

Berczy Park Officially Opened

On November 10, 2008 Councillor Carolina Moretti gathered Town officials and members of the community for the official opening of Berczy Park. Berczy Park, located in the centre of Berczy Village (Kennedy Road to McCowan Road, 16th Avenue to Major Mackenzie Drive) is the largest community park in Markham at approximately 65 acres. Two schools back on to it, Frederick Bagg Park is on the north and several storm water management ponds connect at the south end to Eckardt Creek. The Park includes a large pond, soccer fields, bleachers, playground, pathways, bridges, baseball diamond and a newly planted forest. Bur Oak Avenue passes through the centre of the Park. Plans are being developed for the construction of a new building to house washrooms and a meeting room for the community.

Linda Irvine, Manager, Parks and Open Space Planning, expressed her pride in this unique Markham park because it provides a large open activity space in the middle of the community rather than the small parkettes in most of the other planned communities. It is within walking distance of all of the homes in Berczy Village and is becoming a community gathering place. It will continue to be enhanced as the trees grow and mature.

Also included in Berczy Village is **Nördlingen Park** found in the southern portion of the Village, close to 16th Avenue. It is dedicated in honour of

Markham's cultural partner, the City of Nördlingen in Bavaria, Germany. It contains a small pond with a playground area.

The official opening included comments from Councillors Carolina Moretti and Regional Councillors Tony Wong, Gord Landon, Jack Heath, and Official Historian Lorne Smith. Entertainment was provided by a youth orchestra and of course there were lots of hot dogs and cake for everyone.

Berczy Village takes its name from William 'Moll' Berczy who led the first group of 200 settlers from Altona/Hamburg, Germany, to Markham in 1794. Several of these 67 families received grants of land in this block.

Where did the Helmkes go?

By Bob Shank
This is another in the editor's series of where the early generations of Berczy moved to.

Johan Engelhard Helmke, an original Berczy Settler, was married twice and was the progenitor of a large number of descendants who go variously by the names Helmke, Helmka, Helmkey, and Helmky. We have found no record of his first



wife but a genealogical study done for Billy Bishop says that his wife was a Quantz. Because of this and the fact that Johan is buried in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in Buttonville amid members of the Quantz family, I am led to believe that his first wife was a Quantz. Equally puzzling is the surname of his second wife. There is a stone in St. Philip's Lutheran Cemetery north of Unionville dedicated to "Mary wife of J.E. Helmke". It is assumed that this refers to Mary Stoeber (Stiver).



Grand opening of Berczy Park



The Berczy Settlers Gazette is published by the
Markham Berczy Settlers Association,
10292 McCowan Road, Markham, Ontario,
Canada L3P 3J3.

Tel: (905) 640-3906 Fax: (905) 640-9394

E-mail: lorne.smith@sympatico.ca

www.markhamberczysettlers.ca Webmaster: Janet Iles

Editor: Lorne R. Smith.

Articles for the Berczy Settlers Gazette are welcome.
Query Column: we will publish specific names you are
trying to trace along with your name and address.

Produced by Stewart Publishing & Printing, Markham.
www.stewartbooks.com

From the first marriage there was one known child, Frederick Henry Christopher Helmke, who, as a five-year-old, accompanied Johan to Canada. (Note that the early Helmke families often gave their offspring three names and then caused great confusion for modern day genealogists by using one of the names for christening, another for the census, sometimes, and the third for reasons that defy logic.) Frederick served in Capt. Button's Company of the First Regiment of York Militia and was called up for duty for the first six months of the War of 1812-14. For this service he received 100 acres of land in Innisfil Twp., title to which he received in 1826 and soon sold for 65 pounds to Charles Ridout of York. He reported his residence as Markham at that time but by 1837 he was living in Whitchurch Twp. on the south-east corner of Musselman's Lake and had married one Nancy Ann who was born in the USA. They had 16 children as follows: Philip, Mary Ann, Caroline, Henry, Elizabeth Ann, Christine, two babies who died quite young, Margaret Ann, John Frederick, George, Diana, Barbara Anne, Mary, Isaiah and Cindrella.

