

ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

Vol. 49 No. 2

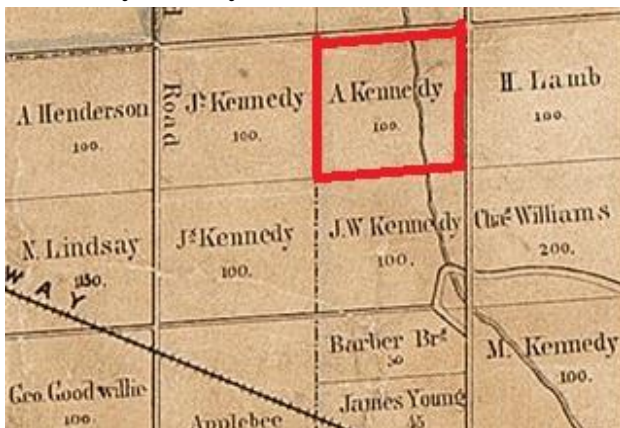
May - June 2024

www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.com

SAMUEL KENNEDY HOUSE



Once you have made your house into your home, you have time to think about what came before – especially an older home. Pam Dickinson of 22 Sideroad did just that and after years of work produced a book entitled, “Our House and All the People Who Have called it Home.” This frame house overlooking Silver Creek is connected to the pioneering Kennedy family. (EHS23975)



LEFT: Detail from 1856 map of Esquesing showing East half of Lot 22, Concession 8 in red, with Silver Creek running through the property. Adam Kennedy, son of Samuel is shown as the landholder. Wildwood Road is recognizable by its twisty layout. The Watchtower now owns Lot 21, Concession 8, shown here as owned by John and J.W. Kennedy.

WHO WAS SAMUEL KENNEDY?

Samuel Kennedy (1797-1879) was the older brother of George Kennedy (1799-1870), founder of Georgetown. Samuel served in the 4th Lincoln Militia Company during the War of 1812, as a private. His sergeant was his older brother Charles Kennedy (1792-1854) who became a Provincial Land surveyor and surveyed this part of Esquesing Township. For his service he received the 200 acres of Lot 21, Concession 8. As a private Samuel only received 100 acres – the east half of Lot 22.

He married Hannah Stull about 1820 and they had seven children, all born here in Esquesing Township.



LEFT: A treasure trove of archeological finds from the site of the Kennedy log cabin, near the current house -2017. EHS23981



RIGHT: This 1917 map shows the north east half of Lot 22 owned by A. Stull. It has been split into two 50 acre parcels, with the south-east half owned by W. Cunningham. EHS Archives MG12 A2 #5.02





ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

2024

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

BOSTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Charles Veale will share the very interesting history of Boston Presbyterian Church in this 1868 building. Be sure to allow time to wander the old-world tombstones of the earliest settlers in Esquesing.

Boston Presbyterian Church, 9185 Third Line, Esquesing, 7:00

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. 10 July

GLEN WILLIAMS CEMETERY TOUR

Halton Hills Public Library is sponsoring a walking tour of the Glen cemetery, led by John Mark Rowe. Be aware of the uneven ground as you walk towards the lookout!

Glen Williams Cemetery, 23 Prince St., Glen Williams, ON, 7:00

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>

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 57 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

All Halton Hills newspapers and the photo collection was off-line from 26th February, as a precaution when the City of Hamilton suffered a cyberattack. Service is once again live at

<https://ourdigitalworld.net/>

A 1947 detailed map of the Georgetown Train yard has been donated to the Archives, as well as a large c. 1950s map of Ontario showing all the counties.

Silver-Wood Women’s Institute have donated

their 16 volumes of Tweedsmuir Histories and they have all been digitized!

Eventually the Library will make them accessible through *Halton Images*, where other Tweedsmuir Histories can be searched.

A detailed listing of our archives is available at

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

EHS HISTORY PRIZE

The EHS History prize of \$200 will be awarded to graduating students at our three High Schools this spring. Winners will be announced in the September newsletter.

EHS SOCIAL MEDIA!

Besides our long-standing website, at <http://esquesinghistoricalsociety.com>

managed by Ray Denny, EHS has a presence on Facebook, managed by Charles Veale. Search for the Society and follow us.

HERITAGE HALTON HILLS

A summer student – Austin Foster, will begin work with Heritage Halton Hills on May 6th. Part of his responsibilities will be to help with the digitization of the EHS Archives.

