



## Knox Presbyterian Church in Woodstock Celebrating the 190<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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**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.

Website: <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca> email [oxford@ogs.on.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

Hello All

This will be my last message to members as I will be stepping down after 4 busy years as Chair of Oxford Branch.

I can think back to the early days of Oxford Branch in 1979 when we were just a fledgling group of genealogy newbies and how much has changed in the past 45 years. Yes we have been around for 45 years!

I would like to thank the Council members who have supported me during my time as chair, the Branch volunteers who staff the resource centre library and those who work from home, for their many hours of dedicated service, especially those indexers who are helping to make our collection more accessible. I would also like to our members and visitors for their generous support of our ongoing research into the families of Oxford

2024 has been a busy year for the Branch. We have partnered with Tillsonburg Senior Centre and Ingersoll Centre for Seniors to present genealogy classes; genealogy classes have continued at the Governor's House; we took our display to the Woodstock Rec & Leisure Fair, the Oxford Local History Day and the Ontario Ancestors Conference in Toronto; and in October we launched the first ever Family History Month, which was a huge success with many visitors stopping by the Governor's House. Thanks to the City of Woodstock for the grant money which paid for the promotional ads, the Starter Kits for new genealogists and the bookmarks which were distributed to local libraries.

Our meetings will continue on Zoom for 2025 with an interesting line-up of speakers and topics. Watch the website for up-to-date news about events and activities. The Annual General Meeting and elections will be held on January 13th, with a speaker afterwards. Nominations are being accepted for Chair and Vice-Chair. Please contact me or any member of the Council if you would like to nominate someone or stand for office (we can make sure you get nominated) ([oxford@ogs.on.ca](mailto:oxford@ogs.on.ca))

**I want to wish you all a Happy Holiday Season and a Peaceful 2025!**



Markley Bond  
Chair



## Family History Month

The first Family History Month celebrated in Oxford County in October 2024 was a huge success! There have been many individuals and families through our doors at the Governor's House in Woodstock. New researchers received a starter kit which included a pedigree chart, family group sheet and tips on starting a family tree as well as a list of where to start researching. Bookmarks were distributed to local libraries which have a list of some of our collections and contact information.

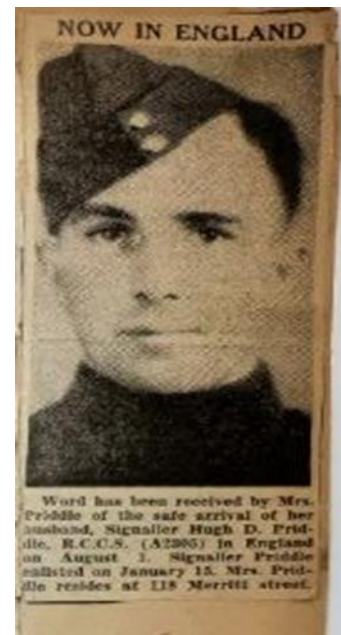


Mrs. Elizabeth (Betty) Priddle (nee Cole), centre, her daughter Lori McDonald, left and son Randy Priddle, on the right

Hugh David Priddle was born in Norwich village in 1908 - the second son of three sons and four daughters born to his parents Fred and Clara Priddle (nee Mustard). He married Edith May Powell in May of 1929, in London, Ontario when he was 21 and she was 18. By the 1931 census they had one son named James, and Hugh was working as a machinist at Ingersoll Machine and Tool. When he signed up to join the service he was enrolled in the Royal Canadian Core of Signals (R.C.C.S) who were responsible for operating signal equipment and also maintaining telephone lines and other communication structures - often under enemy fire.

The Priddle family came with many family tales to document and research. One story which caught the interest of the Oxford County Archivist, Liz Dommasch, was a school project completed by Eileen Dufton, a cousin of Mrs. Priddle's.

Eileen's grade school teacher had asked students to cut out and scrapbook the pictures of local soldiers who were posted abroad during WWII around 1940. The scrapbook documented many young men's eager faces with a few facts of their individual histories. This included Signaler Hugh Priddle - Elizabeth and Eileen's grandfather.



As noted in the following scrapbook article, nearly fifty of the Oxford County service men volunteered for the R.C.C.S. - as there was already a pre-war training facility in Ingersoll.

One of the listed signalman's names was J.C. Priddle – after a bit of research this was found to be Hugh's brother – John Castor Priddle, who was also a machinist, but 9 years younger than Hugh. He also returned from the war, passing away in 1982 with R.C.C.S. noted on his gravestone.

### HALF HUNDRED OXFORD MEN IN SIGNALS OVERSEAS

Many from Capt. Holmes' Ingersoll Unit Volunteered at Start of War

While there are more Oxford county men serving in the ranks of the Royal Canadian Regiment, including strength of that unit both in England and in Canada, there is one unit in Aldershot that outshines the R.C.R. for the large number of Oxford county men in its ranks overseas. It's the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals.

With the 1st Divisional Signals at Aldershot, it is known that there are nearly half a hundred men from Oxford, this being accounted for in large part by the fact that under B. F. Holmes there was a well-trained R.C.C.S. militia unit in Ingersoll before the war and when Capt. Holmes called for volunteers last September, there were 30 or more Ingersoll youths ready to go with him. Some failed to pass the medical examination, but about 26 did and are now in England.

So far as is known, here's the Ingersoll group in Aldershot: Capt. B. F. Holmes, Ernest Speers, D. L. Allsop, G. W. Allsop, R. E. Bowman, E. Bugg, R. Case, E. M. Cole, D. J. Cornfoot, H. M. Crotty, Harry E. Girling, C. L. Harris, T. D. Henderson, W. Hipperson, J. P. Joyce, G. E. Johnston, G. W. Latford, G. McKelvie, D. H. McDermid, G. H. Mole, J. C. Priddle, J. E. Powell, D. H. Robillard, C. M. Stevenson, J. R. Thomson and J. E. Turk.

Woodstock also contributed a quota of about 15 men to the Signals that went overseas with the First Division, these including: Joseph Blundell, Jim Horner, Sam Horner, Jesse J. Jones, Clarence Lindsay, Allen Murray, Bob Mc-

Hardy, Harvey Murdock, Charles Ogden, William Oerton, Anson Slater, Harold Sharpe, William Kerr, Garfield Speck, F. Moote and G. F. Baker.

Ronnie Palmer, of Tillsonburg, is also with the R.C.C.S., while Ernest Vigar and William McCurdy, both of Norwich, are training with the Signals at Kingston.

There may have been others from Oxford who went to England with this unit, but this is the list so far as the Sentinel-Review records show. Any additions or corrections would be welcomed, as would the loan of photographs of any of these men whose pictures have not already been published.



Towards the end of the war Hugh was stationed in Italy and often rode motorcycles for required duties. In the 1945 voter's list Hugh Priddle was still listed as on active service.

Hugh and Edith went on to have a large family with five sons and three daughters. Hugh died in November 1979 followed by Edith in 1985.