Philip m. Angelina Degeer, they lived in the Bloomington area, and had nine children.

Mary Ann m. Richard Graham who farmed Lot 18, Con. 9 of Whitchurch Twp. and they also had nine children.

Caroline m. John Connor and they had one child.

Henry m. Mary Woodward.

Elizabeth "Betsey" Ann m. Lorenzo Badgero and they had seven children. Elizabeth is buried in the Long Bay Cemetery on Manitoulin Island.

Christine m. John H. Staley, they lived in Whitchurch and had five children.

Margaret Ann m. John Degeer. They lived in Whitchurch and had ten children.

John's first wife's name is unknown but there were two children. He later married Emmeline Staley and they had nine children. He worked part of his father's farm.

George also worked part of his father's farm, married Emily Godfrey and had five children.

Diana m. George Nesbitt who farmed Lot 19, Con. 8 of Whitchurch. They had eight children.

Polly m. Nathan Pipher and had two children.

Barbara Anne m. Charles Reid and had five children. Isaiah did not marry and lived in the area.

Cindrella m. John Neal, had four children, and as far as I know, remained in the area.

In his second marriage to (as we presume) Mary Stiver, Johan Engelhard Helmke had nine children. When Johan Engelhard first arrived in York with Berczy he managed Berczy's warehouse in York but later moved to his allotted land, Lot 8, Con. 6 of Markham Twp. which is roughly where Helen Avenue is, south of Unionville. He and Mary had nine children whose descendants have scattered widely. These children were: Francis, Anna Catharine Amelia, Mary, John, Anna Catharine Christine, Henry, Elizabeth, Josiah and Phoebe.

Francis became a relatively wealthy farmer with a chequered background. He served with Capt. Button's troop of cavalry (the First Regiment of York Militia) and was called up on service early in the War of 1812-14. He purchased the W¹/₂ of Lot 18, Con. 2 of Markham Twp., formerly part of Peter Buckendahl's allotment, and used this as his home farm. The Headford church and cemetery were on the back end of this farm. Francis was a strong supporter of William Lyon Mackenzie, and after the 1837 uprising was arrested and held in jail in Toronto. His wife was Hannah Weisz (Wise) and they had eight children: Francis, John, Peter, Henry, Marcus, Francis, Mary and Phoebe Ann.

Francis died as a baby.

John m. Nancy Phillips and farmed the W¹/₂ of Lot 16, Con. 2 of Markham Twp. They had six children most of whom remained in the Markham area.

Peter m. Lizzy Watson and farmed Lot 6, Con. 11 of Reach Twp. They had four children who mainly stayed in or around Reach Twp.

Henry was a carpenter who moved to Foley Twp. in Northern Ontario. He married Mary Jane McCance and they had thirteen children some of whom spread widely to the Canadian west and the United States.

Marcus married Ellen Coulter and moved to Essa Twp. However, he was living in Innisfil Twp. in Simcoe Co. in 1871. They had one child.

Francis (the second child of this name in this family)

m. Caroline Camiskey and was left his father's farm, which he worked. They had five children who remained in the Markham-Toronto area.

Mary m. Robert Vanhorn.

Phoebe Ann m. Benjamin Musselman and they lived in Thornhill.

Anna Catharine Amelia m. George Buckendahl and their progeny were described in Volume 15, Number 1 of the Berczy Settlers Gazette earlier.

Mary's whereabouts is unknown.

John is still a question mark in this family. It appears possible that he was married while in Markham, his wife died and he then moved to Michigan where he married Amerilla Webb. They took part in the "Great Western March" and were killed by Indians in Kansas in the 1870's. Don't quote me on this one.

Anna Catharine Christine m. Gottlieb Eckhardt and they had ten children: William, Maria, Elizabeth, Hewlett, Joram, James, Charlotte, Bernard, Philip, and Barbara.