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/>

HALTON HILLS SPORTS MUSEUM

The 2024 Hall of Fame presentation evening is set for June 6th. They are honouring Dave Mills, softball umpire; Ilio Marzo (deceased) hockey; Ken Hodge, motorcycle racing; Kevin Burke (deceased) baseball.

<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.

25 May -Streetsville Horticultural Society
plant sale 8:30-2:30 at Leslie Cabin.

8 June -Tour of Dufferin Museum at 11 a.m.

BRAMPTON HIST. SOCIETY

16 May -Gregory Klages, *The Many Deaths of Tom Thomson*

20 June -John Fera, *Antique Firearms*

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

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

16 May -Geoff Acheson, *Historical Lighting*, 7:30 p.m.

Waldie Blacksmith Shop at 16 James Street, Milton.

OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

<https://www.oakvillehistory.org/speakers-nights.html>

27 May -Marie Descent, *Cameos! Did you Know?* 7:30 in The Coach House.

17 June -Mark Rector, *Our Home and Inventive Land*, 7:30 in the Coach House.

NASAGIWEYA HIST. SOCIETY

info@nasagiweyahistoricalsociety.com

12 June -Charles Veale, *Boston Presbyterian Church*, 7:00

TRAFALGAR HIST. SOCIETY

17 May & 21 June -Open Archives at Palermo Schoolhouse

<http://tths.ca/>

WINES AND SPINES

Wines & Spines is back and will be held on the evening of Wednesday, June 19 at the John Elliott Theatre. The evening will feature our favourite publishing representatives with their lists of forthcoming must-reads, plus other fun features and giveaways. Tickets go on sale May 1st.

GLEN WILLIAMS' 200th

The Glen Williams Citizens Association has struck a committee to plan the 200th anniversary of the village of Glen Williams. Benajah Williams and family had their saw mill up and running in 1825.

GOLF CLUB ORGANIZED

At a well attended meeting of golf enthusiasts, both ladies and gentlemen, held in the

auditorium of the Public Library last Thursday evening, the Halton Golf and Country Club was organized and the following officers elected for the season of 1924: -

President – J.A. Willoughby

Vice Pres. – Mrs. Willoughby

Captain – J.B. Wallace

Sec.-Treas. – J.L. Thompson

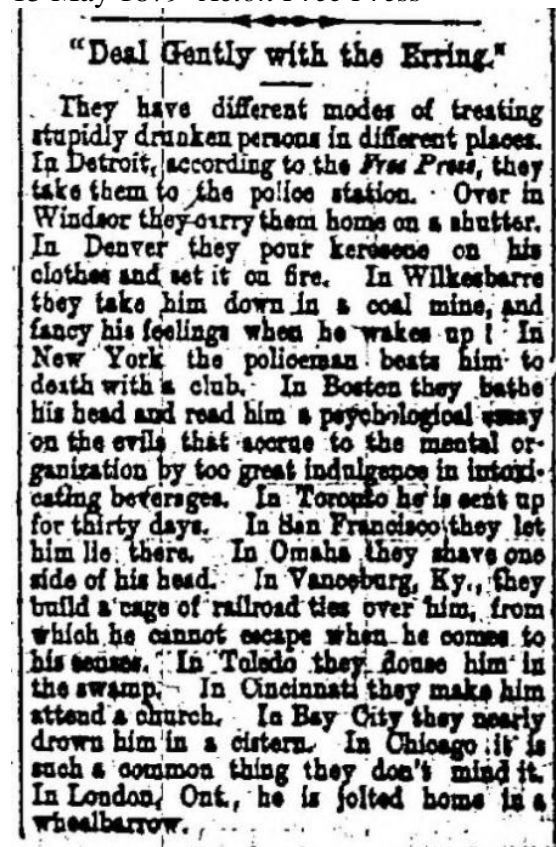
The links were opened for the season on Saturday... -*Herald*, 28 May 1924

TURNIP GROWERS ORGANIZE

The Ontario Turnip Growers Cooperative are holding meetings in the five turnip growing centres this week. The fifth of the series will be held in the Farmers Club Rooms over Kentner's garage on Friday evening. -*Acton Free Press*, 29 May 1924

DON'T DRINK TOO MUCH!!!

