



Signs of spring

Branch Council Executive:

Chairperson –	Terry Dunnigan #118067	email: oxfordchair@ogs.on.ca
Vice-Chair –	Vacant	email: oxfordvicechair@ogs.on.ca
Treasurer –	Bob Martin #104360	email: oxfordtreasurer@ogs.on.ca
Secretary –	Frances Gottschlich #30639	email: oxfordbranchsecretary@ogs.on.ca
Past Chair –	Markley Bond # 4839	email: oxfordpastchair@ogs.on.ca

Committee Conveners:

Cemeteries	Cathy Bechard
Education	Carol Bossenberry
Library	Carol Bossenberry
Membership	Liz Buchanan
Newsletter	Sharon Young
Programs	Carol Bossenberry
Publicity	Liz Buchanan
Research	Cathy Bechard; Pat Adam, Patti Wallace
T.O.N.I.	Jan Post
Volunteer Coordinator	Starla Mitchener Dassy
Website	Don Karges

Resource Centre Volunteers:

Pat Adam; Marion Baker; Cathy Bechard; Carol Bossenberry; Starla Mitchener Dassy; Frances Gottschlich; Janet Hayward; David Henderson; Fran Irwin; Mary Metcalfe; Jan Post; Marg Riley; Doug Smith; Patti Wallace; Deb Watt; Sharon Young.

Ontario Ancestors Oxford County Branch
82 Light Street, Governor's House, Court House Square, Woodstock, ON.
Hours - Tuesday to Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Contact: <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca> email oxford@ogs.on.ca mail Box 20019, Woodstock, ON, N4S 8X8
Phone 519-421-1700 or 1-855-MyRoots (855-697-6687) Ext 322

Membership to Ontario Ancestors / Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) is \$63 plus \$15.00 to join Oxford Branch.
2100 Steeles Avenue West, Unit #202, Concord ON L4K 2V1, <https://ogs.on.ca> email info@ogs.on.ca
Phone 416-489-0734 or 1-855-MyRoots (855-697-6687) Hours Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Check the website for changes to membership information or information about other Branches.

The Tracer is published quarterly (February, May, August, November) by Oxford County Branch. We invite original articles, transcriptions, queries and web sites of interest that have genealogical relevance to our members. Submissions will be accepted in Microsoft Word™ or Rich Text Format via email oxfordnewsetters@ogs.on.ca or sent to the above address. Submission deadlines for 2024 are January 19th for February issue, April 19th for May issue, July 19th for August issue, October 18th for November issue. All submissions are published at the editor's discretion and we reserve the right to change the formatting and wording.

Message from The Chair

Springtime has finally arrived after a very long Winter and hopefully sunshine, blossoms, and green grass will be the norm as we move from May into June.

I am pleased to announce that your Oxford Council members and volunteers have been very busy bees over the past couple of months during my absence in Portugal. Members have actively promoted our Branch at the Woodstock Rec and Leisure Fair, the Tillsonburg Wellness Fair, and the Senior's Active Living Fair. Council and Committee members have been in-serviced in online security features resulting in the implementation of two factor identification features. New computers have been acquired for member services at the Governor's House and an equipment inventory has been compiled and submitted.

Our Speaker Series (guided by Carol Bossenberry) has been extremely well attended (Creating a Family History: by Glenn Elliott on March 10th, Preachers, Teachers, Entrepreneurs and Rebels - A Virtual Field Trip of Historical Plaques of Oxford County by Deward Yates on April 14th and The Cold Springs Farm Project with Doris Weir on May 12th), and I highly recommend that members and guests take advantage of these interesting and informative learning opportunities. The next Speaker Series will be in September celebrating Home Children. See coming events for more details.

Oxford Branch has received a small grant to Promote Family the 2nd Annual Oxford County Family History Month. Details and special events will be announced soon. A new banner is being designed to promote our services to the public (the reveal will be in the next Tracer).

The Provincial Office is currently reviewing nominees for our Provincial Council, and I ask that you mark your calendars for voting for your new Provincial Council at the online AGM on Saturday June 7, 2025, at 11am.

Finally, in recognition of National Volunteer Week (April 27th to May 3), I would like to thank our many volunteers and Oxford Council members for their time, effort, and expertise in serving this fine organization and keeping the memory of our Ancestors alive. You make a difference!