William was married twice, first to Elizabeth Saunders and then to Sarah Harrington. There were six children in this family.

Maria m. Mr. Grundy, having twelve children.

Elizabeth m. Mark Braithwaite and lived on Lot 12, Con. 5 of Markham Twp. They had eight children: Hewlett, Joram, James, Charlotte, Bernard, Philip, and Barbara.

Hewlett m. Mary and lived in the Unionville area. They had six children.

Joram m. Susan Size, lived in the Unionville area I think, and had two children.

James m. Sarah Size and had nine children.

Charlotte m. Jacob Edwards and had three children.

Bernard. (?)

Philip. (?)

Barbara. (?)

Henry is thought to have married Nancy, lived in the Durham area, and sired three children: Henry, Frances, and Margaret Mary Alberta.

Son Henry was a successful carpenter in Durham. His first wife was Charlotte Almira and they had two children. His second wife was Alice Matilda. By 1861 he had established a cheese box factory and a feed mill at Brownsville, but by 1871 he had sold both and ran a sash and blind mill.

Frances m. Robert Tricker in 1851 in Streetsville. A "kidney plague" swept through the whole family in about 1864 and as a result many of their 13 children died in their later years of Bright's Disease.

Margaret Mary Alberta m. William Stewart Grafton and they had five children.

Elizabeth m. Avery Bishop, an Innkeeper in Unionville. They had thirteen children: Mary Anne, Lucy, Ursula Jane, Eleazar Wilson, Helen, Samuel J., Susan, Maria, Delilah, Thomas Avery, William Avery, Ophelia, and Elizabeth.

Mary Anne m. a Hagerman.

Lucy I know nothing about.

Ursula Jane m. a Davis. No children.

Eleazar Wilson m. Sarah Sophia Kilbourne who was from Smiths Falls. They moved to Owen Sound and had seven children.

Helen I know nothing about.

Samuel J. m. someone whose name we do not have. They moved to Owen Sound and had four children.

Susan m. Eli Cummer and probably moved to the Owen Sound area. They had eight children.

Maria m. John Kilbourn and probably moved to the Owen Sound area.

Delilah I know nothing about.

Thomas Avery m. Emma Matilda Ussher in Ingersoll. Both are buried in Toronto. They had four children.

William Avery's wife's name is not known but they had two children and lived in Ottawa.

Ophelia m. a Glover and had at least two children.

Elizabeth m. Thomas H. Dick and lived in Montreal. They had five children.

Josiah m. Amy Badgerow and had a family of seven boys and four girls. Josiah farmed Lot. 8, Con. 6 of Markham, his father's homestead, but in 1850 he bought land in Malahide Twp. of Elgin County. It is possible he moved to Michigan around 1859. Some of their children were: Catharine, Thomas, John, Henry, Sarah, Lorenzo, and Charles. I have not traced their travels and dwellings although I know that some lived in the USA.

Phoebe m. James Mosher and had the following family: William, Charlotte, Martha, Ann, Orris, James and Nicholas. Of these, the only one I have information on is Orris who was a lawyer. He married Emma L. Kriedler, they had two children and moved to Illinois.

This quick outline of the Helmke family undoubtedly contains some errors and suffers from incompleteness. If anyone can improve it please send me the information to bobshank@cyberus.ca and I will correct my files. This has certainly been a productive family and helps explain why the population of Markham outgrew that of York (Toronto) for the first twenty of so years of their existence.

