



April 2003 Newsletter

1. APRIL MEETING

The April meeting of the Lost Villages Historical Society will be held on Monday, April 21, 2003, in the Forbes Memorial Reading Room, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Please circle your calendar, and plan to attend the monthly meeting of your historical society. It was most encouraging to see over 30 members and friends at the march meeting. Your support and encouragement is appreciated. Program: The program for this meeting will centre around the Ontario Heritage Foundation's "Heritage Community Recognition Awards". Since 1996, our local township has participated in this program, and, just recently, four local citizens were recognized for their work in Cultural, Built and Natural History. At our April meeting, we will profile and honour these citizens, and a reception will follow, - offee and goodies! Although the nominations were presented in 2002, it was not until recently that the Township of South Stormont received the certificates and pins. At a council meeting on March 26, 2002, Theresa Wheeler, Shirley Wells, Hillary McQuaid and Alan Rafuse were honoured. It will be our turn to offer congratulations at the April meeting. Plan to attend.

LOST VILLAGES BUS TOURS 2003

Once again, the Lost Villages Historical will be offering "Bus Tours of the Lost Villages" to tourists and local patrons of the Lost Villages Museum. The 2003 bus tours will be held on Sunday, July 13 & 27; August 10 & 24; September 7 & 21; and October 5 & 19. The cost is \$15.00 for adults, and \$10.00 for children, 13 years and younger. Tours leave the Lost Villages Museum at 1:00 p.m. sharp, and return at 5:00 p.m. A barbecue is included in the ticket price. This year, we have decided to issue tickets, and these went on sale recently. They may be purchased in advance at the Lost Villages Museum, (call 534-2197 to order, or leave a message), or they may be purchased at "The Crafter'z Market", east of Woodland Villa, Long Sault, and at "The Picket Fence" Craft and Gift Shop, opposite the

museum site.

Purchase your ticket now, and avoid the "sold-out" signs. In the summer of 2002, we sold out all seven bus tours. This year, we have added an eighth tour. As in the past, Mary Lynn Alguire will escort the tours.

PRESENTATION TO CHESTERVILLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On Tuesday, March 18, 2003, President Jim Brownell addressed the members of the Chesterville and District Historical Society, at its monthly meeting. As Catherine Thompson wrote in the Chesterville Record, "He delivered an inspiring message to members of the Chesterville Historical Society, as he outlined how the Lost Villages Historical Society had evolved from its earliest beginnings, to a thriving group with a museum and buildings which commemorate the memories of the lost villages along the front of the St. Lawrence River."

Once again, this was an opportunity for our historical society to be profiled in the community, and it was a chance to outline the many programs which we carry out at our museum site, to historical society members. We are, indeed, appreciative of the efforts of Chesterville Record reporter, Catherine Thompson, to provide the same message to a wider audience. her work provided wonderful publicity to two historical societies in Stormont and Dundas counties. Thanks Catherine!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

With just over a month until our annual dinner meeting on Monday, May 19, 2003, Victoria Day, we ask that you circle the date on your calendar, and call in your reservation for this event. Following the tremendous success of our annual Heritage Dinner in February, we anticipate a large crowd for this event. The annual dinner meeting will be held at Christ Anglican Church Hall, Long Sault, beginning with the social time at 6:00 p.m., and dinner at 6:30 p.m. The guest speaker for this meeting will be Mr. Gordon Brown, Chairman of the St. Lawrence Parks Commission. Call Rita Canough at 537-2388 to reserve your place at this annual event.

After ten years at the helm of the historical society, Jim Brownell will be stepping down from the presidency, and a new president will take over. Jim encourages all

members and "friends" to join him as we encourage and wish a "new" president the very best!

SOUTH STORMONT "HOME AND TRADE SHOW" The 4th Annual "Home and Trade Show", sponsored by the South Stormont Chamber of Commerce, will be held on Friday, April 25, and Saturday, April 26, 2003, at the Long Sault Arena. The show chair is Nicole Giroux, and she and the committee have worked hard to arrange for the 2003 event. The Lost Villages Historical Society will have a display at the event, and we encourage one and all to support it. If you have time to assist at our booth, please let us know. Our society has always had a strong presence at South Stormont's "Home and Trade Show", and we expect this 2003 event to be no different. Remember, many hands make light work. Your help is appreciated.

