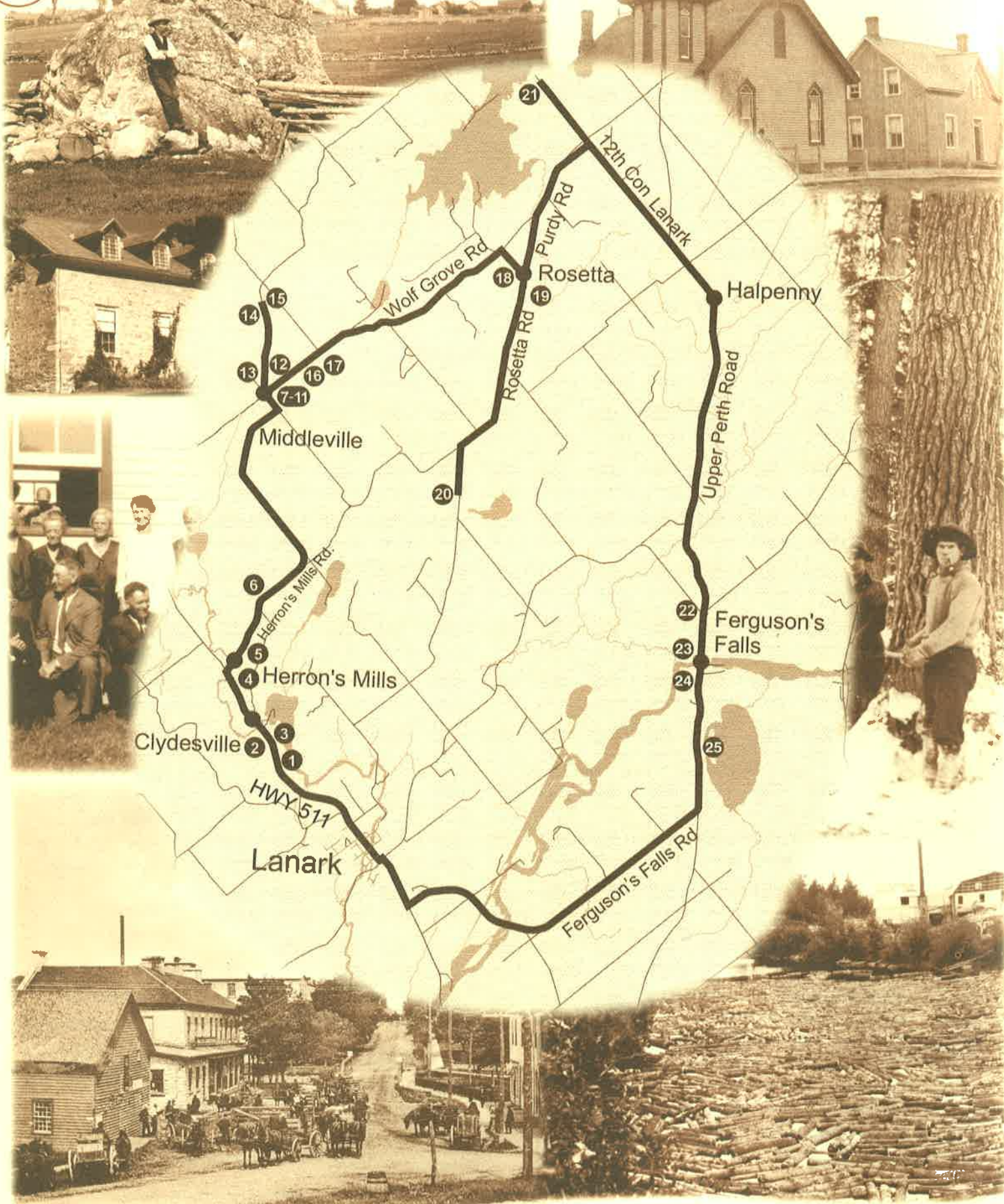


## 2 LANARK TOWNSHIP TOUR



## LANARK TOWNSHIP TOUR

LANARK TOWNSHIP was settled in 1820. The first settlers came from impoverished conditions in Scotland. Many were from Lanarkshire and chose the familiar name of Lanark for the township. When counties were established, the name was borrowed once again. The majority of the settlers were soldiers, unemployed weavers and labourers. Living in tents made of bark and branches or crude log shanties, the women and children had to wait in Lanark Village while the men followed the survey crew's vague slash marks on trees along the concession lines or "walked the blazes" to their drawn lots. The men returned for their families and they settled on their land. The huge trees daunted many, but gradually with neighbours helping neighbours, the land was cleared and schools, churches, and mills sprang up. The first rough trails became tracks and eventually the roads of the township.