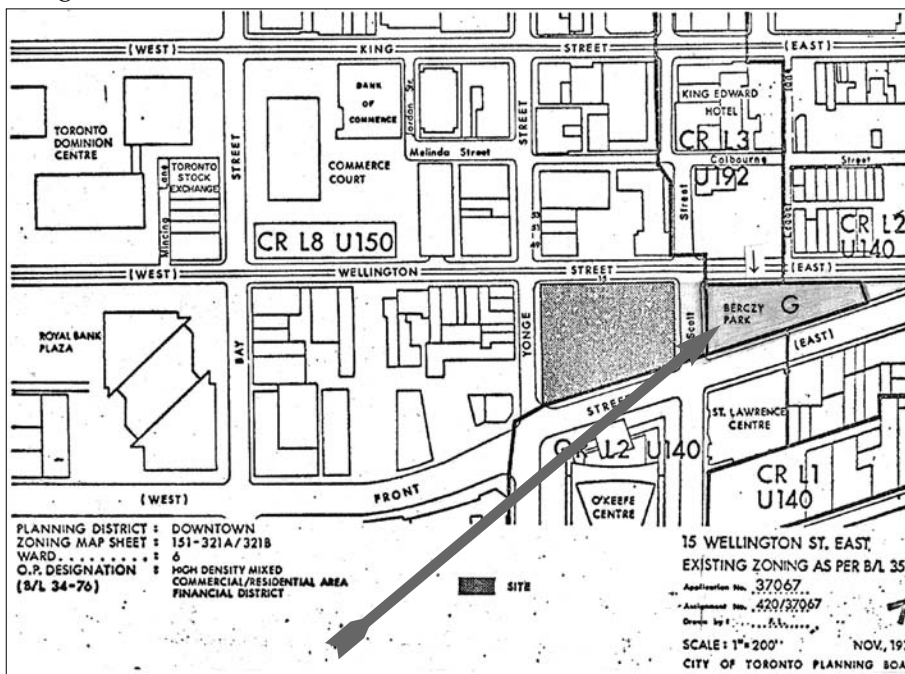
Berczy Park, Toronto

25th Anniversary (1982-2007)

Berczy Park was established in honor of William Berczy, the Co-Founder of Toronto and the founder of Markham, Ontario and it is worthy to note that the entire Berczy family played an important role in the history of Upper Canada.

Toronto (see map below).

Surrounded by high rise buildings in the City core of Toronto near the "Old Town of 1793" and adjacent from the Gooderham Building on Wellington Street and Scott Street is Berczy Park. This Park is an oasis of peace away from the hectic pace of a bustling city life where people can enjoy a leisurely noon-hour by the fountain. On the cultural level, Berczy Park provides people with a forum to show their talent in music and art. School children may benefit with field trips and historic walks through Toronto. Not far from Berczy Park, at the south-east corner of the present King and Sherbourne Streets in the town of York, had been Berczy's dwelling and the German Company Warehouse, housing oxen and tools for the building of Yonge Street.



The Berczy family

The park commemorates a family that is important to the early development of our city. William Moll Berczy, head of the family also known as Johann Albrecht Ulrich Moll, was born in 1744 in the German city of Wallerstein, Bavaria and is known today as the co-founder of Toronto and the founder of Markham. His wife Charlotte, born Allemand, a painter, is being honored as well as the eldest son, William Bent Berczy, formerly a member of the Ontario Parliament,

also a painter, whose paintings can be seen in various museums in Canada. Son Charles Albert Berczy was postmaster of Toronto and became chairman of the Consumers' Gas Company, director of Toronto Waterworks and director of the Northern Railroad as well as director of the Bank of Upper Canada.

How the Park Project was realized

In the late 1970's, the City of Toronto proceeded with more definite plans to realize the redevelopment of the City's inner core that had been designed at the close of World War II. First, a large Canadian bank wanted to acquire the property and this was at a time when the City of Toronto had plans to erect a two-storey building. A key issue was to get the City's fathers interested in a historic park. The excellent contacts by the Historical Society of Mecklenburg Upper Canada with the City and its founding member and art historian Dr. John Andre helped to get City Council interested in the project of *Berczy Park*.

The Park project received more interest and support after the honorable Member of Parliament, James Breithaupt, outlined the contributions by German pioneers in the Ontario Legislature and more

enthusiasm and support followed by the then City Mayor, Art Eggleton, and City Councillors Tony O'Donohue, Ying Hope, Gilbert and the Toronto Historical Board.

