

Letters to the Editor



Eamers planning family reunion

Dear Sir:

The Eamers are planning a major family reunion to be held on July 14 at the Eamer's Corners Public School, Cornwall.

All Eamers and their descendants, both maternal and paternal, are invited to come, meet, socialize and trace their roots.

Phillip and Peter Eamer arrived in Cornwall in 1784 and were granted Crown land on Concession 4, Lots 9 and 10, Township of Cornwall. This is the present site of MacDonell's Inn and Cornwall Kitchens.

Preparation of the Eamer family tree is in progress and will be published. Saturday will consist mainly of greeting and receiving family members and guests. A banquet will be held in the evening with guest speakers and entertainment. Sunday will begin with a church service in the school, followed by a luncheon and games.

Although the reunion coincides with the bicentennial of the United Empire Loyalists and the Province of Ontario, the committee encourages all Eamers and their relatives to come.

Make plans to attend. Anyone who does not receive a personal invitation to attend by mid-March is asked to write and provide us with any details concerning your heritage to Eamer Reunion, 1320 Julie Street, Cornwall, K6H 3L9.

Marilyn Gowan,
Cornwall.

Eamer Family reunites

Settlers of Eamer's
Corners:

Eamer Family Reunion
1784 - 1984.

An organization meeting was held at the home of Marilyn Gowan, 1320 Julie Street, to elect conveners and make arrangements for this event to be held in Cornwall in July 1984.

Marilyn Gowan and Mona Joncas were appointed treasurers and in charge of pre-registration. Gail Eamer, Wanetta Fortin and Ver-na MacDonald were appointed food conveners. Lyall Manson is in charge of publicity, Daphane Eamer in charge of registration, June Eamer in charge of greeting and Brian Gowan in charge of setting up.

Planning continues for family reunion

By Marilyn Gowan

A meeting of the U.E.L. Eamer Family Reunion was held at the home of Joan and Alex MacKenzie of Avonmore.

A report on registration was given by Marilyn Gowan. 318 Families are now on the invitation list. The response to date is very encouraging with over 150 replies, from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Florida, California, New York State, Ontario and Quebec.

Gail Eamer reported that the food committee has all arrangements made and that the final date, for registering for the banquet is June 30.

Ron Eamer, the M.C. for the event discussed the program and head table arrangements.

Lyall Manson gave a report on publicity.

An item of interest not in the newsletter is that anyone interested in wearing period costume is encouraged to do so. Most committee members will be in costume.

Joan Eamer gave a report on research and brought us up to date with new family connections she had discovered since the last meeting.

Daphane Eamer in charge of registration and June Eamer of the greeting committee will be contacting their workers within the next week.

Anyone having questions concerning this event is encouraged to contact Marilyn (Eamer) Gowan at 932-8103 or 933-5579 or any of the other committee members.

Eamers home for weekend

By SULTAN JESSA
Staff Writer

EAMER'S CORNERS — They came from everywhere, including far away places like Los Angeles. And

they came in large numbers.

The event was the reunion, the first of its kind, for the Eamer family.

Some members of the Eamer family had gathered to celebrate the anniversary of the arrival of Phillip and

Peter Eamer and their families in Cornwall when they came as United Empire Loyalists in 1784.

What could be more appropriate than the reunion being held at Eamer's Corners Public School and a short distance away from the land where the original Peter Eamer farmed.

For two days, members of the Eamer family renewed old ties, discovered new relations and, as some put it, had the "most wonderful time of their lives" at the gathering.

In all, there were almost 300 members of the family.

It all started when Vicki Kenton, a 28-year-old nurse from Edmonton, started digging into family background.

Her grandmother, Nola Grossman, born in 1911 and living in Avonmore, sent her a copy of a page from the family bible four years ago.

"I was intrigued by all the names and dates from the family bible," she recalled. "My family often spoke of their great, great grandfather Peter Eamer."

She wanted to find out more. And she did.

Kenton, who is in the process of completing a 275-page history of Eamer family, illustrated by maps, documents and pictures, said the original Eamers came from Germany in 1754.

They settled in the Mohawk Valley in New York State. At the time of the American Revolution, the Loyalists had to leave the states and many of them came to Canada in 1784.

Among them were Peter and Phillip Eamer, who settled and farmed in the Cornwall area.

Kenton said she is hoping the history book will be completed by October.

"I hope to find the missing links and add finishing touches during the reunion," she said. "I have got all the Eamers where I wanted them."

The original idea of Kenton was to organize a family picnic in the Cornwall area.

But, as interest from other family members grew, the picnic was substituted by the two-day reunion.

Plans are already in hand to get the Eamers together for a second reunion in the next few years.

Kenton, a nurse at the University of Alberta Hospital, said she was "delighted" the Eamers had managed to get together.

Marilyn Gowan, a local organizer for the reunion, said it was difficult at the beginning to put the names together.

