

FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

of the

**WATERLOO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**



NINETEEN FIFTY-FIVE

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HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



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KITCHENER, ONTARIO
FEBRUARY 1956



GRAND RIVER

Looking south from the lookout at Homer Watson Memorial Park,
formerly Cressman's Woods, near Doon

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1956

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

On behalf of the Waterloo Historical Society I give you a very warm welcome. We feel certain that you will enjoy this meeting and the interesting display of historical items pertaining to the founders of Galt — William Dickson and Absalom Shade — and that you will have a better understanding of this society.

The past two years have been enjoyable for me and I will not soon forget the pleasures and associations. I shall most certainly often recall the loyalty of the executive committee because it was due to their experience, their willingness and their enthusiasm that your society has grown and has been able to gather and spread much historical information.

In the success of such a society much depends on the growth of its membership and we look forward in the coming year to a roll of one thousand. This will not necessarily give us more money with which to work because the fees do little more than pay for the annual report. We desire the interest of a wide-spread membership because the larger it is the greater will be the possibility of building up the museum which even now gives an excellent story of our county's historical background. The financing of our activities must come from generous grants of the various municipalities and we hope in the next year to get the necessary support from every incorporated municipal body. With this help we can make our museum a place of increasing interest to the members and to the public.

The past year's activities have been extensive, but it is not necessary to dwell upon them because they are covered in the secretary's report.

This evening it is our privilege to enjoy the fine auditorium of Central Presbyterian Church and we ask Dr. Gowdy and his board to accept our sincere thanks. We are grateful for the music of Jim and David Barrie. Our appreciation is also extended to the press of both Galt and Kitchener who have been most kind to us. Lastly we wish to express our gratitude for the donations which have enriched the museum during the past year.

W. H. E. Schmalz,
President.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT—1955

The 43rd annual meeting of the Waterloo Historical Society was held in the Sunday School Auditorium of the Central Presbyterian Church, Galt, on November 4, 1955. W. H. Cranston, editor and publisher of Midland, spoke on "Compulsory Rear View Mirrors". Galt members arranged an interesting display of articles pertaining to the early history of Galt.

In May a small group attended the annual Museum Workshop held this year at Huronia House, Midland, and the Penetanguishene Museum. At this meeting it was decided to hold future museum conferences in the fall and so we were again represented at the Kingston Museum Workshop in October.

A. W. Taylor, our official delegate, attended the annual meeting of the Ontario Historical Society held in Windsor in June.

F. E. Page acted as chairman at the unveiling of the plaque erected in honour of Homer Watson at the Doon School of Fine Arts.

The major project this year was the planning for exhibits at three fairs, namely: Wellesley, New Hamburg and Galt. Local committees using relics of their own communities arranged the displays which caught the interest of many. New members obtained and the returns from the sale of Annual Reports and Historical Ontario well repaid the efforts put forth by these committees. We are indebted to the directors of the fairs for accommodation provided gratuitously.

Through the generosity of the Kitchener-Waterloo Record who first published "The Barefoot Farm Boy" in their Farm and Country edition, March 1955, and the enthusiasm of John T. Schmidt, Farm Editor, we were able to print this story of farm life. Copies have been donated to all schools, colleges and libraries in Waterloo County.

Four Council Meetings were held.

Grants from the municipalities are gratefully acknowledged.

We appreciate the accommodation provided by the Kitchener Public Library for our museum and archives, the work of the young people who act as curators during visiting hours and the full co-operation of the library staff.

Emily Seibert,
31 Madison Ave. S.,
Kitchener.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1955

Receipts:

Balance on hand at January 1, 1955	\$ 781.35
Members' Fees	225.00
Sale of Reports and other printed matter	51.25
Bank Interest	14.82
Donation	1.00

Grants:

Kitchener	\$ 50.00
Galt	100.00
Waterloo, 1954 and 1955	200.00
Preston	50.00
Hespeler	25.00
Elmira	25.00
Ayr	10.00
Waterloo Township	50.00
North Dumfries Township	25.00
Wilmot Township	25.00
Woolwich Township	25.00
Waterloo County	200.00
	785.00
	\$1,858.42

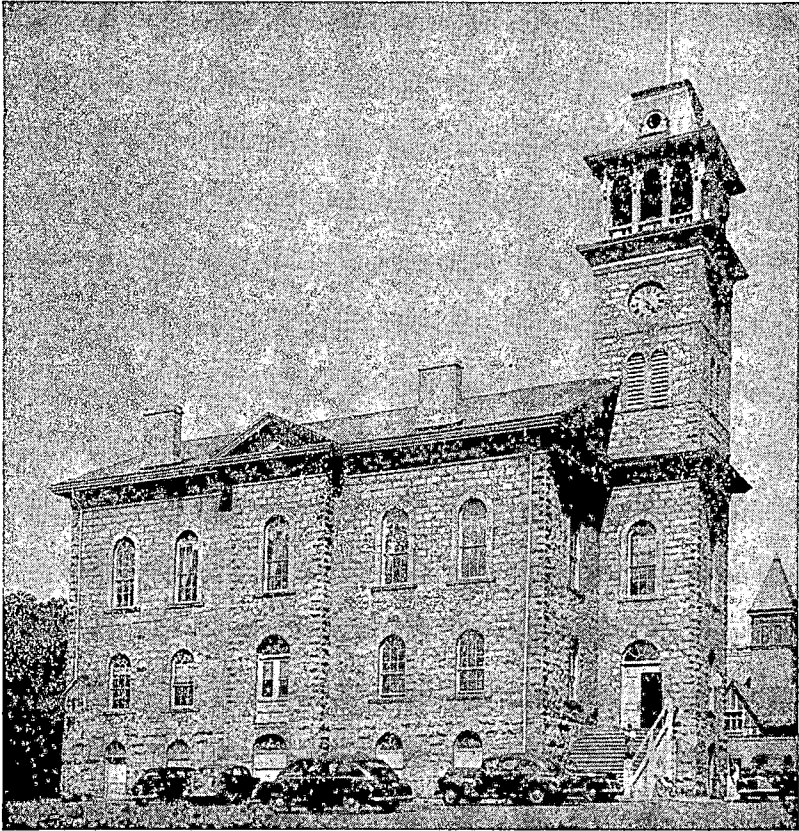
Disbursements:

42nd Annual Report	\$327.35
Publication Committee Expenses	19.85
Stationery and Printing	118.62
Delegate's Expenses	29.00
Speaker's Expenses	17.30
Annual Meeting	14.05
Curator	52.00
Janitor	40.00
Postage	31.43
Advertising	18.90
Ontario Historical Society	3.00
Secretary	75.00
	745.50
Balance	\$1,112.92

Audited and found correct.

Jan. 5, 1956.

Mrs. Helena Feasby.



GALT CITY HALL

The low building behind, to the right, previous to 1857
was Galt's two room school

A plate on the works of Galt's city hall clock bears this inscription:

DIAMOND JUBILEE CLOCK

erected in commemoration of the 60th year
of Queen Victoria's reign. June 22, 1897.



Committee

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T. E. McLellan, Sec'y.
D. Spiers, Treas.

Thos. Vair
T. McGiverin
R. Fairgrieve

J. H. Radford M.D., Mayor

COMPULSORY REAR-VIEW MIRRORS

By *W. H. Cranston*
of *Midland*

William H. Cranston, a graduate of McMaster University in 1935, is the publisher of a weekly newspaper, the *Midland Free Press Herald*. He has been very active in stimulating interest in the history of the Midland area. His father, J. Herbert Cranston, was born in Galt, and for more than twenty years was editor of the *Toronto Star Weekly*. This address was delivered November 4, 1955, at the annual meeting of the *Waterloo Historical Society*.

You may find it a bit difficult to understand, but I can truthfully say that I feel somewhat at home in Galt.

Not, of course, in Galt of to-day, but in the Galt of yesterday, to-day, and to-morrow — the Galt of history and of story.

I grew up on Galt . . . on its rampaging Grand River; on the pond on the south side of Main where shinny was played with pucks salvaged from the piles of scrap hickory and elm, back of the *Victoria Wheel Works*¹ and where curlers ushered in the winter social season with their busy brooms; on the Galt of the days when the two big social events of the year were the *Knox Church* annual turkey dinner and bazaar in the town hall and the *Knox Sunday School* picnic on *Moffatt's flats*.²

Memories flood back — second-hand it is true, but almost as vivid as they were a few years back when they were told me at bedtime by a father who had grown up in this beautiful city and had never lost his love for it and its people.

Perhaps, however, I should start by pointing out that it is not unnatural that a resident of present day *Huronia* should find his way down the Grand River to *Waterloo County*. The *Huron Indians* who once lived where I live to-day had a habit of doing just this on their way each year to the land where they got their essential flint.

1. The pond on the south side of Main Street was a storage basin on Mill Creek, that supplied water to early mills. It lay where we now have the *Lake Erie* and *Northern* tracks and station.

The *Victoria Wheel Works* stood on the north side of Main Street where the *C.P.R.* yard and freight sheds are. The firm later moved to the west side of the river, where the buildings have since been taken over by the *Canadian General - Tower, Ltd.*

2. *Moffatt's flats* was the older name for the land at the city incinerator and sewage disposal plant. Sixty and seventy years ago, not only was it a favourite picnicking ground, but political rallies were held there, and open-air dancing. In addition, it was good hunting ground for Indian relics.

For at least four centuries now the counties of the Grand and of Georgian Bay have been linked.

But my particular tie to the Grand River valley is a more personal one.

There sailed on the good ship Sarah Mary Ann in the spring of 1831 from Maryport in the north of England a number of land-hungry peasants, many of them from Roxburghshire, Scotland. It was a 32-day voyage and the emigrants got to know each other well. Their names too will be familiar to most of you. There were Kerrs, Landreths, Kersells, Hendersons, Laidlaws, Veitches, Aikens, Adams, Littles, Davidsons, and a Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cranston and their five bairns who had come from their home farm of Crook House, near Linton.

They came, many of them, to Dumfries Township to land bought for development by the Honourable William Dickson in 1816. The nearest village had only four years before their arrival officially changed its name from Shade's Mills to Galt.

Robert Cranston was just 33 years of age when he chose his homestead on the banks of Cedar Creek five miles west of the village. His older brother Adam, a miller by trade, settled nearby shortly thereafter.

Dumfries Township was a pretty primitive place in those days. Indeed even the village of Galt was culturally restricted, or at least it might appear so to a person engaged in journalism.

It was not until 1844 — when Alexander, Robert Cranston's eldest son, was one year past his majority and had established his own farm to the east of the family homestead³ — that the township and village had their first newspaper, the Dumfries Courier. This weekly journal, established by the genial if somewhat unbusiness-like Ben Hearle, lasted but two brief years.

However, just as Ben Hearle's weekly paper was breathing its last, Peter Jaffray and his two sons arrived in Galt from England and the first issue of their Galt Reporter and General Advertiser was printed on Friday, November 13, 1846. It was a day which proved far from unlucky either for the incipient publishers or for their subscribers. An even fifty years later, on October 26, 1896, the Reporter grew up with its market and began daily publication.

3. Alexander Cranston's land was the northern half of lot 26, Concession 10, in North Dumfries. It is now owned by Mr. J. S. Lake. Robert Cranston's was lot 27, Concession 10, and was said to be 172 acres. It is now divided between Mr. Lake and Mr. A. J. Arnold.

Six months later still it had attained the spanking circulation of 900 copies each week day and had become a major influence in the lives of the residents.

Let me return for a moment, however, to Robert Cranston and his eldest son, Alexander. In 1845, at the age of 23, Alexander married Marion Dickie of the Dickie Settlement, not far from Cedar Creek but nearer the booming village of Galt.

His father a few years later retired from the farm to Galt where he died on Sept. 1, 1876. Just a year before — in 1875 — Alexander, himself, had retired from his farm, which he passed on to his son John, and had taken up residence in a little brick cottage on Galt's Shade Street.⁴ There Grandma Marion Dickie Cranston became justly famous for her oatmeal cookies and Grandpa Alexander Cranston for his fine woodworking and seventeen successive years as an upstanding elder of Knox Church.

In the years they farmed just east of Cedar Creek, however, there were born to Alexander and Marion Cranston four sons and three daughters of whom the third son, James Kersell, saw the light of day on August 14, 1856.

James Kersell Cranston was not attracted to the farm but he did inherit his father's love of good books. After apprenticing himself in his teens to a book store in Port Hope, he became a clerk in the store of Alexander Elmslie in Galt.

In the summer of 1879 he married Eva McLean, daughter of Robert McLean, a native of Inverness, who in 1846 reportedly had been one of the two instructors at Galt's only, two-room, public school.⁵

To continue the story of the Cranston cradle — and only last year I was given by Mrs. Maud Cruickshank of George Street, Galt, the first Canadian Cranston cradle which was fashioned by the hands of the original Robert of Cedar Creek — there were also born to James and Eva McLean Cranston, as to their parents before them, seven children.