The sculpture and cultural enlivenment of Berczy Park

An environmental friendly park design from the City of Greengburg, Germany was used so visitors to the park can now experience a relaxing and shady environment. The scruffy corners of the lot had to disappear and blend in with an

The sculptress Almuth Lütkenhaus and Berczy descendant Madeleine Hunsley



improved street appearance, this being followed with the planting of two rows of bushes and the erection of a fountain in the middle. The Historical Society of Mecklenburg Upper Canada requested the famous sculptress, Mrs. Almuth Lütkenhaus, to proceed with the work on a sculpture. This sculpture is mounted at the west end of the park next to Scott Street.

Berczy Park is also a favourite site for movie productions. Twenty-one movie companies produced various kinds of movies that reached a worldwide audience.

Descendants from the original Berczy settlers came to attend the Parks Inauguration

The inauguration of the park took place on June 12, 1982. Among the many people present that day were then City Mayor Arthur C. Eggleton, Member of the Ontario Legislature, Tony Ruprecht, Karl Jaffary, Q.C., the internationally well known architect Dr. Eberhard Zeidler, known for his architectural work of Ontario Place, Eaton Centre and now in 2007, the Trump Tower. Also present were Gerry (Gerhard) Meinzer, President of the German Canadian House and Vice President of the Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism, Dr. Ernst-Guenther Koch, General Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany with wife Dr. Elinor Koch, plus many guests of honour, also the art historian Dr. John Andre, known for his books on the founding of Toronto, as well as Prof. Dr. Hildegard Hammerschmidt, cultural attaché from the German Consulate in Toronto. A roll of honour for the achievements of the prominent sculptress Almuth Lütkenhaus is located on the second floor of the National Archive of Canada in Ottawa. Also present were the late descendant of the Berczy family, Mrs. Madeleine Hunsley and a group of descendants from the original Berczy settlers including James Sabiston, Ewart Stiver from Unionville, John Lunau from Markham and Keith Moore of Toronto. *Rolf A. Piro*

Nelson's Trafalgar,

The Battle that Changed the World, 2005,

Roy Adkins

By Lorne Smith

This book provided a very interesting picture of life on a warship in the late 1790's and early 1800's particularly the Battle of Trafalgar between the British fleet and that of France and Spain. These stories give a glimpse of what it must have been like on the ships the *Catharina* and *Heinrich and Georg* on which our ancestors sailed when they came to America.

The book describes the food as passable in port but rapidly deteriorated at sea. Bread was in the form of a biscuit that was baked so hard that even when fresh it had to be soaked to soften it before there

was any chance it could be eaten. One midshipman described the biscuit as so light that when you tapped it upon the table it fell almost into dust, and numerous insects called weevils, crawled out. They tasted bitter and were a sure indication that the biscuit had lost its nutritious particles. If, instead of these weevils, large white maggots with black heads made their appearance, then the biscuit was considered to be only in its first state of decay. These maggots were fat and cold to the taste but not bitter. Thus the biscuit went through a slow transformation from an inedible rocklike substance made from wheat flour, pea flour and sometimes bone dust to an unpalatable honeycomb, home to beetles and maggots, a deterioration that could be measured by the stages of the life cycle of the weevils.

The meat, salt beef and salt pork, became harder and harder over time to the point where sailors could carve it into fancy articles such as little boxes. It had to be soaked for a day before cooking. The only official vegetable issued to sailors was peas. I wonder if our ancestors brought along their own food supply or if they relied on the captain to load the larder. It is recorded that sometimes they brought along live animals to be slaughtered for fresh meat.

Another feature of the fresh food was rats. The 'Captain of the hold' was said to capture rats, skin and clean them and offer them to the other seamen. They had only to salt and pepper them well, and broil them in the galley. They were found to be nice and delicate eating and they tasted as good as rabbit though not as large. As to the rats, they fed off the best of the ship's provisions, such as biscuits, flour, peas, etc. It was discovered that those sailors who ate rats did not get scurvy because the rats synthesize ascorbic acid from the good food they ate and were a source of the substance that protects against scurvy. The only problem with the rats were the lice and fleas from their fur.

