

**FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT**

**of the**

**WATERLOO  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**



**NINETEEN FIFTY-FOUR**

# Waterloo Historical Society

## FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

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## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1954

Receipts:

Balance at January 1, 1954 .....	\$ 443.37
Members' Fees .....	244.00
Sale of Reports .....	31.00
Bank Interest .....	8.87

Grants:

City of Kitchener .....	\$ 50.00
City of Galt .....	100.00
Town of Hespeler .....	25.00
Town of Preston, 1953 and 1954 .....	50.00
Town of Elmira .....	25.00
Township of Waterloo .....	50.00
Township of North Dumfries .....	25.00
Township of Woolwich .....	25.00
Township of Wilmot .....	25.00
County of Waterloo .....	200.00
	575.00
	\$1,302.24

Disbursements:

41st Report .....	\$173.80
Printing and Stationery .....	28.41
Postage .....	32.20
Curator and Janitor .....	92.00
Advertising .....	22.78
Speaker's Expenses .....	15.00
Delegate's Expenses .....	40.00
Cost of Float .....	34.60
Cartage .....	3.50
General Expenses .....	3.60
Secretary .....	75.00
	520.89
Balance .....	\$ 781.35

Audited and found correct.

Jan. 28, 1955.

Mrs. Helena Feasby.

## COUNCIL

1955

### *Past President*

Mrs. T. D. Cowan

### *President*

W. H. E. Schmalz

### *First Vice-President*

F. E. Page

### *Second Vice-President*

A. W. Taylor

### *Secretary-Treasurer*

Miss E. Seibert, 31 Madison Ave. S., Kitchener

### *Representatives*

Kitchener—Dr. A. E. Broome

Waterloo—N. Stroh

Galt—Miss M. Elliot, J. M. Moffatt

Preston—F. H. Pattinson, H. Meyers

Ayr—Dr. W. Woolner, Mrs. J. E. Whitson, Mrs. J. Manson,  
John T. Schmidt

Elmira—Miss L. Klinck, M. E. Duke, E. W. Kendall

New Hamburg—O. A. F. Hamilton, E. F. Ritz

New Dundee—F. E. Page

Woolwich Township—F. Gingerich, C. Soehner

Wellesley Township—D. McKay

Wilmot Township—E. Bean

North Dumfries Township—Mrs. G. P. Moore, W. C. Barrie

Waterloo Township—Mrs. L. B. Weber, H. Urstadt

### *Publication Committee*

F. W. R. Dickson, Convener

A. W. Taylor

### *Museum Committee*

Miss D. Shoemaker, Convener

Mrs. L. B. Weber

## ANNUAL MEETING, 1954

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this forty-second annual meeting of the Waterloo Historical Society. It is wonderful to see that so many people are historically minded.

This year has been a very pleasant one and a busy one for your executive members who have been most willing to take their part in the many activities and I do wish to pay tribute to all. Most of your executive are members of long standing and this has made it much easier, particularly since there was so much to be done. After the last annual meeting I soon found out how little I knew of the county's past history, but I read all the old reports and various county stories thus refreshing my memory and learning much that was new.

Our main activities besides the seven executive meetings and the general meeting to hear Miss Lewis of the Women's Institute included the preparation of the annual report, the revision of the constitution, attendance at the Jordan workshop, the annual meeting of the Ontario Historical Society at Ottawa, the Kitchener Centennial (float and window decorations), West Montrose bridge reopening, the opening of the Elora Museum and finally the International Plowing Match. Then, too, much work was done by the Pioneer Museum Committee the result of which will be given to you this evening.

Our finances are quite satisfactory but there is so much more that we could do if we had the necessary money. The county, cities, townships and towns have been generous and our membership has grown but we should have more members and I would encourage all to become life members.

During the year the museum has been enriched by quite a few most interesting items for which I wish to thank the donors and I would ask that we keep in mind at all times the fact that in our attics, basements, barns and sheds lie many articles which may be lost unless we take steps to preserve them.

The Press has, as always, been most generous in giving us publicity and I do wish to thank the reporters for their diligence and thoughtfulness. I also wish to thank the Waterloo School Board for their kindness in making their fine auditorium available.

We are happy that our Society has prospered and are looking forward to another successful year.

W. H. E. Schmalz,  
President.

## SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT—1954

The 42nd annual meeting of the Waterloo Historical Society was held in the assembly room of the MacGregor Public School, Waterloo, on November 5, 1954. Professor William Wilfrid Jury, Curator of the Museum of Indian Archaeology, University of Western Ontario, was the guest speaker.

Through arrangements made by Harold W. Wagner, Waterloo Representative, Mr. Jury spoke to the children in the MacGregor School Auditorium in the afternoon. The girls and boys were intensely interested in the talk on "Indian Lore", and like the evening audience, greatly appreciated the display of Indian Relics, loaned by Mr. Nathaniel Stroh, Waterloo.

Miss Anna P. Lewis, Director of Women's Institutes for Ontario, addressed a meeting held on February 19 in the Children's Room of the Kitchener Public Library. She and a committee from the Federated Association of Women's Institutes visited the Farmers' Museum in Cooperstown, N.Y., in the summer of 1953 and her remarks and coloured slides gave many a vivid picture of what we hope to attain in the proposed museum at Doon.

Seven Council Meetings were well attended.

In May five members of the Council attended a Museum Workshop held at the Museum of the Twenty in Jordan. Professional museum workers from the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, conducted the discussion groups. Dr. Louis Jones of Cooperstown, N.Y., was one of the speakers.

Two of our Council members served on the Historical Committee for Kitchener's Centennial. A float was assembled and entered in the Centennial Parade on Dominion Day.

The President and several members of the Council attended the official opening of the Wellington County Historical Museum, Elora, early in July.

On October 5 Waterloo County's unique covered bridge, after repairs, was officially re-opened and the Society was once more represented by Mr. W. H. E. Schmalz.

We had a rare opportunity to present Waterloo County history at the International Plowing Match at Breslau in October. Ten members of the Society served on the Historical Committee.

The Waterloo Historical Society has always been affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society and this year Mr. A. W. Taylor was our official delegate attending the sessions held in Ottawa on June 10, 11, 12.

The grants from the municipalities have been received and are greatly appreciated. This assistance enables the Society to continue its work.

Appreciation is also here expressed of the accommodation provided by the Kitchener Public Library Board and the co-operation of the library staff.

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



**THE FIRST GRAVE IN BLAIR CEMETERY**

COURTESY OF THE EVENING REPORTER, GALT

Dr. B. Mabel Dunham told the story of Johnny Bricker in her book "The Trail of the Conestoga".

## HISTORY OF BLAIR

*By Harry S. Kinzie*

Harry Kinzie is a successful farmer near Blair. The Waterloo Historical Society agrees with his suggestion that more material should be published on the smaller communities of our county. The Society is always prepared to print interesting history.

Before the beginning of white settlements in Waterloo County in 1800, what is now known as Blair was an Indian camp. There is an Indian cemetery on the river flat of Cruickston Park farm below the village. The writer of this history has a collection of numerous Indian relics that were found on surrounding farms. Nathaniel Dodge was a white man who was trading with the Indians when the settlers arrived. Members of the Dodge family were buried in the Indian cemetery.

The first settlers were Mennonites who came from Pennsylvania to live under British laws. Joseph Schoerg and Samuel Betzner arrived in 1800. These two sturdy, adventurous farmers were brothers-in-law who came with their families to settle in Waterloo County. The Pioneer Memorial Tower, across the Grand River from Doon, marks the site of the Joseph Schoerg farm; while Blair now stands on part of Samuel Betzner's farm. From 1800 to 1802 about ten more families came from Lancaster County in Pennsylvania. Among them were the John and Samuel Brickers, the Erbs and the Bechtels. The Bowmans did not arrive in Blair until 1816.

These first settlers followed the Grand River and the streams leading into it. Thus, water was provided for their cattle and livestock, and for power to run chopping mills, grist mills, saw mills, breweries, tanneries and woollen mills. Blair had five dams, Doon had three or four, and German Mills and Strasburg each had one. Preston and Galt were also built on the Speed and Grand Rivers. We must remember that water was essential for power and that, properly harnessed, it was a very cheap source of energy.

Before the grist mills were built the settlers had to take their wheat to Dundas for grinding into flour. When my grandfather first started farming he had to take his wheat on horseback through Indian trails to the mill there.

The village of Blair has had a number of names. First it was called Shingle Bridge, for it had a wooden covered bridge similar to the one at West Montrose which now remains as the only covered bridge in Ontario. Later it was named Durham, then Carlisle, and finally Blair in honour of Adam Johnston Fergusson Blair who was an early settler in the village.

The first milling venture included a saw mill and grist mill,\* built on the Blair-Galt Road by Daniel and Jacob Erb. Erected in 1808, it is now used as an ice house by Ford Willson of Preston. In 1859 the property was sold to Henry Aaron Bechtel who lived on the farm now owned by Jim Johannes. Here stands one of the oldest houses in the district. According to a record in the masonry it was built by the Bechtels in 1817. In 1875 the mill was transferred to Henry McNally, Angus McNally, Oliver Clemens and Moses Eschelman. This group converted the building into a woollen mill and continued in business until the manager, Angus McNally, died in April, 1903. Following that, a North Bay concern bought the establishment, then moved all the machinery away. As a boy the writer had the pleasure of working in that woollen mill. I shall never forget the water wheel which ran all the machinery. It had timbers like those in a barn, and the steel axle upon which it was built weighed one and one-half tons. Farmers brought their wool to the mill and bought blankets, cloth, yarn and batting.

The Kirkwood property was used in succession for different industries, namely: distillery, tannery and fish hatchery. In 1895 it became an electric plant, generating power for street lighting in Preston.

A second grist mill was built in Blair in 1846 by Samuel B. Bowman. At first it was known as Carlisle Mills. This is the only industry that has been operating continuously since it was founded one hundred and eight years ago. It had the distinction of being one of two mills in Canada where water was used a second time through two water wheels. There were three dams, one being three-quarters of a mile upstream. The first water wheel produced twenty-five, and the second one fifteen horsepower. When the water was low they used a steam engine to supply power. This four-storey building was so well constructed of such heavy timber and so well reinforced with iron rods that the main frame was still standing after it was gutted by fire in 1928. This mill was rebuilt.

When the carpenters had erected the framework of the first mill, one of them had enough steady nerve to walk to the peak and initiate the building with a bottle of whisky. This mill had some of the finest pine lumber upon which I have set my eyes. Samuel B. Bowman owned a fine tract of virgin pine. The Kinzie, Levi, Shantz, and parts of the Good and Dickson farms belonged to that tract. Bowman owned a saw mill that stood back of the tower across the road from the grist mill. Where the Dickson lawn and spruce trees are now, there used to be a log yard, piled with the best of the finest virgin pine logs. On my farm I found a pine stump that measured six feet.

