

Hastings County Clerk's Office,
County Administration Building,
Belleville, Ontario.
October 21, 1964.

Dear Friend:

At its September (1964) Session, Hastings County Council approved the preparation of a history of the County, this project to be under the supervision of a Committee of the Hastings County Historical Society.

To help in this project, we are asking many interested citizens to gather material on their communities. We thank you for agreeing to gather information on your area. This material can be either in point form or in sentence and paragraph style. Not all the points listed on the accompanying sheets need be mentioned, however, we would appreciate as much information as possible.

We would like this material to be sent to the County Clerk's Office by May, 1965.

Your help in preparing this written and pictorial record of our County's history is sincerely appreciated.

Yours very truly,

Gerald Boyce, President,
Hastings County Historical Society

Carl E. Bateman, Clerk-Treasurer,
County of Hastings.

Name of Community ACTINOLATE (BRIDGEWATER)

Present population of community 300 !

Township ELZEVR & GRIMSTHORPE

Name and mailing address of person compiling this history
 LLOYD H. PRICE
 ACTINOLATE ONT.

A. GEOGRAPHY

Describe briefly any important or unusual features (for example, underground caves, etc).

B. INDIANS

1. Describe briefly any important findings of Indian burials or Indian artifacts such as pottery, tools, etc. Tell where they have been found.
2. What people in your area have studied Indian remains or have collections of Indian articles?

C. THE FRENCH AND THE EARLY EXPLORERS

What French or early English explorers (such as Champlain, etc.) are known to have visited your community? Give details if possible.

D. EARLY SURVEYS

1. When and by whom were these done?
2. Give the names of any persons you know who have copies of these early surveys.

E. EARLY SETTLERS

1. Who were the first known white settlers?
2. When did they arrive?
3. Where did they come from?
4. Why did they come?
5. Where exactly did they settle?
6. Are there any descendants of these first settlers living in your community? If so, is their surname still the same?
7. What are the names of some other early families to settle in your community?
8. How did these early settlers make a living?
9. What problems did they face? (Include any interesting stories about their arrival, their life, early life in the community or their dealings with the Indians.)

F. TRANSPORTATION

1. What were the first types of transportation.
2. When did the first road "arrive" and with what town or city did it link your community?
3. With what other communities was there a stage coach service?
4. What type of road was the first local road (plank, corduroy, macadam, or what?)
5. Was the first road privately owned and were tolls ever charged?
6. Include any interesting stories of the hardships of transportation, etc.
7. When did the railroad arrive? What line was it?
8. Who owned the first car, what type was it, and what was the local reaction to it?

G. AGRICULTURE

1. What have been the most important agricultural products of your area?
2. What are still the very important ones?
3. Include any interesting stories of early farming methods, etc.

H. LUMBERING

1. When did lumbering begin in your community?
2. What companies carried on lumbering in the 19th century?
3. What companies still carry on lumbering?
4. What trees were important in the early years?
5. What trees are important to-day?
6. How important has lumbering been to your community?

I. MINING

1. What were the first minerals worked in your community and when were they worked and by whom?
2. What mining companies still operate and what do they mine?

J. COMMERCIAL FISHING

Has commercial fishing been important in your area?
If so, explain.

K. MANUFACTURING

1. Tell what manufacturing industries have been active?
2. Where possible, give the names of the important companies, the names of the owners, dates for operation, exact locations, and importance. If they have closed down, tell why this has happened.
3. What are the most important manufacturing industries today in your area? Tell if any of these are very old and try to include their beginning dates.

L. POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Include any interesting stories of early elections, etc.
Name important politicians to visit the community.

M. RELIGION

Name the early churches, giving dates for their
buildings and telling which ones remain. How
important has religion been?

N. POPULATION HISTORY

1. When has it increased? Why?
2. When has it decreased? Why?

O. THE FAMILY

Include interesting stories on courtship, marriage,
status of children, size of families, manners, etc.

P. EDUCATION

1. How was early schooling carried on?
2. When and where was the first school building built?
3. Is the first school building standing still, and if
so for what is it used?
4. When and where were late schools built?
5. How many schools and pupils are there to-day?
6. Include interesting stories concerning teachers,
salaries, teacher contracts, subjects studied,
ages of students, etc.

Q. NEWSPAPERS AND BOOKLETS

1. Include names, dates of publication, founder's
names, political affiliation of paper (past and/or
present), reasons for discontinuance, merging, etc.
2. Who has old copies of these newspapers?
3. (a) What booklets (centennial histories, etc.)
have been published telling about your area?
(b) Where can copies of these be seen?

R. SOCIAL AND FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. Origin and growth of each (including past and
present ones) and give approximate dates.
2. Purpose of each group and its success.

