

Year End Report 2010 Lambton County Branch OGS

Executive

Chair

Noreen Croxford

My first year as Chair of the Lambton Branch has been an interesting, busy and enjoyable one. Our branch celebrated our 25th Anniversary with speakers, displays and cake which were all enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience. It was also our privilege to host the Region One Annual meeting in Wyoming and we had a great show of support from all three branches.

Perhaps our biggest problem this year, like so many other branches, has been the ongoing slow book sales which we continue to try to compensate for mainly through our Web site. Our future survival for sales at least seems to be dependant on web sites, and you will see in the Webmaster's Report the many changes that have and will soon take place. We also plan to take advantage of the facilities at Provincial Office for printing, e-store and e-library.

Our many volunteers continue working towards the betterment of everyone in the branch and OGS. I thank each and every one of them, as nothing would get done without their great work ethics and dedication,

The following list of Executive and Committee Chairs indicate some of the progress that has been made in this past year, and we are all poised to forge ahead in 2011.

Vice Chair

Dorothy Jaecques

As vice chair I have provided a reminder of things to be done that have been proposed at our council meetings and observed how meetings are run and the duties I am to take over as chair.

Treasurer

Robert McCordic

To follow.

Secretary

Janet Kelch

I record the minutes of the executive & regular meetings for Lambton Branch OGS each month as Secretary.

Committee Chairs

Cemetery Co-Chairs

Robert McCordic and Karen Ferguson

There were no completed cemetery transcriptions this year, but several are in various stages and progressing towards that end.

Library Resources Chair

Diane Rose

Our branch library continues to be housed at the Lambton Room in Wyoming and is available for all to use. The Lambton Room is open Monday – Friday from 9 – 5, as well as Tuesday and Thursday evenings 6 – 9. It is also open on Saturdays from 12 – 5, except holiday weekends. Since the Lambton Room is officially a museum, there is a \$5.00 charge to do research there. However, Lambton Branch members are exempt from this fee.

Early Settlers Chair

Noreen Croxford

Early settlers are those who came and settled in Lambton County before 1900, (changed from 1862). Since changing the date to 1900, there have been over 1700 names added to the collection, bringing the total number of names in this collection to over 11,000. Blank forms are available on our web site and we encourage everyone to submit their early settlers to be added to the collection.

Strays Chair

Dorothy Jaecques

As stray coordinator I have sorted through the strays I have collected and as soon as my new helper, Donna Scott and I can get together I will pass some of the strays to her to type and post.

Membership Chair

Jane Teskey

Having just taken over the membership position in December, I can only report that we ended the year with 236 members.

Newsletter Editor

Alan Campbell

Four issues of Lambton Lifeline were published this year. Timeliness was an issue for two issues of the paper copy due to technical glitches.

The electronic version of the newsletter was migrated to the Lambton Branch Members Only section of the OGS website. If little feedback is positive, then the migration was smooth and members appreciated the convenience. With back issues maintained in this area, access is a plus for new members.

The posting of the December 2010 issue of our newsletter was followed by an email notification to all Lambton members with email addresses on file [members who permit electronic mail, as some do not]. This notification was sent out by Grace Jewel, the OGS webmaster.

I received more “letters” to the editor this year [mostly electronic]. Most were positive. The history of marriage article, the articles about using censuses, the article about British Home Children and the items abstracted from the Petrolia newspapers [Petrolia Topic , Petrolia Advertiser and Canadian Oil Journal] were the items that members commented upon.

Our goal is to wean the majority of our members off a paper copy so that the funds spent on printing and postage can be diverted to more valuable areas like research and transcription.

I was hoping for more how-I-did-it articles about family research. Perhaps 2011 will bring some!

Publications-Sales Chair

Doug McCordic

Sales for the year 2010 totaled \$831.50. Requests for publications in paper format declined to about a half-dozen for the year. When orders were received, CD format was suggested, to be accepted in almost all cases. Requests for publication research have fallen off in the last few months of the year. Hopefully the increase of our charge to \$5.00 and the introduction of Pay Pal will lead to an increase in income in 2011.

Publications – Production/Printing Chair

Alan Campbell

This was the year that we worked on moving appropriate publications to the Lambton Members Only section of the OGS website. The index of the Petrolia papers is in that section now. We plan to move the Forest newspaper indexes there as well. The transcribed voters' lists for Brooke Township will be placed there as well.

At the OGS Conference in Toronto we primarily sold electronic copies of books or pages from books. We had a presence at Hobby fest thanks to Catherine Tyrie and her crew. Since Lambton Branch hosted the Region 1 Annual Meeting, we had a significant presence there as well.