\*Destroyed by fire, February 21, 1955.

Bowman's mill was sold to Peter Shirk in 1866, then to John and Jacob Detweiler, and still later to Allan Bowman. In 1876 Allan Bowman built the tower to use water a second time. Some people take it for granted that the tower is as old as the mill. I had a chat with Miss Lida Bowman who lives in Preston, and she said that her father built the tower in 1876, thirty years after the erection of the mill. This tower was recently saved from destruction at the request of the Waterloo Historical Society.

Allan Bowman traded the mill to Jacob Hilborn for a farm at Conestogo. Jacob Hilborn had several sons in the milling business. For three years Amos was in charge; then Joseph took over until 1902 when he bought the mill from his father and operated it until he sold to L. Graves in 1925. The Hilborns had the mill longer than any others and they certainly developed a fine business. From miles around in every direction farmers brought in their wheat and came to have their chopping done. The Hilborns owned a team of heavy horses that was continually drawing flour to the cars below Blair, and western wheat from the cars. Everybody respected the Hilborns for the honest and upright way in which they transacted business. Father and I had the pleasure of dealing with them for many years and the mill never seemed the same after the Hilborns left the village.

But let us get back to the Bowmans who were among the fine people who came to Canada from Pennsylvania. I have a book which lists them. A Mennonite minister, Joseph Bowman, came from Pennsylvania in 1816. He had a family of thirteen children. He bought a large tract of land, and three of his sons then had parts of this. Wendel B. Bowman had the farm where Norman Sipes now owns one of the very old houses; Benjamin B. lived on the farm across from the Blair school and now operated by Preston Graham; and Samuel B., or Miller Sam as the neighbours called him, had Dickson's place and some of the surrounding farms. The land on which Capt. Dickson's house is located was in the possession of the Bowmans for seventy-four years. Samuel B. Bowman, who built the grist mill, died in 1883.

According to a record of 1864 the population of Blair was about two hundred. Henry Bechtel Sr. and Benjamin B. Bowman had laid out the streets. David Croft was proprietor of the Blair Hotel, and where the big terrace is now, Philip Gleick had the Farmers' Inn. John Renshaw was postmaster, as well as shoemaker and repairer. In 1864 William Tilt was Township Clerk and a merchant in Blair. John Caldwell owned a nursery and James Muir was the teacher of a well attended school.

By 1871 Blair had two churches. A large flour and grist mill was operated by Henry Shirk. Henry Whittaker and Joseph Zyrded had a woollen mill that employed fifteen workers. As early as 1853 the Moses Bechtel saw mill was a building fifty by thirty-three feet, and a dam with a fall of twenty-one feet provided the water supplied by spring creeks. Excellent accommodation was available in 1871 at the Blair Hotel under Charles Quirenbach.

Although the population of one hundred and eighty in 1871 showed a drop from 1864, by 1888 it had reached two hundred and sixty. At that time Jacob Hilborn had the flour mill and the woollen mill was operated by McNally, Clemens & Co. The 1954 population is about three hundred.

I think that it would be well to put on record that the Wilks family came from England in the 1850's. This wealthy family owned most of the land between Blair and Galt and some of the finest trotting horses. At the beginning of the century I can remember seeing brood mares and colts by the dozen in the Wilks' fields. Their horses won fame throughout Canada and the United States. Horses such as Sadie Mae and Jim Todd cost thirty to forty thousand dollars.

Many have had a part in making the history of Blair. I can well remember Hugh Thomson who had the store across the road from the Blair Hotel. He died in 1898. George Denstadt, whose wife was one of Philip Gleick's daughters, operated a dry goods and grocery store in the big terrace. Just as individuals have been important in the history of Blair, so the smaller communities have made their contributions to the history of the county. While much of the material collected in the reports of the Waterloo Historical Society has centred around Galt, Kitchener, Waterloo and Preston, more attention should be given to the records of the small communities that have had such a great part in making Waterloo County what it is today.

\* \* \*

Mr. Kinzie tells us that about ten families came from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and settled in the Blair area in 1800-1802. Dr. B. Mabel Dunham based her book, "The Trail of the Conestoga", on this migration and chose Sam Bricker and his brother John as central characters. In the story, after Sam had gone back to Pennsylvania for aid, John and his wife Annie found the hardships and loneliness unbearable. They were making preparations to abandon their clearing and follow Sam when their little son sickened and died. Soon a new-born infant was laid beside the older boy. They buried them on a hilltop in the bush, then had no heart to go on and leave them there, alone.

Blair cemetery has grown around the graves. The tree that the parents planted has long since vanished, but the spot is marked by a stone: "Erected to the memory of John Bricker, who died the 10th of March, 1804, aged 8 years, 4 mo., and 7 da."

## SAINTE-MARIE

*By Wilfrid Jury*

Professor Wilfrid Jury is curator of the Museum of Indian Archaeology and Pioneer Life, University of Western Ontario, London. He addressed the 42nd Annual Meeting, at MacGregor School, Waterloo. As in other endeavours, Mr. Jury was assisted by Elsie McLeod Jury, who projected the coloured slides.

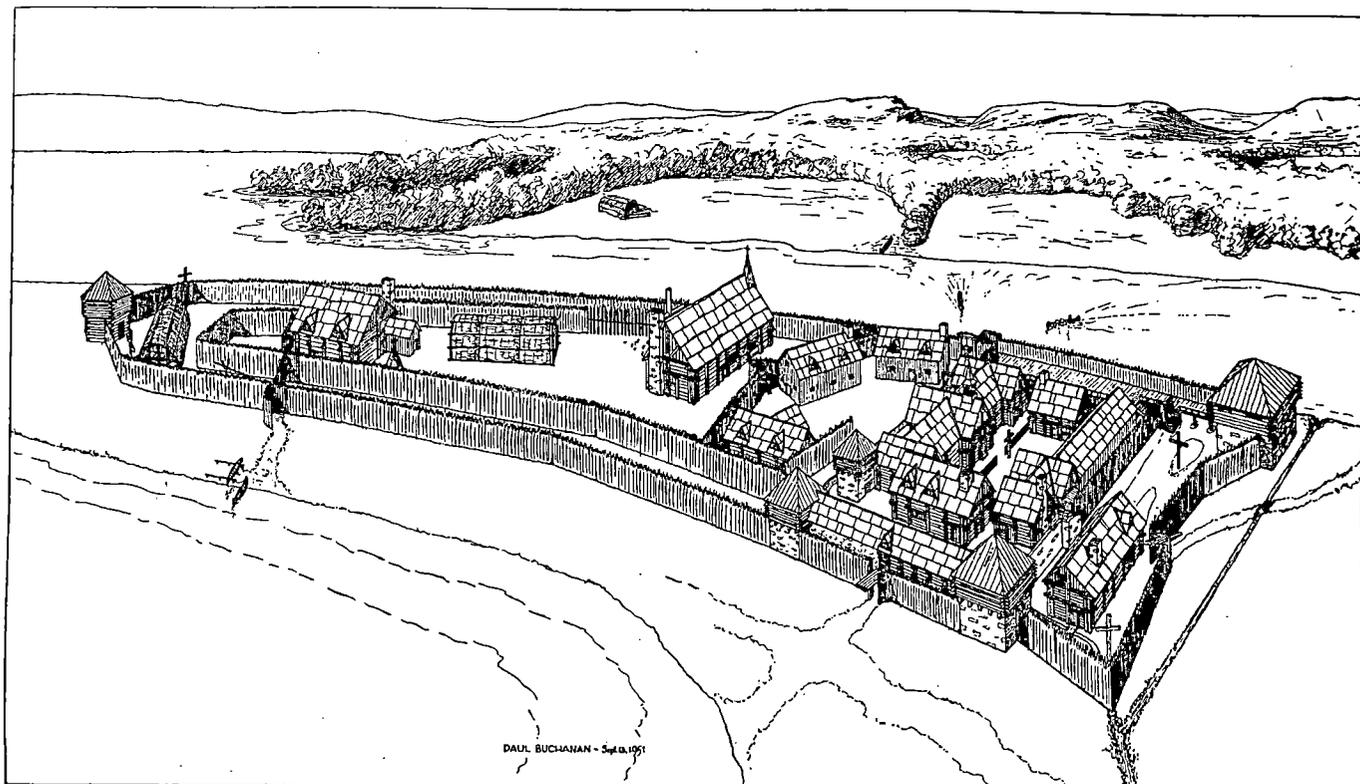
The story of Canada that lies hidden in its soil is a challenge to archaeologists. These inquisitive seekers have a special nose to ferret out of the soil the tracings left by man, not only in the centuries before the white man came but in historic times. Canada is old enough to have many important chapters left by the first white explorers, missionaries, and traders; stories buried so deep in our soil that we must search beneath the roots of trees, modern roadways, and cultivated fields to discover pages in our history that would be otherwise unknown.

Over three hundred years ago, the flag of France was planted on the shores of Georgian Bay in central Ontario. Civilization and Christianity were introduced there, at the end of an eight hundred mile canoe trip, with over fifty portages and fraught with danger. These were the tribal lands of the Huron Indians, a farming and trading people who travelled extensively to the west and far to the north, bartering for furs in return for their corn and tobacco and fishing nets. In order to share in this well-established trade, the first French at Quebec had formed an alliance with the Hurons who came to them with furs. To their land came Samuel de Champlain and some twenty Frenchmen as early as 1615 when in all America there was but a handful of white men and no settlement worthy of the name.

This country is now known as Huronia. One hundred miles north of the city of Toronto, it stretches along the southern shores of Georgian Bay from Collingwood to Honey Harbour, reaching inland to Barrie and Orillia, junction points of many modern highways.

And it was here, in the heart of the Huron nation, that the Jesuit missionaries, in 1639, built a central residence and community meeting place on the banks of the River Isauragui, which we call the Wye, two miles east of the present town of Midland. They named it Sainte-Marie.

From Sainte-Marie they spread fanwise through the native villages, and penetrated west and north by canoe. Five of them were to lose their lives in the native conflicts — Fathers Brebeuf and Lalemant, in the village of Saint-Ignace, six miles to the east;



DAUL BUCHANAN - Sep. 1951

COURTESY OF THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, TORONTO

REPRODUCTION DRAWING OF SAINTE-MARIE I  
From the book "Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons"  
By Wilfrid Jury and Elsie McLeod Jury

Father Daniel, at Saint-Joseph, fourteen miles to the south; and Fathers Cahabanel and Garnier to the west.

