

THE OPEONGO LINES

PRESERVING YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW

ISSUE 7 JANUARY 2001



ANNUAL HERITAGE LUNCHEON

Monday, February 19th
Trinity-St. Andrew's Church
Renfrew, Ontario
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Join us for a soup & sandwich luncheon with dessert & beverage.

Heritage Week runs from February 17th to 24th this year and the theme is "Transportation".

Watch for a special event in connection with Canada Day. We are hoping to dedicate our Millennium Trail Plaques with a special ceremony.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another year has passed during which we have been very busy. The work that we have accomplished was rather demanding. One of our biggest efforts was accomplished by our sponsoring and supporting part of the MILLENNIUM TRAIL with the Renfrew Recreation Commission. We sponsored the purchase of two plaques which are to be erected in kiosks along the trail, one near the old CNR station and one further along.

These plaques will be erected in the spring of 2001.

In October we enjoyed a bus tour to the Diefenbunker then to the town of Merrickville on the Rideau River.

Through the work of Dave and Kaye Lorente and their accomplishments with HOME CHILDREN CANADA, the cause of Home Children has been furthered immensely throughout Canada, the U.S.A, the British Isles, Australia and Ireland.

Be sure to attend the Annual Meeting on January

The coming year should see more action in our place at the Renfrew Archive Center as we keep receiving more and more requests and visits.

Martin Munhall

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, January 25, 2001
7:00 p.m.
National Archives Building
in Renfrew

Guest Speaker: Cheryl Gallant,
Member of Parliament for
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke
and Heritage Critic in the
Opposition Shadow Cabinet
Gastronomic Treats by
Grace, Stella and Darlene

The brief business portion consists of presentation of reports and election of Officers. We are always looking for good people to share the load. Please consider offering your time and skills in some small way. Contact Jim McGregor (432-9566) to let him know of your interest.

Membership Dues

Check the mailing label to see when your membership expires.
Annual Dues are \$10.00
Life Memberships cost \$100.00

Our Web Page

www.renc.igs.net/~renarch/

Email address:
renarch@renc.igs.net

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Your Executive

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Secretary: Mary Hass
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Brian Long 432-0887

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Ambrose Adamchick 432-4069

Past Presidents

(Advisory Committee)

John Steele

Dorothy Skinner

Marge Lindsay

Doris Humphries

Les Church

Honorary Directors

Carol Bennett

Hank Legris

Good help is always needed.

*Please consider offering
your services.*

INTERESTED IN GENEALOGY?

There are so many publications out now which can assist you in your search for your roots that it is difficult to know where to start.

One of the best ways to track ancestors and then organize all the facts and figures is to use a good computer program. There are many software programs, but some of the better ones are:

- 1) **Personal Ancestral File**
at www.familysearch.org
which is free to download
- 2) **Family Tree Maker, Deluxe Version 8.** This program costs from \$40 to \$120 depending on the number of CDs you purchase with it. There is also a Canadian Version. Check it out at
www.familytreemaker.com
- 3) **Family Origins, Version 8.0**
This one costs from \$30 to \$45
www.familyorigins.com

Watch for our genealogy course which will take place in the near future. It will introduce you to the joys of searching for your family.

There are numerous places on the internet from which you can conduct searches and many of these have links to hundreds of other web pages. Here are a few to try:

www.altavista.com

www.alltheweb.com

www.google.com

www.northernlights.com

Online directories are also very useful for locating the addresses and phone numbers of relatives and other researchers:

www.555.1212.com

www.anywho.com

www.infospace.com

www.whitepages.com

www.whowhere.com

www.worldpages.com

www.people.yahoo.com

www.yellowpages.com

Another search place on the web lets you place your surname on the lists so that anyone else can see your entry and contact you with material they might have about your family name:

www.rootsweb.com

GENUKI has extensive connections to web sites in the United Kingdom and Ireland along with surname lists for that part of the world:

www.genuki.com

WORLDGENWEB give you links to information from many countries:

www.worldgenweb.org

US VITAL RECORDS can be obtained from: vitalrec.com

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No Computer? There's lots of help available.

Here are some sources of print materials to help you in your research:

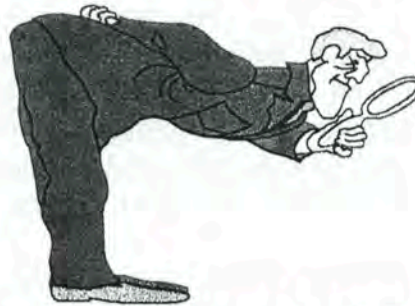
*Books on loan at the
Renfrew Public Library
Catalogued under 016.929*

- Scottish Family Histories**, Ferguson, 1986
- In Search of Your British & Irish Roots**, Baxter, 1982
- In Search of Your European Roots**, Baxter, 1985
- How to Find Your Family Roots**, Beard & Demong, 1977
- Debrett's Guide to Tracing Your Ancestry**, 1992
- Family History in Focus**, 1967
- How to Write a Family History**, Fitzhugh, 1988
- Talking Your Roots**, Fletcher, 1983
- Tracing Your Irish Ancestors**, Grenham, 1998
- Your Family History and How to Discover It**, Matthews, 1982
- Trace Your Family History**, Pine, 1984
- Welsh Family History**, Rowlands, 1997
- Irish Family History**, Yurdan, 1990