15 May 1879 -*Acton Free Press*

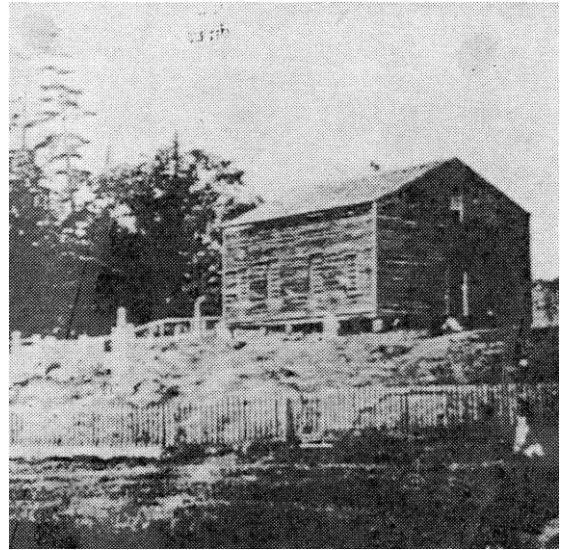


BOSTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Scots Presbyterian Churches – Among our Scottish acquaintance in Esquesing, Nelson and Flamboro' East, the spirit of their fathers, the mantle of Elijah, seems to have fallen. A Presbyterian Church and school house is now erecting in Esquesing, another is building at Nelson and a third at Flamboro' East. To the latter church Col. John Chisholm made a present of 50 dollars and the ground on which the building is erecting.

-*The Colonial Advocate*, 3 June 1824

RIGHT: Early photograph of Boston Presbyterian Church, 9185 Third Line. EHS12707



Boston Church 134th Anniversary Recalls Day When Pulpit a Maple Stump, Pews Cedar Logs

By GWEN CLARKE (*Canadian Champion*, 24 June 1954)

Boston Presbyterian Church, on the third line of Esquesing township north of the base line, held its 134th anniversary on Sunday, June 20, 1954. As in previous years, church was filled to capacity. Many descendants of the early settlers make a point of attending each anniversary of this lovely little country church. Perhaps, too, within the quiet precincts of the church, people of the Scotch Block think of the

time when services were held without benefit of a church; when the minister's pulpit was a maple stump and seats for the worshipper's rough pine logs.

Thus, it was one Sunday in June 1820, when a missionary preacher, the Rev. William Jenkins, came to minister to the people of Esquesing. The outdoor service was held on the farm of Andrew Laidlaw, Lot 6, Concession 4. At that time Esquesing was still very much a wilderness so the text that day was singularly appropriate – “And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land; and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods.”

The next year the Rev. Abner Wright of Niagara held a service and



Outdoor Communion of Presbyterians by C.W. Jeffries

dispensed the Sacrament. Later the first session was formed and the following men appointed – John Stirrett, James Laidlaw Sr., Robert Shortreed, George Barbour, Thomas Barbour, George Darling, James Frazer and John Creighton.

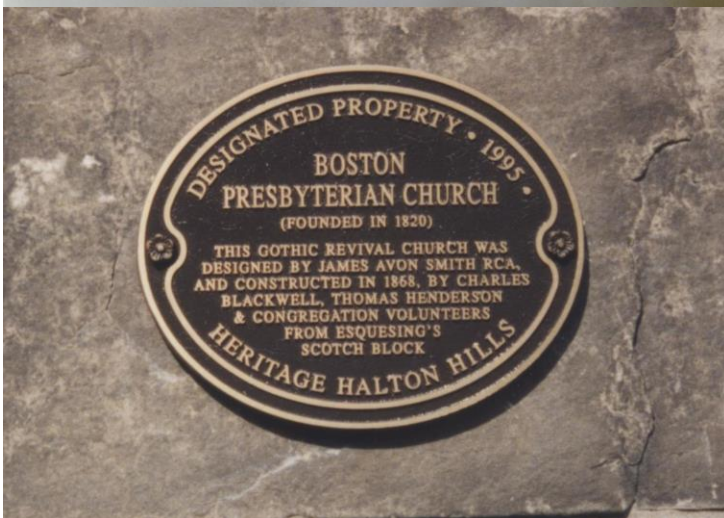
On March 4, 1824, the Scottish fathers met together to consider the purchase of land as a burying-ground and for the site of a meeting house. Malcolm McNaughton was chairman and James McClaren, clerk. The committee agreed to purchase one and a half acres from Andrew Laidlaw. The purchase price to be £7/3/3 – not in cash but in good mercantile wheat, to be delivered to Mr. Laidlaw’s farm or at Jasper Martin’s mill by February 1, 1825...



