

SPARROW LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer 2019



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Please see our website sparrowlake.ca for a complete list of executive and contacts.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS



Hello All,

I'm glad to be in touch with you all again. We had a great turnout and pleasant time at Silver Pines Restaurant on August 15th for lunch. We chatted a bit about the building itself and the rebuilds it has had, mostly due to fire I think. Pictures from very early years show some differences in the "Franklin House," but it is surprisingly similar from "then" till "now." Ursula Soper joined us with pictures and stories, and Jim Stanton brought pictures and read historical accounts of Franklin memories. We also made mention of other pioneer families that settled or had land close to that site. The lunch was so enjoyable and well attended that we plan to do the same next August 13th, on a Thursday at noon. I hope many will plan to join us for a Sparrow Lake luncheon and make this an annual event.

The new owners of Silver Pines have a brief account of the history in their menu, but they do not have the pictures that once were on display in the restaurant. The Sparrow Lake Historical Society has offered to provide them with a selection of pictures and facts to display. Keeping history alive.

We know summer is gone when it is time for our fall Potluck dinner. **Sept. 28, at 6:30 PM, Severn Bridge Community Hall at 1035 Southwood Rd.** I'm sure we will not be disappointed; the table is always full with the best of everyone's efforts. Sit down time is 6:30; bring a friend; new faces are always welcome. After dinner we will have a collective presentation on a few facts and stories about Cecil Wesley, a First Nation's man who lived in the Kilworthy area for many years. Eric Lansdell met Cecil as a child, and he is coming to share his memories and show us some of Cecil's handiwork. Bob Graham will also join us; he has developed presentations about First Nation's beliefs and stories that he shares with school children and other interested groups. Some of our members and people in our area may have memories of Cecil Wesley. Please bring your stories or the family members and friends who know them. Looking forward to seeing everybody and sharing good food and friendship.

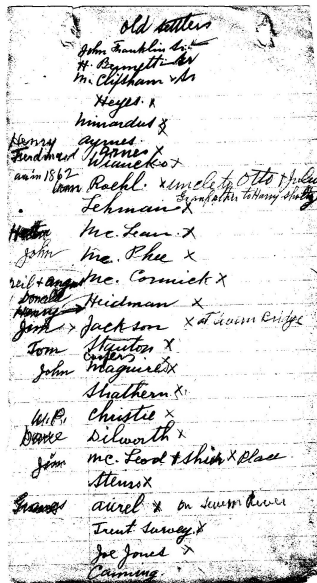
Sara Clipsham

About twenty people attended the 2019 Sparrow Lake luncheon at Silver Pines Restaurant on August 15. (This original farm site was first cleared by Adelbert Lehmann and later became the homestead of John Franklin Sr.) One of the artifacts circulated at the luncheon was this handwritten journal by unknown authors. The first page was written with a quill pen, and the bulk was in pencil, some parts overwritten for clarity. At a later time, more references were added with [blue pen], and still later additions in [[red pen]]. At the luncheon, Jim Stanton thought that he recognized "Uncle Frank's writing," which fits in with one author's notation that "Dad" (Captain Tom Stanton) bought the Strathern Lumber mill at Miller's Point, which is now Port Stanton. So it appears that Frank Stanton wrote most of this journal from his interviews with John Franklin Jr., who he refers to as "Uncle Jack." (His mother was Ellen Franklin.)

Memoirs: Pioneer Days.
 Obtained from John Franklin. 1947.
 On Shores Sparrow and Severn.

