

NEWSLETTER JABEZ OLMSTED OF WARE



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PURPOSE

The purpose of this newsletter is to facilitate the exchange of research information among Jabez descendants and to encourage and assist with ongoing research.

Joe Barber's Column

Today is October 30, 2011 and we are still enjoying good fall weather. Except for gathering up leaves, most of the outside work has been completed.

This summer has been extremely busy as I am Power of Attorney for a sister who has Alzheimer's Disease and also Power of Attorney for her husband (my brother-in-law) who is not well either. They moved into a Personal Care Home, their house was sold and most of the contents disposed off and since then my sister has been moved to a Long Term Care facility which is able to provide the care people with advanced Alzheimer's Disease require.

A big thank you to Robb Gorr and George Olmstead who has sent us some articles for this edition. I found these articles most interesting as they have information on some of my distant kin.

In the last issue I had a brief article on Lauran Olmstead, a young Jabez cousin who has been getting some experience in Young People's theatre. A few months ago a cousin from Vancouver Island sent me the program bro-

chure for a musical comedy titled "Gone With The Wine" which performed in that area. This production is loosely based on the life of Roy Olmstead who went from a law and order police officer over to the other side and became the king of the Northwest rumrunners before he was caught and sent to jail. Doreen wrote an article about him in the OFA Newsletter recently.

I also understand that a lady from Vancouver Island is doing some planning for an Olmstead reunion in Calgary in August 2014. I hope we have more information on that in the future.

I leave you with this little chuckle – Asked to write a composition entitled, "What I'm thankful for on Thanksgiving" little Timothy wrote, "I am thankful that I'm not a turkey"

I hope to have more time for genealogy in the months ahead. I hope you have good results in the months ahead as well.

Joe Barber.

*AN IMPORTANT PRIMARY
SOURCE DOCUMENT:
THE UPPER CANADA LAND
PETITION OF
ISRAEL OLMSTEAD, 1793*

by Robbie Gorr

When I was searching the Upper Canada Land Petitions at the National Archives in Ottawa in 1993, I had hoped to make a great discovery. Of course, the discovery I was searching for then was about my ancestor John Butterfield, hoping in the land records to find information that would identify his origins conclusively. At that time he was just theoretically connected to the John Butterfield-Abigail Morse family of Putnam in Washington Co. New York. Unfortunately my search proved less than helpful so I started looking for some other family names. I was curious when I came across the name Israel Umstead in the index as it was so similar to the name of John Butterfield's brother-in-law Israel Olmstead. They were both married to Haskins sisters, John to Miriam and Israel to Elizabeth, daughters of Joseph Haskins, the pioneer of Woford. The date of the petition in the index was 1793; intriguing, as it was earlier than it should have been. The family stories all told that the Haskins and their sons-in-law had arrived as a group in 1797. I decided to look up the document and check it out. Little did I know the impact that one piece of paper would have.

(from Upper Canada Land Petitions "U-V" Bundle Miscellaneous 1784-1794 (RG 1, L 3, Vol. 513), microfilm C-2842)

To his Excellency Governor Simcoe, in Council

May it please your Excellency
The Petition of Israel Umstead late from Hampton in the State of New York but now residing in Augusta in the County of Granville and Province of Upper Canada,

Humbly sheweth

That your Petitioner having seen his Excellency's Proclamations making known the Terms of Grant

and Settlement of the Crown Lands, came to this Province with his Family in March last, and finding it a fertile pleasant Country, wishes to become an inhabitant and to Settle and remain therein.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly requests the Grant of two hundred Acres of Land in the County of Granville or Leeds, on which when granted it is his intention to settle and improve immediately.

And your Petitioner as in duty bound shall ever Pray.

Augusta 13th May 1793

Israel Umstead

The petition is signed by Israel Umstead but the handwriting on the petition itself, different from the signature, belongs to someone else. Each applicant for a lease or grant was required to submit a written petition according to certain regulations. Settlers usually hired someone of learning to write on their behalf and to use appropriate address and phrasing. The applicant also had to supply necessary supporting documentation such as certificates from a local magistrate confirming age, good character, loyalty and identity. In many cases, such as this one, the documents were returned to the applicant and so were not included with the land petition.

