

## Minutes of the TCA Meeting Saturday, May 25, 2019



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### NEXT MEETING

TCA AGM - Saturday, June 22nd, 2:00 pm      Swansea Town Hall, 95 Lavinia Avenue, Toronto  
Presentation by John White: The Hain Company Steamship Line of St Ives, Cornwall



## MINUTES of TCA Meeting, Saturday May 25, 2019

Eldad United Church, 1848 Con 6, Solina, Ontario



Toronto Cornish Association members gathered at **Eldad United Church in Solina**, at the invitation of our Cornish cousins from Clarington, Ontario, for a presentation on Early Cornish Settlement in Darlington Township and a tour of Werrcroft Dairy Farm at Roselandvale Farm started by Peter Werry in 1849 and operated by the 8th generation of the Werry family



**Meeting Chaired by:** James Dagg, TCA President and John Webb, TCA Venue Coordinator

Jim Dagg opened the meeting in Eldad Church hall at 12:00 noon, greeted the members, their guests, and our Clarington cousins and gave thanks to the organizers of the event and for their generous invitation: **Deborah Northwood** and her husband **Herbert Tink**.

**New Business:** As the meeting was actually a DAY TRIP OF DISCOVERY, we did not discuss any new business at the risk of inflicting it on our guests.

**Deborah Northwood then invited us to enjoy buffet style lunch in the church hall.**

Deborah and Herb had the room appropriately decorated with Cornish flags and had set up tables with red and white checked cloths. Our hosts had produced a wonderful lunch of pasties, sweets, coffee, tea, and cider. The pasties (skirting cubed, swede, potato and some with onion as well) were to live and long for and went perfectly with the green salad. Pies of apple and pecan, a cake, Cornish farings, biscuits and local crispin apples tempted over-indulgence.



**The Programme: Part 1:**

After the very, very enjoyable lunch, **John Webb**, our Venue Coordinator explained how we all came to gather in Solina. We learned the pronunciation is 'sol-eye-na', the name being created by a group of men who were asked to make names out the letters a o i and n l s. Solina won the vote to replace the previous name: Pilchardtown.

John asked how Clarington got its name. A few did know it was the combination of Clar from Clarke Twp and ington from Darlington Twp. The municipality, created in 1973, was first named Newcastle. Clarington includes urban areas: Bowmanville, Courtice, Newcastle and Orono, and twenty seven rural communities, Solina being one of them.



John Webb

**Deborah Northwood** gave a short review of Solina historical facts, had many informative pamphlets and also photographs of the Pascoe family, some of the early settlers. Wood working tools brought to Canada by some of Herb Tink's ancestors were displayed. Samuel Tink, working in Hastings, Ontario, died in the 1882 fire that wiped out half the town. She noted that the 7th Concession north of Solina was known as Millionaires' Row because of the several stone houses well crafted by the White brothers still stand today. The display also included the original deed (1855) showing the property granted for Eldad Church.

**Sher Leetooze** announced the inauguration of the Clarington Cornish Society. She also noted the White brothers (from Cornwall) had built many of the foundations of houses in Solina and a series of stone houses along the 7th Concession to the west of Solina. She later proclaimed the CCS to be officially begun with seven new members.



## Part 2:

After a short break, the programme continued in the Church Nave.



**Deborah Northwood** outlined the history of Solina, and four of the early families. Peter Werry, Edward Pascoe, Joseph Reynolds, and Herbert Tink, arrived in the mid-1800s and family members are memorialized in stained glass windows in Eldad Church.

P. Werry founded Roselandvale Farm on the 6th concession in 1849. Descendants of son William's nine children still live in the region today. Werrcroft Farms on the Roselandvale farm property is run by the eighth Werry generation.

E. Pascoe came to the area in the 1840s, and Thomas, the eldest of nine children also had nine children and carried on farming and adherence to their strict Bible Christian traditions .

Sher Leetooze read diary excerpts of people taking the terrible sea voyage from Cornwall to Canada, typically thirty to forty days and more if quarantined in Quebec, then arriving at Bowmanville port and taking a ten mile bush trail to Pilchardtown (Solina).

J. Reynolds arrived in Pilchardtown in 1850 and was one of the founding members of Eldad Church. Being twice a widower, but remarrying, he ended up with fifteen children.

H. Tink, at age six, came to Canada with his older sister in 1882, after his mother died in Cornwall and his father Samuel was killed in the Hastings, Ontario fire. The children came to Solina (his sister returned to North Petherwin, Cornwall) and Herbert lived with his uncle Edmund until being adopted by John Pascoe, son of Thomas Pascoe, (although he kept the Tink family name). Herbert grew up and married Adeline Pascoe in 1903.

Present day Deborah's husband, Herbert Tink is their grandson. Childhood Deborah used to visit a North Petherwin, Cornwall farm belonging to a distant relative of her husband's family.

Eldad Church windows commemorating the early families:



E. Pascoe



H. Tink



W. Werry



J. Reynolds





### Part 3:

**Cassandra (Cassie) Werry** of Werrcroft Farms told how the Werry family moved from Ritson Road at Con 6, Oshawa in 2015 to Roselandvale in Solina where they now farm 700 acres and run a dairy herd of Holsteins. The original stone house and Roselandvale barn, both being used by the Werry family, stand near the new Dairy barn of Werrcroft Farms. The farm was forced to move by expansion of housing developments sprawling out from the city.



Cassie invited us down to the farm on Werry Road and took us on a tour of the milk production area and the Werrcroft Farms Dairy barn (seen in the picture above).



Milk quality testing room



Auto-milker control panel



Happy dairy workers appreciative of Cassie's personal attention



Auto-milkers - hand applied



Feed pusher on a track for 85 cows in the barn at Werrcroft Farms.



Nice coat. You too.

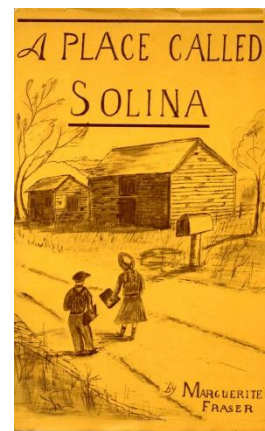
We then went to the church yard for a demonstration of **dowsing** by **Deborah Northwood**:



Using two thin metal rods freely set in wooden handles, she had the rods performing properly.

The treats did not stop!

We had ice cream cones and coffee and tea and more biscuits and pie before wandering back to or around the city. Thank you again Deborah & Herb.



Present day Werrcroft Farms in Solina, Clarington, Durham, Ontario



President James Dagg, on behalf of the Toronto Cornish Association and Venue Coordinator John Webb, sincerely thanks Deborah Northwood, Herbert Tink, Cassie Werry, the Werry family, and Eldad United Church for a truly great day out with you and Our Clarington Cornish Cousins. We are looking forward to having you join us again at our annual picnic in August. Come on down!