

# MINUTES of MICK REUNION 2004



**DATE:** Saturday, July 31, 2004

**LOCATION:** Micksburg Ball Park, Micksburg, ON

**REGISTRATION:** Jenna Woito & Lana Johnston

Ethel provided coffee and her home baked goodies for the early arrivals

People who attended were from: Micksburg, Douglas, Eganville, Haley Station, Moorefield, Ottawa, Orillia, Stittsville, Ashton, Orleans, New Liskeard, London, Winnipeg, Pembroke, Toronto, Huntsville, Peterborough. There were 2 people from Mary Ann's descendants, 54 from John's descendants, 9 from Peter's and 31 from Daniel's and none from Mary Ann's.

**PRESENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Marilyn Steege, Winston & Sandra Mick, Ethel Keuhl, Dwight & Grace Mick  
Chair – Anne Thompson  
Secretary: Faye Mick-Johnston  
Treasurer: Tammy Tracey

**TREASURERS REPORT:** After last year's reunion balance is \$746.01.

**Meeting:** Minutes of last years meeting were read. All enjoyed a lunch of salads, chicken, buns, ice cream and cake. Ethel wrote a new song, which was sung by the group and sounds like it will be an annual even titled "Micksburg, Micksburg"

Anne showed some pictures and gave a summary of her trip to Ireland and some information and history about the Mick/Pallantine's who came from Ireland:

## **Finding out about my Irish/ German Heritage**

**Ann Thomson**

*(grandmother Esther Mick-Thomson, father Millar Thomson)*

A highlight of my trip to Ireland was visiting the land that my great grandfather Daniel Mick left in 1848. Three sites helped me better understand conditions at that time and also the conditions when they first arrived in Ireland as refugees from Germany in 1709.

1. **New Ross** ( 20 minutes north east of Waterford)

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There is a full-scale reconstruction of a famine ship the SS Dunbrody Emigrant Ship. This provides an opportunity to see the size and conditions experienced by many when escaping from famine conditions.

### 2. **Cobh** (east of Cork)

There is a marvelous Heritage Centre in the old railway station along the waterfront. An excellent series of exhibitions highlight the mass emigration during the famine years. This is a very informative display and includes other shipping details e.g., the last port of call by the Titanic.

### 3. **Rathkeale** (10 minutes west of Adare, Limerick Co).

The Irish Palatine Centre is a wonderful little museum/archive staffed by volunteers from mid May to mid September. We were there in early May and contacted Austin Bovenizer who arranged for Helen Mulcahy to meet us on the weekend. This was where my real awakening occurred. The emphasis is on the Palatines' innovative contributions to Irish farming and how their settlement conditions shaped the Irish Palatine identity. They were certainly unique due to their Protestant faith, their language, prior lifestyle beliefs and a strong work ethic. This set them apart from the local Irish people. (It was three generations before the German language was replaced by English in most households(.

I learned that the Micks & many other Palatines craved to settle in America. Some leaving as early as the 1760's. Although our ancestors left in 1848 they did not travel on a famine ship. Because of their farming crops as well as their kitchen gardens they were not dependent like the Irish on a diet of potatoes. The Micks sailed from the Limerick harbour aboard a privately owned ship that brought logs/lumber back from Canada. I assume this was not a luxurious voyage & although it was during the time of famine emigration there are no deaths recorded.

Excellent Resource Book:

People Make Places The Story of the Irish Palatines, Patrick O'Connor, 1989. Oireacht na Mumhan Books, Coolanoran, Newcastle West, Limerick Co, Ireland.

Lorne gave an update on the Website- officially opened June 1, 2004. Jennifer Mick, from Boston has been doing the website for us. Paul Anderson will be looking after the Family Tree updates who will then forward them on to Jennifer Mick for the website. There will be a bulletin board for people to sign in, give comments, etc. The website is:

**[www.micksofmicksburg.ca](http://www.micksofmicksburg.ca)**

Youngest present (6 months) - Declan Roberts

Farthest traveled Bob Hobday, Robert Hobday, Manning Hobday and Leigh-Anne Peterson from Winnipeg, Manitoba

Tallest man – Tim Leech

Oldest female present– Marion McFarlane

Oldest male present – Bob Hobday, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Shopping last night – Jan Gilbert

Bald heads – Dwight Mick and Henry Mick

Work on the website – Lorne Monahan

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Jan Gilbert read a poem that she wrote, entitled "If I Were to Write a Poem" about her father, J. b. Mick (1906 – 1987) of Himsworth Township, near Powassan. He was the son of William Henry Mick and Alatheia Proudfoot Coleman.

