

TYENDINAGA TOWNSHIP.

MELROSE: seat of Municipal Govt., Twnsh. Council Chambers built 1859,
Architect John Forin, Belleville.

Families: McLaren, McFarland, Palmer Fullough, Emmons Shaughnessy,
English, Tripp, Demill, Badgley, etc.

Stores. Mr. Duncan 1st storekeeper- named village Melrose after his
birthplace in Scotland.
Wm Mandell (County Derry Ireland) - 1849 - 1897 General store.

Pringle, Kimmet, Sexsmith, Bradshaw and Pascoe, and now,
Mr. La Chappelle serves our area at Blessington, 4th Concession.

Industry: In 1833 1st Mill built on creek near Shannonville Gravel Rd.
by Mr. McFarlane--burned before he made enough to pay expenses.
2 more grist mills, 2 cheese factories (last of which burned 1957)
Cheese Box factory (Mr. Buck,) 1900. Blacksmiths shops one
was owned by Harry Hill, who later became Mayor of Belleville.
Kimmet, and now Jack Farrel, the present blacksmith, (50yrs
blacksmithing) whose shop on 4th con. was owned by "Hank
Cole, Mr Loucks, then Frank Corrigan to whom Jack Farrel was
apprenticed in 1915.

Hotel and Banks: Billie Ward opened a hotel (N.E. corner across from
Twnsh. Hall. The Standard Bank, Doug. Elliot in charge had
office in the hotel. *burned 1941*

Bank of Montreal- Mr. Deacon, Mr. Palmer office in Twn. Hall.

Oil Well: 1902 - failed to locate well. many lost money on worthless
shares. Nov. 1964, Consumers Gas Co. cleaned out well
looking for underground for gas. Held a meeting 13 Dec. 1965
with 60 owners of farms in vicinity regarding options to
purchase underground storage.

Churches: Church of England 1830's, Presbyterian 1860, brick church 1881
Methodist 1864, (1925, Meth. and Pres. united) Meth. torn down
Pres. burned Jan. 1962 new United Church opened Dec. 1962.
(Melrose)

Schools: S.S. 1891 log, present one 1895 Hydro 1948; enrolment 35
Emmons S.S. 2nd con. stone (pictures 1911 teacher and pupils)
S.S. on Shannonville Gravel near 2nd Con. (
S.S. 1873 lower 4th con. *closed 1962*
S.S. 4th Con. at Blessington-Stone - 1873.

I have full details of pupils, teachers from 1890's pictures etc.

DOCTORS:
Drs. Donovan, Lanfer (who is reputed to own the first car in Melrose, DR Bird.
LEFT IN 1930'S

*Other hotel owners
Callaghan, Walsh,
O'Leary,
Mike McLaughlin
who still lives in
Belleville.*

LONSDALE

SHOULD In 1876, Lonsdale was described thusly: It is growing rapidly, and ~~should~~ become a village of importance. However it is now a very picturesque spot, a mecca for artists. A Church, school and store are the remaining "services" left of the imposing list below. Population—The old grist mill built 1830 James Lazier, 1st miller James McCullough, 1830 - 65. is now closed, last owner J. McQuinness.

Woolen mill, two hotels blacksmith shop, saddle and harness store. general store, post office, doctor, and dentist undertaker and large lumber industry in the late 1800's employed around 500 men.

Lonsdale's stone architecture is very beautiful, the stone being of an attractive brownish colour, and of a better texture than Belleville's. The frame white church on the hill built 1868, Wesleyan Methodist, now United Church with its timeless and pleasantly plain interior has the original wood stoves, pews and doorkey, and uses coal lamps for services.

The Capt. Davis house, now called the Murphy place, and owned by J. Walsh is on the lower 4th con.. A huge stone Regency house, supposedly built after the War of 1812 - much similar to the Ponton house, is one of the oldest houses in that area.

Marysville S.S. school log 1837 - frame 1909 - closed 1962 - New Separate School, History of Parish under "Marysville Church" in Tweedsmuir History Book

ROSLIN TYEN.

A portion of Roslin is situated on N.W. corner of Tyen. On the boundary line J. Wilson had a mill (1880's) John White (M.P.) cheese factory and Chisholm's mill is still in existence and is the largest sawmill and lumber company in the area. Mount Pleasant Church, formerly Methodist, was at one time on the Shannonville charge, then with Roslin, was built and torn down in 196. It was situated on the th con.

Kingsford.

Kingsford is a small postal village on the Salmon River, and just a short distance from there, between Lonsdale and Kingsford, on the river side the Township has purchased a site for picnic park as a Centennial Project.

(See "History of Kingsford" which is in Museum.)

Milltown.

Appropriately named, had at one time various mills. N.S. Appleby, Burdette and Laziers each had saw mills, iron foundry and machine shop owned by R. Pegan. furniture factory and cheese factory. The old stone school on No. 2 highway was built in 1880's and is still serving the needs of the village. An earlier school was built on the "back street" and remains of it may still be seen.