Ten years after Sainte-Marie was built, the Hurons, once 40,000 strong, had become an inefficient, disease-ridden band of scattered, unorganized people, a remnant of whom, in the face of the approaching Iroquois, persuaded the French to set the torch to the stronghold they had built and to flee to a small island twenty-seven miles distant. Within a few hours, where the strongly-built fortress of Sainte-Marie had stood, were tottering rows of charred timbers. Burnt wood and scattered stone marked the sites of former massive buildings — and thus it was to remain, sinking gradually into oblivion for the next three hundred years.

The result of our native aboriginals' contact with the white man was the complete destruction of his culture. While the Huron became the pawn of the French, the Iroquois, who lived south of the St. Lawrence, became a pawn in the hands of the English and Dutch, as a result of the fur trade. The pelts of beaver, otter, marten, mink, brought high prices in Europe. Animals were slaughtered ruthlessly for their fur alone. The food and welfare of the Indian was of no concern to the white man.

The Iroquois, with firearms supplied by the Dutch, cut deep inroads into the Huron country with the object of diverting the Huron-French trade to their own uses. Repeated raids on villages, attacks on the flotillas of canoes carrying furs to Quebec, resulted in the capture and death of hundreds of Hurons. At the same time whole villages were wiped out by epidemics brought into their midst by the white man.

Concerning this period in our history we have the records of the Jesuit priests who lived there, and who sent home letters, or "Relations", that were printed yearly. Although many of these letters were written at Sainte-Marie there are no known maps and practically no details describing that place. The historians therefore have known little of Sainte-Marie. It has remained for the archaeologist to uncover with his spade the true proportions and nature of the establishment. And surprising indeed have been the discoveries—a self-sufficient community with extensive buildings of excellent construction, barricaded by strong palisades of wood and stone; a water system and an ingenious canal with locks, — all in the heart of the American wilderness, the first inland settlement on the continent, built at a time when Quebec and Three Rivers were straggling settlements, and Montreal was unthought of.

The early pioneers of the past century found the ruins, a rec-tangle of stone foundations. They recognized the cultivated apple

trees, and they transplanted them to their own gardens. After the War of 1812, soldiers from the military garrison at Penetanguishene, five miles away, were sent to transport young trees from the "Old Jesuit Orchards." And it was the chaplain of this garrison who was the first to study the old stone rubble. The Rev. George Hallen, Oxford scholar and historian, paused often as he passed on horseback, and closely examined the site. He has left us a map of Sainte-Marie as he saw it a century ago.

Since that time, lured by the written records and the mounds of stone, amateur archaeologists and professionals have been sinking their shovels into the remains of old Fort Sainte-Marie in search of relics. They were all well rewarded, and many valuable specimens that should be in our museums have thus been scattered and lost.

In the fall of 1947 the Jesuit Order undertook to rebuild the walls of four stone bastions that stood at the four corners of the rectangle. During this work a chance find of one of the workmen opened up the possibility that there was much more to be discovered concerning Sainte-Marie. It led too, to a request being made by the Jesuits to the University of Western Ontario to carry on an examination of the whole area. The work was to be a joint project of the Society of Jesus in Upper Canada and the University of Western Ontario.

Our investigations commenced in June, 1948, and little did we think that it would require four years to complete the examination of the site, believed to be that of a small mission.

We first set up the dig house. Its walls were lined with shelves on which sat the boxes of specimens and relics. Working surface was provided for typists and map-maker. On a long table the specimens were cleaned and catalogued as they were removed from the soil.

In the tool house were the shovels and trowels, whisks and sieves for fine work; and equally important, the cutting shears, scythe, cross-cut saw, and axes. Before the actual examination began in the various sections of the site, it was necessary to remove fences, hundreds of stones, bushes, weeds, rank grass, and poison ivy, as well as over thirty large elm and Manitoba maple trees, and a two-storey house with several barns and out buildings. This latter, of course, was effected by a wrecking crew.

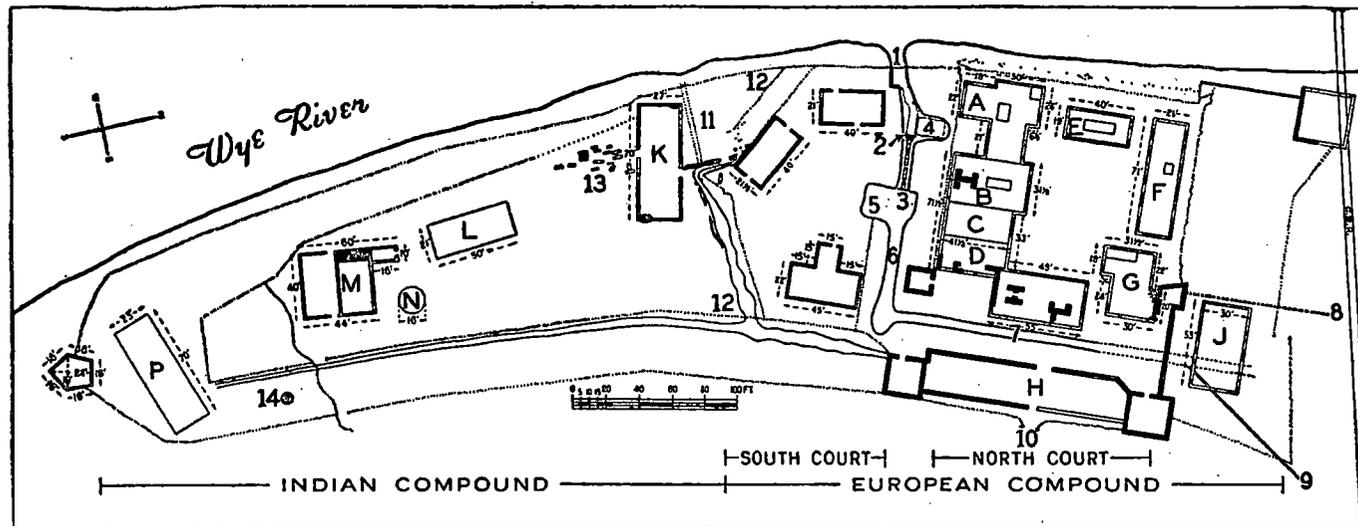
On any site, we first like to establish the outside boundary, then, man's habits being similar in all ages, we must look for the water supply, the food supply, and the remains of shelters. At a stronghold like Sainte-Marie a never-failing water supply within the walls was essential in the event of siege.

We soon located a spring on the hill to the north of the site, and found that the water was conducted inside the stonework by an eight by nine inch cedar box-like trough. Along the river bank we found a double row of palisades, eighteen feet apart. This area was divided into eighteen-foot sections which proved to be stables. The Jesuits wrote of calves being brought by canoe over the fifty portages from Quebec, but, in the cellar of the cook house we found bones of fully-matured pigs and cattle, and large quantities of egg shells. We know too, that corn, beans and pumpkin were grown by the natives of the area, and certainly the French would grow wheat for the communion wafer.

As the excavations proceeded we found the carbon outlines of buildings. They appeared as blackened bands, and square and round moulds of upright posts in the sandy soil. The buildings had been erected by placing planks horizontally, ten inches apart, and packing the centre with clay and stones. Eleven-inch uprights had held the horizontal timbers in position at ten-foot intervals. This was the earliest type of construction practised on the American continent.

All the buildings proved to be approximately twenty feet wide, and extended to various lengths. Several of them had wings, or projections. They flanked the walls in order to strengthen the defence work. Several of them had cellars, all six feet deep. Only one cellar had a stairway, the others apparently being reached by trap doors. Thousands of nails were found and many pieces of household hardware. The more interesting relics were usually located in the cellars and the identity of the building could often be suggested from the nature of the finds in the cellar.

Our method of examination was to first grid the area into ten-foot squares, marked out by wooden pegs. Then the sod was peeled to a depth of seven to nine inches. Many years of cultivation had long destroyed evidence in these top layers. Several squares were bared at a time and the surface cleaned with extremely sharp shovels and brooms. Any disturbance in the soil was plainly seen, sometimes as mould only, and sometimes as carbonized timber. Because of the fire that consumed the fort, everything was charred and carbonized, and every section of the site contained evidence of the fire. Each feature that was met was examined to its extremity—inch by inch, with trowel, whisk broom and often with soft painter's brush. For the full length of cellars we worked along eighteen-inch ledges removing the soil painstakingly by inch levels, and much of it was again sieved, so small were some of the finds such as beads, seeds, egg shells, shattered bottles, pins, buttons, hooks and eyes.



PLAN OF SAINTE-MARIE I

COURTESY OF THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, TORONTO

- A—Dwelling
- B—Chapel
- C—Carpenter-shop
- D—Blacksmith-shop
- E—Cookhouse

- 1, 2, 3—Locks
- 4—Loading basin
- 5—Landing basin
- 6—East-west water channel
- Timber construction

- F—Dwelling
- G—Dwelling
- H—Barracks
- J—Barn
- K—Indian Church
- 7—North-south water channel
- 8—Drinking water aqueduct
- 9—Aqueduct
- 10—Gateway

Stone construction

- L—Huron longhouse
- M—Hospital
- N—Algonquin dwelling

P—Huron longhouse

- 11—Escape tunnel
- 12—Ditchworks for defence
- 13—Christian cemetery
- 14—Well

Palisade line

Field books were filled with notes describing the soil at various depths, and the location of finds. Every disturbance and find was noted on a field map marked off in squares that correspond exactly with the grid system on the ground. In this way, after the work is completed, we have an accurate record or picture of what occurred in the soil of the site.

Among the identifiable buildings was the blacksmith shop. Over it stood a row of nine Manitoba maples, eighteen inches and more in diameter. Hundreds of fragments of iron, steel and copper cuttings were found. In the blacksmith shop we found where the anvil had stood, and around it hundreds of particles and portions of broken cuttings and a cold chisel. We located the foundation of the forge built of stone. All through the blacksmith shop was evidence of great activity. In the stone wall we found twelve unused iron trade axes, forgotten no doubt in the hurried exodus. Thousands of these iron trade axes have been found in central and western Ontario, made probably at the forge of Sainte-Marie.

Almost every specimen of iron proved that Louis Gaubert, the blacksmith, had been not only a master craftsman but an artist at his trade of sacristan.

Immediately beside the blacksmith shop, separated by a stone partition, was the carpenter's shop. We found the carbonized remains of the heavy carpenter's bench. We found broken tools, plane blades, one claw hammer, unused nails and a good scratch awl. Pressed into the clay were shavings from plane and axe, and auger cuttings. The floor was lined with elm bark, smooth side up.

