

Woodstock Via Railway Station



The station was built in 1885 by Grand Trunk Railway after its acquisition of Great Western Railway which was purchased in 1882 and ultimately merged with Canadian National Railway in 1920. The building is Gothic Revival with Italianate elements by architect Henry Hobson and renovated in 1986 with Edwardian interior/exterior. The Station Building was designated a national Railway Heritage site in 1993. Refurbished 2025.

Oxford Branch Council Executive:

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Treasurer -	Bob Martin #104360	oxfordtreasurer@ogs.on.ca
Secretary -	Frances Gottschlich #30639	oxfordbranchsecretary@ogs.on.ca
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Ontario Ancestors Oxford County Branch
82 Light Street, Governor's House, Court House Square, Woodstock, ON.
Hours - Tuesday to Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Contact: <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca> email oxford@ogs.on.ca mail Box 20019, Woodstock, ON, N4S 8X8
Phone 519-421-1700 or 1-855-MyRoots (855-697-6687) Ext 322

Membership to Ontario Ancestors / Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) is \$63 plus \$15.00 to join Oxford Branch.
2100 Steeles Avenue West, Unit #202, Concord ON L4K 2V1 <https://ogs.on.ca> email info@ogs.on.ca
Phone 416-489-0734 or 1-855-MyRoots (855-697-6687) Open Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Check the website for changes to membership information or information about other Branches.

The Tracer is published quarterly (February, May, August, November) by Oxford County Branch. We invite original articles, transcriptions, queries and web sites of interest that have genealogical relevance to our members. Submissions will be accepted in Microsoft Word™ or Rich Text Format via email oxfordnewsetters@ogs.on.ca or sent to the above address. Submission deadlines for 2025 are January 17th for February issue, April 18th for May issue, July 18th for August issue, October 17th for November issue. All submissions are published at the editor's discretion and we reserve the right to change the formatting and wording.

Message from the Chair

Hoping that you all are enjoyed (survived) this exceptional sunshine and heat that has graced our part of the world over the past 3 months. It certainly has been a quieter time at our branch as our volunteers and council members enjoy some well-deserved rest. However, the signs of the Fall Season are starting to become noticeable with back-to-school shopping, students preparing for a new year, farmers getting ready for the harvest, and corn is once again on the supper table.

Please mark your calendars for our OGS Branch Meeting and Speaker Series scheduled for Monday September 15th at 7pm, speaker Sue Hillborn will share stories about her grandmother who was a Home Child.

Oxford Branch will be celebrating our **2nd Annual Family History month in October**. The launch is September 30th, 10 am to noon. All are invited. Watch our Facebook page for news about some of the special activities that will take place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10am to 4pm all month. New researchers will receive a “Genealogy Starter Kit” and our team of volunteers are available to help them get started on filling the branches in their family tree.

We will have a booth at the Tillsonburg Founder’s Festival on Saturday October 18th to showcase our Oxford Genealogy Services. This Festival takes place at the Memorial Park in Tillsonburg from noon until 5pm and includes live entertainment, Heritage displays, Food trucks, Artisan crafts and more. Come on out and stop by our booth to say hi to our volunteers and view our new banner...it’s an eye catcher 😊.

We are also thrilled to recognize some of our Branch volunteers with an Ontario Certificate of Volunteer Service. **Carol Bossenberry, Liz Buchanan, Mary Metcalfe, Marg Riley, and Starla Mitchener Dassy** will be honoured at a special ceremony at the Lamplighter Conference Centre in London on October 24th. Please join me in applauding the above members and note our deepest appreciation for all our volunteers for their dedicated service to our families and ancestors.



Respectfully,
Terry Dunnigan

The Legacy of British Home Children - September 28

British Home Child Day is celebrated annually on September 28th in Canada. Between 1869 and 1939 more than 100,000 young boys and girls, British Home Children, had immigrated to Canada. Many were orphans, some came from disadvantaged backgrounds, families who were unable to care for their children and believed that putting their children in the care of charitable organizations, that they would have a better chance at life.

Today, it is thought that more than ten percent of the Canadian population may be descended from British Home Children. The contributions made by the British Home Children who served in uniform was impressive, and their important role in our country's history should never be forgotten.

Most of the British Home Children sent to Canada were hosted by farm families, where they would be put to work. The boys tended to be employed for farm labour while the girls would perform domestic duties in the home, as well as help out in the fields. Some of these children were lucky enough to end up with loving families that treated them well and gave them affection. Many of them, unfortunately, would be treated very poorly.

The organizations that coordinated the British Home Children programs often kept their young people in placements for set periods of time. Regularly moving from one family to the next meant there was little stability in their lives. The charities were supposed to check in on an ongoing basis to ensure the children were being cared for properly. In practice, this rarely happened and the children were frequently neglected or abused. Many lived wandering lives, moving from farm to farm, while some ran away from the mistreatment they suffered. Some children even died.

For More Information:

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/people-and-stories/british-home-children>

<https://homechildrencanada.com/>

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/child-migration/>

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm199798/cmselect/cmhealth/755/8052025.htm>

<https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/explore/ancestral-tourism/home-children/>

<https://littleimmigrants.wordpress.com/2021/04/07/little-immigrants-their-contribution-to-canada-is-significant/>

Bagnell, Kenneth: The Little Immigrants, Toronto, Macmillan, 1980 OX 204.03 Box 1

Bean, Philip: Lost Children of the Empire, London, Unwin-Hyman, 1989

Birt, Lillian M: The Children's Home-Finder, Nisbet, Edinburgh, 1913

Corbett, Gail H: Barnardo Children in Canada, Peterborough, Woodland Pub. 1981 (available from the author in Peterborough)

Kohli, Marjorie: The Golden Bridge – Young Immigrants to Canada, 1833-1939, Toronto, Natural Heritage Books, 2003 OX 204.03 Box 1

Harrison, Phyllis: The Home Children, Winnipeg, Watson and Dwyer, 1979 OX 204.03 Box 1
Magnusson, Anna: The Village History of Quarrier's, Bridge of Weir (of interest to Scottish Home Children)

Parr, Joy: The Home Children: British Juvenile Immigration to Canada 1868-1924, Ann Harbor: London University Microfilms, 1982: Thesis, Ph.D. Yale, 1977

Parr, Joy: Labouring Children, British Immigrant Apprentices to Canada, 1869-1924, London, Croom Helm, 1980

Pettit, Mary: Mary Janeway - The Legacy of a Home Child, Toronto, Natural Heritage/Natural History Inc. OX 204.03 Box 1