Respectfully,
Terry Dunnigan

Oxford County Anniversary Year

Oxford County celebrates the 125th anniversary of the incorporation of Oxford as a county in 2025

This year is also:

- the 50th anniversary of Oxford County into the eight area municipalities
- the 60th anniversary of the Oxford County Library System
- the 25th anniversary of Oxford County Archives

Special Anniversary events:

- Rotating Oxford County Archives exhibits in the Oxford County Administration Building, Reeve Street, Woodstock
- Special “History of Oxford County” exhibit at the Woodstock Art Gallery
- Exhibit at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario at Queen’s Park, Toronto
- Oxford County Library Branches Local History Speaker series
- Publication of Oxford County Archives book highlighting the history of the County over the last 175+ years
- Oxford County Archives video series “Who Do You Think You Are?” sharing the genealogical stories of County Councilors
- Hosting the Municipal Archives Interest Group (MAIG) Fall Open House
- Online Memory Wall for sharing memories of the Oxford County Library
- Video about the history of Oxford County Library
- Oxford County Library Fall Open House

Please check back for more information on the following events taking place this year

<https://speakup.oxfordcounty.ca/anniversary>

The B. G. Jenvey Scrapbook Collection

In a Woodstock Sentinel article by Ray Dextras from Dec. 12, 1957; Mr. Byron Jenvey is profiled as the authority on the history of Ingersoll and a prolific collector of newspaper articles.



BYRON G. JENVEY

“...Mr. Jenvey, a retired professor of economics who has been living in this area for more than 70 years, has been collecting data on history-making events of Ingersoll and district since he began teaching school at Salford in 1900.

His studio or “den” as the historian calls it, is located at his home in Ingersoll at 23 Ann Street. The walls of the den are filled with bookshelves occupied by reference books, albums and his own writings.

His albums contain every news story of importance to the district covering a period of the past 60 years. The historian has also written of events as they happen, from personal experience and from information gathered from local old-timers....”

Byron Jenvey Scrapbook Collection that chronicles the history of Ingersoll & area are available digitized & searchable in five volumes:

Byron Jenvey Scrapbook Collection:

<https://history.ocl.net/ingersoll/history-of-ingersoll/scrapbooks/>

Like the Tweedsmuir scrapbooks, the subjects are varied but have been indexed for local names referenced and bound by a hardcover. One of our volunteers has had great success finding articles on local family members and their activities during this period.

The following article on page 114 of the Woodstock area book highlights the many conditions that led to immigration to the U.S.A. from Oxford County; unfortunately, neither the author, nor the newspaper were cited.

EXODUS FROM OXFORD

California Gold Rush Lured Settlers South

Few realize that many of the early pioneers of Missouri, Kansas, North and South Dakota, California and Colorado were originally from Oxford County. Shortly after the rebellion of 1837 there commenced a gradual migration to Michigan, Indiana and Illinois, the later then known as the “Far West,” to take up land and begin the laborious task of breaking new ground again to create a new homestead.

The reasons for leaving Oxford were varied. From 1837 to 1847 it can be traced to two main factors. First, the flight of the participators in the MacKenzie rebellion; second, the trek to Illinois under the influence of Mormonism.

From, 1848 to 1858 another great exodus took place which can be attributed to a definite condition of that time, namely, the California gold rush, of ‘49 and the new railroad construction from Chicago to the Mississippi river. In this decade thousands of Oxonians left their native county in the hope of bettering their condition in the goldfields, or by working on the railroad as experienced teamsters, blacksmith, and other skilled trades.

The opening of the Canada Great Western railway, in 1853, greatly facilitated the means of moving cheaply to a new locality where wages were higher and the work less toilsome than slashing out a home in a county dense with trees.

THE CIVIL WAR

In the next decade 1859 to 1869, the main factor was the American Civil War and the freeing of the slaves. Hundreds of our natives either enlisted in the Union forces or took up war work in the larger American cities. Wages were good and, to your Mr. Oxford, the bright lights looked better.

The late Neil McFee, of Ingersoll...himself a civil war veteran.... Informed us that over 300 Oxford men, especially from Woodstock, Ingersoll and Norwich took up arms upon half of the abolition of slavery. Many never returned, but settled in the newer States upon receiving a free grant of land from the American government. It was in this decade that Ingersoll lost its coloured population, estimated upward to 400 souls. They had gained their freedom and sought the balmy breezes of Alabama rather than face another winter of Northern icy blasts.

Today in Memphis, Birmingham and New Orleans, there exist among the colored people several documents of and historical nature appertaining to early Oxford of births,

marriages and deaths, of that race when their antecedents once resided in the county. Older residents of Oxford will readily recall the Andersons, Birds, Bevins, Careys, DeGroats, Hales, Halls, Holmes, Hughes, Johnstons, Mickeys, Pipers, Sanders, Sullivans, Thomas, Vanpatters and Wilsons. Everyone of them were skilled workmen in their own particular trade.

