

Opeongo Lines

Preserving Yesterday for Tomorrow

The Heritage Renfrew Newsletter—Fall 2006 Edition



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An interview with 96-year old Walter Bowes produced this photograph: the insert in the upper left corner is Mary Janet Black (1815-1891) and in the upper right corner is John Bowes (1877-1958), younger brother to Walter Bowes' father Robert Oliver Bowes. Standing left to right are little Ida Bowes (1883-1945), Robert Oliver Bowes (1875-1944), Zelpha or Zylpha "Effie" Thomas (1852-1942), and Sarah Bowes (1880-1956). Seated left to right are Zelpha's sister Hannah Elizabeth Thomas (1844-1913), Walter Bowes (1837-1914), Robert Bowes (1807-1898), widower of Mary Janet Black (1815-1891), Robert Oliver Bowes' sister Catherine Richards (1873-1897), and Catherine's husband Edward Thomas Richards (1866-?) Finally, seated in front are two little boys named William (1889-1962) and Allan Bowes (1885-1974).

National
Archives of
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Home of
Heritage
Renfrew

A Chat with Walter Bowes

I spoke with Walter George Bowes on Friday evening, the 23rd day of June 2006. The Bowes have been a part of the Renfrew-Admaston-Bromley landscape since about 1842 when some of them first moved up to the South Bonnechere Ranges area along the Bonnechere River, from the Bathurst District (later Lanark County). Walter's Great Grandfather Robert Bowes (1807-1898) married my Great-great Aunt Janet

(See Walter Bowes on page 3)

Just Where is Bromley?

An interesting discussion ensued at the Heritage Renfrew Board of Directors Pot-luck, in early June. The subject of the discussion was the whippet of Bromley. It seems there was an even split between those who believed such a place existed, at one time, and those who did not. Those on the positive side cite the map found on the inside-back cover of

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Letters to the Editor are always welcome. If you have an interesting story for our newsletter please do not hesitate to send it in (see address on page 8). Our members enjoy learning from stories provided by readers like you!

Dear Editor,

First let me say I am very impressed with your newsletter. It is an excellent read and well presented, with some interesting photos. I would like to point out, though, that your photo on page 5 is not an antique tractor. It is an antique horse-drawn hay mower. Much as I hate to use the word antique as the hay mower was a familiar piece of equipment on the Lanark County farm when I was growing up. The original shaft has been changed and the whipple trees removed, apparently to add a trailer hitch which would allow this to be drawn behind a tractor rather than a team of horses. Check out <http://www.whipple.org/photos/whippetree.html> for a photo of a whipple tree. Keep up the excellent work. I look forward to your next newsletter!

Alice Gilchrist
North Gower, ON

President's Message

I trust your summer was warm, restful and fulfilling. It ended on a rather damp note but I'm sure there is some sunshine in the forecast ahead. Your Board ended last season on a high note, courtesy of Mary Hass who as always treated all of us extremely well, as host for the annual Pot Luck. We are all grateful to Mary for her hospitality.

The 2006-2007 season is upon us. We hope to organize a little more the collection at Heritage Renfrew, in the months ahead. We will also be looking ahead to many issues. Welcome back!

Audrey Green.

Would you prefer to receive your newsletter electronically? Please send us your e-mail address if you would like to receive Opeongo Lines electronically via e-mail. This service is available to all Heritage Renfrew members in good standing who have an e-mail account and whose software will support receiving the newsletter. Send your request to: renfrewarchives@sympatico.ca

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed reading your article about Jack Quait in the Opeongo Lines. It is a fine newsletter of the past. How many issues are planned for the year? I wouldn't mind subscribing to it. Yours truly, Linda Garbutt, Windsor.

Upcoming Events:

16 September 2006 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Forester's Falls Road, Cobden, the Renfrew County Plowing Match

6 February 2007, 7:00 PM: Tentative date for the Annual General Meeting of Heritage Renfrew

RESEARCH:

For those wishing to do research at Heritage Renfrew we have the following aids to help you in your research: The census records for Renfrew County from 1842 to 1901; Census records for Pontiac County from 1842-1901; Census records for Lanark County from 1851-1901; Family histories of local residents which were researched and donated by members; Church records on microfilm, St Francis Xavier Church, Renfrew, Our Lady of Angels Wilno Church; St Patricks Church records which are in binders from 1846 to 1908; Esmonde Roman Catholic Church records up to 1910; We have cemetery recordings for cemeteries local and some for the surrounding area; We have the Ontario Marriage records for Renfrew County done from 1869 to 1890; The books written by Carol McCuaig which have a lot of information on families who settled in this area and who also came into this area from other counties; The Renfrew Mercury from 1871 to 2004 on microfilm; Les and Aldene Church's BMD's from the Renfrew Mercury from 1871-1926; You can order in microfilms from the National Archives for research. It saves going down to Ottawa to do the research where the cost of parking is very dear indeed. There is no parking at the National Archives building; There are many reference books some purchased and some donated that are very helpful for research; There is also the IGI series on Microfiche of families all over the world with baptisms, marriages on them; Land Records also on Microfiche.