I had little doubt that the Israel Umstead of the petition was the Israel Olmstead I was connected to through the Haskins family. I immediately contacted two people I knew would be interested in this discovery. One was Mrs. Alice M. Hughes of Merrickville who was the expert at the time on the family of Joseph Haskins, being twice descended from him (once through Israel Olmstead's wife Elizabeth and her second husband). She had already self-published her book Joseph Haskins 1745-1823 Pioneer of Woford: A Genealogical Record of his Descendants (August 1990), a publication which still forms the basis of research on this family. The other was Mrs. Doreen Dolleman, the eminent Olmstead researcher, with whom I had been in sporadic contact for a few years about the Haskins family and, in particular, of course, his son-in-law Israel Olmstead.

Doreen quickly recognized the significance of this document in linking Israel Olmstead to the

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

family of Jedediah Olmstead (grandson of Captain Jabez), the only Olmstead family to be in the Hampton area of Washington County, New York. His early date of arrival showed that he was the first of his family to come to Upper Canada. It also helped to establish the family connections of those Olmsteads who later came to the same area.

For Haskins researchers this document also had several implications. It showed that Elizabeth and her husband Israel Olmstead had come to Upper Canada several years ahead of the remainder of the Haskins family. It also placed them at that time in Augusta Township in Grenville County where her grandfather Nicholas Haskins had already taken up land to which he was entitled as early as 1785. Most interesting, however, was the connection it formed to Abial Haskins, another early settler of Augusta Township, who has long been theorized to be the son of Nicholas and therefore a brother to Elizabeth's father Joseph. Haskins researchers know from other land records that Abial Haskins died between April 1792 (when his daughter Magdalene petitioned for land, identifying herself as the daughter of Abial, still living) and December 1792 (when his son petitioned for land, identifying himself as the son of the late Abial). The Olmstead family bible contains the birth of Israel and Elizabeth's oldest child in that same time period on 2 June 1792 who was named Abial. It seems obvious that they named their newborn son after a man who had recently died and who, most likely, was a close family connection to Elizabeth, like her uncle.

It was a microfilmed copy of a two hundred year old, brief, one page document that I had seen and yet, in its few carefully chosen words, there was a great deal to be learned. Primary source documents, no matter their length or detail, always contain valuable evidence and are the foundation of solid historical and genealogical research.

Comments

by Doreen Dolleman

I was so happy that Robb Gorr was willing to submit his articles for the newsletter. We exchanged so much information many years ago. Robb is a great researcher! His articles fit right in with my own on the Israel Olmstead families and fill in some gaps.

Bill and I are in New Windsor, Maryland doing volunteer work at SERRV, a fair trade organization that imports crafts from third world countries. It is our fourteenth year! We didn't think we'd ever be able to come back again with my health problems. However, my doctors said I was doing well enough to go so we are here for the month of October

I will start working soon on an article for the next newsletter. Does anyone have any requests as to the subject? My E-Mail address is on the first page of this Newsletter.

HENRY OLMSTEAD
By GEO E. OLMSTEAD of Hilton
Beach
(great-great grandson of Henry)

Henry Olmstead was born to Gideon Olmstead and Esther Andrews, 8 September, 1803, shortly after the family arrived in Upper Canada from Hebron, New York State, settling on Concession 1 Lot 19 on the Rideau River, just east of to-days Burritt's Rapids, Wolford County, Johnstown District.

About 1804 Gideon moved his family to Hull Township, what would later become the village of Aylmer, near Lake Deschenes. Gideon's farm consisted of 300 acres.

In 1816 Gideon returned to the Wolford area and bought a grist mill and a saw mill along with a dam, apparently with the intention of setting up his sons Jabez and Henry in business. They operated the mills until 1829, when the construction of the Rideau Canal flooded the land.

Henry married Charlotte Sarah Wright about 1830, Charlotte was the daughter of Christopher Columbus Wright and Charlotte Hathe. Charlotte was the only child of this marriage as Charlotte Hathe apparently died shortly after the child was born. Christopher and Charlotte were married 30 March 1817 (as per Wright Family Tree). Charlotte, Henry's wife must have been quite young when they were married as their first child Abigail was born 31 Jan. 1831.