A chapel was identified partly by stonework, believed to be the base of a double altar; partly by the finds in its cellar—carbonized cloth, hook and eyes, leading for a glass window, rings; a bone comb, shattered glass of two vessels, and a reliquary.

At the close of our first season we knew that Sainte-Marie had extended west to the river, had been surrounded by double palisades, and had consisted of several extensive buildings of sturdy construction. By testing we established that it had extended much further to the south and that a great deal more work would be necessary before we would know the complete story. The trenches too still remained a mystery.

Time does not permit me to tell you of our discovery of the intricate canal system, of the complete European compound and who lived there, of the graves found in the Indian cemetery, of the hospital, and of the section set aside for the visiting Indians.

## WATELOO HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

*By Ronald Hagler, Curator*

The exhibits at the Waterloo County Historical Society Museum were admired by more out-of-town people during 1954 than during most recent years, largely because the City of Kitchener centennial celebrations at the end of June attracted many native sons revisiting Kitchener with an awakened interest in local history. During that week, when the museum was open every afternoon, scores of these visitors came to admire the skill and handicraft of the county's pioneers. While the museum is still housed in its original, and now somewhat inadequate, quarters in the basement of the Kitchener Public Library, the general rearrangement of exhibits effected in 1953 allowed a bit of space for the many new items which were given to the museum during the past year.

Foremost among the additions to the collection should be mentioned the regular subscriptions received to six county newspapers: two daily (those in Kitchener-Waterloo and Galt), and four weekly (those in Elmira, Waterloo, New Hamburg, and Preston). The *Kitchener-Waterloo Record* and the museum's invaluable old files of the former German *Berliner Journal* were transferred to microfilm available in the Public Library; and it might be hoped that other such irreplaceable records from the collection will soon be filmed before time takes an excessive toll in legibility.

Among the other historical items which in 1954 found their way to the museum are included a number of various locks of early vintage, a collection of badges and ribbons used at several 19th century local reunions and festivals, several more old religious books valuable for their pioneer interest, a number of personal garments and a fancy tablecloth illustrative of bygone fashions, and a group of old photographs, mounted and much enlarged, of Kitchener persons and places. One or two further offers of donations were referred to the Society at the close of the year. For all these donations the museum was grateful, although sometimes the articles could not immediately find a place for open display.

The process of labelling and cataloguing all the exhibits proceeded during the year, so that both the Society and the public can know what is in the museum, and where. Difficulties of time, space, and required research have made this process painfully slow, but it is certainly worth while, for the number of specific requests for information and about exhibits seems to be increasing—a fact of which the Public Library's local historian is especially aware.

It is true that 1954 has seen little physical change in the museum, but it is with a special interest that this phase of the Historical Society's work awaits the final word on the proposed Ontario Pioneer Museum, where it is hoped that much of the unprinted material now so poorly housed will prove a great attraction to a greater number of interested visitors.

## FIFTY YEARS OF GROWING

By *Dorothy Shoemaker*

*Chief Librarian, Kitchener Public Library*

The date, January 8, 1904, marked the second stage in Kitchener's Library history. After fifty years of service, the first Public Library building was opened. On January 8, 1954, the Kitchener Public Library Board entertained at Open House to take time out to remember the fifty years of growth of the present library building and its services.

To commemorate the past and to visualize the future, Ralph Ashton painted a striking mural which has been effectively hung above the *Teen-Age Section*, commanding the view from the entrance door. This picture demonstrates the strong part played by the Kitchener Public Library Board throughout the fifty years. It portrays, also, the wise choice of Dr. B. Mabel Dunham as Chief Librarian — the first trained librarian to be in that position in Ontario. Dr. Dunham's powerful personality and influence on the library and the reading of the community are clearly defined in the mural as her figure shines out as a special kind of focal point for all endeavours.

In a "turn of the century" costume Miss Callie James, of the present Public Library Staff, brought back to many nostalgic memories of earlier libraries. To further convey the library atmosphere of the opening days of the library, a library "wire cage" similar to the one installed in the 1904 building, was temporarily erected.

Tours of the library were organized by the staff to show graphically that the splendid building built fifty years before was completely inadequate to house a modern library.

To refresh our minds on the past . . . In 1897, dissatisfied with the dingy quarters of the library on the second floor of the *Town Hall*, a few enterprising citizens effected the purchase of the Queen and Weber site. For five long years nothing was done and the property was nearly lost to them. Then D. B. Detweiler, of Hydro fame, suggested the application for a grant. Two grants, totalling \$24,500, were obtained from Carnegie funds. Work on the building was begun in 1902, and on January 8, 1904, the glorious Opening Day arrived.

From that day — for fifty years — the Kitchener Public Library has stood on the crest of the Queen Street hill, a selected, commanding and rewarding site. For fifty years this building has stood, close to King Street and flanked on all sides by other lively institutions as a living and vital symbol of education and library guidance for all creeds and ages.

Because our first fifty years of history — 1854-1903 brought forth leaders determined to have library facilities and also because in our second period of fifty years — 1904-1954 — our Public Library Boards built and kept up an excellent library building and evolved a flourishing library system, we should treasure in our minds the following quotation by Daniel Burnham when we think of the future:

“Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men’s blood, and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans, aim high in hope and work.”

\* \* \*

#### SOME SIGNIFICANT LIBRARY FIGURES

Number of books	-	-	1904— 8,187	1954— 84,491
Circulation, total books	-		11,184	379,274
Children’s books	-			178,238

Added services - Bookmobile, 3 school branches, films, records, paintings, and mounted pictures.

\* \* \*

An index to the Waterloo Historical Society Reports at the Kitchener Public Library.

\* \* \*

Visitors are welcome at the Museum in the Kitchener Public Library. The Museum is open 3 - 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

\* \* \*

“No self-respecting society can neglect or wantonly destroy the records of its own development without living to regret it.”  
Canadian Historical Review 1939 (247)

## THE KITCHENER CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

*By Alex O. Potter*

Dr. Potter travelled extensively while taking post-graduate studies at European Universities and while serving International Rotary in important capacities in many parts of Europe and Asia. First Dean of Waterloo College and later Professor of History, Dr. Potter was Chief Censor in charge of Information and Records Branch, Department of War Services, Ottawa. He is author of "Canada as a Political Entity" and the 1954-55 series "Let's Remember" in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

During the week of June 27 to July 3, 1954, the City of Kitchener celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of its incorporation as a village.

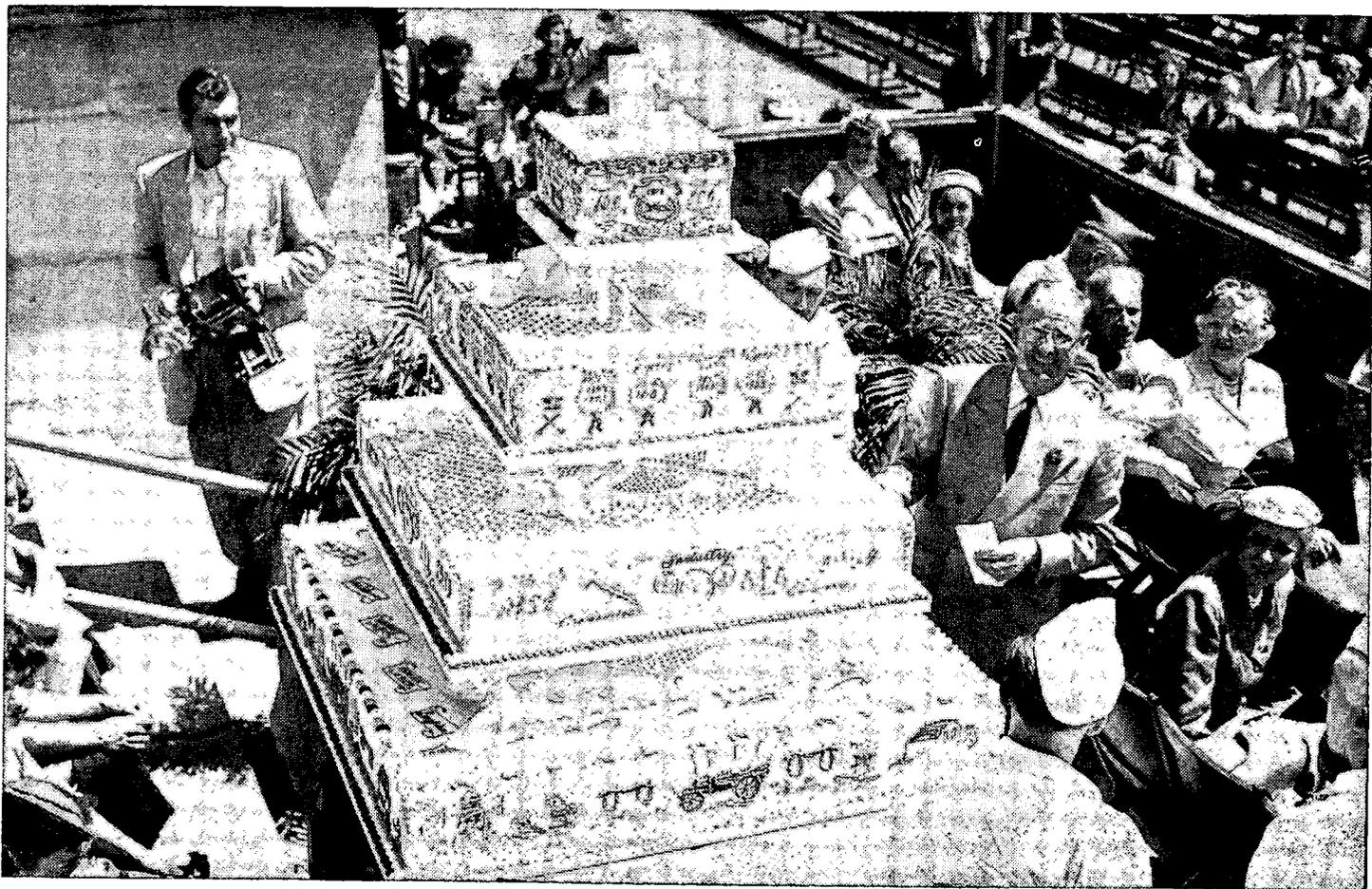
As was fitting in this city of churches, with its strong religious background, the celebration started on Sunday, June 27, with services of commemoration and thanksgiving in the various churches. That afternoon the annual decoration day parade was held, followed by memorial services at Mount Hope cemetery, to pay tribute to all those pioneers, builders and workers who have gone to their reward.

The official opening took place Monday afternoon in front of the city hall. Warm sunshine and clear skies greeted the thousands who gathered there. The city hall bell, at half minute intervals, tolled the one hundred years that had passed. Kitchener's excellent Musical Society Band provided a musical program.