*... and here are some other titles
for your bookshelf or to seek
through Inter-Library Loan ...*

**Uncovering Your Ancestry
Through Family Photographs**
by Maureen Taylor

- Unpuzzling Your Past, Third Edition**, Emily Anne Croom
- The Handybook for Genealogists, 9th Edition**, Everton Publishers
- Ancestral Trails: The Complete Guide to British Genealogy and Family History**, Mark D. Herber
- The Family Tree Detective: Tracing Your Ancestors in England and Wales**, Colin D. Rogers



CAN ANYONE HELP THESE PEOPLE IN THEIR SEARCH FOR FAMILY?

Walter Shadbolt writes: "Would you have any record of William Hendry Shadbolt, who arrived in Canada in 1894 and spent his early years in Renfrew?"
beecher@sympatico.ca

Norma Degear writes: "I am trying to find info on Edward Spinks, married to Mary Ramsbottom. They lived in the White Lake area of McNab Twp. 5 or 6 children were born between 1856 and 1878." ndegear@sympatico.ca

Lois Remillard writes: "My GF, Joseph William Fox, was born in

Ontario on Aug. 1, 1881. As far as I know he was of Irish ancestry. I know the name of my GGF on my GM's side, Joshua Kilbank, born Dec. 31, 1857, aboard a ship off the NJ coast."
remill@home.com

Susan Todd writes: "I am looking for obits for John D. Mulloy, who died March 14, 1903, and his wife Catherine Mulloy, who died Dec. of 1894; in Westmeath."
nshugars@jps.net

Steve Sumi writes: My GM, Gertie Bigford (nee Green), was a resident on Lochiel Street for parts of her life. She gave up my father (Robert Green) at about two weeks old. She was in the Groves Park Manor in the 1980s. Her grandfather had changed their name from Grezina (Polish from Prussia) to Green her mother's name may have been Anna Creftka."
sahsumi@gol.com

Carol Ann McCourt writes: "My family which lived in Bromley Twp. around the 1870s. My grandfather's name was Thomas McCourt and Grandmother's Mary Somers."
acorn@ptbo.igs.net

Kelly O'Leary writes: "I am seeking Thomas McNamara and wife Katharine who emigrated to Renfrew Cty from County Cork, Ireland. Daughter, Anne (and/or Elizabeth) born c. 1850s. Anne married Joseph McGee of Pembroke." oleary@net-link.net

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Carnie Rozon writes: "I am looking for information on my grandmother, Melinda Louise Tracey, married to William Costello. She was born in either Eganville or Pembroke."
carnie@ntl.sympatico.ca

Joe Johnston writes: " Robert J. Johnston, bachelor, settled in Renfrew c. 1927 and died in 1950. He is buried in Renfrew. I am hoping to find other members of the family who may have settled in the area. *joeborn@efni.com*

Pier 21

The following is an article by Dave Lorente on his work preparing a Home Children Plaque for the newly re-opened Pier 21. It was here that most early immigrants to Canada arrived and were processed before heading inland.

It was a year in the making and involved two trips down east, visits to former receiving/distribution homes for the little immigrants sent to the Maritimes, liaising with Pier 21 staff and their Plaquing Board on a variety of matters, and with Senator Brenda Robertson, local Haligonians Susanne Caines and Eric Gold-Lewis and Parks Canada in PEI.

We are grateful that Pier 21 waived their \$1000 rental fee for the facility. But then we actually expected as much for we had already contributed a child migrant's trunk, medal and some copy to their permanent display on

the wee boat people. The monetary value of the items involved would approximate the rental fee; the historical value would be immeasurable.

Perhaps because this was a first for Nova Scotia and because comparatively few children were sent that way only one Home Boy showed up with his proud family. But there were many descendants who even came from as far away as Canada's west, the southern States and California. An ocean liner docked just before we began and added an interesting international flavour of former immigrants or adopted persons who told us they equated with the child migrant experience.

Several months ago we had helped our child migrant guest locate the family records he never knew existed because he was only four when he came to Nova Scotia. He told of receiving over 30 pages of wonderful revelations of his early life story from the Middlemore Homes in Birmingham.

We had arranged with artist Suzanne Caines to have her Installation in honour of her great grandmother on hand beside the Parks Canada Display that featured artefacts which we had donated that once belonged to Home Children from Renfrew and area. We also provided most of the archival photos and some copy. This latter display will tour Canada for the next five years and when the tour is ended the artefacts will be

donated to the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

A highlight of the reunion was the unveiling of the plaque, by our Home Boy. The bilingual text and that's a story itself, will be a feature of our next newsletter.



MEMBERSHIP NEW or RENEW

Check the date above your name on the address label to see when your membership expires.

Name.....
Address.....
City/town.....
Postal Code.....
Phone.....
Year.....New/renew.....
For home children?

Membership: \$10:00/yr

Mail to:
Heritage Renfrew
Membership Chairperson,
Box 1009
Renfrew ON K7V 4H4