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*Preserving Oakville's  
Historical Heritage  
Since 1953*  
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## **THE OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

**MARCH 2007**

**Volume 41: Number 1**

## SPECIAL EVENTS

March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007

**Annual Meeting & Pot Luck Supper**  
Knox Presbyterian Church @ 6:30 P.M.

The Pot Luck dinners at our Annual Meetings have turned out to be one of the highlights of our evening meetings. Plan to attend and enjoy the evening.

June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007

**Band Concert – Lakeside Park – 12 to 4 P.M.**

A **rain date** has been arranged for the following Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>

June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007

**Dedication of the Memorial Fountain**

\* 2 to 4pm. Everyone is welcome.



## PUBLIC SPEAKERS & PRESENTATIONS

2007

May 16<sup>th</sup>

***“The effects of British History on the settlement of Oakville”*** by Professor Neville Thompson – Retired Professor of History, University of Western Ontario.

October 17<sup>th</sup>

***“Oakville Heritage Committee”*** – a panel discussion with Harry Barrett and friends.

November 21<sup>st</sup>

***“Remembering Trafalgar Township”*** – Ruth Blair Archival Research.

Note: All presentations held at Knox Presbyterian Church @ 7:30 P.M., unless otherwise noted.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last week several members of the Society attended the official launch of the **new Oakville Images** website. It was quite an event and the website is a huge step in making our archival information available to anyone interested in the history of Oakville. **Walter Jennings, Barb Savage** and **Margaret and Harry Buxton** have been working feverishly with **Elise Cole** and her colleagues at the Library to make our part of this a success in time for the launch. Visit <http://images.oakville.halinet.on.ca/>. (Note there is no www in the address) There is still much more work to be done but, it's a great start.

Your society hosts four speakers nights each year. They are held at Knox Presbyterian Church and the topics are varied and always interesting. If you haven't attended one, check out the upcoming evenings on our website [www.oakvillehistory.org](http://www.oakvillehistory.org). If you have any suggestions for speakers or topics, please let me know and we'll see what we can do. May's speaker will be **Professor Neville Thompson** of the University of Western Ontario who will speak on the effects of British History on the Settlement of Oakville.

Mark your calendar for the official dedication of our **Volunteer Memorial Fountain**. It's been a long time coming, but now the date is set for **24 June** at the office.

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday 28 March** at Knox Presbyterian Church. The AGM of the Friends of the Oakville Historical Society will follow the Society's meeting. If you are a member of the Society, you're a member of the Friends. The meeting will be preceded by our now-usual pot luck supper. Plan to attend – I promise we'll keep the meeting part as short as possible.

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**COVER PICTURE:** Lithograph showing the inner end of the Pier, looking up Oakville Harbour, 1878.

## *The Track of a Tract*

Immediately after the “Mississauga Purchase” of 1805 the new Townships were surveyed into settler lots in 1806. **Samuel Wilmot** surveyed Trafalgar Township in that year. He used Dundas Street as his reference line (it had been surveyed in 1793) and created two Concessions north of Dundas Street (N.D.S.), and four Concessions south of Dundas Street (S.D.S.)

The Concessions were divided into Lots, numbered 1 to 35, each one-quarter mile wide. The Concession Lines were one and one quarter mile apart to give settler Lots of 200 acres, except Concession 4, where Lake Ontario left a broken line. Scattered through the lands were Crown and Church reserved Lots.

The beginning of our story relates to a portion of a Lot, specifically fifty acres, as deeds describe “be the same more or less”, a north westerly quarter of **Lot 22**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Concession S.D.S., of Trafalgar Township.

This Lot was a “**Clergy reserve**”. In 1845 under “Clergy Sale”, James Hislop received the land etc. on paying the Commission thirty seven pounds and ten shillings (though mines of gold and silver were excepted). This sale was conducted “under the Great Seal of our Province of Canada..... Charles Theophilus, Baron Metcalfe..... Governor General of British North America.”