The last industry, the grist mill was purchased for \$55:00, and house for an even \$100:00 in March 1962, when the road was widened on Highway 2 and the 401 highway closed off the Milltown sideroad, thus blocking farmers from going to Milltown with their grain to be ground.

It was one of the few mills in the area still operated by water power Mr. Walter Pennock was one of the earliest owners and Mr. Vance

The present century

Melrose - 1902 - attempt to locate oil wells -
many lost money on worthless shares. In
Nov. 1964, Consumer Gas Co. investigated
possibility of underground storage

Londak - a mecca for artists

Huntingdon, to the north of Thurlow, is a township containing a fair proportion of good land, the greater portion of which is taken up. In 1817 the township contained but four settlers, and in 1850 the population had increased to 2196. There were then eight saw mills in the township, and 21,000 bushels of wheat, 11,000 bushels of oats, 5000 bushels of peas, 20,000 bushels of potatoes, 14,000 pounds of maple sugar, 6000 pounds of wool, 5400 pounds of butter were produced from the crop of 1849.

From Belleville to Shannonville is nine miles. This village is situated in the south-west of the township of Tyendenaga, on the Kingston Road. The land along the road is rolling, and the first portion is well settled ; the latter portion, however, not quite so well ; the buildings generally being of an inferior description. The soil is a stiff loam, and the timber beech, oak, maple, &c. Much of the land is very stony. The scenery is pretty ; openings in the timber giving frequent views of the Bay.

Shannonville, which is situated on the Salmon River, is built on a bed of rock about one mile from the Bay. The site of the village was originally the property of the Mohawk Indians, who granted to certain parties a lease of the land for 999 years. The land on the east side of the river has been since surrendered to the government, who have given deeds for the lots ; but the land on the west side, to the extent of about 100 acres, is still held on lease. The Indians originally had a reserve here twelve miles square, but they have sold and leased till they have left but a tract nine miles in length by about two miles wide, commencing about a mile and a half west from the village.

Shannonville contains about 250 inhabitants, a saw mill containing five circular and three upright saws, two tanneries, three asheries, and a post office ; a grist mill is erecting, and Episcopal and Wesleyan Methodist churches are under contract, and will shortly be built. There is a considerable quantity of cedar about the village on the banks of the river.

After leaving Shannonville the road through the Indian lands is not very good, and the settlements along it are very poor, reminding the traveller of a remark once made, we forget by whom, "that it was very easy to convert a white man into an Indian, but very difficult to turn an Indian into a white man."

These Indians, known as the "Mohawks of the Bay of Quinté," comprise four chiefs, 116 warriors, 133 women, and 129 children, who receive presents. They have been settled here since 1784. In

1793 they received from the Crown a grant of land containing about 92,700 acres, but in 1820 they surrendered 33,280 acres in exchange for an annuity of £450; and in 1835 they made a further surrender of 27,357 acres, to be held in trust and sold for their benefit.

Tyendenaga is well settled. In 1842 it contained 2898 inhabitants; in 1850 the number had increased to 4181. It then contained three grist and eight saw mills, and 47,000 bushels of wheat, 27,000 bushels of oats, 9600 bushels of peas, 34,000 bushels of potatoes, 17,000 pounds of maple sugar, 16,000 pounds of wool, and 13,000 pounds of butter were produced from the crop of 1849.

To the north of Tyendenaga is the township of Hungerford. This is a large township. It is not very thickly settled, but is filling up fast. It was unsettled in 1817. In 1842 it contained but 880 inhabitants, and in 1850 the number had increased to 2627. 26,000 bushels of wheat, 14,000 bushels of oats, 4,000 bushels of peas, 41,000 bushels of potatoes, 24,000 pounds of maple sugar, 6500 pounds of wool, and 4700 pounds of butter were produced from the crop of 1849.

The Victoria District received in 1849 the sum of £223 from the government grant towards the support of its agricultural societies, £616 for common schools, and £100 for a grammar school.

CHRIST CHURCH

Tyendinaga

If we could decipher the weatherworn inscription over the west door of Christ Church, we would learn that the building was -

"Erected by the Mohawks in token of their
preservation by Divine Mercy MDCCCXLI" (1843)

The stone wolf head surmounting the door, is the symbol of the clan or social unit of the tribe.

The present structure replaces two former churches. The original log building was erected in 1784 near the site of the cairn commemorating the landing of the Mohawks in that year, and in 1798 King George III, who took a great interest in his Mohawk subjects, caused the little log church to be enlarged and properly furnished. Gifts included the Royal Coat of Arms and an altar piece or triptich, containing the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments in the Mohawk language. This now serves as a reredos in the present church. King George also presented a fine bell which was damaged when the stone church was struck by lightning and burned in 1906. However the bell was recast and is still in use in the restored tower.

The burning of the old stone church, after more than sixty years of service was a severe loss to the Band, but under the energetic leadership of the Rev. A. H. Creeggan, it was rebuilt in improved and complete form. It was consecrated, because it was free of debt, on April 28th, 1907.