Below is a link to the **Eileen Dufton** WWII scrapbook on the Oxford County Archives website:

<https://archives.oxfordcounty.ca/online-resources/scrapbooks/eleen-dufton-wwii-scrapbook/>



## Knox Presbyterian Church – Woodstock Celebrating the 190<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

[Excerpts from Knox News November 2024]

Presbyterianism in Woodstock dates back to 1834 organized by the Rev. Alexander Gale as a part of the Church of Scotland. The meetings were held in Goodwin's schoolhouse, located at Dundas and Bay Streets. Rev. Donald McKenzie of Zorra and Rev. George Murray of Blenheim conducted baptisms and marriages. The first minister, Rev. Daniel Allen served the joint charge of Woodstock and Stratford from 1838 to 1840 when he chose to serve Stratford alone.

A church site had been granted on Graham Street in 1837 and work began in 1841 with White and Lewis as the contractors. In 1841, the congregation moved to the white frame building on Graham Street known as St. Andrew's Presbyterian. Later, St. Andrew's remained with the Church of Scotland and a majority of the congregation chose to join Knox's Free Church.

By 1849, Knox Presbyterian Church was established at the northwest corner of Perry and Elgin Streets and was built for \$4,850. The same year, a bell was cast by the Meneely Bell Company of Troy, New York, and began ringing in 1853, serving not only as a church bell but also as a town fire bell and a signal for evening curfew. In 1849, a 4-acre plot on Vansittart Avenue was granted by Lord Elgin for a Presbyterian Cemetery.

The first minister of Knox the Free Church congregation, was the Rev. William Servos Ball. Members from St. Andrews either joined Knox's Free Church or the Free Gaelic Church. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church united with Knox Church in 1865.

After many renovations to accommodate a growing congregation, the last service was held on September 5, 1897. The first service at the present church on the corner of Hunter and Riddell Streets was held just one week later.

From the decision to build a new church to completion was just 18 months. Knox Church, designed by the architects Messrs. Burke and Horwood of Toronto, was constructed at a cost of \$46,000. The interior features pews and pulpits crafted by the Globe Furniture Company of Walkerville, with the original organ and bell relocated from the former Knox Church on Perry Street. Architecturally, it showcases Richardsonian Romanesque style, characterized by its robust structure and aesthetic details, and is a twin of the slightly larger Metropolitan United in London, Ontario. The main auditorium's nave measures 67 feet square, arranged in a gentle arc for optimal acoustics and sightlines. Two small transepts are each 8 feet deep and 37 feet wide. The impressive 108-foot main bell tower symbolizes the Presbyterian Church's beliefs in strength and solidarity. Originally, the church was designed to accommodate 1,400 worshippers, although current seating is under 1,000. The sanctuary boasts a collared ceiling, supported by specially designed cantilever trusses, ensuring unobstructed views. Knox Church features 150 windows, 27 of which are adorned with stained glass. Six large chandeliers, crafted by the American

Copper Company of Toronto at a cost of \$845, illuminate the sanctuary. The building's high-quality brickwork includes lintels and sills made of red sandstone, which have been restored to their original color after years of being painted.

When the 1925 union of Congregational, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches formed the United Church of Canada, most of Woodstock's Presbyterians decided to maintain their identity rather than join the union.

## Recent Branch Meetings

All Oxford Branch meetings are virtual. Recordings of recent meetings are available to all for 2 weeks under the **About Us** tab on the website <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca> and are then moved to the Members Library, accessible to Oxford Branch members only.

For anyone who tuned in on October 21<sup>st</sup>, the start of the meeting was delayed by 20 minutes due to technical difficulties. Do not miss hearing the presentation in its entirety if you are researching your WW I ancestors.

### David Morton Gerrie

Speaker, Peg Perry told the story of David Morton Gerrie, a member of a Zorra township farm family, who was one of the many young men who perished in the Great War. Having access to his diaries and his own photographs helped create a vivid portrait of this young man including actual accounts of some of his off duty adventures with his mates. Peg did extensive research into World War I resources, and her handout included both the sources for the material used in the presentation and other materials that would be helpful for anyone researching ancestors who served in the military including using maps and the War Diaries.



Pictured is Morton and his beloved Indian Motorcycle in the front yard of the family farmhouse on Hwy 2 just outside of Ingersoll

Peg Perry, is an amateur genealogist with a passion for uncovering family histories. We look forward to another Oxford County story in 2025 from this excellent speaker.

## Sir Frederick Banting: The Man You Thought You Knew

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, Grant Maltman, curator of Banting House National Historic Site of Canada, spoke to us about Sir Frederick Banting, his involvement in the discovery of insulin, “a legacy he did not cherish,” and the 1923 Nobel Prize he and J. J. R. MacLeod shared, a fitting topic for Diabetes Month. We learned about his many other contributions to medical research in Canada, inventions, his military service in both world wars and his interest in art throughout the course of his lifetime.

Frederick Grant Banting was born 14 November 1891 to William Thompson Banting and Margaret Grant. And died on 21 February 1941. He is buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto His obituary is included with his entry on Find A Grave.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/2129/frederick-grant-banting>



The Banting House Museum at 442 Adelaide Street, London ON

Hours: Tuesday – Friday 12 pm -4 pm; Saturday & Sunday 11 am – 4 pm

Guided tours are 45 minutes; last tour at 3:15

Admission \$7 / Seniors 65+ & Children (5-12) \$6 / Also Family & Group Rates

<https://bantinghouseshs.ca/visit/>

## 2025 Branch Meetings

All Oxford Branch meetings will continue to be virtual in 2025.

Go to the website <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca> click on the link to register and you will be sent a link to join the meeting.



## Using Glimr Oxford County's Online Mapping Resource

Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm



**Glimr** Oxford County's online mapping resource, which is accessible to the public via the county website, offers a vast amount of information. Liz Buchanan will demonstrate how to use **Glimr**, and will guide us through the fundamentals of the application, focusing on properties, their locations, and descriptions within Oxford County.

Liz Buchanan, is an Oxford Branch volunteer, and is a former employee of the Oxford County Planning Department. She spent many years working with mapping applications and is excited to share with you some of the information available through Glimr.

## The Potter's Field Project at the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery

Monday, February 10, 2025 at 7 pm



This presentation will focus on the work of the Potter's Field Project at the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery. The Potter's Field is an unmarked section of the cemetery where nearly 400 people were buried. These community members were differentiated based of their socio-economic status. The stories of people who were buried in the Potter's Field will be shared including stories of former enslaved African Americans, British Home Children, people impacted by the Chinese Head Tax, and the unhoued.

Cody Groat, is Assistant Professor in the Department of History and the Indigenous Studies program at Western University.

## Finding Florence: Searching for Florence Carlyle's Resting Place

Megan Lockhart, Archives Technician

We love a good mystery at the Oxford County Archives, especially one that can be solved and provide us with an opportunity to work with our exceptional community of colleagues in the archival and cultural heritage fields! When staff at the Woodstock Art Gallery reached out to us earlier this year with a request for help with finding the final resting place of local artist Florence Carlyle, I couldn't wait to take on this special research project. The location of where Carlyle was buried has been unknown for many years. It *was* known, however, that after leaving her hometown of Woodstock, Ontario, she lived out the rest of her adult life in England, where she eventually passed away at her home with her longtime friend and potential life partner Juliet Hastings. Whether or not she was buried in England remained a mystery for a long time.