We have two reader printers to assist you in printing out information from microfilms. Cost of print outs is 25 cents for each copy; We have microfiche readers also as well as microfilm readers without the print out facility; We

(See "Research" on page 3)

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Kay Gollinger Lorente, Les Church, Marge Lindsay, Dorothy Skinner, John Steele, Doris Humphries

Honorary Directors

Marjorie Lindsay, Carol McCuaig, Helen Clark

Heritage Renfrew Meetings

Won't you join us? Heritage Renfrew meets on the first Tuesday of each month, July and August excepted, at 7 p.m. in the Heritage Room at the Renfrew Archives, 770 Gibbons Road, National Archives of Canada facility (off O'Brien Road). You will be a welcomed addition to our team of Renfrew historians and genealogists. Share with us your research interests. We will be pleased to include your interests in our quarterly* newsletter. re stories and questions, share successful research experiences and advice. The accumulated experience amongst members of Heritage Renfrew is remarkable. See you soon?

Letter from a Farm Kid

CAMP BORDEN

Dear Ma and Pa,

I am well. Hope you are. Tell Brother Walt and Brother Elmer the Canadian Army beats working for old man Charlie by a mile. Tell them to join up quick before all of the places are filled. I was restless at first because you got to stay in bed till nearly 6 A.M. but I am getting so I like to sleep late. Tell Walt and Elmer all you do before breakfast is smooth your cot, and shine some things. No hogs to slop, no feed to pitch, no mash to mix, no wood to chop, no fire to lay. Practically nothing. Men got to shave but it is not so bad, there's warm water. Breakfast is strong on trimmings like fruit juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, etc., but kind of weak on chops, potatoes, ham, steak, fried eggplant, pie and other regular food, but tell Walt and Elmer you can always sit by the two city boys that live on coffee. Their food plus yours holds you till noon when you get fed again. It's no wonder these city boys can't walk much. We go on "route marches,"

Membership Expiration Notification: Subscribe to *Opeongo Lines* for the new year! Subscriptions for the calendar year are **\$10.00 (\$15.00 outside of Canada)**. With subscription comes membership and membership gives you: the latest Heritage Renfrew news updates in *Opeongo Lines*, access to microfilm & microfiche collections held at Heritage Renfrew, including Census Records, Local newspapers (Renfrew Mercury, Renfrew Advance and the Renfrew Weekender), Land records, Birth, marriage & Death excerpts from local papers and other sources, general information, maps, and Cemetery transcripts & reference books.

The Heritage Renfrew web-site has been improved! Visit us at www3.sympatico.ca/renfrewarchives/ and tell us what you think. We look forward to your comments and suggestions.

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Black (1815-1891) on the 20th of April 1832 in the home of the bride's father, Walter Black (1769-1851). Walter Black had emigrated from Greenock, Scotland aboard the *George Canring*, arriving in Quebec on or about 01 June 1821. He was accompanied by his wife Ellen Cunnan and their five children Walter (1808-1885), Charles (1813-1830), James (1816-1899), William (1819-1906), and Janet.

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Are you a Fool for a Census Entry?

Genealogists have a bad reputation, in some corners. They have been labeled by some as the worst historians. What you as a genealogist would choose to do with the following census entry, or ones like it, says much about your willingness to rise above mediocrity and the threat of being labeled a bad historian. Are you a fool for a census entry? Prepare yourself: the following census entry can be found in the 1911 Automated Census for Grattan Township Renfrew County: (the census entry is presented in 8 columns: last name/first name/gender/position/marital status/birth year/age):

Hutson Thomas M Head M Oct 1864 46
 Hutson Margreat F Wife M Mar 1879 32
 Hutson Margreat F Daughter S Apr 1894 17
 Hutson John M Son S Mar 1896 15
 Hutson Joseph M Son S Oct 1897 14
 Hutson David M Son S Apr 1902 9
 Hutson Dela F Daughter S Jan 1904 7
 Flint Elizabeth F Mother-in-law W May 1846 65
 Flint Elizabeth F Niece S Jan 1904 7
 Flint Catherine F Niece S Jan 1909 2

