

Weekes Family Reunion 2007

Newsletter 4 - March 2007

That Time Again

It has been five years since the last Weekes Family Reunion at the Lombardy Agricultural Hall. Where did that five years go? Time to mark your calendars again as we plan for a day of meeting old friends, playing music, and enjoying fine food and beverages.

In this newsletter, we have provided the story (as we know it) of Edward Fullerton Weekes and Mary Jane McAuley. If you know more about Edward and Mary Jane, it would be great if you could share it with the rest of us.

Stay tuned for more details as the summer approaches.



Weekes family gathering, Lombardy ON, 1945

Where and When

1:00 PM

Sunday, July 29, 2007

Lombardy Agricultural Hall

Interests

As we plan activities for the weekend of the reunion, are there any special activities you would like to see? For example: organized games for kids, sight seeing tours (if you are new to the area), pub outings, group breakfasts, and so on.

If so drop us a note, and we will see if there are others who are also interested.

And of course, we are looking for volunteers to organize activities and help on the day of the reunion.

Contact Us

Send notes by email to:

webmaster1@weekesfamily.org

Send post mail to:

Weekes Family Reunion 2007

39 Fuller St.

Ottawa ON K1Y 3R9



Weekes family, Lombardy ON, 2002 (How many people from the 1945 picture appear here?)

Edward and Mary Jane Weekes

Edward Fullerton Weekes, a native of County Antrim, departed Tipperary and came to Canada in 1839 with his parents, Joseph and Jane Weekes, and four of his brothers and sisters (James, Alexander, Charlotte, another sister). He taught school for a brief time while living in Smiths Falls at the Ballantine or Hutton school, and then bought 50 acres of the Arnold lands where Bay Road now meets Highway 15.

Edward married Mary Jane McAuley. She was born in County Derry, Ireland in 1827. Her family came to Canada in 1833, settling on what had been the Gould farm.

Edward later went to the village of Lombardy, where over the years, he took on a number of responsibilities including that of merchant, hotelkeeper and township clerk. From 1844 to 1845 he operated a store near the intersection in Lombardy and from 1848 to 1850 a hotel or tavern. The hotel was right across the street from the Town Hall, according to a village map of 1860. He was a township assessor in 1845 and 1846 and clerk of the town meeting in 1847. He was also superintendent of local schools in 1845 and again in the 1850s. From 1857-1859, Edward was the postmaster for the village. In 1859, he was appointed Justice of the Peace. Edward was an agent for many companies. He made insurance available from four companies including the Johnstown District Mutual of Brockville and Times and Beacon Insurance Company, issued marriage licenses, was a conveyancer, and served in 1859 as a commissioner in the Queen's Bench for affidavits. In 1877, Edward became the local agent for the 'Union Churn'.



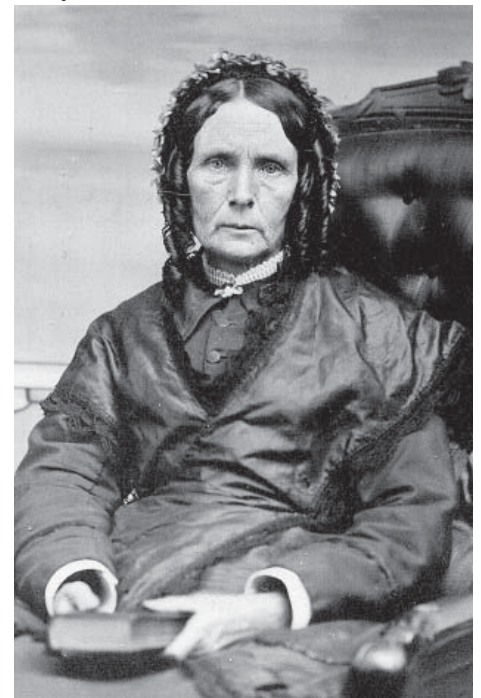
Edward led the local Orange lodge during the early 1850s. He became the Grand Master in 1852, District Master in 1853 and was appointed a Grand Lecturer for the area east of Toronto in 1854. The Lombardy Lodge No. 90 opened a library in 1860, that was run by Edward.

Edward belonged to the Flowing Tide Temple, a temperance organization. As a leader in the temperance movement, he condemned drinking as a source of emotional problems and a loss in self-esteem: "The effort to resist the habit of drinking if only partially successful, causes an individual to have more renance and confidence in himself, and encourages him to attack other evil habits, while vice versa the yielding to this pernicious custom weakens the power of resistance, and gradually the person loses his manhood, loses all faith in, and respect for himself, and finally gives up all efforts to amend, and yields himself up an abject slave to his vitiated appetite, yes, and absolutely hugs his chains."

Edward, known as "Squire" Weekes, was a man of some substance, and had two horses and two pleasure carriages by 1861. He was one of the biggest landowners in the village. In the 1850s, he bought three acres on the south side of the road to Smiths Falls, near the Duffield shoemaking shop. By 1876, he had accumulated four acres of land on the south side, east of Klyne.

The Union School at Lombardy was superintended by Edward during the 1870s. The teachers were local residents and included one of his daughters.

In 1877 Edward recommended the organization of an agricultural society for a fair of their own. He procured the names of 50 persons who wished to become members of the new South Elmsley Branch Society.



Much of this detail is found in James R. Kennedy's book "South Elmsley In The Making 1783-1983", 1984, and in Thad W. H. Leavitt's "History of Leeds and Grenville", Brockville: Recorder Press, 1879.

Photos

Do you have photos that you would like to share? There are lots of ways to do it:

- send us digital copies
- bring originals to the reunion and we will scan them
- send originals to the Reunion mail address, we will scan them and return them right away

Would you like copies of the photo collection? Send us a note, and we can bring you a CD with the entire collection to the reunion.

Messages / Greetings

Would you like to include a greeting or message in the next newsletter? Send us your message and we will include it in the May Newsletter.

New Family Members Born Since 2002

Ava Nicole Weekes - to Robert D. Weekes and Katelin Anthony

Anna Olivia Callan - to Mike and Fran Callan

William Jeffrey Callan - to Jeff Callan and Lisa Oakes

Kyle Henry Callan - to Steve and Anita Callan

James Hamlet Magee - to Stacy and David Magee

Katelynne Georgia Callan - to Michael and Francine

Let us know who we have missed.

Weekes Family Web Site

At the 2002 reunion, we shared and collected dozens of family photos from the Weekeses, Huttons, Burgesses, Warrens, McQuestions, Keirs, Armstrongs, Hamlets, Callans, McGillivrays, Hillikers, Readys, Boltons, Hawkes, McCallums, Gallaghers and others. It was great to see all of those faces and families.

That led us to create a family web site to share the photos and stories that were shared in 2002. The site has led to re-connecting with several branches of the family - some of whom had been out of touch for over 100 years. Visit the web site at:

<http://www.weekesfamily.org>



Weekes family gathering, 1891