*Portrait of Florence Carlyle,  
from Wikimedia Commons courtesy  
of the Archives of Ontario I0007832*

Before I delve into the whole story, I'll provide a bit of background on Carlyle. Florence Carlyle was born in 1864 in Galt, Ontario. As a young girl, Florence moved to Woodstock with her family where she developed an interest in art at school. Wanting to encourage her daughter to develop her talent and explore her interests further, her mother began organizing art classes in Woodstock and

even established an art studio at 369 Simcoe Street. In 1883, Florence had her artwork on display at the Ladies Department of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition (now the Canadian National Exhibition better known as the CNE). It was there that she gained recognition for her talent internationally when the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, from the United Kingdom, purchased one of her pieces.

In later years, Florence studied art in Paris, France, under the tutelage of internationally acclaimed Canadian artist Paul Peel. Despite her recognized talent, she struggled to find an academy in Paris that accepted women. She eventually attended the Académie Delécluse which strongly supported female artists and provided more space for female students than male students. Florence finished her studies at the prestigious Académie Julian. She was granted permission to exhibit a painting at the Paris Salon (the official art exhibition of the Académie des Beaux-Arts) in 1893, a dream for many artists. In 1896 she returned to Woodstock where she set up her own studio, another in London, Ontario, and eventually one in New York City. A year later she became the first woman to be elected an Associate at the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts.

It has been speculated by historians that Florence was part of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and that Florence's long-term roommate and travel companion, Juliet Hastings, was her romantic partner. Florence met Juliet in England in 1911. By 1913, the pair had settled together in a cottage known as "Sweet Haws" in Crowborough, England after travelling throughout Europe and were lifelong companions thereafter. Juliet also acted as Florence's model for many of her paintings. Carlyle eventually passed away in the cottage in 1923 after several years of illness. Many of Carlyle's artworks are part of the permanent collection at the [Woodstock Art Gallery](#).

Returning to the main portion of this story and the big question: was Carlyle buried in England or was her body brought back home to Ontario, Canada? After spending a few weeks researching I was able to find the answer, and the journey to get to the answer was an interesting one! My search first began online, using the [Family Search](#) website and [Ancestry](#). While it is important to keep accuracy in mind when using web resources like this, I find they are often great starting points when little information is available to you. I had success in finding the 1923 Death Registration for Carlyle, which listed her as being 58 years old at the time of her death, and confirmed that her death was registered in Uckfield, a town not very far from her residence in Crowborough. Utilizing the records we have available to us at the Archives, I was very certain that she was not buried in Oxford County, Ontario, and was likely buried somewhere in East Sussex, England. I was also able to find the probate for her assets online which furthered confirmed her residence as Crowborough, East Sussex. Her death was registered on May 2, 1923; not surprisingly, the probate was assigned to Juliet.

Florence Carlyle's death registration reads: "Carlyle, Florence of the Cottage Sweet Haws Crowborough, Sussex. Spinster. Died 2 May 1923. Probate London, 5 June to Juliet Hastings, spinster. Effects £1385 IIs. Id."

This may sound silly, but sometimes a good old "Google search" can also be helpful. An article popped up written by a former staff member at the [McIntosh Gallery](#) at Western University which contained valuable biographical information on Carlyle, including a note that Carlyle was buried in a cemetery not far from where she lived in East Sussex. This was exciting as it was the first confirmation I saw that she was buried in England! I got in touch with a staff member at the Gallery who provided me with a list of resources used for the article that mentioned that Carlyle was buried in England (thank you Luvneet!). This gave me further hope that I should be able to narrow down her burial location.

BURIALS in the Burial Ground of the <i>Parish of St. Andrew</i> in the County of <i>Sussex</i>					
NAME.	Age.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	Date of Death.	Place or Parish where Death occurred.	Place or Parish where the Body was buried.
<i>Shelton John</i> No. 961	-	<i>Child of George Butler</i>	<i>6th April 1923</i>	<i>The Cottage Hospital Crowborough</i>	<i>Same place</i>
<i>Taylor George</i> No. 962	<i>118</i>	<i>General Labourer</i>	<i>13th April 1923</i>	<i>General Hospital Lambrook Walk</i>	<i>Same place</i>
<i>Long James</i> No. 963	<i>79</i>	<i>Taylor</i>	<i>16th April 1923</i>	<i>"Langport" Bulverton Road Crowborough</i>	<i>Same place</i>
<i>Carlyle Florence</i> No. 964	<i>58</i>	<i>Artist (Painter)</i>	<i>2nd May 1923</i>	<i>Sweet Haws Crowborough</i>	<i>Same place</i>
<i>Smith Elizabeth Mary Charlotte</i> No. 965	<i>21</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	<i>14th May 1923</i>	<i>Sweet Haws Lodge Crowborough</i>	<i>Same place</i>
<i>Chandler Leonard Henry</i> No. 966	<i>25</i>	<i>Butcher</i>	<i>17th May 1923</i>	<i>3 Orchard Road Crowborough</i>	<i>Same place</i>
<i>Hunt John</i> No. 967	<i>58</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>18th May 1923</i>	<i>Cottage Hospital Crowborough</i>	<i>Same place</i>
<i>Wright Mary</i> No. 968	<i>65</i>	<i>Wife of Frederick Wright</i>	<i>20th May 1923</i>	<i>Belvedere Blackness Crowborough</i>	<i>Same place</i>

The Burial Registration for Florence Carlyle,  
Courtesy of the Crowborough Town Council

I began looking to determine if there are any archives located in the Crowborough area. This led me to [“The Keep”](#) and one of its partners: the East Sussex and Brighton and Hove Record Office. I had my fingers crossed that someone at the Record Office would be able to track down burial records for her. Drew at the Record Office was exceptionally helpful as, despite not having the Crowborough Church burial registry in their records, he suggested contacting the [Crowborough Town Council](#) directly and offered to have someone take a photo of her grave if the plot number was available.

My next step was working with the Allotments & Cemeteries Officer, Clair Gilbert, with the Crowborough Town Council. Using burial records, Clair was able to confirm that Carlyle was buried in the Herne Road Cemetery in Crowborough and provided the exact plot number. Finally receiving that confirmation was so thrilling! Clair kindly offered to send me photos of the grave itself and I also received photos of the grave from Steve Selby, a colleague of Drew at The Keep. Carlyle’s headstone is small and unassuming, despite being larger than life herself as a female pioneer in the art world during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Her connection to Woodstock is noted on the grave. It also includes a simple and moving message: “Loving and beloved”.



*Florence Carlyle's grave, courtesy of the East Sussex Records Office*

After a few weeks of “detective work” we finally have the answer to where Carlyle was laid to rest, and our records have now been updated. Without the assistance of several wonderful individuals, I’m afraid I never would have found the answer! I am very thankful for their help, time, and advice and am also thankful for the technology we have today to stay connected with others globally. The enthusiastic willingness to lend a helping hand that I continually witness from the GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums) community never ceases to inspire me.