The first Middleville Cheese Factory in 1902

With a few tools dispensed by the government supply depot, the settlers began to build rough shelters and to clear small patches of land using grub hoes to dig holes in the ground among the stumps. As the trees were felled, the hardwood was burned and the ashes were collected to make potash, which at that time was the only product that could be exchanged for cash.

*The tour begins in Lanark Village. This tour of approximately 85 kilometres takes more than an hour and a half driving time. Gas is available in Lanark, Middleville and at Mal's Campground at Ferguson's Falls Road. Picnic areas are available in Lanark at Clyde Memorial Park and at Herron's Mills at the Baird Walking Trail. There are washrooms at the Lanark Highlands Town Offices, during office hours, and at the Baird Trail. You will find a beach/rest area on the Clyde River in the village of Lanark. There are general stores in Clydesville, Middleville and various food establishments in Lanark.*

**CLYDESVILLE** — This community, named for the river flowing through it, was once a flourishing industrial centre and appears as a town on century-old maps. At one time, there was a gristmill, a hotel and a blacksmith known for making fine sleighs and runners.

**1. Old Home**, South of Clydesville on the east side of Highway 511 — This now abandoned, century-old building was the childhood home of George McIlraith, an MP in the Trudeau government.

**2. Mississippi Valley Conservation Office**, 4175 Highway 511 — Mississippi Valley Conservation (MVC) is a community based environment organization with a mandate to oversee the balance between humans and the natural environment. Established by the Ontario Government in 1968, the MVC is responsible to the 11 municipalities of the watershed, including the Township of Lanark Highlands. The MVC controls and monitors the Mississippi Valley watershed and manages conservation lands such as the Purdon Conservation Area, the K&P Trail and the



Mississippi River Canoe Route. More information is available weekdays at the office, by phone (613) 259-2421 or on the website at [www.mvc.on.ca](http://www.mvc.on.ca).

**3. Old Barn, 4178 Highway 511** — This majestic barn was built at the turn of the 20th century by Thomas McInnes, an expert barn builder. It was part of the farm which belonged to brothers John and Alf Roberts until the turn of the century. The house on the Roberts farm stood on what is now the site of the Mississippi Valley Conservation office.

**4. Sawyer's Home, at the corner of Highway 511 and Herron Mills Road** — This is the former residence of the sawyer at Herron's mill. The roof of his old home was originally constructed of interlocking steel shingles, which has helped to keep it standing for many years.

**HERRON'S MILLS** — This settlement was originally called Gillies' Mills after the original settler, James Gillies, came to Canada in 1821. His son John built and operated a saw, shingle, grist and carding mill. When the Plank Road was built

between Perth, Balderson and Lanark, it was John Gillies who supplied the lumber for the road at a price of \$12 per thousand feet. The mills were sold to James and John Herron in 1871 and the name of the community was changed to Herron's Mills. The mills continued operating into the 1940s. There was also a stone bakehouse in which unhulled oats or unshelled peas were shovelled and then baked. From the baking floor they passed through chutes and were bagged and taken across the mill yard for winnowing and grinding to the grade required for oatmeal and pease brose, a traditional Scottish dish.

Ruins of the lumber mill and dam are still visible from Herron Mills Road.

**5. Herron Homestead, 1307 Herron Mills Road** — This is the former home, silo and barn of the original Herron family after whom the hamlet is named. It dates from the 1870s.

**Recipe for Pease Brose**  
— a Scottish recipe brought to Canada. Put about three tablespoons of pea meal in a porridge dish. Add a chunk of butter, a little salt and pour boiling water over it. Stir.