Henry and Charlotte had six children of record from 1831 to 1842:

- 1 – Abigail (Annie), born 31 January 1831 in Wolford Township, Johnstown District, Upper Canada.
- 2 – Mary (Polly), born 5 February 1833 in Wolford Township, Johnstown District, Upper Canada.
- 3 – William, born 10 October 1835 in Hull Township, Ottawa County, Que.
- 4 – Amos, born 17 October 1837 in Hull Township, Ottawa County, Que.
- 5 – Huldah, born 31 May 1840 in Hull Township, Ottawa County, Que.
- 6 – Sarah, born 12 Jan. 1843 in Bristol

Township, Ottawa County, Que.

Christopher Columbus Wright was a younger brother of Philemon Wright II, who married Gideon Olmstead and Ester Andrews first born, Sarah (Sally) Olmstead. Their father was instrumental in developing the town of Hull, Quebec (known today as the city of Gatineau).

Henry's wife Charlotte was Philemon Wight II and Sarah (Sally) Olmstead's niece. Philemon Wight II died 30 November 1821 and Sarah (Sally) married Nicholas Sparks 2 November 1826, who was credited with developing the town of Bytown, Carleton County, Upper Canada, known to-day as Ottawa, the capital of Canada.

(To be continued next issue)

CANADIAN NATIVE HERITAGE IN
SOME OLMSTEAD LINES

by Robbie Gorr

In my parents' generation being Indian, even part Indian, was something you did not want to be. It was considered synonymous with poverty, shiftlessness and drunkenness. Epithets such as "chief", "squaw", "redskin" and "half-breed" were used derogatorily. So, if you were dark or swarthy, you denied it. If you were fair and could easily pass for European, you never mentioned it. As a result, a whole generation has been raised in ignorance of their native heritage and their true Canadian roots.

In the last decade, however, with government incentives like hunting and fishing privileges, scholarships, tax breaks and the possibility of extended health care benefits, everyone is bringing their native heritage out of the closet. Having native blood is the latest "au courant" in genealogy, like having royal descent or Loyalist or Mayflower ancestry. Even people without it are checking their family trees just in case.

Ephraim K. Olmstead, son of Ephraim Olmstead and Hester Breakenridge of Ross Township in Renfrew County, Ontario, introduced native Canadian heritage into his family line when he married first Mary Ann Papin and then, later, her sister Elizabeth Papin. Ephraim Olmstead Sr. was the son of Israel Olmstead (and Elizabeth Haskins), grandson of Jedediah (and Mehitable) Olmstead, and great-grandson of the Jeremiah Olmstead (and Elizabeth Lit-

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

ten) who was a son of Captain Jabez Olmstead (and Thankful Barnes).

The Renfrew County marriage records state that Ephraim Olmstead of Ross was married to Mary Ann Papa of Westmeath on 24 March 1851 by the Episcopal Methodist minister. The marriage probably occurred in Ross Township where there was an Episcopal Methodist congregation. The problem in identifying Mary Ann's family is that there was no Papa family anywhere in Westmeath Township or in any of the adjacent townships. In Westmeath Township [adjacent on the east to Ross Township], however, there was the French Catholic family of Amable Papin and his wife Rosalie [also Rose and Rose Ann] Ross.

The 1851 census (which actually was taken in March 1852) lists "Amable Papua" and his wife Rose with seven of their children residing in Westmeath Township. There is no daughter Mary Ann recorded in this household as she would already have been married to Ephraim Olmstead. The 1851 census for Ross Township lists wives with their maiden names so she is listed as "Maryann Papa", the wife of "Epriam Olmstead Junr." in the 1851 census for Ross Township residing next door to the family of his brother Basil Olmstead and three households away from his brother John Olmstead.

The same "Able Pepa" was still recorded in the 1861 census of Westmeath Township next door to his son "Joseph Pappa". These inconsistencies of spelling were probably the result of an English census taker trying to record the French surname Papin. The name Papin (and occasionally Pepin) was used more consistently in the Roman Catholic parish record entries, frequently written in French, regarding members of this same family. However, it is in that same 1861 census that the first indication of native ancestry is recorded. Strangely, only one member of the neighbouring Papin households was described as "indien" and that was the youngest, one year old Margret, daughter of Joseph and granddaughter of Amable. Their neighbours were Joseph Tanikete and the family of "Lamab Stoka" [Amable Stoqua]; every member of both households was identified as "indien". This same neighbour Amable Stoqua was also a witness to the burial of Amable Papin's son Amable Jr. in March 1861 according to the records of the Pembroke Mission.

