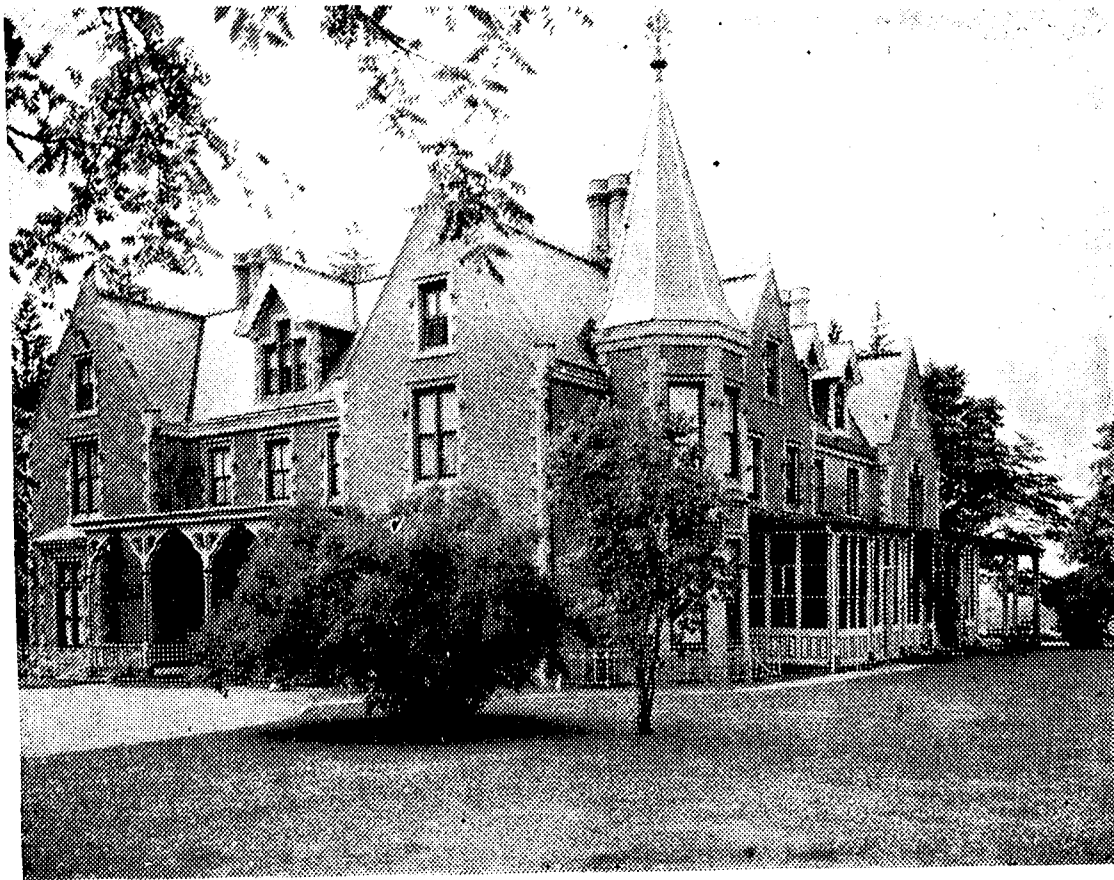


THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT
of the
WATERLOO HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



NINETEEN HUNDRED and FORTY-~~SIX~~^{EIGHT}



CRUICKSTON PARK MANOR—The beautiful Elizabethan manor house where Miss K. L. Wilks spent most of her life.

THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT
of the
WATERLOO HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



KITCHENER, ONTARIO
PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY
JUNE 1949

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1948

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SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

The Waterloo Historical Society held its thirty-sixth annual meeting in the Public Library building, Kitchener, on the evening of November 12th, Dr. Ward Woolner, the Vice-President, presided.

The attendance of members and friends was probably the largest of any previous meeting, indicating a more general interest in the Society's work.

Papers of considerable value were presented at the meeting and appear in the report. The showing of the film "A Conestoga Stopped Here," aroused particular interest.

There is ample proof that much historical material is available and it behooves the Society to arouse the necessary interest among its members and others to have further data prepared for record.

In order that a number of earlier studies might become more generally known it has been decided to reprint a valuable paper prepared by Dr. Dunham in 1945 for the Ontario Historical Society and also an earlier paper by Mr. W. H. Breithaupt.

Grants from the larger municipalities have been received as in former years and the Society's appreciation is here expressed. Without this assistance and the accommodation for our collection as provided by the Kitchener Library Board our work as a Society could not be carried on.

WATERLOO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 1948

Receipts

Balance as at January 1st, 1948	\$ 288.35
Members' Fees	98.00
Sale of Reports	34.45
Bank Interest	5.40

Grants:

County of Waterloo	\$ 60.00	
City of Kitchener	50.00	
City of Galt	25.00	
City of Waterloo	30.00	
Town of Hespeler	10.00	
Town of Preston	10.00	
Gore Mutual Fire Ins. Co.	10.00	
		195.00
		\$ 621.20

Disbursements:

Printing	\$ 3.05	
1947 Report	137.70	
Postage and Stationery	19.75	
Curator and Janitor Services	52.50	
Secretary	50.00	
		296.12
Balance		\$ 325.08

Audited and found correct.

G. V. HILBORN, Auditor.

MID-EUROPEAN BACKGROUNDS OF WATERLOO COUNTY

By B. Mabel Dunham, D.Litt.

The first white settlements in the far interior of Upper Canada were made at the very beginning of the nineteenth century in that portion of the Grand River Valley which is now called The County of Waterloo. At that time, it was generally conceded that the land, well adapted perhaps for Indian hunting grounds, was entirely unsuited to be the habitation of whites. But in less than a hundred and fifty years it has developed into one of the most prosperous and highly industrialized regions of the province. Indeed, Waterloo County excels to-day in both agriculture and industry. The fertility of the soil and the frugality of its people are no less noteworthy than the volume, variety and quality of the industrial output of the County. Here may be found in rural communities, well tilled farms and huge bank barns, and in its cities, Kitchener and Galt, and in its five sizeable and important towns, many busy and diversified factories.

When the five townships which comprise the county were grouped together, in 1851, to form a rather small, compact unit, only two of them, Wellesley and North Dumfries, had been settled by people of Anglo-Saxon blood. The other three, Waterloo, Woolwich and Wilmot, including Berlin (Kitchener) and all the other towns, except Galt, have always presented an element of surprise, colour and interest, sometimes notoriety, because of the mid-European ancestry of its people. Here the Lutheran and Roman Catholic churches predominate in all urban centres, as they did a century ago in Middle Europe, and the unpretentious meeting houses of the Mennonite people may be seen in the countryside, as they appeared three centuries ago in the Alps of Switzerland. The German language and its dialects are heard constantly on the streets and in the market-places.

The casual visitor to the county is usually at a loss to understand and appreciate these people whose roots are grounded in Central Europe. Only the student of history, especially ecclesiastical history, can overlook their idiosyncrasies and evaluate without prejudice the contribution they have made to the development of the province.

The rural people of the townships of Waterloo, Woolwich and Wilmot, belong for the most part to the "plain" sects, and they do not conform to the fashion and customs of the day. I

should say that they pride themselves on this nonconformity but for the fact that they hold pride to be an avenue down which mortals travel to everlasting perdition. For hundreds of generations they have clung to the tenets of their primitive faith. Reviled, they have not reviled again; smitten, they have turned the other cheek. Martyr blood of the centuries flows in their veins for, rather than do violence to their consciences and to the precepts of their fathers, they have suffered, without defense, the most inhuman tortures and died the most ignominious deaths. In the "*Martyrs' Mirror*" may be read a harrowing record of the tortments and sufferings of their ancestors from the days of Stephen, the first Christian martyr, to A.D. 1660, and among others may be found such well known Waterloo names as Schumacher, Schneider, Koch, Wagner, Sattler and Bauman.

But the torment endured by the early Christians under Nero, Trajan, Marcus Aurelius and Theodosius were no greater than those inflicted upon their descendants in the era of the great Protestant Reformation which led to the bitter animosities, the religious intolerance and the bloody persecutions of the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

The Great Reformation was one of the most significant epochs of European history and one of the most ghastly. It was a bewildering time for all who were interested in the theological problems of the times, but it was disastrous for those who maintained that when the great Protestant had enunciated his doctrine of Justification by Faith, he had stopped short of the whole truth. These found in the Scriptures many teachings which Luther seemed to have overlooked, denunciations, for example, against participation in wars, the demanding of vengeance and the practice of swearing judicial oaths. They regretted, too, that Luther had not discountenanced the ordinance of infant baptism. Their interpretation of the Bible on this point was that baptism should be administered only to adults upon confession of Faith, and they rebaptised converts from the state churches upon admission into their communion. For this reason the religious leaders called them derisively Rebaptizers or Anabaptists.

The Anabaptist movement may be considered an offshoot from the followers of Zwingli. It began in 1525, in Zurich, Switzerland, among a people who were practically pure Alemanic in their racial origin and who enjoyed a reputation for sturdy independence as well as indomitable industry. These Swiss radicals organized what they called "a voluntary institution" to which they admitted as charter members only adults who had been bap-

tized, upon confession of faith. From Switzerland the movement spread down the Rhine to the Palatinate and to the Netherlands and over into Württemberg, into France and into the Alps of Northern Italy.

Early in the sixteenth century many of the Anabaptists throughout middle Europe accepted the leadership of a certain Menno Simons who had served as a priest in the West Friesland village of Witmarsum. Simons had heard of the simple faith of the nonconformists and had noted their quiet, pious lives, their patience under suffering and their willingness to die for their faith, if necessary. On one occasion he had witnessed the martyrdom of an unfortunate rebaptized man, and he became profoundly interested in the theology of baptism as well as in other doctrines of the nonconformists. In 1536, he renounced the Roman church and threw in his lot with the reviled, persecuted sect. Because of his superior education and his evident sincerity he was persuaded to become a preacher and a writer of controversial pamphlets. Six years later, Charles V, of the Holy Roman Empire, outlawed him and put a ransom of a hundred gulden on his head, but Simons found refuge among the independent rulers of the German States. His followers throughout the Rhineland were called Mennonites, an adaptation of the Christian name of their leader.

Throughout the latter part of the sixteenth century the Mennonites incurred the hatred and suspicion of both church and state chiefly on account of their extreme doctrines on baptism and non-resistance. The religious leaders tried unsuccessfully to force them to conform to the ordinances. They reviled those who refused the Host and martyred those who resisted. The rivers of the Rhineland ran red with the blood of these defenseless Christians.

To the religious strife of the times was added the indescribable horror of the Thirty Years War (1618-1648). Frederick V, ruler of the Palatinate and leader of the Protestant cause, precipitated the war by his acceptance of the Crown of Bohemia. But the Bohemians drove him from their country and carrying the war into the Palatinate, laid waste the fair and prosperous land. The Palatinate was a powerful and wealthy German state on the Upper Rhine, lying north of Switzerland. The best farmers of the world lived there, a race of men of Frankish origin with a strong infusion of German blood. For thirty generations they had tilled the same land. Within its borders was Heidelberg, the oldest and most influential seat of learning in all the German

states. The rich soil of the Palatinate was soon drenched with blood and its pleasant villages were reduced to a mass of charred ruins. Bustling burghers dwindled into pigmy shopkeepers and proud, self-supporting peasants became serfs. Hunger drove many to cannibalism and mothers were known to have eaten their own children. Heidelberg was captured in 1622, and the conquerors pierced the feet of the citizens and seared them with hot irons. Bands of foreign soldier marauded the country, disregarding all law and decency, mishandled the innocent people and destroyed all their property. Thorns and briars grew up in the once well-cultivated fields and wolves roamed and howled at will. Famine and pestilence carried many thousands to their graves.

The Peace of Westphalia, 1648, brought the frightful carnage to a conclusion. The map of Europe was settled for a time, with the Upper Palatinate being ceded to Bavaria. A measure of religious toleration was agreed upon. The rights of the three faiths, Catholic, Lutheran and Reformed, were to be recognized throughout the Rhineland and Germany, each ruler having the privilege of establishing in his land whatever confession he favoured and excluding all others as outlaws and heretics. There were no concessions to the Mennonite people.

