



GLENGARRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

newsletter

BOX 416, ALEXANDRIA, ON K0C 1A0

September 2004

Vol. 34 No. 6 ISSN 0229-6705

next issue: October 2004

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Date: | Thursday, September 2, 2004 |
| Time: | 8:00 p.m. |
| Place: | Church on the Hill, Alexandria, ON |
| Topic: | Glengarry Inside & Out |

Welcome back to all after the long, but not very hot, summer. Here's hoping that September and October prove to be somewhat of an improvement. So don't put away the barbecue tongs just yet.

Glengarry Inside & Out

Some people have spent their whole lives in Glengarry and know the county "inside out." Those of us from "away" have learned, and are still learning what it means to be a Glengarrian from "outside in" while still others observe our unusual culture here and dissect it under a literary microscope strictly from the outside. And then there's **Velma Franklin**. Velma is definitely in a class all by herself. Her unique experience in Glengarry comprises "all three of the above." Although born and brought up outside Glengarry, I don't know of a soul who would consider Velma anything but the "insidest of insiders" if one can say such a thing.

It is just this experience that Velma will speak to on September 2nd; how she felt when she first married and moved to Glengarry, and how that experience evolved and played out over the years. Rather than remaining an outsider, Velma became one of the best known, and much loved colourful characters that we have here in the county. Perhaps the reason for this is that Velma, with her untiring energy, has thrown herself wholeheartedly into more local projects that Carters have liver pills! Over the years, Velma, together with her late husband, managed their dairy farm on the 8th of Kenyon but she still found time for secondary careers first, as a newspaper correspondent for the Cornwall Standard Freeholder and, later as the curator of the Glengarry Pioneer Museum. Bear in mind that she did all this while raising 10 or 11 children (I always lose count of Velma's many children). In addition, Velma is a prodigious crafter including rug hooking, knitting and quilting, to name just a few of her many talents. She is also the author of Over the Fence, a wonderful collection of stories about farm life gleaned from her weekly column at the Standard Freeholder.

Velma was born in the small town of Parent, in northern Quebec. She attended school in Quebec's Eastern Townships and is a graduate of Montreal's McGill University. In 1950, she married, moved to Glengarry County, and the rest, as they say, folks, is history. Do come out then on September 2nd and hear the story of an "outside insider."

Some Fall-out from our Picnic

As you may recall, one of our guests at the Picnic last June was Wayne Quigley from Surrey BC.

Wayne is a descendent of the Lochiel Quigleys from whom, of course, Quigley's Corners takes its name. Wayne wrote the following letter which he requested be published as a thank you to everyone at the GHS for making him so very welcome.

Ms. Rosemary O'Flaherty,
President.
Glengarry Historical Society,
Alexandria, Ontario
Post Office Box 416

August 1, 2004

Dear Rosemary,

Re: A Letter of Thanks

Through you, I would like to thank the Glengarry Historical Society and all those members and others, who attended your annual picnic at the ruins of St Raphael's last June 17, 2004, for making Marietta and me feel so welcome. I was personally humbled by the evident pleasure many exhibited at having a Quigley of Glengarry back in your midst after more than one hundred years.

The fact that the picnic was held at St Raphael's was particularly poignant, in that John Angus Quigley and Mary Catherine McCormick were married at that very location in 1817. All members of my branch of the Quigleys now spread far and wide across Canada and the United States, are the progeny of that fruitful union, so long ago.

It was both an interesting and useful event for myself, in that we received a taste of the depth of Canadian and Catholic history that is embodied in Glengarry, while providing me an opportunity to meet so many people knowledgeable of Quigley's Corners and the Quigley Family. Those Glengarrians, who worked so hard over the years to compile the many family histories of Glengarry's pioneers, have also preserved sufficient of my Family's history to enable me to search out the story of the Quigleys and Quigley's Corners, then the Quigley's travels to the Dakotas and later, on to Saskatchewan.

Friends such as Basil McCormick and Hugh MacMillan have greatly assisted my search, particularly over the last year. At your picnic, I met others with whom I plan to follow-up to learn even more.

I now know the basic story of the Quigley's move from Armagh in Ireland at the end of the 1700's to North America, receiving their first land grant in what became Lochiel Township in 1816, for fighting with other Glengarrians to preserve Canada's future in the War of 1812. I still do not know exactly when the Quigleys made the move, nor precisely how they arrived in Glengarry, and there remains richness in detail still to be discovered and savoured.

No doubt I will still be researching the history of Glengarry and the Quigleys for some time yet. It is an engaging endeavour, leaving me increasingly amazed of the roll played by Glengarrians, not only in the development of Canada as we know it, but also how they played a similar roll in many of the northern states.

Let me close by asking if anyone knows about the Quigleys, or has photos, documents or other memorabilia that would add to my knowledge, I would much appreciate their contacting me at the address below, or by telephone at 604-535-4869 or by email to jwquig@hotmail.com. I look forward to future visits.

Sincerely,
John Alexander Wayne Quigley
2049 - 127A Street, Surrey, BC, Canada V4A 5Y6
Phone: 604-535-4869