It is interesting that the Summerfeldt Diary makes mention of scrubbing the ship with juniper berries twice a week to improve the quality of life on board. It probably helped to prevent a common disease, typhus. Maintaining personal hygiene on board ship was also very difficult as fresh water was to be used only for cooking and drinking. Did you ever think about toilets on board these early sailing craft? The toilet facilities were primitive in the extreme. They consisted of a seat with a hole over a vertical waste pipe or over an open drop to the sea. At the very least they were draughty, particularly when sailing in a storm. Imagine our ancestor children!

This description of life at sea just reinforces my appreciation of the sacrifices of my ancestors in coming to America and Markham so that I can have the quality of life I enjoy six generations later.

Markham Berczy Settlers Association Annual Meeting

2005-6, 2006-7 Annual Meeting, October 26, 2007
Bethesda Lutheran Church, 20 Union Street, Unionville

Minutes

President Bob Shank welcomed 16 members to the Annual Meeting. He re-emphasized the necessity of drawing some younger members into the MBSA and welcomed members to bring forward ideas for expanding our membership.

Lorne Smith read the minutes of the 2003-2005 Annual meeting held on September 23, 2005. Moved by Lorne, seconded by Bill van der Zande that the minutes be approved. Carried.

There was no Business arising from the minutes.

Jeff Shank presented the Financial Statement

2005-2006. Receipts: \$1,1218. Expenses \$1,868 for a deficit of \$299 and assets of \$4,160.

2006-2007. Receipts \$1,651. Expenses \$1,868 for a deficit of \$217 and assets of \$3,943.

Moved by Jeff, seconded by Eleanor Copeland that the Financial statement be received. Carried.

Election of Board of Directors

Moved by Bob, seconded by Eleanor that the members of the board for 2005 to 2008 be Keith Avann, Janet Iles, Victoria Munro 2006 to 2009 be Lorne Smith, Eleanor Copeland, Norm Henricks: 2007 to 2010 be Marion Lewis, Bob Shank, Bill van der Zande: and the members for 2005 to 2008 are Vicki Munro, Janet Iles, Keith Avann. Carried.

Appointment of Auditor: Moved by Janet Iles, seconded by Norm Henricks that Jeff Shank be auditor for 2007-2009, Carried.

Janet Iles reported on the MBSA Web Page

Indexing of articles in the newsletter is very helpful, there are now 10 pages. There are hits from all over the world. 1% from Germany. Average hits range between 67 to 83 per day. Quite a few hits from non family connections: just interested in the story. Domain Licence renewed this year. Janet is exploring a page on Facebook.

Program

Clarence Stiver introduced our guest speaker, Mr. Robert MacIntosh, author of the new book: *Earliest Toronto*. Mr. MacIntosh provided an interesting summary of his research for his book that confirms the real founder of Toronto was William Berczy, not Simcoe. He suggested that Williamson had "ripped off" Berczy and the settlers in the Genesee. Simcoe had not been able to get any settlers to go to York until Berczy showed up with his 220 settlers. This made Simcoe look good to his superiors. However, Berczy was grossly mistreated by Simcoe and his

successor Russell. Berczy and the settlers had to suffer the 'English Arrogance' of Simcoe and Russell. Research shows that Simcoe was outright racist. Of course as a result of the War of Independence, the 'Tories' would have mistrusted Germans. Mr. MacIntosh entertained some interesting questions. MacIntosh suggested that Berczy was too naive and trusting for his own good. He was a laid back artist and not very legalistic. Berczy built the first St. James Cathedral. He also built Russell Abbey for Peter Russell on Abbey Lane (south of Queen between Jarvis and Sherbourne streets. Lorne Smith thanked Mr. MacIntosh and presented a small token of appreciation.