Price, Wm R: Celtic Odyssey, Dorrance & Co., Philadelphia, 1970. Bill Price's autobiography of a Barnardo Boy in the Ottawa Valley

Rose, June: For the Sake of the Children (Inside Barnardos), Futura, London 1989 (ISBN 0 7088 4245 3)

Wagner, Gillian: Barnardo, London, Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 1979

Wagner, Gillian: Children of the Empire, London, Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 1982

Eugenics & Changing Ideas About Children: These are but two books that give background information that is important in understanding the Home Child story

McLaren, Angus: Our Own Master Race – Eugenics in Canada, 1885-1945, McClelland and Stewart Inc., Toronto, 1990

Sutherland, Neil: Children in English Canadian Society, U of T Press, 1976 and 1978 (ISBN 0-8020 and 0-6345-4 pa)

Note: Books available in the Oxford Branch Collection are located on shelf OX 204.03 Box 1

2010 The Year of the British Home Child

The Government of Canada declared 2010 to be the year of the British Home Child. Canada Post released a commemorative stamp which was part of the Year of the British Home Child initiative. The stamp designed by Debbie Adams of Adams & Associated Design Consultants contains 3 images; the SS Sardinian (which carried many children to Canada), photograph of a boy with a suitcase arriving at Halifax en route to Hamilton, and a home child working on a farm. While the stamp aimed to commemorate the children's stories and contributions, it also acknowledged the hardships and adversity many faced in Canada, often as child labourers.



<https://activehistory.ca/blog/2010/09/13/2010-is-year-of-the-british-home-child-in-canada-but-some-descendants-want-more-from-ottawa/>



Ontario Ancestors

British Home Children Special Interest Group

<https://bhc.ogs.on.ca/>

Check the website for details about upcoming webinars.

Upcoming Branch Meetings

All Oxford Branch meetings are available on Zoom. Click on the link to register and you will be sent a link to join the meeting. Everyone is welcome. Recordings of Webinars will be available for a short time under About Us on the website <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca> then available in the members Library.

Monday, September 15, 2025 at 7 pm

A British Home Child may be your ancestor
With Sue Hilborn

Sue's grandmother was a British Home Child. In her presentation she will talk about the child immigration scheme, her grandmother's story and share information how to find your British Home Child ancestor.

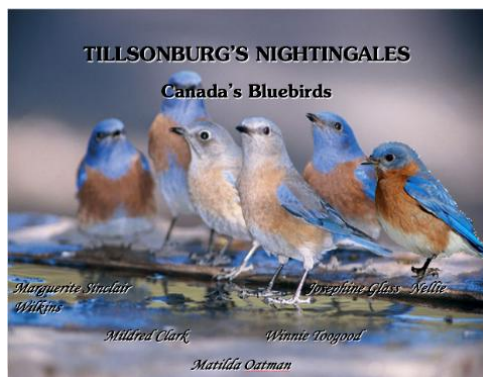
Photo is of the Hazelbrae Memorial in Peterborough



Click on the link to register and you will be sent a link to join the meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0lcu2tqzwiE9WZ1wgbkL7VZSBN6BwscJZ4>

Monday, October 20, 2025 at 7 pm

Tillsonburg's Nightingales; Nursing Sisters in WWI with Laurel Beechey



The Canadian nurses who served in World War I were called Bluebirds because of their blue uniforms and white veils. Laurel will guide us through the journey of five young nurses from the Tillsonburg area, leaving home and through their service with the Canadian Army Medical Corps. They are our unsung heroines. Caution - some pictures are graphic.

Click on the link to register and you will be sent a link to join the meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsc-6trjgvHNNwFEUNBy8IC5C0dwPA11IM>

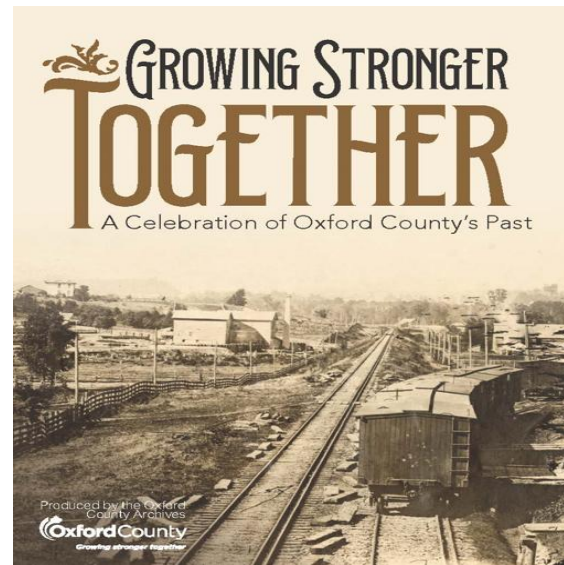
Monday, November 17, 2025 at 7 pm

Growing Stronger Together – A Celebration of Oxford County's Past presented by Liz Dommasch, Oxford County Archivist

Liz will share some of the stories from the new publication celebrating Oxford County's 175+ years. Hear from the team who created this poignant resource, finally giving a voice to the thousands who were sent to new worlds, with little or no say in their fate.

Click on the link to register and you will be sent a link to join the meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEgfu2vqDkiE9D1VunWGjSYOYdaJ5r1qtec>



23andme SOLD

On June 27, 2025, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri approved the proposed purchase of all of the assets of 23andMe by TTAM Research Institute ("TTAM"), and the sale closed on July 8, 2025.

TTAM is a nonprofit medical research organization founded by Anne Wojcicki (Co-Founder and former CEO of 23andMe). TTAM's charitable mission is: "To continue the innovative research and scientific discoveries that were core to 23andMe, while expanding its active conduct of medical research and educational activities to empower individuals to learn about their own genomes and advance our knowledge of human health."

What this means for 23andme customers:

- Account and personal data remain intact and will continue to be safeguarded under 23andMe's privacy commitments to customers.
- Personal information has not been physically or electronically moved from the control of 23andMe.
- TTAM is legally obligated to maintain and honor the privacy policies, user consents, and data protection measures that have been put in place by 23andMe.
- TTAM will be operating with the same employees and privacy protocols that have protected customer data and is committed to continuous improvement of those policies.
- Customers will continue to be able to exercise your choices on how their data and collected samples are used, including opting into or out of research and deleting their account by going to Account Settings and clicking the "Permanently Delete Data" button. For any issues, contact customercare@23andme.com for further assistance. For those who have previously chosen to delete their data, no further action is necessary.