Mary Ann was listed as 24 years old in the 1851 census which calculates to a birth date of about 1828. In the 1861 census she is listed as 30 years old indicating a birth date of 1831. She was most likely born about 1830, between her brothers Joseph Papin (born about 1828) and Peter Papin (born about 1832). It would appear that

Ephraim and Mary Ann were the parents of five children: Mary Jane (Jennie), born 1852; John, born 1853; Ephraim Albert, born 1855; Henry James, born 1857; and Francis, born ca 1859. There is a notation in the 1861 census which records that Francis had died within the year 1860 at the age of one year. Mary Ann herself seems to have died within the year following the 1861 census as her husband remarried in the summer of 1862.

While the evidence linking Mary Ann Papin to the family of Amable Papin and Rosalie Ross is circumstantial, there is more direct proof that Ephraim's second wife was a member of this same family. The Renfrew County marriage records state that Ephraim Olmstead of Ross married on 3 July 1862 to Elizabeth Papa of Westmeath. The name Papa appearing again in a second wife is reminiscent of the pioneer tradition of the widowed husband remarrying his wife's sister who had usually come to housekeep for the widower and take care of the children. In this case there is proof that Elizabeth Papa was the daughter of Amable Pepin. The 1851 census recording "Amable Papua" in Westmeath Township with his wife Rose also listed seven of their children including 9 year old "Eliza Papua". Later in the 1861 census for Bromley Township [adjacent on the west to Ross Township], a 16 year old "Eliza Pappa" is recorded in the household of her brother-in-law William Graham. Relationships to the head of household are not recorded in the 1861 census but there is a marriage on 22 December 1858 for English native William Graham to Margaret Pappin, daughter of "Able Pappin" and Rose Ann Ross. Elizabeth's certain connection to the family of Amable Papin strengthens Mary Ann's connection to the same.

Ephraim and Elizabeth were the parents of seven more children including Alexander, born 1863; Margaret E., born 1865; William Joseph, born 1867; George Nelson, born 1869; Frank T., born 1871; Sarah (Sadie), born ca 1874; and Nellie May, born ca 1880. The younger of these children were all born in Wisconsin where Ephraim had relocated the family after 1865 following his father Ephraim Olmstead Sr. and some of his brothers. Ephraim K. Olmstead died 9 July 1909 in Atigo, Langlade Co. Wisconsin. His widow Elizabeth died 7 January 1919 in the same place.

The 1901 census for Westmeath Township shows several Pappin families, all descendants of Mary Ann's and Elizabeth's older brother Joseph Papin. Two of these families were listed under race as aboriginal and "Chippewa" while the other two were listed as aboriginal and "Cree French breeds". Today many descendants of the Pappin family [the commonly used modern spelling of the name] are members of the Bonnechere Algon-

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

quin First Nation and the Algonquins of Greater Golden Lake First Nation, both Metis organizations. Metis is the term used to describe people of mixed native Canadian and European ancestry. There is a brief history of the Pappin family in *The History of the Bonnechere Algonquin First Nation* (pp.105-8). Since any descendants of the Amable Papin family are eligible for membership in either organization, this would also include any descendant of Ephraim K. Olmstead through either of his two Papin wives.

Another Olmstead line with native Canadian heritage is Parryander Olmstead (1832-1910), son of Enoch Olmstead and Sarah (Sally) Kimball of Saginaw, Mackinac and Chippewa Counties, Michigan. Enoch Olmstead was the son of Job Olmstead, grandson of Jabez (and Miriam Husse), great-grandson of the Jeremiah Olmstead (and Elizabeth Litten) who was a son of Jabez Olmstead (and Thankful Barnes).