When Elector Karl Ludwig came to the throne of the Palatinate at the conclusion of the war, his country was a barren waste. He began at once to rehabilitate his land by planting vineyards where the thorns had grown. Realizing that the Mennonite farmers could recultivate his land, he began to treat with consideration those who were natives and he extended a welcome with promises of concessions to the Swiss Mennonites, if they would come and till the soil of the Palatinate. Switzerland had had little or no part in the Thirty Years War, but its Mennonite people, adhering to their doctrine of non-resistance, had suffered the most violent persecutions at the hands of the Reformed Church. Some had even been banished and others had been sold to the Turks as galley slaves. Karl Ludwig saw in their plight an opportunity to rebuild his ruined country and he offered religious liberty not only to the Swiss Mennonites but to the Waldenses and the Huguenots of France.

Here at last was a ray of hope. Thousands of oppressed Mennonites, most of them from the cantons of Zurich and Bern, flocked into the Palatinate and reseeded it. But the freedom of worship they had hoped to enjoy proved to be only a much-begrudged permission to congregate in their own homes in groups of not more than twenty at a time. They were forbidden to teach

anything that smacked of political revolution or religious error. Nor were they allowed to rebaptize. For these limited privileges they were compelled to pay to the Elector an annual fee under pain of expulsion from the country. This olive branch, extended to the Swiss Mennonites in 1664, was a permanent step forward in religious freedom, for the concessions were confirmed by Karl Ludwig's successors in subsequent years.

The Mennonites spared no effort to fertilize the soil of the Palatinate, but the state did not regain its agricultural prowess for two hundred years. In 1674-75 a state of war existed between Holland and France and the Palatinate became a battlefield again. Louis XIV sent Turenne, a heartlessly cruel man, into the Palatinate to devastate its fields and to annihilate its seven cities and nineteen villages. The destruction was as complete as it was sudden. Turenne and his band of ruffians fell upon the unsuspecting people with flaming torches, ignited their homes and destroyed every ear of corn. Unmoved by the frantic screams of the peasants they ripped the very clothes from the backs of their victims and looted bells and organs from the state churches. When they returned at last to Versailles thousands of Palatines stood face to face with starvation and death. Pillaging continued from time to time and Karl Ludwig was finally forced to pay tribute to Louis.

In the year of the Elector's death, 1680, the French despot invaded the Palatinate in time of peace, and the Electors who succeeded him could do nothing to relieve the suffering of the people. Philip William was Elector in 1688, when Louis made another cruel invasion into the Palatinate, again without declaration of war. This time he made an absurd claim to a large portion of the Palatinate in the name of the daughter of a previous Elector, who had married his royal but dissolute brother, the Duc d'Orleans. Again Louis burned the Palatinate and the scenes of this destruction are said to have surpassed even the horrors of the Thirty Years War. Louis' agents announced to nearly half a million residents of the Palatinate that within three days they must vacate their homes and shift for themselves. It was winter and the snow was piled deep on the roads and in the fields. For those three days of grace the countryside was black with fugitives. The Frenchmen applied the torches at the appointed time. Immediately tongues of fire from market places and parish churches penetrated overhanging clouds of thick, black smoke. Orchards which survived the conflagration were cut down and unscorched cornfields were ploughed under. Not a vine, not a fruit tree was left standing in all the desolate land.

Louis thought the time was now opportune to stamp out heresy in the Palatinate. Philip William, Catholic though he was, had tried to protect his Protestants, but he died before he was able to accomplish much. His son, John William, the new Elector, was impressionable as putty in the hands of the Jesuits, who had educated him. Although his people were almost entirely Protestant, John William retained the priests as his political advisors. By 1693, hundreds of Protestant churches were in the hands of the Catholic orders and by the terms of the Treaty of Rhyswick, four years later, the Protestants were obliged to accept the status quo of the Catholic usurpations. This made it easy for the Jesuits to carry on an intensive programme of proselyting and forced genuflecting.

There was terrible distress in the Palatinate at the dawn of the eighteenth century. The ruling classes were heartless, tyrannical, extravagant and corrupt. The peasants struggled on in extreme poverty, praying constantly for the end of the world, since translation to the land of the hereafter seemed their only hope for the future. The winter of 1708-09 was intensely cold, so cold that the vineyards of the Palatinate were blighted by the frost and the wine was frozen in the cellars. Birds and beasts, as well as hundreds of peasants, died from exposure and starvation. With the elements turned hostile, it seemed to the Palatines that they had reached the limit of their endurance.

Then suddenly, as if by a miracle, a way opened to the people called Mennonite. William Penn, an English Quaker, had received from King Charles II an immense tract of virgin forest land in the new world in payment of a debt of £16,000 sterling owing to his father, Admiral Penn. The young man was determined to use this heritage for the founding of a state in which religious freedom should be vouchsafed to his own misunderstood Quaker people and to others of kindred faiths. Penn knew that the Mennonites and the Quakers could live together in such an Elysium. On two occasions he had visited Holland. He had preached in Mennonite meeting houses, and he knew how great was the wretchedness and the suffering caused by the cold, dogmatic theology and the rigid formalism of the state churches. He wrote a series of religious pamphlets in the English, Dutch and German languages, in which he explained his plan for his "Holy Experiment." He was prepared, he said, to offer free transportation to Pennsylvania, and he intimated that, in 1690, the British Parliament had passed an Act granting the immigrant Mennonite people from Middle Europe not only exemption from military

service and the free exercises of their religion but the high honour of the right and privileges of British citizenship. When Penn distributed these pamphlets throughout the Rhineland he started in motion a rivulet of sectarian migration, which broadened and expanded and deepened into a mighty stream. The first Mennonites reached Pennsylvania in 1683, when the good ship, Concord, landed a few Dutch and German immigrants at Philadelphia. These founded the City of Germantown.

Penn's pamphlets reached Switzerland too. Here the Mennonites were suffering a bitter persecution at the hand of the Reformed Church on account of their steadfast adherence to their doctrine of nonresistance. So unpopular had they become in the cantons of Zurich and Bern that the authorities offered them free transportation down the Rhine with permission to sell their property and to take their families with them, upon the sole condition that they should never return to Switzerland. In the spring of 1709, they shook the dust of their native land from their feet and started down the Rhine. Some of them remained temporarily in the Palatinate and were joined by their Swiss brethren who had gone there a generation before, on the invitation of Karl Ludwig. The children and the grandchildren of the Swiss refugees to the Palatinate, in 1671 and in 1709, were among those who began to arrive in Pennsylvania about 1710, settling Lancaster, Berks, Franklin, Bucks and Montgomery Counties. Almost without exception, it was the descendants to these Swiss Mennonites who came to Waterloo County from Pennsylvania in the nineteenth century.

It is estimated that about 20,000 Palatines came to the shores of the new world before 1727. The greatest influx was between 1727 and 1775, when about 69,000 arrived. "This total of nearly 100,000 German and Swiss emigrants to Pennsylvania represents," according to William I. Hull, "about one third of the entire population of the first half of the eighteenth century. The frontier lands, not only of Pennsylvania, but also of New York, Maryland, Virginia and the Carolinas, were settled largely by those hardy immigrants from the Rhineland and Switzerland."

Not until 1727 were official statistical records kept of the names and occupations of the immigrants, together with the names of the vessels which transported them, the dates and the ports of their embarkation and disembarkation. The best known of these records is the one compiled by Prof. I. Daniel Rupp and called "*Thirty Thousand Names.*"

It is not the purpose of this paper to relate the experiences of the Mennonite people after they reached America. Suffice it to say that when the American colonies broke away from the Motherland, some of the Mennonites in Pennsylvania began to fear that the New Republic might disregard the promise which the British Parliament made to them, in 1690, regarding certain exemptions on account of their religion. This feeling of insecurity was the chief reason for the trek to Upper Canada in huge Conestoga wagons in the nineteenth century. The first of the Mennonite settlements in the Province was at the Twenty Mile Creek in Lincoln County, the largest by far is the one in the Township of Waterloo and Woolwich, in the County of Waterloo.

Wilmot, the third township of the county whose population is largely of mid-European ancestry, was first settled in 1824, or thereabouts, by Ammenich or "Amish" people. Their founder, Jacob Amman, from whom the sect derives its name, lived during the latter part of the seventeenth and the early years of the eighteenth century. He had been a Mennonite preacher, but one with exceptionally conservative views on doctrine. During his time a theological problem had arisen in Holland over St. Paul's injunction to the early church not to eat with those who had fallen into sin. Some of the Mennonites thought that this applied only to participation in the Lord's Supper, while others contended that the practice of "shunning" or "avoidance" or "the ban" should be observed in social and business life as well. Amman is alleged to have tried to drag the Dutch controversy into the Swiss Church. In 1693, he made the rounds of the meeting houses and tried to enforce upon the people this narrow doctrine. He succeeded in splitting one of the churches in Bern on this issue, but so bitter was the feeling he stirred up that he and his party were forced to leave the canton and go to Alsace. Nearly twenty years later, the Amish people sought reconciliation with the Swiss Mennonites and begged to be reinstated into that Communion, but the Swiss refused to receive them. The breach is now nearly healed in Europe, but it is still an open sore in America.

The Amish people adhere strictly to the Confession adopted by the Synod of Dort, in 1632, and they have always been averse to any deviation from it in doctrine or in mode of living. They cling to the old and despise the new, taking no part in politics or affairs of the world and hold themselves aloof from people of other faiths. Their uneducated preachers are chosen by lot with no regard to their fitness for their high calling, and they quibble over such trifles as window curtains, musical instruments,

the telephone, the automobile and even buggies with "falling" tops and rubber tires. The women dress in long, unadorned skirts, triangular shawls and dark bonnets, avoiding all semblance of ornament. The men wear broad-brimmed hats and grow long beards, the cutting of which is considered a capital offence, and no moustaches. The children are miniatures of their parents.

The Amish hymn book, called the "Ausbund," is the oldest hymnary in use in America. It was first published in 1564, in the German language, and it contained hymns and tunes which were sung by prisoners in Bavaria, in 1537, and handed down by Anabaptists of four hundred years ago. The Mennonites used this book for a time, but discarded it later for more modern tunes.

The first Amish people came to Berks County, Pennsylvania, as early as 1714, but none of their descendants ever came to Waterloo County. Wilmot Township was settled by a group of the sect who came, about 1824, direct from the environs of Munich, Germany. Their leader, Christian Naffziger, having heard of the good fortune of the Swiss Mennonites in Pennsylvania, decided to investigate the possibility of obtaining lands in the New World for his own oppressed people. After he had worked his way down to the sea, he embarked, in 1821, on the first ship bound for America. He landed at New Orleans and tramped across country to Pennsylvania, only to learn that there were no vacant lands to be had there. Pennsylvania, he discovered, was becoming crowded and its people were beginning to migrate to other states, to Maryland, to Virginia, to the Carolinas and to far away Upper Canada.

Naffziger made up his mind that he too would go to Upper Canada. The Mennonites included him in a party bound for Waterloo and supported him in his petition to the Government on behalf of his Amish people for a large tract of vacant land on the western border of Waterloo Township. Governor Maitland promised to allow each Amish family to purchase a hundred and fifty acres at a nominal fee, but he stipulated that each settler cut the trees on a two-rod strip in front of his holding to provide for a four-rod road allowance. Furthermore, he agreed to grant the Amish men exemption from military service.

Naffziger went back to Munich, in 1822, returning by way of

England to get confirmation of the Government's agreements from King George IV. He obtained from His Majesty the further grant of fifty acres free to each family. The people began to migrate in 1823 and 1824, but Naffziger himself was delayed in Europe and did not arrive until 1826. Three parallel horizontal roads were soon cut through the forest and named Oberstrasse, Mittelstrasse (Highway No. 7) and Unterstrasse.

Under date of February 27, 1926, the Kitchener "News-Record" had this to say in its column, "Happenings of ninety years ago":

May 5, 1836.

Death of Christian Naffziger.

Mr. Naffziger was born in Rhenish Bavaria, in 1776. In 1821 he left his family to look for a new home and reached New Orleans in January, 1822. In Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, he was given money and an old horse and he came in 1822 (probably August) to Upper Canada. He went to the Governor (Maitland) and was granted a piece of land west of Waterloo, the present Wilmot Township. Then he returned to London and went to the King, who granted him and his fellow-countrymen each fifty acres. In January, 1823, he returned to his family. Several of his friends here agreed to advance the money for travelling and, in the Spring of 1826, he and his family and other people set out. He arrived in Philadelphia and was taken care of by the people in Bucks County and given a welcome. In October he reached here with his wife, three sons and two daughters, and in 1827 he took possession of his land in Wilmot.