At two o'clock the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Ontario — the Hon. Louis O. Breithaupt, a native of Kitchener and the third "Louis Breithaupt" to be mayor of the city — and the official party arrived, to be greeted by Mayor and Mrs. Don Weber.

Attention was turned to the cenotaph, where representatives of the armed services flanked the memorial to our dead in two world wars. After the general salute, wreaths were placed at the cenotaph by Lieutenant Governor Breithaupt on behalf of the Queen, by Governor Fine of Pennsylvania on behalf of the United States of America and by Mayor Weber on behalf of Canada.

Then, on a platform which had been erected over the city hall steps, Mayor Don Weber welcomed the distinguished guests. The Lieutenant Governor declared the centennial celebration open. Governor Fine of Pennsylvania brought greetings. And messages were given by Norman Schneider, M.P., Dr. S. F. Leavine, M.P.P., and Mayor Frank Bauer of Waterloo.



BIRTHDAY CAKE, KITCHENER CENTENNIAL 1954

COURTESY OF KITCHENER-WATERLOO RECORD

Ex-mayor Charles C. Hahn, garbed as an early chief magistrate, read the proclamation of incorporation as a village. A children's choir enchanted the throng with their songs. "Miss Centennial" (Miss Helen Udvari), gowned in a lace-trimmed turquoise costume of 1854, appeared in a horse-drawn surrey.

Then came the cutting of the birthday cake — a huge four hundred and fifty pounder which had been made by the bakers of Kitchener. As the children's choir sang "Happy Birthday to You", Girl Guides passed pieces of that cake to all at the "party".

From the city hall the official group proceeded to the market building where the Lieutenant Governor opened an exhibit of centennial murals executed by the school children of the city. He also presented the various awards.

The scene shifted quickly to the Memorial Auditorium where the Lieutenant Governor and the official party inspected an art exhibit of the work of local artists, both amateur and professional.

And that night, in Victoria Park, a crowd of 4,000 gathered to enjoy an excellent variety show of national dancing, stirring music, military drill and calisthenics. Members of Ukrainian, Polish, Transylvanian and Dutch clubs portrayed national dances. Kitchener public school students performed Scottish dances. Governor Fine of Pennsylvania took the salute of the garrison march past.

Tuesday, June 29, was "Business-Education Day". Public and Separate Schools held open house and many a former pupil went back to his old school, trying to find the rooms in which he had been, and seats in which he had sat.

Tours were conducted through industrial plants to give citizens and visitors an appreciation of the varied products of this community.

The cultural side of our development was emphasized that night, when the finest of the city's musical talent entertained a large audience until midnight. Byng Whitteker was master of ceremonies. The K-W Symphony Orchestra and the K-W Philharmonic Choir, both directed by Dr. Glen Kruspe, contributed selections. The Twin City Operatic Society under the direction of Claude Chislett presented "Trial by Jury". Enchanting were the numbers so capably performed by children from Sheppard, St. Bernadette and King Edward Schools.

The main attraction on Wednesday was the "Centennial Review", a parody on the early history and later development of

Kitchener presented at the Memorial Auditorium under the direction of Ralph Ashton. That fantasy, which was repeated Thursday night, featured top-flight Kitchener talent, including members of the K-W Little Theatre and of various dance groups.

The high-light of the week came Thursday morning — Dominion Day — when almost 100,000 persons gazed in admiration at a parade which was described as the “best parade ever here”. It was two and a half miles long. There were fourteen bands. Sixty-five floats portrayed the progress of this community and its achievements past and present.

That afternoon was given over to sports events — baseball, soccer, field and track meet, trap shooting.

In the evening, in addition to the Centennial Review at the Auditorium, there was a band concert on the island in Victoria Park. That concert featured the Kitchener Musical Society Band under the direction of George H. Ziegler.

Friday was “Young Canada Day” when the younger generation showed their skill in minor sports leagues. That evening, at the Memorial Auditorium, Mike Garlash of Hamilton won a decision over Donny Grinton of Brantford in a twelve-round bout for the Canadian championship in the professional featherweight division.

The closing day, Saturday, July 3, featured sports — The Kitchener Panthers in a double header at Victoria Park — Concordia Club soccer at Woodside Park — a swim meet at the municipal swimming pool — archery competition at Breithaupt Park — and a Golf and a Bowling Tournament at the Rockway Club. The day was topped off with a dance at the Memorial Auditorium.

While each daily program ran its course there were special attractions that continued throughout the week.

King Street had been transformed into a veritable museum. Old families brought cherished possessions of one hundred and more years ago, and displayed those heirlooms and antiques in shop windows. Thousands of window-gazers strolled up and down the street, pausing at each window to study the interestingly arranged exhibits and to comment on those articles of by-gone days.

Duke Street, the market square and much of the city hall square had been converted into a midway. Every day, from noon until the hardest visitor tiredly left the scene in the wee small hours, the Conklin Shows added gaiety, noise, thrills, laughter and excitement to the week's celebration.

And on the outskirts of the city a "Hofbrau" which was swamped with patrons, endeavored against increasing crowds to preserve some resemblance to a German beer garden. There was entertainment — and food and beer. Gradually, as more and more tables had to be set up to accommodate the throngs, the dance floor faded into nothing. But above all there was friendliness, joviality, enthusiasm and an absence of inhibitions.

A novel souvenir feature was the issuance of "wooden nickels". Stores had agreed to accept those nickels in payment of purchases. But few were used for that purpose. They were so sought after as keep-sakes — or by collectors — that successive tens of thousands of those nickels had to be struck.

Another attraction was a twenty-three mile sightseeing bus tour of the city. Conducted by Goudies Department Store, that tour covered not only places of historical interest, but gave a comprehensive view of the growth of the city, its churches, public buildings, industries, stores and homes.

Under the sponsorship of the Historical Committee a Centennial booklet was issued in which some thirty-five contributors told of the development and progress of industry, services, professions, education, arts, sports and religion in this community.

The Kitchener-Waterloo Record published a forty page supplement, profusely illustrated, and which presented an excellent short history of this bustling city as well as hundreds of articles on as many different phases of happenings and activities in the preceding hundred years. The Record also distributed, gratis, a little booklet "Let's Reminisce" which contained a series of stories about earlier days in this community.

Yes, the Kitchener Centennial Celebration was a great success. But it had meant more than six months of careful planning and hard work — by a general committee whose chairman was Alderman Sid McLennan. Members of that general committee served as chairmen of various sub-committees, to arrange the specific events. Those men and women — a score all told — spearheaded the celebration to a success. And they were ably aided by many others who served on the sub-committees.

All tribute to them for a splendid job, well done.

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The Waterloo Historical Society is very much interested in all parts of the county, and is always ready to record history that our readers can provide.

## PRINCIPAL IMMIGRATION GROUPS OF OF WATERLOO COUNTY

From a display card in the History Tent  
at the International Plowing Match, 1954.

*Compiled by Jennie F. Cowan*

### 1800-1825 Mennonites of German and Swiss Descent

Came from State of Pennsylvania. Descended from the Mennonites who settled there in the 17th century.

Settled in Waterloo Township — also into the lower part of Woolwich Twp. and the eastern part of Wellesley Twp.

### 1802-1810 Americans of English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish Descent

Came from the States of New York, Delaware, Vermont and Pennsylvania. Their ancestors were early settlers in these states.

Settled mainly around Preston.

### 1817-1820's Highland Scots

From New York State. Their ancestors had settled there, a generation or so before.

Settled in eastern part of North Dumfries Twp.

### 1820's-1830's Germans

Came via America. A few years after coming to America, they decided to move on into Upper Canada.

Settled mainly in urban centres — Preston, Waterloo, Berlin (Kitchener). Founded Hespeler and Baden. A German Jew founded German Mills (Parkway).

### 1824-1830's Lowland Scots

Came from the Lowlands of Scotland. Some Highlanders were included.

A very large settlement in North Dumfries. Smaller groups scattered throughout the four other townships.

### 1825 Amish Mennonites

From Germany — the States of Alsace and Bavaria.

Settled in Wilmot Twp. — and then into Wellesley.

1826 on — Numbers Increasing in the 1840's and 50's

Germans direct from the various States of Germany — Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Alsace, Hesse, Baden, Prussia, Mecklenburg, etc. Settled mainly in rural and urban centres of Waterloo and Wilmot Twps. Lutherans and Roman Catholics.

1832 on — English

Direct from England. Settled in small groups throughout the county. A fair sized settlement around Haysville.

1840 on — Native Canadians

The census of 1861 lists those from other parts of Upper and Lower Canada as native Canadians. Some also came in from N.S., N.B. and P.E.I. Descendants of U.E.L.'s; and of English, Irish, Welsh, Scottish and Germans who had first settled elsewhere in Canada. Many of these went into Wellesley Twp.

1860's and on into this century

Steady flow of immigrants from British Isles, Germany, Poland, Ukraine, Austria, and other parts of Europe. Mainly into urban centres.

1920's Russian Mennonites

These people were Mennonites whose forefathers had moved from Germany into Russia a century or so before. Settled in Waterloo Twp. and in Kitchener and Waterloo.

1945 on —

Following World War II:  
(1) Polish veterans;  
(2) Displaced persons;  
(3) From British Isles and Europe. Settled mainly in urban centres.

INTERNATIONAL PLOWING MATCH, 1954  
IT TOOK A HURRICANE TO STOP WATERLOO  
COUNTY'S LARGEST AGRICULTURAL EVENT!

*By John T. Schmidt*

*Farm Editor, Kitchener-Waterloo Record*

The International Plowing Match and Farm Machinery Demonstration for 1954, sponsored by the Ontario Plowmen's Association, was the largest agricultural event of its kind ever to come to Waterloo County.

It was held on 27 farms on No. 7 Highway six miles east of Kitchener near Breslau, with headquarters on the farm of John A. Randall, R.R. 2, Breslau. Dates were October 12 to 15.

In coming to this county, the match was so well organized locally under the general chairmanship of A. W. Sandrock of Kitchener that it developed into the largest match in the 41-year history of the project, advertised as "the largest annual agricultural event of its kind in the world".

That will give readers an idea of its magnitude; records were broken left and right.

Incongruously the match was the biggest flop in history — but it took a hurricane to do it.

The fall of 1954 was noted as the year in which eight major hurricanes buffeted North America. The last, dubbed by weathermen as Hurricane Hazel blew itself out over Ontario. The tail end of it lashed the plowing match tented city to death on Friday, October 15, as the banquet (attended by about 2,000 to make it the largest trophy banquet ever held) at Kitchener Memorial Auditorium heard these words from Ontario Agriculture Minister F. S. (Tommy) Thomas:

"Waterloo County local committee has done the best job of organizing I know of in the history of the International Plowing Match."

