

Glassville

Historical Society

On Friday, June 8th, the Glassville Branch of the Carleton County Historical Society entertained the members of the Historical Society from Woodstock, also other interested parties, at a pot-luck supper at the Recreation Centre.

The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Lena Perley and Miss Carolyn Chase read the minutes of the last meeting. Mrs. Perley read an article about the Heritage Canada Seminar which was held in St. Andrews, and which she attended.

Mr. David Bell introduced the speaker for the evening, Mr. Walter Adam, Fredericton, who has done a tremendous amount of research in finding the facts about the history of Glassville, which he will eventually publish in book form.

The Rev. Charles Gordon Glass, a Presbyterian minister, and a native of Aberdeen, Scotland, came first to Prince William and then to Woodstock. He helped to establish a Presbyterian College in Woodstock, which was the forerunner of the High School. He became interested in bringing new settlers to the area which became known as Glassville in his honor.

On the 9th of August, 1859, the Glassville tract was reserved and Mr. Glass obtained permission to cede 100 acre lots of potential settlers from Scotland.

Mr. Glass went back to Scotland and persuaded a group of people to come to New Brunswick. The Irvine, which was from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, sailed from

Greenoch, Scotland, on May 9, 1861, arriving in Saint John on June 20, 1861. The passengers were quarantined on Partridge Island because of illness on board the Irvine. They came up-river to Fredericton on July 9, 1861, thence to Woodstock, on to Hartland, and eventually to Glassville travelling on foot.

There were a few settlers already in Glassville when the Glass immigrants arrived. The Donald McIntosh family and the Joyners are known to have arrived in Boston in 1860, but it is not certain when they arrived in Glassville. Those arriving in the summer of 1861 included James Elliot, Edward Martin, Hector McIntosh, John McIntosh, James Adam, Elizabeth Brewster, Alexander Walker, Andrew Spence, Alexander Brown, Murdoch MacKenzie, and Charles Wilson. They came to Farley's Mills, now Esdraelon, and from there spread out to occupy their lots.

In February, 1862, a petition was sent to the Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick to form a new parish, taking in the settlements of Glassville, Knowlesville and Ketchum Ridge. The new parish was named Aberdeen. The first councillors were Farley and Simpson.

The settlers paid 3 shillings per acre, or \$75.00 for 100 acres of land. They had to clear at least 4 acres in 5 years, do roadwork, and build a cabin. At the end of 9 or 10 years, Captain Brown and Mr. Stewart were sent

the settlement, and found the settlers thriving and quite prosperous. They visited Hugh Miller's home, where a gathering was held, and among those present were Spence, Miller and Wilson. The value of property at the end of this 9 or 10 year period was \$1500. Glassville was assessed for \$100,000.

Settlers were asked if they were sorry they had left Scotland. The answer in most cases was a definite "No". In Scotland they would have been paying exorbitant rents and never would have been able to own their own land. Here in Canada, they were the proud possessors of 100 acres of land. They raised their own crops; there was plenty of wild fruit; they wore homespun clothes and they had their own church and school. The first church was ready for use by 1867 or 1868. The present church was completed in 1902. The first school was in use by 1868. It was a log building. The first frame building used as a school was erected in 1873.

New settlers were enticed to come by letters written to the "Old Country" by settlers living in Glassville and the settlement continued to grow. A road was constructed between Glassville and Bristol, the site of the present road.

All of the Glassville settlers were not of Scottish heritage. Some were Irish and some were English. However, they proved to be a good mixture, and the settlement prospered, so

that, at the turn of the century, it was larger than it is now. They had tea meetings as a social function as early as 1868. At this time, the Hon. Charles Connell attended.

There is no evidence that the Rev. Charles Gordon Glass ever visited the Glassville settlement. Also, there is nothing to prove that Mr. Glass was ever re-imbursed for the expenses incurred in bringing these settlers from his native country to Canada. In fact, Mr. Glass was berated by the newspapers of the time for some fancied misdemeanor.

Mr. Adam was fittingly thanked for his interesting and educational talk, and we hope to see Mr. Adam's book completed and published in the not too distant future.