Log boom in the Clyde River

**MAKING POTASH** - Entire families worked at making potash, one of the earliest industries in the new settlements. Potash was a vital source of cash revenue to new settlers before their crops were reaped. It took 60 hardwood trees to make one barrel of potash. During the winter, beech, maple and elm trees were cut down, stacked in piles, burned and the ashes collected. The ashes were put into large wooden containers with small holes in the bottom and saturated with water which then filtered through the holes and was collected. The water contained the salts of the ashes. More water was added until the ashes were entirely deprived of their salts. The water was then boiled in large kettles and the salts remained as potash. The potash was sometimes calcined by lime to deprive it of all colouring. When it became completely white, it was called pearl ash.

The finished product was transported by a blazed trail through the forest to Perth, where it was loaded onto rafts and sent to Montreal or Brockville in order to be shipped to European glass, soap and explosive factories.

**6. The Baird Walking Trail, 1024 Herron Mills Road** — Margaret and Nettie Baird of Lanark, who had a great interest in children and nature, donated this approximately half-kilometre of walking trail to the county. The trail winds through forests of beech, red pine, spruce, and tamarack, and across a wooden boardwalk over a small wetland. There are picnic tables and outdoor washrooms.

**MIDDLEVILLE** — Founded in 1820 in approximately the centre of the county of Lanark, the early Scottish and Irish settlers

called it Middleton. In the 1800s the village boasted two general stores, several blacksmith shops, a carriage shop, a sawmill, three churches, a stone school house, the Middleville Hotel and two "Grog Shops." A tinsmith, a cobbler, a wheelwright and a milliner also served the farming community. The name was changed to Middleville when a post office was set up. This picturesque village still features many fine homes, an excellent pioneer museum in the old school, a general store and a vibrant agricultural society, which hosts an old fashioned fall fair every year. The old town pump still stands in memory of the days when townspeople met there to water their stock or get household water.

**7. Middleville Cheese factory, 2003 6th Concession, Lanark** — Set up as a cooperative venture, the first cheese factory in the village was built in 1888. Milk was delivered to the factory by local farmers and as much as 100,000 pounds of cheese was produced in a good year. The patrons of the Middleville Cheese Factory were hit by disaster in 1929 when their factory burned. Yet they had it rebuilt in several months. The factory was closed in 1967.

**8. Doctor Croft's House, Foxcroft, 2010 6th Concession Lanark** — In the early 1900s, Dr. and Mrs. Croft raised silver foxes for pelts to be made into the very fashionable fur collars, stoles and muffs of the day. It is now a private residence.

In the heyday of Ontario Cheddar, there were 1,242 cheese factories dotted across the province of Ontario, exporting more than 200 million pounds of cheese per year. Cheese accounted for 35 per cent of a farmer's income.





The Baptist Church in Middleville, 1886

**9. Baptist Church, 2025 6th Concession Lanark** — The pioneers of Lanark County were thirsty for religion. The Baptist congregation first organized services in 1834 and worshipped in a log meeting house until a log church was built in 1859. This was replaced with the present frame church in 1886. A sunken water tank was used for baptisms and water streamed down the aisles from women's long skirts when they were immersed. The church was closed in the 1970s and sold in 1995.

**10. United Church Hall, 2037 6th Concession Lanark** — Originally the Congregational Church, this building was built in 1884 on the site where Dan Munroe's forge once flared brightly in his blacksmith shop as he shod horses and made implements for the farmers. The congregation was organized here in 1852 and worship services were held in a log church. In these earlier years, the minister, Rev. R.K. Black, preached every Sunday at Middleville and at Rosetta. Every other week he would hold services in Lanark Village, travelling on horseback

because "the roads were too rough for a carriage." Those churches were primitive log buildings with rough pine boards laid on cedar blocks for pews. This stone church was built in 1885 and served the congregation until union with the Presbyterians in 1924 and eventually the United Church was formed. The original brass bell - weighing one ton - would ring out the time for the community at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. It was also the local fire alarm. The bell was moved to the belfry of the United Church in 1999 when the hall was sold.