Although the hurricane was the climax, the weather dealt telling blows all week. Pelting rain and gray skies on every day but Wednesday turned the tented city site on the Randall farm and the tractor park on the T. H. Isley farm across the highway into a sea of mud in which many cars became stuck.



KITCHENER-WATERLOO RECORD

A portion of the tented city viewed from high above the eastern entrance.  
Arrow indicates the History Tent, with the battered County Foods Tent to the left and ruined Industrial Tent and large Agricultural Tent to the right.

This writer was on the "inside" of the plowing match organization in the county, being not only a member of the publicity committee but covered most meetings as a reporter in the two and one-half years of organizing. Perhaps our perspective may be somewhat distorted for historical purposes after being so close to the organizers.

A compendium of press clippings written for the Kitchener-Waterloo Record shows that at a meeting of representatives of the five township plowmen's organizations — North Dumfries, Woolwich, Wellesley, Waterloo and Wilmot — held in Kitchener agricultural office November 5, 1951, it was decided that a special meeting be called later in the month when possible application of the county for the International Plowing Match would be discussed.

First inkling that big things were stirring in the county's effort to bring the match here were contained in a news story dated February 6, 1952, which reported:

"History was made on two counts yesterday when a delegation from the county 'invaded' the Ontario Plowmen's Association annual meeting in the King Edward Hotel in Toronto.

"There were 125 members in the delegation. This was the largest ever to appear at the convention in 39 years.

"The motion granting Waterloo County the match was made from the floor before the delegation left. This set a precedent as usually the board of directors decide on the match location at a later meeting."

Previous to this an O.P.A. site location committee had picked the farms of John A. Randall and his neighbors near Breslau as an ideal location. To assure the match coming to the area, the O.P.A. required these men to sign an agreement to supply enough lands for plowing and not to "run opposition" to anything carried out by the match, i.e., food or exhibit concessions.

Those whose farms were signed up were Herman Schilling, Clarence Rabe, Edward Kramp, Wilfred Harnack, Tilman Horst, C. H. Janzen, Howard Rudy, Reuben Shantz, Ernest Thomas, Ephraim Ehnes, Howard Kramp, Lorne Luckhart, Lloyd Cressman, Simon Reinhart, T. H. Isley, A. B. Weber, Urbin Snider, Lloyd S. Shantz, Henry Brattan, David Bennett, Lloyd Snider, George Cardinal, Herbert Bietz, Clarence Snider, Stewart Schierholtz, Herbert Krieger and Herbert Gole. Not all of these lands were used.

On December 16, 1952, a local committee was set up to organize the match in the county and to work with the O.P.A. Officers were A. W. Sandrock, Kitchener, chairman; Abner B. Martin, R.R. 1, West Montrose, and Arnold Rife, R.R. 2, Galt, co-chairmen; R. A. (Sandy) Forsyth, agricultural representative, secretary; R. F. Heard, assistant agricultural representative, assistant secretary; R. H. Magwood, Kitchener, treasurer. On the executive committee were W. C. Barrie, R.R. 7, Galt, O.P.A. director for 40 years; John Randall; Lefty Weichel, Elmira, county warden; and Emerson Dessler, R.R. 1, Elmira, chairman of 1954 county council agricultural committee.

Committee chairmen were A. W. A. White of Galt, finance; D. A. Roberts of Waterloo, publicity; Ernest Thomas of Breslau, teams; R. G. Brown of Galt, tractors; T. H. Isley of Breslau, lands; Bruce Weber of Kitchener, banquet; W. J. Schneller of Breslau, demonstrations; Oliver J. Wright of Conestogo, conservation; H. B. Mattson of Preston, sanitation; George Hostrawser of Kitchener, headquarters; Dr. James Gillies of Galt, horse show; Robert Barber of Hespeler, reception; Lorne B. Weber of Waterloo, billeting; Fred M. Snyder of Waterloo, county exhibits; Stephen Jones of Kitchener, parade and tours; Ward Shantz of Waterloo, parking.

The county council made a \$1,000 guarantee to the O.P.A., to bring the match here.

On February 3, 1953, a large delegation attended the O.P.A. convention again, to reaffirm the stand to make Waterloo's 1954 "International" the "best darn International the world has ever seen."

As Waterloo County has three cities, the only county which can make this boast, to avoid any hard feelings the match letter-heads listed the headquarters at Breslau. Kitchener guaranteed to provide a trophy banquet with financial assistance from Waterloo and Galt.

On March 17, 1953, dates of October 12-15, 1954, were approved by a general meeting on motion of R. G. Brown and John Randall. Other organizational work was begun at this meeting.

In 1953 the International Match was held at Cobourg at the Durham-Northumberland Counties Home for the Aged farm. To advertise, the Waterloo committee had an 1807 replica of the original conestoga wagon built for \$400 and took it there. Also stressed at the Cobourg match were the special Waterloo County foods which have gained fame over Ontario.

Cobourg was the scene of the first world match and the first Canadian match. Following this, world competitors included Waterloo County in a tour itinerary and were entertained by the local committee to a typical Waterloo County dinner of spareribs and porktails.

Although Manitoba wanted the second Canadian match, it was granted to Ontario to be held in conjunction with the 1954 International.

In 1953, on November 30, all five township plowmen's groups held an annual meeting at Kitchener-Waterloo Y.M.C.A. when further plans were made. Official dress of black string ties and 6½-gallon hats was adopted and these created quite a stir as a Waterloo delegation visited the O.P.A. convention for a third time, February 8, 1954.

The first day of the plowing match is called local day, open only to plowmen of surrounding counties. Invited into Waterloo local day were Brant, Wellington, Perth, Oxford, Wentworth and Halton Counties. Each put up \$300 for prizes.

Rules were changed this year to allow anyone to enter competition; hitherto only first and second prize winners at branch matches could plow. Another change was that entries had to be in a week in advance of the match, instead of the morning of competition.

In conjunction with the match The Waterloo County Federation of Agriculture sponsored a farmstead improvement project with 60 awards of \$30 each for six districts. The awards were given at a special dinner at the match in the county foods tent run by women of county Mennonite churches. Prizes were donated by Waterloo Trust and Savings Company, Canadian Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association and O.P.A.

The junior farmers were active, running wagon tours throughout the 1,800-acre site area and selling barbecued chickens.

Due to the mud the big parade planned for opening day never did come off. It was to include newest machines and their antique counterparts.

To draw attention to local day, Lieut.-Gov. Breithaupt, native of Waterloo County, was asked to participate in official opening ceremonies. It was necessary to tow his official car into the grounds, whereupon he made the quip that he had often been towed away from an affair but never towed into one.

The conestoga wagon was put into service before the match to carry challenges from six county mayors — Donald Weber of Kitchener, Frank Bauer of Waterloo, William Anderson of Galt, Elmer Goebel of Hespeler, Ford Willson of Preston, and Dr. C. E. Gibson of Elmira — to mayors of many Ontario cities to plow in the mayors' competition. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, wife of the late president of the United States, examined the wagon at Woodstock.

Twenty-six mayors, including two women, plowed and the contest was won won by Mayor W. E. Cowley of Tilbury.

The tented city of the match was the largest ever, with more than two miles of frontage sold and providing space for 217 exhibitors and 50 caterers.

As a safety measure a Bailey bridge was erected above No. 7 highway by the 48th Field Park Squadron of the Royal Canadian Engineers.

One hundred and twenty-five acres of parking space were provided in four fields, all within walking distance of the tented city. There was enough accommodation for 200,000 people but only about 45,000 paid due to the incessant rain. Traffic was routed in over back roads so there was little congestion.

In the competition for the Ontario championship, Ivan McLaughlin of R.R. 2, Stouffville, was declared winner. Runner-up was Joe Tran of Claremont.

Weather was too bad to plow off the Canadian championship. The next week it was taken to the North York match at Ballantrae near Markham. Here Joe Tran won the Canadian championship and Ivan McLaughlin was runner-up.

In 1955 they will plow at the world match in Sweden and W. C. Barrie of Galt will be their team manager.

Some of the classes were never completed. One notable exception was the high school boys' competition. The boys plowed through a pouring rain and finished their test. Winners were Robert Armstrong and Alex McKinney III of Brampton District High School.

As the match ended there was a spell of gloom. Many predictions were made that the deficit would run into many thousands of dollars, some as high as \$35,000.

However, the O.P.A. gave the local committee a gift of \$5,000 which, along with other astute financing, enabled the committee to close their books without a deficit. Many of the committee chairmen did not turn in any expense accounts for time given over the two and a half years.

## HISTORY AT THE INTERNATIONAL PLOWING MATCH

*By Jennie F. Cowan*

Mrs. T. D. Cowan, Past-President of the W.H.S., is descended from several pioneer North Dumfries families and resides at Clochrnhor which has been a Cowan family farm since pioneer times. A well-known speaker and authority on Waterloo County history, Mrs. Cowan was official historian for the county centennial in 1952 and was winner for Ontario of a recent essay competition sponsored by the Women's Institutes.