James Hislop did not retain his land for very long. The next Indenture of Sale is dated September 4<sup>th</sup>, 1853, though he, with his wife Mary, turned a comfortable profit, selling the land to **William Wright** at the price of five hundred pounds. William is described as “Yeoman” and signed the deed with his mark.

The next of the series of documents is a deed of sale, with William Wright, farmer, and his wife Mary, as Vendors, with the purchaser named **Joseph Brethour**, also described as a farmer. The document is dated January 7<sup>th</sup>, 1856.

It is surprising to find that the purchase price is given as One Hundred Pounds, signed by William and Mary Wright by their marks, but signed by Joseph Brethour, with the two witnesses Brethours, Henry and Edward.

There are several script notations on the deed itself, but the document is not recorded as voided. Nevertheless, you will see by the next deed, 1858, that the sale of Lot 22 proceeds and, that William Wright continues as its owner.

The deed is dated April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1858 and records the fifty acres of Lot 22, the sale price 500 pounds. The Indenture of Sale was between William Wright as vendor and Thomas Wright, the purchaser. Mary, William's wife, is not mentioned.

This is clarified by a later Deed dated February 25<sup>th</sup>, 1867, between William and Mary, his wife, with **Thomas Wright** the purchaser. Thomas is identified as a "Yeoman". It is tempting to believe that he is a relative of William and Mary, possibly their son, but deeds don't give that sort of information on such documents. The sale price of 500 pounds in 1858 moved to \$2000. in 1867.

It is likely that the sale to Thomas Wright on February 25<sup>th</sup> was completed on that day, so the sale of Lot 22 etc. could be processed properly. On that day a further Deed of Land sale was executed between Thomas Wright and his wife, Mary, to Robert Smith. **Robert Smith** would have been a professional man, perhaps a lawyer, for he is described as "Esquire". He paid \$1200. Thomas and Mary both continued to sign the documents by his and her mark.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, 1878, Robert Smith and his wife Mary Ann Smith, disposed of his land to **Cyrus Utter**, Yeoman. For the consideration of \$5200, "All and Singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises, situate lying and being etc., etc.", became the property of Cyrus Utter.

In 1897 Mr. Utter intended to sell the property, but in the meantime his wife died. It was necessary to process a "Statuary Declaration" that Jane Utter died at Trafalgar Township "on or about" March 30<sup>th</sup>, 1882.

With this done, an Indenture of Sale was executed between William Utter and his son, Cyrus William Utter to, **George Andrew**, and the land conveyed on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1897.

To ensure the validity of the sale to George Andrew, we have a further Indenture for the same date, July 14<sup>th</sup> 1897, between Cyrus W. Utter and his wife, Margaret Utter, and George Andrew. It is of interest to note that the deed enters the name of the first party as Cyrus Utter, with the W insert between the names. It appears that both Cyrus and William were used by him, using William more commonly. Margaret Utter, it seems, was Cyrus William's second wife.

Finally we have reached **G.H. Morden** as purchaser of the part of Lot 22. Lake Captain George Hardy Morden – in the deed he is identified as “Master Mariner” – buying the land at \$3500 from George Andrew on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 1900, to become a farmer.

Or have we reached our destination?

Let us move back in time and consider another parcel of land, the south-westerly quarter of Lot 19, 3<sup>rd</sup> Concession, south of Dundas Street (SDS).

There is a document in our Collection, which identifies **William McCraney** as holder of that land.

Hazel Mathews in “Oakville and the Sixteen” tells that McCraney leased Lot 18, 3<sup>rd</sup> Concession SDS from the Church (or Clergy Reserve), and purchased Lot 20, 3<sup>rd</sup> Concession SDS, but does not mention Lot 19, until she notes the south-easterly quarter. The **Rev. George Washington**, giving up his calling as a Methodist Circuit Rider to take up farming, bought that part of Lot 19 in 1853. Rev. Washington built on the land a single storey cottage, calling the home “The Retreat”.