If you were researching this family, for any reason, would you be ready to conclude that the mother Margreat Hutson was alive in 1911? The fact that her name even appears on the census is remarkable. Think again. Here is what a little extra research has revealed about this particular census entry that should serve as a lesson for us all: birth registrations for children born to Thomas and Margreat Hutson reveal that Margreat's maiden name was Kilby; for those interested the Kilby's were an important family from the Fourth Chute (Hyndford) area, along the Bonnechere River; the birth registrations claimed the children were born in Grattan; a death certificate has been found for a Margaret Kilby who died of Epilepsy in 1904, in Grattan Township; when Mrs. Elizabeth Flint died, in 1912, the informant on her death certificate was Thomas Hutson of Eganville; a marriage registration dated 17 April 1907 was discovered for a "Thomas Hutson" and a "Mary Jane Flint", aged 17, in Eganville; he was widowed; she was a spinster; a Joseph Flint (1848-bef.1911) and Elizabeth Mcleod (1848-1912) had two

children: Catherine Elizabeth b. 17 July 1888, and Mary Jane b. 18 March 1891; Thomas Hutson died in Eganville in 1919 of anemia and general weakness; Mary Jane Flint lived to the age of 82, dying in Eganville in 1973. Now, just in case you've missed the point, the question at issue is this: if she died seven years earlier why is Margreat Hutson's name on this 1911 census entry? Can you answer this perplexing census problem question? If you still believe Margreat was alive at the time of enumeration consider one final piece of evidence before you commit yourself to such a decision: contact has been made with the 87-year old daughter of Mary Jane Flint who married Thomas Hutson in 1907, four years before this census entry was made. An interview with Beatrice Watson nee Hutson will appear in one of our next newsletters. In the meantime it is important to know that Beatrice confirmed that Mary Jane did marry the widower Thomas Hutson in 1907 and that for certain his first wife Margaret Kilby had indeed died in 1904. I wonder who answered the door when the enumerator came knocking that day in 1911?

(Continued "Research" from page 2)

are open to the public two days a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays and a volunteer should be available to assist you; On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays you can make an appointment with one of the following volunteers and come in and do your research then. Olga Lewis 432-6958 Joyce McBride 646-2375, Martin Munhall 432-2225. We welcome you to our facility and hope to see you there.

CEMETERIES:

The following publications and excerpts are available for purchase at Heritage Renfrew: Castleford Union \$9.00, Goshen Cemetery \$15.00, Sand Point Cemetery \$6.00, Flat Rapids Cemetery \$6.00, St Alexander's Cemetery R.C. \$8.00, Hillcrest Public & Lakeside \$9.50, Our Most Precious Blood Cem. \$8.00, Springtown cemeteries \$8.00, Malloch Road Cemetery \$30.00, White Lake Cemetery \$20.00, North Horton Cemetery \$12.00, Haley Cemetery, \$10.00, Rosebank Cemetery \$15.00, Admaston Public Cemetery, \$12.00, St Andrew's Cemetery \$10.00 Opeongo Road Cemeteries \$12.00 Mt St Patrick Cemeteries \$12.00 Plus Mailing cost of 3.50 for first publication and 1.50 shipping and handling cost. Plus mailing cost of 1.50 each for additional items purchased.

The Book along the Bonnechere River— A History of the Library at the Second Chute

"A History of the Book along the Bonnechere" is the title of a project under consideration by the Renfrew Public Library and members of Heritage Renfrew. Do you know of an anecdote in your family history, about the Family Bible, about books or about the Mechanics' Institute and, later Public Library established in Renfrew? If you would like to contribute to this historical account of the book's place and role in and for settlers of the Bonnechere Valley from the Fifth Chute to the Ottawa River, the Vice-President would like to hear from you. The goal will be to publish an history in time for the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Renfrew, in 2008. Your family history could be part of this important recollection.

Modeled on a recently released three-volume history titled *The History of the Book in Canada*, the aim of this project will be to document the early days of the Renfrew Public Library as it evolved out of the Mechanics' Institute—a phenomenon attributable to Benjamin Franklin. Mechanics were men skilled at trades that provided support to agricultural activities that sustained early settlers. The goal was to provide mechanics like wheelwright Walter Black, who settled near modern-day Almonte in 1821 with the information and skills an industrialized economy demanded.

What did the early 1860s Mechanics' Institute in Renfrew provide our pioneer ancestors? What books were provided to enhance these skills? If you have any information we need to hear from you.