James K. Cranston had his business ups and downs, but he won himself a good reputation with his fellow citizens, serving two terms as alderman for ward two. He operated his own bookstore

4. Alexander Cranston's home was at '89 Shade Street.

5. The two-room school stood to the east of the City Hall. It is now the Office of the Board of Works, with the market scales to the rear.

on Main Street between Ainslie and Water Streets and later, after a fire had swept the original area, was the proprietor of somewhat larger premises in the Buchanan Block, further east on Main.⁶

One of my most prized possessions is the front cover of "the great leader" scribbler which James K. Cranston issued annually for the use of younger citizens of Galt. It was sent to me not long ago by James S. Webster of 64 Grand Avenue North, Galt, along with some personal recollections of Galt's early bookseller.

James K. Cranston was a born salesman if not a born businessman and novelties were a constant challenge to his imagination. Indeed it was he who introduced to this part of Ontario the first flat disk phonograph, the safety bike with two low wheels,⁷ and the aluminum due bills with which storekeepers paid for produce. The latter was a thriving business and might well have made Mr. Cranston wealthy. Unfortunately, however, Ottawa's politicians saw in the aluminum coins a threat to the stability of the country's currency and outlawed their use.

Nonetheless the Cranston Novelty Co. succeeded the bookstore business and for years was carried on from both Toronto and Galt, James Cranston having moved to the bigger city in 1905.

James Cranston, although an urbanite, never forgot the traditions of the old homestead at Cedar Creek. Many a morning he headed out with his eldest son, Herbert, to drop a line into the then clear, cold, sparkling trout stream which crossed the first Cranston farm in Dumfries Township. Now Cedar Creek has lost much of its tree cover and also most of its fish, but its traditions die slow.

On those fishing expeditions, James Cranston drove by horse and buggy from his stable at 24 Oak Street, and many the yarn. I have heard about his horse "Lady" and about the football and baseball games at Dickson Park, watched at times from the top of freight cars parked in the nearby Grand Trunk yard.

Herb Cranston, that oldest son of bookseller James Cranston — and great grandson of Robert — was my late father, a man whose boyhood memories, passed on in bedtime stories, will link me forever to Galt's early days.

6. The first Cranston store is said to have been in the third block west from Ainslie Street. The building now on the site houses Mills Hardware and Barton's. The second store was probably where Meikelham's Pharmacy (63 Main) is now.
7. Previous to the safety model, bicycles had one large wheel with a smaller one behind.

After attending Central Public School, he was for two years at Galt's famed Collegiate Institute, founded 103 years ago as the Galt Grammar School. There it was that from 1853 to 1881 the noted Dr. William Tassie reigned and attendance grew from an initial 12 pupils to over 250. The school is also forever associated in the minds of older residents with the name of Principal Thomas Carscadden who succeeded to that post in 1884 after having been "first assistant" since 1881.

Galt Collegiate 55 years ago was not a free school. For each of its two autumn terms — the first from Sept. 1 - Oct. 22, and the second from Oct. 23 to Dec. 23 — county pupils paid \$2 per term and all other pupils, \$3. For the winter and spring terms the rate per pupil was \$1 higher, although where there were two pupils in attendance from the same family, each paid 50c per term



DUNDAS STREET BRIDGE
Before the improvements at Soper Park

less, and where there were three or more, \$1 per pupil per term was the discount offered. There were even baby bonuses in those days.

As elsewhere, so in Galt, those days at the end of the nineteenth century were "the good old days," at least in recollection. They were the days when "Tommy" Aitken and Guy Hume were famous names in Dickson Park . . . when everybody knew and laughed with and at "Whiskers" Knight and Jim Moore, rivals for the town's backhouse cleaning trade . . . when hardly a Hal-lowe'en passed on which the mayor's front fence was not hung from a nearby elm . . . when kids, fearing a tanning, repaired to Elliot's Soap Works⁸ to coat the proper surfaces with resin . . . when it was the fashion to ride one's bike across the CPR bridge ahead of the puffing freight to prove one's daring . . . when Galt youngsters learned to swim at the "Three Logs," or "Two Logs" before the latter disappeared with the improvements at Soper Park.

As you may have properly surmised, what I have just recalled needed a mite of freshening up in my memory. That it came at all, you perhaps can blame on the official crest of your Waterloo Historical Society about whose origin I read in the 1953 edition of your most excellent annual reports. The lion in the upper field is said to signify Waterloo; the wavy band across the centre, the Grand River, the area's principal physical feature. If I am correct in my heraldic interpretation, that lion is a lion rampant walking on the Grand River. It brought to my mind the famous Galt flood of 1898 and made me wonder whether the two should not have been reversed — a lion couchant on a river rampant!

And even before the year of the big flood, many things were happening in this county of Waterloo and its beautiful city of Galt. Take, for example, this excerpt which I have read just last week-end in the diary of my late father, then just a year on the staff of the Galt Reporter. He wrote:

"A great deal has happened since the last time pen did scribble on these pages. We have had two murders, a suicide, an attempted suicide, a coroner's inquest, two or three burglaries, a circulation of 15,000 papers in a week, a 4 a.m. edition of The Reporter, a big fire, the new Jubilee Clock erected,⁹ the new sidewalk and boulevards on Oak Street, examination results, Toronto at the top of the Eastern League, Grand Lodge of Oddfellows to come to Galt next year, the British Science Association meets in Toronto, and wheat's a dollar a bushel."

8. Elliot's Soap Works was west of Harris Street, south of Main. In 1912, the establishment moved to the present location on South Water Street.

9. See page 9

At the age of seventeen, Galt looked like a rather momentous place.

And it was too, even to a youngster who had started in September, 1896, as a \$2-a-week printer's devil at the Galt Reformer, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., six days a week.

He had, however, shortly shifted his allegiance down the street from Andrew Laidlaw's Reformer to J. P. Jaffray's up and coming Galt Reporter. James Peter Jaffray, grandson of one of the paper's founders, then had as his partners Thomas H. Sears, who had earlier founded the Preston Progress and the Hespeler Herald, and Charlie Knowles, retiring Galt job printer.

J. P. Jaffray, born in Galt just 101 years ago, was a towering figure among his contemporary journalists and could have dominated the metropolitan scene had he chosen to live elsewhere than along the Grand River.

He had begun his newspaper career on the weekly Reporter, then published by his three uncles, Richard, Robert, and Henry Jaffray. In his mid-teens, however, he was attracted by the challenge of telegraphy and soon rose to the top in that trade. The call of printer's ink was not to be denied, though, and with his brother Robert he founded the Norwich Gazette, and later, joined by a third brother, purchased the Brantford Union and turned it into a daily.

Then he shifted his interests to Chicago where he founded the Canadian-American to serve the many Canadian emigrants south of the border. In 1896, however, he heard Galt calling again and came home to turn the Reporter from weekly to daily and to start the campaign for civic beauty and pride which has made Galt to-day one of Ontario's most remarkable cities.

But enough of this reminiscing. It was only by way of a text, in any event, to the more serious words which I would like to leave with you.

To-day's most "forward-looking" car carries as standard equipment a rear-view mirror.

It is required by law.

Our legislators have decided that it isn't safe to drive ahead without being able to know at all times what is behind. The ancient two-faced Greek god Janus is the proper patron saint of the twentieth century driver.

Yet so far very few of us, as individuals, have installed built-in rear-view mirrors.

We have been told so often "the twentieth century belongs to Canada" that we have come to believe, it to be equally true that Canada belongs to the twentieth century.

Fortunately for all of us who live in this young land, this is not universally true.

There is a steadily growing percentage of our population which realizes that our individual and our national future can only be soundly built if it is based on a thorough understanding and appreciation of the past.

Of course it is only natural that we, as Canadians, should have been slow to discover the value and the validity of our historical heritage. We are still, nationally, in our 'teens, and the appeal of the Leducs, the Kitimats, the Ungavas, and the Sept Iles is still more glamorous than perhaps the more important but somewhat less immediate guide posts of the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

But we are growing up. And, as we do so, it is becoming more important to us to know more of our roots — not only the roots which stretch across the wide sea but those roots which were planted in the dominion between the seas.

Perhaps more Canadiana has been published in the past ten years than in any preceding decade. Our authors — and our artists — are finding a growing, if still unprofitably restricted, native field for their work. Entirely apart from any artificial stimulus through government cultural subsidization, Canadians are coming awake to Canada. We are attaining our majority and are finding within ourselves powers yet undreamed of.

But even more indicative of this rear-viewing has been the growing interest by the average Canadian in museums and historic sites. We have been sampling the significance of our own land and have found it good.

The growing popularity of museums has stemmed from several rather widely separated sources. One has been Canada's visitor industry. Tourism is now the nation's third largest industry and no small part of its potential profit hinges on our appeal to residents of the United States. A recent survey made by the Ontario Department of Travel and Publicity showed that historic sites outranked nearly every other attraction in tourist appeal. Citizens to the south of us have apparently developed a greater appreciation of their beginnings than we younger North Americans. This is one phase of United States culture we are importing with profit.

Indeed it was the gleam of a pot of gold at the end of a tourist rainbow which in recent years started a number of historical developments in central Canada.

Certainly this was true in Huronia, that oldest yet youngest part of Ontario, the homeland of the Huron Indians until 1650 but a land which was little settled by the whites until the second decade of the nineteenth century.

It was in 1941 that a group of 100 business and professional men, meeting at Midland, decided to establish and support financially the Huronia Historic Sites and Tourist Association. Its purpose was two-fold — archaeological research into the Indian and pioneer sites of the district between Georgian Bay and Lake Simcoe and the “selling” of those sites, properly marked, and where possible reconstructed, to the travelling public. Without the anticipation of increased tourist dollars, much of the initial enthusiasm might have been missing.

Huronia offered good grounds for the experiment of mixing culture and tourism. Many a scholar had surveyed its historical assets in the half century previous. Professional and amateur archaeologists and historians — Fr. Jones, Andrew Hunter, and W. J. Wittemberg, to name but three — had assembled a sizeable body of published evidence. Wilfrid Jury of the University of Western Ontario, Kenneth Kidd of the Royal Ontario Museum, amateur Frank Ridley and a host of other modern members of the historical underground were at work sifting the top soil, uncovering post moulds and potsherds.

Following an inevitable, war-born hiatus, the Huronia Historic Sites and Tourist Association, with an annual budget of \$2,500 raised from the boards of trade, chambers of commerce, and municipal councils of the Huronia area, set to work to popularize the discoveries of the archaeologists and historians in their midst.

At Midland, a town of 8,000, there was established in 1947, almost entirely with local capital and local leadership, a Huronia Museum. Last year this museum, open only for four months during the summer, attracted 17,000 paid admissions. Its “home” a gift, and supported by a small provincial grant, the project is largely self sustaining. Its over 3,000 Indian and pioneer exhibits, all drawn from and representative of the story of Huronia, have attracted each year a growing number of visitors. Of peculiar significance is the fact that the museum is now the recognized repository of artifacts found by archaeologists working in the area.

The Royal Ontario Museum, the Museum of Indian and Pioneer Life at the University of Western Ontario, and the National Museum at Ottawa have all helped to expand its well-displayed exhibits.

At nearby Penetanguishene, in the last remaining building of the military and naval establishment built there by the British government following the war of 1812-14, there has been assembled a most interesting pioneer and military museum which attracts close to 10,000 paid admissions each summer.

Forty miles to the west in Huronia, at Collingwood, the Huron Institute, a much older institution but one unfortunately lacking for some years broad local citizen interest, also houses many valuable artifacts of the area. At Barrie, the Simcoe County Women's Institutes established three decades ago a pioneer and Indian museum. The picturesque, stone, pioneer registry office is its home. Like too many local museums it was for some time as much noted for its solitude as for the significance of its exhibits, but in the last year it too is coming alive.

At the east end of Huronia, the famed Leacock residence at Couchiching's Brewery Bay has been acquired by V. C. Wansbrough as an historic literary shrine and a residence nearby has been given to the town of Orillia for a local museum.

But this resurgence of archaeological and historical interest is not confined by any means to Huronia. The telling of the story of the province from the ground up is typical of much of Ontario. County councils are sponsoring their own museums in many centres. Huron county's project at Goderich and the Wellington museum at Elora are good examples. Even commercial and industrial interests are getting into the act. At Jordan, Ontario, a wine company invested some of its advertising budget in a small gem of an historical re-creation.

Several historical societies, notably the one in Waterloo County, are attempting to promote, with provincial assistance, the establishment of entire pioneer villages.

This summer, under the guidance of Wilfrid Jury of the University of Western Ontario, the Y's Men's service club of Midland, a group of fifty young businessmen, invested some \$5,000, plus at least that much again in voluntary labor, in recreating a complete early seventeenth century Huron Indian village, 350 feet long by 200 feet wide.