SPRING FLING, -AUCTION, DINNER AND MOVIE

The Rothwell-Osnabruck Arts Renewal Committee (R.O.A.R.) and the Lost Villages Historical Society will present "SPRING FLING", an evening which will feature a dinner, auction and movie. This fundraising event will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2003, at Osnabruck Hall, Rothwell-Osnabruck School. The Silent Auction will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; dinner from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and movie time will be from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Cost is \$15.00 for adults, and \$10.00 for children (under 12 years). Tickets may be purchased from R.O.A.R. committee members; Cathy Grant at Ingleside Home Hardware; Vale Brownell at 537-2531; and Rothwell-Osnabruck School at 537-2454. Tickets may be purchased at the door, subject to availability. Circle this date, and plan to support two non-profit organizations in the community.

WE SALUTE THE MORRISBURG AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Although mention was made about the Morrisburg and District Historical Society in previous newsletters, and we have had its president, Shaun Wallace, as a guest speaker in the past, it is time to salute the good work being done by this historical society. We are pleased that this historical society has made a valuable contribution to the Morrisburg link on our website's home page. Check it out! The Morrisburg and Distinct Historical Society has a most attractive website, and it

may be viewed by logging on to . Congratulations on a job well done! The society may be reached by email: wallaces@glen-net.ca or Morrisburg and District Historical Society, P.O. Box 1333, Morrisburg, Ontario. K0C 1X0.

We are delighted to have the secretary of this historical society, Janet Allingham, as a member of the Lost Villages Historical Society. Glen and Janet have been members for a few years now.

BITS AND PIECES

- Over 8,400 hits have been made to our website since its inception in early 2001. We have brought much attention about our historical society and museum to the world, and many connections have been made to the society by those who have logged on to our website. The website, too, has helped us to increase the membership to the historical society.

- The Lost Villages Historical Society now has over 225 members. Since the opening of our museum in 1992, and with the rapid growth of the museum site since then, an excellent profile has been created by the society. Many, many people have found us, and many have been encouraged by our enthusiasm and success. We hope that this continues in the future.

- At the March meeting of the Lost Villages Historical Society motions were passed to support the renaming of County Road #2, (formerly Highway #2) to the "Heritage Parkway", and to support the South Dundas Mural Committee in its efforts to have a mural erected to commemorate the Battle of Crysler's Farm.

- It is great to see Donnie Alguire out and about. Donnie's heart has been with the Lost Villages Museum for many years, and he made stops at the museum, during the past few days. We hope that he continues to enjoy his association with the museum. We value his input and help.

- The "World Changers" will definitely be back to the Lost Villages Museum in the summer of 2003. Although world conflicts have caused concerns for this group in recent days, I know that they will be received with welcomed arms in June. We plan to paint the schoolhouse, the Moulinette Station, and the washroom facility. As well, the Township of South Stormont has put a wheelchair ramp to the Forbes Memorial Reading Room on the agenda. Jim met with the "World Changers" organization and Chuck Charlebois, local coordinator, on March 11, 2003. Once again, our historical society received some valuable press coverage in The Seaway

News, following this meeting.

- Allan Snetsinger, owner of Snetsinger's Hardware Store, Pitt Street, Cornwall, donated a sign to the Lost Villages Museum, which was saved from his grandfather's store in Moulinette. J.G. Snetsinger's name is distinctly printed on the paint sign, and the "Lost Village" of Moulinette is clearly displayed. As well, Allan Snetsinger donated a section of the December 21, 1896 "Montreal Daily Star" to the museum. The headline "Cornwall Liberal, Mr. Snetsinger Sweeps in Constituency", describes J.G. Snetsinger's election to Federal Parliament for Stormont, in the December byelection. This paper will be framed, and placed in the Forbes Memorial Reading Room. In previous newsletters, we have reported of J.G. Snetsinger's work in bringing the Moulinette Grand Trunk Railway Station to the "Lost Village" community.