The laying of the corner stone on the new Boston Presbyterian Church, Esquesing, will take place next Tuesday. -*Canadian Champion*, 28 May 1868

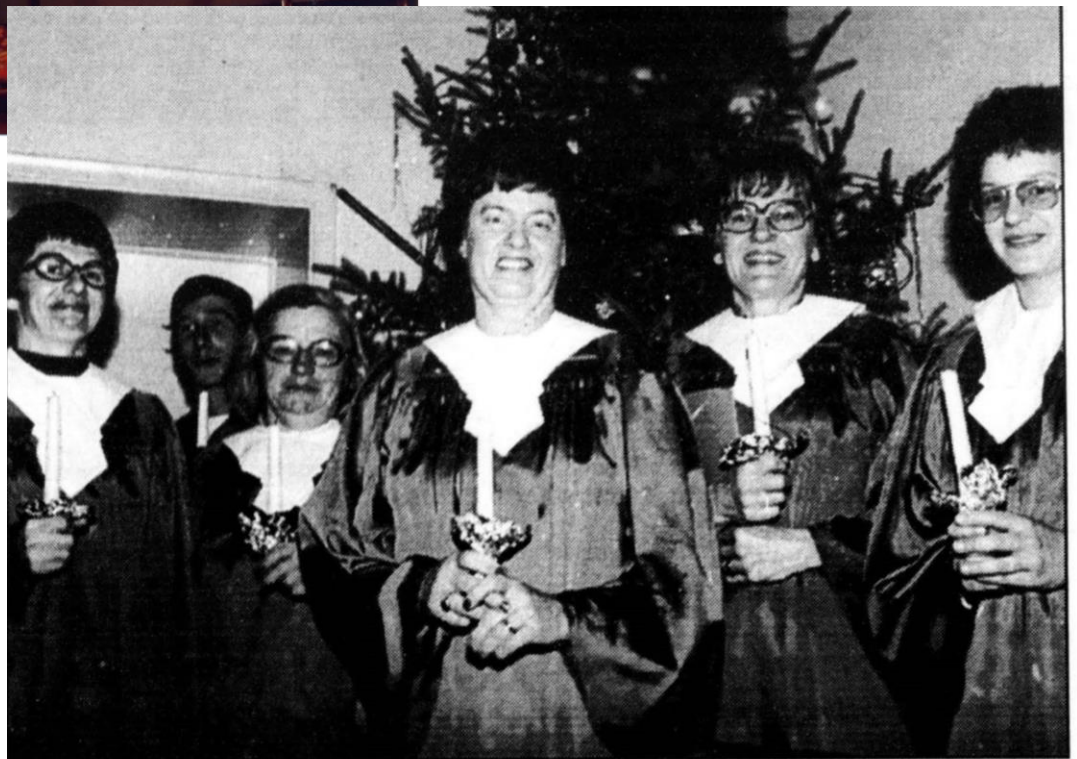


The Rev. Donald Stewart of Nova Scotia will preach in the Boston and Milton Presbyterian Churches, on Sunday at the usual time. - *Canadian Champion*, 4 June 1868



ABOVE LEFT: Boston Church EHS20745;
 ABOVE RIGHT: Cornerstone of Boston Church EHS12712
 LEFT: Boston Church was designated by Heritage Halton Hills in 1995

One of the greatest events ever known in the history of Boston Presbyterian Church, Esquesing, took place on Sunday last, when the congregation celebrated its 106th anniversary. -*Canadian Champion*, 24 June 1926



Photos clockwise are: The sanctuary c. 1989 EHS12714; Memorial to Margaret Lamond Stewart in Boston Churchyard. EHS12718; Clipping from *Canadian Champion*, 9 January 1998