I want to thank the following people for their help with my research, and Mary Reid at the Woodstock Art Gallery for sending me on this interesting journey:

- Luvneet Rana at the McIntosh Gallery/Western University
- Drew and Steve Selby at the East Sussex and Brighton and Hove Record Office/The Keep
- Clair Gilbert and The Crowborough Town Council

During my research, I was led to a new question – where exactly was the “Sweet Haws Cottage” located in Crowborough? Was it on Sweet Haws Lane somewhere, and if so, is it still standing today? That is another mystery for another time!

Please note – Megan Lockhart has since left Oxford County Archives and we wish her much success in her new endeavours at the Perth County Archives.

### Addendum

Much was written about the Duke and Duchess of Argyll’s purchase of Carlyle’s work as the Duchess was Princess Louise, 4<sup>th</sup> daughter of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.

The Woodstock Art Gallery in Woodstock, Ontario holds the majority of Carlyle’s collection, currently a total of 55 works.

It is interesting to note that according to Wikipedia in December 2022 at the Cowley Abbott Auction, her work realized a record price of \$102,000. *The Studio*, oil on canvas, 35.25 x 21.5 ins (89.5 x 54.6 cms), Auction Estimate: \$25,000.00 - \$30,000.00, was purchased by the Art Gallery of Ontario.

### Notice of the Annual General Meeting 13 January 2025

The meeting will be held via Zoom at 7 pm. Go to the website <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca> to register and you will be sent a link to join the meeting.

The Branch Annual Report will be presented followed by the election for the offices of Chair and Vice-Chair. Nominations will be accepted up to 4 pm on 10 January 2025 at 4 pm at [oxford@ogs.on.ca](mailto:oxford@ogs.on.ca) The slate of officers will be presented followed by a presentation about Glimr.



## Oxford County Branch Celebrates 45 Years

In the last Tracer we asked for a story about your experience with Oxford Branch during the past 45 years. Don't hold back – the Editor still welcomes any submissions from readers. Send your stories to [oxfordnewsletters@ogs.on.ca](mailto:oxfordnewsletters@ogs.on.ca)

### My First Oxford Branch Meeting

Carol Bossenberry

Back in the early 2000s I saw a notice in the newspaper for a meeting of Oxford Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society at the Woodstock Museum. That was early days in my genealogical life and other than collecting names and dates from relatives back to my great grandparents I didn't know much about genealogy.

This notice caught my eye because the talk was about Irish Genealogy. Not long before then I had been given a family history for one branch of my family, Samuel and Sarah Ferguson, who emigrated from Ireland to Durham County in 1821 and included their descendants up to 1990. I had collected names and dates but not much information about the people or their lives so I thought hearing a lecture would give me some insight.

As soon as I ventured inside the door a woman came over to greet me. She asked me my name, told me hers, Mary Liley, and asked what family names I was researching. I listed off my main family names and as soon as I said Moir she took my arm and said you just have to meet Eileen. That was Eileen Moyer. We spoke for a few minutes and came to the conclusion that her Moyer's were Irish and my Moir's were Scottish. Both Eileen and Mary Liley, were pillars of the genealogy community at Oxford Branch. Eileen taught genealogy classes and Mary volunteered at the resource centre and as a newbie genealogist I relied on both of them for help whenever I was in the centre. That was in the days before internet genealogy.

My four grandparents all originated in Huron County so I focused on using the microfilm reader for the birth, marriage and death indexes. The resource centre contains so much more information about Huron County than I anticipated. And, as happens in many families, they moved around, and to this day I keep finding information about people in my tree who have ventured across the borders into Oxford County.

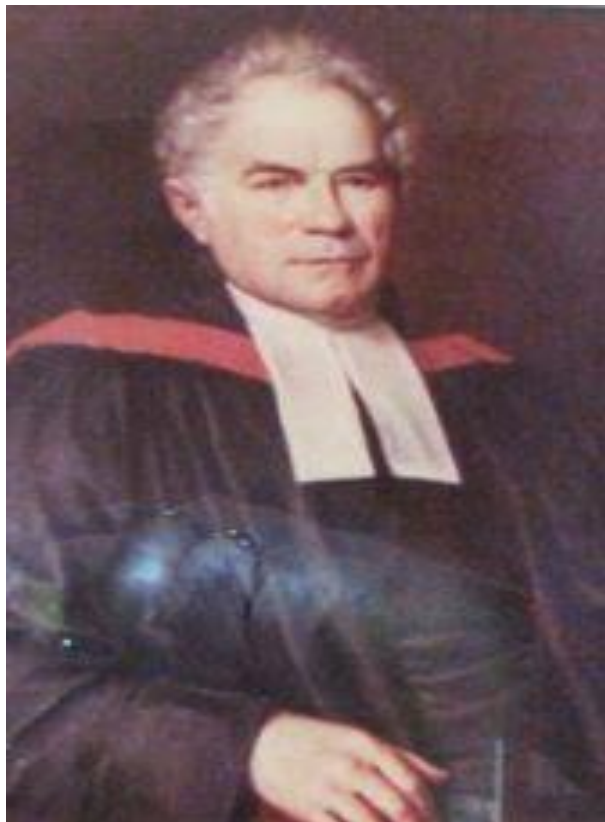
Mary Liley took me under her wing and groomed me to become a volunteer. Now I have more than 20 years as an Oxford Branch volunteer and it has been a mind expanding experience. As some say genealogy keeps your brain active and keeps you young.

## Anatomy of a Portrait

Sharon Young

Many of us are fortunate to have family photos dating back a century or two, but few of us are lucky enough to have family portraits that have survived the ins and outs of generations of inheritances and personal taste.

When we were packing up my Dad's house he had two cartoons/ drawings of himself that he maintained but I never cared for and apparently neither did my brothers - but 20 years after his death, because he treasured them and they were unique I wish I had kept them. One a somewhat awkward pencil drawing made by his sister but made with love and the



other an etched cartoon plaque from a gang at work that would have been appreciated by his grandkids or great grandchildren. Luckily, we have many of photos of my father, unlike many of our earlier ancestors.

Some families may have copies of silhouettes which were the popular way to recreate an image of oneself or loved one before the invention and common use of photography in the mid 1800's. .

A lucky few families have had artists in the family who have left sketches of relatives – and rarer still, some us have had success in finding a few interesting portraits held by other institutions and family members. One of the most remarkable images I have discovered is a portrait of my great great grandfather, Reverend Dr. Thomas Phillips (1780-1849) completed around 1846-48. He was the first Vice Principal of Upper Canada College in Toronto and they



apparently commissioned his portrait after he left to tend to his own parish of St. Philips in Etobicoke.

Portrait painters in York were not very prevalent, but the artist George Berthon who painted the above portrait of Rev. Dr. Phillips, was both accomplished and quite prolific.

According to both Wikipedia and The Dictionary of Canadian Biography George Théodore Berthon (3 May 1806 – 18 January 1892) was a Canadian portrait painter. Born in Vienna to a well-known French portrait painter, René Théodore Berthon, and Frances-Desirée Maugenet, George Theodore Berthon was born at the “royal palace” in Vienna, where his father, René, court painter to Napoleon was executing a commission for the emperor. The younger Berthon is thought to have received his formal art training from his father. As a resident of Paris, he also had the opportunity to study the work of the old masters and the best contemporary French artists.