We have a number of transcriptions such as cemeteries that are in process. It is my intention to proof and publish the 1891 census index for Moore Township in the coming year.

Petrolia Newspaper Indexing Project

Sheila Hewett

From January to December a group of faithful transcribers looked through old newspapers and filled in forms for all births, deaths or marriages, not just in Petrolia but throughout Lambton, as reported in the Petrolia newspapers. Many thanks to our workers – Diane Rose, Karen Ferguson, Carolyn Gould, Shirley Dudley, Linda Smith, Ruth Mackesy, and Rosemary Bradshaw. These ladies come at their own time, some for 3 hours or more, some for ½ hour...whatever fits into their schedule. As of December 2010 we had finished our transcribing to the end of May 1925. Great work everyone!

I held 2 training sessions to introduce some new people to the transcribing task:

24 June Training - 1 hour and 30 minutes with 3 trainees and 3 helpers

29 June Training – 1 hour and 30 minutes with 2 trainees

One of the problems is the coordinating of the typing with the transcribing and the adding to our Lambton OGS Members-only section. I am a little behind in typing, but will get going again soon.

We have added to Lambton OGS Members-only site:

Birth announcements from 1900 to 1910,
Death notices from 1900 to 1918 and
Marriage reports (alphabetical by both bride and groom) from 1900 to 1910
Thanks to Jane Teskey, our webmaster, for all her encouragement and hard work.

Total hours448 hours
(not including time spent typing, checking for missing information, etc.).

Program Chair

Fran Eagleson

The Lambton Branch had two special events.

On June 8 the 25th Anniversary of the Lambton Branch was celebrated in Wyoming with 68 attendees. The first chairman, Nancy Brown cut the anniversary cake. Special guests presented certificates and congratulations to the Branch. Barbara Luckham put up a large display for the Home Children. She gave a very interesting talk on the Home Children.

Our special guests were Debbie Honor, Region 1 Director, Shirley Sturdevant the vice-President of OGS, Nancy Trimble, president of OGS, Laurie McBeth-Webb the Lambton Room Historian, Marie VanBommel MPP for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex. Certificates were received from Pat Davidson MP and Bob Bailey MPP for Sarnia Lambton who were absent. Noreen Croxford, the Branch Chair accepted a 25th Anniversary plaque presented to the Branch by Nancy Trimble, President of the Ontario Genealogical Society.

The Region 1 meeting was held on October 16 and 88 people attended. The speakers were Lesley Anderson of Ancestry.ca. , Alan Campbell spoke on “Adding the Vegetables and Potatoes to the Meat in Your Genealogy”. George Pitfield’s talk was titled “Skeletons in the Closet”.

Brad Gray, a story teller, spoke on People and Places in Lambton.

There were only 9 meetings in 2010 as the December one was cancelled due to bad weather.

The average attendance of members and friends was 38.

Research Chair

Ruth Mackesy

I did 4 research requests this year.

#1 - Braybrook - buried Hillsdale, Petrolia

#2 - Hesburn /Cole - Warwick Twp.

#3 - McCrie - foreign oil driller

#4 - Morrison - Plympton Twp.

Two were from the United States, one was from Australia & one was by e-mail.

Sheila Hewett

Report re: MAINS family

Research at Lambton Room, Wyoming and Ancestry.com (my login)

Time spent: over 6 hours of researching, photocopying and report writing

Request was for answers to a series of questions on Henry MAINS and his descendants in Lambton County.

I was able to send a lot of information to the client along with about 25 pages of documents, letters, etc.

I suggested that the client submit his ancestor's information to add to our Early Settlers' file and he did so.

I think that I did spend more time on this project but I had agreed on a price earlier with the client. It took more time than I had thought, to complete an organized report with the citations, etc. The client did e-mail me and was very pleased with the results of my research.

Report re: Eliza ROONEY

Research at Lambton Room

Time spent: 3 hours of researching, photocopying and report writing

Request was for more information on the life of the client's gt. grandmother, E. ROONEY, wife of Thomas Leacock of Brigden. There was a lot more information on her gt. Grandfather but I was able to locate some information in Lambton and I sent her a few newspaper articles, etc. on her ancestors.

Total hours: 10-12 hours

Publicity Chair

Janet Kelch

I send out notices to the area newspapers, radio stations & T.V. that I have on my list on a monthly basis as publicity person.