The high timber palisades are lined with firing platforms and look-outs. Within the enclosure are longhouses (North America's first apartment buildings); food storage pits; a sweat bath; and drying scaffolds for game, fish, berries.

Interiors of the longhouses are lined with sleeping bunks. Dried corn, roots and herbs hang from the rafters. Firewood, furs, snowshoes, family possessions are stored above and below the bunks. Bark containers of corn and beans sit at the entrances, and in the centre, fires smoke.

Stone tools, pottery, and bark utensils are shown as they were used by the Huron Indian and in process of being made.

This reconstruction of the authentic daily life of the Huron reflects the results of the excavation of many Indian village sites of this area and a thorough study of the earliest written accounts left by the first European visitors.

This outstanding example of visual education, located in the Midland municipal Little Lake Park, attracted no less than 19,000 paid admissions at 50c for adults and 10c for children between July 1 and October of this year.

Your attempt to reconstruct a pioneer white village has plenty of precedent for optimism in respect to public acceptance.

The recent annual meeting of the Ontario Historical Society was told that in 1954 over 1,349,000 people visited the museums of the province. Of this total over half were visitors to community or local museums, operated by historical societies, municipal councils, or individuals. The small museum, in Ontario at least, is becoming the big business which it has been for many decades in the more history-conscious neighbour province of Quebec.

Nor, again, is the quickening interest in museums and historic sites confined to the two central provinces. In a recently published survey of museums and art galleries, the ten provinces reported 185 such institutions, with a total annual attendance of 2,754,800 for just 87 of those reporting.

Of the 55 museums and galleries in Quebec, 20 reported a 1952 attendance of just under 484,000. Ontario, with 54 such institutions, had an attendance of 1,318,000 of the 28 reporting. Saskatchewan, third ranking province in Canada in the number of museums and galleries with 19, had an attendance of 105,850 reported by 10 — far below, however, the estimated 234,440 visitors to eight of Nova Scotia's 16 museums. The seven of British Columbia's 14 museums and galleries which answered the survey, showed a total attendance of 217,850.

Of the 185 historical museums and art galleries in Canada, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports that 20 are under federal jurisdiction, 21 provincially-operated, and 18 municipally run (the latter very largely in Ontario). Only Manitoba and Alberta have no provincial museum or art gallery. British Columbia boasts no less than six, although it must be stated that the obscure basement rooms in the legislative buildings at Victoria, while housing an excellent collection of west coast artifacts, hardly deserves the title of a provincial museum. British Columbia's archives, on the other hand, under able Willard Ireland, are perhaps outstanding in the whole of Canada.

Of the remaining 126 non-government museums and galleries one-half are associated with educational institutions. They, like the federal and provincial museums, have semi-respectable budgets. The Bureau of Statistics survey, however, records for the museums operated by cities, towns, villages, and historical societies, an average annual expenditure for staff of under \$1,000.

Part of this problem may, of course, be laid to the traditional "free" policy of government museums and galleries. The smaller institution which attempts to charge 25 to 50 cents admission is an exception to the rule. Indeed the survey shows that 90% of these institutions make no charge and more than half of them have no separate building of their own. They are merely appendages.

Perhaps one of the most discouraging aspects of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics findings was the fact that less than one-third of the museums and galleries had a program of school visits.

This at a time when, in Ontario at least, the social studies courses are placing an increasing emphasis on the teaching of local history — indeed on the teaching of all history through local glasses — is difficult to understand.

Are our primary and secondary school teachers unaware of the visual aids which local museums can and do provide? Are our museums slow to establish a liaison with the teachers in their community? We are inclined to believe that it is because museums are outside the school and outside "normal" teacher thinking that they have remained outside the curriculum.

This is a situation which time will remedy but it might be helped along by greater direction from local school boards and school inspectors. The school boards come into the picture particularly when the local museum has an admission charge — usually a rather nominal one for student groups but one which some one has to pay.

It has not been uncommon, for example, for student groups coming by bus from other parts of Ontario to Huronia Museum in Midland to expect free admission. On explanation, the accompanying teacher usually pays from his own pocket the nominal 10c per student and then tries to recover it later from a school board which too often reasons that because the Royal Ontario Museum makes no charge, why should "a small, little museum in Midland." They forget, of course, that the Royal Ontario Museum is "free" only because its operating costs are met out of a general tax levy.

A further disquieting note must be sounded, at least in respect to central Canada. There is today a decided shortage of skilled archaeologists and museum workers interested in concentrating their efforts on Canadian projects. Too often the work is being left to our friends from south of the border or to amateurs who have more enthusiasm than skill.

Ontario's provincial government has enacted legislation to protect historic and archaeological sites but has provided little incentive, financial or otherwise, for trained persons to carry on research and reconstruction. Indeed this past summer the number of archaeologists from Ontario institutions who were carrying on excavations in their own province could be counted on a couple of fingers.

The research budgets of other provinces, and, indeed, of our federal government have been similarly limited. We profess, as a nation, to be deeply concerned with our Canadian culture. We subsidize to the tune of tens of millions of dollars our radio and television system to disseminate what is said to be the essence of Canadianism, yet the very roots of our culture, the study and understanding of our history, we leave very largely to the enterprise and enthusiasm of a relatively few individuals.

If we, as Canadians, are now falling in love with the Canadian story and attempting to preserve its physical evidences in museum and historic site, it is largely in spite of the indifference of the average citizen as exemplified by his government.

This may not be an altogether unhappy state of affairs. Democratic progress has always ridden on the shoulders of dedicated individuals and perhaps this is the best way if Canadians are to discover in history their essential guideposts to an expanding and even more glorious future.



I did not realize that the old grave that stood among the brambles at the foot of our farm was history.

—Stephen B. Leacock.

THE MIDLAND MUSEUM WORKSHOP OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

About fifty members representing nineteen museums attended the 1955 workshop held at Midland and Penetanguishene on May 27, 28 and 29. The Waterloo Historical Society was represented by President W. H. E. Schmalz, First Vice-President F. E. Page and Second Vice-President A. W. Taylor. Mrs. Schmalz and Mrs. Page also attended.

We found the Huronia country very beautiful and rich in historic interest. On Friday Mr. W. H. Cranston addressed the delegates on the development of Fort Sainte-Marie, Huronia Museum, Fort Penetanguishene Museum and the Y's Men's Indian Village at Midland.

Mr. A. D. Tushingham, Curator of Huronia Museum at Midland, spoke on Saturday morning and then directed an inspection of the museum. Miss Ruth Home of Toronto discussed the problems of museum display. The importance of this phase of museum planning is evident to visitors at the Jordan Museum, where Miss Home supervised the arrangement of the displays.

At a luncheon at Hotel Brulé, Penetanguishene, Mr. Wilfrid Jury, University of Western Ontario archaeologist, spoke on the relationship between museums and archaeology. Mr. Jury expressed the opinion that museums should sponsor archaeological excavations of historic sites in their own areas. He added that Penetanguishene had invested \$9,000 in developing historical attractions.

Fort Penetanguishene was visited and here Mrs. Jury related the development of Fort Penetanguishene and its garrison. Then old Fort Sainte-Marie was visited. Mr. Jury explained how his research had definitely established the plan of the Jesuits. This was a well organized community embracing the livestock section, the missionaries' quarters, the church, the blacksmith shop, Indian quarters, canal and fresh water supply from a spring.

Dinner was enjoyed at Delawana Inn which is a delightful spot in a beautiful natural setting at Honey Harbour. In the evening Dr. J. M. S. Careless spoke on "Conserving Ontario's Past." Andrew Taylor showed coloured slides concerning the 1954 international plowing match.

We would recommend to all our members the Museum Workshops which in future will be held in the fall. These gatherings are educational, entertaining and helpful to all who are interested in museum development.

F. E. Page, New Dundee.

SPEEDSVILLE

*by Mrs. O. A. Snyder
Lyndenbrook Farm, Hespeler*

Speedsville, one of the very earliest settlements of Waterloo County, is fast on the way to losing its identity and becoming a part of a larger municipality. Approximately one half of the village and half of the holdings of the Preston Sand and Gravel Co. have been annexed by the town of Preston. Much of the light dry soil of the area, the soil which attracted the early settlers, has in recent years been found to contain layer upon layer of excellent quality sand and gravel. Freight cars and trucks loaded with building material roll in a steady stream to commercial outlets, from an area that was farm land not so long ago.

One of the pioneer settlers of this district, George Clemens, came over from Pennsylvania in 1801 and took up the land now known as the Herbert Weber property. Early historians speak of him as the first man to drive a team of horses through Beverly Swamp. The group of which he was a part spent several weeks cutting trees and building a roadway through the swamp. They suffered untold hardships in trying to mitigate this almost impenetrable barrier between Dundas and Waterloo County.

It is interesting to note that most of the initial settlers chose sandy soil for their first holdings instead of the richer loam found elsewhere in the county. One wonders whether their difficulty in crossing the swamp influenced their choice in this matter.

In the Ezra Eby Chronicles, the late Mr. Eby credits George Clemens as being one of the leading men in the development of the district. Although he came with a group comprising seven families he himself was unmarried. This pioneering group upon their arrival in the county found themselves a long way from civilization. The nearest post office and store was at Dundas, as well as the nearest grist mill.

Even at Dundas the settlement was a small one. At Hamilton only a few huts existed. Waterloo County was part of York and all legal business had to be transacted at Little York, now Toronto. The easiest and simplest way to reach Little York was on foot. At this early stage of our history all roads had to be built by the settlers themselves. There was no government assistance.

In 1805 a small grist mill was established in Galt by John Miller of Niagara Falls. It was only 24' x 28' and a storey and a half high but it was a great boon to the settlers. Several years

later another grist mill was built in Preston by John Erb. 1805 also marked the year in which the Abram Stauffer family came to Canada and settled near Blair. Some time later George Clemens married Esther Stauffer, one of the daughters in this family.

To them were born a family of eighteen children. In 1813 they had the heartbreaking experience of losing their four eldest children aged seven, five, three and two. One tiny baby, several months old, remained. Three of the children died within a week. Those of us who live in the present age of preventative medicines and sanitation law enforcements can hardly visualize the perils the pioneer settlers encountered on every hand.

In 1815 a sixth child was born to George and Esther Stauffer Clemens. This was a son whom they named Isaac and who later became the first man to represent this riding in the provincial legislature. After confederation of Canada's four provinces in 1867 it became necessary to establish both Dominion and Provincial houses of Parliament. In the elections held at that time Isaac Clemens was elected to represent South Waterloo. Four years later he was re-elected.

He served his second term and then retired at the end of eight years due to poor health. He was noted for his integrity and his fine statesmanship. After his retirement, at the age of sixty, he returned to the farm where he was born and there passed away five years later.

Other pioneers who reached this district in 1801 were two young married couples, David Gingerich and his wife Elizabeth Groh Gingerich and Martin Baer and his wife Catherine Gingerich Baer. The Baers settled on the farm now owned by Norman Lambke, but more familiarly known as the Anson Groh farm. This beautiful farm is located along the south bank of the Speed River. The Gingerichs settled on the tract of land on which the shafts and crushers of the Preston Sand and Gravel Co. now operate so extensively. This property was in possession of the Gingerich family for several generations and was latterly owned by Francis Hilborn.

Speedside Farms owned by L. D. Witmer and Sons comprise the home farm and a large farm several miles east. The home farm in which we are interested in this sketch also lies on the south bank of the Speed and adjoins the former Anson Groh property. It was settled in 1804 by Abram Witmer, the great grandfather of L. D. Witmer. This farm has been in continuous possession of the family ever since. It is the home of many fine Holstein-Friesian

cattle which have produced some very outstanding records. Many of these cattle are exported to other countries for foundation stock.

Speedsville has never had many industries. A shingle mill located on the site of the present Ross Armstrong property was one of its earliest. An 1861 map of the district also shows a woollen mill located at Speedsville and owned by Thomas Stewart. This mill established by Mr. Stewart was later operated by a Mr. Hunt and by Samuel C. Martin, and in more recent years by Thomas and Fred Vickerman who also built two fine residences in the village. Yarns, sheetings, blankets, tweeds, and flannels were manufactured by the Speedsville Woollen Mill.

A great deal of custom work was also done. Samples of South-down yarn, bills of sale of the 1885-1890 period, letterheads and many other interesting papers and documents have recently been discovered by Mr. Russell B. Kitchen, the present proprietor, in a previously unused section of one of the buildings. The mill is at present used for the making of magnesium products. Many of these products are exported to American markets. The new super highway which is to be built soon will literally cut the village in two and is but a stone's throw from the old mill.

