

# Forgotten Settlements of Clarington

by Charles Taws

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Instead of describing the history of a well known Clarington community this month I will describe some of the smaller and long forgotten communities that once thrived within the old Townships of Darlington and Clarke.

In the 1800's Canada was largely a rural country. In those days many more people lived in the countryside and we didn't have large cities. Also, we didn't have cars and modern roads so small communities developed around intersections, schools, churches and halls. Some remained small and others became villages and a few developed into the towns that we know today. Over 70 such communities once existed within the borders of present day Clarington. I can't describe them all in one article, but I want to mention a few that would have straddled today's Highway #115/35.

How many of us wonder about the country side we are passing as we zoom either north or south along the #115/35 highway? Today, as we head north from Highway # 2 towards Peterborough we pass to the east of Orono and go through Kirby and Enterprise before we leave Clarington. In days gone by there was no highway so you would take the road north of Newcastle, which was originally a toll road and follow it through Trickey's Corners and Renwick's Corners; pass near Bellwood's, Antioch and



"Schoolhouse S.S. No. 14 Clarke is located on lands donated in the mid 1880's by Daniel Powers to then Clarke Township. The original school was built of logs. In 1878 it was replaced by Schoolhouse S.S. No. 14 Clarke, a one room schoolhouse which operated until the 1950's. Owned by the municipality and operated by the Clarington Museum Board - on certain days it is open to the public. For more information visit [www.claringtonmuseums.com](http://www.claringtonmuseums.com) or call 905-623-2734."

Lawrence and finally go through Orono, Kirby and Enterprise before leaving the old Clarke Township boundary line.

Many of you have been to Trickey's Corners but didn't know it. If you've

ever stopped at the Country Style Donuts or McDonalds Restaurant on the east side of the highway north of Newcastle then you've been to where Trickey's Corners once stood. This little community was originally called

"Butterfield Settlement" after Abraham Butterfield who settled in 1822. He was one of a few English Methodists who had taken up residence in the area. Other families of this group included the Bellwoods, Middletons, Black-

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woods and Hills.

However it was later re-named after Joseph Miller Trickey who had a blacksmith shop on the corner. Mr. Trickey was an unusually talented blacksmith and gunsmith who could work in brass, iron, steel and even wood. People who knew him regarded him as a “wizard in iron and steel.” He once welded a sewing machine needle for a local lady. Elders as well as children would come from far and near to watch Trickey “perform his magic” in his blacksmith shop. One writer summed up Trickey’s talents by these words, “... that famous scion of Vulcan is fabled with hammer and lathe to have made everything under the sun.”

The community once boasted an early log school and a Primitive Methodist Church. It was 24 by 30 feet, probably of frame construction and was known as the “Bethel Church”. It was built in 1848 and was torn down in the 1880’s. Mr. Trickey died in 1883 and the little community dwindled. In December 1921 a fierce wind storm blew down Mr. Trickey’s old shop and house. If you look behind the donut store you’ll see the church’s cemetery and that is all that is left of Trickey’s Corners today.

At the next concession we would pass through Renwick’s Corners. We don’t have too much information on this area except that it was named after the Renwick family who came to Clarke in 1833. Herbert Ren-



wick and his family eventually owned most of the land around this intersection. Their original farm was just west of the intersection and was known as “Hoptown”. They had come from Dumfries-shire, Scotland. The 1861 Tremaine Map of Durham County shows Renwick’s Corners as having a “fork factory”. This is in reference to Mr. Trickey who practiced blacksmithing there for a while. He repeatedly won prizes for his hay

and manure forks at provincial and local fairs. The map also shows a little pond just north of Trickey’s shop. It was here that the Scottish settlers played their earliest curling matches.

Further west along the fourth concession was Bellwood’s. This community revolved around a schoolhouse. It had been built around 1840 and was in use until 1859. After this time

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it was replaced by a new school in a different location. It was a crudely constructed frame building. Nearby was Francis Squair's grist mill. Francis' son John wrote an authoritative history book of this area in 1927 - entitled "The Townships of Darlington and Clarke". In its 609 pages is a comprehensive history of this schoolhouse which became known as S.S. No. 9 Clarke.

As we proceed further north to the fifth concession we are very near Orono. But even here are some forgotten settlements. To the east are two: Antioch (lot 25, Con. 5) and Lawrence (Lot 21, Con. 5). Antioch was settled by the Gamsby family. They originally came in from the United States, but had lived in Quebec for a time before coming to Clarke in 1833, so this area was known as "The Lower Canada Settlement" in the early years. A school house was built in the area and was known as "The Gamsby School", but the religious name of Antioch was soon chosen for this small community. A nearby side road was called "Religion Lane". A brick school was built in 1862 but was demolished a century later. A house is now on the site.

Lawrence was a community based around a Presbyterian Church built in 1839. Herbert Renwick was one of the witnesses to the church deed. This church was built on the Waddell Family Farm known as "Maryfield" and was named after Rev. George Lawrence. In 1852 another Presbyterian Church was built near Leskard and was called the "Back Lawrence Church". Both began to de-



Bethel Cemetery is all that remains as a reminder of Trickey's Corners (above). Photos of some of the headstones of the Trickey, Bellwoods and Hill family members who lived during the mid 1800's can be seen here (right) in the Bethel Cemetery located on the north side of the Concession Road 3 Clarke, just east of Hwy 35/115.

cline when Orono opened its Presbyterian Church in 1868 (this structure still stands on Centreview Street as a house today, but was the Masonic Hall for many years). The Lawrence Church struggled on until the 1880's but was torn down in 1891. Like Trickey's Corners all that remains today is a cemetery.

As we continue north past Orono and through Kirby we come to the small hamlet known as Enterprise. It is often confused with a larger village of the same name in Eastern Ontario. A few

buildings on either side of the highway mark the spot, but the only one of historical note is the school house. It can be seen on the right or east side just before you head up the hill. It was S.S. No. 19 Clarke and operated from the 1880's to 1967. An earlier school, perhaps a log one existed nearby since the 1850's and was known as the Billings's School after a local family. The current building has been modified into a house.

These are just a few of the forgotten settlements in

Clarington. Wherever you travel in Ontario, if you keep your eyes open, you may spot an old structure, or fence, or even just rows of lilac bushes that might indicate a pioneer settlement. Although forgotten today they were an important part of our pioneer past.



## Key Performance Indicators

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short-term target the project picks up momentum and the chances for success increase.

Using key performance indicators helps you be proactive in identifying problems or potential problems before they become bigger problems and threaten the success of your business. While it is important to measure activities it is just as important to take action based on the information you are receiving if it is required. You need a system

to ensure that you take action based on what your key performance indicators are telling you. You also need to continually assess the usefulness of the key performance indicators you are using. If the information is no longer useful stop gathering it. As we all know no business remains static. The environment is always changing and you need to change with it. The use of key performance indicators helps you stay in front.



Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bellwood donated to the Clarke Museum in 1980. The original S.S. # 9 Clarke schoolhouse was built near their property and so the schoolhouse was often referred to as "Bellwood's". The school is long gone but a small rural residential community still exists in the area.

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