Old Settlers

- John Franklin Sr.
- H. Bennett Sr.
- M.Clipsham Sr
- Heyes
- Minardus
- Henry Ayrnes
- Ferdinand Ayrnes
- Wianko
- arrived in 1862 - Wm.
- Roehl, uncle to Otto and
- Julius, grandfather to Harry
- Shultz
- Lehman
- Hector Mc.Lean
- John Mc.Phee
- Neil and Angus Mc.Cormick
- Donald and Henry Heidman
- Jim Jackson at Severn Bridge
- Tom Stanton
- Coopers
- John Maquire
- Strathern
- W.P. Christie
- Dave Dilworth
- John Mc.Leod at Shier Place
- Steins
- Graves Aurel on Severn River



Trent Survey
 Joe Jones
 Canning
 Arulius Doolittle
 Hugh Monahan
 W. H. Miller, Severn Bridge
 Heaths [Mill - Maquires]
 [Hector Mc.Lean Mill, Mc.Leans Bay]

Summer of 1896
 Trent Survey was made in 1896 by M. Heckman, Chief Engineer, and Mssrs Lefebre, Tilley, John Franklin, Alf Durm, Frank Davis, Jim Brady.

John Franklin Sr settled in Orillia June 1863, Lived there 10 or 12 years. Then moved to Minardus Place for 2 years, from there to the Lehman place and established the "Franklin House."

Shier Lot on Severn River sold to W.P. Christie. Later sold Jim McLeod who moved there about 1899, [now occupied by his son in law Dan McKenzie.]

John Maquire, Ireland. Settled about 1860. Had Andy, John, Bill, Jim, Girls Bell, Hanna, Bessie.

Stein. Hugo's father settled on S. Lake with his wife about 1850. His wife died and left considerable money to her husband who later died and left his wealth to Hugo and Ida. Later Hugo died and left all to Ida.

Heamon Bennett came from Port Perry about 1870. Helped to build the Everbeck Mill on the Kashee Rapids up from the Lake. [The lumber was cut with a Muley upright saw. Some of these boards can still be found in old buildings.]

G. A. Lehmans of Kilworthy.
 They operated a store at Kilworthy for a number of years. His daughter Emily married John Beatty who was killed by train at Hughes Crossing.

Hugh Monahan.
 Irish, came to Monahans Point about the year 1860.

Michael Clipsham.
 Came from Muskoka and settled on the Lake on the Everbeck Farm, now Harry Clipsham Blacksmith & Farm, about 1884.

Joe Jones came from Longford and started a store and

P.O. {?} at Hamlet about 1894. Later unable to make a living for a large family, he moved to Gravenhurst and worked for M. D. & Sons. His son Harry and daughters Nellie and Gertie [and Will] survive and live at Gravenhurst.

Strathern operated a shingle and lumber mill on what is now Millers Point about 1877 to 1880 got some timber off Georgian Bay. Later Jack Canning was foreman. Dad bought their Lots later.

Theodore Heye.

Left boarding house at Longford, moved to Kashee River about 1884 and farmed. Lived in a log house near the Kashee River. [Alex was their son. They also had several girls.]

About the year 1878 St. Luke Church Built.

The lumber was bt. from W.P. Christie who was to deliver same. Dick Whitsides came from first chute on the Pioneer with Uncle Jack. 2 scows were being loaded with shingles, both at Grass Lake to be towed to Severn. Bill Dillworth was foreman. The Pioneer towed the scows to Severn. They unloaded and found the Church Lumber had been rafted with shingles loaded on top. The Severn Mills were there before the {Ry?} went through. Next morning the Pioneer towed the raft to Keeler's Landing. Mr. Armstrong, a surveyor of Orillia, was active in the construction of St. Luke's Church.

Irish. Dave Dilworth & Peggy, son of Tom Dilworth, built the house where Griewells now are. Later he settled at the River where Mc.Kenzies now live. Tom lived in the little cabin where the Spring is below the River.

James Mc.Leod moved from Severn. Settled on the River about 1891. [Where Dan Mc.Kenzie now lives.]

Minardus.

Came from Orillia to 3 Con. Morrison about 18/ Then moved to Gravenhurst where he built Minardus Block.

Arulius Doolittle settled on the Madden Place at the Severn River about 1860. This Madden was the father of Madden the Jeweler [of Orillia.]

Bell Ewart Camp – [Lumber Co.]