Heritage Renfrew Directors Meeting June 2006

The June 2006 meeting of the Heritage Renfrew Board of Directors was held at Mary Hass' house. A Pot Luck was enjoyed by all, and the company was splendid. Vince and Helen Pallen were invited to join us and thankfully accepted. It was the Board's desire to express its gratitude to Vince and Helen for their marvelous presentation and the work they have done on their Opeongo Heritage Park—featured in the last newsletter. Vince and Helen were asked if they would like to join the Board. They chose to take the invitation under consideration. Minutes from the previous meeting were carried without comment. A Financial report was tabled. A motion was made to ensure members of the Board would attend

(See "Directors" on page 6)

by Dave Lorente

TO THE CARE OF GODLY SETTLERS - Research in child migration to Canada from the new perspective of Christian Nurture.

Historical writing has largely explored the Child Migrants to Canada - the Home Children in secular terms - as labour units, empire builders, as agencies of social control, or urban welfare. The rescue motive and the theological, clerical and religious aspect of the program are under-researched. That is why an English Methodist Minister, with a background in nineteenth century history, sociology as well as theology is attempting a research program from the perspective of Christian Nurture concerning the 3,300 children sent to Canada by the Methodist (NATIONAL) CHILDREN'S HOME - 1873-1933 - founded by Dr Stephenson. Are you one of the descendants or do you have knowledge of nurturing one of these children, or knowledge of their receiving home in Hamilton, Ontario? If you would like to help, please contact Rev'd Kenneth Mankin at 20 Richmond Rd, DURHAM, DH1 5NT, England or e-mail rev@mankin.freeseerve.co.uk. Thank you. Confidentiality preserved. (Editor's Note: The Rev Mankin will be re-visiting Canada this fall and is willing to meet with you.)

Fond but sad farewells to Collette Bradford and Yvonne Rideout on their retirement.

Yvonne Rideout has been our main contact over the last decade and a half at the BHC (British High Commission) in Ottawa. It was she we first turned to when Canadian Home Children who had lived here for decades, voted in our elections and served in our armed forces, had somehow fallen through the cracks and were denied Canadian passports because they lacked official classification as Canadian citizens. Yvonne took the next step for us by officially con-

firmed to Canadian authorities that the children had come as British subjects and were indeed home children. And in at least one memorable case she facilitated the process whereby the home boy got a British passport to enable him to travel to the States to see his daughter even before he got a Canadian one. Yvonne was also there in recent years to liaise on our behalf with ISS-C (International Social Service - Canada) and ISS-UK to enable most of the dozen or so Canadian Home Children to get a free trip back to the old country courtesy of the British Government. This was generally arranged on compassionate grounds

because their average age was about 90 and they could hardly be expected to say or prove that they were returning to meet their *father, mother, uncle, aunt* or even *siblings* as the British government blindly stipulated. Yvonne worked quietly behind the scenes, but she did make a great difference in the lot of our British child migrants. **Collette Bradford**, former Head of After Care at Barnardos, is well known to most Canadians with Home Child connections. She was the first in Britain to espouse the idea of free and open disclosure of Home Children records and, in the 1980's, was the only head of after care of a former sending



The oldest child of Walter Black (1769-1851) and Ellen Gunnan (1773-1842), Walter (1808-1885), was deaf and dumb. This is noteworthy because by regulation the disabled were not permitted to emigrate. Young Walter's deafness was probably kept a secret, at the time of boarding. Walter Bowes recalls that the deaf and dumb child was affectionately known as "Dummy" - a nickname that would not last long in this day and age.

It might come as a bit of a surprise, and there will no doubt be skeptics out there, but 96-year old Walter recalled that his earliest memory came at the age of 2 and 1/2 years. The significance of the memory speaks for itself. Walter's grandmother Hannah Elizabeth Thomas (1844-1913) had a habit of rising early and tending immediately to her garden. Little Walter would sometimes rise with her, but when he did he would always go outside to the apple barrel, pick out an apple and deliver it to his Grandmother. On this particular morning Grandma Hannah ducked back inside the house but young Walter was close behind. When Grandma Hannah reached the top of the stairs Walter had caught up to her and, as usual, presented his Grandma with the apple he had especially chosen for her. Grandma Hannah reached her hand out, patted Walter on the head, told him he was a very good boy, and then collapsed dead. Walter remembers to this day the significance of that very sad loss.

