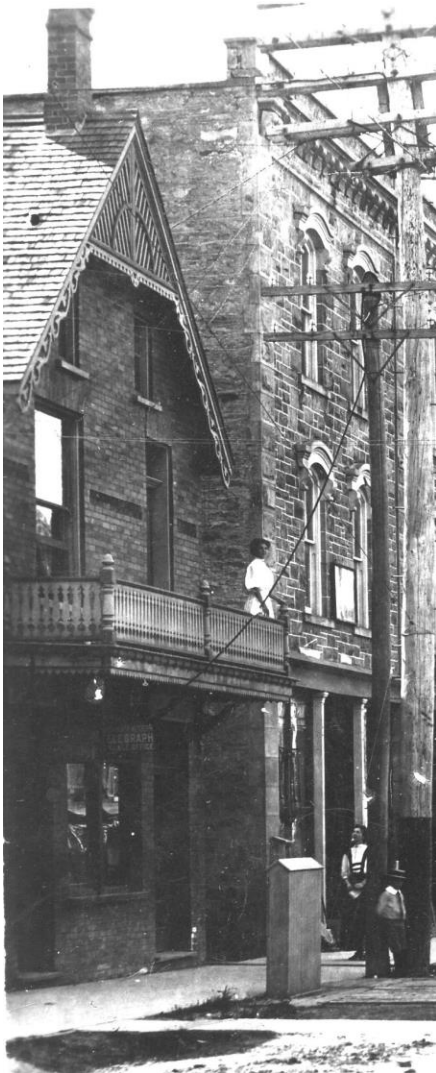
suitable person to take charge of the Office – We confidently hope that this difficulty is now obviated in the person of Robert Swan, Esq., of this village, (Acton) and that the reasons for granting the prayer of our petition are more urgent... Acton, Esquesing, Feby 13th 1844.

On 27 April 1844, the menfolk of Georgetown gathered to sign a petition requesting a local facility. The petition, addressed to Governor Sir Charles Metcalf, estimated the village population at 200 souls. Although there were signatories from Williamsburg (Glen Williams) and McNabbsville (Norval), the 98 signatures must represent almost every family in the village. The signatories include those with influence Barber and Ninian Lindsay, District Councillors and Charles Kennedy. Family names include Allan, Armour, Bailey, Ball, Barnes, Cameron, Campbell, Card, Carroll, Chisholm, Crawford, Cross, Darwell, Dobbie, Doiron, Jessop, Johnston, Kentner, Knowlton, Maw, McArthur, McClure, McNamara, Miller, Newell, Sykes, Travis, Trout, Taylor. Reform Assembly member Robert Swan was not given a Post Office until 1851.



Acton was granted a Post Office but Georgetown was

not given a Post Office until 1851.



Georgetown post office 1892-1935
EHS22857 -detail



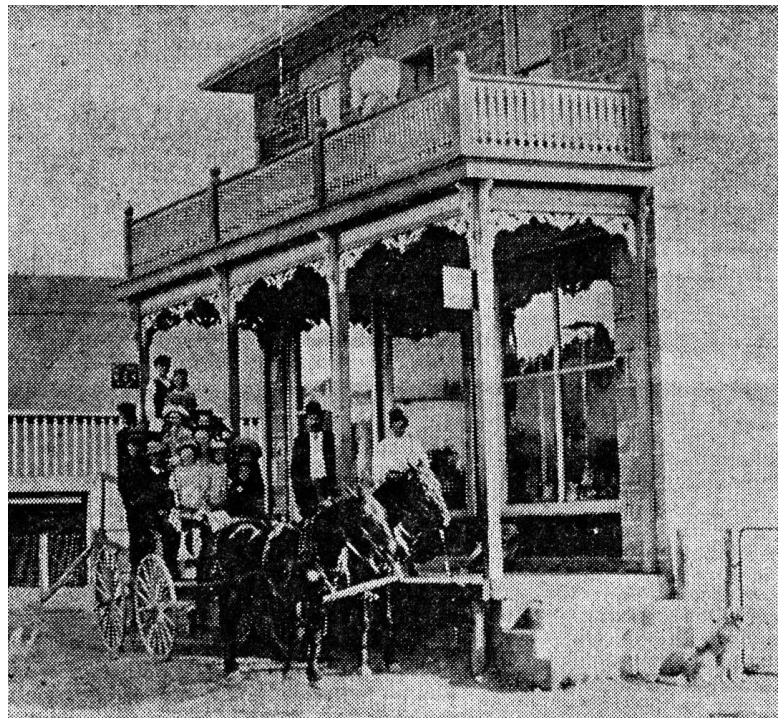
Postmaster at Norval Station for 35 years, Arthur Morris died in Peel Memorial Hospital, Brampton, on Sunday March 4th... Mr. Morris was born in England and settled at Norval Station when he came to Canada forty years ago. -*Herald*, 14 March 1951

Milton Champion 24 March 1904

Post Office Figures.