"Main Street" in the village, as we know it today, is the road officially known as Concession Rd. This road is a connecting link between the Waterloo-Wellington Airport Rd. and Highway 8. It also bisects an area just south of the village that has had a phenomenal development in the past three years. What was farm land and a large lumber yard belonging to the N. O. Hipel Co. several years ago is now a well settled community. In it are a number of industrial plants, several hundred new homes, two imposing new schools—the Coronation Public School and a Catholic Separate School—the fine brick structure of the Preston Mennonite Church built in 1953-54, and the \$300,000.00 Fairview Home for elderly people. Sites for the latter two buildings were donated by E. G. Langs, former owner of much of the land involved.

With the completion of the new super highway and the clover leaf just east of the village, Speedsville as an entity will probably disappear. Transcontinental traffic shuttling east and west will fail to recognize its historic roots.

Indicative of the handwriting on the wall that the old order must give way to the new is the fact that the Preston-Hespeler spur of the Grand River Railway, which has served Speedsville for many years has recently discontinued its passenger service. Built in 1896, this road besides its other spheres of usefulness has been

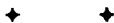
of great service to the youth of the district. Many decades before the advent of the school bus it provided facilities for them to attend high school and other training institutions. This was an opportunity not open to the majority of rural youth of that era, because of lack of transportation facilities.

In spite of industrial and commercial encroachment upon the village there is still a degree of solidarity in the rural area a little farther removed from the hub, that is very satisfying to the people of the district. Names found on the local school register a century ago are still common family names. Some of the present pupils are fourth and fifth generation descendants of the original settlers. Many other names have been added but much of the pioneer stock remains.

We have mentioned the new structures built in the district. Let us not fail to cherish the wealth of interesting history connected with pioneer farm homes in the community. Here and there one still finds original siding on barns or hand hewn timbers in an excellent state of preservation. True, in many cases these fine old buildings have been modernized until only the staunch foundations and the internal framework remains to bear mute tribute to the sterling workmanship of the builders of the past. It is interesting to recall in this connection that the settlers who came in before 1806 had no local sawmill at their command. The nearest place to obtain sawed lumber was at Niagara Falls. In 1806 a sawmill was built at Preston by John Erb.

Many of the first houses that replaced the original log cabins were built of stone or logs, but a little later some were also built of homemade brick. The courage and resourcefulness of our pioneers as they lengthened their "stakes" and set up new homes in a new land merits our loyalty and our devotion to the principles so dear to them.

As our historical identity fades away and we become a part of a larger world community may we not forget those whose footsteps preceded ours, and who in their simple God-fearing Way of Life left such a goodly heritage for their posterity.



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Hespeler, celebrated its one hundredth anniversary on four Sundays throughout 1955. The church calendar for each of these Sundays had an historical account covering a quarter-century.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The 1955 annual meeting of the Ontario Historical Society was held June 16, 17 and 18, in the Hon. J. C. Patterson Collegiate Institute in Windsor, with the Essex County Historical Association as hosts.

The writer represented the Waterloo Historical Society, both at the general sessions, and at the meetings of the Museum Committee held at the same time. The journey by train gave ample opportunity to observe the agriculture of Essex and Kent and the bustling industrial activity of metropolitan Windsor.

Of special interest was the international character of the gathering, with visitors from Michigan attending and taking part.

There were two conducted bus tours, one to Amherstburg and Fort Malden Museum and the other through Windsor and Detroit, with points of historic interest highlighted.

The papers presented at the meeting were:

"Some aspects of early education, particularly in connection with the development of Assumption College", by Rev. D. J. Mulvihill, C.S.B., Ph.D., of Assumption College.

"The first four years of settlement on the Canadian side of the Detroit River," by Rev. E. J. Lajeunesse, C.S.B., M.A., of Assumption College.

"Writing Essex County History" by Dr. Neil F. Morrison, Windsor, author of "The Garden Gateway to Canada", recently published.

"History of Bois Blanc Island", by David P. Botsford, Custodian Fort Malden National Park.

"Conquering the Rapids", by Dr. Milo M. Quaife, Detroit. In Dr. Quaife's absence at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., where he was taking part in the Centennial celebration of the canal's construction, his paper was read by his son, Donald.

"The Social Development of the Refugee Negro in Chatham, Ontario, 1800-1865", by John K. A. Farrell of the University of Ottawa.

At the annual dinner, Dr. Howard H. Peckham, Director of the William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan, spoke on the subject "Indian Intrigue on the Detroit River".

At a meeting of the Museums Committee, held in the Detroit Historical Museum, the Director, Mr. Henry D. Brown, led a very helpful discussion on museum practices.

A. W. Taylor, R.R. 5, Galt.

LOOKING BACK

By Alex O. Potter

Kitchener & Waterloo Collegiate & Vocational School Centennial
May 6, 1955.

After Dr. Potter addressed the Centennial Assembly, the Honourable Louis O. Breithaupt spoke briefly and unveiled a coloured drawing of the new Eastwood Collegiate Institute. Rev. Dr. Earl S. Lautenschlager, who had been the speaker at both Junior and Senior Student Centennial Assemblies, spoke on "Looking Ahead". The evening programme included demonstrations and displays, a musical and variety programme, basketball and volleyball games with the "old girls" and "old boys". By the time refreshments and dancing completed the events, many ex-students had met in the "school on the hill" which, beginning in 1956, will share educational responsibilities with the new collegiate.

Mr. Chairman, your Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Tonight we have come here to commemorate the sowing of a seed one hundred years ago — a seed which took root slowly and with difficulty — but then blossomed forth to grow steadily, surely and sturdily into the excellent Collegiate and Vocational School we have today.

It was in 1854 that the little community of Berlin was incorporated as a village. Leaders in the village immediately took steps to provide for secondary education. An appeal for help was made to the county council. As a result of that request the county council, on January 1st, 1855, gave to the village a site of three and a half acres on Frederick Street, where Suddaby School now is located. That gift of land was made with the proviso that on that site the village erect a school building to accommodate classes both in primary and secondary education.

And in that year of 1855 — one hundred years ago — even before the school building was constructed — the Grammar School (as secondary schools then were known) started to operate in Henry Eby's former printing office on King Street East.

There was one master — the Rev. Henry McMeekin — and thirty students. Tuition was fixed at 16 shillings per quarter.

The school building on Frederick Street was built in 1856 and in January 1857 classes moved into it.

The Common, or Public School classes occupied most of the space. The Grammar School — that is, the forerunner of the Collegiate, occupied only two rooms on the second floor.

The men who planted that seed one hundred years ago and who nurtured it through its first years were: Henry Huber, who later served the village as reeve for seven years; Dr. John Scott, first reeve of the village, David S. Shoemaker, Isaac Clemens and William Davidson.

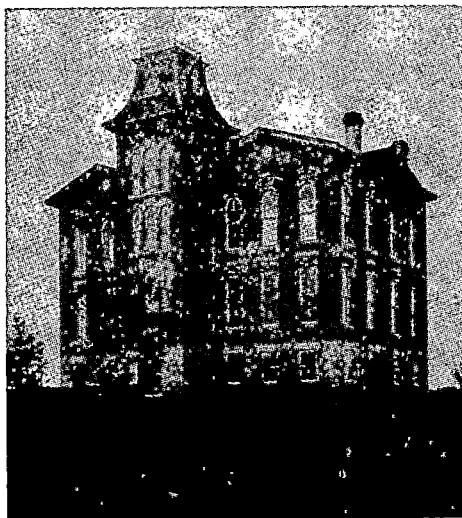
In the early years the board had a difficult struggle with a succession of teachers.

Then, in 1868, the problem of finding new space arose. The primary school had grown to such an extent that the Public School Board asked the Grammar School — that is, the High School — to find other quarters.

Three years elapsed before a suitable place was found in the former Swedenborgian church building located on the west side of Benton Street, just south of Church Street. For the use of that building the board paid a monthly rental of \$5.30.

In the same year — 1871 — that the secondary school moved to its temporary home at Benton and Church Streets the board's difficulties with masters came to an end. For in that year the board engaged James W. Connor as master.

During those first sixteen formative years there were various changes in the board. Dr. D. S. Bowlby became a member in 1866 and P. E. W. Moyer in 1867.



BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL 1876

In 1870 William Oelschlager, Ward Bowlby and Hugo Kranz joined the board. Dr. Bowlby continued as a member for 35 years and was chairman for 27 years. Hugo Kranz served on the board for 31 years and was secretary for 28 years.

For the first twenty years of its existence the cost of maintaining the secondary school was borne by the village of Berlin. But in 1875 the county council created two high school districts — the Galt High School District for the southern part of the county and the Berlin High School District for the northern part. The county council also offered to help Berlin build a new High School.

The neighboring community of Waterloo was invited to join in the project. Waterloo agreed to participate providing a site near Waterloo would be selected and on condition that although Waterloo was to elect one half of the board members, the cost would be shared according to the respective assessments of the two towns.

As a result of that agreement, part of the present site where we are meeting tonight, was purchased in 1875 for \$650. A High School building was erected at a cost of \$5,804. In January, 1876, the staff of three teachers and 91 students moved from the Benton Street site to the new High School.

That year, 1876, was memorable, also, for another reason. Mr. Connor's two assistants resigned and were replaced by David Forsyth and Adolf Mueller.

For almost 22 years — until Mr. Mueller's death in 1898 — that triumvirate labored faithfully and diligently to establish a sound basis for secondary education in this community.

Mr. Connor continued as principal until 1901, serving 30 years in all. Mr. Forsyth's period of service to secondary education in this community covered a span of 45 years during 20 of which —

Those three men complemented one another to a remarkable degree. James Connor was born in Ireland and David Forsyth in Scotland — but both of them were reared and educated in Canada. Adolf Mueller was born and educated in Germany.

Mr. Connor was steeped in the classics, could converse in Latin, from 1901 to 1921 — he was principal. knew many languages and was an authority in English literature.

I never had the advantage of studying under him, for he stopped teaching a decade before I entered the High School. But I know how his students worshipped Jimmy Connor and how they

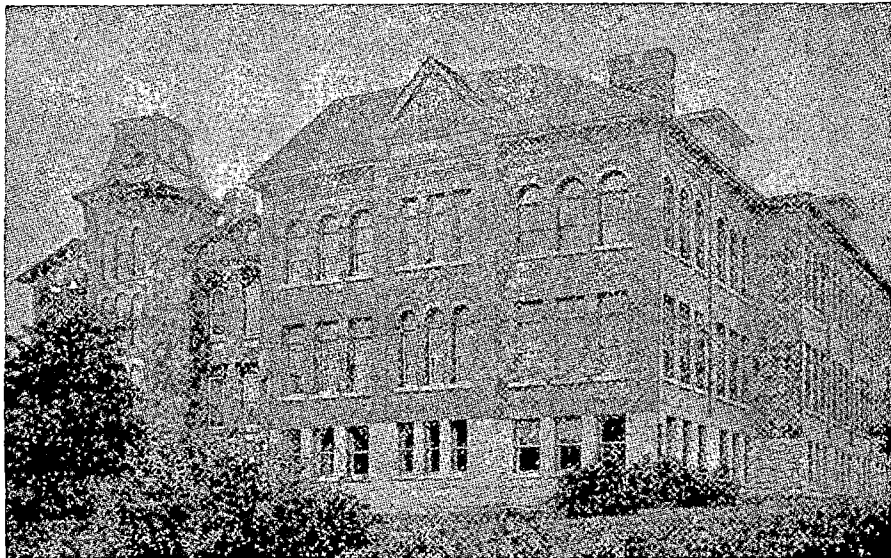
realized, more and more, as the years passed, what a great influence he had exerted on them.

Mr. Forsyth — I can't resist the habit of student days, when we called him "Dave" — was a scientist and a rationalist. He is credited with being the first teacher in any Ontario High School to introduce practical laboratory work for each student in science classes.

I am thankful I had the good fortune of having Dave as a teacher. He persistently taught his students to get quickly to the core of a problem, to disregard non-essentials, to test proposed solutions and discard as false any that would lead to an absurd extreme. He inculcated clear thinking, preciseness and the logical sequence of cause and effect.

Mr. Mueller rounded out the score by contributing an old world culture and a love of art, music and literature.

Those three men, who did so much to shape the future of our High School and to educate our youth over a long period of time, were active sportsmen. Mr. Connor encouraged cricket, Mr. Forsyth, ably supported by Mr. Mueller and Mr. Connor, introduced association football. And he was the organizer of the Western Ontario Football Association.



BERLIN COLLEGIATE AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL 1904

With the turn of the century a change began to creep into educational methods. In the United States educational leaders were urging the introduction of technical training — or manual training as it then was called.

A local committee, headed by Mr. Edward Smyth, chairman of the High School Board, investigated the system of manual training that recently had been introduced in New York schools.

As a result of that committee's report the board decided to add instruction in manual training and domestic science — and also to offer a commercial course.