In my family tree research amongst the many mysteries I have tried to solve two have stood out for some time, and both involved my Great Grandfather William Donald "Billie" Black—the Blacksmith of Hyndford. Perhaps some of our readers will remember "Billie" or they may know of some stories. "Billie" married Elizabeth Wren in 1905, in Hyndford, but left for Shaunavon, Saskatchewan in August of 1916. He returned to Hyndford about a year later, eventually leaving the area for Timmins about 1925. For some reason "Billie" could not stand tomatoes, in later life. All evidence of tomatoes including ketchup had to be removed from sight, and sometimes from the house, before he would come to visit. Why was this so? The other mystery for me has concerned the reasons for which he decided to move to Shaunavon, Saskatchewan, in 1916. My interview with Walter Bowes may have solved both mysteries. As for the tomatoes it would seem that Walter Bowes himself is a champion tomato plant grower. Some of his plants have been known to reach 7 feet 7 inches in height, and boast 140 tomatoes per plant. It would seem tomatoes grew prolifically along the Bonnechere and this might explain why "Billie" had far too many, in his early days. As for Saskatchewan the lure for "Billie" may have been his half-nephew, the Rever-

end John Caldwell Black (1877-1951). Some of the readers may have heard of Rev. J.C. Black. This relative of mine was supposedly the first to have owned a car in the Renfrew area. John Caldwell Black was a Missionary with the Holy Movement Church and died in Egypt in 1951. It turns out that in his early days Reverend J.C. Black drilled wells throughout southern Saskatchewan. He apparently had a knack for knowing where the water would be found and helped many a farmer find water. John Caldwell Black was the Grandson of Robert Black (1821-1883), my Great-great Grandfather, while "Billie" Black was Robert Black's son from a second marriage.

Walter admitted to being an avid reader for most of his life. I asked him what the title was of the first book he ever remembers reading. "Swiss Family Robinson", he replied. Walter was about eleven years old when his teacher, probably Mrs. Linnen, sent him home with the book. Walter had been seriously ill, and the doctor stipulated that he remain home from school for about three months. During this time Walter took up reading and his first book he found very interesting.

Asked what his secret to longevity might be Walter suggested a good deal of swimming might have had something to do with it. Walter remembers swimming almost every day, in the Bonnechere River. Regardless of the temperature everyone would jump in on 24 May each year. The shore was awfully muddy so each year Walter would help re-install the dock, driving cedar pillars into the mud and building up the dock so that everyone could get out from shore before jumping in. Walter has been swimming in the Arnprior swimming pool every Tuesday for over 20 years, but in 2004 he had to give that up.

Two doors down along the South Bonnechere Ranges, from Walter and his family lived William Black (1819-1906) and his wife Catherine Mclean (1821-1909). Though he died before Walter was born Walter had been told that William walked into Renfrew each day, from Lot 32 S.B.R. to go to work, and walked back at the end of the day. William was a wheelwright, like his father, and was also a wagon maker, according to family lore. He had apparently traveled up from Ramsey in the mid-1840s with his sister Janet Black, her husband Robert Bowes and Janet and William's younger brother Robert Black and his wife Janet McPhee (1818-c.1856). Janet McPhee is believed to have died in childbirth leaving her husband and four children to fend for themselves. Robert Black (1822-1883) gave the children up to family and is believed to have moved from pillar to post until 1870 when he married again, this time to Catherine Mary "Kate" Mcleod (1843-1914), the daughter of Donald C. Mcleod (c.1810-abt.1890) and Catherine Mclelland (c.1815-abt.1892).



Walter George Bowes, 23 June 2006, aged 96.

Ernest Lloyd Janney: Canada's First Pilot

In January 2006, Heritage Renfrew members in attendance at the Annual General Meeting enjoyed an incredible presentation made by Renfrew citizen Doug Janney. Doug claims as a relative the infamous Ernest Lloyd Janney, the first Canadian ever to fly as a member of an air force unit constituted as part of the Canadian military by



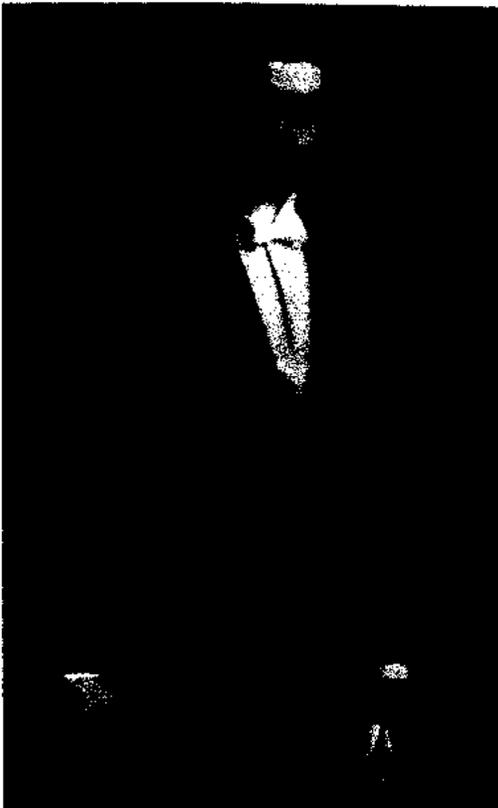
The Shirley Dietrich Galt Ontario emblem is clearly evident on this saw Doug Janney found.