**11. St. Paul's United Church and the Pioneer Wall, 2058 6th Concession Lanark** — This property was purchased in 1845 by settlers of the Presbyterian faith. The first log building housing the Presbyterian Church was later replaced by the current brick structure. Horse sheds where the worshippers once tied their horses on "Kirk Day" were torn down only recently. Mrs. D. A. Gillies, of the well-known timber dynasty, was instrumental in having the headstones from the adjoining

**A History of the Middleville Fair** — Over the decades, people have flocked to Middleville in September to enjoy a fall celebration of rural living. Since the 1850s excited children and proud parents have headed for the big "Showfair." Over the years the Exhibition Hall, built in 1883, held sheaves of golden barley and pails full of silver hull buckwheat. Red currants, comb honey, maple syrup, sugar beets and beeswax were set proudly on display along with hops, whey butter and fruit cakes. Cars have since replaced the buggies and horses are no longer lined along the village's fence posts. Families no longer hope to pay off their taxes from their winnings at the fair with their horses, cattle, sheep and poultry - yet the smiles and the proud thrust of shoulders are still in evidence today when judges give out the ribbons and prizes.



general store that retains the original window ledges where through the years, people have lounged and exchanged gossip.

**13. Middleville and District Museum, 1213 6th Concession, Lanark** — This 1861 stone, two-storey building was originally the Middleville schoolhouse, the third building to serve the children of the area. It is said that one of the earliest teachers, Mr. Rollo, cobbled away at making shoes while he heard the lessons of his students. It is

also interesting to note that the 1869 enrollment in the school was 103 - all taught by one teacher - Mr. John McEowen. In the 1880s, the Sons of Temperance meetings were held in the schoolhouse. The schoolhouse closed its doors to students in 1970. With the schoolhouse empty and the cancellation of Middleville's Pioneer Days, local heritage enthusiasts took the initiative to start a museum. Now the building houses a

cemetery set into the upright encasement to preserve the heritage of the area's earliest pioneers.

**12. General Store, 4210 Wolf Grove Road** — The first country stores offered everything from gun flints to ox belts to patent medicines and bolts of cloth. James Stewart, followed by A. R. McIntyre, ran this crossroads store over the years. In 1910, the post office was moved to this location and served the community until 1970. Special fire buckets with big metal loops on the bottom were hung in the store for ready access in case of fire. The loops prevented the buckets from being used for anything else as they could not be set down. The community is still well served by this old-fashioned



Middleville & District Museum is located in the former schoolhouse that was built in 1861





While the cedar rail fences often went around the many rocks found throughout the area, sometimes, as with this "Big Rock" near Middleville, it was incorporated directly.

dramatic horse-drawn hearse, a dugout canoe, an 1830s barn frame loom, genealogical research materials and many other artifacts which allow visitors to step back into Lanark Highlands' pioneering past. The museum is open from Canada Day to Thanksgiving weekends - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Or appointments can be made by at (613) 259-5462. Admission is \$2.

**14. Greenwood Cemetery, Galbraith Road** — This cemetery is now a community cemetery, replacing the first-known burial grounds on the site of the old Presbyterian Church, now the United Church.

**15. Machinery Fence, just past 2171 Galbraith Road** — This unique fence has become an outdoor machinery museum as piece after piece of old equipment has been added to the fieldstone wall over the years. The rusted implements represent the old days when farming families relied on their own brute strength and horsepower. The fence runs along the Galbraith Road north of the village about half a kilometre.

*If you turn right off of the 7th Concession, onto Darling Road, you can look to the east and see the remains of a former fire tower. Ospreys nest annually on top of this platform.*

**16. Middleville Community Hall, 4203 Wolf Grove Road** — When Lanark Village became a separate municipality in 1862, the municipal office for Lanark Township moved to Middleville. It was set up in a log building where the fire hall now stands. In 1899 the Town Hall was built and held the village jail cell with iron bars and all. It is



now the local community hall where many organizations and a small theatre group meet.

**17. Fairgrounds and Agricultural Buildings, 4189 Wolf Grove Road** — Purchased in 1883, this property is the home of the Middleville Agricultural Society, organized in 1851. The large Exhibition Hall was built in 1883. The local agricultural society still organizes a colourful, old-fashioned fall fair every September. Agricultural displays and exhibits, games and races for children, heavy and light horse shows, antique machinery and a delicious home-cooked turkey dinners await visitors on a country outing.

*From Middleville, the tour continues east along Wolf Grove Road about five kilometres to turn right on Rosetta Road. Continue on Rosetta Road to the intersection with Purdy Road.*

**ROSETTA** — This small hamlet is said to have received its name when Robert Dick, one of the earliest settlers, built a structure for his livestock made of poles, square at the base and coming to a peak at the top. A neighbour said that it reminded him of Rosetta in Egypt where the famous Rosetta Stone was discovered in 1799 - providing the key to reading ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. When the hamlet applied for a post office, it chose the name Rosetta. But Rosetta has what is considered its own "Rosetta Stone" in the form of a large protruding slab of rock in a pasture located at what is now the James family sugar camp. Early settlers walked considerable distances, often barefoot, to hear a preacher give his sermon from "The Preaching Rock." Since it was first settled, the community has had a post office, two stores, two blacksmith shops, a hotel, a school - rebuilt three times - and a church that has been rebuilt four times.