The William Proudfoot Story:

Sharon Young

From Scottish Immigrant to York Merchant, Justice of Peace and Magistrate; to member of the board of Directors and President of the Bank of Upper Canada as well as Kearnsey House builder and owner

I first came across Williams's name when I was trying to flesh out a copy of a very significant family letter sent from my GG grandfather, James Young, to his young son, Robert Evans Young in 1872. Ten year old Robert was complaining how lonely he was after having been sent off to Murray's Bay, Quebec, alone, to attend school and learn French. James wrote him a very long letter detailing his own arduous journey as a 12 year old travelling alone from Glasgow Scotland to Montreal, Quebec by ship , then barge and land crossings until he reached York in September 1832. The letter was long on colour and adventure but short on family details. It only noted that he was going to work for an uncle in Trafalgar and stop one night with another uncle in York. Knowing that James's mother was named Anna Proudfoot, I found the name of William Proudfoot in the 1835 directory of York on East King Street where he was listed as a merchant for Wines, Liquors, Dry goods & c (This directory listed the approximate population of York at this time to be 5000).

William Proudfoot likely came to York by 1816 in search of opportunities. Like many other Scotsmen of his era, he arrived with a strong basic education and a keen interest in taking advantage of those prospects which would better his situation.

The following comes from *Toronto 1837: A Model city by the town of York Historical Society.1995*

A clever merchant with his wits about him could quickly become a wealthy man in York. William Proudfoot, who arrived in Upper Canada from Scotland after the War of 1812, aimed to do just that.

D'Arcy Boulton Jr. owned and operated a store on the southwest corner of King and Frederick. With an establishment already in place, Proudfoot got himself employed there and worked his way up to partner. The partnership dissolved in 1825, with Proudfoot becoming sole proprietor.

'The building was first a large frame structure, but replaced with one made of brick'. It was valuable real estate because of its size and central location in the mercantile district. Proudfoot prospered by selling desirable merchandise such as ostrich feathers, Italian lute strings, black crepe, copper tea kettles, silk and cotton umbrellas and beaver caps for children.

Proudfoot devoted ten years to building up a prosperous business, but decided to retire in 1835 to pursue public life. In that same year he became the president of the Bank of Upper Canada and held that position until 1861, living at the glamorous Kearnsey House for most of those years.

William was born in Scotland to farmer William Proudfoot and Mary Borthwick of Crawfordjohn, Lanarkshire in 1797 and in 1816 he became the first of three brothers to arrive in Upper Canada. In addition to his successful mercantile business, William became involved with St. James Anglican church and was named a magistrate and a Justice of the Peace. Proudfoot had also become involved with British Assurance Company (at one time serving as chairman) and the Home District Savings Bank. It is likely that the majority of these early years were spent acquiring wealth and contacts. After being on the Board of Directors of the Bank of Upper Canada for several years, William was elected president in 1835.

The Gore Gazette
June 14 1828 • Ancaster, Ontario, Canada

Mr. Brougham is nephew to Henry Brougham Esq. M. P.

COLONIAL.

Return of Directors of the Bank of Upper Canada, chosen at the Annual Election, on Monday the 2d instant, to serve for the ensuing year.

Appointed by His Excellency the Lieut. Governor.	Honble. James Baby, " Joseph Wells, " John H. Dunn, John Elmsley, Esq. Honble. William Allan, Charles Small, John Munro, Cr Widmer,	Esqrs.
Elected by the Stockholders.	Hon. Peter Robinson, Henry J. Boulton, John S. Baldwin, Sam. P. Jarvis, D'Arcy Boulton, jr. James Chewett, William Proudfoot.	Esqs.

At a General Meeting of the Directors, held at the Bank on the following day,—the Hon. William Allan, was unanimously re-elected President of the Institution.

THOS. G. RIDOUT, CASHER.

Bank of Upper Canada, }
5th June, 1828.

We have the most unquestionable authority for

His predecessor, William Allan wrote privately that "Mr. Proudfoot was not elected from the idea of his being by any means either equal to it or the best they could get. He was the only [one] who was a candidate for it. Proudfoot has not stamina or nous." It was his inoffensiveness, almost to the point of nonentity, which partly explains his survival in office through 25 more annual meetings of the bank.

The **Bank of Upper Canada**, according to Wikipedia, was established in 1821 under a charter granted by the legislature of Upper Canada in 1819 to a group of Kingston merchants. The charter was appropriated by the more influential Executive Councillors to the Lt. Governor, the Rev. John Strachan and William Allan, and moved to Toronto. The bank was closely associated with the group that came to be known as the Family Compact, and it formed a large part of their wealth. The bank's principal promoters were the Rev. John Strachan and William Allan. William Allan, who became president, was also an Executive and Legislative Councillor. The overlapping economic and political memberships reinforced the oligarchic nature of power in the colony and allowed the administration to operate without any effective elective check.

The Family Compact dominated the government of Upper Canada and the financial and religious institutions associated with it. They were the leading members of the administration: executive councillors, legislative councillors, senior officials and some members of the judiciary. Members of the Family Compact utilized their official positions for monetary gain, especially through corporations such as the Bank of Upper Canada, and the two land companies (the Clergy Corporation and the Canada Company) that between them controlled two-sevenths of the land in the province.

As paper currency was a banking innovation in the era, the **Bank of Upper Canada** was able to lend out many more banknotes than it had the cash to redeem because Upper Canada was a specie (money in the form of coin versus note) - poor province, and the notes would pass from hand to hand to enable trade without ever being returned to the bank. On average, the bank lent out more than three times more banknotes than it could redeem; it made 6% interest on each note that it loaned out. Banknotes then were not legal tender, they were similar to cheques written by the bank promising to pay the bearer with "real" (usually metallic) money, or "specie", if they returned the cheque to the bank. Any bank that could not redeem its banknotes with specie was forced to close for good.

The bank's manager, Thomas Ridout, estimated that in the first three years of its operation, the bank's notes comprised between 74 and 77% of the province's money supply. .

The Bank of Upper Canada suspended payments from March 5, 1838 to November 1, 1839 during the financial panic of that year. It was bankrupt, but a special act of legislature allowed it to continue operating without having to repay its loans with specie.^[8] The bank was a small operation, which, like many other early Canadian banks, collapsed in 1866. Post confederation in 1867, the Dominion of Canada issued bank notes and coins, but private banks also issued bank notes. After The Bank of Canada was founded in 1935, it became the sole issuer of bank notes.