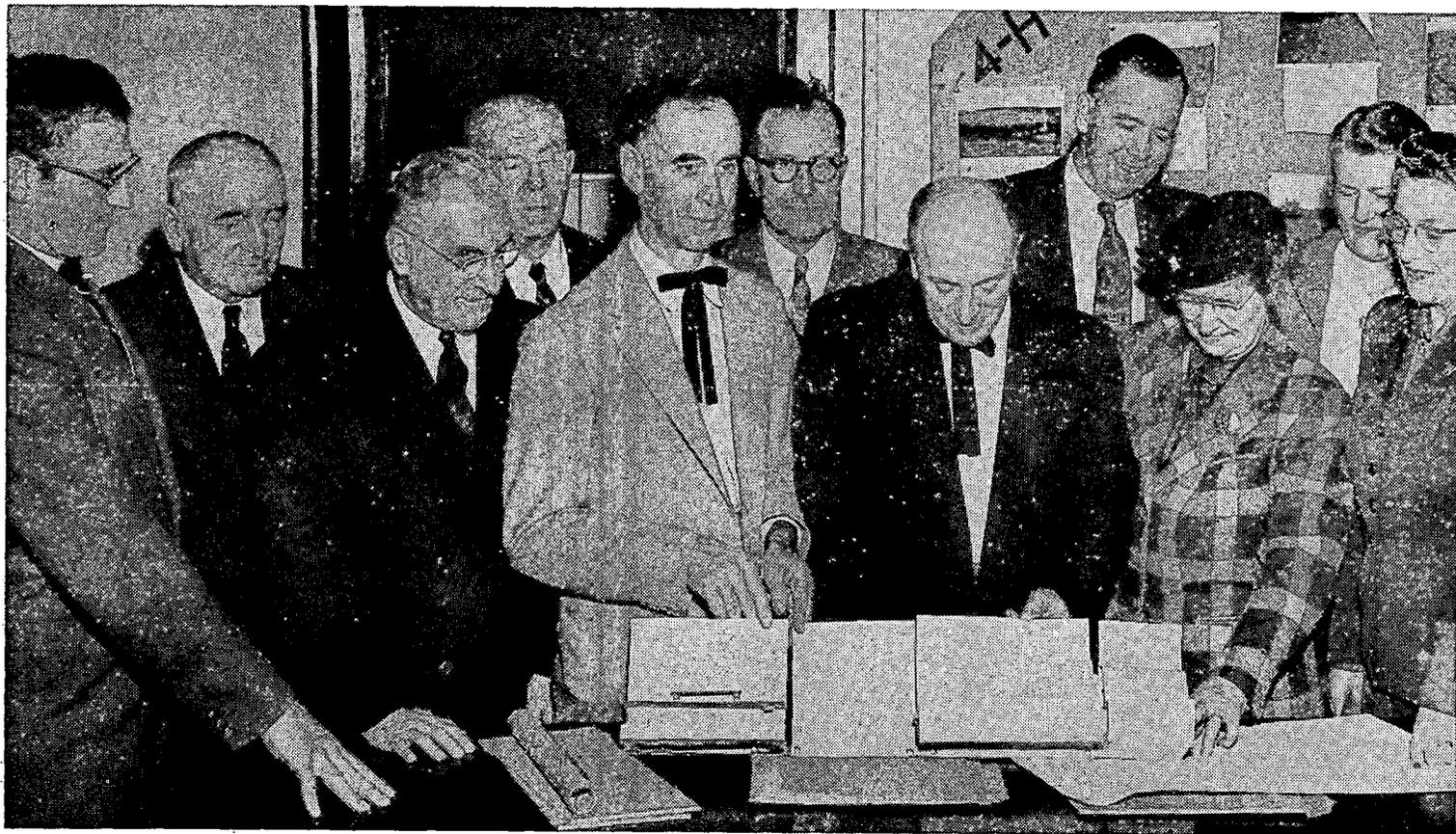
The 1954 International Plowing Match was an excellent example of how large numbers of persons, of many walks of life, can work together for a common objective. Nowhere was co-operation and enthusiasm more in evidence than in the County Exhibits and in the History Tent.

The Waterloo County organization for the match had 21 committees and a number of sub-committees. From the beginning the work of building first-class county exhibits was considered very important and Fred M. Snyder of Waterloo was placed in charge. Under his direction three committees were set up: agricultural, under the chairmanship of Roy G. Snyder of Waterloo; industrial, under Stephen Jones of Kitchener; and historical, under Andrew W. Taylor of Galt.

A progression was arranged, with the entrance in the 40 ft. x 140 ft. agricultural tent. Here, 16 county groups co-operated in a very well-prepared assembly of three representative animals of each breed of livestock in the county, and of booths showing the activities of county organizations. Slides of the winning homes in the Farmstead Improvement Contest were shown.

Next in order came the 50 ft. x 100 ft. industrial tent, where manufacturing concerns combined to give the visitors a wonderful idea of the variety of articles manufactured in the urban centres. A tour through these two interesting units was a splendid preparation for a visit to the history tent.

The work of the historical committee was divided as follows: Andrew W. Taylor, chairman; Mrs. T. D. Cowan, assistant; W. H. E. Schmalz, hydro exhibit; H. B. Disbrowe, agricultural representatives section; Angus Weber, properties and tent attendant; Miss Emily Seibert, properties and the dressing of dolls; F. W. R. Dickson, photography; Mrs. Lorne Weber, rag carpet weaving; Robert Bond, carpentry; Dr. G. E. Reaman, Pennsylvania-German Folklore display; and Dr. A. E. Broome, Ontario Pioneer Community at Doon. Representatives from the General Committee were Fred M. Snyder, chairman of county exhibits, and Abner B. Martin, associate general chairman. Assistance in planning was given by the Department of Public Relations, O.A.C., Guelph.



**HISTORY COMMITTEE, INTERNATIONAL PLOWING MATCH**

COURTESY KITCHENER-WATERLOO RECORD

From left to right:

Abner B. Martin, West Montrose; Angus Weber, Conestogo; G. E. Reaman, Guelph; W. H. E. Schmalz, Kitchener; Andrew W. Taylor, Galt, Chairman;  
H. B. Disbrowe, Elmira; Fred M. Snyder, Waterloo; Robert Bond, Galt; Mrs. T. D. Cowan, Galt; Miss Emely Seibert, Kitchener;  
Mrs Lorne Weber, Waterloo. - Absent: A. E. Broome, and F. W. R. Dickson.

All facilities of the tented city were freely available to the county exhibits tents: lighting, and hydro outlets where needed; water on tap at the back door; telephone connections a short distance away; regular fire inspection; and police protection. A representative of the Frontiersmen, A. J. Arnold of Blair, was on duty in the tent each night. The Junior Farmers, with a fleet of farm tractors, organized prompt and efficient towing service that was provided free of charge to anyone stuck in the rain and mud.

In the History Tent the basic colour scheme was light green with dark green trim, and railings of white sash cord. Construction began in July, and some idea of the size of the project may be gained from the fact that Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and their three older sons had applied seventeen gallons of paint when the doors were finally opened to the public. Much time and thought were given to prefabrication of backgrounds, table surfaces, appliances, and display devices. After the erection of the 40 ft. x 80 ft. tent came five busy days of preparation. The carpenter and his helpers put everything together so well that, although Hurricane Hazel made one great rip in the roof of the tent, comparatively little damage was done to the articles which had been borrowed from citizens in every township. Early in 1954 the three school inspectors asked the teachers to report articles of historic interest in each community. The information thus gleaned was of great value in the planning of exhibits and then in procuring suitable material. For the purposes of this description it has been found desirable to rearrange the order of the display.

As the visitors entered from the Industrial Tent, they saw an admatic machine projecting a series of thirty pictures of special interest. To their right hung the motto of Paul Kruger, "Take the best from your past and build your future on it". To the left was a large map of Waterloo County, designed by students of the Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate Institute and Vocational School, showing many more points of historical significance. This was an excellent example of the items that had been prepared not only at Kitchener-Waterloo but also in the Galt Collegiate and in the Preston and Elmira High Schools. As the spectators moved to the left, they saw a simple display of soil and fossils illustrating "Our soils are built on debris left by a glacier 4,000 or more years ago", and "Fossilized remains of sea animals which in the distant past inhabited Waterloo County".

Above a sand table scene of forest and river, an Indian maid, and a copy of "Grand River" by Dr. Mabel Dunham, a Butterfly Stone gave graphic "proof of Indian habitation here for at

least 2,000 years". Below the stone, on a narrow shelf, were Indian relics loaned by the New Hamburg School Board from their collection gathered by the sifting of sand at the base of a Baden hill in 1938. A copy of Jean D'Annville's map of 1755 showed the Nation Neutre living between the forks of the R. Rapide, now called the Grand River, and W. B. Chewitt's map, 1813, the land given to the Mohawks in 1784 for their loyalty to the Crown. There was a photograph of the deed to Block I of these Indian lands in 1795, the instrument which conveyed what is now the Townships of North and South Dumfries to Philip Stedman, signed by Joseph Brant and other Six Nations Indians. The reverse side showed signatures, and thumb-prints in blood.

The coming of the early white settlers was featured on a rotating table. On the upper level were the words "The Settlers Came" around which passed an endless series of models: a conestoga, a farm wagon, men and women on foot and on horseback, a stagecoach, and a train. Beneath, in a larger circle, were eight-inch dolls dressed to represent the first ten groups of early settlers.

As so many of the pioneers had come from the State of Pennsylvania, the other half of this exhibit was given over to a display of choice articles brought in by the first Mennonites. Gracing this exhibit were a copy of Dr. Dunham's "The Trail of the Conestoga" and a picture of Her Majesty's representative in Ontario, the Hon. L. O. Breithaupt, born in and citizen of Kitchener prior to his appointment as Lieutenant-Governor, "a third generation Canadian, descended from United States families of German, Scottish, Irish and Swiss extraction, who came to Waterloo County from the States of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania in the early part of the 19th century."

"From its earliest days life in Waterloo County has been coloured and strengthened by the cultures of the lands from which its settlers came" was the theme of an exhibit in which were shown treasured articles brought from Scotland, Germany, Ireland, England, Hungary, Wales, the States of Pennsylvania and New York. A chief feature of this exhibit was the display of "The Book" which families from different lands had brought with them. Dates on these Bibles revealed that some had been treasured for many years before coming to Waterloo County. A Vulgate, printed in Paris in 1662, was brought in about 1845; one printed in German in Wittenberg in 1671, about 1850; one in French, printed in 1731, about 1870; another in German, printed in Basel, Switzerland, 1778, came from Pennsylvania; one from Scotland was brought in via New York State by one of the

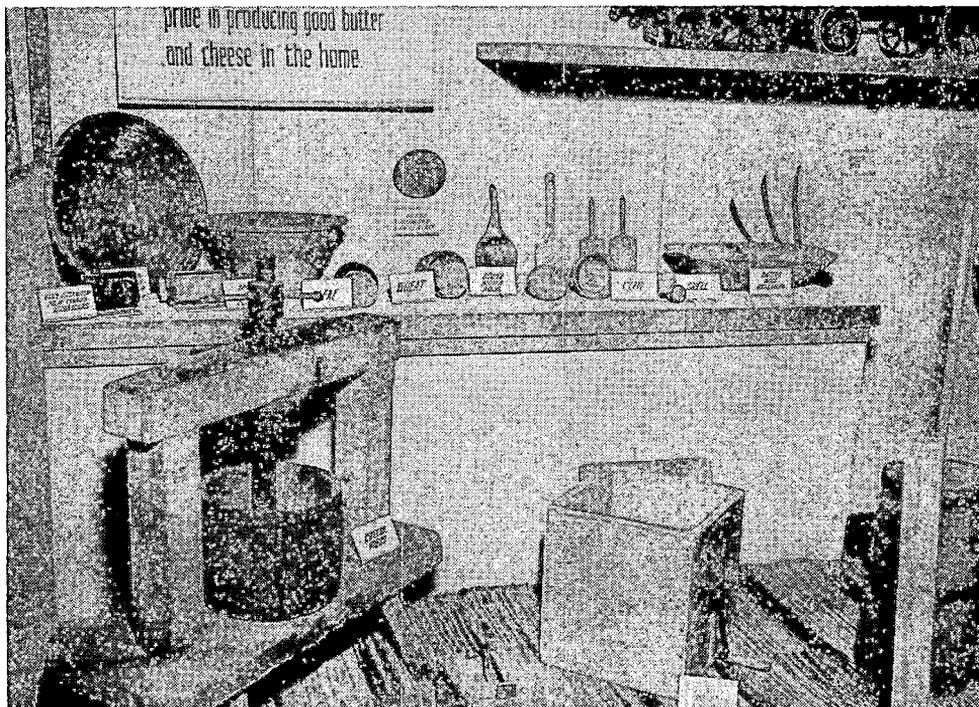
earliest Scotch families; one in Dutch printed in Amsterdam, 1786, came from Pennsylvania.