GREAT MIGRATION

From 1870 to 1880 nearly 10,000 Oxonians departed from their native hearth to emigrate to Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota and Manitoba. Advertisements of the Chicago northwestern, Union Pacific and the AT and SF railroads appeared in every journal printed in Oxford in the quest of new settlers for their railroads. The lure? The bait was cleared, and farmland, cheap with a very reduced railway fare to the final destination. Each railway had enormous grants of government land given to them as one of the conditions of construction, but before any revenue could be derived from the rails it would be necessary to have shippers along the respective route to produce grain and livestock. Hence the sale of choice farmland as low as 50 cents per acre.

Vast number of European Immigrants entered the states during this period, but the railroad agents centered their efforts on English speaking Canadians who had ready cash, settlers' effects (including stock) and the "know how" of American farming methods. Nissouri, the Zorras and Dereham townships contributed the largest numbers to these new railroads.

ALARMING SITUATION

The Sentinel-Review ran an editorial, in 1890, concerning the flower of Oxford sprouting in other fields throughout the States. The old Toronto Mail picked up the editorial and ran a column and a half in an endeavour to fathom the mystery. It produced figures to show that from 1840 to 1890 over one million Canadians had migrated from Canada and the majority had been prosperous farmers of "banner" county of Oxford.

The S-R editorial said in part "In 1880 the population of the county was 44,355; in 1889, 47,146, an increase of only 2,791. What is regarded as the natural increase of the population should have been 5,544. In other words, if the county had merely kept up the natural increase its population would have been 8,398, more than it was in 1889. But during these 10 years there has been a large influx into Oxford from other places. Farm laborers, young farmers and other are constantly coming from Britain. New industries and active building operations have brought many hundreds of men to Woodstock from outside places. Yet, the county of Oxford has had 9,500 souls leave it, while 1,100 have

taken their place. In other words, there has been immigration from the county of almost 1000 people yearly; while the actual increase in population has been less than 300 – and more than the whole of this actual increase in the town of Woodstock.

“The city of Toronto, Northern Ontario and other portions of the province have gained a small amount of our loss; while the Canadian Northwest has taken a still larger proportion. But it is quite safe to say that the U.S.A. has got the major part of it. In our business experience we know that hundreds of our readers have gone to the States during these years. A far greater number than have gone to our own fertile Canadian prairies. It is tolerably safe to say that two-thirds of the emigration of Oxford has been to the States, not to other parts of Canada. From a personal social and patriotic standpoint this is deplorable. The wholesale expatriation of our people means the breaking up of family relationships, of personal friendships and social ties as well as a national fealty. A majority of the people who remain in Oxford today are not as well off as they were 10 years ago.”

In closing, we noticed an advertisement inserted by the CPR which read – FROM ALL STATIONS IN ONTARIO TO HARTNEY AND MOOSOMIN, MANITOBA, ONE WAY \$15. RETURN \$28, and REGINA AND MOOSEJAW \$30.00.

Probably the ad was the answer to the great migration.

Encouraging British and European immigrants to settle on the prairies was part of Prime Minister Sir John A. MacDonald's plan to establish Canadian Sovereignty over the newly acquired North-West Territories. Stretching from Ontario's border to British Columbia (still a British colony). The Territories were transferred to Canada by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1869. Settlement was an urgent matter, and so was a railway to carry settlers west. There was already talk in mid-western United States of expanding north of the border. Sir John's promise of a trans-Canada railway persuaded British Columbia to enter Confederation in 1871.

The Canadian Pacific Railway, so necessary to opening up the Territories to large-scale settlement, was a massive project that took many years to finance. Surveying prairie land for railway-building and white settlement signalled displacement to Native people and Metis, and an end to their traditional way of life. 1885, the year the CPR was completed, was also the year of the second Metis uprising and the execution of its leader, Louis Riel.