The Canadian connection actually began with Parry's younger brother Gardner Olmstead (1837-after 1920) who married across the Michigan border in Canada. His marriage to Elizabeth Rousseau on 28 November 1862 at Goshekiwong on St. Joseph Island in Lake Huron, part of the Algoma District of Ontario, was recorded in the parish records of Ste. Croix at Wikwemikong, an Ojibway native reservation on Manitoulin Island. Elizabeth Rousseau, had been born at Goshekiwong on 2 March 1838, the daughter of Montreal native Jean Baptiste Rousseau and his wife Julie Lamorandiere. There is no indication that the Rousseau family had native ancestry. There were many settlers of French origin in the area and the largest Catholic mission centre in the area was Wikwemikong, explaining why this marriage was recorded in the parish records of a native reservation. Parryander Olmstead probably came into Canada about the same time as his brother and, like his brother, he also married in Canada.

Most Olmstead family records give the name of Parryander's wife as Anne Estelle King but there is a marriage record for Beryander Olmsted and Anastasie Roy on 16 July 1866 in the parish records for Garden River. The Garden River First Nation is another Ojibway native reservation located a short distance from Sault Ste. Marie in the Algoma District, Ontario. This marriage record identifies "Beryander", aged 34 years, as the son of "Enock Olmsted et de Sally Kembal" and even provides his birthdate as 16 January [1832]. His bride Anastasie Roy, at 17 years old, was half his age. She was the daughter of Joseph Roy and Cecile Omeson, born 15 November [1848] (later records would claim at Penetanguishene in the Algoma District).

A short comparison of Anne Estelle King and Anastasie Roy resulted in the conclusion that they were one and the same person. In later census records "Annie" or "Annie Stella" had the same age and birthplace in Ontario as Anastasie and the date of birth on her death certificate was almost identical. Most convincingly, however, is that the name Roy or "roi" in French means "king" in English. Anne Estelle, then, is an English interpretation of Anastasie. In fact, Anastasie's family used both Roy and King interchangeably. Church records, often written in French, mostly used the name Roy while census records, written most frequently in English, used the name King.

The family of Anastasie Roy was definitely of Metis origin. Early census records show that her father Joseph Roy had been born in Lower Canada or Quebec while her mother Cecile Omeson (sometimes called Hamps) had been born in Canada West or Ontario. In fact, the 1871 census for Bruce Mines in the Algoma District recorded that Joseph King, a fisherman, and his wife Cecile, an "indian", were both unable to read or write. Her mother's native heritage explained why the marriage of Parryander and Anastasie had taken place at Garden River.

The Parryander Olmstead family has not yet been located in the 1871 census although they should be recorded in Bruce Mines in the Algoma District where a daughter was born to them that same year. The 1881 census finds "Perry Olmstead" with his wife and three children residing on St. Joseph Island next door to his brother-in-law Abraham [Amable] King and father-in-law Joseph King. By 1900 "Perry Olmsted" and his family are recorded in the village of Detour in Chippewa Co. Michigan where many of his family had remained. The 1900 census also recorded that Annie was the mother of four children of whom three were still living. That same information was also included on her death certificate. The children of Parryander and Anastasie included:

[1] Charles Olmstead, born 15 May 1867, baptized at Garden River, Algoma Dist. ON 19 May 1868. Witnesses at his baptism were his maternal grandparents Joseph Roy Sr. and Cecile Omeson. There is no further record of Charles so he must be the child who was no longer living by 1900.

[2] Perry "Ander" Olmstead, born ca 11 March 1869 [birthdate based on 1900 census and age at time of death]. He married first in 1891 to Anastasia (Stacy) Visnaw in Chippewa Co. MI and again in 1899 to Mary "Lena" Lapointe.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

He died 24 December 1942 in Detour, MI.

[3] Emma Jane Olmstead, born 6 January 1871 Bruce Mines, Algoma Dist. ON (according to church and provincial birth records), baptized there on 26 February 1871 with Latin name "Ema Johana". Her birth was also registered in the Chippewa Co. MI records on 11 September 1872 indicating that her parents may have returned briefly to Michigan after her birth as did her uncle Gardner Olmstead. She married in 1899 in Chippewa Co. MI to Paul LaPla[u]nt.