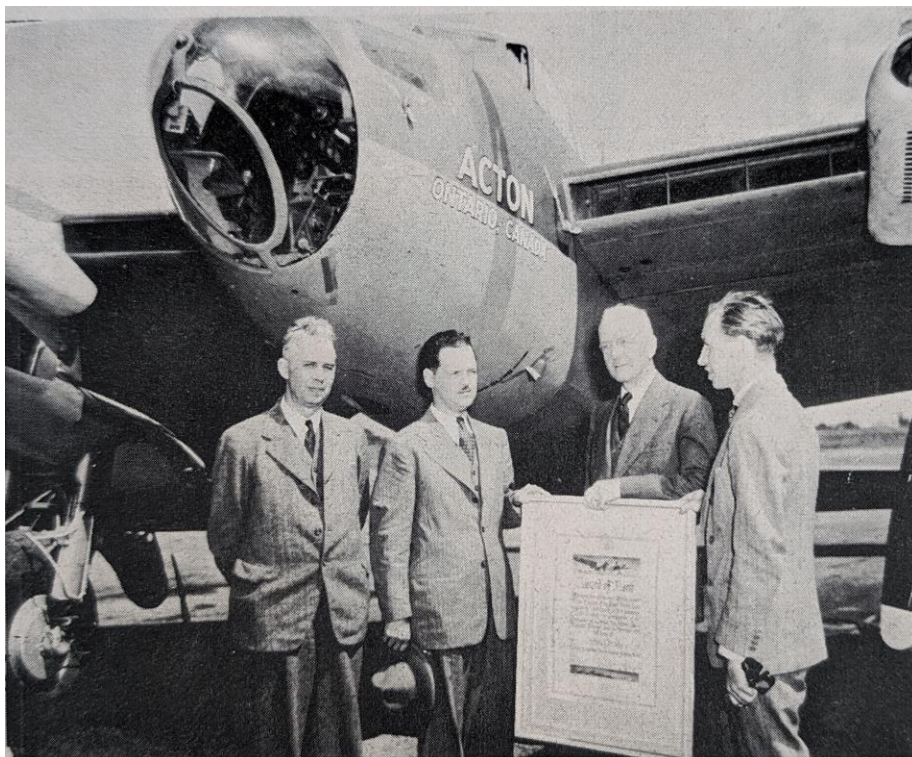
Hundreds of worshippers crowded into Boston Presbyterian Church in December, 1975 to celebrate the church's 23rd annual Nativity service. Blue-robed choir members held candles. From left to right are Nancy McKenzie, Norm Anderson, Grace Anderson, Joyce Head, Marj Clement and Marj Anderson.



RCAF 2024 CENTENNIAL

When Mosquito Bomber was Named “Acton”

On Monday five new Mosquito bombers were christened and dedicated to five Canadian communities across Canada ... The five communities awarded top places for Victory Loan promotional ideas were Acton, ON.; New Glasgow, NS; Moose Jaw, SK; Saskatoon, SK; Vancouver, BC. -*Acton Free Press*, 8 July 1943



A MOSQUITO bomber was named after Acton in World War II in recognition of a successful scheme to sell war bonds. Seen receiving a plaque at special ceremony are the late G. A. Dills, Ted Force and Amos Mason with a representative of the R.C.A.F. The bomber was built in Malton.

Copter Delivers Legion’s Jet

Johnny Goy sourced an unused T33 jet trainer from Camp Borden and on Sunday 9 November it was delivered to Acton Legion by a Chinook 147 helicopter with a crew of six. -*Acton Free Press*, 12 November 1975



EHS16426

LEFT:
EHS16428
RIGHT:
HERALD, 21
Oct. 1953

RCAF RECRUITING IN THE GEORGETOWN MUNICIPAL OFFICE



TUESDAY, OCT. 27
12 noon — 7 p.m.

There are excellent career opportunities today in the Royal Canadian Air Force for young men as Air Crew Officers and as Aircraft Technicians. For full details on training, pay, and other benefits in your Jet Age Air Force, see in person

RCAF Career Counsellor
GEORGETOWN
MUNICIPAL OFFICE



50th Anniversary of the GO Train

As expansion continued, GO introduced its Georgetown line on April 27, 1974. It served the Bloor, Weston, Malton, Bramalea, Brampton and Georgetown stations. In May of 1975, monthly ridership was 35,998. A year later, that number rose to 63,223.



Pomp and Fanfare Open New Service -*Herald*, 1 May 1974

The Northwest GO-Transit service between Georgetown and Toronto was officially opened last Saturday amid pomp and fanfare usually reserved for a royal visit...

Mayor Tom Hill, Region Chair Allan Masson and Halton East MPP Jim Snow welcomed a crowd of 500 at Georgetown



station.

A 1912 Canadian Pacific engine 1057 left Georgetown station at 12:15, followed by the GO-train, 10 minutes later...

EHS13447
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