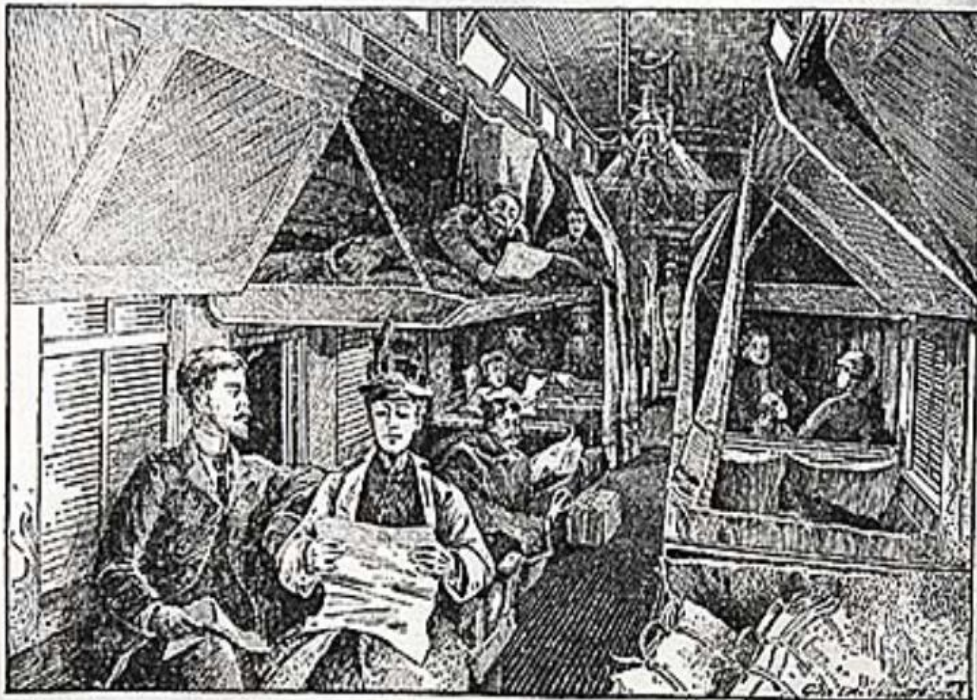
FOR the comfort and convenience of settlers going to the CANADIAN NORTH-WEST, the
→ CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY ←

PROVIDES A SPECIAL FORM OF PASSENGER EQUIPMENT, KNOWN AS

COLONIST CARS

Which are run through to MANITOBA and BRITISH COLUMBIA on the regular Express Train leaving MONTREAL each week day. They are really "SLEEPING CARS," modelled after the style of the first-class "PULLMAN," with upper and lower berths, closets, lavatories, &c., &c., the only difference being that the seats and berths are not upholstered. Occupants may supply their own bedding, or can purchase of the Company's Agents at QUEBEC, MONTREAL, or TORONTO, a mattress, pillow and blanket for \$2.50 (10 shillings), which they can retain at the end of their journey.

The accompanying cut shows the interior of a Colonist Car, with a portion of the berths made up for sleeping purposes.



Holders of COLONIST or SECOND-CLASS TICKETS are allowed FREE USE OF THESE CARS FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE END OF THEIR JOURNEY OVER THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

National Archives of Canada – C-137975

The previous image and text above are from National Archives and the *Canadian Museum of History Website* which provides a somewhat more modern and national perspective.

New Volunteer Joins Oxford Branch

Shirley Vanderwal is currently organizing our obituary collection as a new volunteer on Tuesdays. Shirley joined our group through her longtime friend and co-volunteer Liz Buchanan.

In 2019, after retiring from Pride Signs in Cambridge, Shirley began working on her own family history research. Shirley's family has been in the areas of Drumbo and Innerkip since the 70s. Both her parents were originally from Friesland, Holland, with her father arriving in the 50s. He preferred to look for work in Ontario in farming versus the soldiering opportunities that awaited him in Holland. After asking a friend to set him up with a pen pal back home, Shirley's pen pal parents agreed that their future would be in Canada.

Shirley is a graduate of Huron Park High School in Woodstock and was also a former employee of the Vansittart Harvey Woods team for 17 years. Welcome Shirley!

Mystery Jacket

Carol Bossenberry

A couple of weeks ago I heard a news clip on CBC radio that a 1970s broomball jacket from Ingersoll was purchased in an Australian thrift shop. That caught my attention immediately.

Shopping in his local "op shop" in Melbourne, Australia, Joe Winkler purchased the wool and leather jacket with the 1976-77 Broomball – Ingersoll crest and the name "Wally" embroidered on the front. Winkler had never heard of Broomball and he wanted to know where the jacket came from. Ingersoll was easy to find on the internet so he posted a message and photos on Facebook and almost immediately he received 100 comments. He found out that the jacket originally belonged to Wallace "Wally" Clayton. Wally's son Brad Clayton saw the post on Facebook and shared that when his dad died in January 2011, he donated some of his belongings to the Goodwill store in Ingersoll.

CBC picked up the story and you can hear an interview with Brad Clayton through the link: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/this-1970s-varsity-jacket-from-ingersoll-ont-was-found-in-an-australian-thrift-shop-1.7510118>

Although there are several theories no one actually knows how the jacket ended up in Australia.



- Joe Winkler took to Facebook to find the owner of a jacket he acquired at a second-hand shop in Australia. (Facebook)

Note to readers: If you have a mystery story long or short – please share. Sent your items to oxfordnewsletters@ogs.on.ca

In Case You Missed It....in the May 17th eWeekly

Starting May 31st, the Ontario Genealogical Society is launching a new service for anyone who is wondering about what to do with their genealogical legacy.