**18. Church Manse, 2727 Rosetta Road** — This was once the manse of the first ordained Congregational Church minister, Rev. R. K. Black, before a manse was built for him in Middleville. As in many country manses, marriages were performed in the front parlour. This house later served as the Rosetta post office. It is now a newly renovated private residence.

**19. Rosetta United Church, 2676 Rosetta Road** — Originally the Congregational Church, this brick church was erected in 1919 and remained open until 1965. The original log church was destroyed by fire as was a larger church which stood until 1897. In 1898, the building was replaced with a more modern edifice but it too was destroyed by fire and was replaced by the current building. There is an old burying ground beside the present church.

**20. Runestone Vale Studio, 1897 Rosetta Road** - Sculptor Gordon Derry carves shed antlers and found wood. Visitors are welcome to view Gordon's work by calling (613) 256-0129 beforehand.

*Return to Purdy Road and continue onto Wolf Grove Road to the 12th Concession, Lanark. Turn left onto the 12th Concession (once again a gravel road) and drive one kilometre to Taylor Lake.*

**21. Taylor Lake** - Many loons nest on this lake and osprey patrol overhead.

*Take the 12th Concession back and follow it to Halpenny. The 12th Concession becomes Upper Perth Road after Halpenny.*

**HALPENNY** — Halpenny was once home to Ontario's smallest post office. There were three generations of Halpenny postmasters - Isaac, Newton "Newt" and Albert. John Halpenny purchased his land

for 15 pounds and homestead here with 10 children, one of whom was Isaac. Isaac set up a post office in his home in September 1889 and eventually served 40 patrons. The post office was taken over by Isaac's son in 1898. "Newt" Halpenny deserves special accolades as the longest serving postmaster in Ontario. During his tenure of 58 years, 11 months and seven days, he served under two queens and four kings. When the post office closed in 1964, it served only the resident postmaster, Albert Halpenny.

*At the STOP sign continue straight through intersection onto Ferguson's Falls Road.*

**22. Schoolhouse, 1106 Ferguson's Falls Road (at intersection with the Upper Perth Road)** — The original 1820s log schoolhouse was replaced in 1871 with another log building, which in turn was rebuilt in brick. The little one-room schoolhouse served the communities of Ferguson's Falls and surrounding areas until it was closed in 1968. It is now a private home.

**FERGUSON'S FALLS** — This community was named for a pioneer, Captain John Ferguson, who located here on a claim of 70 acres along the Mississippi in 1820. For many decades, this village was known as Millford, reflecting the importance of the saw and grist mills along the Mississippi River which flows through its centre. In

**James Dick** sought to take up land at Rosetta but was tragically drowned at Lachine while travelling with his family to their new life. Sadly, his wife also died at Prescott. But their 11 children continued the journey to Lanark Township where they were located at Lot 13, Concession 9, Rosetta. Under the guardianship of the eldest son John, aged 17 at the time, and with the help of kind neighbours, the children raised themselves in the near-wilderness. Four of the 11 children went on to become ministers.

**Seven Irish bachelors** named James Carberry, John Cullen, Terrence Doyle, James Power, John Quinn, Patrick Quinn, and William Scanlan left Ireland at the same time, pledging to stick together through thick and thin. They were able to secure land two miles north of what was then Millford and cleared 10 acres of the land. The bachelors all lived together in a little log shanty and took turns carrying provisions back and forth from Perth. Eventually they were given 200 acres each in one block, where they began farming, and all eventually married. The settlement became known as of the "Seven Irishmen" or the Quinn settlement.

the mid-1800s the village was a thriving community of more than 400 people, complete with all of the necessary services - meat packing, blacksmiths, a tannery and general stores.

Around 1850, Robert Blair built a dam across the river to create an artificial "falls" to power two mills - a sawmill on the north bank and a grist mill on the south bank. Consequently, the water backed up along the riverbanks because of the dam and created problems for the farmers upstream. After protesting and coincidental fires in both mills, the dam was removed.