[4] Aldena Myrtle Olmstead, born ca April 1873. She married in 1887 in Chippewa Co. MI to John C. Rice and again ca 1896 to his brother Andrew Rice. She died 21 April 1901 in Detour, MI of tuberculosis.

The death certificate for "Annie Olmsted" records that she died 6 December 1906 at Detour in Chippewa Co. Michigan. The death certificate for "Perry Olmstead" records that he died 5 March 1910 at Sault Ste. Marie in Chippewa Co. Because of Anastasie's Metis heritage, all the descendants of Parryander Olmstead and Anastasie Roy can acknowledge their native Canadian ancestry.

The author is a descendant of native Canadians and a member of the Algonquins of Greater Golden Lake First Nation. He has done genealogical research for the Bonnechere Algonquin First Nation and has writ-

HELP

A Message from the Editors and Publishers: We need reader input for future issues. Recently, when Doreen was taken ill, we asked three subscribers for articles, thinking we might get one. WE GOT THREE. None of them had ever written before, and they were a bit scared. But they all came through wonderfully.

This year, two more subscribers, Robbie Gorr and George Olmstead, wrote articles for us. George will continue his article in the next issue.

If they can do it, so can YOU.

SQUATTING IN PETAWAWA TOWNSHIP: OLMSTEAD PIONEERS IN THE UPPER OTTAWA VALLEY

By Robbie Gorr

It is a place of pine trees, sand and blackflies. While the sand and blackflies are known only to the residents of the area, it is the great forests of white and red pine which are renowned throughout the land. In fact, this area was opened primarily as a result of the plentiful supply of timber and the fast water of the river which bisected the land and provided easy access to lumber markets. Both the river and the land bear the same name- Petawawa.

Just south of the junction of the Barron and Petawawa Rivers, where the rising water spills off the Petawawa on its journey to meet the great Ottawa River, lies the Black Bay. Its calm dark waters are surrounded by acres of forest including the white pine, once the prized commodity of the lumber industry in the Upper Ottawa Valley. It was the pine that brought French, Scottish, Irish and later German lumbering men and farmers up the valley in the second half of the nineteenth century and it was around the Black Bay and along the Petawawa River that many made their homes.

Many historians credit trader Gabriel de Bellefeuille as being among the earliest settlers in Petawawa but provincial land surveyor M. A. R. Macdonell, who came through this area in the early fall of 1847, had attached his field notes of squatters' clearings that he dated 25 September 1847. Squatter is a term that usually applies to a

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

person who settles on land or occupies property without title, legal right or payment of rent. It can also refer to a person who settles on land under government regulation in order to acquire title. Often the government would provide free title to settlers who cleared and improved certain acreage and constructed shelter on the land within a given time period. Macdonell's list detailed nine settlers who were in residence on the banks of the Petawawa and parts of the Ottawa Rivers almost nine years before Bellefeuille arrived. These included the widow Elizabeth Jardine with a family of seven living in a house with a barn, James McGregor with a family of seven living in a house with a barn, Patrick Alward and wife living in a house with a barn, Michael Provost, his wife and daughter living in a hut, Alexander Montgomery with a family of ten living in a house with a barn, James Brindle and his wife in a house but no barn, a Mr. Crosby with his wife and two daughters living in a hut, a Mr. Skidel living alone in a house with two barns, and finally there was a Mr. Olmstead, with no family and without any house or structure. So who was this unidentified squatter pioneering the wilderness that was Petawawa Township in 1847 without any shelter from the elements?

The answer may actually lie with one of the other squatting families; that of Alexander Montgomery. The Montgomery household with its ten members was the largest in the township at that time. It was actually what today we would call a 'blended' family. The year before on 15 March 1846 the widowed Alexander Montgomery remarried to the widow Orpha Olmstead and this new household was a combination of both of their families. Alexander Montgomery had been born 7 March 1805 in Montreal, the oldest son of Scottish immigrant Peter Montgomery and his wife Jane Bills. Alexander and his younger brother Charles had been in the Upper Ottawa Valley as early as 1837 at nearby Pembroke and on Iles des Allumettes in the Ottawa River across from Pembroke and Petawawa. Somewhere along the way Alexander had married about 1830 to Rosanna McCalley (or McLalley, McCauley or McAuly) and had five children: Charles, born ca 1833; Peter, born 1838; Henry, born 1840, Ellen, born ca 1842, and Rosanna, born 1844. Somewhere between the birth

of this last child and his remarriage in the spring of 1846, his wife died.