If you are worried that your children or grandchildren won't be interested in carrying on with your research, but you also want to ensure that it doesn't get thrown out, you can purchase our Legacy Box Service in the eStore.

For a flat fee (\$200 for OGS members and \$250 for non-members), we will send you a banker's sized box to fill with your genealogical legacy. We will extract surnames for the TONI database and we will share anything in the members area that you give us permission to share with other members.

FAQs

- Why the fee? Because it takes time and manpower to work our way through your legacy and give it the attention to detail that it deserves.
- We ship the empty box so that all legacy boxes are a consistent size.
- You ship the box back to us or drop it off at the office.
- We will digitize to preserve your legacy. If you wish to have hard copies of the photos returned to your family please let us know and we can make arrangements for you to cover the shipping fee.
- We are not replacing digitization services such as Digital Treasures, Forever, or other similar programs. We are preserving your legacy in a digital format so that years of work do not get lost to time.
- Note: Oxford Branch has a large collection of family histories, please consider us if your family have/had connections to this area. We would accept a printed family history or a digitized version. Also, any books that relate to Oxford County would be of interest. Check with a local museum if you have artifacts that you want to preserve.

Lillias MacPherson Rose – First Woman Teacher in Zorra

by Liz Dommasch (reprinted from the Oxford County Archives Blog Of February 2022)

Born in Invernesshire Scotland on February 20, 1806, Lillias (nee MacPherson) Rose had an interest in learning from an early age. As a young girl, her teacher persuaded her father, whom was an elder in the parish church of Edinkillie, to send her to school until she could qualify as a pupil-teacher. There she learned such subjects and Grammar, Religion and Latin.

Lillias would grow up and marry Alexander Rose and in 1834, the Rose family, including four small children, immigrated to Canada, where they would settle in Zorra Township in the spring of 1835. At the time there was no school in that part of the County, and Mrs. Rose quickly took it upon herself to instruct her own children at home. Soon her neighbours persuaded her to teach their children and she quickly established a day school in her own home, on Lot 7, Concession 10. As no one had money to pay school tuitions, Mrs. Rose was often sent gifts of baked goods, pork, dairy, cheese, and even wool to repay her for her kindness. As noted in a booklet published in 1935 honouring the life of Ms. Rose, “she did not expect much for what she did” as “the success of her pupils was sufficient award”.

Pupils attending the day school came from neighbouring farms and were taught in English, although the language of the community at the time was mostly Gaelic. Mrs.

Rose felt strongly that English would be the language of Canada, and discouraged of the use of Gaelic. In fact, she was said to be a stickler for the use of classical English and relied heavily on the English bible for teaching reading and writing.

Mrs. Rose would also open the first Sunday school in Zorra in her own home that same year. Conducted every Sunday, classes were attended by both children and adults.

Eventually Sunday Schools would also be established in Embro by the Rev. Donald MacKenzie, and another at Glenness, his home opposite the log church.

In 1839 the Rose family moved to a farm they purchased on Lot 6, Concession 3 where they built a log house with a cellar kitchen. A school was carried on there until 1843 when family duties compelled its discontinuance. During this time, Rev. Donald MacKenzie, now a member of the Board of Education, visited the school and was so impressed with the progress of the students that he arranged for Mrs. Rose to obtain a Canadian Teaching Certificate and thereby qualifying for the government grant.

In the spring 1856 the Rose family would move to Elgin County, though by 1871 they had moved back to Oxford County, settling in the Town of Woodstock. There Mrs. Rose devoted herself to temperance work and would organize the Women's Mission Society in Knox Church. She would also contribute to Salvation Army work and was said to have a passion for gardening. Her son, Hugh Rose, operated the carriage making business, *Gardner and Rose*, while her son, Angus Rose, operated a grocery and egg business. Both sons and her son-in-law were teachers in the Sunday school and elders in Knox Church.

Lillias MacPherson Rose would pass away on December 18, 1889.



Image credits:

Centenary of First Woman Teacher in Zorra, Lillias MacPherson Rose, 1835-1943
located in COA154 Woodstock North Women's Institute fonds

Oxford Historical Society Postcard Collection: J. Gruszka 0748 – Woodstock Knox
Presbyterian Church.



Oxford Branch Library Update

Oxford Branch has a large and expanding collection of local, regional and across Ontario books. We have been collecting school yearbooks and have a growing collection but are missing many years.

The Woodstock Collegiate Oracle collection starts with our first yearbook from 1927. If you are clearing out your bookshelves, we would be grateful for a donation of any of the missing volumes. Below is a list of missing volumes of The Oracle: 1934; 1935; 1943; 1944; 1945; 1946; 1959; 1970; 1972; 1979; 1989; also, any 1990s to current.