Current reports that the Indians of this Reserve received an "annual government grant" had to be corrected because the government gave no aid whatsoever, either in the building of 1843, or the present building. The Mohawks contributed the cost out of their capital account, derived from the sale and rental of lands. From the youngest child to the oldest resident, they contributed an equal amount. A greater injustice could not be done them than to say their churches were built by the Government.

Unfortunately there seems to be no record of the history of the lovely old font which you see to your right as you enter the church. Above the Altar, is a fine stained glass window given by Dr. Oronyatekha in memory of his wife. The Doctor gave generously to the church and among his gifts are the organ and the beautiful altar cross of olive wood grown on the Mount of Olives, and inlaid with mother-of-pearl. It was brought from Jerusalem by his daughter. The Altar was given in memory of a faithful priest, Herbert Pringle, replacing one memorializing the first resident clergyman, the Rev. Saltern Givens, who served from 1831 to 1850. The old altar is now in All Saints Church.

The Altar desk, also of olive wood from Jerusalem as the Hebrew inscription signifies, was presented by the late Rt. Reverend Charles Allan Seager, Bishop of Ontario and later of Huron.

The Bible which is in the handsome case made by Mr. Earl Brant, was presented in 1842, (donor unknown) repaired in 1892 and it was signed by Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip on their 1951 visit to Canada.

The Royal Coat of Arms, already referred to, was destroyed in the fire of 1906 and replaced in the early 1930's by King George V in token that his Mohawk subjects were not forgotten.

The large bronze plaque on the north wall of the church testifies to the loyalty of the great number of Mohawks from this Reserve who fought for their King and Country in World War I. and who were faithful "even unto death". The same devotion to duty was duplicated in the second Great War and a stone memorial in the Church yard testifies to this. The bronze plaque to the right of the pathway leading to the Church door commemorates Dr. Oronyatekha (1841-1907) the famous Mohawk chief orator and physician who was Supreme Chief Ranger of the Independent Order of Foresters. A few steps farther on we see the family plot enclosed by an iron fence, and marked by a high stone monument.

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Created in 1820

Tyendinaga Reviews Colorful History

By ROY PEACOCK
Staff Reporter

Regional government may eventually see the municipality lose some of its identity, but Tyendinaga township in the southeast corner of Hastings county can look back to a colorful history.

The township is the site of the Mohawk Indian reservation of the same name and its major population centre Mill Point, or Deseronto, as it is now called, was once one of the biggest lumbering and sawmill towns in the area.

The township council can boast to still having its original minute book dating back to 1847 and can point to the fact that at one time the municipality had a greater population than did Belleville.

Records show that in 1860 Tyendinaga had a population of approximately 7,000 people following what was termed as "remarkable" growth during the 1850's.

This was the big boom period for the township with lumber mills, flour and grist mills going full blast.

The township was created back in 1820 out of lands surrendered to the Crown by the Mohawks of the Tyendinaga Reserve and like the reserve, took its name from Joseph Brant, noted Mohawk chief, whose Indian name was Tyanendanegea.

The township settled slowly

in the 1820's and by 1830 when it separated from Thurlow for municipal purposes the population was still only about 370.

Prominent among the first settlers were the Portt, Sweeney, Nealon, Kenny, Hanley, English and Millmurray families from Ireland and the McLaren and McFarlane families from Scotland.

The Applebys, Laziers and Mordens were of United Empire Loyalist descent.

But the township experienced a population explosion in the 1830's when labor unrest and difficult times in the British Isles helped to boost the population to 1700 by 1836.

So great was the population increase that the government

opened more Indian lands for settlement and the Mohawks lost their hunting grounds.

Many of the new settlers were Irish who settled because it was the only township in which new land was available in quantity.

The Irish Roman Catholics generally settled in the eastern half of the township while the Protestants were concentrated in the western part.

By 1837 the township had seven sawmills, a grist mill, five taverns and five weavers' shops.

Shannonville, Milltown, Melrose and Lonsdale shared in the expansion.

According to the county history written by Belleville high school teacher Gerald Boyce,

the first town meeting in Tyendinaga appears to have been held in 1830 at Shannonville.

The first township minute book dates back to 1847—three years before the municipality was able to boast of separate government.

But the same book contains notations referring back to as early as 1830. The first reeve of the township was Wellington Frizell — in 1850.

As the lumbering trade diminished and people commenced moving from the farms, the township population suffered

a gradual decline until in the 1940's a low point of about 2,000 was reached.

Now farming is regaining its importance and the population is again on the upswing with clerk William Walsh reporting last year's count at about 2,450.

Melrose has been the seat of municipal government since the township hall was built there in 1859. The village was named by its first storekeeper, Mr. Duncan, whose birthplace was in Melrose, Scotland.

DOUGLAS BOYLE, B.A., L.L.B.

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has been moved to

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(Corner Church and Campbell Sts.)

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— STROUD'S —

SPECIALS



Township History Recalled

Tyendinaga Clerk William J. Walsh and Reeve Carman Gibson check items in old township record book. Minute book dates back to 1847 but notations go back to 1830.