Lorne reviewed a number of upcoming events:

German Pioneers Day, the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving each Year: Lorne raised the possibility of organizing a major event in 2009 to celebrate the 215th Anniversary.

June 12, 2008 will be another Settlers Day at Markham Museum.

Stadmauerfest in Nördlingen, Germany was held on Sept 14, 15, 16, 2007.

The Mayor and Band from Nördlingen, Germany will visit Markham in the summer of 2008.

'Reesor' play will be presented at Parkview Village on Saturday, Dec. 1. Lorne has Tickets.

Carol Smith organized refreshments following the meeting.

Nördlingen Mayor to Visit Markham

Oberbürgermeister Hermann Faul will be visiting Markham during the period August 28 to September 5, 2008. Accompanying him will be a number of the City of Nördlingen councillors and the Nördlingen Youth Band (60 members). This will be a highlight of the 2008 summer. The itinerary is being drawn up but the Youth Band will be playing on Main Street, Unionville on Monday, September 1, Labour Day.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for MBSA members to be introduced to descendants of people who lived where William Berczy was born. The reason the Cultural partnership was signed back in 2001 was to promote this type of cultural exchange so we can become more familiar with the home community in Germany. Members of MBSA are encouraged to tell the story of our ancestors to their children and grandchildren so that the legacy of the Berczy Settlers can be passed on to the next generations. This event in Unionville is an excellent opportunity to share the story with family and have a great experience visiting the Markham Community.

A full itinerary of the visit will be published in the spring edition of the Berczy Settlers Gazette.

Christmas, 1794

We don't have any documentation of that first Christmas in Markham. In fact many of our ancestors were just getting to their new plots of land according to the Summerfeldt Diary. Even Mrs. Simcoe's comprehensive diaries do not mention Christmas celebrations in 1793 and 1794. A description of a Simcoe feast recorded earlier in 1793 included boiled black squirrel, porcupine, roasted passenger pigeon and raccoon.

Wild game would not have been particularly plentiful at Christmas. All of the ducks and geese would have flown to warmer climes. Many of the wild animals would have been in hibernation: squirrels, raccoons, skunks, etc. The deer would have found haven in their winter 'yards'. They did not have livestock they would want to slaughter as they were trying to build up their 'assets'. What would our ancestors have had to eat on those first few Christmas's in Markham?

York (Toronto) was also slow to develop. Robert Jameson, Attorney-General of Upper Canada was visited in 1837 by his wife. Horrified, she returned to England with a separation agreement from Jameson. In her book, *Winter Studies and Summer Rambles* (perhaps the first Ontario tourism guide), she describes Toronto as "a little ill-built town on low land at the bottom of a frozen bay, with one very ugly church, without tower or steeple; some government offices built of staring red brick in the most tasteless, vulgar style imaginable; three feet of snow all around; and the grey, sullen, wintry lake and the dark gloom of the pine forest bounding the prospect".

It is hoped that all of us appreciate the wide range of foods we now have access to year round. Undoubtedly most of us had a bountiful Christmas feast this season.

New Markham Book 3

The Markham Book Committee is 'steaming' ahead on the new Markham Book 3 thanks to a grant to the Markham Historical Society from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The MHS is undertaking the research and writing of this book under the leadership of Lorne Smith and with the assistance of the Book Committee. Sue Smitko has been engaged to co-ordinate the research and write the materials. The book will be limited to the last century: 1900-2000. Already we are aware of the huge amount of materials that represent the history of this time period. We will not be able to include everything in the book but all of the materials collected will be included in the archives of the Museum. Work will then commence to create a website of this material for broad community access. However, we need help. We need any stories and

photos about life in Markham during the 20th Century. The Committee is preparing a series of booklets about particular aspects of the last century with questions for input. Here is a sample of the questions. Early roads were very poor in Markham. Do you have a story from your family history of some experience on these roads? Are there members of your family who had a business in Markham: please describe it?