Doing that necessitated the building of a sizeable addition to the High School in 1903. Then, in the following year, the status of the school was raised to that of a Collegiate and Technical Institute.

The shift to an emphasis on vocational training grew stronger after the first world war. It can be said that, so far as secondary education in this community is concerned, an era ended in 1921.

For 66 years the main emphasis had been on a liberal arts training. Now a new era — with stress on vocational training — was commencing.

In 1921 the board decided to tear down the old building erected in 1876 and, around the 1903 addition, to build a fine large school which would provide adequate space for vocational training.

That new building — in which we are meeting tonight — was opened in 1923 as the "Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate and Vocational School."

To administer that school required an educator of a broad type. He not only had to be a competent executive, able to manage a large staff and a huge student body, but he had to have a sufficiently diversified training to enable him to serve as principal of what amounted to two schools in one: a collegiate, with emphasis on the liberal arts and a vocational school which would provide thorough technical training.

In 1921, while plans for the new school were being made, Mr. Forsyth retired and the board selected Mr. R. N. Merritt as principal. With great skill he organized the combined schools and built up the faculty to provide instruction in the new courses.

During the 23 years of his principalship Mr. Merritt established the new type of education on a firm basis. In that task he was ably assisted by Mr. Harry Brown, who had joined the High School staff in 1905 and who was Secretary-Treasurer of the school from 1921 to 1942.

In 1944 Mr. Merritt was succeeded by Mr. W. T. Ziegler, who served as principal until 1952. During that period the student body grew so rapidly and the demand for vocational training increased to such an extent that in 1947 it became necessary to add a huge wing to the 1923 structure.

Way back in 1925 a young man joined the Collegiate staff. Although he was assigned to the commercial department it fell to his lot, as it often does to new members of a staff, to have to teach a wide variety of subjects — usually those the older teachers do not want to bother with.

That young man continued to work diligently and ably. In 1945 he was appointed vice-principal.

And in 1952 when Mr. Ziegler resigned that still young man, Mr. C. R. Philp was appointed principal. It is he who now heads up this splendid Collegiate and Vocational School of ours.

I am sure Mr. Philp would be the first one to emphasize the fact that he is fortunate in having an excellent staff — 72 all told — to teach a multitude of subjects and crafts to more than 1,700 students.

Some of those men, such as Mr. Bill Unwin and Mr. Fred Pugh, Mr. Fred Dickson and Mr. Roy Dickson, have been on the staff for many, many years. They and others, for varying lengths of time, have labored conscientiously and energetically to give this Collegiate and Vocational School the high and enviable rating it has:

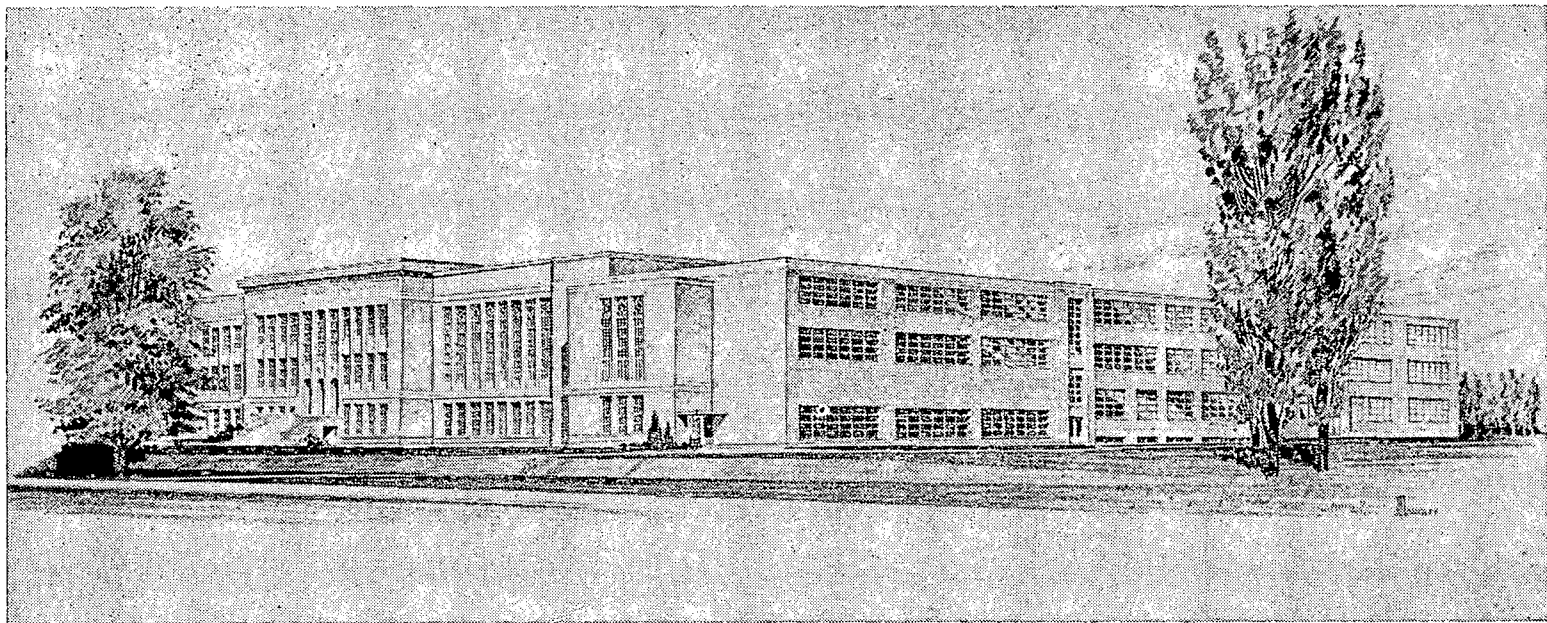
And now we are on the eve of another new era. The present board, under the chairmanship of the Rev. Dr. Finlay Stewart has decided to expand the opportunities for secondary education through the building of a second school in the eastern part of Kitchener, to be followed by a third in Waterloo.

But that is another story — of Looking Ahead — which I leave to the Rev. Dr. Earl Lautenschlager.

As we celebrate this one hundredth anniversary of the beginnings of secondary education in this community we can look back with thankfulness to the men — and the women too — who throughout that period served on High School or Collegiate boards — who served as principals or members of the staff.

In so brief a talk it has not been possible to mention the names of all of them. But those I have named are illustrative of the dedicated, capable types of persons who have built up secondary education in this community to its present high standards.

And thus tonight, we look back and say, "Our sincerest thanks and gratitude to all of them."



Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate and Vocational School 1950

Front entrance, part of the 1923 addition; to the right the large wing, completed in 1950

THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
KINGSTON WORKSHOP — OCT. 21 - 23, 1955

A little over a year ago there was inaugurated a series of very fine historical workshops. Three of these have been held at Jordan, Midland and Kingston and the last exceeded the others in interest mainly because of the experience gained from the earlier two. The atmosphere at Kingston was perfect as our headquarters was at historic Fort Henry where it was so evident that our Government had realized the need for the preservation of our interesting past.

The two days were made noteworthy by the excellence of the panel discussions and papers which dealt with such subjects as provincial assistance, care of materials, advertising, standards, new ideas for exhibits and what the visitors want from the museum. These, with talks and slides showing the activities and arrangements of museums throughout the province, gave all present many ideas for the betterment of their own exhibits.

The session closed with an excursion through the U.E.L. area about Bath and Adolphustown where we were privileged to visit the Fairfield house, St. John's church and the Davy house. The first mentioned was particularly interesting as it was built in the 1790's and has been occupied by the family ever since. We were given the opportunity of roaming through the whole house and found that even the attic was a museum although it was not set up as such.

On the way home most delegates stopped at the Napanee Museum which is new and still quite small but well arranged and replete with interest.

Wherever we went we were well received and returned to our own homes having spent three most profitable days.

W. H. E. Schmalz, Kitchener.

♦ ♦

On Saturday, September, 1955, Tait and Kitchen Hardware, Galt, closed its doors. For more than 50 years this store was located in the Buchanan Block, built in 1894, at the southwest corner of Main and Ainslie Streets. Operated successively under the names of Theron Buchanan, Buchanan and Tait, and now for many years as Tait and Kitchen, the building was sold following Mr. Tait's death. At present it is being renovated to become a branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE GALT PUBLIC LIBRARY

1835 to 1905

By Margaret Bowron

Mrs. A. W. Bowron, born Margaret Alice Cunningham, in 1926, in Aneroid, Saskatchewan, grew up in St. Catherines, Ontario. In 1949, she graduated in Political Science and Economics from the University of Toronto, and the same year married Albert Bowron. She now lives and works as a secretary in Galt, where Mr. Bowron is Librarian at the Galt Public Library.

This article was written to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the present library building in November, 1955.

On Christmas Day of the year 1835, when Galt was still composed of a few straggling log and frame buildings, the first meeting of settlers was called to consider the founding of a subscription library. At a second meeting a fortnight later in the King's Arms Hotel, the somewhat formidable sounding "Galt Subscription and Circulating Library" was formed. Rev. Dr. John Bayne presided over both of these meetings, a man described in 1897 by James Young, M.P., as "a gentleman of grand appearance, brilliant intellectual powers and saintly life."

Money was so scarce in this pioneer Canadian community that the first committee of the library was unable to make a start until they had borrowed £25 from the Honourable William Dickson, and that too, on the security of all the committee.

The first two librarians succeeded each other rapidly; Hugh Hunter, said to have been a tavern-keeper, and then George Lee, Galt's first jeweller and watch-maker. However, for a much longer period the Subscription Library was contained in two or three pine cases in the home of Mrs. Johnston, widow of a baker and store-keeper, who received the library members on the second floor of a frame building standing where the Right House now does, on the northwest corner of Main and Ainslie Streets. Mrs. Johnston's rooms were reached by an outside stair, dangerous in winter weather.

Honourable James Young, said in 1897, that he could well recall as a boy "rummaging the book-cases at Mrs. Johnston's from top to bottom in search of books containing illustrations, preferably those with rude and harrowing wood-cuts of shipwrecks and foundering vessels at sea, as books of any kind were then scarce, and illustrated books were rarely seen." Very early the subscription library had secured 150 paying members, four of whom were still living in 1897 — Mr. Thomas Chisholm of Dumfries, and Messrs. James Cowan, Adam Hood and Andrew Malcolm of Galt.



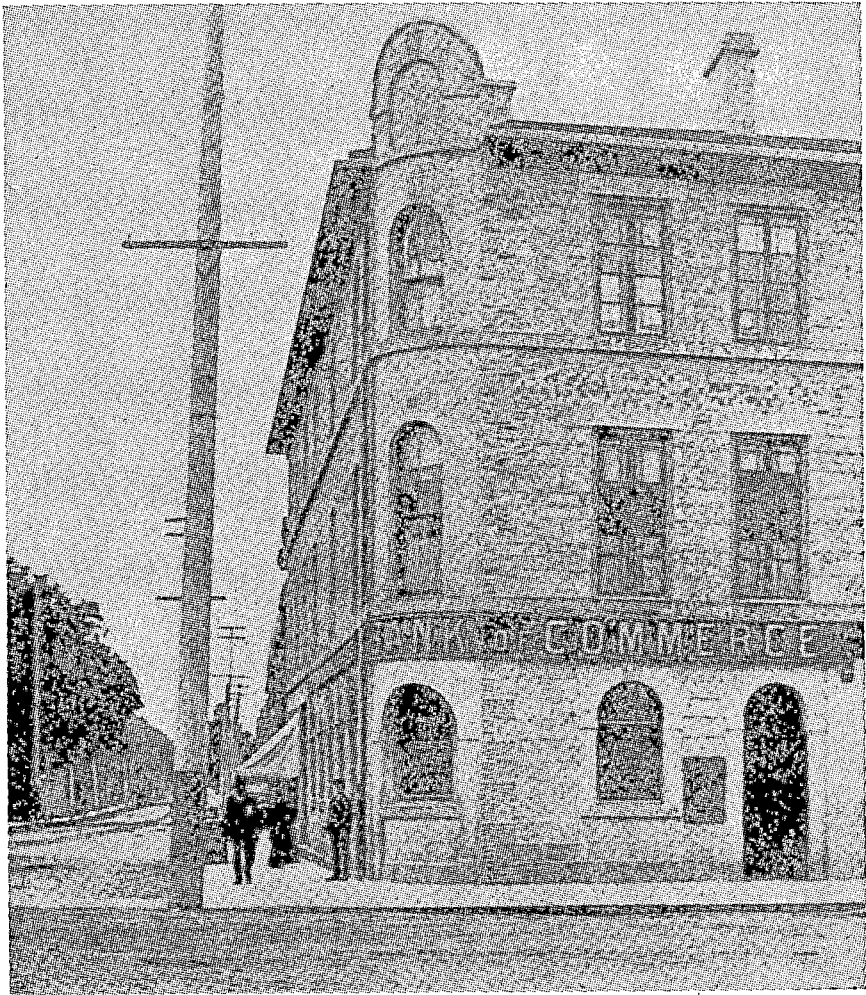
COURTESY OF THE EVENING REPORTER, GALT

EARLY LOCATION OF GALT LIBRARY

Previous to 1853, Galt's Library was housed in a frame building at the corner of Main and Ainslie Streets

The next development took place on May 13, 1853, by which time Galt had prospered so remarkably that it was being referred to as "the Manchester of Canada" (a dubious compliment). On that day a public meeting was called which decided to replace the subscription library with a Galt Mechanics' Institute, and a change in emphasis resulted. As the subscription library had done, the Institute charged an annual membership fee, but more effort was made to supply technical books, and diploma classes in mechanical, geometrical and life drawing were sponsored, under government supervision. Mr. James G. Fraser was the first librarian, and the library was housed in his telegraph office in the Commercial Buildings, at the southwest corner of Main and Water Streets.