Of greater consequence by far to the development of the urban life of the County of Waterloo was the migration of those Germans who came because of economic pressure in contradistinction to the Mennonites and Amish who were actuated by religious motives. These too received vital assistance from England. Throughout the seventeenth century there had been constant and intimate intercourse between England and the Palatinate, for Elizabeth, daughter of James I, had married Frederick V, Elector of the Palatinate. Their son, Karl Ludwig, was therefore a cousin to Charles II and James II. There was also between the two countries the common bond of the Protestant faith, and England had more than once extended a helping hand to continentals who suffered on account of religious discrimination.

It was natural, then, that there should be a turning to England for help when a devastation of a portion of the Palatinate, in 1707, left hundreds of people homeless. One of these unfortunates applied to an English agency in Frankfort for passes and money to take him to England. Although no funds were immediately forthcoming, he and sixty of his friends took French leave of the Palatinate and journeyed on their own slender finances to London by way of Holland. Queen Anne and her cabinet supported them until they were naturalized as British subjects and sent to New York, in 1708. This was but the beginning of a large migration of Germans to the New World. In the Spring of 1709 there was a movement of Germans down the Rhine. By June, fifteen hundred of them had reached Rotterdam and the frantic merchants of the City despatched agents up the river to restrain the migration, but without avail. The people continued to pour down the river and by means of all sorts of craft, they came, homeless and dejected, and sat on England's doorstep. Queen Anne hastily ordered tents to be brought for their accommodation from the military storehouse in the Tower, and set up in various parts of the city for the shelter of the uninvited guests. Four Iroquois Sachems who had come to England on a political mission saw the distressed foreigners and offered them lands in the hinterland of New York State. From then on, the migration of Germans to the New World has been considerable.

It must be pointed out, however, that of all the countries of Western Europe, Germany alone took no official part in the colonization of the New World. For two hundred years after the conclusion of the Thirty Years War the demoralized German people were hard put to it to recover from the debauchery of their many civil and religious upheavals. Theirs was the weakness of disunity. Half of the German people had been merged with Hungary and Bohemia to form Austria and the other half were split into petty Kingdoms and principalities. The Prussians made an effort to unite the German States by building up a strong military force. Emigration was forbidden in order that the youth of the land might be drafted into the army.

There were many Germans in subsequent years who came to hate the regimentation of the land into which they had been born and they longed for an untrammelled life in the New World of freedom and opportunity. They were willing to pay any price to escape the bogey of Prussian militarism. One by one they slipped away under cover of darkness, across the Rhine, through the Vosges mountains, over northern France and down to the

sea at Le Havre. Thousands of penniless Germans mortgaged their future services to pay for their transportation and settled down to a new life in a new environment. This migration without a head continued intermittently for two hundred years.

It was 1825 before they began to come into Upper Canada. The Mennonites picked many of them up at the Niagara River, footsore and weary, and brought them in their conestogas to Waterloo and Woolwich. The newcomers felt at home among the Mennonites, for although they were not of the same faith, they could understand their dialect. They hired themselves willingly to the Mennonite farmers until they were financially able to stand upon their own feet. Their genius, however, was not agriculture but industry, the revolving of wheels and the development of towns and cities. At the suggestion of Benjamin Eby, the Mennonite Bishop, the crossroads called Ebytown was re-named Berlin in their honour, and land and money were provided for the building and equipment of the first factory. German frugality, their cleanliness and their love of home and the co-operation and mutual understanding between peoples of different races and religions, these things have contributed immeasurably to the growth and prosperity of the urban communities of the County.

A comparatively recent migration is that of a people known as Russian Mennonites. But they are certainly not Russians. Their homeland was Holland, the country of Menno Simons. Although the Hollanders had never suffered for conscience sake as did the Swiss Mennonites, some of them, hopeful of greater religious freedom than they had enjoyed, had migrated to waste lands in Marienburg, Poland, not far from the City of Danzig, and had made for themselves a garden in the wilderness. But Poland was partitioned, in 1770, and Marienburg became a province of Prussia. The Mennonite doctrine of non-resistance soon came into conflict with the spirit of Prussian militarism and the "plain" people found themselves on the horns of a religious dilemma.

Catherine the Great of Russia came unexpectedly to their relief. Herself a German, she had heard of the agricultural prowess of the Mennonites and she coveted them for her own vast uncultivated territory in the Ukraine and in the Crimea. She tempted them with offers of free land, augmented by fair promises of exemption from military service and the free exercise of their religion. In 1788, two hundred and eighty-eight families accepted her invitation. They went into the Ukraine and into the Crimea and for their mutual protection they built communal

villages surrounded by their expansive fields. They neither liked nor trusted the Russians and did not associate with them. By 1860, these two hundred and eighty-eight poor, immigrant families had increased to thirty thousand extremely prosperous farmers, a privileged class of German citizens living in affluent ease in a foreign land.

This German occupation of Russian lands was not productive of any spirit of cordiality on the part of the Russians. There was general satisfaction among his people when in 1871, Alexander II, of Russia, great grandson of Catherine, issued a summary decree requiring all able-bodied men in the country to serve in his armies. For a time, some of the Mennonites were able to evade the issue by giving voluntary service as medical attendants in military hospitals and camps, but others, considering this action a compromise with evil and a direct violation of the letter and spirit of the New Testament, were determined to be satisfied with nothing but absolute religious freedom.

At this crucial time, help came from Canada. In the name of the Canadian Government, William Hespeler, of Waterloo Township, invited them to settle in the north-west province of Canada. Two years later the Mennonites sent a deputation of twelve men to investigate lands which had been made available to them in the United States as well as in the Canadian West. Upon receipt of a favourable report, thousands decided to migrate to America, and some of them preferred Canada because the Canadian government gave them a definite promise that under no circumstances would they ever be drawn into military service.

Eight entire townships in the Red River Basin were given to the Mennonites from Russia, as a free gift, conditioned only upon settlement there. Each family received a hundred and sixty acres, with the privilege of purchasing as many more at a dollar an acre. When the first contingent arrived in Toronto too late in the season to proceed to Manitoba, the immigrants were billeted for the winter among the Mennonites of Ontario. Seventeen additional Manitoba townships were set aside for the 7,771 others who arrived from 1874 to 1880. The government loaned them a hundred thousand dollars and to this the Ontario Mennonites added another thirty or forty thousand. By 1890, the entire indebtedness had been paid. The cultivation of flax had brought prosperity and the Prairie blossomed as a rose.

Russia's communist Revolution and the "white" counter Revolution of 1917 heralded another season of persecution for

those Mennonites who had remained in Russia. Bands of anarchists destroyed their villages and threatened their very lives. The prospect of a permanent atheistic and communistic regime brought twenty thousand more to Canada from 1923 to 1927, of whom about a thousand remained in Waterloo County and in other parts of Ontario.

Other mid-Europeans who have come to this county within recent years include several thousand Roman Catholic Poles and as many Greek Catholic Ukrainians. Most of them have settled in Kitchener because of the industrial opportunities the city offers. They now have their own churches and their own priests. During the past decade, groups of other Balkan States, adding colour to the already exceedingly cosmopolitan population of the County town. A cursory glance at a city or telephone directory will indicate how Mid-European Kitchener and Waterloo are in racial origin. To a lesser extent, this is true of the entire county, except the township of North Dumfries.

These non-Anglo Saxons have proved to be for the most part worthy citizens. Most of them are fully Canadianized in all but name. They have built up in their adopted country a strong, virile community of four-or-five-generation Canadians. Nor have they hesitated to spill their life blood on the battlefields of Europe in defence of the ideals of Canadian citizenship. Ralph Eby, a lineal descendant of Benjamin Eby, the Mennonite bishop, was the first Waterloo County man to make the supreme sacrifice in the first Great War, and many hundreds of Canadians with German names will never return from the recent slaughter on European battle-grounds. The patriotism of citizens from this locality can no longer be questioned, no matter what their ancestry.

Nor should the recognized enterprise and business acumen of the non-Anglo Saxons of Waterloo County cause any surprise. Their ancestors alone were possessed of the imagination and the spirit of adventure required to leave home and country in quest of religious freedom and economic opportunity. Their brothers who remained in the old land have become the victims and slaves of those maniacal Samsons who have shaken the pillars of the universe, thrown all religion into the discard and turned Europe into a heap of rubble.

Courtesy of Ontario Historical Society.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Death removed many prominent K.-W. citizens from the Twin City scene during 1948.

They were well-known in business or professional life of the community, and played a leading part in organizational work in Kitchener and Waterloo.

Included in this list of departed citizens are:

B. Frank Matthews, 59, who died January 7th. He was superintendent of Dominion Truck Equipment Co., Ltd., and was active in many organizations.

Very Rev. Albert L. Zinger, 74, former president of St. Jerome's College and former Canadian provincial general of the Congregational of the Resurrection, died January 18th. Until the year before his death he had been superior of the Congregation of the Resurrection in Canada.

The death occurred March 1st of Harry P. Livingston, Sr., for many years president and general manager of Dominion Linseed Oil Co., Ltd.

William H. Leeson, 79, former well-known King Street merchant, died March 12th. He took an active part in business life of the community more than a quarter century ago.

Head of the contracting firm of E. Schnarr and Sons, Edward J. Schnarr, 70, died March 16th. He was a leading Kitchener builder for many years.

William Ralph Bricker, widely-known broker and sports enthusiast, died March 24th at the age of 53. Death ended a distinguished career in financial circles.

Fred Graham, 58, co-owner of Graham's Grill and a well-known restaurateur, died April 22nd. He and his brother, Louis, operated the Windsor Restaurant for many years.

Clare S. Snider, of Waterloo, died June 15th. He was a well-known young local businessman, and was connected with many civic organizations.

The death occurred June 23 of J. D. C. Forsyth, 63. He was president and founder of the John Forsyth Ltd., and widely known to the men's wear trade in Britain, United States and Canada.

Percy W. Swartz, 52, of Waterloo, died August 7th. He was purchasing agent for the Mutual Life Assurance Co. of Canada.

Nelson G. Shantz died August 19th. He was head of Nels Shantz Motors, Ltd. He also took a keen interest in public affairs and was a veteran member of the Kitchener Public School Board.

Death claimed Henry P. Bingham, 84, on August 25th. He was formerly manager of the Bank of Montreal in Kitchener.

Two of Kitchener's oldest citizens, Mrs. Mary Weber, 96, and Mrs. Minerva Dart, 99, died October 6th and 9th respectively.

George Karges, 75, of Waterloo, died October 11th. He became a member of the Waterloo Fire Department in 1904 and became chief.

Death of John Edward Vogt also occurred October 11th. He was 81, and had a long record of community service.

Dr. Ross Shields, 59, died October 17th. He was connected with the medical division of the Mutual Life Assurance Co. of Canada.

Louis D. Merrick, 86, died October 20th. He was once owner of a flourishing china business in Kitchener which he sold in 1932.

The passing of Charles R. Phelps took place November 5th. He was court reporter for the Kitchener police department and justice of the peace for nearly 17 years.

Mrs. S. C. Tweed, formerly of Waterloo, died in Ottawa November 19th. She came here with her late husband, who founded the Equitable Life Insurance Co. of Canada.

December 29th marked the death of Henry Wolfhard, 85, one of Kitchener's pioneer hardware dealers.

HAYSVILLE

For the information contained in this sketch of Haysville and vicinity, I am indebted to Miss Ella Elliott, of Lucknow, Jean Waldie, Columnist of the Brantford Expositor and London Free Press and the historical sketch, "The Parish of Wilmot" compiled some years ago by the late Charles James Fox.—A. R. G. Smith.

W. H. Smith, who toured Waterloo County about 1850 wrote, "Between New Hamburg and Haysville the land is rolling and the soil gravelly with a splendid lot of forest trees."

Haysville, formerly called Jonestone, and latterly Wilmot village was located on Smith's creek (the river Nith) which was in that section an excellent mill stream with a good supply of water, with about 200 inhabitants. The village had a grist mill, a saw mill and a tannery. Considering the fine section of county in which it was situated, Smith thought Haysville was growing surprisingly slow.