Any stories or anecdotes can be submitted to the editor of the Markham *Berczy Settlers Gazette* and they will be passed on.

Markham Cemeteries

The Town of Markham now owns and maintains a number of the early pioneer cemeteries where our ancestors are buried. These include St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, Buttonville; Buttonville Cemetery; Bethel/Lunau Cemetery, Warden Avenue, Hagerman West Cemetery, Kennedy Road, Hagerman Corners; Eckardt Cemetery, McCowan Road south; Quantz-town Cemetery, McCowan Road. Bethesda Lutheran Cemetery and St. Phillip's-on-the-Hill Anglican Cemetery are still owned and maintained by their respective churches. The Pingle Cemetery on Kennedy Road (one monument) is still privately owned but designated.

St. John's Lutheran Cemetery

In 1819 the first church was constructed under the leadership of Rev. Peterson on land donated by Captain John Schutze or Schultz. The earliest marker is that of Christine Quantz, dated 1820. A frame church

replaced the original structure in 1853 on the same site. In 1892 a new brick church was built across the road on the west side of Woodbine Avenue under the direction of Daniel Quantz. A marker shows he died in 1905. The most recent burial marker shows the date of 1939. Berczy Settler names include Fierheller, Hedrick, Helmkey, Henrick, Quance, Quantz, and Stiver. This cemetery is closed for burials.

Bethel/Lunau Cemetery

In 1862 John Jacob Lunau deeded a parcel of land from his farm to the Bethel Primitive Methodist Congregation. The earliest marker dates to 1862. The St. Helen's Presbyterian Church building was moved



Pingle Cemetery



from Cashel (Elgin Mills and Kennedy Road) when that congregation ceased to exist. When the building deteriorated it was moved across Warden Avenue to Lunau property and was used as a tool shed. Berczy Settler names include Lunau, Stiver along with many descendant names. This cemetery is still active for burials.

Hagerman West Cemetery

Nicholas Hagerman owned the land on which this private family burial ground was established. Nicholas Hagerman was buried here in 1838. The earliest date on the markers in 1819. Around 1839 a Wesleyan Methodist congregation began holding regular meetings and in 1849 they built a frame church on land donated by Nicholas Hagerman's son Nicholas (1827-1902). This building was adjacent to the cemetery and at that time the cemetery was available to members of the congregation. A brick church later replaced the original frame church and was itself torn down in the 1920's, leaving the cemetery on its own. The only Berczy Settler name is Hagerman. This cemetery is still active for burials.

Eckardt Cemetery

In 1830 Abraham Eckardt purchased this property from his father, Philip Eckardt, Sr. for 100 pounds. The Evangelical Association, supported by Abraham Eckardt and his brother George, established a church and cemetery on the south-east corner of the farm. By



Hagerman Hill Methodist Church



1878, according to the Illustrated Atlas of York County, the church was gone, leaving the cemetery to mark the site. Abraham Eckardt (1800-1872) and his wife Lydia Henricks (1801-1862) are buried here, as are Jacob Eckardt (1831-1909) and his wife Margaret E. Woodall (1840-1921). The majority of burials took place in the 1860's and 1870's. This cemetery is still active for burials.

Quantztown Cemetery

Burials in this cemetery began in 1844 according to the dates on the markers. By 1860, the Christian Church had been built on the site. It is not known what happened to the church building. The church and cemetery were located on part of the farm of



Henry Wismer whose family supported the Christian Church. Other neighbours such as the Quantz, Heisy, Haake, Shoult, Spring and Morrison families are also buried here. The last burial occurred in 1940. This cemetery is closed to burials.

**A Story of the
Markham Berczy Settlers,**

**210 years in Markham, 1794-2004,
A story of bravery and perseverance**

\$10 plus \$3.00 postage & handling.

MBSA, 10292 McCowan Rd., Markham, ON L3P 3J3.

Tel: (905) 640-3906 Fax: (905) 640-9394

E-mail: lorne.smith@sympatico.ca