In 1858 the library was moved to rooms in the Town Hall, and a reading room, supplied with newspapers, became popular. Mr. Alexander Addison was appointed librarian. The library had entered a new and more masculine era, where very few women took advantage of its facilities, and the emphasis was on education for the technical age which brought early prosperity to Galt. It appears from the Minutes that provincial government aid was first



THE COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

granted in 1868, when \$50 was given the Institute for the purchase of technical works, provided the Institute spend an equal sum for the same purpose. This they did, out of a total budget of \$458, \$130 of which went to salaries. This grant increased to \$100 in 1869, and \$400 in 1871, by which date the annual income of the Institute had increased to \$1,000. In 1878 Mr. James Stewart became librarian and remained in office for 18 years.

In 1872 the Government of the Province of Ontario empowered the local Inspector of Schools to make a semi-annual inspection of Mechanics' Institutes, which were now common in communities large and small. No grants were to be paid until his report was received. This inspection by a public official is the first that is known of in the English-speaking world. In 1882 the Free Libraries Act was passed, probably the most important event in the history of libraries in Ontario, which provided for the transformation of Mechanics' Institutes into free, tax-supported public libraries. Galt did not immediately take advantage of this legislation.



JENNIE STEWART. 1890

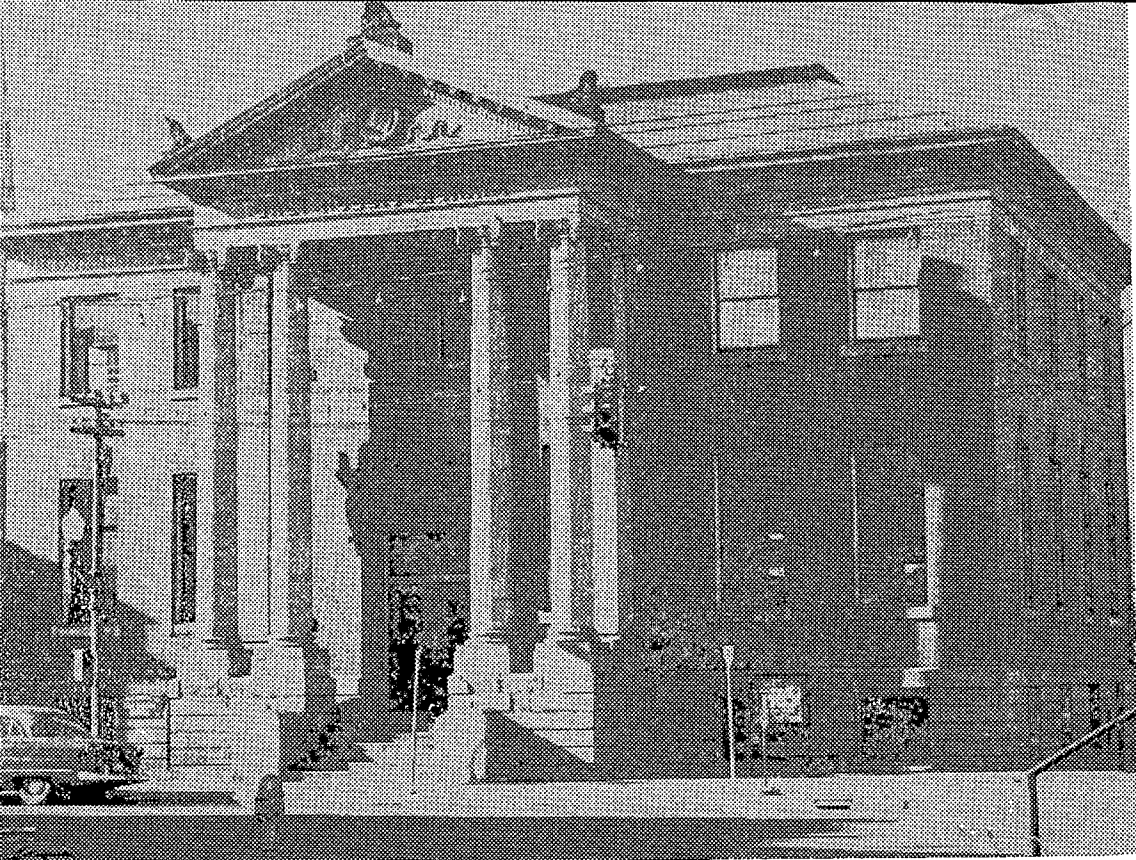
Mr. Stewart retired in 1896 when he was succeeded by his daughter, Miss Jennie Stewart, who had been assisting her father for some years previously. On January 23, 1897, the Mechanics' Institute opened a new reading room and library on the second floor of the recently erected market building on Dickson Street, still used as the Galt Market. These rooms were much more spacious and attractive than those in the Town Hall. The W.C.T.U. donated a drinking fountain for the rooms, and the Galt Scientific, Historical and Literary Society purchased furnishings for the fireplace. One of the local florists, Mr. Wells, supplied ornamental palms for the formal opening ceremonies, at which a large crowd was present.

Honourable James Young gave; as the opening address, a most informative history of the Galt Library to that date, to which this article is heavily indebted.

In the year 1897 the circulation of books climbed from 9,184 ('96) to 10,850 ('97), and reached 12,761 in 1898. June 5, 1899, young Jennie Stewart died of consumption. The Galt Reporter calls her "courteous, obliging and untiring in the discharge of her duties, and of keen and cultured intellect, a charming conversationalist, and the life of any party of which she formed a part. She was kindly, shrewd, brilliant; witty, epigrammatic, and withal a true friend." She was deeply mourned. On July 4, 1899, Miss A. G. Millard was elected librarian by ballot from four applicants, all female. The masculine character of the Institute had altered, and government grants no longer had to go toward the purchase of technical works exclusively.

In the year 1899 the circulation dropped to 5,803 books, and the annual report indicates that the rooms above the market which had seemed so pleasant in 1897, were now considered to be inadequately heated and lighted. Insufficient funds had led to the book stock growing tattered and out of date, and new book-cases, reading room tables and desks were needed.

Encouraged by the success which free public libraries had enjoyed in neighbouring cities the directors of the Mechanics' Institute circulated a petition in 1899 among the citizens requesting the establishment of a free public library. This was signed by a majority of the manufacturers and merchants and presented to the Council by Honourable James Young. A by-law was drawn up by the Council, which passed two readings, and was submitted to the citizens on New Year's Day, 1900. Here it was carried by a majority of 571, and the first Board was appointed in February of 1900. Its members were: Dr. Radford, Chairman (replaced after resignation during the first year by Tom Wallace), Messrs. J. H. MacGregor, James E. Kerr, R. Alexander, Charles Turnbull, Alexander Sloan, Rev. Father Craven, and Edward Radigan. Mayor Thomas Vair was an ex-officio member and called its first meeting on February 22, 1900. After committees had been drawn up, the first act was to confirm the appointment of the librarian, Miss A. G. Millard, at a salary of \$300 per annum. They immediately set about improving the heating and altering the arrangement of shelves and reading tables. A new counter was built, a catalogue of the collection (4,462 books) was printed, and the books were reclassified. The annual income of the library for 1900 was \$1,397 of which \$250 was granted by the Province and \$1,000 was granted by the municipality. Circulation climbed to 21,108 in



COURTESY OF THE EVENING REPORTER, GALT

GALT PUBLIC LIBRARY 1905 -

the first year. There were no open shelves, and no loud conversation or noise was allowed, as well as no tobacco, in any form.

By 1901, the circulation had increased so remarkably, to 34,420, that on March 4, 1902, the Board was emboldened to pass a motion to ask Mr. Andrew Carnegie for a grant with which to erect a new public library building. Mr. Carnegie offered \$17,500 in April of 1902, provided the Town of Galt would guarantee to spend \$1,750, or 10% of the grant, on maintenance annually, and would provide a site. The Town accepted the conditions and \$2,500 was paid for the site on North Water Street, and for building a retaining wall, and filling in the lot, which was completed by November, 1902.

Mr. Fred Mellish was engaged as architect in July, 1902, for a total fee of \$700, and his plans were approved in August. The Galt Board was allowed absolutely free choice in the design.

By November of 1902 it was obvious that the \$17,500 would not be sufficient to complete the projected building and the Board wrote asking for an additional \$2,500. Carnegie replied offering

only \$2,000 more, if the Town would increase its annual grant to 10% of \$19,500. The Town Council agreed and Carnegie's grant was set at \$19,500, to be made available in lots of \$2,000 and \$3,000 as the construction proceeded, each request for money to be signed by two Board members, and to bear the architect's certificate of work done.

However, when the tenders for Mr. Mellish's design were opened in February, 1903, it was found that the stone building proposed would be much too expensive, and the Board was forced to request tenders for a brick and cement construction. In March, 1903, there was a second opening of tenders, and on this occasion it was found that only by leaving the basement and the second floor of the new building incomplete would it be possible to erect it for less than \$19,500. It was agreed to go ahead on this basis.

"Corner Stone laid with little ceremony," says the Galt Daily Reporter of August 2, 1903. Robert Alexander, Chairman of the Board, laid the stone. A tin box, 18" x 12" x 12", was placed in a space especially cut into the top of it, containing the following: "Picturesque and Industrial Galt"; Daily & Weekly Reformer; Daily and Weekly Reporter, the latter containing a picture of the Galt Football team, a description of their reception on returning home from Manitoba and a concise account of their trip; The Globe & Mail; Copy of the Semi-Centennial prize list of the South Waterloo Agricultural Society; Canadian coins bearing the King's head; and a document giving the names of the following persons: Members of the Library Board, Library Board Building Committee, Town Council, Collegiate Institute, Public and Separate School Boards."

By October of 1904 it was obvious that even the revised plans of the architect had been too optimistic, for the budget had been exceeded by \$400, and furniture remained unbought. Mr. Mellish estimated that it would take \$3,000 to complete the building. The Town Council, who were requested to issue debentures to cover this, suggested that Mr. Carnegie be asked for \$3,500 more. After a short exchange of letters, obsequious on the part of the Library Board, and ill-tempered on the part of Mr. Carnegie's secretary, Mr. Bertram, a further grant was refused on the ground that the costs of labour and materials should not have risen so much in two years, and the Board contemplated having club, lecture and recreation rooms in the library, which was not part of a library's proper function, according to Mr. Bertram.

Unfortunately it is impossible to discover in the Minutes, or any other record now existing, the sequel to this story, except that

the money was found. The building, complete with chairs, reading tables, book-cases, a counter across which books were issued, fully equipped lecture rooms, and even a drinking fountain, was opened on August 8, 1905.

Open house was held on the afternoon and evening of the day. Local florists sent bouquets, and a piano was hired for the occasion. In the evening the library was dedicated to the people of Galt in speeches by Mayor Mundy; Mr. Alexander, Chairman of the Board; a member of the Board of Trade, and Honourable James Young. "The Reverend Rural Dean Ridley," says the Galt Reporter of August 9, 1905, "invoked the Divine Blessing fervently and with characteristic beauty of thought and chastity of diction." The article continues — "All during that afternoon and evening the new Library was thronged with visitors, all of whom expressed their delight with the magnificent quarters now in occupancy as Galt Public Library."

After moving into the new building, despite temporary setbacks due to some public indifference and financial depression, the Galt Public Library continued to expand its influence and service. This period corresponded with the banishment of illiteracy and the development of mass communication media, such as the motion picture, the cheap phonograph, the radio, and most recently television; at the same time as the mass circulation of newspapers, books and magazines was made possible by the high speed rotary press. All these have added to the necessity for a centre of information, recreation and adult education based on the book, but making available periodicals, records, and films as well. The Galt Public Library is trying to fill this need in a building designed for the tastes and activities of the early twentieth century.