(right) *The Bank of Upper Canada building at 252 Adelaide St. E. as it looked in 2005, was constructed in 1825-1827; and designated a National Historical Site on June 6, 1977.*

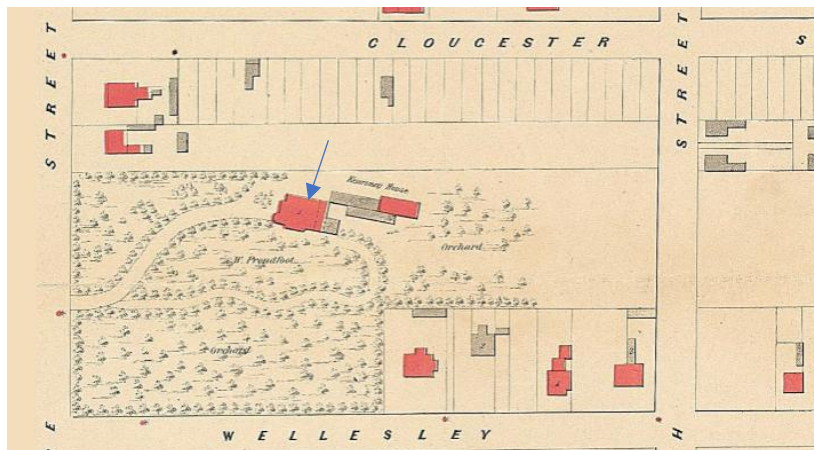


1849 BANK OF UPPER CANADA \$5.00/1 pound 5 shillings NOTE



The above Bank of Upper Canada Note was issued in Toronto on October 9, 1849 and signed by Thomas G Ridout on the bottom left as cashier and bottom right by W. Proudfoot as president. The note has images of Queen Victoria and her husband Prince Albert on the front with no printing (completely blank) on the reverse or back of the note. The engraving and printing of the note was completed by Rawdon, Wright and Hatch in New York.

In May 1833, William Proudfoot married Caroline Brook Stow at St. James Anglican church. Caroline had emigrated from Kent, England with her mother Ann Stow and siblings after the death of her father Benjamin Fuller Stow in 1825. Caroline had one daughter, Marion, born in 1838. By 1846 Kearnsey house was completed on 10 acres at Yonge and Wellesley St., well situated at this period, in the country. It was believed to be the largest private home in York at the time the Proudfoots took up residence.



Left: The blue arrow points to the house footprint on the lot The map showing the location of Kearsney House is from the 1858 *Boulton Atlas* while painting below is from the Toronto Public Library (JRR 924) and the photograph is R-3713 are dated about 1890.

The property was later called the Dundonald Estate and currently the Dundonald Apartments is on the site of the house.

doors; the stockholders lost all of their investment of more than \$3 million, and over \$1 million dollars in taxpayer's money was also lost

William eventually had to satisfy his creditors and sell off the majority of the 70,000 acres he had accumulated by 1858. Around 1862, Proudfoot had to bind Kearney house over to the bank.

The role of speculation in vacant lands of Upper Canada ensured the development of group solidarity and cohesion of interest among the members of the Family Compact. Members were interested in building up estates in which they imitated the "improved farming" methods of the English Aristocracy. These improved farming methods were introduced to Upper Canada by the half-pay military officers from aristocratic background who tended to become magistrates in Upper Canada and build large estates. In addition to an elegant lifestyle, their financial independence allowed them the leisure time necessary for them to act as 'leaders' of their community.

1864. Published April, 1864. 631-

SHERIFF'S SALE OF LANDS.
 County of Simcoe, } **ON SATURDAY, the**
 to wit: } **SIXTEENTH day of**
JULY, A. D., 1864, will be sold by Public Auction
 at the Sheriff's Office, in the Court House, in the
 town of Barrie, at **TWELVE o'clock noon,** the
 undermentioned lands and tenements, or the interest
 or the defendant therein, under a Writ in the follow-
 ing suits:

In the Queen's Bench.
 Ann Stow, plaintiff, vs. William Proudfoot, defend-
 ant, under a writ of Venditioni Exponas, and Fi. Fa.
 residue.

In the Common Pleas.
 John Sproat, plaintiff, vs. William Proudfoot, de-
 fendant, under a writ of Venditioni Exponas, and Fi.
 Fa. residue.

In the Queen's Bench.
 Patrick Foy, plaintiff, vs. William Proudfoot, de-
 fendant, under a writ of Venditioni Exponas and Fi.
 Fa. residue.

In the Queen's Bench.
 The Ontario Bank, plaintiff, vs. William Proudfoot,
 defendant.

In the Queen's Bench.
 Patrick Foy, plaintiff, vs. William Proudfoot de-
 fendant.

In the Court of Common Pleas.
 The Hon. John Rose, plaintiff, vs. William Proud-
 foot, defendant.

In the Court of Common Pleas.
 Mary Bowyer, Dampier, plaintiff, vs. William
 Proudfoot, defendant.

In the Court of Common Pleas.
 James Luckie Robenson and James Henderson,
 plaintiff, vs. William Proudfoot, defendant.

In the Queen's Bench.
 John Sproot, plaintiff, vs. William Proudfoot, de-
 fendant.

**In the County Court of the United Counties of
 York and Peel.**
 The Bank of Montreal, plaintiff, vs. William Proud-
 foot.

In the Queen's Bench.
 Sir James Lukie Robenson and James Henderson,
 plaintiff, vs. William Proudfoot, defendant.

By the 1871 census, William Proudfoot and his wife, Caroline living were within the household of their widowed daughter, Marion Crawshay, in Norfolk, England with a reduced household of three servants.

William Proudfoot died in 1877 in Richmond, Surrey, England. I could find no mention of his demise in local papers of Ontario. Sadly, as Barry Dystra in his Canadian Dictionary Biography puts it "he left so little impress on the minds and memories of his contemporaries that his death apparently passed as unnoticed as his birth. He died, as he had lived, in conspicuous obscurity."

He was survived by his wife Caroline, who continued to live with their daughter Marion and her two children, Geoffrey and Sylvia until her death in February 1891

image left indicates one of many Sheriff's sale of Lands required of Wm. Proudfoot – this one was held in 1864. The

first plaintiff listed is his mother-in law; Ann Stow

References

Guylaine Petrin, Toronto Tree, Vol. 47, Issue 6 November/December 2016 *William Proudfoot President of Bank of Upper Canada, Builder of Kearnsey House*

Barrie Dyster, "Proudfoot, William (fl. 1817-66)," in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 9, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003, [accessed August 26, 2025]
https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/proudfoot_william_1817_66_9E.html

Ancestry.com 1832 directory

<https://www.ancestry.ca/search/collections/3789/records/7515748?tid=62904350&pid=30520522380&ssrc=pt>

James I.M. Young - Young-Maynard Family Photos and Other Images – Dec. 2022 edition

Bank of Canada Museum image

<https://www.bankofcanadamuseum.ca/collection/artefact/view/1964.0088.00021.000/canada-bank-of-upper-canada-york-5-dollars-october-9-1849>

Bank of Upper Canada History and image– Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bank_of_Upper_Canada

Thinking Back

Now people may be better dressed, perhaps may have more dimes;
I doubt, though, if they're happier now than in the good old times.