At age 21 he immigrated to England and was married around 1840, probably in France, to Marie-Zélie Boisseau (d. 18 July 1847 in Toronto), and they had one daughter; his second marriage was on 14 August 1850 to Clare Elizabeth de La Haye in Toronto, and they had six sons and five daughters.



As an adult, George lived in England for a number of years in the household of Sir Robert Peel (UK Prime Minister from 1841-1846) to teach Peel's daughters drawing and French.

The first confirmation of his immigration to Canada was confirmed when he advertised his services as a portraitist “from London” in Toronto's *British Colonist* on 1 January 1845, but he may have arrived as early as 1840.

Berthon's sophisticated European training quickly attracted the attention of local art patrons, most of them with tory affiliations, and important portrait commissions were soon acquired. His earliest pictures included likenesses painted in 1845 of such noted Torontonians as Bishop John Strachan and Chief Justice John Beverley Robinson

George Berthon (1806-1892)

Berthon was notable in the history of Canada for his creation of formal portraits characterized by a subjects' features and characters without idealization. His work is important both as a historical record and as an example of the style of Canadian portraiture during that period. In my earlier research I came upon a student paper online

that illustrated the possibility of Berthon using photography as a reference for his painting subjects – the precision and life like quality of his work was likely enhanced by this practice. Without any known photos of Rev. Dr. Phillips, I believe this almost modern portrait is probably a fairly accurate portrayal of the good Reverend, my ancestor. The painting remains as part of the Upper Canada College collection, however I am grateful to have discovered it online and be able to share it digitally with other family members.

George Theodore Berthon was nominated as a founding member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts but failed to qualify. He was elected a life member of the Ontario Society of Artists in 1891. He died of a bronchial infection, at his Toronto home, in 1892.

## University of Guelph Rural Diary Archive

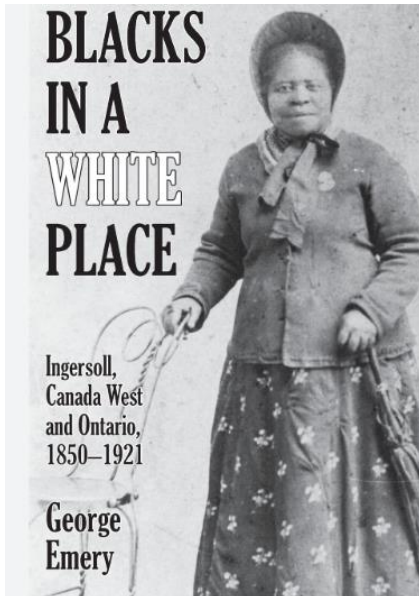
<https://ruraldiaries.uoguelph.ca/>



The Rural Diary Archive showcases hundreds of diarists from rural Ontario who wrote diaries from 1800-1960. [Discover](#) is a good place to meet the diarists and learn about where they lived, their occupations, and brief biographies. You can read and [Search](#) through typed pages. Help [Transcribe](#) handwritten diaries online to make these valuable sources accessible to all and join the transcribing community.



## New Additions to the Branch Library



**Blacks in a White Place - Ingersoll Canada West and Ontario 1850-1921.** George Emery, Rock Mills Press, Rock Mills Ontario, 2024. 214 pages. OX 202.03

The author examines the lives of Blacks in Ingersoll, Ontario during 1850-1921, making up about 3% of the population, peaking in the 1860s and 1870s until the decline to 28 persons by 1921. He creates a clear and accurate picture of the lives of Blacks in a predominately White area. The Appendix contains names of Blacks in the census records from the 1861-1921 census records.

## Vernon Directories on FamilySearch.org

City directories were a popular publication for many Ontario municipalities from the 1880s through to recent years. These directories typically contained both an alphabetical listing of all inhabitants as well as a street directory listing all inhabitants.

There were a number of publishers of directories, however the best known is Vernon's City Directories, which began publishing around 1897 and finally ceased publication in 2014.

Ontario Ancestors, along with Family Search International and Library & Archives Canada, is undertaking the digitization of all available editions of the Vernon Directories. These digital copies are fully searchable and, are freely available to all. The first of these directories are now available.

To browse the available directories in this collection, please click the link below.

NOTE that you will be taken to the FamilySearch site, and you will have to create a free account and login to FamilySearch in order to view a particular directory –[CONTINUE HERE](#) or click on the link below. Check back often as more will be added as they are completed.

[https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/?search=&sort=score&perpage=10&page=1&fulltext=1&&page=1&refine\[OwningInstitution\]\[\]=The%20Ontario%20Genealogical%20Society](https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/?search=&sort=score&perpage=10&page=1&fulltext=1&&page=1&refine[OwningInstitution][]=The%20Ontario%20Genealogical%20Society)



## Excerpt from “The Pioneers of Blanshard”

William Johnston – 1899

### **School Entertainments**

In the winter, when the fruitage of the season has been gathered and stored away in the barns and cellars and the snow-drifts are piling up around the buildings and levelling up the roads, the people seek other enjoyments. Entertainments must now be held indoors. The Literary Society is organized, where spirited debates are kept up on some historical or other question which will require some research and knowledge of the subject. Sides are chosen and a chairman appointed. Music is also part of the programme. Recitations, too, are given, some of the performers rising to great heights in their renditions of the terrible or the sublime.

When the Literary Society has announced one of these interesting and most enjoyable events, large audiences are always present. A small charge is made at the door to defray expenses. A stage is erected at the farther end of the school and in front of the curtain is left space for the chairman and the organ. Before the admiring and appreciative audience the several events on the programme are brought on by the chairman until it is exhausted, when all join in singing the National Anthem, and the proceedings are brought to a close.

In a short time the horses, which have been in comfortable stables on the farms close to the school-house, are hitched to the sleighs and are waiting for the loads of young people, who are several miles from their homes. The moon is bright in a cloudless sky, and the air is crisp and frosty. With the shouting of the teamsters and the jiggling of the sleigh bells the horses are excited, and are pawing the frozen track in their desire to skim away over the smooth snow. At last the sleighs have each received their full complement of laughing, happy young people. When the word “ready” is given, the driver slacks his lines, the bells ring more merrily as the horses bound forward, and a song is begun in which all join. As they speed away the tones of the music falls softer and softer on the ear, and mingling with the tingling of the bells, dies away as the sleigh, in the fast increasing distance, seems like a dark speck on the snow.



## The Merry Sleigh Bells

(Tune—"the Heather Hills")

HURRAH! Hurrah, for the merry sleigh bells!  
List the ringing and the tinging of their silvery swells;  
And the tones of the merry sleigh bells.  
See the pale moon swing in the cloudless sky  
And the laughing stars peep as we merrily fly.  
As our gay young hearts in fitful spells  
Beat in time to the tune of the merry sleigh bells.

### CHORUS

Hurrah! Hurrah, for the merry sleigh bells!  
List the ringing and the tinging of their silvery swells,  
And the tone of their voices our bosom thrills  
And echoes the notes of the merry sleigh bells.