About seven miles from Haysville was the hamlet of New Dundee, on Alder Creek, and having about 70 inhabitants, a gristmill and a sawmill.

Two and a half miles from Haysville a pine ridge about a mile wide and nearly 10 miles long crossed the road. The "Pine Woods" as they were called, consisted principally of beech, with pine intermingled and a small quantity of hemlock, maple and basswood. Another ridge, or succession of ridges crossed the Huron Road a mile west of Aberdeen and extended northeast and southwest for six or seven miles. Some parts of these ridges were clothed altogether with pine and others with hardwood.

In 1825 Wilmot contained only 720 persons, but by 1841 this number had increased to 2,200 and by 1850 to 4,863.

In the five years between 1845 and 1850 land under cultivation increased from 15,130 acres to 28,025 acres. Wilmot in 1850 had 3 grist and 14 sawmills all run by waterpower.

The first settler in Haysville was William Hobson, who came to Canada in 1818 and went to London when there were only two settlers there and after remaining there for ten years went back to Ireland.

In May, 1822, the Canada Company having the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th concessions of the Township of Wilmot and all the Huron Tract to Goderich, started to open up the county, as it was then a dense wilderness, untrodden by the foot of white man, from a few miles east of Haysville to Goderich. Among those who started out from Guelph on this expedition under the leadership of Surveyor McDonald were Mr. William Illingworth, and two Richards, all of whom subsequently became pioneer settlers in Wilmot.

When they arrived at where Haysville now is it took three days to cross the river and get up the hill by the ravine in front of the home of Reginald Puddicombe. It took the expedition till September to reach Goderich. There they found a white man,

William Gooding, who had gone there the year before and was trading with the Indians.

Mr. Illingworth was the first man to drive a yoke of oxen down the Goderich hill.

In the spring of 1829, Mr. Hobson and his family returned from Ireland and went to Guelph and the Canada Company sent a man with them to spy out the land. They camped one night where Haysville now stands. When they arrived in Goderich they did not like the look of the country, so they turned about and came to Wilmot. Here they took up lot 18, 1st con. Block A and Mr. Hobson and family thus became the first settlers in Haysville. He built a loghouse close to the road and used to entertain the newcomers.

In 1832 or 1833 he sold his property to Mr. William Puddicombe and moved to where Haysville now stands and took up two hundred acres and started a hotel. Soon after Everatt and Bennet took up two hundred acres on the other side of the road and built an hotel where the Haysville school now stands.

Another early settler was an American, named Horn Stevens. He built a saw mill on Lot 19, the only one in the district and supplied the neighborhood with lumber for a good many years, until Mr. William Puddicombe bought him out. Mr. Stephens left for Michigan with his prairie schooner.

From 1832 to 1836 a number of pioneers came in, among them Robert Hays, Henry Puddicombe, William Illingworth, Mr. Magee, Thomas Walker, James Mallet, Mr. Stockwell, John and Samuel Land, and to the south, Mr. Bean, Mr. Green, Mr. Wm. Anderson and J. Stauffer.

In 1840 anyone that had any law suit to settle had to go to Hamilton to do business. There were no Division Court Judges. Three commissioners attended to these matters once a month. The commissioners at this time were William Puddicombe, W. Wallace and the name of the third is not remembered.

Mr. Robert Boucher taught school in an old log house belonging to William Puddicombe, there being no regular school.

The four-horse stage came through from Hamilton with mail and passengers for Goderich and at Haysville horses were changed. Hobson's stable had accommodation for 125 horses. The stage went up the Huron Road by way of Helmer's Hotel. There was no mail to New Hamburg and no post office there until 1844.



MR. AND MRS. ROBERT HAYS

In 1837 Mr. Robert Hays (whose picture appears in these columns) was appointed the first postmaster of Haysville and was succeeded by his son John in 1853. He owned the grist and saw-mill which in 1846 he sold to Robert Runciman, who in turn sold it in 1853 to W. A. W. Cleland, who afterwards erected another mill and built a store.

The woolen mill was run for some time by Mr. Yemmet and later by Mr. Woodhead.

An American, named White, had a small tannery and shoe shop and supplied the neighborhood with home manufactured boots and shoes. He also made his own shoe pegs.

Mr. W. A. Cutter bought out Mr. White and made harness, as well as leather and kept the brick hotel for some time.

Mr. John Sydney Smith had a general store for a number of years and Mr. W. Smith, who afterward moved to London, also had a store on the hill. Mr. Jas. Brown had the store for a number of years and Miss Margaret Somerville who was from Scotland, carried on a very successful store business in the premises vacated by J. Sydney Smith. As a young man I heard the late John Rennie of the famous seed firm of Toronto pay his respects to the late Margaret Somerville, who was one of his best customers. Miss Somerville was well educated, was a beautiful writer, and was more or less of a legal adviser. She drew deeds, wrote wills and had a powerful political influence. She was a Liberal and to a large extent it was said moulded the political opinion of the community surrounding Haysville in the early days. Her store, being a brick building, still stands, seemingly as good as in the days when it was built. The articles sold in the stores in the early days included everything from logging chains to Holloway's pills and beaver post stamps.

Mr. W. R. Plum had the first carriage shop and afterward kept the Elgin House. He was a remarkable blacksmith. His shop was closed at 6 o'clock. He wore a white shirt at his anvil and was always spotless. Chain repairing was very necessary in those days of logging. The type of blacksmithing was different to modern times as oxen had to be shod. Oxen were slung up before any attempt was made to put on their shoes of iron, two for each foot. A horse can be trained to hold up his foot for shoeing but not an ox, therefore a special apparatus had to be made for handling them. "Kick like a steer" was applicable to the animals which did so much cleaning up work for the pioneers.

Where a horse would break his leg, the ox would hop over without any danger. They did not like hot weather and tricky oxen would "turn the yoke." The bow pin lay flat when the yoke was on the oxen's neck; to take off the yoke the pin, only one in a bow, was taken out. I have in my possession an ox bell which my father heard in the bush when he came to "Upper Canada" in 1838 from Prince Edward Island. Tallow candles were used for lighting. The "long" sleigh was superseded by the "bob" sleigh when the country was cleared. There were no "pitch" holes on a road protected by the bush.

Mr. John Blackford carried on a blacksmith and wagon business for a long time. Jardine Bros., J. Armstrong and Wm. Dingwall also carried on the same business.

The medical men of the time were Doctors Vastbinder, Bell, Maurice O'Conner, Hurlbret and Nichol.

Mr. F. Cousin carried on the furniture factory for some time and Robinson and Cole manufactured fanning mills in the same building later.

Cheesman and Warren were also manufacturers of furniture. Stonehouse and Fraser had harness shops in the village. Mr. Cockwell was a cooper as well as contractor and Mr. Bennet had a drug store for many years, and did a little cupping (the operation of drawing blood with a cupping glass) and bleeding was a popular medical practice in the early days.

Sutherland, Platt (after whom Plattsville was named) Buckwell and Daniels were millers during their residence in the village.

Mr. Jonathan Cook, afterwards gaoler in Kitchener for 40 years carried on a tin shop.

It will be seen from the foregoing that Haysville was quite a busy place and had a population of about 500 people. The building of the Grand Trunk and the withdrawal of the stage coach soon diminished the importance of the Huron Road and Haysville began rapidly to shrink and New Hamburg took its place as a station.

The disastrous flood which occurred in 1883, wiped out much of Haysville, took away the bridge and since then it has become a very quiet village though still a post office where the pictures used for this article will be hung to remind those who now but young, that Haysville was once larger than New Hamburg.

Courtesy of Waterloo Chronicle.

THE SETTLEMENT OF WATERLOO COUNTY

By W. H. Breithaupt, C.E.

The first settlers from Pennsylvania to arrive in Upper Canada located in Lincoln County in 1786. About 1794 a party of German Protestants from the Pulteney Domain in New York State, and shortly before from Germany, was granted 64,000 acres near Yonge Street, about twenty miles from Toronto. This is known as the Markham Colony. The grant was not all taken up by them and part of it reverted later to the Government. Settlers from Pennsylvania also went to Markham, from 1804 on. By far the largest number of settlers from Pennsylvania came to Waterloo Township.

There are several accepted authorities on the history of Waterloo County. Among them, Ezra Eby, a descendant of early settlers, ranks as having done the most. He published in 1896, in Berlin, now Kitchener, two large volumes, his main work, entitled, "A Biographical History of Waterloo Township and Other Townships of the County," containing a general history of the townships and brief biographies of nearly 8,500 individuals, Pennsylvanai settlers and their descendants. Rev. A. B. Sherk, a grand nephew of the two first settlers, published several good papers on Waterloo history. Hon. James Young published, in 1880, a comprehensive history of Galt and the township of North Dumfries.

In general Canadian histories there is little mention of the settlement of Waterloo County. In Shortt and Doughty's "Canada and its Provinces," published ten years ago, there is, however, by A. C. Casselman, a very good detail of Waterloo County history.

In the year 1800 three townships of the later County of Waterloo, not so organized until 1852, were part of the Grand River Indian Lands, a territory twelve miles in width, with the river approximately its centre line, extending from Lake Erie to the falls of the river, now Elora. This territory had been granted, along with other lands, to the Six Nations Indians, allies of the British in the Revolutionary War, by Governor Halidmand, in 1782. Upwards from the forks of the river, now Paris, the territory had been divided into blocks 1, 2, 3, and 4, and sold. Block 1 comprised the townships of North and South Dumfries in Waterloo and Brant Counties, respectively. Block 2, Waterloo township, was sold to Richard Beasley, John Wilson and John B. Rousseau; and Block 3, approximately, formed Woolwish township.

Block 2 was the first on the Grand River to be taken up for settlement. Hither came, early in the spring of 1800, prospecting and exploring, two sturdy, adventurous farmers from near Chambersburg, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, who, with their families, had left their native country in the fall of 1799, crossed the Niagara River at Black Rock ferry and had stayed over winter with compatriots who had preceded them to Canada. These two pioneers were Joseph Schoerg and Samuel D. Betzner, brothers-in-law. Joseph Schoerg, whose grandfather emigrated from Switzerland to Pennsylvania in 1727, was born in Franklin County, February 3rd, 1769. He married his deceased brother's wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel Betzner, sister of Samuel D. Betzner. She had a son, Samuel, by her first husband, John Schoerg, who died in 1792. When they came to Canada the family comprised five children. Samuel D. Betzner was born probably in 1770, married Elizabeth Brech, and had apparently two children when coming to Canada. His father, Samuel Betzner, was born in Wurtemberg in 1738 and came over to Pennsylvania in 1755. Schoerg and Betzner were the forerunners, the vanguard of a large party of their countrymen who came in the next following years, and constituted the first large settlement in the then far interior of Upper Canada.

With the keen judgment of these people for good farming lands, the explorers found what they sought in the heavy timbered lands along the river, selected sites, Schoerg on the high ground on the east bank of the river and Betzner about two miles farther down, on the flats of the west bank, below the mouth of a river, the Speed, coming from the east, and at once brought in their families and began the work of building houses.

The Waterloo township settlers were of the Mennonite faith, as are mostly their descendants. For the previous hundred and more years, their ancestors had been coming to Pennsylvania, first on the invitation of William Penn, mostly from Switzerland, largely from Germany, from the Rhine Palatinate whence originated their peculiar dialect, and partly from Holland and elsewhere, to find relief from religious persecution. Their choice of Canada as a land of settlement was without doubt, shortly after the Revolutionary War, to large extent determined by their desire to return to stable British government, and in this sense they were United Empire Loyalists.

Later in 1800 three more families came from Pennsylvania from Lancaster County: Samuel Betzner, the father of John D., John Reichert and Christian Reichert. Samuel Betzner located

alongside his daughter, later lot 12, German Company Tract, containing the site of the little cemetery on the river bluff. Joseph Schoerg's location was later lot 11, German Company Tract.

During 1801 seven more families came: Gingerich, Bechtels, Kinsey, Rosenberger, Brickers, Baer—from Lancaster, Montgomery, and other Pennsylvania counties. All located near the first comers.