 If learning brings us discontent, then ignorance is bliss.

 There seems to be a dire unrest among the sons of men.

 Today prevailing o'er the earth, that was not heard of then.

 Self seems to be the precept now and gain the major whole.

 As if accumulation was the saviour of the soul.

 We lack that sympathy and love which years ago prevailed.

 Has learning brought us discontent? Has education failed?

 Have colleges with classic arts and all the lessons taught.

 With printing presses, libraries and teachers been for naught

 Has honour, conscience, brotherhood and virtue taken wings.

 And been replaced by selfishness, the spleen of earthly things.

 Where is that Christianity, the kind our fathers had.

 Where have the good old mothers gone since when I was a lad.

 Now Grandma Good and Katy Kind, along with Patience True.

 Have been replaced by Gladys Club, Fox Trot, and Ragtime Sue.

 And Skinflint Bob and Grafting Jake, with sly Cunning Joe.

 Replaces now the honest Johns that lived some years ago.

 Where are those good old clergymen, who travelled circuits round.

 With messages of love and cheer; Can one of them be found?

 They did not lobby at the courts for laws to moralize.

 But by their works great throngs were led, to mansions in the skies.

 Sometimes I take to thinkin' back and summin' up the whole.

 I come to the conclusion that we're lacking heart and soul;

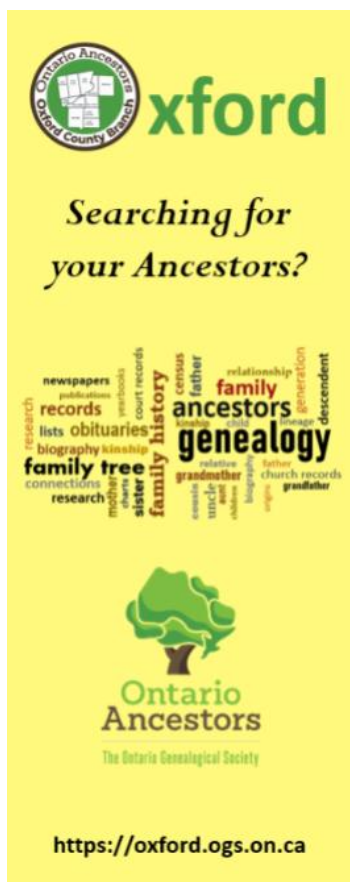
 In making some comparisons this I will say for you,

 The old time people seemed a lot more human like and true.

By C.C. Slack, in Brighton Ensign

Taken from the Cobourg World newspaper of April 4, 1919

Found in the Book Jibb Sails – The Life & Times of Joseph and Mary Jibb's Descendants (1800-1999) by Sherron Jibb Lloyd and Others



Watch for the unveiling of our new banner during Family History Month

Reminder to Members

Be sure to check the Members Library on the website for new additions to our digital collection from videos of Branch meetings, Council minutes to directories, church and funeral home records and much, much more.

A Statutory Chronology of Oxford County

1800	<p>An Act for the better division of this province (38 Geo. 3 [1798], c. 5, s. 35; proclaimed 1 January 1800)</p> <p>...that the townships of Burford, Norwich, Dereham, Oxford upon the Thames, Blandford, and Blenheim, do constitute and form the County of Oxford.</p>
1821	<p>An Act to repeal part of an act passed in the thirty-eighth year of his late Majesty's reign entitled "An Act for the better division of this province" and to make further provision for the division of the same into counties and districts (2 Geo. 4 [1821], c. 3, s. 11).</p> <p>...that the gore of land attached to the township of Burford, be forwarded into a separate township, by the name of the township of Oakland, and that the said township of Oakland and the townships of Nissouri and Zorra, be added to the County of Oxford,...</p>
1845	<p>An Act for better defining the limits of the Counties and District in Upper Canada, for erecting certain new townships, for detaching Townships from some counties and attaching them to other, and for other purposes relative to the division of Upper Canada into Townships, Counties and Districts (8 Vic. [1845], c. 7, Sched. A, "New Townships").</p> <p>East Zorra – Which shall include and consist of as much of the present Township of Zorra as lies eastward of the line dividing the eighth concession thereof from the ninth.</p> <p>West Zorra – Which shall include and consist of that part of the present Township of Zorra lying westward of the line last mentioned.</p>
1845	<p>An Act for better defining the limits of the Counties and District in Upper Canada... (8 Vic. [1845], c. 7, Sched. B, "Counties and Ridings").</p> <p>Oxford – Which shall include and consist of the Townships of Blandford, Blenheim, Burford, Dereham, Nissouri, North Oxford, East Oxford, West Oxford, Oakland, Norwich, East Zorra, and West Zorra.</p>
1850	<p>An Act for abolishing the Territorial Divisions of Upper Canada into Districts...effective 1 January 1850 (12 Vic. [1849], c. 78, Sched. B, "Counties of the late Districts...").</p> <p>[By this Act the Brock District was abolished in favour of the County of Oxford.]</p>

1850	<p>An Act to provide, by one general law, for the erection of Municipal Corporations, and the establishment of Regulations of Police, in and for the several Counties, Cities, Towns, Townships, and Villages in Upper Canada, effective 1 January 1850 (12 Vic. [1849], c. 81, s. 2)</p> <p>Blandford Township incorporated. Blenheim Township incorporated. Burford Township incorporated. Dereham Township incorporated. East Oxford Township incorporated. East Zorra Township incorporated. Nissouri Township incorporated. North Oxford Township incorporated. Norwich Township incorporated. Oakland Township incorporated. West Oxford Township incorporated. West Zorra Township incorporated.</p>
1851	<p>Woodstock incorporated as a Town with village powers, effective 1 January 1851 (12 Vic. [1849], c. 81, as amended by 13 & 14 Vic. [1850], c. 64, Sched. D, “Towns with municipalities only, or without any municipal organization”); and confirmed by proclamation, 27 September 1850 (<i>Canada Gazette</i>, No 486, 12 October 1850, p.9458-9461); incorporated as a Town, effective 1 January 1857 (19 & 20 Vic. [1856], c. 98); incorporated as a City, effective 1 July 1901 (1 Edw. 7 [1901], c. 75).</p>
1852	<p>An Act to make certain alterations in the Territorial Divisions of Upper Canada, effective 1 January 1852 (14 & 15 Vic. [1851], c 5, Sched. A, “Counties”).</p> <p>The County of Oxford shall consist of the Townships of Zorra East, Zorra West, Oxford North, Oxford East, Oxford West, Dereham, Norwich, Blenheim, Blandford, Nissouri East and the Village of Woodstock.</p> <p>The County of Brant shall consist of the Township of Brantford, Onondaga, Tuscarora, Oakland, South Dumfries and Burford, and the Village of Paris.</p>
1852	<p>An Act to make certain alterations in the Territorial Divisions of Upper Canada, effective 1 January 1852 (14 & 15 Vic. [1851], c 5, Sched. D, “New Townships”).</p> <p>East Nissouri, which shall include and consist of that part of the present Township of Nissouri, which lies eastward of the line dividing the seventh concession thereof from the eighth.</p>
1852	<p>Ingersoll incorporated as a Village, effective 1 January 1852, by proclamation, 12 September 1851 (<i>Canada Gazette</i>, No. 536, 20 September 1851, p. 11394-11395); incorporated as a Town, effective 20 August 1864, by proclamation, 20 August 1864 (<i>Canada Gazette</i>, vol. 23, no. 34, 20 August 1864, p. 2295).</p>