A Renfrew Quickie ☺

Ninety-one years ago, Jimmy Flint, an Ottawa Valley farm boy, was drafted into the Army. On his first day in basic training, the Army issued him a comb. That afternoon the Army barber sheared off all his hair. On his second day, the Army issued Jimmy with a toothbrush. That afternoon the Army dentist yanked seven of his teeth. On the third day, the Army issued him a jock strap. The Army has been looking for Jimmy for 91 years.

a Canadian government. E. Lloyd Janney used his charm and forthrightness to convince Minister of Militia Sir Sam Hughes that the Canadian Expeditionary Force was in need of a Canadian Air Corp. Hughes agreed, gave Janney \$5,000.00 and made the 19-year old Provisional Commander of Canada's first ever air force unit. Or so it would seem. Janney went down to Connecticut, bought an airplane, flew to Valcartier, strapped it on a troop-carrying ship in September 1914, and, on arrival in England left it in a ditch to rot. By December he was back in Canada, having quit because the Canadian government disagreed with Janney's plan for a larger air corp.

Doug Janney briefed the AGM on his research methods and results to date. But, he emphasized much more needed to be done. During his presentation he told us about where the Janney's had been before moving to the Kitchener (Berlin), Ontario area. He also explained that E. Lloyd Janney dabbled in saw blade manufacturing, car making and boat making. Since briefing the AGM Doug Janney has found and purchased a saw originally manufactured in his ancestor's plant in southwestern Ontario. A photograph of the saw and its trade-mark is shown. Stay tuned for more on Doug Janney's quest to learn more about his infamous relative Ernest Lloyd Janney.



Ernest Lloyd Janney (1893-1941) pictured circa 1914-1920. Janney's dress could almost be construed of that of a musician. He is known to have been quite a piano player, in his day, apparently having entertained ship passengers

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Sacred Ground—What Lies Beneath?

Anyone who has spent any amount of time on Ancestry.com may have come to realize like me that there may be scores if not hundreds of people interred outside cemeteries throughout local townships. My own Great-great-grandfather passed away in 1851. When he died he was buried in the family plot along with his wife, and a son who died in 1830, probably working on the Rideau Canal. More than one hundred years later their grave marker was plowed up while a local farmer was tilling a field. Today the gravemarker stands again, but far removed from where it was first located. All this to say your guess is as good as mine as to where the "family plot" used to be located—this one in Ramsay Township. Another of my ancestors is now known to have fathered seven children only two of which survived more than one year. Nevertheless there is no record of any of the burials in the local (Almonte) cemetery. Where did those little babies end up? My Great-great-grandfather's first wife Jean died circa 1856 most probably from cholera or consumption. And, yet, she has no known grave in Admaston Township. She is more than likely buried somewhere on the property along the Stone Road which was at one time owned by the Burchat family. Nevertheless, the only evidence I am going on is a survey map that attributes that property to my Great-great-grandfather in 1851. Some of the Mcleods of Grattan Township who died in the late 1870s and early 1890s also have no known graves. Some of their children found on the 1860 census for the first time, only to disappear by the 1870 census, today cannot be located in any of the local cemeteries. In an interview with a distant cousin it was revealed that children who perished in birth or shortly thereafter were normally buried during the night. But the question remains—where? Rarely, a covert burial might take place in the local cemetery. All this raises serious

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(Heritage Renfrew Directors' Meeting...Cont'd 6
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an upcoming seminar regarding income-tax implications for groups such as Heritage Renfrew. The Board agreed that pictures needed to be taken of the microfilm reel to indicate to what the Trillium grant was applied. A trip to Upper Canada village was still in the planning, but there were serious doubts about the level of interest. Other ideas were discussed—such as a visit to the Chrysler Farms and the Maxwell Games. Another bake sale was discussed. Vice-President Dean Black took the time to explain the contest he has organized, regarding the book titled *The Holding*. The summer project involves labeling shelves and hanging pictures. The Vice-President also moved that the Board prepare for a discussion of a newsletter budget at the next meeting with the aim being to establish a budget for the newsletter. The Home Children Report was tabled and there was a write-up in the Mercury regarding the Nunney statue and Ken Stafford-Brown apparently agreed to make some copies. The next meeting will take place 5 Sep 06 at 7:00 PM. The meeting was adjourned.