Ferguson's Falls Bridge survived the Crotch Lake disaster of 1857 while all other bridges were destroyed from the dam at Crotch Lake to this point. The village once boasted three hotels to serve travelers passing through from Perth to Renfrew as well as the river drivers on the Mississippi. At Charlie Hollinger's Hotel, the floor had to be replaced each year due to the enthusiastic dancing by the loggers with their spiked logger boots. A

second hotel, right on the shore of the river, and one of the oldest buildings in the village, had the charming name of Stumble Inn.

**23. St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church, 1259 Ferguson's Falls Road** — From the 1820s until the 1850s, priests made the difficult trip through the bush - a two-day trip from Perth, to hold services in private homes. In 1856, the current building was constructed and was subsequently transferred to its present site in 1858. Beams and lumber for the church were cut on the farm of William Scanlan, one of the well-known "Irish bachelors." St. Patrick Church is still one of the oldest mission churches in Ontario. Until the Sacred Heart Church was built in Lanark, residents from throughout the area, from



Tractors made the farmer's life somewhat easier but Lanark Highlands' land is still a challenge



## LANARK TOWNSHIP TOUR

Darling to Dalhousie, worshipped at St. Patrick. The St. Patrick Cemetery was opened in 1856 with the first burial being that of the original "bachelor" John Quinn.

**24. Bridge over Mississippi River** — Three species of swallows, the barn, tree and rough-winged, nest underneath the bridge. They can be observed flying in and out, and, catching insects over the water. There are also cliff swallows nesting under the eave of a large barn on the river side on the north-east corner. Several martin houses holding active colonies can be found two doors down from the bridge on the north-west side.

**25. Stewart Swamp, on the left along Ferguson's Falls Road** — Wetlands include marshes, bogs, fens and swamps and are areas in which one finds plant species that grow in water or need wet areas for survival. The Stewart Swamp, which can be seen west of the bridge at Ferguson's Falls, is mainly a red maple swamp with some marsh at the river's edge. This large swamp is designated to have provincial significance for its biological, hydrological, social and special features.

*The return to Lanark Village completes the tour.*



Many Lanark men spent the winter logging in the bush



# Scottish Emigration

The worldwide depression following the Napoleonic Wars caused severe hardships for the weavers of Glasgow and Paisley. As well, their looms were rapidly being replaced in the first wave of the Industrial Revolution and wages had fallen to such a level that the workers were forced to pawn their possessions to get food and shelter. Starvation was not uncommon. In time, their plight was taken up in Parliament and colonization groups such as the Glasgow Emigration Society, the Lesmahagow Society and several others were formed to assist those willing to emigrate to Canada. Advertisements in Scottish newspapers decreed that: "Persons desiring to emigrate to Canada will be conveyed free of charge. The government will also supply provisions on the voyage, and on arrival a grant of 100 acres will be allotted each family as well as to each male child on reaching the age of 21. Each emigrant to have good water and regular daily supply of it, measured out in small casks for each person; satisfactory cooking facilities on board ship; a surgeon and medicines; provision for public worship, and accommodation for women who might be overtaken in childbirth." In 1820 and 1821 more than 3,000 emigrants set sail for Canada aboard the ships *Commerce*, *Prompt*, *David of London*, *George Canning* and the *Earl of Buckinghamshire*. From Quebec they were transported by boat to Cornwall and from there, conveyed to Perth, some taking up land in the new "highlands."



Mary (Ferguson) McIntyre

The **Women's Institute** was started in Stoney Creek, Ontario by Adelaide Hoodless who had lost a child to an illness caused by drinking contaminated milk. She was determined that mothers should have the opportunity to become better educated. The "W.I." was dedicated to "improving rural home life and imparting information in regard to women's work upon the farm." Chapters spread across the province, and by the early 1900s the Women's Institute had become significant in rural areas. The W.I. educated rural women in homemaking, health, seed starting and planting methods, sanitation, literacy and leadership. Meetings were held monthly, providing opportunities for sometimes isolated farm women to learn new skills within a community of neighbours and friends. Women's Institutes have kept invaluable records in volumes known as "The Tweedsmuir Village Histories." In many communities, the W.I. remains active today.