1856	An Act to divide the Township of Norwich into two separate municipalities, effective 1 January 1856 (18 Vic. [1855], c. 171) [By this Act the Township of Norwich was divided into the Township of Norwich North and the Township of Norwich South.]
1856	Thamesford erected as a Police Village, effective 12 April 1856 (County By-Law No. 43, 12 April 1856).
1858	Embro incorporated as a Village, effective 24 July 1858 (22 Vic. [1858], c. 45); dissolved into the Township of Zorra, effective 1 January 1975 (23 & 24 Eliz. II [1974], c. 57).
1872	Tillsonburg incorporated as a Town, effective 2 March 1872 (35 Vic. [1872], c. 41); name changed to Tillsonburg, effective 17 March 1902 (2 Edw. 7 [1902], c. 64).
1875	Norwich incorporated as a Police Village, effective 29 January 1875 (County By-law No. 195, 29 January 1875); dissolved into the Township of Norwich, effective 1 January 1975 (23 & 24 Eliz. II [1875], c. 57).
1884	Plattsville erected as a Police Village, effective 24 January 1884 (County By-law No. 266, 24 January 1884); by-law quashed, effective 30 January 1885 (High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, Order, 30 January 1885); erected as a Police Village, effective 5 December 1907 (County By-law No. 573, 5 December 1907); dissolved into the Township of Blandford-Blenheim, effective 1 January 1975 (23 & 24 Eliz. II [1974], c. 57).
1891	Otterville erected as a Police Village, effective 4 June 1891 (County By-law No. 347, 4 June 1891); dissolved into the Township of Norwich, effective 1 January 1975 (23 & 24 Eliz. II [1974], c. 57).
1903	Drumbo erected as a Police Village, effective 9 December 1903 (County By-law No. 512, 9 December 1903); dissolved into the Township of Blandford-Blenheim, effective 1 January 1975 (23 & 24 Eliz. II [1974], c. 57).
1906	Princeton erected as a Police Village, effective 6 December 1906 (County By-law No. 551, 9 December 1906); dissolved into the Township of Blandford-Blenheim, effective 1 January 1975 (23 & 24 Eliz. II [1974], c. 57).
1908	Bright erected as a Police Village, effective 9 December 1908 (County By-law No. 592, 9 December 1908); dissolved into the Township of Blandford-Blenheim, effective 1 January 1975 (23 & 24 Eliz. II [1974], c. 57).
1909	Tavistock incorporated as a Village, effective 1 January 1909 (County By-law No. 590, 5 June 1908); and part detached from the County of Perth and annexed to the County of Oxford, effective 16 February 1909, by proclamation, 16 February 1909 (<i>Ontario Gazette</i> , vol. 42, no 8, 20 February 1909, p. 222-223).

1913	Innerkip erected as a Police Village, effective 24 February 1913 (County By-law No. 670, 24 February 1913); dissolved into the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock, effective 1 January 1975 (23 & 24 Eliz. II [1974], c. 57).
1915	Burgessville erected as a Police Village, effective 29 January 1915 (County By-law No. 707, 29 January 1915); dissolved into the Township of Norwich, effective 1 January 1975 (23 & 24 Eliz. II [1974], c. 57).
1962	Beachville incorporated as a Village, effective 1 January 1962 (Ontario Municipal Board Order P.F.M. 9467-59, 13 June 1961); dissolved into the Township of South-West Oxford, (23 & 24 Eliz. II [1974], c. 57, s.2.1.h).
1975	<p>An Act to restructure the County of Oxford, effective 1 January 1975 (23 & 24 Eliz. II [1974], c. 57); and as amended by Ontario Regulation 987/74, 20 December 1974 (Ontario Gazette, vol. 108, no. 2, 11 January 1975, p. 153).</p> <p>2(1) (a) The City of Woodstock is continued as a city municipality.</p> <p>2(1) (b) The Town of Ingersoll is continued as a town municipality.</p> <p>2(1) (c) The Town of Tillsonburg is continued as a town municipality and portions of the Township of Dereham, described... are annexed to such town.</p> <p>2(1) (d) The Corporation of the Township of Blandford and the Corporation of the Township of Blenheim are amalgamated as a township municipality bearing the name of The Corporation of the Township of Blandford-Blenheim.</p> <p>2(1) (e) The Corporation of the Township of East Zorra and The Corporation of the Village of Tavistock are amalgamated as a township municipality bearing the name of The Corporation of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock, and the portion of the Township of North Oxford, described... is annexed to such Township.</p> <p>2(1) (f) The Corporation of the Township of East Nissouri, The Corporation of the Village of Embro and The Corporation of Township of West Zorra are amalgamated as a township municipality [bearing the name of The Corporation of the Township of Zorra] and the portion of the Township of North Oxford, described... is annexed to such Township.</p> <p>2(1) (g) The Corporation of the Township of East Oxford, The Corporation of the Township of North Norwich, The Corporation of the Village of Norwich and The Corporation of the Township of South Norwich are amalgamated as a township bearing the name of The Corporation of the Township of Norwich.</p> <p>2(1) (h) The Corporation of the Village of Beachville and The Corporation of the Township of West Oxford are amalgamated as a township municipality bearing the name of The Corporation of the Township of South-West Oxford, and the portion of the Township of Dereham, described... is annexed to such Township.</p>

Source:

Canadian Papers in Rural History Volume VI edited by Donald H. Akenson.
Langdale Press, Gananoque, Ontario page 335-340.