The journey from Pennsylvania to the new settlement on the Grand River was a difficult one, of about 500 miles, over mountains and through forests and swamps, and took from four to eight weeks. The last stretch from above Dundas to the Grand River through the treacherous Beverley swamps was the worst. It is now a provincial highway over which the automobile rolls in less than an hour over a distance which then took days. The standard transporter was the well-known Conestoga waggon, drawn by four or five horses. The Waterloo Historical Society Museum has one of these waggons which brought Abraham Weber and family to the site of the present city of Kitchener in 1807.

In 1803 came what threatened to be disaster to the settlers of the accidental discovery, such was the uncertain state of land tenure in those days, of a large mortgage, covering all their lands, which had been bought from Richard Beasley. This pre-emptorily put a stop to further emigration from Pennsylvania. Beasley finally proposed that the settlers buy a large block of the land and pay off the mortgage. For this purpose Joseph Schoerg and Samuel Bricker were sent to Pennsylvania. They at first found no sympathy and Schoerg in despair returned to Canada, while Bricker persevered. At a meeting at his house in Lancaster County, old Hannes Eby put the appeal in a new light, as a Christian duty to brethren in distress. This found response and eventually, influenced no doubt also by the glowing accounts as to the quality of the new lands, a strong company was formed which bought 60,000 acres outright, paying off the mortgage thereon.

Samuel Bricker and Daniel Erb were entrusted with the purchase money and carried it, twenty thousand dollars in silver coin, packed in a strong box, in what is described as a "leicht plaisir waeggele"—a light pleasure waggon, the arduous journey to Canada. What a light pleasure waggon meant in those days can be judged from the two front wheels of this historic waggon, now in the museum of the Waterloo Historical Society.

This purchase, the greater part of Waterloo township, became known as the Germany Company Tract, and is so called in deeds. It was surveyed by Augustus Jones into lots of 448 acres, which were distributed by lot among the shareholders. The deed, drawn by th Hon. Wm. Dickson, of Niagara, was to Daniel Erb, described as "of Block Number Two on the Grand River in the County of York and Home District of the Province of Upper Canada," Yeoman, and Jacob Erb, of the same place, Yeoman, in trust. Separate titles for individual holdings were derived from Daniel and Jacob Erb. The colony grew apace and a few years later, in 1807, another company of Pennsylvanians bought 47,000 acres in the adjoining Block three, later Woolwich township.

Settlement was interrupted by and during the war of 1812. In this some of the settlers took part, not as combatants but as teamsters. It is on record that Christian Schneider, Jr., was paid five dollars per day for time he served with a two-horse team and eight dollars per day for time with a four-horse team. Some of them lost their horses and waggons. All such losses were made good by the British Government. None of the Waterloo settlers lost their lives in this campaign.

By 1823 most of the lands in Waterloo and Woolwich townships had been taken up by Mennonites from Pennsylvania, who, however, continued to come until about 1835 and some stragglers later, up to the beginning of the American Civil War. Common names among their descendants to this day are Betzner, Brubacher, Baumann (Bowman), Bechtel, Bean, Bergey, Bingeman, Burkholder, Cressman, Detweiler, Eby, Erb, Gingerich, Groff, Hallman, Hagey, Honsberger, Hoffman, Kinsey, Kolb, Martin, Moyer, Musselman, Reichert, Schneider (Snyder, Snider), Stauffer, Shantz, Weber (Weaver), Witmer and others.

At first Waterloo, then Berlin, now Kitchener, became the trading centre in this district. Preston and Bridgeport on account of their mills and water power, were also active villages. John Erb, who came with his family from Lancaster County in 1805, built a grist mill in Preston in 1807, and his brother built one in Waterloo in 1816. Both of these industries continue to flourish to this day. From about 1820, Germans and others directly from Europe began to come to Waterloo township, mostly to Berlin and Waterloo, also to Preston.

The settlement of Galt and North Dumfries township proceeded according to a different method. It was proprietary, con-

trolled by an individual owner, a method which has its advantages. In 1816 the Hon. William Dickson, of Niagara, a member of the Legislative Council of Upper Canada, bought the whole of Block 1, Grand River Indian lands, 92,160 acres, later North and South Dumfries. Mr. Dickson had no doubt watched with interest the progress of the Pennsylvania settlers, whose legal adviser he was, and now decided to invest in Grand River lands himself. He at once engaged Absalom Shade, an enterprising young contractor from Buffalo, whom he had known before, as his agent and representative, and together they set out to explore the purchase and to select a suitable site for a trading centre for the future colony. This latter they did at a well adapted location on the river, the picturesque present city of Galt, so named in 1827 after John Galt, the author, and at that time commissioner for the Canada Company at Guelph, a friend of Dickson. The colony soon attracted settlers, many of them brought directly from Scotland. Shade had built a small grist mill at first, and operated a store. His engagement with Mr. Dickson was no doubt on liberal terms. He was the enterprising local head of the colony, full of resources and expedients. One of his exploits was the rafting of timber down the river to Lake Erie, in the spring, which he did several times. He became Member of the Provincial Parliament, and one of the principal men of the county. By systematic attention, Galt soon grew to be the principal trading centre for the whole district, as far as Goderich on Lake Huron. Up to 1890 it was the largest town in the County of Waterloo.

The Township of Wilmot was taken up by settlers from Europe, among them a large party of Amish, an early offshoot of the Mennonites. This was in 1822. Their leader, Jacob Nachtsinger, obtained from Governor Maitland a grant of fifty acres for each family and the right of buying more land at a liberal price. Nachtsinger applied in person to the Government in London for confirmation of this grant, which he obtained.

Wellesley Township was in greater part settled by Scotchmen and partly by a colony of German Catholics.

SIR CASIMIR GZOWSKI

B. M. Dunham, D.Litt.

Gzowski is a street name which had always aroused my curiosity. It is a short street near the freight shed at the C.N.R. station. If it had been a residential boulevard or a busy thoroughfare lined with commercial houses its name would probably have

been changed long ago, but of all the street names in Kitchener, it is certainly one of those least used.

While browsing one day at the local library, I ran across a biography of a certain Lt.-Col. Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski in one of the volumes of Dent's Canadian Portrait Gallery. After reading the article I am sure that our Gzowski Street was named after this man, and I unearthed a story which had a place in our local history.

Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski was descended from an ancient Polish family ennobled in the sixteenth century. He was born in St. Petersburg (now Petrograd), Russia, where his father, Count Gzowski was an officer of the Imperial Guard.

The times were full of anxiety for the Polish people. Poland had been partitioned, Alexander was the Czar of Russia. In 1822 his brother, Constantine, heir apparent to the throne, was entrusted with the military government of Poland, resigning at the same time his right to the Russian throne in favor of his younger brother, Nicholas. In 1825 Nicholas became Czar and very soon he gave evidence of the aggressive policy he intended to follow. His administration of affairs was arbitrary and despotic in the extreme and little calculated to mollify the heartburnings of the outraged Poles. He oppressed the nobility as well as the serfs. The result was that underground societies were formed to strike for Polish liberty and most of the Polish officers in the Imperial Army were secret but ardent supporters of the insurrection.

Casimir Stanislaus was born in March, 1813, and his childhood was spent in preparation for a military career. At nine he entered a military engineering college in Russia. In 1830, at seventeen, he graduated as an engineer, received a commission, and entered the Army of Russia.

The insurrection broke at that very time. Grand Duke Constantine and his Russian following were driven out of Warsaw, the Polish capital. Success was only temporary, however, due to lack of organization and a Provisional Government was formed.

But Prussia and Austria, both of whom had shared in the partition of Poland, threw their weight with the Russians. They recaptured Warsaw and named a viceroy of their own choosing.

Then followed a period of merciless severity and cruelty. In 1832 Poland was declared to be an integral part of the Russian Empire and those who raised objection were killed, or banished to Siberia or sent to Russian prisons.

Young Gzowski fresh from college cast in his lot with his compatriots. He assisted in the expulsion of Constantine in November, 1830, and was actively engaged in the conflicts which ensued. Several times he was wounded and narrowly escaped capture, but no risk was too great if he might have a part in the struggle for his nation's freedom.

But the day came when the division to which he was attached was forced to retreat into Austrian territory. The troops laid down their arms and became prisoners. The rank and file were allowed to go but 600 officers were placed in durance and quartered in various fortified stations. There they languished for several months and by arrangement between the governments of Russia and Austria, they were shipped off as exiles to the United States of America.

Young Gzowski landed in New York City in the summer of 1833. When the pilot came aboard and saluted the captain, he heard English for the first time. But he knew continental languages well, French, German and Italian. The Russians did not countenance the study of English in their schools. He had no prospect of employment but he was a diligent student and at twenty he had a thorough knowledge of engineering. Confinement in an Austrian prison had not weakened his iron constitution.

He determined to study law as a means of acquiring a mastery of the English language. He tutored in French and German and taught drawing and fencing to earn his living and entered a well-known law firm in Pittsfield, Mass. His indomitable industry, natural ability, fine social qualities and his misfortunes made him a marked man in Pittsfield society. He made many warm friends but he depended upon his own resources. In February, 1837, he passed an examination which, if he had been an American citizen, would have entitled him to practise law.

But he had never intended to be a lawyer. His three years of study of the commentaries of Blackstone and Kent had given him a thorough knowledge of English. He was after all a trained engineer and he hoped to find employment in the developing coal industries of Pennsylvania.

He went to Pennsylvania and having taken the oath of allegiance and having submitted to the necessary proofs he became a citizen of the United States. He had brought into Pittsfield testimonials as to his unimpeachable character and he presented them to persons of acknowledged social standing. In due time he was enrolled as advocate at the Bar of the Supreme Court and

for a time he acted as an advocate in Pennsylvania. But he soon abandoned law and got employment as an engineer with a firm that had contracts for great canals and public works. In this field too he won a reputation as a delightful companion and a thoroughly honourable man.

Then he came to Toronto to make a bid for the project of widening and deepening the Welland Canal. That was early in 1841. He met the leading men of Ontario, including Governor Sir Charles Bagot, who sanctioned Gzowski's appointment to an office in the Department of Public Works. Gzowski accepted the offer and came to Canada.

The busiest period of Gzowski's life opened up for him then. He had under his supervision the building of harbours, bridges and highways and other important provincial improvements. There is scarcely a county in Ontario but bears the impress of his great industry and engineering skill. In 1846, he threw in his lot with the Canadians by becoming a British subject.

In 1848, soon after the accession of the Baldwin-Lafontaine Government, his service with the Department of Public Works was brought to a close and Gzowski began to enter upon large engineering enterprises on his own account.

At the close of the half century dawned the railway era and soon Gzowski was in the railway business. He joined the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railway Company. As chief engineer, he made surveys of the lines and then superintended the actual construction.

Before long the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railway Company was merged with the Grand Trunk Railway and Gzowski resigned his position. He received from the Board of Directors a most gratifying written testimonial as to his able administration while in the employ of the Company.

In 1853 he formed a partnership with Sir Alexander T. Galt, Hon. Luther H. Holton and Hon. D. L. MacPherson under the name of Gzowski and Co. and devoted himself entirely to railway construction. This firm got the contract for the construction of the Grand Trunk line from Toronto to Sarnia and it was no doubt that the name Gzowski was given to the short street running parallel with the new railway in Berlin.

Gzowski and Co. built many other lines in south-western Ontario as well as in Michigan. Then the firm was dissolved

and in 1857 Gzowski and MacPherson established The Toronto Rolling Mills to supply companies with iron rails and materials. This was a profitable business for twelve years but the necessity for maintaining the mills ceased to exist when steel rails took the place of iron. The works closed in 1869.

In 1861 when the Trent affair threatened the rupture of amicable relations between Great Britain and the United States, Gzowski reflected on the defenceless position of Canada in the event of war between her mother country and her nearest neighbor. It seemed to him that the establishment of a large arsenal in Canadian territory would be a wise precaution. When he had fixed upon a site, prepared plans and counted the cost of such a building he went to England and submitted his proposal to the War Secretary and to other members of the Imperial Government. Gzowski was prepared to furnish the necessary capital for the construction and equipment of the entire establishment subject to certain very reasonable stipulations. The British parliament decided after much deliberation not to proceed with the project, but Gzowski was praised for his public spirit, his patriotism and his liberality.

Then he became interested in military matters. He accompanied the first team of representative Canadian riflemen from Ontario to England in 1870 to take part in the annual military operations at Wimbledon. He was given several military honours in subsequent years and in 1879 he was made aide-de-camp to Queen Victoria.