A cheque for \$100 — the City of Waterloo's grant for 1954 to the Waterloo Historical Society — took nearly three months to go from Waterloo to Kitchener. The secretary finally received the cheque on March 1, 1955. Post office authorities did not know what happened.



Zion United Church, situated two miles north of Preston (Maple Grove Community), celebrated its one hundredth anniversary, June 26, 1955.

HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL AT WRIGLEY'S CORNERS

By Mrs. Grant Johnstone and Mrs. W. C. Rutherford

The first formal educational instruction for the district was begun in the home of Sylvanus Wrigley in 1813. It was not until 1834 that a log schoolhouse was built near the corner where the County Line intersects Highway 24A. When this log building was destroyed by fire, Mr. Wrigley again provided temporary accommodation in the parlour of his home.

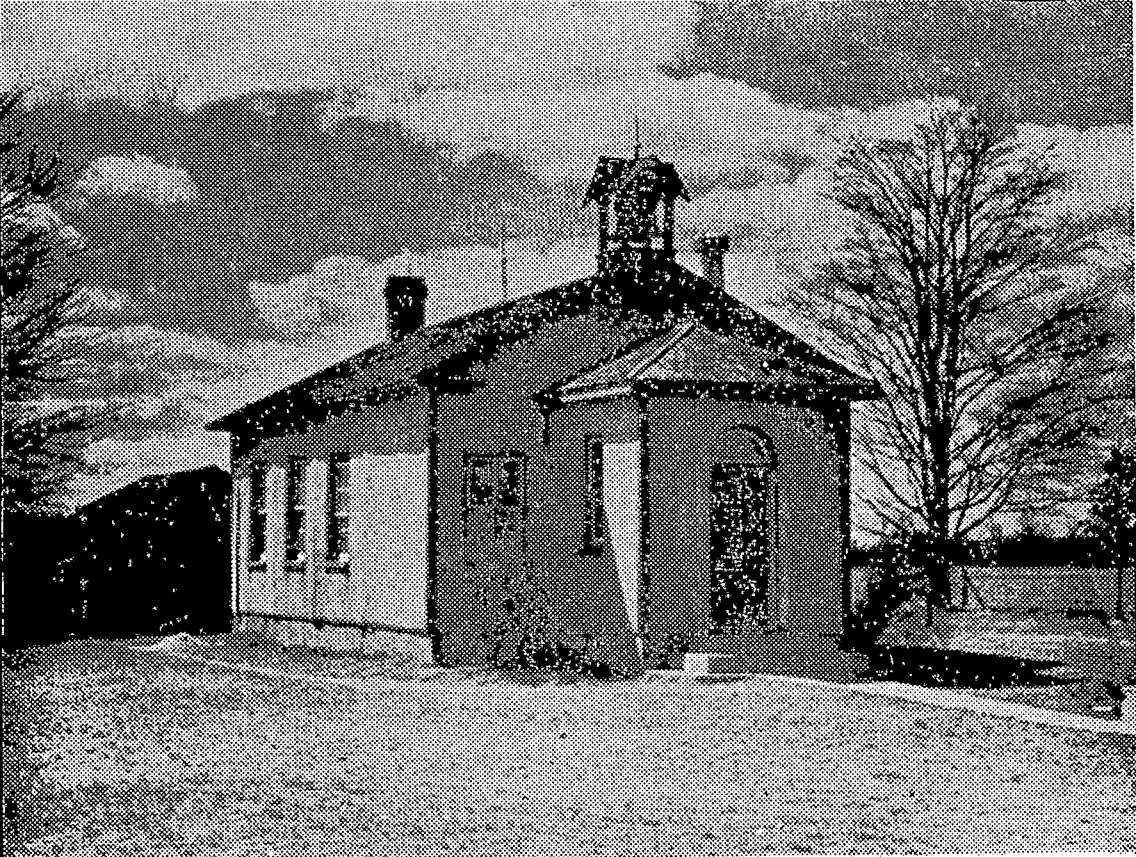
Another school was needed in North Dumfries Township. That was as familiar a statement in 1854 as it is today, and it is surprising what little difference a century makes in some basic matters. Families, then as now, were settling in the country; and the education and welfare of children were of vital concern to conscientious pioneer families, some of whose descendants still reside in the section.

After much thought and study another step was taken in the young educational system of Ontario. The school, known as Union School Section 16 North and South Dumfries, was built in 1854. It was constructed of red brick and it was built on one-half acre of land that was purchased from Sylvanus Wrigley. William Webster had the contract for the masonry and William Hall of Ayr did the carpentry. The dimensions of the building were 38 feet by 25 feet, and according to the regulations of the time the size was sufficient to accommodate ninety pupils.

When the school was built in 1854 the expenses were met by each family paying a share per child and by taking a turn at boarding the teacher, who stayed with each family before the end of the term. The salary of the teacher in 1860 was \$320 per year. At that time wood sold for \$1.30 to \$2.00 a cord. When 1861 came along it was decided to increase the teacher's salary. In order to do this, part of the funds was raised by taxation and part by a fee of 25 cents per pupil per month.

By 1863 new blackboards and a new stove were placed in the school and the teacher was instructed to hire a cartaker at not more than two dollars for six months. At this time the number of children of school age in the district was 84, the attendance was 75 and the population of the section was 240.

With the coming of 1864, a committee comprised of William Webster, George Findlater, James Dryden and the trustees was appointed to examine the condition of the building. Early in 1865 a special meeting was called and it was decided that it was neces-



COURTESY OF THE EVENING REPORTER, GALT

THE SCHOOL AT WRIGLEY'S CORNER 1854-1954

sary to erect and bolt together three sets of inside and outside supports in order to hold the building intact. Another decision was to build a shed at the east end of the school. Also in 1865 the trustees provided a box for the keeping of school papers. It is still used today.

The records reveal that:

— The school grounds were extended when land was bought from William Weir.

— Suitable out-buildings and a fence were built by William Forbes at a cost of \$130.

— The inside of the school was covered with drab paint.

— 1901 — A map of Waterloo County was purchased.

1902 — A new clock was supplied.

1903 — New windows were added and the school was painted both inside and outside. Caretakes, Marion McNaught and Alice Clark, were hired at six cents per day.

May 25th — Plans were started for the 50th year reunion.

In 1904 five hundred ex-pupils and residents gathered to mark the anniversary. The committee in charge was: Joseph Wrigley, chairman; Richard Weir, secretary; J. K. Rutherford, William Clark, Alex Weir, Marshall McCormick, William Smith, Robert Findlater, Thomas Chisholm, Hugh McCartney, Arthur Sewell, Charles McNaught, Mrs. Wrigley, Mrs. J. A. Smith, Mrs. Findlater, Mrs. A. Smith, Mrs. W. Weir, Miss Brown, Miss McLeod, Miss White and James Murray. During this time the little school-house with its neat grounds and well-kept interior was under the control of Miss McMillan and the trustees were William Smith, James Murray and William Clark.

The metal ceiling was added in 1909 and during the following year a school garden was planted. In 1911 a new floor was laid and the garden was discontinued.

The buildings were insured for \$500 and the secretary, Mrs. J. Weir, was paid five dollars in 1915. In 1916 a new Bible was purchased and the Books of Knowledge were obtained in 1928. At this time it was decided to dig a well, water having been supplied previously by John Weir. The teacher's desk and a globe were bought in 1930 and in the same year a Christmas treat was given to each child in the school section.

In 1931 the teacher's salary was \$900 and Dr. Woolner, M.O.H., condemned the old seats which were replaced by new ones. Succeeding years saw the salary reduced to \$800, then \$700, while the caretaker was paid \$70. Grants to the school nurse and to the school fair were discontinued.

1934 witnessed the rehiring of the nurse, the supplying of ink and the return of the school fair grant. In 1935 the teacher was paid \$500 and the janitor received \$60. The well was deepened in 1936 and in April of the following year Mrs. V. Woolsey was engaged as supply teacher at four dollars per day. During the holidays the inside and outside of the school was plastered. The school fair was held in the fall and the building was used for Sunday School during the summer. An enjoyable event of the winter was the box social, with the proceeds going to the plans fund.

Mrs. V. Woolsey was engaged as teacher in 1941 and on government order the board remained as before. Shrubs and perennials were planted in the spring of 1943.

In 1947 the school joined Area No. 2 of North Dumfries. It is interesting to note that the "area idea" was suggested and declined in 1879. The school reverted to the section in December, 1953.

Wrigley's Home and School Association was organized in 1951 and has made numerous contributions to the school. The Junior Red Cross was formed in the same year and in 1952 the children participated in the Township Centennial at Ayr. Annual events have been the Christmas Concert and Township Music Festival in the spring.

Throughout the century the school had 51 teachers with terms of service varying from one month to twelve years. In February, 1954, the ratepayers decided to build a new school.

A Centennial programme, sponsored by Wrigley's Home and School Club with the assistance of board members Jack Fried, Grant Johnstone and Lloyd Hamilton was held at the school on the afternoon of July 3, 1954. Mr. and Mrs. John Weir, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Rutherford and Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Gillies convened the picnic supper. During the afternoon programme the first sod for the new school was turned by William Smith, the oldest living pupil of the school. Including the Sunday service arranged by Lloyd Hamilton, more than a thousand ex-pupils and friends had attended the reunion.

On December 9, 1954, the new school was officially opened.

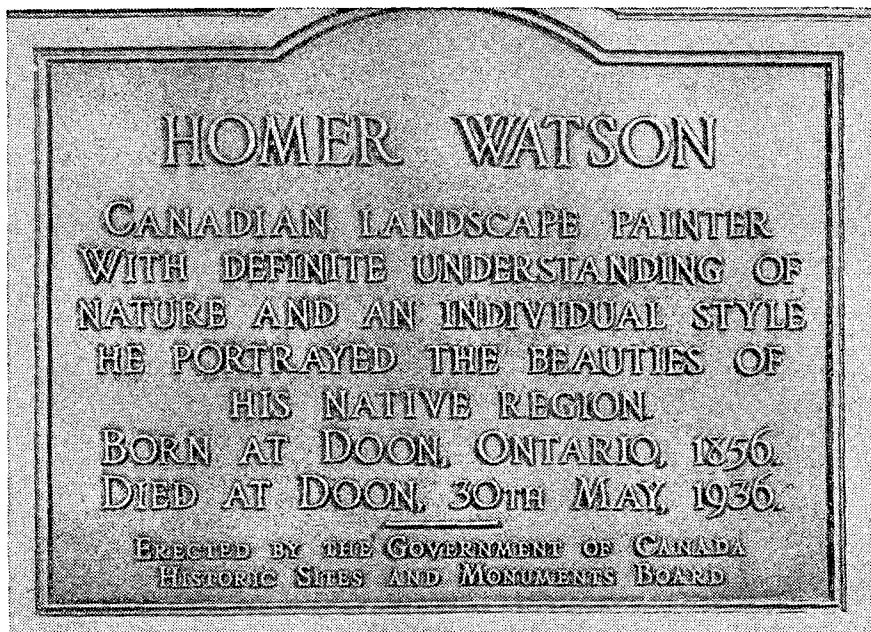
In February, 1955, the old school was sold at auction for \$70 to a former student, Wallace Moore of Ayr. Other former pupils travelled considerable distances to see their old Alma Mater. For sentimental rather than monetary value Robert Moore, Robert McLean, Jr., and Robert Brown obtained the well-carved desks at a fraction of the former cost. At \$25 the ancient furnace was "knocked down" to John Knox. It was significant that not one of the former pupils bid on the old woodshed, where the old hickory stick was applied with telling effects by irate teachers of another age.

Down through the years the old school, demolished in May, 1955, had provided educational facilities for as many as five generations of several families whose roots are deeply embedded in the community.



If we could first know where we are, and whither we are tending, we could better judge what to do, and how to do it.

—Abraham Lincoln Speech,
Springfield, June 16, 1858.



KITCHENER-WATERLOO RECORD PHOTO

HOMER WATSON PLAQUE

F. E. Page, First Vice-President of the Waterloo Historical Society, was chairman and made the following remarks prior to the unveiling ceremony.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are gathered today to honour the memory of the Man of Doon — the late Homer Watson.

One hundred years ago Homer Watson was born in this picturesque valley of the Grand where he spent almost all of his life. Here he captured in colour the beauty of his native land. Many of those present followed his career down through the years, and I have no doubt that many of you knew him as a friend. To know this fine, unspoiled, old gentleman was a privilege. After his passing, his sister Miss Phoebe often expressed to me the desire — and I have no doubt the prayer in his heart — that this old house might in some form become an art centre. My good friend, the late Ross Hamilton, made this dream come true when he and Mrs. Hamilton promoted the Doon School of Fine Art. The University of Western Ontario always showed a keen interest in Mr. Watson's talent. Therefore it is most fitting that Dr. Fred Landon, of Western, representing the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada should make the presentation of the plaque.