We have a Deed of Crown Sale Grant, dated March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1875, by which the 50 acres of Lot 19 were sold to **John Triller Howell**, a farmer, selling the land for \$350, by the Lieutenant Governor in Council of the Province of Ontario. We have a date problem here.



John Triller Howell, on or about 1859, already built a house on that property. Ownership of the land was not kept up to date between the Crown and real ownership.

The Howell home was built at the northern side of Lakeshore Road West. It is number 491 Lakeshore Road West, its location, of course, near the boundary between

Concession 3 and Concession 4, on the north side of the Concession line. The line follows the Lakeshore Road until 4<sup>th</sup> Line, the Concession Line from thence following Rebecca Street.

A couple of years after the Crown sale to Howell, an Indenture of Sale was arranged between John Triller Howell and his wife, Hannah, to **George de Warrenne Greene**. The sale price was \$5500 on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1877, realizing a good profit over the 1877 Crown Sale.

In 1879 Greene arranged to enact that without actually dividing the quarter Lot 19 land, the interest on the holding would be shared, one third each for George de Warrenne Greene, Francis Greene, and Knethell Greene.



Another Deed of Sale, on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1885, the Greens collectively enacted the sale of the land to **George Bunbury**, price \$7100.

George Bunbury was a military man, identified as "Captain of Her Majesty's Ninth Foot". He and his wife, Beatrice, lived at the Lakeshore Road West, near the Pullens and the Lloyds ("Oakville a Small Town"). The family returned to England before the sale of the part of Lot 19.

The Indenture of Sale of the south-west 50 acres of Lot 19 3<sup>rd</sup> Concession SDS was dated February 1900. On that Indenture George Bunbury is described "..... formerly of the Town of Oakville ..... but now of the City of London in England".

With the February Indenture was a letter to W.H. Morden dated March 25<sup>th</sup> 1900, headed the Bunbury Farm, stating the terms of the sale. Among the terms was the payment of \$5500 by Morden.

The purchaser of the part of Lot 19 in 1900, George Hardy Morden, was born in 1837 and in his earlier years lived on property by the intersection of Reynolds Street and

Lakeshore Road. Trained as a sailor, Captain George Hardy Morden and his son, Captain Edward Morden, owned and operated several Lake schooners. He converted to steam in the later years and pursued the lumber trade along Lake Erie, founding the Morden Line of steamers.

Captain George Hardy Morden served as Reeve of Trafalgar Township. One of his sons said of his father he “was a great one to buy land”.

The Captain acquired Lot 19 with south-western 50 acres and the house standing on it, number 491 Lakeshore Road West, but did not live in that house. Later in the year of 1900 he gave the land to his son, Edward. He himself looked for a home and decided to buy the Washington house, 417 Lakeshore Road West.

The original 50 acres of the Washington farm had been whittled down, so only three quarters of an acre of land remained with “The Retreat”.

As to what happened to the part of Lot 22? It joined the assets of the “great one to buy land”. When Captain George Hardy Morden died in 1908, he had accumulated some one thousand acres of land.

Harry Buxton



*Ed. Note: “The Retreat” at 417 Lakeshore Rd. E. is presently being restored by Moldenhauer Developments, under the guidance of the Heritage Committee of Oakville. This picture represents the progress as of January 25, 2007.*



# ***AROUND THE SOCIETY***



## Tracing the History of your Home

At our Public Meeting on September 20th last, Mississauga Heritage Foundation Historian, Matthew Wilkinson, gave a very interesting and informative talk on how to trace the history of old homes and the people who have lived in them over the years,. He explained how to find this information in places such as the Oakville Historical Society, Oakville Public Library and the Land Registry at Milton, which all hold a great deal on this topic.