Of his private life little is known. However, it is recorded that in 1839 he married Miss Marie Beebe, the daughter of an eminent American physician and had five sons and three daughters. He lived in a luxurious home in Toronto and entertained extravagantly. He spent much of his leisure time in England where several of his children lived.

HISTORY OF "FOREST MILLS" (RODD'S MILL)

By Mrs. Jas. V. Bryden (nee Annie Rodd)

In the vicinity of Aberfoyle, a certain pretentious spring pushed its way to the earth's surface, presenting a lively "boil and bubble," and with plenty of volume to start on its sparkling way over the land. Soon it was joined by two more streams like itself, and as it murmured along, curving gracefully over the miles more

streams joined in at intervals all along its length, thus adding width and depth. After much winding, it completed fifteen or more miles, finally flowing into the Grand River at Galt. It was a beautiful stream, with so many varieties of trees and bushes growing all along its banks, and its waters so clear and cool made it a perfect home for several species of fish, especially the prized speckled trout. Others were the chub, shiner, sucker, etc.

As time passed on, a number of mills were built on this stream and this fact suggested the name of Mill Creek, which is still its name although all but one mill have disappeared, having served their purpose. The remaining one is the first on the creek at Aberfoyle.

In the year 1836 Mr. Scrimger, of Galt, became aware of the possibilities of a picturesque spot about three miles up the stream from Galt, and taking into consideration the heavy growth of very large trees of pine, oak, maple, cedar, beech, elm, and other desirable trees, decided to build a saw mill to make lumber and in so doing to clear the land. He also built a blacksmith shop. Some years later in 1858, Mr. Isaac Martin built a flour and grist mill near the saw mill and named it very appropriately "Forest Mills"; it was a large frame building four storeys high with several buildings attached, namely a tool house, chop room, smut house and office. The huge beams supporting the structure and all lumber used, and the wide boards testified to the size of the aforementioned trees.

Three houses were built on the mill property at this time. Later in 1906 or 1907, as there ceased to be tenants for the two, four or five roomed houses, Mr. Rodd, the owner at that time, sold them to a man in Galt, who removed them to build a house in that urban centre. One house still remains in good repair, which evidently was always the residence of the miller.

The machinery for the mill was built and installed by the Crombie Foundry of Galt, as were also the grinding stones. This foundry later became the Goldie and McCulloch Co. The mill machinery was driven by water power and the water wheel necessary for this was situated under the mill in a pit. It was necessary to build a dam to conserve the needed bulk of water powerful enough to drive the machinery. It is not clear how large the body was at that time, but at the present, the area behind the dam is twenty-two acres and extends beyond the mill property into the neighbouring farm as far up the stream to a point known as Miss White's summer residence, situated on the White sideroad. This

was originally the Gillies homestead, and the sideroad was then known as the Gillies sideroad.

A long flume carried the water to the bulkhead, and from there to the water wheel below. The amount of water needed was regulated by means of gates, and there were waste gates also to keep the dam from overflowing at high water seasons or to conserve when water was needed. This was often the case as much water was needed for constant grinding.

Mr. Martin operated the mill for thirteen years and it is reported that he ran the saw mill also—at least for some time, then sold the business to Mr. Wm. Austin who carried on for six years. Much of the flour produced in the earliest days was taken by team and wagon to Dundas, twenty odd miles. Either in Mr. Austin's time or before that, the saw mill was dismantled and removed, nothing remaining by 1879, when Mr. Rodd purchased the mill, but a few water-logged boards, blocks and bark and sawdust to mark the spot.

Mr. Rodd purchased the mill and farm from Mr. John Richardson, of St. George. A good business had been established and continued in the manufacture of flour and chopping of grain for livestock feeds. There was a closer market for much flour as Galt had grown and was in a growing state. Mr. Rodd disposed of his flour in Galt and St. George. At this time the public, for some unaccountable reason, changed the name to Rodd's Mill, and it still clings.

In the period between 1879 and 1880 the Credit Valley Railway had been built from the east and right up to the mill property. All the necessary surveying and obtaining of right of way had been settled before Mr. Rodd became the owner, and a large gang of men were on the job armed with pick and shovel. (No modern machines existed seventy years ago for this work.)

The subject of bed and board was a problem as they moved along, so the neighbouring homes, having room, took in as many as possible, and Mrs. Rodd took as her share sixteen men as the house contained nine rooms. The day's work was from seven a.m. to six p.m. and the men were always hungry for their meals. As a sample here are several items of food necessary for one meal—twelve quarts of peeled potatoes, a fifteen to twenty pound roast of beef, three dozen eggs, three dozen biscuits, four pies, three quarts applesauce or other fruit, innumerable cookies, two largest salmon trout obtainable. Twelve loaves of homemade bread

every other day were needed and other food on this scale. A sixty pound cheese did not last long nor did a hundred pounds of sugar.

Through this farm there was deep digging and the filling up of a deep hollow farther on, so the men were at the mill many weeks. As Mrs. Rodd had three small children, her task was a heavy one, and one not usually required of one pair of hands.

This railway later became the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The bread made from the stone-ground flour was a beautiful, light and nutritious loaf, but the housewife began to desire a whiter loaf and eventually a roller process was invented with its many revolving and sifting silk bolts taking out all the coarser grain particles. Thus we now have what is left and require for health's sake some form of food made from the coarser parts taken from the flour.

Owing to the demand for the whiter flour it became evident that the new roller process would have to be installed at Forest Mills in order to maintain the large trade already being done; so in 1884 the change was made.

The installation of the new system required much expense, time, and labour. Machinery of this type was expensive and was bought at Toronto and other large centres. The labour was considered high in price at that time. The millwright received \$2.50 per day, plus bed and board, and the helpers received down to \$1.00 per day with lodgings and board. There were six men on this job which lasted over a period of a good many weeks.

The old water wheel was not large enough, nor strong to operate the new machinery and so a large turbine water wheel was purchased. Now the wheel pit under the mill had to be enlarged and deepened and in the process a large stone was pried up, and such an immense volume of coldest spring water rushed up that Mr. Rodd, who was in the pit nearly lost his life from drowning; but the presence of mind of the men above enabled them to give him help in time. The foundation of the mill was in danger and two pumps were rushed in and were pumped day and night for weeks by the splendid neighbours, until the pit could be encased for the new wheel, and all the good neighbours asked as pay was a dance.

The effect that the escape of the water from this powerful spring produced amazed all, for four of the neighbouring springs lost most of their power and supply, and never again were the

same, even for a distance of one half mile. The water from the mill spring was carried in a different direction and flowed down through the raceway.

The old grinding stones were kept and used for chopping grain for livestock.

When Mr. Rodd came to the mill, the entrance to the mill from the Clyde Road was a narrow lane through a forest of tall trees on the Turnbull farm. There was an entrance from the Killean Road on the mill property, but this was not as convenient for patrons from the Clyde Road, nor for the miller to go to Galt. While the trees were standing, the owner of the forest did not care, but when he finished clearing this portion of his farm, he was anxious to have it "stumped" and put into cultivation. Mr. Rodd, being anxious to retain this entrance, purchased the twenty-five acres, thus increasing his acreage to one hundred minus the railway strip.

As time passed, the trees along the bank of the Mill Creek were cut down and the flow of water diminished considerably; the bottom of the creek became muddy due to the wash-in from the cleared land; the weeds began to grow and the sandy bottom soon covered over; the desirable fish almost disappeared, leaving the mud cats, or cat fish, in charge.

The water supply to run the mill became insufficient and then Mr. Rodd built a new dam, enlarging the acreage of water and holding in reserve a larger body; the long flume was done away with and the water carried closer to the mill; the capacity was then raised to twenty-five barrels per day.

Millers took toll for their work in the earlier years, later charging five cents per bag, and later still eight cents per bag.

After having served the community for many miles around for thirty-five years, Mr. Rodd sold the mill and farm to Mr. Martin Todd, of Galt, in the year 1914. Mr. Rodd moved to a farm near Clyde and about six months later passed on.

Mr. Todd did not live at the mill, but Mr. John Purdy carried on for him for about four years. It then passed into the hands of the government and was managed by the Soldier's Settlement Board and three or four families took advantage of the offer of buying reasonably. Mr. Crump made a payment or two but found he could not make a living as he had hoped for, and so gave up. Mr. Bevan tried with the same result. Mr. Kingston moved in, but the dam broke away and this discouragement caused

him to give up, also. Finally in 1927, Mr. Stewart Scott, of Galt, bought the place; it is still in the family as a summer cottage, and the farm land is given over to pasture.

The old mill ceased to be used for milling purposes in Mr. Todd's time and later the machinery was taken out and the building used as an ice house by Mr. Archie Ferguson of Mill Creek, for a number of years. By the summer of 1947 all had disappeared, the lumber being used in the construction of houses elsewhere, leaving a great vacancy and a heartache for those who loved the sight and sound of the busy mill. All through the years many were the visitors who considered this vicinity a beauty spot and photographed and sketched, painted and held picnics, bathed, fished, enjoyed outdoor skating, snowshoeing, etc.

The place was always lively with the farmers and teams and loads of grain plying back and forth. In the winter the miller had plenty of hard snow digging to keep the road open from the Clyde Road to the Killean Road as it was mill property and had to be kept open by the mill owner. Now all the work is finished. All is quiet, and Forest Mills has passed also, leaving only the pictures on "memory's walls."

HISTORY AS RELATED BY EARLY CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS

W. C. Barrie

The gathering together of these early Canadian newspapers and documents centres around two of the most respected of our early North Dumfries settlers.

In 1832 John Lee and his three sons, John, Thomas and David, emigrated from Scotland and settled on 250 acres of uncleared land four miles west of Galt. As a considerable number of very large oak trees were found growing on the farm, the place name of Oakwood was given it and when the new stone house was built in 1871 a large acorn, turned out of a block of wood, was placed on the top of the house.

The same year, 1832, John Johnston emigrated from Dumfermline, Scotland, and settled at Reidsville. He raised a family of five sons and five daughters. One of the sons, William, married Jane Lee, daughter of Thomas Lee, and settled on the part of Oakwood consisting of one hundred acres that belonged to

Jane's father. He later bought one hundred acres adjoining Oakwood and farmed the two hundred acres.

These two families, the Lees and the Johnstons, were very proud of their Scottish ancestry and cultivated the accent to such an extent that the third generation were more Scottish than those of the first generation who were born in Scotland.

Unfortunately there are no descendants of either families left in North Dumfries and this is one example of the change that has taken place in our township in the last forty years. Of the eighteen farms in the first six miles on Cedar Creek Road, there are only two that bear the name of the early settlers, and these are the Cowans and the Barries.

These changes make it important that every link with the past, such as letters, documents and newspapers, be preserved; and the Historical Society is best equipped to take care of such papers.

It is not surprising to those who knew the two families, that they saved a large number of papers, but the surprising part is that they had saved so many first copies of newspapers from all parts of Canada.

Among the treasured possessions of the Johnstons was a copy of the shorter catechism dated 1824 and a diary written by a member of the Johnston family on the journey from Scotland to Canada with an entry for each day of the 74 days necessary to make the trip.

Possibly the most valuable document among the large collection is a letter dated 1856 signed and written by Thomas Carlyle to Mr. Johnston's grandfather. It was Carlyle's custom to add a postscript to his letters asking the receiver to destroy his letters after reading them. This letter did not contain such a postscript which no doubt accounts for it being preserved. The Reverend R. E. Knowles, while writing his book, *St. Cuthberts*, would often drive out to Oakwood and request permission to read the Carlyle letter.

Among the many papers in the Johnston collection were the following local newspapers: Volumes one, two and three of the *Dumfries Courier*, dated 1844, 1845 and 1846; the first paper printed in Galt, and which lasted three years; Volume one of the *Dumfries Reformer* dated 1850; a *Galt Reporter* dated 1852 with an account of the North Dumfries Plowing Match, on the Crom-

bie estate, which is now well within the limits of Galt, and an address by Absalom Shade, founder of Galt, given at the banquet following the successful conclusion of the South Waterloo Agricultural Society's show, of which he was president; Volume two of the Ayr Observer dated 1856 and Volume two of the Ayr Recorder, dated 1822. Ayr in those days had a larger population than it has to-day and contained many thriving industries.