- David and Nancy (Eastman) Hill have recently donated a number of artifacts to the Lost Villages Museum. Among the items are the last set of electric hair-clippers, used by David's grandfather, Zina Hill, in his barber shop at Moulinette, and a bottle of hair tonic. As well, Nancy donated her uncle's "Captain's Cap" to the museum. Her uncle, Captain Frank Dishaw, was one of a number of seafaring boys from Dickinson's Landing. We thank David and Nancy for their generosity.

- Thanks to Annie Webber, formerly of Newington, and now at Chateau Cornwall, we have received a photograph which relates to the history of Ault Park, South Stormont's "oldest" park, and home of the Lost Villages Museum. A photograph of Simon William Ault, and his wife, Caroline Brownell, was found in an old photograph album, in Annie's possession. Simon and Caroline (Brownell) Ault were married on April 23, 1844. Simon Ault was born at Moulinette on December 17, 1817, and died on January 20 1896. Caroline Brownell was born at Mille Roches on June 13, 1818, and died on May 24, 1881. The monument to this couple was originally in St. Andrew's Methodist Church Cemetery, Moulinette, but is now in St. Lawrence Valley Union Cemetery. As well, Annie donated a photograph of James Milroy, formerly of Mille Roches. It was in the summer of 2002, that John Chase, Long Sault, donated an old farm instrument to the museum, believed to be used for winnowing wheat or grain. On the side of the instrument the inscription "Jas. Milroy, Mille Roches" is clearly visible.

- We thank Donnie Alguire for the donation of a humidifier to the Forbes Memorial Reading Room.

- We congratulate the students in the grade 5 class at Longue Sault Public School for their work in researching the history of some of the "older" homes in our area.

Just recently, Jim Brownell received queries from Miss Ellis and Miss Leblanc, researching the Post Road Schoolhouse and the Hugh Warner house, 17 Mille Roches Road, Long Sault, respectively. It's wonderful to see this curiosity!

- We have already received three registrations and payments for the 2004 "Lost Villages Reunion". This event will mark the 50th Anniversary of the commencement of the Hydro and Seaway Projects. Funds are being deposited in the "Celebration 30" account, which the Lost Villages Historical Society had opened in 1988.

- We thank Lenora Salmon for her work with the sale of the Nevada tickets at the Ingleside Home Hardware store. Lenora oversees all aspects of this fundraising event, and she continues to do a great job. Just recently, a computer table was purchased from the funds. Proceeds are earmarked for capital costs at the Lost Villages Museum and Resource Centre.

AULTSVILLE'S "INDUSTRIAL PARK"

While sorting through the documents and papers from the Fran Laflamme Estate, the following information was found, provided to the historical society by James Gordon Jarvis, Webster, New York, on April 10, 1991. This information provides an excellent glimpse into the "life and times" around the Aultsville Railway Station and the businesses which built around it. In recent newsletters, information on some of the "Lost Villages" has been provided, as told by those who lived in the villages. We trust that this information, provided by Mr. Jarvis, will bring back memories. AULTSVILLE

The Edwards cheese factory at Aultsville, in the 1930's and '40's, made both cheese and butter. It was of concrete-block construction; up to the late '30's, it was about 2/3rds of its final size. Photographs show a seam in the concrete blocks where the addition of a cold-storage facility was made to the west. The refrigeration plant was electrically powered, was of the ammonia type, and sat on a platform on the north side of the building, and not far from the Canadian National Railway siding. Prior to the installation of the refrigeration plant, there was a large ice-house, between the factory's "parking" lot and the property of the grist mill. Ice was cut in the St. Lawrence, near the Aultsville wharf, and hauled to the ice-house by horse-drawn bob-sleighs. It was great fun "hitching" rides on the sleighs (a favourite Saturday activity of mine). The ice was buried in sawdust insulation and lasted through the following spring, summer and fall. The ice was used almost

exclusively to chill the cream, rapidly, after it had been heated in the pasteurizers; then it was pumped into a large cylindrical churn made from imported cyprus. Until the refrigeration plant was introduced, cheese was cured at whatever temperature prevailed.