S. RECREATION

1. What recreations have been important in the past -
both indoor and outdoor, winter and summer.
Describe any unusual recreations.
2. Tell how the tourist industry has affected your area.
3. Is there an annual fair? If so, when was it begun?



TOWNSHIPS OF ELZEVIR & GRIMSTHORPE

ACTINOLITE, ONTARIO

- A. - High Falls on Scootamatta River. A beautiful sight especially during periods of high water levels. Total fall is about 40 feet in 100 feet with clear fall of about 20 feet at beginning.
- B. - ① There is an Indian "pot hole" in the rock near Storings Bridge where grain was pulverized; it is about 15" in diameter and 18" deep and as smooth as can be without polishing, easy to reach by road.
② There are a few Indian articles on display at 'The Log Cabin' Restaurant and Service Station.
- C. - Samuel D. Champlain explored this general area but we have no actual record of his navigating the Scootamatta.
- D. - Original Surveys were done by the government of Upper Canada. The village of Actinolite was surveyed and a plan drawn of same by a Mr. Emerson, copies of this are available at the County Registry office by photostat.
- E. - ① First settlers on record are in the minute book of township council being those who voted to elect original council in 1857.
② First settlers arrived perhaps 1800-1835.



TOWNSHIPS OF ELZEVIR & GRIMSTHORPE

ACTINOLITE, ONTARIO

- E. - ③ ^④ Some of French descent were dissatisfied with the feudal system of Lower Canada and were seeking more freedom of enterprise. (Duquette, Dion, Fobert, Genereaux, Latendre, Courneyea).
- Some of Irish descent were new immigrants from overseas (Nolan, Kelly, Murphy, Kehoe).
- Some of English and Scottish descent were likely from U.E.L. stock (Wiggins, Hailstone, Harrison, McDonald, Maxwell, Langley, Minnie, Miles, Ostrich, McConkey, Jackson, Hais, McCallum, Moore, Watson, Thompson, Ross, Nelson, Rhodes, Barry, Robinson, Laird, Jeffs, Bonker, Comer.)
- ⑤ They settled along the Seootamatta River.
- ⑥ Yes descendants of original settlers still live in community (Minnie, Thompson, Nolan, Kelly, Kehoe, Fobert, Duquette, Genereaux, Moore and others.)
- ⑦ Klinckschke, Lockwood, Reavie, McNulty, Wood.
- ⑧ Farming and lumbering
- ⑨ Usual settler problems, communications very poor, medical assistance rare, climate harsh in winter. Indians apparently no problem.

GILBERT ROBINSON,
CLERK AND TREASURER



TOWNSHIPS OF ELZEVIR & GRIMSTHORPE

ACTINOLITE, ONTARIO

- F. - ① Horse drawn vehicles and small boats.
- ② Roads were built in early 1800's. Belleville was only town of any size although Tweed, Madoc and Flinton were established in first half of 19th century.
- ③ Flinton to Madoc stage went through Bridgewater also a regular stage run to Belleville serviced the community.
- ④ First roads were gravel and corduroy in the swampy areas.
- ⑤ In the 1857 election of first council a question was asked (Yea or Nay for Toll Roads). Question was noted on as follows 2 Yea — 55 Nay.
- ⑥ No incidents known to writer.
- ⑦ Railroad construction was completed on the ~~Ontario~~ ~~and Quebec~~ Grand Trunk but rails were laid only as far as the Scootamatta River and service was maintained for two years between here and Madoc. The C. N. R. built a north south railroad about 1901 which operated from Yarker through Tweed and



TOWNSHIPS OF ELZEVIR & GRIMSTHORPE

ACTINOLITE, ONTARIO

F - ⑦ Cond. Bridgewater and points north to Bannockburn.
This service was discontinued from Tweed north to Bannockburn in 1935.

⑧ not known to writer.

G - ① Livestock, grain, fodder.

② Livestock.

③ none known to writer.

H - ① Early 1800's.

② Rathbun's of Deseronto, Billie Flint.

③ None at present.

④ White pine, spruce, balsam, maple, elm, cedar.

⑤ White pine, poplar, maple, spruce, scotch pine, elm.

⑥ Originally it was major industry, today it is still important but not of vital importance.

I - ① Gold discovered by Joe James in 1866 - 1867. No mines ever produced gold but great prospecting excitement prevailed for some time. Actinolite was mined for about 30 years until 1931 when operations ceased and crushing mill was dismantled.