Then away, then away! We're aglow with delight!  
We're free as the air, or a bird in its flight!  
Up, up with the song, till its cadence swells  
In accord with the music of the silver bells!  
Away past the school in its peaceful hour,  
Away past the church in its leafless bower,  
Away past the farm and its frozen rills,  
We are happy as the chime of the merry sleigh bells!

CHORUS – Hurrah! Hurrah, etc.

The Pioneers of Blanshard with An Historical Sketch of the Township by William Johnston; Toronto: William Briggs, 1899 p. 81-83

## Book Review

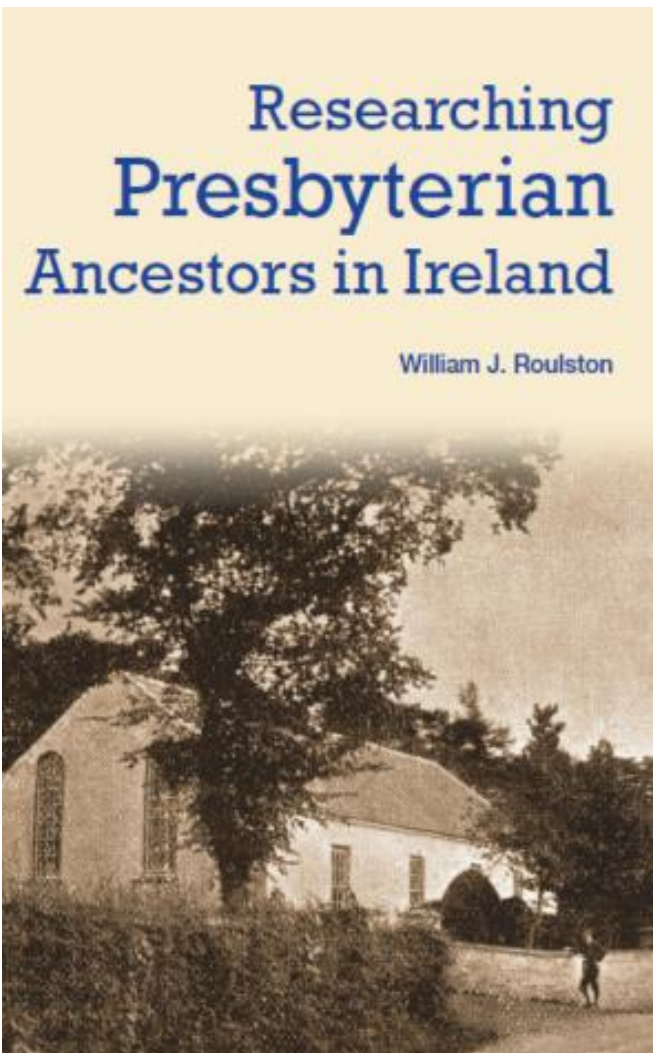
### Researching Presbyterian Ancestors in Ireland

Dr. William J. Roulston 2020

Available to buy at <https://ulsterhistoricalfoundation.com/>

Available in print or as an eBook

Dr William Roulston, is author of the book *Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors* and he is Research Director of Ulster Historical Foundation. Millions of people around the world have Presbyterian ancestors from Ireland. The aim of this book is to help those with Irish



Presbyterian roots find out more about their forebears. It considers the different strands of Presbyterianism in Ireland and explores the range of records generated by these religious denominations and where this material can be accessed by researchers. Much attention is focused on the documentation created by individual congregations, though consideration is also given to the records created by the higher courts of Presbyterianism and other bodies, as well as the personal papers of Presbyterian ministers.

Whether your ancestors were Covenanters, Seceders or Non-Subscribers, whether they were devout or merely nominal, whether they lived and died in Ireland or emigrated from Ireland this publication will assist in understanding more about Presbyterians and Presbyterianism in Ireland.

## English is Hard to Learn

When you think of all the non-English speaking immigrants to Canada that are / were are able to succeed and overcome the countless barriers they encounter, not the least of which learning the language, we have to admire their determined skill. As an illustration of how difficult English can be below is a list of homonyms from an online post of a newspaper article by Marlene Davis, date and paper unknown. Homonyms or homographs are words of like spelling but with different meaning and sound. When pronounced differently they are known as heteronyms.

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was cultivated to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full the workers had to refuse refuse.
4. We must polish the Polish furniture shown at the store.
5. He could lead if he could get the lead out.
6. The soldier decided to desert his tasty dessert in the desert.
7. Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present to his girlfriend.
8. A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
9. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
10. I did not object to the object he showed me.
11. The insurance was invalid for the invalid in his hospital bed.
12. There was a row among the oarsman as to who would row.
13. They were too close to the door to close it.
14. The buck does funny things when the does (females) are present.
15. A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
16. To help with planting, a farmer taught his sow to sow.
17. The wind was too strong to wind the sail around the mast
18. Upon seeing a tear in her painting she shed a tear.
19. I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
20. How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend...?

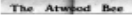













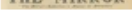


## Websites to Explore

### Stratford Perth Archives

<https://vitacollections.ca/s-pacollections/search>

Recently launched for public and in-house access, the Stratford-Perth Archives has a new digitized newspaper database. Browse and keyword search over 8,000 issues from 17 different newspapers from the Stratford area and Perth County 1860-1946.

#### Featured collections

	Atwood Bee
	County of Perth Electioneer Monitor
	County of Perth Herald
	Listowel Banner
	Listowel Standard
	Milverton Sun
	Mitchell Advocate
	Mitchell Times
	Monkton Times
	Stratford Advertiser
	Stratford Beacon Herald
	Stratford Examiner
	Stratford Gazette
	Stratford Mirror
	Stratford Times
	Stratford Times
	Stratford Weekly Herald





# MURDER MOST FOUL

An article in the Ingersoll Chronicle of October 27, 1904 details a bizarre murder case.

## VERDICT OF THE CORONER'S JURY

Mrs. Dee "Did Feloniously, Wilfully And of Malice Aforethought Murder her Husband."

## STRYCHNINE IN STOMACH AND CAKE.

Further Evidence as to Remarks Made by Mrs. Dee Regarding her Husband - The Eccentricities of the Woman

(From Wednesday's Daily)

Salford, Oct. 25, 1904  
That Mrs. Wm. Dee, otherwise called Lena Dee, on the tenth day of October in the year aforesaid, at her home in the County of Oxford, did feloniously, wilfully and with malice aforethought, kill and murder her husband, Wm. Dee, by administering strychnine as a poison, against the peace of our Lord the King, his crown and dignity.

The above was the verdict returned at 11:30 o'clock last night by the coroner's jury empanelled to enquire into the cause of the death of William Dee, of Dereham, who died suddenly after terrible suffering about noon on Monday, October 10th. The jury was out about three quarters of an hour.

The inquest was resumed at seven o'clock in the hall at Salford. There was a falling off in the attendance as compared with the previous sitting, although the building was comfortably filled. Among the gathering was a number of ladies.

Further sensational evidence was supplied by Miss Aimce Kennedy, who told of remarks she had heard Mrs. Dee make regarding Mr. Dee, one of which was that "she would shoot him if she had a gun." On another occasion Mrs. Dee said to her that "he deserved to be poisoned."