A Statutory Chronology of Southwestern Ontario, 1792-1981, Thomas A.
Hillman, Public Archives of Canada

New in Our Oxford Branch Library

W. Harvey Beaty Memoirs by W. Harvey Beaty and Fred Wisdom. OX 203.01
Digitized by Doris Weir, 2021. Published 2022, 407 pages. Printed by Lulu.com.
ISBN 978-1-7779611. The memoirs of W. Harvey Beaty, founder of Cold Springs
Farm Limited in 1949 in Thamesford, until his death in 1994. In part 2, Fred
Wisdom tells the story of the founder, W, Harvey Beaty, the growth and
development of the company over the first 50 years of Cold Springs Farm Limited,
and the people involved in making the company the largest employer in the area.

Down on the Farm: Cold Springs Farm Newsletters 1984-1994. OX 203.01
Compiled and digitized by Doris Weir. Printed by Lulu.com 2022. Copies of the
Cold Springs Farm Limited newsletters, Down on the Farm from the first
newsletter in 1984 to the last after Mr. W. Harvey Beaty's death in 1994. The
newsletters contain updates about the company, the Cold Spring Employee's
Association, the Around the Well column which had news about the employees,
their achievements, awards, births, marriages, retirements, deaths, and the
annual Christmas message from Mr. Beaty.

Doris Weir spoke about W. Harvey Beaty at our May meeting and has donated the
books to our Oxford Branch Library Collection. Proceeds from the sale of the
books (for sale at www.lulu.com) are used to maintain the Harvey Beaty
Memorial Garden at the Lion's River Park, 194933-194947, 19th Line (Allen Street)
in Thamesford.

Family Histories

The Samuel Martin Genealogy with notes on the Greene, Hyde, Aikins (Eakins), Bruns, Dakin, and Denton Families

Samuel Martin emigrated from England to New England in the mid 1640's. Some members of his descendant families were Loyalists and were forced leave New York City in 1783. They came to Canada in search of free land. Some journeyed to the settlement surrounding the Burford and Blenheim Townships. The book covers the complete line of Edwin Earle Martin b 1847 and Maggie Henry who farmed east of Canning on the Nith River.

A New Life in a New World: The Story of Heinrich Fuhr & Maria Krantz and Families

A genealogy of the family of Konrad Fuhr and Elizabetha Doermsling of Schwarz, District of Alsfeld, Hesse-Darmstadt to Tavistock, East Zorra Township, Oxford County, and their descendants in Canada and the USA, 1838 to the 21st century.

A New Beginning From The Bas Rhin to Hay Township, Huron County Canada: The Jacques Brenner Family 1830's to the 21st Century

A genealogy of the Brenner family from Jacques Brenner born ca 1790 Marie Anne Meder in Bas-Rhin, France whose descendants emigrated to Waterloo and Huron Counties in Ontario.

The Diary by a Son of Robert Smith, Roxburgh, Scotland 1848

Photocopy of The Diary written by one of the sons of Robert Smith which was started in 1848 in Roxburgh, Scotland (now in the possession of Gordon Smith, Hagersville) tells of the journey to Oneida, Haldimand County, Canada from May 29th to July 11th possibly in 1841. The beginning of the document gives some family information and includes lists of expenses incurred and receipts.

The Family History of Walter Murray and His Wife Elizabeth Little Murray and Their Descendants

The Family History of Walter Murray b 1788 and His Wife Elizabeth Little Murray b 1792 and their 14 children born between 1813 and 1839, their trip to Canada from Scotland in 1842 and their descendants in Cayuga Township Haldimand County.

Genealogy of Daniel M. Iutzi and Mary Gingrich

The family history of Daniel M. Iutzi 1833-1901 and Mary Gingrich 1837-1901 both born in Wilmot Township, Waterloo County. Daniel and Mary moved to East Zorra Township, Oxford County, raising their family before moving to Michigan in 1883. Descended from George Jutzi who immigrated to Canada in 1826. Jutzi, Judtzi, Jutzy, Yutzy, Iutzi - variations of the name.

Alexander Donald Murray - Farm History Near Zelma Saskatchewan

History of the East half of Section 29 Township 33 Range 28 West of 2nd Meridian near Zelma Saskatchewan farm purchased by Alexander Donald Murray in 1920 for \$3360. Includes a description of the farm and buildings, tax records, maps, photos and history of the land ownership to 2022.

The Family History of Walter Murray and His Wife Elizabeth Little Murray and Their Descendants

The family history of Walter and Elizabeth Murray who immigrated to Canada in 1842 from Scotland and settled in Haldimand County and their descendants who moved to Oxford County, western Canada and the USA.

The Alexander Clark Family and Associated Families, Town of Dornoch, Sutherlandshire, Scotland and West Zorra Township, Oxford County, Ontario Canada

An archival box containing 27 file folders for branches of the descendants of James Clark (c 1777-1858) and Isabella Ross (1785-1848) from Dornoch, Sutherlandshire, Scotland who settled in West Zorra Township, Oxford County, Ontario, Canada; also a folder (28) containing assorted information and newspaper clippings about Zorra's Men of Might, tug of war champions. Also contains assorted booklets: Dornoch Cathedral; "The Faith is Strong" Knox Presbyterian Church, Embro 1832-1982; Walker's School S.S. No. 1 West Zorra 1869-1966; Zorra Caledonian Society Second Annual Highland Games July 1st 1938 Souvenir Program; Selected Recipes Issued by the Ladies of the Congregational Church, Embro, Ont., and a letter from the Zorra Caledonian Society dated September 25th 1940 announcing an auction sale to raise funds to purchase a Red Cross Ambulance.

Walter Burton Family History

The ancestors and descendants of Walter James Burton 1878-1962, from Newfoundland to Woodstock in 1920.

Thornton Family History As Assembled by Roland Marple

A sixteen generation genealogy of the descendants of John Thornton 1491-1561 in England to Oxford County. Contains an index of names and places and a complete bibliography.

From Viking Glory - Notes on the McCorkle Family in Scotland and America

Contains the origins of the McCorkle family in Scotland and Northern Ireland before immigration to America and the connection to the McCorquodales who settled in East Nissouri and West Zorra Townships, Oxford County, Ontario in the 1830s. Well documented with an extensive bibliography, illustrations, photographs and index.

Local Histories

Pioneer Life in Zorra - An Index of Names

A companion index to the names in the book Pioneer Life in Zorra with page numbers.

Arthur Farmer's Scrapbook

Photocopy of Colonel Arthur Farmer's (OBE, MM) scrapbook which contains copies of letters, invitations, photos and newspaper clippings about his military career, the Oxford Rifles and many who served in WW II.