With Matthew's offer of help, our area Historical Societies and Oakville Public Library hope to adapt his "**How -To Guide For Property Research In Mississauga**" to an Oakville-area Guide, in order to assist those interested in researching their properties.

June Hitchcox

## Camp X Presentation

On November 15th, 2006, a truly informative trip back into the murky days of spies and WWII infiltrations to enemy territory was given by Lynn Philip Hodgson - historian and author of "Inside Camp X". His in-depth talk, accompanied with historical visuals, was enhanced by the attendance in the audience by some who actually had some personal knowledge of this secretive area.



Lance Naismith

**Picture:** Lynn Philip Hodgson (left) and George Chisholm, President of the OHS.

## Oakville's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

This year, Oakville is celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its founding. Within the Town of Oakville, during 2007, there will be many events celebrating this anniversary, down to the ward level. Planned events will be announced in the Oakville Beaver newspaper.

In honour of Oakville's 150 Anniversary, our Society is sponsoring a Band Concert in Lakeside Park. Mark your calendar for **Sunday June 10th 2007**.

The St. Pauls Dixie Land Band will be playing from 12noon to 2pm, and the Oakville Wind Orchestra will be playing from 2:30pm to 4pm.

Bring along your picnic hamper full of goodies and lawn chairs. Everyone is welcome and **admission is free**. Those who come in **pioneer costume may win a prize!**

Barbara Savage

### Society Assistance

Members at the Society have been very busy assisting other organizations with their contributions to the celebration. We assisted **Central Library staff** with selecting and loaning many of our pictures from the archival collection for their image presentations.

The **Kerr Street B.I.A.** is holding a fair on **Sunday May 27th** at Westwood Park - 12 to 5pm, during which time the Society will have a booth.

We are also planning **historical displays in store windows**, both on Lakeshore and Kerr Street, during the month of May.

Barbara Savage

### Solution to "The Way Things Were" – December 2006

This house is located at **205 Trafalgar Road**. The land was purchased in 1839 as an investment and changed ownership several times, until **Robert Farlay** purchased it in 1857 and built the house. The property was sold to George Rutherford in 1864, who then sold it in 1867 to **Dr. Charles Lusk**, physician and educator.

Beginning in 1900, Dr. Lusk began building a frame house next door on Palmer Avenue. He and his wife moved here around 1910. No. 205 was rented until 1920, when

**Dr. Morley Wilkinson** acquired the house, which he used as his residence and medical office. The **Bramall** family purchased it in 1954 and made a few additions, including a studio in keeping with the character of the house. They have had the longest association with the house, which is now referred to as the **Bramall House**.

May Isaac

### **The Collection at Work**

The displays in the several cabinets are quite frequently replaced by Volunteer workers. Currently it presents, “Hair, in profession or in its control.”

The **Barber** is featured, with his modest tools. The **Hairdresser** is working to improve – if this were possible – the look of the ladies. Drop into the offices and see this fine display.

A more elaborate “display” has been prepared as a co-operative and continuing programme between the Society and the Oakville Public Library. “**Oakville Images**” marks 150 years of the Town’s life since it became a Municipality. Using the Society’s photograph collection, it presents to a WEB user, the highlights of life in Oakville within 12 themes. (<http://images.oakville.halinet.on.ca/>) “Oakville Images was **launched February 8th**.”

Harry Buxton

### **Membership Renewal**

#### ***Reminder***

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2007, we ask you to do so soon, preferably before the Annual General Meeting, March 28<sup>th</sup> - particularly if you wish to vote at that meeting. A renewal form is enclosed with this newsletter.

If you know of anyone who would enjoy learning about Oakville and its people in days gone by, perhaps you would encourage them to join. Membership is important to our continued work.

Thank you.

Andrea Stewart

## *THE WAY THINGS WERE*



1. Can you name this gentleman?
  2. Who was he associated with?
  3. What was his occupation?
- 

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