Miss Kennedy also gave evidence as to the eccentricities of Mrs. Dee, who, she said, had told her that she was crazy.

In all five witnesses were examined and the taking of evidence was proceeded with until nearly eleven o'clock.

Geo. Edwards of Ingersoll testified that, on calling at the Dee home, one day he had found Mr. Dee in great agony. Mr. Dee complained of cramps and spoke about "terrible pains." Witness gave the sick man some whiskey, after he had said that he believed some rum would help him. After taking the liquor, witness said that Mr. Dee rallied and was able to go on with his work in the afternoon.

Mrs. Edwards corroborated the evidence of her husband, with the exception of the date on which they visited Mr. and Mrs. Dee. She thought it was about two weeks before Mr. Dee's death.

Two witnesses swore that Mr. Dee had told them about harvest time that he had placed poison in grain for the purpose of killing birds.

## POISON IN STOMACH AND CAKE

The principal sensational feature of the sitting was the announcement made by Coroner Neff that Provincial Analyst Ellis, of Toronto, had found strychnine in both the stomach and the cake of which Dee had eaten, and which, according to the evidence of several witnesses,

he said tasted bitter.

#### REPORT OF ANALYSIS

In summing up the evidence, which he did thoroughly and concisely, Coroner Neff read the following report from the Provincial analyst:

"Toronto, Oct. 16, 1904  
J. A. Neff, Esq., M. D.,  
Coroner Ingersoll, -

Dear Sir: The stomach you sent me stated to be that of William Dee, contains much strychnine. The cake has crystals of strychnine mixed with the pink part where it has been cut. I have not had time to examine the kidney and bladder; nor the fruit, nor the packet which resembles ginger. The white crystals are epsom salts.

Yours truly,

W. H. Ellis

Before the jury retired, the coroner very carefully reminded them of the oath they had taken.

#### MRS. DEE

Mrs. Dee was present and occupied her former place in the south-east side of the hall. She looked pale and careworn and most of the time appeared oblivious of the surroundings and of her serious predicament. Her hair was dishevelled to some extent and at times she busied herself in brushing it away from her face. At intervals she would appear lost in meditation only to suddenly glance about her in a somewhat startled manner. Friends of the woman were quick to note that her imprisonment is telling on

her. When the verdict had been read, Mrs. Dee was asked if she had anything to say. She stood up and her counsel, Mr. J. L. Paterson, said "Mrs. Dee has nothing to say."

Mrs. Wm. Piper, a neighbour who was present at the time the death of Wm. Dee occurred, said she was summoned there about 10 o'clock that morning by Mrs. Kennedy, who said "Mr. Dee is very sick."

When she arrived, the sick man was lying on the floor, his hands clenched on the door. Mrs. Dee was there with her husband and was bent over him. As soon as witness saw Mr. Dee she was certain that he was poisoned and she said "Mrs. Dee, he is poisoned," to which Mrs. Dee replied "yes he is poisoned." Witness then spoke to Mr. Dee, saying "could not we do something for you?" He replied, "don't touch me; don't touch me; don't touch me." Witness then said that they must try and give him something. He replied that he was choking and that he might as well choke without it as with it. Mrs. Dee then pointed to a glass with a rubber tube in it and said nothing could be given him as she had tried with the tube and that he could not swallow it with that. While Mrs. Kennedy and witness were alone, Mr. Dee asked to be turned over on his right side. He was in great agony then and clinched the chair on which witness was sitting. "When he gave one of those jerks," said witness, "he

would move the chair with me on it." Witness had been fanning Mr. Dee and she said to him, "when did you get like this?" He replied "I have not been well since Friday, and for a month, in fact I have not been well all summer." She then said to him "When did you get like this?" and his reply was "since he got his breakfast." He then told witness that, after eating his breakfast he went out and picked some apples. Mr. Dee had spoken of paralysis.

Asked once as to where his pain was, he said "he didn't have any," but again said "he would rather die than go through this again." After one convulsion he said "If I have another I will never come back." Witness and Mrs. Kennedy held Mr. Dee while Mr. Kennedy removed his boots.

"Did he say what caused his illness?"

"No; only that he became sick after he ate his breakfast."

Witness heard Mr. Dee say that after he ate his breakfast he had a bitter taste.

Mr. Dee as well as Mrs. Dee was very anxious for the doctor to arrive.

Witness told of the efforts that were made to secure a doctor with all possible haste, and of instructions having been given to Mr. Kennedy, who went to the village to telephone to Ingersoll for one, to tell him to bring a stomach pump with him. Witness told of Dr. Coleridge having read the

symptoms of cases of arsenic and strychnine poisoning and said that Mr. Dee's symptoms corresponded with those in the latter case.

Questioned as to how Mr. and Mrs. Dee got along, witness said she had never heard Mr. Dee speak an unkind word of his wife. Mr. Dee had said that his wife would not take medicine if he got it for her. She had heard Mrs. Dee say that she was not well. He had never heard Mrs. Dee make any threats towards her husband, although she had heard her say to Dr. Coleridge that she had thought of doing away with him.

"Do you know if Mr. Dee ever had strychnine around?"

"I think that it was strychnine he told me he had; he also said he had Paris Green."

"When was that?"

"When the fall wheat was ripe."

Witness went on to say that Mr. Dee had said that he had soaked a sheaf of wheat in Paris green. She also thought that he had said that he had put strychnine in some corn.

"What did he do with the wheat and corn?"

"He put it on the field to kill fowl and sparrows."

He had also said that all of the corn had disappeared, and the witness stated that some of her ducks and one of her turkeys had died.

Juryman - "Were you ever aware that this man and woman were in the habit of quarrelling?"

"I did not know that they

quarrelled, and Mr. Dee at least."

To Dr. Coleridge, witness heard Mrs. Dee say that they quarrelled a little nearly every day. She also said that he was dead now and that she did not want to say anything.

Witness said that Mrs. Dee stated that her husband had pie, cake, bread and butter, tea and potatoes for his breakfast.

Witness also testified that when it was suggested that something be done to relieve Mr. Dee's sufferings she said that it was no use trying, that he could not take anything.

To Mr. Patterson, witness said that she had known for three years that Mrs. Dee's health was not good, especially her mental condition. She then went on to tell one of Mrs. Dee's eccentricities, which was that she would say some little thing and burst into laughter. Witness also said that when Mrs. Dee went out calling she did not act like other women. Judging from Mrs. Dee's eccentricities witness had thought that Mrs. Dee was not accountable. Witness also told of Mrs. Dee not being particular in her manner of dress and personal appearance. While giving evidence along this line, Mrs. Piper said that Mrs. Dee had told her that she wanted to get away from her home and go with her mother, saying "that she always felt better there."

Witness also said that she heard Mrs. Kennedy ask Mrs. Dee if she remembered

having said that she would kill her husband if she could, and she replied that she did.

In the opinion of the witness, Mrs. Dee's position would not be bettered by the death of her husband. She did not know as to whether Mr. Dee carried any life insurance.