The following figures will be interesting as showing the amount of business done in this and neighboring counties :

	Revenue.	Salary.
Georgetown.....	\$3116	\$ 900
Acton.....	2221	700
Bronte.....	374	160
Glenwilliams.....	509	255
Milton.....	2048	770
Oakville.....	2761	780
Burlington.....	1638	500
Omagh.....	173	50
Palermo.....	262	96
Ashgrove.....	73	28
Ballinafad.....	259	50
Limehouse.....	111	50
Speyside.....	21	16
Scotch Block.....	32	22
Mansewood.....	77	30
Norval.....	427	180
Lisgar.....	54	20
Streetsville....	863	330





Post Masters 1857

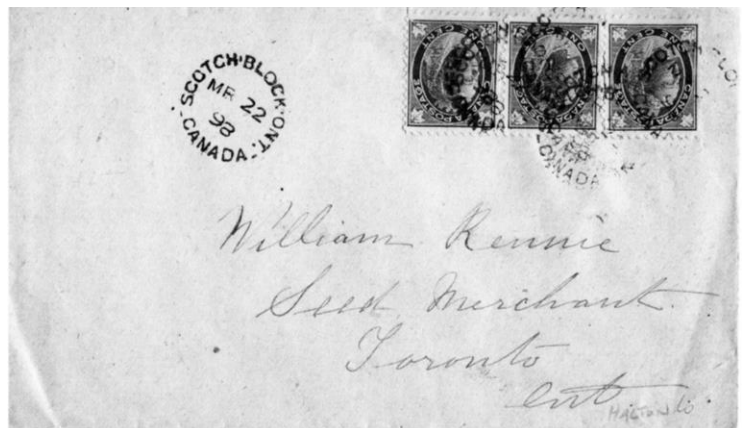
Acton	Lachlan McDonald
Ballinacfad	James Campbell
Esquesing	John Murray
Georgetown	John Sumpter
Glen Williams	Charles Williams
Ashgrove	John Hunter
Limehouse	John Newton
Norval	William Clay
Scotch Block	Thomas Hume
Silver Creek	E. Graham



The government has established a new Post Office on the premises of the Rev. Mr. Gillespie, Esquesing, which will be called Mansewood P.O. It is a flag stop on the H&NWR, hitherto known as Gillespie's. Until the mails are carried by rail, a tri-weekly stage will visit Mansewood. -*Canadian Champion*, 21 June 1877.

POST OFFICE ESTABLISHMENT

1832	Esquesing (Stewarttown)
1836	Norval
1841	Hornby
1842	Ballinacfad
1844	Acton
1851	Georgetown
1852	Ashgrove
1852	Glen Williams
1852	Scotch Block
1857	Limehouse
1873	Speyside
1877	Mansewood
1908	Norval Station
1911	Milton Heights



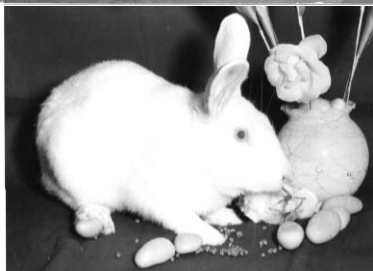
A Scotch Block 1898 cancellation
-p113 Halton's Scotch Block



A six-foot Easter bunny visited the class of Miss June Cunningham at Park Public School in April 1969. -Herald EHS03566



Georgetown goalies participating in the International Bantam Hockey Tournament over Easter week were Richard Braisby (L) and Brad Livingstone. -Herald 23 March 1961. EHS24498



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Local actors perform in "His Last Days," a play about Jesus Christ. It was performed at Holy Cross Catholic Church, 224 Maple Avenue for Easter 1987 -Independent EHS26995



The congregation leaves St. John's United Church on Guelph Street, in their Easter finery. -Herald 26 April 1962. EHS08662