Heating for the cheese vats and the pasteurizers was by steam generated in a coal-fired boiler, at the east end of the factory; a large metal stack often belched black smoke.

W.A. Edwards, in the '30's, owned at least two other cheese factories: one was in East Williamsburg, on the banks of the St. Lawrence; the other was at the north end of the paved section of the Aultsville Road (between Gallingertown and Osnabruck Centre). They were operated by sons Charles and Jack, respectively. Prior to World War II, most farmers brought their milk or cream to the factory on horse-drawn wagons. After World War II, trucks picked up milk over large areas, making the local factories unnecessary; they rapidly disappeared. Sons Marshall and Malcolm Edwards operated the Aultsville plant. W.A. Edwards suffered severely from Parkinson's Disease, and was not active himself from the mid-'30's onward. Daughter Winnie (Edwards) Murdock still lives in Ingleside, is very interested in local history, and could be a source of more information on the Edwards' operation.

Up until World War II, most roads were not plowed in winter. This, in combination with lower milk production by the cows, made it attractive for farmers to "separate" cream on site and to either churn their own butter or deliver the small volume of cream (in a horse-drawn cutter) to the factory. Home-churned butter (called dairy butter as opposed to creamery butter) was "traded" at the Jarvis & Shaver store and, in turn, shipped to Montreal on the "Moccasin". Dairy butter disappeared when laws were passed that forced the pasteurization of all cream being churned into butter.

Skim milk, butter milk, and cheese whey were all collected in a huge vat above the boiler and gravity-dispersed into the farmers' empty milk or cream cans and used, subsequently, to slurry the milled pig-feed bought from Jarvis & Shaver.

Cheese, at that time, was not made from pasteurized milk. It had to be cured a minimum of 30(?) days before being sold. The curing period, presumably, killed harmful bacteria.

The grist mill was built as a GRIST MILL in the late 1920's or early 1930's. It contained a mill in which the grinding plates were of metal and were belt-driven

by a large electric motor. There was storage space, on the ground floor, for bags of feed; however, most of the grinding was on a custom basis (farmers paid to have their own grain ground, and took it back home). There was a small heated office in the south-west corner.

On the upper floor there were large bins that could be filled by bucket-type elevators. However, to the best of my knowledge, no grain was ever stored there. It was said that the support columns were too small to support any useful tonnage of grain! The bases of the elevators were open on the CN side of the building and could have been fed via an inclined chute from cars on the siding. There was, also, a double door on the CN side, that could be used to off-load freight cars.

The grist mill was first owned, I believe, by a Snetsinger family from Moulinette. They ran it for a few years, rather unsuccessfully (depression years!), and sold it to Wilbur Crites who ran it until it was purchased by Jarvis & Shaver in the late 1930's. It was actually operated by Shaver's brother (Charlie) and his sons. Jarvis & Shaver used the office as an egg-grading station for a few years. After World War II, the grist mill was sold to W.A. Edwards (or Borden) who used it as a warehouse to store cheese boxes and other supplies.

Manley Shaver lived on the farm immediately across from the Aultsville Station. He was not related to the Shaver of Jarvis & Shaver. Manley Shaver frequently unloaded Canadian National carloads of mill feed, flour, etc., for Jarvis & Shaver.

Arthur N. Dafoe operated a general store on the north east corner of Highway #2 and the Aultsville Road. Dafoe handled a line of goods that was comparable to Jarvis & Shaver's, and was the principal competitor. The business continued in Ingleside (for a few years) as a hardware store (operated by his daughter, Minnie, and son-in-law).

Clifford Gove lived mid-way between Highway #2 and the CN right-of-way. He handled coal in a building that had once housed a carriage shop owned by his father, Simeon Gove. During the first six years of my life, I lived in a house rented from Sim Gove.