The Obituary Collection of 34 volumes contains Oxford County and area obituaries that were published in local newspapers from the 1920s to 2024. For a complete index go to the Oxford Branch website <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca>

The Tillsonburg News birth, marriage and death indexes from 1863 – 1950 are in 2 binders.

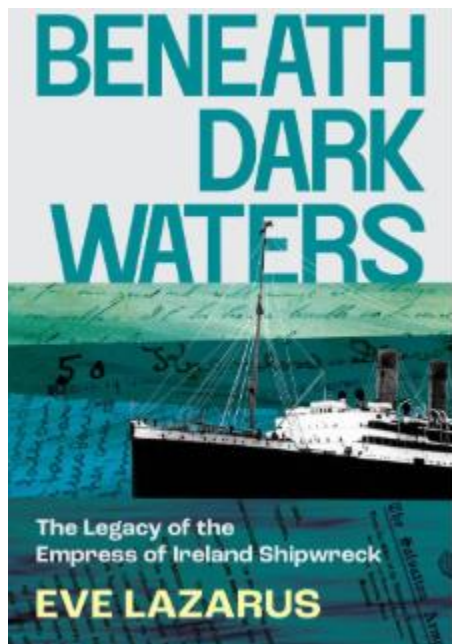
There are also birth, marriage and death indexes from the Ayr News from 1852 – 1976 on shelf OX 207.03. The Ayr News microfilm reels are located in the microfilm cabinet OX FC 260.05.

As well we have microfilm of early Oxford County newspapers: OX FC 260.05

British American Newspaper; Embro Courier; Plattsville Echo; Tavistock Gazette, Mail; Thamesford Town Crier; Norwich Gazette; Weekly Woodstock Sentinel; Woodstock Herald; Woodstock Sentinel Review.

If you are unable to research in person and need a look-up, contact our research team at oxford@ogs.on.ca. There is no charge for research however a donation would be gratefully accepted (we do need to pay the rent).

Book Review



Beneath Dark Waters: The Legacy of the Empress of Ireland Shipwreck

by Eve Lazarus

Arsenal Pulp Press, Vancouver, British Columbia, 2025.

\$26.95

<https://thebcreview.ca/2025/03/12/2476-kennedy-lazarus/>

The sinking of the *RMS Empress of Ireland*, was the worst peacetime maritime disaster in Canadian history. This book delves into the tragedy that cost 1,012 passengers and crew their lives in May 1914.

On May 28, 1914, in fine weather, the Canadian Pacific's *Empress of Ireland* set sail from Quebec City with 1056 passengers and 423 crew bound for Liverpool, England on her 192nd Atlantic crossing. At

1.30 am off Rimouski at the widest part of the St. Lawrence, the ship encountered fog and shortly after the bridge sighted the Norwegian coal carrier *Storstead*, making her way up river. Somehow the ships collided, with the freighter smashing a gaping hole in the side of the passenger ship. Huge volumes of water poured into the *Empress*, sinking her in fourteen minutes. The crew only managed to launch four of the forty lifeboats on the *Empress* leaving most passengers and crew to take their chances in the frigid waters. In the end, 1,012 of them lost their lives.

Lazarus details the poignant stories of unselfishness, heroism, and kindness that accompanied, and followed, the sinking. Once the people of Rimouski and Quebec City became aware of the accident, they stepped up to clothe, feed, and house the unfortunate survivors in true Canadian fashion.

The book displays many photographs scoured from a wide variety of sources, many taken by Lazarus herself. A comprehensive appendix lists all of the passengers and crew who survived and those who perished.