Miss Aimee Kennedy testified that she had known the Dees for some time. Mrs. Dee had told her that her husband abused her. Mrs. Dee had also told her that he had put her out of doors in the morning before she was dressed. "She told me," said witness, "that he deserved to be smashed on the head with an axe."

"Once she said," went on the witness, "that he deserved to be poisoned."

"When was this?"

"I think it was in the winter time but I am not sure."

Witness further stated that Mrs. Dee had also said to her "that if she had a gun she would shoot him." She had said this on two different occasions, in the winter and in the spring. Witness had never heard Mr. and Mrs. Dee quarrel. Mrs. Dee had said that it was Mr. Dee who did the quarrelling; that she herself never quarrelled. Witness had heard Mr. Dee say that his wife did not do much work and that he had to get his own meals quite often, but she never heard him speak unkindly of her. The last time witness saw Mr. Dee was about 8.30 o'clock on the morning of his death. He then appeared in his usual

good health.

"Have you ever seen anything about Mrs. Dee that would lead you to think that she was not right in her mind?"

"Well, she has told me that she was crazy."

"Do you think she is crazy?"

"Sometimes I did, and then other times she seemed smart."

Witness went on to tell about the eccentricities of Mrs. Dee, saying that she had the idea, for some time that people were poisoning her by putting stuff in the well and in the milk cans. Witness had thought from Mrs. Dee's manner of dress and actions that she was not just right. She then proceeded to describe how Mrs. Dee had washed herself, saying that she would put the wash basin on the floor and sit down beside it, taking up the water in her hands and splashing it on her face.

Mr. Patterson - "You thought she was a little peculiar?"

"Yes."

Witness had told her mother about Mrs. Dee's queer sayings, and she told her that she had better stay away from there.

While being examined by Mr. Paterson, witness said that Mrs. Dee had told her that it was the King of England who was putting the poison in the well and in the milk cans. She also had said that the ministers of Salford did it too. Further questioned by Mr. Paterson, witness said that she had known Mrs. Dee

to go to town clothed in an odd manner.

Robert Quinn testified that while going through the Dee farm one day Mr. Dee told him that he had corn soaked in strychnine along the fence for sparrows. This was just before the wheat was cut. Witness said that so far as he knew, Mr. and Mrs. Dee lived happily together. He was well acquainted with Mr. Dee. He had never noticed anything peculiar about him.

In regard to Mrs. Dee, witness said that he was aware that she had odd ways.

"Would you say that these odd ways would make her irresponsible for her actions?"

"I would not like to say."

In the opinion of the witness, Mr. Dee would not have taken his own life. As to the time that Mr. Dee had told him about using strychnine, witness said it was in July.

Geo. Edwards, laborer, of Ingersoll, said that Wednesday morning, about four weeks before the death of Dee he visited Mr. and Mrs. Dee. He found Dee in agony when he went inside the house.

Dee had been on the floor and he spoke of the "terrible pains." He had vomited and he said, "Oh, George, if only I had a little rum, I think it would help me." Witness replied "Well, William, I have a little flask of Imperial Rye in my pocket." He said, "will you give me a little drink."

After he had taken the whiskey Dee felt better and in the afternoon he got up

and did some work. Dee had said he had been out threshing and that he got wet which he believed was the cause of his illness.

To the juryman, witness said that Mr. Dee did not tell him that he had been sick like that before. He did state, however, that he had never had such pains before. At this time Mrs. Dee seemed to take his illness quite hard, and said, "Will, what is the matter with you?" She did not offer to do anything for him.

Mrs. Geo. Edwards corroborated the evidence of her husband, except as to the date on which he said they visited Mr. and Mrs. Dee. She said it was about two weeks before the death of Mr. Dee. She also mentioned that while there Mr. Dee said he had had no breakfast. Mrs. Dee asked him to have something and she went to the pantry and got him some bread and butter. Mr. Dee then said that was the first he had eaten since five o'clock the night before. He complained a great deal about being thirsty and said he could drink a quart of water. He also spoke of chills and he had a couple of quilts over him. He had cramps in his stomach but witness did not see his arms or legs become stiff. Witness had been at the Dee home two or three times in the spring. She had noticed that Mrs. Dee had a "comical way," but did not think she was wrong mentally.

**THE PRELIMINARY  
HEARING.**

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**MRS. DEE SENT UP FOR  
TRIAL AT THE SPRING  
ASSIZES**

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At two o'clock this afternoon Mrs. Dee, who had been confined in the lockup here since the inquest last night was given her

preliminary hearing on the charge of murder, before Magistrate Morrison. The session was held in the council chamber and Justices of the Peace Walter Mills and J. F. Morrey were also on the bench. Crown Attorney Ball had charge of the case, while Mr. J. L. Paterson appeared on behalf of Mrs. Dee. Mrs. Jas. Kennedy was the first witness to take the stand.

The evidence of Dr. Coleridge and Lorn Tune, the drug clerk, who sold Mrs. Dee strychnine on August 5th last, was taken, being much the same as was given at the inquest. At the conclusion of the evidence the magistrate sent the case up for trial at the spring assizes.

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**Was Mrs. Dee found guilty of a brutal, premeditated crime or was she judged to be insane? Unfortunately, the outcome of the trial is unknown. Pertinent issues of the Ingersoll Chronicle and Tribune are not available on microfilm, so we may never know her fate. Do any of our readers have knowledge of the outcome of this case?**

Murder Most Foul reprinted from Retrospect Volume 4 Issue 1 May 1997 page 19-23  
Retrospect is the Official Bulletin of the Ingersoll & District Historical Society

**Editor's Note:**

William Dee, born in 1863 in Oxfordshire England, son of Thomas and Lucy Dee immigrated to Canada in ca 1888. He married Lena Matilda Allen, daughter of James and Isabella Allen of West Oxford Township on 6 March 1895 in Ingersoll. . The couple lived in Dereham Township, Oxford County. In the 1901 Census there were no children listed.

William Dee's death was registered twice. The death registration in Dereham Township stated the cause of death as Strychnine poisoning and the death was also registered in Ingersoll stating the cause as convulsions.

Checking "Persons Sentenced to Death in Canada, 1867-1976: An Inventory of Case Files in the Fonds of the Department of Justice" by Lorraine Gadoury and Antonio LeChasseur, there is no record that Mrs. Dee was hanged. Upon searching for a death registration, there is a Lena Dee, 34 years, who died of cardiac incompetence and heart failure on 13 November 1912 at the Hamilton Asylum, most certainly our Mrs. Dee.

## Poem by Charles Kingsley

Except a living man there is nothing  
More wonderful than a [family history] book! A message  
To us from the dead – from human souls  
We never saw, who lived, perhaps, thousands  
Of miles away. And yet these, in those little  
Sheets of paper, speak to us, arouse us,  
Terrify us, teach us, comfort us, open their  
Hearts to us as brothers.

Contributed by Pat Adam

## The Last Word...

It is always interesting to see how past generations celebrated different events and holidays. Here is a photo from my family (S. Young) which shows a children's Halloween Party from about a hundred years ago. My Uncle Des and Aunt Audrey are pretty much the center of this not very festive looking group – perhaps it wasn't quite the candy fueled fest holiday that it is today!

