

Early Oil History - Tripp Brothers

Title Text: Early Oil History: The Tripp Brothers
Excerpt from "The Spark that Ignited the World" on display at the Oil
Museum of Canada



[Plants wave in the wind in front of a pond.]

[*Music*]



[A letter with writing on it about the geological surveys being done around Oil Springs is shown.]



[Two men are kneeling and talking to each other. They are holding wooden tools.]

Narrator: Men from the Geological Survey of Canada are exploring the gum beds.



[Two men are kneeling and holding wooden tools.]

Narrator: It is said that the crust is two feet thick in places and might be useful



[A hand swirls oil around on the ground.]

Narrator: for paving roads or sealing ship hulls.



[A photo of a man who is balding and has a long beard and mustache is shown.]

Narrator: Two enterprising brothers, Charles and Henry Tripp,



[A map of Enniskillen with the Gum Beds marked on it is displayed.]

Narrator: have purchased 1,350 acres of the gum-laden swamps around Black Creek.



[An illustrated image of two men in a hole is shown. One has a pickaxe and the other has a shovel.]

Narrator: They're digging the gum with pick axes and shovels,



[A large black kettle sits above an open flame.]

Narrator: [*Crackling fire*] then boiling it in big kettles to make asphalt.



[A photo with two men standing and a woman sit at a bench with chemistry tools on it is shown.]

Narrator: Charles Tripp reports that New York chemists have analyzed it



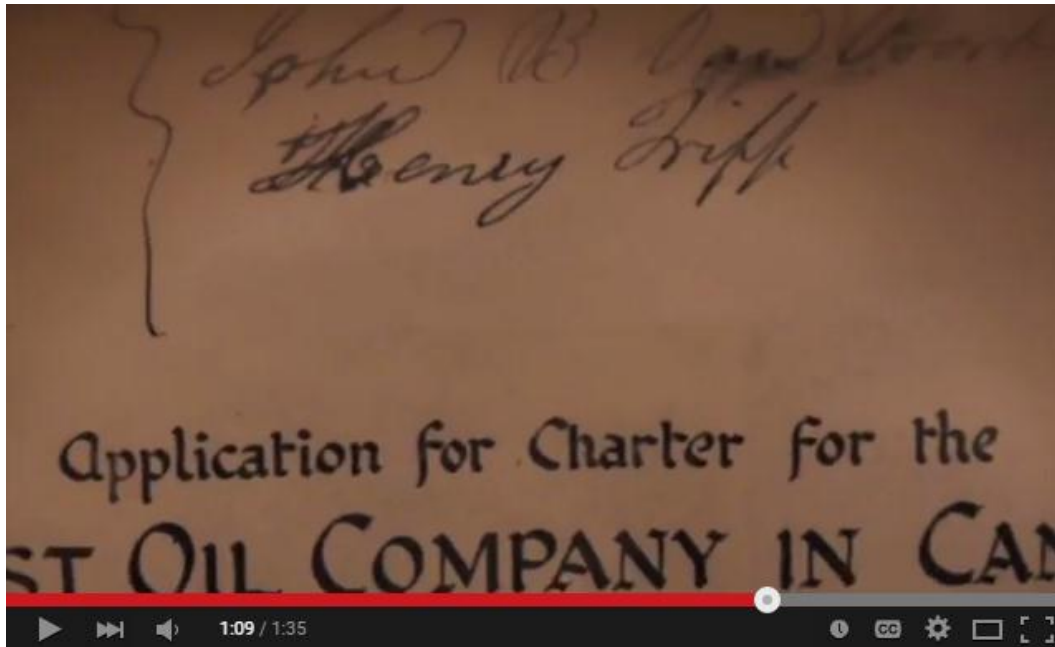
[Black crude oil is stirred with a wooden shovel.]

Narrator: and have determined it to be a very valuable variety of bitumen.



[A woman writes a letter by candlelight.]

Narrator: The Tripps have formed the International Mining and Manufacturing Company,



[A piece of paper with "Application for Charter for the First Oil Company in Canada" written on it is shown.]

Narrator: the first registered petroleum company in the world.



[A photo of a dirt road lined with trees and fences on either side is displayed.]

Narrator: They have a devil of a time transporting it though.



[A team of horses walks along a dirt road, pulling a sled.]

Narrator: There are no real roads out of here, just clay beds that turn into muddy quagmires most of the year.



[Two men run behind a sled with a barrel on it, pushing it down a muddy road.]

Narrator: The Tripps are nearly bankrupt. They couldn't get enough of the bitumen out to market to make ends meet.

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