HOMER WATSON

By Clare Bice, A.R.C.A., O.S.A.

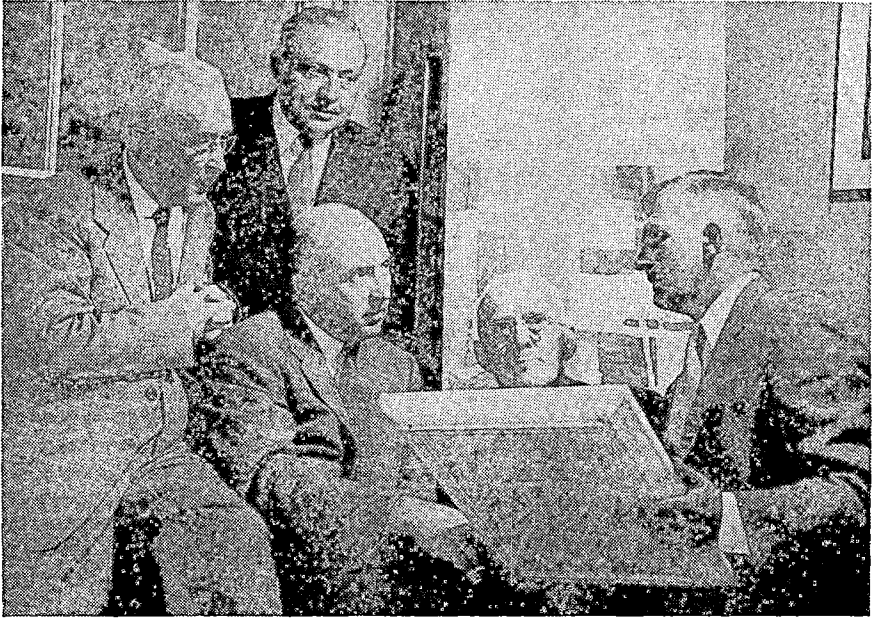
Address given at the unveiling at Doon of a plaque to the memory of Homer Watson. — September 10, 1955.

Mr. Clare Bice is well known in Canadian art circles and is at present the director of the London Art Gallery. He studied in New York and Paris and has exhibited with the Royal Canadian Academy, the Ontario Society of Artists, the New York World's Fair and the Canadian National Exhibition. As well as being an excellent instructor and critic he is well known as the author-illustrator of several books on art for children.

When I was here this summer teaching at the Doon School we often, going to and from our sketching locations, passed the small house where Homer Watson was born. We gathered at our meals, drew and painted and talked in this house which was Homer Watson's house and gallery and studio. We probably considered the same fields and trees as he did for subject matter to paint. I am not sure that any of us came anywhere near observing this countryside with the incisive and comprehending eye that Homer Watson had or covered our canvasses with a vigour approaching his bold brushwork. Most of us have so much to learn about trees and weather and landscape patterns, so much to learn about mixing colour and applying paint. And times have changed in a generation or so. Nowadays — rightly or wrongly — we seek to express ourselves in different terms and I am sure it is right that we should do so. L

Homer Watson's intention was to portray in his canvasses not merely of the rolling fields and the trees and streams and skies of his native countryside but to convey to the viewer the forces of nature — the sweep of wind, the threat of gathering clouds, the staunch sturdiness and dignity of old trees. Instead of the casual appearance of these hills and river valleys, which most of us see, Homer Watson wanted to capture and to convey to his fellows the essence of Nature — to show Nature as imposing and significant. And he succeeded as few Canadian painters of his generation did. Others who did also, came from this Western Ontario region — Horatio Walker, G. A. Reid and later Tom Thompson. Oscar Wilde, perambulating about America, was strongly impressed with Homer Watson's canvasses and exclaimed, "Here is the Canadian Constable". It was intended as a high compliment and should be considered as such, but, much as he admired Constable, Watson had no intention of painting the Canadian scene in the manner of the great English landscape painter. He was painting the trees and fields of Doon because he knew them intimately in all weathers and seasons and not just using this material to display his style and facility. He had facility with his brush from an early age.

In those early days — when Homer was in his teens — it wasn't easy in the Watson home and the prospect of becoming a painter must have seemed very remote and improbable to the lad. He had to leave the Doon public school when he was barely twelve years of age to contribute his share to the home maintained by his widowed mother. His father had been the owner of a mill here in Doon but without his management the mill failed and had to be sold. Young Homer worked in the brickyard and the neighboring mills and factories (for at that time Doon was a thriving industrial village). Between his jobs, the boy made time to draw and paint and from the time he was seventeen he knew for certain that it was an artist that he wanted to be.



KITCHENER-WATERLOO RECORD PHOTO

AT THE UNVEILING OF THE HOMER WATSON PLAQUE

Left to right: Dr. Fred Landon, Historic Sites and Monuments Board; Clare Bice, Curator of London Art Museum; F. E. Page, New Dundee, Vice President Waterloo Historical Society; R. M. Myers, M.P.P., Waterloo, South.

Standing at rear: Rev. Dr. F. G. Stewart, who gave the dedication address.

With the little money his father had left him he went to Toronto. Not to an art school, because he could not afford that, but to paint by himself, to learn, to meet other artists and to see and study paintings — such paintings as were then available in public buildings. This was in 1874-75 when Homer Watson was nineteen years old. He went to New York too and painted in the Adirondacks but his money finally gave out and he returned to Doon when he was twenty-two and settled down to paint in “faith, ignorance and delight” as he termed it.

At this time Canada was beginning to feel that its real pioneer period was past. There was time now for other things and an awakening interest in art. In 1872 the Ontario Society of Artists was formed and began holding annual exhibitions in Toronto. Homer Watson submitted pictures to this exhibition in 1878 and again in 1879 — he was twenty-three and twenty-four. In 1879 he submitted a canvass in his “faith, ignorance and delight” entitled “The Pioneer Mill”. It was a large canvass, about 34 by 50 inches. In those days there was no insistence on line, pattern, design or overlapping planes. It was a carefully detailed painting of an early mill by its stream, with rocks and cliffs and foliage surrounding it. It showed knowledge, observation and sincerity. And though Watson had submitted it with some misgiving, it was purchased by the new Governor-General, the Marquis of Lorne and his wife, Princess Louise, daughter of Queen Victoria, and they in turn gave it to the Queen, who asked them to buy another from the artist. So it was that Homer Watson, at twenty-five, by hard work and determination, by recognizing and making use of his inherent abilities, won for himself a place among Canadian artists. This was in 1880. Ahead of the young man lay fifty-six years of work as a Canadian artist.

There was half a century of solid endeavour, when Homer Watson's style developed and unfolded until he was able to convey in his canvasses the things he observed and felt in Nature — the ability and dignity and beauty of rugged trees — oaks and old elms and beeches — (Watson was a painter of trees, above all). He painted gathering storms, the mellowness of autumn, the solemn quiet of the rural scene — the forces of nature, the spirit of the Earth and the Element, rather than the casual appearance of it.

After his early successes in having his work go to the Royal Collection, his canvasses found their way into the important exhibitions of this country and in Europe — the Royal Academy, the Chicago World's Fair, into the permanent collection of the National Gallery and many other important and private collections. He himself was an early member of the Ontario Society of Artists

and the Royal Canadian Academy — President 1918-22, and was honored, posthumously, by the University of Western Ontario with the degree of Doctor of Laws. He was a painter of importance on the Canadian scene and beyond. This was his public life, his public achievement.

Of his private life, his humours and personal traits and character, there is much remembered still by the people of this district. The story of Homer Watson sitting up all night with a shotgun to save the huge elm tree which stood, until last autumn, at the turn in the road, reveals not only his spirit but the love and respect he had for the world of Nature in these hills around Doon.

Even though Homer Watson was self-made and self-taught, it seems fitting that his old home and studio and gallery should now be a school of art (through the efforts and capable direction of the late Ross Hamilton and of Mrs. Hamilton) where each year many young and some older painters come to learn the secrets of Nature as Homer Watson schooled himself to do. And it is certainly fitting that the Government and people of Canada should place this memorial to one of our great painters who has enabled his less discerning fellows to feel and enjoy the beauty and power of the Doon countryside. He has turned the familiar trees and streams, the changing skies and seasons, the humble house, the cattle, the nut-gatherers and the truant children into paintings full of significance to add to the store of Canada's cultural achievement.

♦ ♦

Miss Ellen Page, New Dundee, and Miss Emily Seibert, Kitchener, attended the two-week course in Indian Archaeology conducted by the University of Western Ontario at Penetanguishene during the summer of 1955.

♦ ♦

After 45 years Waterloo replaced its King Street lights with new fluorescent ones. At the close of 1955, it was said that Waterloo had one of the brightest main streets on the continent.

♦ ♦

In co-operation with the Kitchener-Waterloo Record, the Waterloo Historical Society published the booklet "The Barefoot Farm Boy" by C. A. Panabaker. The society presented a copy to each Grade VII class in Waterloo County.

♦ ♦

Our last report contained the copy of a document signed at Ayr in 1826. The building of Abel Mudge's mill and the beginning of Ayr is said to have taken place in 1824. Additional confirmation of this is found in a journal of Honourable William Dickson, where it is recorded that, on October 26, 1825, Mr. Mudge made a payment of £81/5/0 for his land.

PROMINENT PEOPLE DIE IN 1955

Albert Breithaupt, 84-year-old Kitchener industrialist and uncle of Lieutenant-Governor Breithaupt, died July 22 in a boating accident in Georgian Bay.

Milton H. Good, 85, retired Kitchener osteopath and pioneer Canadian automobile builder died November 27. Mr. Good, with his brother, the late Nelson Good, built their first car in 1900 and drove it to Brown City, Michigan. Said to be the first car built in Canada, it was the first Canadian car to cross the Canadian-U.S. border.

George W. Gordon, Sr., active in Kitchener's public life for 22 years, died August 15. He was alderman for eight years, mayor in 1938 and 1939, and first elected to the Kitchener Public Utilities in 1941, serving as chairman in 1947 and 1948.

E. G. Heise, 71, Preston town clerk for 27 years, died March 18. During his term of office he uncovered many items of historical interest.

James W. Henderson, 84, the last surviving member of a pioneer Ayr family, passed away September 28. Always interested in sport, he played on Ayr's football team and on the hockey team in the early nineties when these teams won Western Ontario championships. Later he was an active member of both curling and bowling clubs at Ayr. He was a Presbyterian, a Mason, a staunch Conservative, and above all a much respected citizen.

John Charles Iredale, 97, Preston industrialist, died September 3. He was an internationally-known shoe manufacturer and president of the company he founded 50 years ago — the Canada Last Company, Ltd.

David Knipfel, 89, prominent retired business man and active Roman Catholic Church worker, died May 1. He was treasurer of the Kitchener Separate School Board for 23 years.

Frederick E. Macklin, 80, proprietor of Macklin's Dry Goods Store from 1902 until 1951, died October 14. He was formerly a member of the Kitchener Board of Health and of the Public School Board.

Norman G. McLeod, 60, native of Galt and secretary of the Ontario Hog Producers Association, died November 23. A crack plowman in his younger days, he maintained his connection with plowing by judging at district plowing matches and as a director of the North Dumfries Plowmen's Association. Formerly a reeve of N. Dumfries, he was township assessor in 1948. He was a member of Knox's Presbyterian Church, Galt.

Ivan A. Shantz, 67, vice-chairman of the Kitchener Public Utilities Commission and former Kitchener alderman, died May 26. He was formerly president of the Y.M.C.A. and K-W Federated Charities. He was a manufacturer's agent and at one time was in the printing business in Kitchener. For many years he served as an official of Trinity United Church, Kitchener.

W. S. Sheppard, 85, of Waterloo died July 26. He was a bandmaster, composer and arranger, and past-president of the Canadian Bandmasters' Association.

Peter A. Snider, 88, R.R. 3, Kitchener, former clerk of Waterloo Township for 30 years, died May 12.

H. Leslie Staebler, 80, prominent Kitchener insurance agent and founder of the K-W Community Concert Association, died December 7. He was a member of the Waterloo Historical Society and contributed articles on music and his school-mate, W. L. Mackenzie King. Mr. Staebler was formerly president of the K-W Philharmonic Society, organist for many years at First Church of Christ Scientist, president and among the oldest members of the K-W Kiwanis Club, chairman of Kitchener Public School Board and director of the Y.M.C.A.

Bertram David Turnbull, 64, died August 20. Descended from a pioneer family of Branchton, he was born and lived there throughout his life. For a number of years he was assessor for Waterloo County, and at the time of his death was an executive member of the County Assessors of Ontario. He was an elder of Branchton United Church, secretary-treasurer of the Branchton School Board for a lengthy period and first chairman of Area No. 1.