Of the Toronto papers found, possibly the most interesting and valuable one is Volume one of *The Globe*, edited and published by George Brown, subscription one pound currency per annum. This paper was dated 1844; *The British Colonist* dated 1844 and the *Examiner* dated 1839. Of these papers the *Globe* is the only one that is still in circulation. Another very interesting Toronto publication was a *British American Commercial College* paper dated 1867. This college issued its own money and conducted its own banking.

The most interesting series of newspapers in the collection is undoubtedly the three copies of the *Quebec Gazette*, the first newspaper printed in Canada; Volume 1, number 1, dated 1764, a centenary number dated 1864 and the 175th anniversary number dated 1939.

The first paper printed five years after the Battle of the Plains of Abraham is bilingual and tells of a growing dissatisfaction among the New England Colonies at the heavy taxes.

The centenary number contains advertisements of slaves for sale and of rewards for the recovery of runaway slaves. The anniversary number contains facsimiles of the first number dated 1764 and many others in the 175 years of its history.

Four Montreal papers were found: the *Montreal Gazette* dated 1832; the *New Montreal Gazette* dated 1833; *Montreal Herald* dated 1834, and the *Montreal Witness* dated 1857.

The Johnstons and the Lees kept in touch with the old land by taking several Scotch papers and a copy of the *Edinburgh Weekly Chronicle* dated 1844, and another of the *Kelso Chronicle* dated 1866 were found. Several early American papers were saved, such as the *Albion*, a New York paper dated 1850; *The American Messenger* dated 1853; *The New York Ledger* dated 1863 and *Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion*, no date but very old.

A copy of *Taits Magazine* dated 1834, and the *Schoolmaster* dated 1833, both printed in Edinburgh, were included in the collection.

The two families were keen readers of agricultural papers and early copies of a great many Canadian and American papers were found: The *British American Cultivator* dated 1847; the *Genesee Farmer* dated 1840; the *American Agriculturist* dated 1868; the *Farmers Advocate* dated 1882; the *Canada Farmer* dated 1866 and many others.

Morse's *School Geography*, dated 1847, in which Alaska is designated as Russian America, was among the many early school books found.

The *Minute Book of School Section No. 25, West Dumfries, Canada West*, with the first minutes written in it on February 25th, 1847, and the last minutes by yours truly in 1947, completes this list of just a few of the very interesting records kept by these early pioneers of our county.

AYR NOTES

The deaths of two life-time business men of Ayr occurred during 1948, that of Alexander C. Gillies, prominent druggist and business man of the community and that of James G. Fair, jeweller. Both men were born in Ayr or its vicinity and both had spent more than half a century in business and in the development of the village.

Mr. Fair had learned his trade in Brantford but had returned to Ayr to set up business for himself. He was always interested in civic enterprises and was connected with practically every organization and movement which functioned during his lifetime, horticulture, bowling, hockey, curling. He was on the Ayr School Board, the Ayr Park Committee, the Ayr War Memorial Committee, the Municipal Council, the Ayr Rural Telephone Company, as secretary-treasurer of the Ayr Public Library Board. He was instrumental in securing from the Carnegie Corporation a grant for the erection of the present Library building in 1909. Kindly and considerate he made many friends in the community.

Mr. Gillies was the village druggist, having graduated from the University of Toronto School in 1891. He was well known throughout the Province. As a young man, he was keenly in-

terested in sport and throughout his life he was an enthusiastic supporter of the village band. He knew where to find the rare and elusive trailing arbutus and the lovely lady-slipper, for he was a naturalist of note. He was also an ardent hunter, and enthusiastic fisherman, and a photographer of note. Many a traveller through Ayr stopped to admire the pool which he had created and stocked with speckled trout and rested in the park with its rustic furniture and its cabin filled with Indian relics.

These men will not soon be forgotten. They lived not for themselves alone but for others.

Two historic buildings in Ayr have passed into other hands, Reid's Hall, opened about ~~1855~~¹⁸⁵⁵, was sold in 1948 after having served the village for over sixty years and the Gore, the once palatial residence of the Goldie family, has been sold to Dr. R. H. Ferguson, of Kitchener Department of Public Health. With this sale, Mrs. F. A. Cleland, the last representative of the Goldie family severs her connection with the village.

Reid's ^{Hall} ~~Man~~, according to the Ayr news of June 10th, 1948, must have been opened with some eclat. There were at that time four teachers in the school, Mr. G. D. Lewis, Principal, Miss Nina Cameron, Miss Esther Renwick and Margaret Crozier. The opening concert was put on by the pupils in the three highest rooms. The main feature of the evening was a cantata entitled "The White Garland," under the direction of Prof. Freeland, Music Instructor for the school. This was followed by a contest in elocution, the winner to receive a prize donated by Mr. David Goldie. This was won by Marie Cravers.

The removal of the Goldie family from the village is to be regretted. It is a family with a long tradition in Ayr. John Goldie built the flour mill in Greenfield. His son, David Goldie, operated the mill after the father's death and constructed the large residence overlooking the valley of the Nith. The Gore, built in 1884 is one of the landmarks of the village. At one time a house of most pretentious proportions which accommodated a large family, it was later remodelled into a snug and comfortable home.



MISS KATHERINE LANGDON WILKS

MISS KATHERINE LANGDON WILKS AN APPRECIATION

Miss Katherine Langdon Wilks was undoubtedly an outstanding personality, perhaps the most outstanding among the women of Waterloo County.

She was born at Shaklin, on the Isle of Wight, more than ninety years ago. Yet few people many years younger had as clear a mind or as good a memory as she had when she died. Very, very seldom did she indulge in the privilege of old age, to repeat when telling a story or anecdote. She was to the end very wise and long-sighted, with a clear-cut decision on most matters.

Her father, Matthew Wilks, was an Englishman, son of an English Church Clergyman, Reverend Mark Wilks, who was at one time head of the Anglican Church in Paris, France, and a very well-known figure among the French Ecclesiastical and Historical circles of his day. He was noted for his knowledge and wit and he was mentioned in many historical chronicles of that French epoch.

Mr. Matthew Wilks was a very shrewd business man, and he was largely responsible for the efficient management and the great increase in the family fortunes. He was a loyal Britisher, although educated for the most part in France. He and his family spoke the French language as fluently as the English. This was only natural since the entire family spent a great deal of time in Paris.

Miss Wilks' mother was a Langdon of High Park, New York. I believe the Langdon estate adjoined that of the Roosevelts. She was a granddaughter of John Jacob Astor and, since his family was fairly large, Miss Wilks had a wide New York connection.

The Wilks family spent many winters in Paris, London and New York. For several summers they went back to the Isle of Wight. Such a life was indeed a liberal education for everyone and Miss Wilks' keen mind was quick to grasp and remember many things of intense interest from her childhood. One rather extraordinary circumstance she related was that on one of her many voyages across the Atlantic she met a man who, she discovered in the course of conversation, had been born in the very house and even in the very room in which she herself had been born.

Mr. Wilks came to Cruickston Park in the eighteen fifties. One of his main reasons for doing so was that he wished to live under the British flag. At first the family stayed in Canada only

for the summers, but when Mrs. Wilks decided that she did not wish to travel any more, they made Cruickston Park their permanent home. Mrs. Wilks, I believe, took off her bonnet, gave it to her daughter and said: "My dear, you can put it away; I shall not wear it again. I will stay right here."

Miss Wilks was a great companion and admirer of her father, and, like him, took a keen interest in Cruickston. She always loved animals and was seldom without her own dogs, as well as her horses, which had become her chief hobby, even before her father died. Her fame as a horsewoman was, you might say, continent-wide. One had only to say that he or she came from Blair, or Galt, and the question was always forthcoming: "Do you know Miss Wilks?" Her famous stallion, Kentucky Todd, was about as widely known as his mistress.

Galt's very good and popular open-air Horse Show of pre-war days owed much of its excellence and good name to Miss Wilks' enthusiasm and backing with spirit undaunted, although she was in her nineties. She presented her own cup when the Horse Show was revived in 1947.

A large, black automobile drove slowly into Dickson Park from the south entrance and stopped in front of the grand-stand. A hush fell over the thousands of spectators jamming the grand-stand and hillside. Few had seen her before. She had come to present the K. L. Wilks trophy to the winner of the single roadster stake.

She leaned forward in the car and handed the trophy to the winner with a brief congratulatory message, which few persons could hear. Flash-bulbs exploded and the car moved on. For a moment the crowd was silent and seemed disappointed. Then the park rang with their cheers. That was the effect of her presence. Most of the crowd knew her only by reputation, but they realized that some one out of the ordinary had been in their midst for a few moments.

Whenever the original Horse Show was opened by the Governor-General, as it often was, he and his party would be entertained at Cruickston Park. Earl Grey and the Duke of Devonshire paid Miss Wilks the same compliment when they told her that she was a pioneer in introducing English country life into Canada. It would indeed be interesting if the stately green drawing-room could tell us tales of the distinguished people who have been entertained within its walls. It was there that the Duke

of Devonshire was so delighted with the Cruickston strawberries and cream that he said he could not stop eating them.

Autographed photographs of the numerous Governors-General and their ladies who had been entertained at Cruickston were treasures the dear old library held. Miss Wilks spent much time in the library, especially during the winter months, and her many friends will always remember that lovely setting for a clear picture of her vivid personality. In that room too were many souvenirs which must have given Miss Wilks comfort and pleasure because they spoke to her of her father.

To see the trophy room was one of the greatest delights and privileges of Miss Wilks' friends. Here were displayed pictures and paintings of her horses, as well as many ribbons and cups won by them in trans-continental races. It was a very special little room in many ways, and it had once been her father's. The lovely French windows overlooked the beautiful view of the meeting of the Speed and Grand rivers, a view that played no small part in her father's purchase of Cruickston.

In the trophy room were displayed Miss Wilks' collection of miniatures of great variety, some of which were very beautiful. The collection of miniatures was another of Miss Wilks' hobbies. A shelf above her desk held many, many fascinating small objects. One could browse for hours in that room and a quiet cup of tea there with its mistress was always a delight. The memory of such occasions will be truly cherished.

Miss Wilks was always a gracious hostess, and she was very much a mistress in her own home. So great was her charm that those who ever met her would never forget her and many are the pleasant memories she has left behind.

Miss Wilks' circle of family and friends was very wide, and many were separated from her by long distances. Before the first world war she travelled extensively; seventy-three ocean crossings, I believe, she made. She loved motoring and on this continent she travelled a great deal by motor. For many years Easter always found her in New York. No distance daunted her at any age. Since her mother's sisters had married Europeans, a welcome awaited her in many cities abroad and she became familiar with the characteristics of the family life of many countries.

Some of her crossings of the Atlantic were stormy. I remember her telling me of one of these. A safe broke loose in the storm and bumped over the deck of the ship, forcing the passengers to remain in their staterooms. Even the furniture kept shifting to

and fro with the listing of the ship and everyone had to remain in bed. Miss Wilks always saw the funny side in such a predicament. Her psychology of life was very sound. Many a time I have heard her say: "Don't worry; worry does no good. To meet the troubles of life you must not worry, but you must have your sleep." I am sure that her very keen sense of humour, too, helped her to face much and certainly added to the interest of her fascinating tales.

I can think of nothing more enjoyable than to spend an evening with her, listening to tales of her travels, except, perhaps, stories of her early life. I have heard her tell how she and her brothers and old friends of other well-known New York families founded the Old Badminton Club, which is to-day, I believe, the well-known and exclusive Squash and Racquets Club. The women of that day played in long skirts and played a good game too!

As a child she talked so little that she was called Mademoiselle La Silencieuse. But later in life she had so much to tell and talk about that she outgrew her name. Strange as it may seem for one so widely travelled and so well informed, she disliked intensely to speak in public and whenever possible she had some one speak for her.

The Red Cross was one of her special interests. She founded the Galt Branch at the time of the 1914-1918 war and was president of it for twenty-five years. I suppose no member of the branch had its welfare more at heart or did more to help it along. At this time she gave to the forces a soup kitchen, which she called The Shanklin, in honour of her birthplace.