TOWNSHIPS OF ELZEVIR & GRIMSTHORPE

ACTINOLITE, ONTARIO

- I - ② No mining at present but Vermont Marble Co. has some property under development which is expected to produce Marble and later on we hope calcium.
- J - No commercial fishing.
- K - ① & ② Furniture Factory - Oliver Frost - 1860-1890 -
Foundry - William Garrett - 1860-1890 -
Axe Factory - Harry Warren - 1860-1890 -
Woolen Mill - Wolfe - 1860-1890
Sawmill, Gristmill, Sash & Door, Tannery. } Billie Flint - 1888-1890
- On May 24, 1889 a disastrous fire destroyed most of the village including most of the manufacturing plants which were located along the Scootamatta river in Bridgewater. They were not rebuilt in Bridgewater. (Frost & Garrett rebuilt in Tweed.) (Flint became a Senator.)
- ③ No manufacturing today.
- L - Senator Billie Flint founded community. Premier Mitchell F. Hepburn, Hon. Earl Rowe, Hon. George Drew,



TOWNSHIPS OF ELZEVIR & GRIMSTHORPE

ACTINOLITE, ONTARIO

L - cont. - Hon. Sidney Smith have all spent some time in the area as well as many M.P.'s and M.L.A.'s on election campaigns or passing through to attend parliament.

M. - 1864 - United Church corner stone laid on June 21 celebrated centennial last year June 21 - 1964 with special services and an historical program which included erecting a plaque commemorating the founding of the community.

Anglican services were held for many years in the Townships Hall but were discontinued over 35 years ago.

Pentecostal services have been conducted for short periods in the past in some private homes.

Religion has been important to our community as to any community. Most leaders of council have been prominent in the church as well.

N. - ① Gradual increase from early 1800's until 1889 as country grew and industry flourished.

② Decreased after fire of 1889.



TOWNSHIPS OF ELZEVIR & GRIMSTHORPE

ACTINOLITE, ONTARIO

- O - Largest families have been in vicinity of a dozen or a few more.
- P - ①^{or 2} First school was built in 1861 and still stands ^{stone} but not used as a school since 1961. Prior to school being built classes were held in ~~wood~~ schoolhouse in Bridgewater.
- ③ Proposed use of school building now is in conjunction with School of Fine Arts as a studio and gallery.
- ④ New 3 room school built in ~~Bridgewater~~ Actinolite in 1961.
- ⑤ 1 school - about 100 pupils (public school)
- ⑥ None known to writer.
- Q - ① No papers published
- ② Does not apply.
- ③ Centennial history given by Gerald Boyd and copied for Hastings County museum in 1964.



TOWNSHIPS OF ELZEVIR & GRIMSTHORPE

ACTINOLITE, ONTARIO

- R - ① United Church women's association has been in operation under different names since founding of village in 1854.
Orange Lodge held meetings at one time but hasn't been operative since 1920's.
- ② United Church women's group is dedicated to helping the church. Their success is evident in the appearance of the church. They have raised funds for redecorating, renovating tower and masonry work, have built a new kitchen addition to vestry, paid for new chairs etc.

Orange Lodge apparently not so successful!!

- S. - ① Baseball, hockey, swimming, skating, boating, sleighing, dancing & drinking!!.

Painting of outdoor and studio scenes is organized at Madoc Art Centre and Mary & Roman Schneider School of Fine Arts, as well as other craft works.

- ② Tourist industry helps commercial enterprises along Trans Canada Highway but no resorts in community. There are two parks, The Prie Conservation Area and the Dept of Highways picnic area.

GILBERT ROBINSON,
CLERK AND TREASURER



TOWNSHIPS OF ELZEVIR & GRIMSTHORPE

ACTINOLITE, ONTARIO

- S. - ③ No annual fair
- T. - One early law to control drunken conduct was passed by council, the ~~con~~ content of the law was such that one individual could lay a complaint of drunken conduct against another and with only one witness to testify in the affirmative could obtain a conviction. There are no records attesting to the success of the law.
- V. - None of importance known to writer.
- V. - Hon. Billa Flint - Founder of village 1854 and M.P. for many years then appointed to Senate.
- Joseph Jones - Developed Actinolite industry and had name of village changed to suit.
- James Moore - reeve for 35 years until 1947, had cement bridges built at most river and creek crossings.
- Neil Reavis - councillor for 42 years, served the municipality long and faithfully.

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TOWNSHIPS OF ELZEVIR & GRIMSTHORPE

ACTINOLITE, ONTARIO

- W - Founding in 1854, School built in 1861,
Laying of cornerstone of United Church in 1864,
Great Fire in 1889 —
Building of Trans Canada Highway and
Highway 37 in 1932.
- X - ① Township of Elzevir & Grimsthorpe incorporated 1858.
② Population of 300 (estimate)
③ Minute books (one missing from 1888 to 1913) are
kept in Township Hall in Actinolite.
- Y - Hell's Gate - dangerous rapids for log drives.
Troy - first name of settlement
Bridgewater - appropriate name
Actinolite - called after mineral which was
produced here for some time.

Some photos, documents etc. are already in
Hastings County Museum. Some photos, documents
etc can be copied and returned. I will bring these in.