(A Letter From a Farm Kid Continued from page 2)

which the platoon sergeant says are long walks to harden us. If he thinks so, I'm not my place to tell him different. A "ute march" is about as far as to our mailbox at home. Then the city guys get sore feet and we all ride back in trucks. The country is nice but awful flat.

The sergeant is like a school teacher. He nags a lot. The Captain is like the school board. Majors and colonels just ride around and frown. They don't bother you none.

This next will kill Walt and Elmer with laughing. I keep getting medals for shooting. I don't know why. The bulls-eye is near as big as a chipmunk head and don't move, and it ain't shooting at you like those McGregor boys back at home. All you got to do is lie there all comfortable and hit it. You don't even load your own cartridges. They come in boxes.

Then we have what they call hand-to-hand combat training. You get to wrestle with them city boys. I have to be real careful though, they break real easy. It ain't like fighting with that ole bull at home. I'm about the best they got in this except for that Jimmy Austin from over in Renfrew County. I only beat him once. He joined up the same time as me, but I'm only 5'6" and 130 pounds and he's 6'8" and n 300 pounds dry.

Be sure to tell Walt and Elmer to hurry and join before other fellers get onto this setup and come stampeding in.
Love Audrey

agency to make a truly compassionate and full response to my personal requests to many agencies for information about my father - even though, as it turned out, he was not mentioned by Barnardos. She was one of the first heads of after care I visited in Britain (to thank her) and the first to accept an invitation - in 1994 - to attend our Home Children Canada Reunions. She was also the first to bring members of her After Care team to Canada to introduce them to the situation in this country, to deliver personal files to former Barnardo children and their descendants and to expose her team to the residual or inherited effects of child migration on successive generations of Canadians. She returned for another ten years with her cohorts and attended our Home Children Canada reunions in such places as Ottawa, Toronto, Tilsonburg, Peterborough, Belleville, Stratford, Vancouver and Victoria. She was eventually seconded by the Irish Republic to try to introduce the same policies of disclosure in that country. Her leadership, vibrant personality, Irish wit and compassion for all home children, not just Barnardos, endeared her to all. God bless you, Collette and Yvonne. We'll miss you.

Envoie

Before making the decisions I announce here today I opened a bundle of home-made posters used at our Home Children Canada reunions over the years. I looked for, found and pored over the first one I had made back in 1990 and used as the framework for our first reunion in Renfrew in January, 1991 and for all our HCC team has done or tried to do ever since. It was called **WHY WE'RE HERE!!**

I pray the new editor finds room for it in this **UPDATE** portion of the September issue of **OPEONGO LINES** so that you are witness to the fact that we started more than a decade and a half ago with a few *aims, goals and objectives* - which would be called *goals, strategies and opportunities* in today's government talk. I think you will agree, virtually all of them have been achieved. And that is why I announce my further withdrawal from most Home Children activities to concentrate on my own family history and a few home children heroes we have already tossed into the fire.

The latter include: 1) having Home Children statues erected in Canada and the UK at Liverpool and Quebec City, the ports whence most children departed and arrived. A petition has already been sent to Prime Ministers Blair and Harper, Premier Charest, the Leaders of the Opposition, as well as some members of the House of Commons and Senate. Mr Blair's Office has already replied that the letter has already been sent to the Department concerned for their appraisal and possible action; 2) having a statue erected in Ottawa and perhaps the

UK to commemorate all home children who served and especially those who died for King and country. We have contacted the above mentioned government officials re this as well. We have also commissioned and had cast in bronze a miniature of the statue we should like to see symbolize those Home Children. It is of Claude NUNNEY, the Ottawa Valley Home Boy, one of Canada's Magnificent Seven, who is also our country's most decorated soldier in the ranks. He and four other home boys are known to have died in battle on Sept 1st and 2nd, 1918 when Canadian troops took the hitherto impregnable Hindenburg Line; 3) having a postage stamp to commemorate British Child Migrants in Canada and or those who died in service.

I will also be cutting back on the number of presentations I make, will no longer respond to inquiries re locating Home Children records beyond relaying them to John Sayers of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa and will no longer serve as editor of **UPDATE**. Dean Black, the new editor of **OPEONGO LINES** will continue **UPDATE** articles by referencing the monthly Home Children reports I shall continue to make for the time being to Heritage Renfrew's Board of Directors. I may occasionally weaken and submit an article or two on a particular topic. Watch for one on "Why they did not talk."