When Cruickston Park was left to Miss Wilks at her father's death she assumed it as a great trust. Indeed she loved it, and everything in and about it, with a real devotion. One might well say it was her pride and joy. Her family loyalty was extremely great and the family traditions and possessions, very precious. She did all in her power to keep it as her father had left it. When hangings and carpets were worn she sent to England and France to have them copied and replaced so that the place might be kept in repair but not changed in any way. When the entrance gates had succumbed to time she had them replaced with the same type of massive, hewn-oak posts. All this was very typical of Miss Wilks.

She was in every way a loyal friend, and her many kindnesses will be long remembered by hosts of people. She did so much and said so little. She was a living example of the admonition

not to let your left hand know what your right hand does. Many boys and girls have Miss Wilks to thank for much of their education and start in life.

Miss Wilks will long be remembered for the keenness of her intellect, the kindness of her heart and for the soundness of her judgment. Her foresight was remarkable, her advice valuable. She was a truly wonderful woman in her interest in public affairs and her ability to keep abreast of the times. Age never counted with her. People of all ages found her interesting. The young as well as the old loved to go and see her, and many are the friends whose great pleasure in life was a visit to Cruickston. Her kindness and thoughtfulness for old friends and her deep appreciation of anything done for her were most refreshing. In her daily life she showed the delightful, very-much-alive personality which she possessed. She had, too, the priceless trait of never putting off until to-morrow what could be done to-day.

Like her father, she showed excellent business ability and until the last she kept a definite finger on the pulse of her own affairs.

During the last year of her life she had an operation on her eyes. This showed her great courage, her determination and her zest of life. How we all rejoiced at her last birthday party to know that what she had so heroically gone through had not been in vain! She would be able to see again. How everyone regretted later that she had not been able to live a year or two longer to enjoy the recovery of her sight.

As Rev. A. B. Thomas said at her funeral, she was a very good friend of Trinity Church, Galt. Many of the lovely appointments of the church speak so clearly of Miss Wilks that the congregation cannot but feel that she is still with us, at least in spirit.

Mrs. R. H. Dickson.

THE PEQUEGNAT FAMILY

In July, 1914, a few days previous to the outbreak of the First World War, the Swiss Commune of Courgenay, Canton Berne, honoured a native son, Pierre Péquignat, who was born in 1669 and died in 1740. A public meeting was called at the little town of Porrentury, where Péquignat had met a horrible death, and a belated stone was erected to his memory. A free translation of the inscription on the stone follows:

PIERRE PEQUIGNAT

"This monument was erected in July, 1914, to Péquignat, the chief of the peasants, by the parish of Courgenay, his native village."

There is no statement that Pequignat died at the hands of a hangman and that he gave his life to defend the religious liberties of the Swiss people.

The eighteenth century was an era of religious persecution and nowhere was intolerance more bitter than in the Canton of Berne. Pequignat was fearless in the defence of the rights of the peasants of Ajoie, in the Bernese Jura, against the malicious designs of the princes and the bishops of the established churches, the Roman Catholic, the Lutheran and the Reformed. He became the hero of the common people and the chief of the Ajoulots. But he fought in a lost cause. He was forced to yield finally to the ruthless ecclesiastical rulers of the day.

Pequignat was seventy-one years old and harmless, except that he was adamant in his religious convictions. His captors turned him over to a hangman, who decapitated him. The blood-thirsty churchmen then had his headless body quartered and exhibited at the four entrances to the town of Porrentury, as a grim warning to those who presumed to oppose the authority of the established churches. Such was the degree of religious intolerance which prevailed in Switzerland a little more than two hundred years ago.

It is quite probable that Pierre Péquignat was an ancestor or at least a relative of the well known and highly respected Pequegnat family who emigrated from Switzerland to Berlin (Kitchener), and later scattered throughout Western Ontario. This, however, has not been substantiated.

Ulysses and Francoise Pequegnat were the ancestors of the Pequegnat family we know to-day. They came to Berlin on April

14th, 1874, with fourteen children and four other relatives. Upon their arrival at the station they all walked to the Town Hall to see the mayor. Ulysses carried a gun over his shoulder to protect his family from any wild beasts that might be lurking about in this strange, new world.

He told the mayor that he had heard of the wonderland of Canada from a Canadian immigration agent and that he had been persuaded by the enthusiasm of his third son, James. They had arrived in Toronto early in 1874 expecting to go to Muskoka, but their plans had been changed and they came to Berlin instead. He had little money, less than a hundred dollars, hidden in his clothing, but he had this credential, that he and his sons were expert watchmakers and they were willing to work.

A house was found for the Pequegnats on the south side of Duke street, between Ontario and Young streets. The owner was a Mr. Feick, who had just sold his felt factory on Gaukel street and was returning to his native country, the United States of America.

The house was a small, frame structure but in time the Pequegnats enlarged it by the addition of a new frame building at the back. Soon they had remodelled the nondescript house into a home capable of housing sixteen people, and cozy withal. They built a grape arbor along one side of the house, planted apple trees and dug a garden for their Swiss chard in the back yard. The lot was a deep one, extending from Duke street to the shallow King street lots. They had only to walk through their garden and down a short lane to find themselves on the main thoroughfare. The population of Berlin at that time was about three thousand, and there was comparatively little activity in either street or store.

Since Ulysses Pequegnat had been a lover of the chase in Switzerland, it is quite unlikely that he was aware of the sensation he caused when he carried a gun over his shoulder on his way to the Town Hall. He was fond of domestic animals. Soon he purchased a horse and built a comfortable stable for him in his back yard. But his dogs were his special pride. Usually he kept two or three hounds and these would accompany him on his annual hunting expedition to the Nipissing area, where deer abounded. The Pequegnats had a feast when he returned.

The family prospered from the day they opened their first small shop in Berlin. The father and his elder sons were all skilled watchmakers, and the boys learned the trade from their brothers. They set up watch and jewelry stores in Berlin, Guelph,

Stratford, Brantford, New Hamburg, Waterloo, Tavistock and Neustead. The eldest son, Arthur, remained in Berlin, where he built and managed the first clock factory in Canada. On his death his eldest son, Edmond, became its manager, upholding the family tradition.

The second son of Ulysses Pequegnat, Paul, never married. He had a jewelry store on King street in Old Berlin for many years. After the death of his parents he continued to live in the family home on Duke street. His hobby was postage stamps. He had three sides of one of the rooms of the old house papered with two-cent red Canadian stamps and, for contrast, he covered the fourth wall with green ones. He used to paste the stamps on rectangular pieces of white paper, adding the sheets, when filled, to his collection on the wall.

The stamp collection in which Paul took such pride was removed from the walls of the old house after his death. The grape arbor and the stable disappeared soon after. In 1937, the house which had been in possession of members of the Pequegnat family continuously for more than sixty years was sold to the Bell Telephone Company. In 1939 it was torn down, and another link with old Berlin was destroyed. But many of the old-time residents still see the old house hanging like a picture on memory's wall.

The Pequegnats are traditionally Baptists. Their earliest church affiliations in this country were with the Benton Street Baptist Church in Kitchener. Arthur Pequegnat was for thirty years senior deacon of that church and for twenty-five years superintendent of the Sunday School. Since his death the latter post has been held by his son, Edmond, for fourteen years, and by his son, Marcel, for about the same period of time. Several members of the family have joined the King Street Baptist Church. Members of the family who live in other communities are nearly all loyal to the church of their fathers.

The Pequegnats are excellent linguists, for the older members of the family speak three languages fluently. French is their native tongue; English they learned when they came to Canada, and German was the native language of most of the members of the Benton Street Baptist Church in the long ago. At their family gatherings they always sing the old French songs. On the fireplace in the old Arthur Pequegnat home on Frederick street, Kitchener, now the residence of his son, Eugene, is carved in stone an old French proverb: "A chaque oiseau son nid est beau." (To each bird his own nest is beautiful.)

On the first of July, 1924, the family held a reunion to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the coming of the Pequegnats to Canada. The meeting took place on Eugene Pequegnat's summer home near Bridgeport. There were at that time a hundred and forty-five descendants, of whom many were present. The invitations, in the French language, were issued by Leon Pequegnat, New Hamburg, chairman; Eugene Pequegnat, Kitchener, vice-chairman, and Clarence D. Pequegnat, Kitchener, secretary-treasurer. They carried likenesses of Ulysses and Françoise Pequegnat, their ancestors, and the dates 1874-1924.

Arthur Pequegnat was the chief speaker on this occasion. He was in a reminiscent mood, and he related many stories of his boyhood days in Switzerland. He was twenty-two in 1874, the eldest of the family, and Dena, now Mrs. B. F. Stumpf of Kitchener, the youngest, was only six years old. Another interesting feature of the day's program was a tableau representing the coming of the Pequegnats to Berlin on April 14th, 1874. A photograph was taken of all the members present, and later they sang their family song, a paraphrase of the national anthem:

God save the Pequegnats,
God bless the Pequegnats,
The Pequegnats.
In eighteen seventy-four
They left the old Swiss shore
Looking for peace and armed for war,
The Pequegnats.

Some time after the First World War, George Pequegnat, of London, son of the venturesome James who had persuaded his father to try his fortunes in Canada, visited Switzerland. He found the old house which his grandfather had left. It was still occupied by Pequegnats. He was shown the name Ulysses which his grandfather had carved by his own hand just before going to Canada in March, 1874. And he had the pleasure of reading a brief newspaper article which had been prepared by an old Swiss friend and published on the eve of the departure of the Pequegnats. It was a laudatory editorial, extolling the sterling citizenship exemplified by Ulysses Pequegnat, who had been an inspiration and an example to many of his compatriots.

The fourteen children of Ulysses and Françoise Pequegnat are here named in chronological order: Arthur (Kitchener), Paul

(Kitchener), James (Stratford), Emma (Mrs. James Heimbach, Colville, Washington, U.S.A.), George (Kitchener), Leon (New Hamburg), Lena (Mrs. W. Fleischer, Hamilton), Leah (Mrs. Ralph W. Chamberlain, Calgary, Alberta), Rachel (Mrs. O. Schneider, Kitchener), Marie (Kitchener), Philemon (Kitchener), Joseph (Guelph), Albert (Brantford), Dena (Mrs. B. F. Stumpf, Kitchener).

Of these, only three are living at the time of publication, namely Mrs. Ralph W. Chamberlain, of Calgary, who paid a visit to her people in the east last summer; Albert, of Brantford, and Mrs. B. F. Stumpf, of Kitchener.

The Pequegnats have proved themselves to be useful citizens, of whom Canada may well be proud. Two of the sons of Ulysses, Leon and Joseph, have been mayors of their respective communities, and Arthur had an enviable record of twenty-seven years' service as chairman of the Kitchener Public School Board. His son, Edmond, was secretary-treasurer of the same board from 1915 to 1942. His second son, Marcel, is superintendent of the Kitchener Water Commission and his third son, Eugene, is general manager of the Mutual Life Assurance Company of Canada at Waterloo.

Emile A. Pequegnat, now deceased, son of James, was an optometrist, a musician of note and a composer of music.

Dr. Leon A. Pequegnat, son of George, is the Deputy Medical Health Officer for the city of Toronto.

Of the sons of Philemon, Clarence D. Pequegnat is sales manager of the Kaufman Rubber Company, Kitchener; Arthur W. and Edouard L. are bankers.

Joseph's son, Ralph, is president of Stevens Hepner Co., Port Elgin, Ont. His brother, Harold, is the only Pequegnat still engaged in the retail jewelry business.

G. Donald Pequegnat, son of Albert, is a columnist in New York City.

Four grandsons of Arthur Pequegnat are in the ministry. These include Rev. Walter Fleischer, B.A., son of Lena, who is professor at the Central Baptist Seminary in Toronto; Rev. Arthur B. Schulte, son of Angeline, who is pastor of the Baptist Church at Fort Francis, Ontario; Rev. Stewart L. Boehmer, son of Mathilde, who is pastor of Calvary Church, Toronto, and Rev. James K. Pequegnat, son of Marcel, who is pastor of the Baptist Church at Stouffville, Ontario.

Other grandsons of Arthur Pequegnat have found work of their choice in the scientific world. These include three sons of Edmond, namely Dr. Homer M. Pequegnat, a medical practitioner in Kitchener; Carl E. Pequegnat, Division Court Clerk and a member of the Kitchener Public School Board, and J. Marc Pequegnat, a civil engineer in Hamilton. Robert K. Pequegnat, son of Marcel, is also a civil engineer.

B. M. Dunham, D.Litt.