The house to the east of the Jarvis residence was occupied for many years, and into the '40's, by the CN station agent, Leon Piper. Another house, the one immediately to the south of the station, was occupied by Allen McMillan, CN station agent, through the '20's and most of the '30's. His father was CN agent at Wales for most of his life.

I find it hard to believe that "all of these buildings were situated on railway

property". I have just re-read the deed granted to my grandfather, James D. Jarvis, on November 20, 1890. It describes the property (on which the Jarvis and Shaver general store later stood) relative to the north-south highway, and the southern boundary of the Grand Trunk right-of-way; it does not recognize any ownership of the land by the railway, and, in fact, grants James Jarvis title to the land "free of any in encumbrances". During my residency in the area, I never once heard of any recognition of ownership by the railway, nor of payment of rent, etc.

It was well recognized that the roads were owned by the railway, as were the stockyards. The roads were re-surfaced with cinders so many times, in some places, they became higher than the concrete sidewalks and actually spilled over onto them.

James D. Jarvis came, with a large family, from Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, in 1890, and bought the abovementioned property from John Croil and Alexander McCullough, merchants. I believe that Croil might also have owned the cheese factory adjacent to the store property. The store, itself, was on the site of the Jarvis & Shaver store, built in 1922. To the north of the Croil & McCullough store, and adjacent to the railway, was a two-storey dwelling with a long porch facing the highway; it became the residence of the Jarvis family. Some 15 to 20 years later, the brick house on the south side of the jog in the road near the stockyards was purchased by my father, Douglas W. Jarvis, and became the residence of his father and mother, his sister, and himself. The former residence, near the store, was then converted into a store, where business was conducted under the name: James D. Jarvis and Son. After James Jarvis retired, my father formed a partnership with Frank T. Shaver in 1922 and built a new store on the site of the original Croil & McCullough building. The former residence/store then became a warehouse for flour, glass, paint oil, etc. For a while, one large room was used for the storage of bulk corn and wheat, which was off-loaded from CN freight cars via a wooden chute passed through a window adjacent to the tracks. A refrigerated room was incorporated into the structure in the late '30's for an egg-grading station. I spent many hours working in that cold, darkened space! In about 1949, the old house burned to the ground, and was replaced by the small egg-grading station.

Two of the Jarvis girls married Grand Trunk/Canadian National Railway employees, both of whom worked in Montreal offices. I don't know what Mary's husband, Fred Anderson, did, but I do know that Maggie's husband, Herbert Balkwill, was CN's "Chief Car Accountant" in the '20's and '30's. It must have been a good job, for they lived in grand style in St. Lambert, with live-in maid and part-time gardener. Uncle Herb commuted to work, across the Victoria Bridge, on

the high speed electric cars of the Montreal and Southern Counties Railway.

As a further indication of the successful nature of the Jarvis & Shaver business, Douglas Jarvis was able to send his three children to Queen's University where Doreen trained to be a high school teacher, Wilfred Douglas became a Presbyterian Church minister, and I (James Gordon) became a physicist. Frank T. Shaver had been a school teacher and then a clerk in the general store of the Ault Bros. at the four corners in Aultsville. He was a fine orator and became a Member of Parliament for Stormont in 1929, in the government of R.B. Bennett.

IN MEMORIAM

Louisa Johnstone Lane Buckland, mother of Lost Villages Historical Society member Art Buckland Passed away on November 12, 2002 The Buckland family lived on Sheek Island in the 1940s and 1950s.

Louisa Buckland moved to Ottawa in the 1960s. One of her jobs was that of "short order cook" at Rideau Hall, although the official title was "Pastry and Tea Chef". She served under Governors-General Vanier, Leger and Michener. She was a Life Member of the Ottawa DollCraft Guild. She made hundreds of Teddy Bears, to be given to local firemen for children rescued from fires. Her husband, Fred, a World War II veteran, and former employee at Mille Roches Paper Mill, predeceased her in 1990. She leaves to mourn her children: Douglas Buckland (Josie), Ottawa; Catherine Vallieres, Steenburg Lake; Barbara Beaupre, Ottawa; and Arthur Buckland (Janice), Martintown.