I can think of nothing more fulfilling to have been involved in these last sixteen years than meeting and working with such wonderful people. I shall remain in touch with all home children who care to write, with the former sending agencies, with BIFHSGO (of which I am a member and our HCC Team members without whom much of what has been accomplished would not have been possible. They will continue to proudly carry the Home Children Canada banner.

(Where is Bromley? Continued from page 1)

Carol Bennett McCuaig's *Founding Families of Bromley Township*. The Hamlet of Bromley is in plain sight taking up the western parts of Lots 3 and 4 in the "V"th concession.

By definition a hamlet is smaller than a village and smaller than a town. Supposedly there are less than 100 people living in a hamlet. With these definitions in mind it is evident how difficult our challenge is to locate the Hamlet of Bromley.

An interview with Beatrice Watson, aged 89 in Kingston, reveals that the Hamlet of Baladava only ever had about 30 people living there, at the turn of the 20th century. This might give us a clearer idea just how big (or small) a Hamlet supposedly is.

Those on the negative side of the argument probably believe "Bromley" simply referred to the entire township and that such a Hamlet does not exist. This may be true, but this does not explain the map in Carol Bennett McCuaig's book, clearly de-

(Continued on page 8)



Are You Still Up for a Contest?

An Autographed Copy of Merilyn Simonds' *The Holding* Could be yours. Read Merilyn Simonds' *The Holding* and make a case for where you think the fictional story took place.

"Evocative, haunting, seductive. Simonds writes beautifully, imbuing the landscapes she describes with luxurious detail". Or so the editors of *Books in Canada* would have us think about Merilyn Simonds' marvelous story. You be the judge, however. If you're up to it members of Heritage Renfrew are

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- Our objectives are many:
- to bring together Home Children, their families, descendants, people with whom they once lived and other friends;
 - to inform all about child migration in its historical context and in the process ...
 - to reveal that important but forgotten, overlooked or suppressed story in our history;
 - to inform all where information about the movement can be found;
 - to advise interested parties where information about specific cases might be found;
 - to offer free assistance and advice to those who wish to trace a specific child's case history;
 - to create a milieu in which the stigma some might attach to Home Children can be erased;
 - to create a milieu in which a justifiable pride could be instilled in the accomplishments of Home Children, if only in merely surviving such a system and becoming contributing members of our society;
 - to entangle old and new friendships in a unique gathering of people who share a very special bond;
 - to rejoice.



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questions about whether or not descendants of European settlers throughout the 19th century may have actually created their own burial grounds, on family plots or plots of convenience in hard times. Do you have stories such as these that you would like to share? Write to us to let us know. We may just find that after 200 years some of the local townships themselves could lay claim to being "sacred burial grounds".

(Where is Bromley Continued from page 7)

pick a title for the township along with a title for the tiny Hamlet of Bromley.

A search of marriage registrations also reveals some interesting delineations. One can find registrations for people married in Douglas, as well as Osceola. There are even marriage registrations for couples married in Bromley. Nevertheless, it is difficult to understand whether these folks were married at the little church that at one time existed in Bromley, in the 1860s, or a church somewhere else in the township.

Finally, one can find numerous obituaries for fine citizens who had lived their lives out in Osceola, Wolfstown, Dunmore, Carswell, Hyndford and the like—all little Hamlets at which one may have found a post office and a church. Isn't it fair to assume as Carol's map does show us that there once was a

eligible to compete for \$25.00, the prize to be awarded to he or she who argues most effectively as to where he or she believes Simonds' story took place. True, *The Holding* is fictional, but like many historical novels there are enough juicy details in Marilyn's account to lead the reader and shine down a path able to pinpoint the very acreage on where the story took place, with every page turned. If you would like to participate simply get your hands on the book, from your local library or book store or friend, read it thoroughly and present your case in written form, using best scholarly practices, argument, logic and not more than 250 words (about one page in length, typed). The Vice-President will consider all submissions and choose the winning entry by end October. The winning argument will be printed in our Christmas time newsletter, author permitting, of course. Have you read *The Holding* already?

Can you figure out where the story takes place? How precise can you be? There are plenty of clues. Your knowledge of the geographical, socio-cultural and political attributes of our region will need to be brought to bear, in solving this important mystery. If you are interested in stating your case turn in your submissions by the end of October 2006. Illustration used with permission of the author.

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