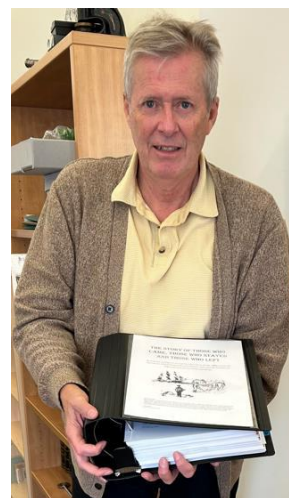
Cover Photo

Taken by Carol Bossenberry on Cobble Hills Golf Course

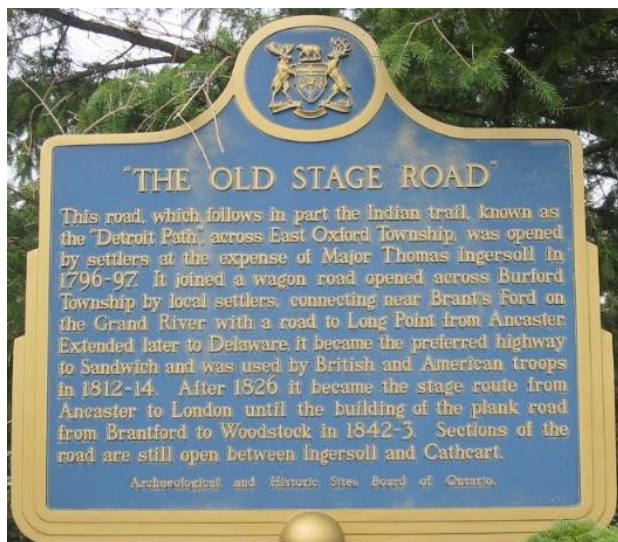
Recent Meetings

The Devon Elliotts: The Stories of Those Who Came, Those Who Stayed and Those Who Left with Glenn Elliott

Glenn shared the story of his genealogical journey from knowing very little about his extensive family to a massive family history that is still a work in progress. He contacted as many of his known relatives and asked for information and photos. He used the usual websites familiar to all of us and was able to trace his Elliott line back to Devonshire in England to Oxford County. He filled in the data for the descendants of the original family in Canada and created 11 books each illustrated with information about the family group and their descendants including stories, photos and newspaper clippings. Glenn shared several fascinating stories including the one about the shoot-out at the cheese factory. To hear his presentation go to the Members Library on the Oxford Branch website and look for March 2025.



“Preachers, Teachers, Entrepreneurs and Rebels” A Virtual Field Trip of historical plaques, following Rural and Urban Pathways, celebrating Oxford County’s History from Embro to Wolverton and multiple places in between with Deward Yates



While driving around Oxford County is would be hard to miss the numerous blue and gold plaques along many roadsides. Most of these plaques have been erected by the Ontario Heritage Trust. Deward took us on a whirlwind tour starting in Embro with the ‘Preachers’ Rev. George Leslie Mackay and Donald McKenzie. An interesting fact: there have been 82 men from the area who have gone into the ministry. ‘Teachers’ Henry John Cody and Lydia Chase Ranney (also a cheesemaker) were our next two stops. Oxford County ‘Entrepreneurs’ were involved in the dairy industry and cheese making. ‘Rebels’ were Thomas “Carbide” Willson, Robert F.

Gourlay and Emily Howard Jennings Stowe.

Contest: Name all the Historical Plaques in Woodstock?

Send you answers to oxfordprogram@ogs.on.ca

There will be a prize for the winner.

The Cold Springs Farm Project with Doris Weir In Memory of Mr. William Harvey Beatty 1916-1994, founder and chairman of Cold Springs Farm Ltd.



Harvey Beatty devoted his working life to organizing farms, building farm organizations and developing his employees. It started with the purchase of his first farm in Thamesford in 1949 and that became Cold Spring Farms Limited and affiliated companies. He was a hands-on employer encouraged and assisted employees to grow to their potential. From his enterprises in turkeys, beef, pork and grain, he diversified into a feed mill, grain elevators, a processing plant, a rendering plant, farm machinery dealership, automotive workshops, fertilizer plant, fabrication, construction and development. By the time of his death in 1994 there 700 employees and 60 farms containing 8,745 acres in Ontario and further holdings in Michigan and Florida with.

Harvey Beatty served as director of the Ontario Turkey Producers' Marketing Board, Ontario Egg Producers' Marketing Board, Ontario Poultry Council, Poultry Products Institute of Canada and the Poultry Industry Conference and Exhibition. He assisted in the formation of several of these and the Ontario Poultry Centre.

Harvey served as director of the Oxford and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture; and on the Thamesford Village Council, Covent Gardens Association, Western Farm Association, and the Ontario Food Council. Harvey Beatty was involved in assignments for the Economic Council of Canada, Canadian Grains Council, and the Canadian Tariff Board as well as serving on the boards of many agri-based organizations. He was inducted into the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame and the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame.

After years of working with Schneiders Foods, Cold Springs was eventually purchased by Maple Leaf in 2008. The former Cold Springs Farm plant was eventually shut down in

2018 by Maple Leaf, and the Thamesford site is being developed for a housing subdivision.

The Cold Springs Farm Project was developed to preserve the history of the company. W. Harvey Beaty's Memoir is available at <https://www.lulu.com/shop> Doris Weir's photos of the Thamesford area and the destruction of the plant can be found at: <https://flickr.com/photos/thamesfordontario/>

Doris is hoping to collect more artifacts from the plant. Contact her at: csf149brock@yahoo.com

Coming Events - Branch Meetings

Monday, September 15, 2025 at 7 pm

A British Home Child may be Your Ancestor with Sue Hilborn



Sue's grandmother was a British Home Child. In her presentation she will talk about the child immigration scheme, her grandmother's story and share information how to find your British Home Child ancestor.