Opposite the Bill Edwards Place, then later known as the Bushill Place. They hauled logs to L. Couchiching. Later towed to Bellewart by the tug Victoria. The Advance tug towed to Bradford, the Thompson Smith Co. The tug

James Burk run by Capt. Burk towed logs for sundry mills. She sank at the Portage while wooding up. With the assistance of the Longford Lumber Co. scows and tug {Simcoe?} she was raised again. [Tom Stanton and John Franklin were the crew at that time.]

Henry Arnes lived on the Everbeck Place for several years before M. Clipsham bought it.

Ferdinand Ames settled on the Menzels Place prior to Menzels.

[Lehmans settled at the north end of Sparrow Lake about 1850 on what later became the Franklin House.]

Adolf Wiancko was one of the earliest pioneers of Sparrow Lake and kept the Post Office of that name. This office is now handed to his son Harrold. Other members of this family are, Alfred Deceased, Wally Deceased, Theodore Deceased, Alex Deceased, (Ella) Mrs Wess Clipsham Deceased, Bruno of Toronto.

August Shultz lived on the Lehman place for several years.

John McPhee, {Hugh?} McPhee, lumbered on Sparrow Lake for Geo Bay Lumber Co. Our Lot.

W.P. Christie jobbed of Geo Bay Lum Co. {Limits?} west of S. Lake. He sub let the jobs. The logs were cut at Waubeshine operated by the Geo Bay Lumber Co.

5 miles from Coventry in Righton on Duns mire, John Franklin Jr. Born in Feb. 5, 1857. Married to Alice Simpson. Came to Canada 1863. Came over on a sailing vessel 2 months on the ocean. Bad winds. Married to Alice Simpson 19 Oct. 1881. Lived in small cabin right where {?John George?} now lives, for 1 winter in a log shanty. Then moved to Severn Bridge where he lived 3 years then moved to Sparrow Lake Point about 1885. Lived there for 8 yrs. Then 1 year on J. Roehl's place then moved to the Simple Place on McLeans Bay. Then moved to Southwood. Lived there about 20 years. Then moved to Sparrow Lake to retire near Kilworthy.

Wm. Roehl Sr. settled on the west shore of Sparrow Lake about 1860. Family of 4 girls. 1 crazy, 1 m to Aug Shultz, 1 Gus Pilker, 1 m to Julius Borneman, mother. The sons were Otto, Julius, William.

Scotch. Neil McCormick settled about 1850 on what is

now the Gill Place.

German. Henry Heidman settled on 10 Con about 1850.

J.H. Jackson settled at Severn Bridge, married to a Symington, about 1850. Then only a floating bridge, he carried flour on his back from Orillia.

Coopers no record how they got there [to Cooper's Falls, no known means of access at the time they settled there.] [[I have since been told by Mrs. Lawrence Cooper their pioneers followed the water edge of the Severn and Black River (all a total wilderness) on foot till they reached the Falls where they settled. At night they laid

out in the open with wild animals staring at them.]]

Charles built the old log house at River. Later owned by Adam Johnston Sr. [and Bert Doolittle]

[Some of the boats on Lake Couchiching] Carrella, Ida Burton, Emily May.

[[Making Potash. The main industry in Pioneer days. It was used in the manufacture of Glass to clear the sand. Also used as “baking powder” and soap. The price was about \$120.00 a Barrel which weighed 560 lbs.]]

Sparrow Lake Historical Society Membership Renewal & Application Form

**We now accept PayPal from the link on our website at sparrowlake.ca
For those email recipients who are not sure of their renewal status, please contact Karen McKenzie. kswood@sympatico.ca**

Name

Mailing Address

Postal/Zip Code -----

Email address _____

Will you receive your newsletter via email? YES NO

Single \$15.00 ----- Family \$25.00 -----

New ----- Renewal -----

Also note that now there is a ten-year membership available for \$200.00 for a family or \$125.00 for a single membership.

Ten Year Single ----- Family-----

Please make cheque payable to – **Sparrow Lake Historical Society** – and mail to
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Severn Bridge, Ont. P0E 1N0