Blacks In A White Place Ingersoll Canada West and Ontario, 1850-1921

Author George Emory examines the lives of Blacks in Ingersoll, Ontario during 1850-1921 making up about 3% of the population peaking in the 1860s and 1870s until the decline to 28 persons by 1921. He creates a clear and accurate picture of the lives of Blacks in a predominately White area. Contains names of Blacks in the census records from the 1861-1921 census records.

Sweaburg Remembered

A comprehensive history of the hamlet of Sweaburg, West Oxford Township, Oxford County from the early survey, to the present day. Includes maps, a timeline, and information about churches, schools, organizations, businesses, the infrastructure and peoples. The biographies of many Sweaburg families are highlighted along with Sweaburg in the news. A companion index is available and is also found also online at norwichdhs.ca/archives.

Lorna (Shantz) Bergey: Her Literary Legacy

A compilation of personal history and notes from presentations and articles written by local historian, Lorna Bergey. Volume includes The History of Mennonites in Waterloo Region, in Wilmot Township and Blenheim Township; Pennsylvania Germans to Canada.

Military

Opened by Censor - A Collection of Letters Home from World War I Veterans from Elgin County

A collection of letters sent home by 110 soldiers and nurses serving in WW I to family in Elgin County, Ontario. Gives a timeline of Canadian involvement of WW I events, a brief history of some of the major battles, information about the correspondent, service number and who they received the letters. The Appendix contains a Glossary of Terms, Order of Battle, Canadian Corps, Honours to Canadian Soldiers, and a pattern for knitting socks.

Vital Statistics

Dr. Hugh McKay's 1873-1889 Maternity Ledger

A copy of the original 1839-1889 Maternity Ledger of the deliveries performed by Dr. Hugh McKay in Woodstock and around Oxford County. Includes name of mother, occupation of husband, date & time of birth, duration of labour, sex & condition of child and remarks. Occasionally includes age of the mother and some detailed notes of problem cases. Includes a copy of Dr. McKay's obituary, funeral notice and information about his brother-in-law. Ledger transcribed by Pat Adam & indexed alphabetically.

New Documentary on YouTube

Haunting of Woodstock

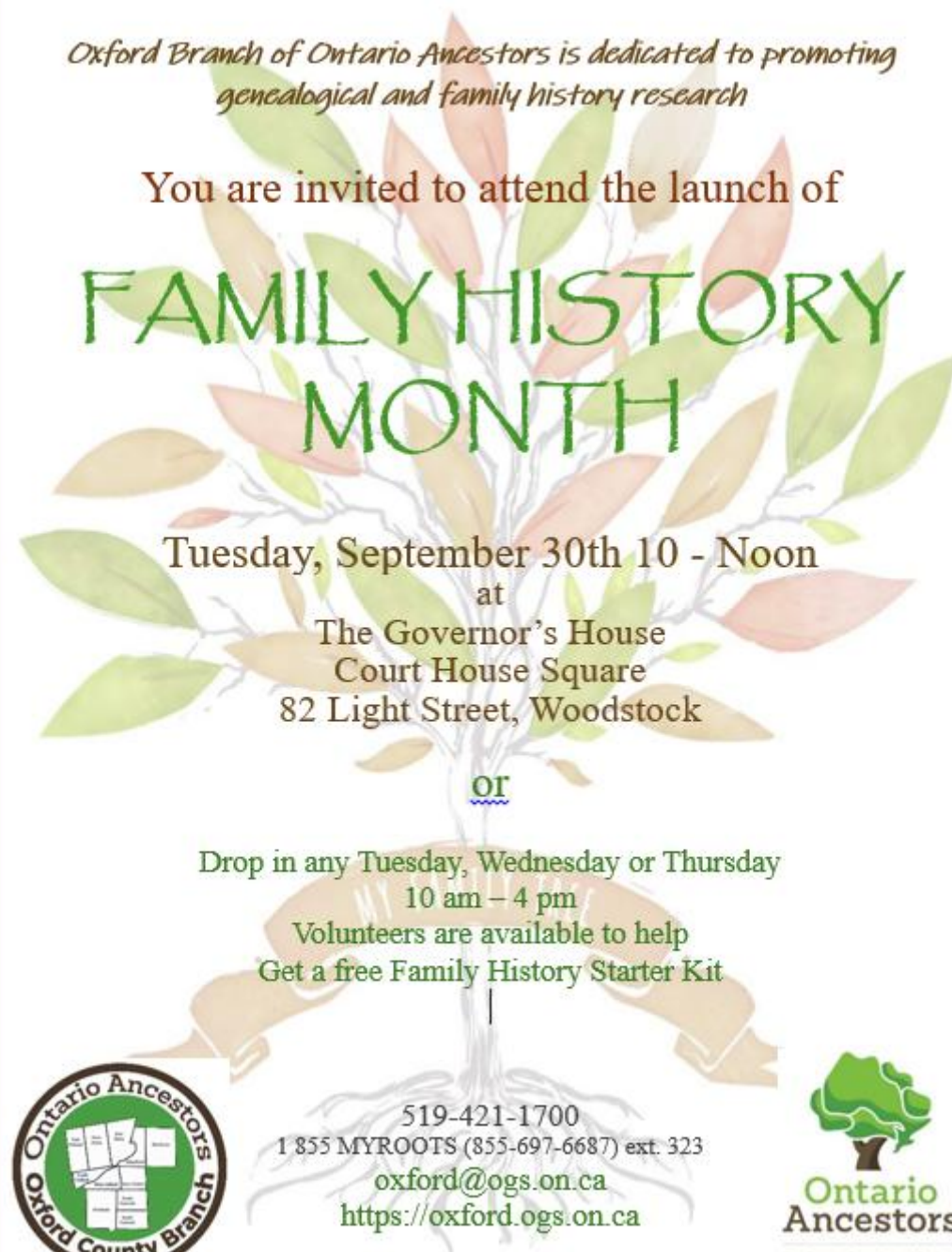
This documentary looks into the history behind the public hanging of Thomas Cook in 1862 at the Oxford County Gaol. Cook was the first of five hangings at the Gaol, four men and one woman [Murder Most Foul, The Tracer May, August & November 2023]

Growing up, Director Corey Slager had heard stories about the hanging and the death mask which hangs by the front door of the Old Gaol on Buller Street in Woodstock (now the home of Southwestern Health). In the documentary Slager interviews Oxford County Archivist, Liz Dommasch, and paranormal expert Shane McLaren.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= RYKWwYJ3no>



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