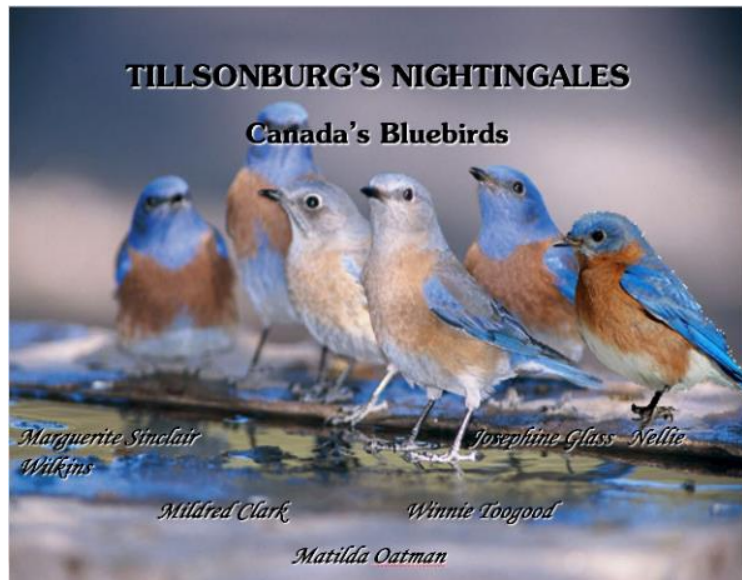
Photo of the Hazelbrae Memorial in Peterborough

Click on the link to register and you will be sent a link to join the meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZolcu2tqzwiE9WZ1wqbkL7VZSBN6BwscJZ4>

Monday, October 20, 2025 at 7 pm

Tillsonburg's Nightingales; Nursing Sisters in WWI with Laurel Beechey

The Canadian nurses who served in World War I were called Bluebirds because of their blue uniforms and white veils. Laurel will guide us through the journey of five young nurses from the Tillsonburg area, leaving home and through their service with the Canadian Army Medical Corps. They are our unsung heroines. Caution - some pictures are graphic.



Click on the link to register and you will be sent a link to join the meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsc-6trjgvHNNwFEUNBy8IC5CodwPA11IM>

Historical Plaques of Ontario – Oxford County

https://www.ontarioplaques.com/Locations/Location_DirectoryOxford.html

Alan L. Brown a retired school librarian and a number of volunteers have photographed many of the historical plaques of Ontario. For each of the plaques there is a photo of the plaque, a photo of the location and a map along with a brief note about the subject of the plaque.

For the Colonel Thomas Horner plaque located in the cemetery west of Princeton there is a link to his Wikipedia page, a link to other early settlers in Ontario and a link to other plaques in Blandford-Blenheim and the rest of Oxford County. Visitors to the site can leave a comment.



On Saturday June 7th at 2pm the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery Board will unveil the monument dedicated to the nearly 400 people buried in the Potter's Field. Dr. Cody Groat will preside as Master of Ceremonies as the Ingersoll and area citizens who were interred between 1864 and 1976 are honoured. The names of the each of those buried in the Potter's Field will be read out by Western University

The Ingersoll Rural Cemetery

603809 Cemetery Lane (just off Pemberton Street)

Ingersoll ON

Bring a lawn chair.

Debbie Johnston

Chair, Ingersoll Rural Cemetery Board

Photos taken in early May on Dundas Street in Woodstock



Several store fronts on Dundas Street West were “refaced” temporarily early in May for the filming of an Amazon movie about Mohammad Ali. The filming was an outside scene and the storefronts were returned to normal the next day.



Woodstock was the location of another filming in April



Condemned

Farah Foster-Manning, a local actress and triathlete is producing a new series called *Condemned*, a true crime series that will focus on the public hangings that took place in Woodstock between 1862 and 1954. (For details about the hangings see past issues of the *Tracer* in the *Murder Most Foul Series*).

With historically accurate, dramatic re-enactments, camera crews shot five episodes from Monday April 7th to Friday April 11th. The courtroom scenes were filmed on the first floor of the Woodstock Museum, and the other scenes were filmed at Early Bird Cafe, a local Victorian home, the Old Gaol courtyard and a local swamp.

The Mary Liley reading Room was used by the actors and camera crew while filming the hanging episodes.

Condemned will make its debut later this year and Foster-Manning is planning to host a local launch event for the big day.