Meanwhile, across the province in Grenville County, Esther Orpha Adams, the daughter of Abel Adams and his wife Sarah Andrus, had been born on 9 July 1809. She had married on 25 February 1830 in Oxford Township to Reuben Olmstead. This Reuben Olmstead, born 2 August 1807 in Marlborough Township, was the son of Richard Olmstead (and Elizabeth Durkee), grandson of Jabez Olmstead (and Miriam Husse), and great-grandson of the Jeremiah Olmstead (and Elizabeth Litten) who was the son of Captain Jabez Olmstead (and Thankful Barnes). Reuben Olmstead and Orpha Adams had five children: William Campbell, born 1830; Charlotte, born 1832; Sarah Jane, born 1834; Abel Adams; born 1836; and Lucretia, born 1843. Reuben Olmstead died 7 March 1844 in Wolford Township. All five children were baptized on the same day in 1846 that their widowed mother remarried Alexander Montgomery.

How Alexander Montgomery met the widow Orpha Olmstead is a question that has engendered much discussion but few answers. The most probable supposition is that he after his wife's death he left the Ottawa Valley and sought work in the Rideau area. He probably left his young children behind in the home of his brother Charles where they could be with their cousins and cared for by Charles' wife Ann. The marriage took place in the spring of 1846 in Oxford Township in Grenville County. One of the witnesses was Orpha's former brother-in-law Rufus Olmstead. Alexander Montgomery brought his new blended family into the wilderness of Petawawa Township sometime soon after their marriage. This is evident because although they had constructed a home by the time of the land surveyor's arrival in 1847, they still had built no outbuildings. The squatters' field notes provide details as to the division of the Montgomery household. Besides the adults, there were two boys and six girls. There would have been the three Olmstead girls; Charlotte at 15, Sarah at 12, and Lucretia at age 4. There would also have been two Montgomery girls; Ellen at 5 years and Rosy at 3 years. The sixth girl in the household was the first of Alexander and Orpha's children together, an in-

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

fant born that first year after their marriage and named Orpha Esther after her mother. There were three boys in this blended family; William Olmstead, almost grown at 17, Charles Montgomery, at 14, and Abel Olmstead at 10 years old [Alexander's two sons Peter and Henry had died in infancy]. But the field notes only record two of those boys in the Montgomery household, probably the two youngest. What then of William Olmstead, almost a man at age 17? He is the most likely suspect for the "Mr. Olmstead" recorded in the surveyor's list of squatters with no family of his own and without a home or any outbuildings. William was probably trying to clear his own land but had not yet built a shelter. He was probably living "rough" outside during that summer and early fall. No doubt the winter drove him back to his step-father's home. Alexander Montgomery and Orpha Adams Olmstead added to their family with a son Alexander, born 1849, and another daughter Christina, born 1854. Another interesting outcome of this remarriage was that Alexander's oldest son Charles Montgomery married about 1848 to Orpha's daughter Sarah Jane Olmstead, although they were legally step-brother and -sister, they were not related by blood ties, and in the great wilderness of Petawawa there was no authority to say otherwise. Orpha lived to age seventy and died in Petawawa on 15 March 1879. Alexander also died in Petawawa a year later on 4 March 1880 on the day before his seventy-fifth birthday. Both Alexander and Orpha were buried in Holy Trinity Anglican Cemetery in Pembroke.