### **If I Were to Write a Poem**

If I were to write a poem about my father  
It wouldn't fit within the page  
His booming laugh would spill out into the margins  
Taking over and surprising me  
Like it did once in the quiet of a funeral home  
Embarrassing the circumspect teenage me

If I could write a poem about my father  
It would run right off the end of the page, not stopping  
Because he didn't stop talking  
Not even to eat  
Only to sing or sleep  
And in his sleep the snores took over  
Loud and commanding

I could tell of an eager student,  
Leaving school at eleven to work like a man  
To support a suddenly fatherless family  
Or an adventuresome boy of thirteen  
Smoking behind the barn  
And burning down the haystack

A young man  
Criss crossing Canada during the great depression  
Harvesting grain in the west  
Cutting trees in the east  
To earn money to buy a farm  
And marry Mom  
Writing her letters every day

On their anniversary  
Shyly, for once,  
Placing a box of chocolates, unwrapped, on top of the fridge  
And wordlessly, for once, glancing at Mom  
Then leaving the kitchen

Reading me a story  
Getting interested in the plot  
Words coming faster and faster  
Finally forgetting to read out loud at all  
In his absorption

Teaching me to fish in Graham Crick  
Fishing line tied to a long straight twig  
Pulling out suckers that I refused to touch or to eat  
Walking home contentedly through

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The soft June twilight

Singing as he rode the tractor  
On promising spring days  
Stooking acres of sheaves of oats  
On blue and golden autumn days  
Telling stories incessantly  
Over cups of coffee  
Year round

Visiting me at my home  
Wearing brown leather jacket and trademark fedora  
Getting out of the car  
Bent and stiff  
Trunk filled with huge onions, potatoes and parsnips  
From his lush garden beside the apple trees

As a Grandpa  
Squeezed into a tiny chair  
Ridiculous small party hat on his bald head  
Surrounded by teddy bears  
Sipping tea from a doll size cup  
And slurping with enjoyment

If I were to write a poem about my father  
I would need large paper, bright colours  
And a sound card  
How can a life fit inside a poem, a page, a book  
Without spilling out?  
Does it have to?  
Memories have no margins  
And there's no bottom to the page.

A skit was done by Henry Mick, Sam Mick, and Lorne Monahan about "dew" written by Ethel Keuhl.

*This poem was read by Roxanne Bowman (wife of Wayne Mick, grandson of Sanford & Margaret Mick) about their family and farm near Moorefield: Sanford was the son of Samuel Oliver Mick and Edith Collins. Sanford Mick's farm was in Mapleton, ON near Moorefield. He lived on a 100-acre farm, which was located on the 4th concession. Sanford and Margaret Mick bought it in 1942. Wayne and Roxanne and their children Liam and Kaelan currently reside on a 95-acre portion. Sanford and Margaret's youngest son Dean and his wife Lisa own the other 5 acres.*

### **Sanford & Margaret Mick**

It was back in the year 1942  
Sanford Mick had enough of the mine.  
He headed south for farmland in yonder blue  
with his gal, Margaret as his bride.

An old building, that used to store grain  
was to be their home, Margaret was not happy.  
But at least it will keep out the rain.

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There were lots of trees, even Maples for sap  
He was able to brew in the land of yonder blue.

For thirty years plus they farmed  
and raised their family of four,  
til Sanford was called home  
his time on earth, no more.

Margaret kept the home fires burning  
for her grandchildren, two  
Until the day, He called her, too.

With the new millennium upon us  
this old house in need of repair.  
Its condition was some cause for despair.

But alas, there was a grandson  
who had a yearning  
to live off the land,  
just like his old grand-dad.

He moved his family to that same  
old farm, that his grandparents first came.  
With love in each repair and change  
they try to honour the home his grandparents made.

And thus, began a generation new  
of little Mick boys on the land that  
great-grandpa bought in 1942.

Attending for the first time – Steve Roberts and family from Orleans Jamie Slattery from Pembroke, Isabella & John Enright, Jeremiah Colin Mick descendant of John Mick, the Hobday family from Winnipeg and Liz Mick from London, Ontario.

Winston reported that Florence Mick celebrated her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday on June 7, 2004. She wasn't able to attend the reunion but people are welcome to visit her in Pembroke. Messages and best wishes were sent to her from all of those who attended the reunion

Lorne Monahan gave an update regarding the Mick Family Website. It was moved by Sandra Mick and seconded by Anne Thomson that we donate \$250 from the general account towards the website. Others were asked for donations towards it as well.

## **MINUTES of MICK REUNION 2004**

**PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:** The reunion will be held in 2006 (every 2 years now)

**Date:** Saturday, August 5, 2006 (Saturday of the long weekend in August)

**Location:** Micksburg Ball Park, Micksburg, ON

**Committee members:** to be determined