Webmaster

Jane Teskey

This year we started out with adding a "member's only web site" and have been adding a few things throughout the year. Listed now are Lambton Home children names and where they were placed. Three books are now finished with the Home children chair working on book four. Also the Petrolia paper index from 1900-abt. 1920 with deaths, births, and marriages (to 1910) and they are in PDF's so you may search names. The Lambton Lifeline that comes out 4 times a year, are posted from 2006 to present. You will see other indexes showing up shortly for our members. We also added the authors of the family histories that we have in the library on to the web site.

The biggest news on our normal branch web site is that we now can take payments online with PayPal from all over the world. So far it is set up for request, research, and queries, but in the next month or so you will see it ready for digital orders. So anyone wanting a book can write to us and an invoice will be sent to them with the total for shipping and books and they can pay though PayPal. We will also be able to take credit card payments at workshops and sales tables for our products. .

As advertisement some of our branch members bought T-shirts to wear at the sales table and at our regular meetings and Conference.

I attended one of the EX workshops this year and found it very helpful. One of the ideas was to put a sample page of the "member only web site" on the branches web site to show some of what you get for joining the branch, which I have done. I do not know if any new members have joined because of this but hoping in 2011 they do.

I am also slowly rebuilding the main page and a few other pages to look neater, uniform and easier to follow. The branch just got Expression 4 for web design and for Christmas I was given a book on how to make you site better using this program, so here's to a new look sometime soon in 2011

I gave a class in September on how to use the members' only site and the OGS web site. 10 attended the class and all told me they understood it better and learned something new.

I truly enjoy being part of the Lambton County Branch OGS Executive group and a member.

First Nations Resource Contact

George Pitfield

A total of 9 requests were made regarding first nation's history and genealogical data. The majority of requests (5) were mainly concerning where and how to start in researching native family history. Where would they start, what avenues could be used, is there a special place where native archives of family history are stored and filed?

3 requests were made pertaining to how they could obtain their native status, they knew that their family back ground did have native ancestry. Their main concern was finding the proper place to contact.

1 request was to clarify native names, what the names meant, and what tribes they were affiliated with.

All requests were answered and the proper information given, having 2 of the persons contacting me back claiming they were starting to overcome the brick walls and stale mates in their research.

Places of Worship Chair

Gordon Dickson

There are 409 churches identified. Cemeteries are referenced to associated churches. I am presently filling in detailed info and adding present church closing along with more details on the churches. Probably not many more churches will be added. Reports are available on request.

Lambton British Home Children Inventory Chair

Barbara Luckham - coordinator

2010 has been a busy year. Since it was declared the Year of the British Home Child by the Canadian government, many events and publications have highlighted the Lambton Branch project.

An interview by the Sarnia Observer was printed in that paper in April and appeared later in the Nanaimo FHS publication in British Columbia.

My articles have appeared in both the Essex Branch and Kent Branch newsletters as well. I have had many inquiries resulting from the publicity

In June I gave a presentation and had a display at the 25th Anniversary celebration of Lambton Branch OGS. Noreen Croxford included mention of my display and a picture in the OGS e-NewsLeaf, when writing of our Anniversary.

On your behalf, I gave a presentation at the Kent Branch OGS meeting in June, which also featured Jerry Hind speaking on the WW1 relationship to the Home Children, and the author of 'Home Children', Barbara Hayworth - Attard speaking on her books.

In October I was asked to bring my displays and 4 volumes to the Forest Library where over 90 interested people attended the very successful British Home Child Open House.

I spoke at and brought my display to the October meeting of our Confederation Chapter IODE in Ridgetown and the published books I brought were eagerly borrowed afterward by the members.

I was unable to attend and speak at the Essex Branch OGS meeting in November, but sent my display and the presentation was given by Cindy Robichaud from a copy of my talk sent earlier to her.

In the November 2010 edition, the OGS Newsleaf printed the article I was asked to send to Elizabeth Lapointe, editor of NewsLeaf/Families, and to my surprise it appeared on the front page and two further pages.

The Lambton Branch 'Member's Only' page on the OGS website carries the index of the 81 British Home Children and 19 others thus far collected, as well as a description of the project.

This publicity has resulted in more Lambton descendants of British Home Children writing to me and sending files on their ancestors. I now have three volumes of those Home Children settled in the County by the age of 18, (Volume 4 is in production) and one volume of those who later settled here or whose descendants are now living in Lambton County.

The number of British Home Children settled in Lambton County is 81 so far, and the number of those settled later or whose descendants now live here is 19.

I trust that these efforts have given Lambton Branch OGS good publicity, as well as awakening awareness in everyone of the historical Home Child movement.

The interest and support of the Lambton Branch executive and members has been amazing.