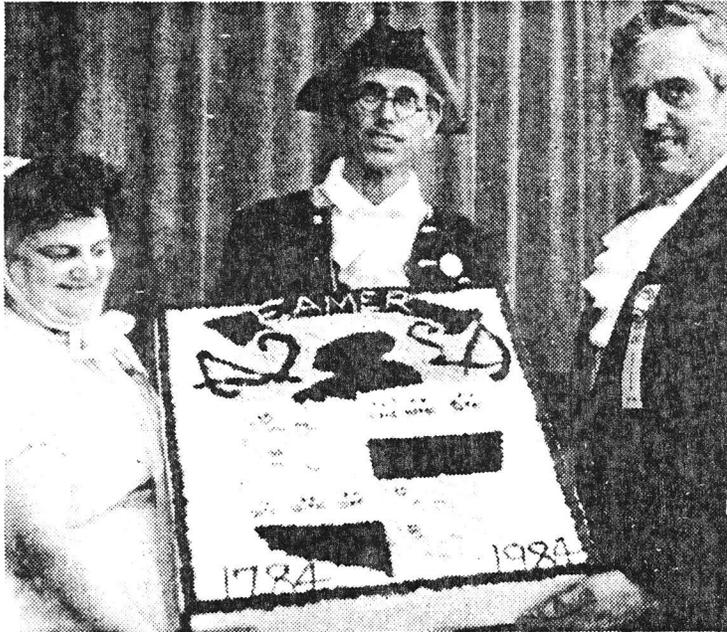
"There are 300 people at this reunion," she said. "We now have a list of 351 families in Canada and the United States. And this list is growing every day."

Some family members, who came for the reunion from all across Canada, California, Florida and Michigan and New York, stayed at hotels while others brought their own trailers and many others stayed with families.

Attending the reunion was Beatrice Eamer Tilton, 86, from Cornwall. She was the oldest member at the reunion.

At one time Kenton lived with her mother Betty King in the Cornwall area. The family moved west in 1961.

During the reunion, there was a family dinner, a special church service, and a field day for children.



A reunion cake

Marilyn Gowan, a local organizer of the Eamer reunion, with Lyall Manson, centre, a family member

and president of SD and G Historical Society, and Ron Eamer, a school trustee and master of ceremonies. (Jessa-Photo)



Writing history

Vicki Kenton, a nurse from Edmonton who initiated the Eamer reunion, goes over the history book she is writing with her great uncle James

Eamer, who still farms on the same land that was once farmed by Phillip and Peter Eamer when they came here as United Empire Loyalists in 1784. (Jessa-Photo)



The button board

There'll be Eamers streaming into town from all over North America for the Eamer Reunion this weekend. Local organizer Marilyn Gowan points out special "Eamer Reunion"

buttons to Vicki Kenton of Edmonton. Kenton started the whole idea of the reunion, hoping initially to get enough people "for a family picnic." Over 250 people will attend the reunion.

Bible provides spark behind Eamer reunion

By VALERIE MARSHALL Staff Writer

EAMERS CORNERS - This weekend, 275 members of the Eamer family will arrive in Eamers Corners for a family reunion, the end result of Vicki Kenton's grandmother sending her a copy of a page from the family bible four years ago.

Kenton, 28, of Edmonton, remembers being "intrigued" by all the names and dates from the family bible. That initial fascination led to letter writing and questioning relatives on her great-great grandfather, Peter Eamer who settled in this area as a Loyalist.

Dozens of letters later, Kenton

remembers sitting at her desk "surrounded by information, seeing all these names and thinking it would be fun to get all these people together."

At first, Kenton thought it would just be immediate family, but a continuation of her research eventually led to taking a Cornwall telephone book and writing every Eamer she could find in it.

That led her to Marilyn Gowan, who started organizing locally for what has become the Eamer Family Reunion.

While Gowan was organizing invitations, Kenton compiled a

Period costumes were highly visible at the Eamer reunion in Cornwall, Saturday. The reunion reception and

dinner was attended by about 300 people. Among those attending were, from left, William Webster, Tami Sue

and five of his sons.

Tracing a family tree is no small job, but Kenton says "once the fever hits" you can't stop looking for that one more piece of information to add to the puzzle.

It's hard to glean personal information from factual documents, but once in a while, says Kenton, she'll come across a will or a death certificate that can add to the personal side.

"For example, we found that Daniel Eamer was mistakenly shot by someone who thought he was the enemy in the Rebellion of 1837," Kenton says, flipping through the book. "Or in a will, that can give you an insight into how people felt about their family. Especially if someone's left out."

Arriving in Cornwall this week for the reunion, book in hand, Kenton says she finds it hard to believe "it's really happening."

With Eamers arriving from as far away as California, Kenton says she plans to add what she can to her book, and then print up copies when she gets home. Anyone interested in the book can order copies at the reunion.

Gowan says she received a letter from a woman who said "I got this letter saying I was related to an Eamer. I don't know where and I don't know how, but I'll be at the reunion, and somebody better be there with a pen and paper to tell me."

Other people accepting the invitation to the reunion were also not content to just say a simple yes or no. Gowan has a file folder full of comments from people, adding their bits and pieces to the family history.

The Eamer Reunion opens Saturday at Eamers Corners Public School with registration starting at 10 a.m. A family dinner with special guest speakers starts at 6:30 p.m.

Gowan says there was lots of time left between registration and the dinner because, from past experience, she knew "not to schedule a lot of events. People just want to mingle and meet each other."

Sunday morning a special service at Trinity Anglican Church will be held at 9:30 a.m., followed by a luncheon and field day at Eamers Corners Public School

Webster, from Toronto, Allyson Eamer, Dalton Eamer and Daphne, all from Cornwall. (Jessa-Photo)



First reunion

Dressed for the times