Of the Olmstead children who had been brought to Petawawa Township by their step-father, none remained in the area. The 1851 census shows Lucretia Olmstead had returned to Oxford Township in Grenville County and was recorded there in the household of her maternal grandparents Abel and Sarah Adams. William Campbell Olmstead never finished his land grant obligations and never received title to any property in Petawawa. He did, however, as his father's oldest heir, receive his father's land in Grenville County where he married Jane Dunn and began a family. Abel Adams Olmstead also returned to Grenville County where he died un-

married at age twenty-three on 28 May 1859. Charlotte Olmstead married a French Canadian named Joseph Lebarge. They are recorded with a family of five children in the 1861 census for Head Township whose southern boundaries extended to the timber line of Petawawa. Also in that 1861 household was Charlotte's youngest sister Lucretia Olmstead, returned to the Ottawa Valley briefly. Lucretia married in Oxford Township on 8 March 1864 to Daniel Guernsey Pelton (1833-1906). She provided him with five children before dying of complications with the last birth on 29 October 1875. Her husband would remarry twice. Sarah Jane Olmstead who had married her step-brother Charles Montgomery, gave birth to four children in Petawawa, combining both Olmstead and Montgomery family names- William Henry, born 1849; Orpha Rosana, born 1850; Sarah Jane, born 1856; and Reuben Charles, born 1859. She died sometime between the birth of the last child and the 1861 census where her husband is listed as a widower. Charles Montgomery himself died tragically when he drowned in the Petawawa River in late 1874, pinned down by his upturned canoe. None of these Montgomery offspring carrying the Olmstead bloodline remained in Petawawa either. William Montgomery went to the Haileybury area of northern Ontario, Rosana went west to Manitoba, Sarah went to north-western Ontario in the Sault Ste. Marie area, and Reuben, after living many years in north-western Ontario, moved to Montague Township in Lanark County.

Although there are no descendants of this pioneer Olmstead family remaining in Petawawa, most descendants of Alexander Montgomery, including those from his second wife Orpha Adams Olmstead, did remain in the Upper Ottawa Valley and many still live in Petawawa today.

The author is a proud descendant of several Petawawa pioneer families. He has lived and taught school in Petawawa for twenty-five years, and written extensively about the settlement and history of township, researching the genealogies of many pioneer families.

OLMSTED/OLMSTEAD'S ON THE INTERNET

Joe Barber has told us about an OLMSTEAD Forum WEB PAGE
at:

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/olmstead/>

There is also an OLMSTED Forum WEB PAGE at:

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/olmsted/>

There is an OLMSTEAD RootsWeb Mailing List, and an OLMSTED RootsWeb Mailing List, in which subscribers can exchange information, post queries, etc. To subscribe, send E-Mail to:

OLMSTEAD-request@rootsweb.com

and to:

OLMSTED-request@rootsweb.com

with the command "subscribe" (without the quotes) in the subject block, and in the body of the message, and NOTHING ELSE. Turn off your signature file if you are using one. I (COH) am the List Administrator for both Lists. Posts sent to one Mailing List are not sent to the other List, so one should subscribe to both Lists.

There is also an Ancestry OLMSTEAD Message Board and an Ancestry OLMSTED Message Board, at:

<http://boards.ancestry.com/surnames.olmstead/mb.ashx>

and at:

<http://boards.ancestry.com/surnames.olmsted/mb.ashx>

Messages from the OLMSTEAD Board are gatewayed to the OLMSTEAD Mailing List, and likewise the messages from the OLMSTED Board are gatewayed to the OLMSTED Mailing List. However, they are not cross-gatewayed.

The Forum, the Rootsweb Mailing Lists and the Message Boards are not restricted to the Jabez Line, but contain information and queries from all OLMSTED/OLMSTEAD's.

Back issues of this Newsletter, Olmsted/Olmstead ancestor and current member pictures, and historic documents and plats, can be found at

<http://www.jabezolmsted.com/>

Walt Steesy's Website, Place at the Elms, is at

<http://www.olmsteadfamily.org>

or

<http://www.olmstedfamily.org>

NEWSLETTER JABEZ OLMSTED OF WARE

IN THIS ISSUE

Joe BARBER's Column

An Important Primary Source Document: The Upper
Canada Land Petition of Israel OLMSTEAD, 1793,
by Robbie GORR

Comments, by Doreen DOLLEMAN

Henry OLMSTEAD, by Geo. E. OLMSTEAD

Canadian Native Heritage in Some OLMSTEAD Lines,
by Robbie GORR

HELP

Squatting in Petawawa Township; OLMSTEAD Pio-
neers in the Upper Ottawa Valley, by Robbie GORR

Roy OLMSTEAD, by Joe BARBER

OLMSTED/OLMSTEAD's on the Internet