There were other Bibles in English brought in by early families from England, and U.E.L. descendants, and from Ireland; also Bibles in Gaelic, Armenian, Welsh, Dutch and Latvian. Also displayed were the Talmud in Hebrew; "The Life of an Apostle", printed in old Polish of the 17th century; and the Book of Job with Poetical Exercitations, printed in Edinburgh in 1685. Pictures showed two very old Bibles in the county. These were published by Christoffel Froshourer, in Zurich, Switzerland; one in 1530, the other in 1560.

In the Homer Watson booth the Watson genealogical tree showed he was descended from a Scottish Covenanter family which left Scotland in 1638, a Welsh family which migrated to Massachusetts in 1643, and a German Mennonite family which migrated to Pennsylvania about 1683, another Pennsylvania family and a German family which came to U.S.A. in 1770. Homer Watson's palette, a picture of the artist in his studio at Doon, a sketch of the painting, "The Pioneer Mill" (Royal Collection, Windsor Castle) and prints of "The Flood-Gate" (National Art Gallery, Ottawa) and "Near Doon" (Toronto Art Gallery) were included in this exhibit on the grandson of a pioneer who founded both a saw mill and woollen mill in this county.

Tribute was paid to the first farms and homes. A small conestoga, with oxen in front and a cow behind, told of the period when "oxen which were docile and sure of foot were of great use to the Pioneer Farmer", and when "The Pioneer Woman took pride in producing good butter and cheese in the home". The farm part included wooden implements: ox yoke, flail, grain cradle, scuffler, forks, hames, broom, shoulder yoke, as well as a beehive, scales, ox bell, and shingler's frow. The home exhibit contained many articles of wood: dash churn, small hand-made box churn, mouse trap, round and rectangular butter molds, butter bowl, ladles, butter crock, cap mold, and a cheese press. The old crocks were more beautiful than the ones of today. The rag carpet used on the floor was seventy-five years old. A picture is appended.

Another farm home exhibit, entitled "Two Tales in Butter" covered a later period. It included a crockery dash churn, a box churn, stationary barrel churn, revolving barrel churn, rocking cradle churn, and a butter worker which displaced the wooden butter bowl in many homes. The first tale on the background was "More Land Cleared Plus Increased Urban Population Equals Butter Making in the Home an Important Industry". The sec-



COURTESY OF THE FARMERS' ADVOCATE AND CANADIAN COUNTRYMAN

A portion of the pioneer farm and home exhibit.

and was "Creameries Accessible Plus More Work for Women in Urban Centres Equals Decline of Butter Making in the Home". To complete the picture a card was placed near the floor, "The Third Tale Censored, (Margarine)."

The growth of associations for the advancement of agriculture was dealt with. Waterloo was one of six counties where, in 1907, the Ontario Department of Agriculture tried the experiment of having district representatives to whom farmers could bring their problems. It was the beginning of the Agricultural Representative Service, consequently a great deal of pioneer extension work was done here. One result is that Central Dumfries and Maple Grove clubs are the oldest Farmers' Clubs in the Province. In 1913, Waterloo County was the first to buy its Agricultural Representative a car. When a school fair was held in North Dumfries, in 1909, it was the beginning of a nationwide activity since Boys' and Girls' Clubs and Junior Farmer organizations developed from this first experiment of working with children.

Large pictures of our "Ag. Reps." occupied one section of wall. Four men have held this office: F. C. Hart, 1907 - ; J. S. Knapp, 1914 - ; E. I. McLoughry, 1924 - ; R. A. Forsyth, 1951 - . Cards beneath told the highlights of their terms of office. At each end were pictures illustrating outstanding events down through the years.

"In the early days there was a cobbler, a weaver and a chairmaker in every hamlet; a potter wherever suitable clay was available, and farmers who increased their earnings by weaving or making shoes for their neighbours." This message introduced a display illustrating the need for more industries than farming, even in a pioneer community. One of the early spinning wheels made in the county, four lovely coverlets to illustrate different types of design and colour, samples of pottery made by two early potters, a cobbler's bench, tools and old boots were shown. The flooring was 14 in. to 18 in. white pine boards.

Mills with machinery to saw lumber and grind grain were needed by a pioneer community from its beginning. A chart with data from the census of 1851 showed how rapidly trade and commerce had developed in this inland county, into which no railway was extended until 1855. When the first farmers from Pennsylvania settled in 1800 only three, or perhaps five white men were living as squatters, trading with the Indians. In 1851 there were 20 grist mills, 49 saw mills, 7 carding and fulling mills, 1 woollen factory, 7 distilleries, 10 tanneries, 6 foundries, 7 breweries, 2 oatmeal mills, 1 oil mill, 2 axe factories, 2 chair factories, 4 pail factories, 6 cabinet factories, 1 soap and candle factory, 1 wooden shoe-peg factory, 2 hat factories, 1 ashery and 1 paper mill.

An old ploughshare and a set of harrows made by a blacksmith of that period stood beside a nineteenth century straw-cutter to tell that small shops expanded quickly into foundries and agricultural works. A judy, in a woollen dress of an early period told of 23,390 yards of cloth being produced in our county in 1851. A very large iron bell bore an old advertisement of the firm that made it: "Bells of all weights up to 1,000 pounds", "Call and see our bells, and hear their tone before going abroad". A stove of 1851, reminded one that "all equipment for the factories before 1855, as well as their supplies, had to be transported by team". There were also shoes made with wooden pegs, and a chair from one of the early furniture factories.

A panel which the citizens of the county were particularly pleased to show the visitors was that of Hydro, Waterloo County's gift to the people of Ontario. In the centre was the button which Sir James Whitney pushed in 1910, when Kitchener was the first municipality in Ontario to receive power from Niagara Falls. Around this button were large portraits of three native sons: Sir

Adam Beck, a descendant of one of the county's earliest manufacturers; D. B. Detweiler, descended from a pioneer farmer; and E. W. B. Snider, a descendant of a pioneer family connected with both farming and milling industries. These men had given outstanding leadership in having electric power developed in Ontario under public ownership. A most interesting display of lighting equipment of different periods in the history of man, loaned by The Lighting Institute of Ontario, completed this exhibit.

The committee was indebted to Donald Shaw and the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Club for a series of paintings of appropriate county scenes. There was also a framed mat bearing a group of postage stamps related to agricultural history.

At one end of the tent was the large loom owned by Amos Bowman of St. Jacobs. This loom, which has been in use for 150 years was operated at the plowing match by his son, Israel, who made rag mats. At the other end, a smaller modern loom was run by Mrs. A. W. Wilmer of Galt, and a spinning wheel by Miss Minerva Shantz, Kitchener. All three exhibits attracted a great deal of attention.



Miss Minerva Shantz of Kitchener demonstrated carding and spinning  
Courtesy of the Farmers' Advocate and Canadian Countryman.

The booth of the Pennsylvania German Folklore Society had for background a map of Southern Ontario, with the localities to which settlers had come from Pennsylvania at very early dates. The Women's Institute stand showed the names of twenty-six Institutes in this county. Mrs. George P. Moore and Miss Margaret Elliot were in charge of the Waterloo Historical Society section. Here the society exhibited a silver cup which had been won at a plowing match in 1866; sold copies of their annual report, and accepted memberships. Their representatives also gave information regarding all exhibits in the tent and in particular that of the Ontario Pioneer Community. This exhibit, set up by Dr. A. E. Broome, was a beautiful, well-planned and well-constructed model with its woods, stream, farm home, barn, church, school, mills, and other buildings. The interest which was shown by the spectators, from within and without our county, and the number of questions asked, made one feel that all were hoping we should soon be meeting again, near Doon, at the Homer Watson Memorial Park, in a real Ontario Pioneer Community.

\* \* \*

#### **TWO BROTHER MAYORS DIED IN 1954**

Henry E. Ratz, 77, former Waterloo mayor, alderman, warden, reeve and deputy reeve, died July 29, at his home, 63 Alexandra Ave., Waterloo. He possessed one of the longest civic records in the Twin Cities.

Edward E. Ratz, 80, a former mayor of Kitchener and a partner in the Ratz-Bechtel Funeral Service, died June 2. He was a Kitchener alderman from 1917 to 1925 and was mayor in 1927 and 1928.

#### **C. F. THIELE**

One of Canada's leading band promoters, C. F. Thiele, 70, of Waterloo, died Feb. 3, 1954, after nearly a year's illness. Mr. Thiele was director of the Waterloo Musical Society Band for more than thirty years. He was the founder and driving force in the Annual Waterloo Band Festival, Canada's biggest band event, and won wide recognition for his varied activities.

#### **EDWARD F. DONOHOE, Jan. 11, 1955**

Dean of Twin City newspaper men, E. F. Donohoe, 66, was lost to the community with which he had been closely associated as a journalist for more than three decades. A native of Utica, N.Y., he had a wide experience in his work and in public service. For some years he served in an advisory capacity on the publication committee of the Waterloo Historical Society. Music and the arts lost a true friend, who had a broad knowledge of several branches of music. Mr. Donohoe edited the Kitchener Centennial booklet on historical growth.

## DOCTOR WARD WOOLNER

*By F. E. Page*

*First Vice-President, Waterloo Historical Society*

Doctor Ward Woolner of Ayr was born near the City of Kitchener seventy-five years ago. One is inclined to say that he is seventy-five years young rather than seventy-five years old. He is still a practicing physician, keen, active with many interests both in and outside his profession.

In February, 1954, he was honoured at a banquet at the Iroquois Hotel in Galt, when he was the guest of the Councils of North Dumfries Township and of the Village of Ayr. The occasion marked the retirement of the doctor as Medical Health Officer, a position he held in the township for thirty years and in Ayr for twenty-five years. A presentation was made at this time.

Dr. Woolner has been honoured by the Medical Profession by having been elected to high offices in the Province of Ontario: President of the Ontario Medical Association, (1930-31), President of Ontario Public Health Officers Association, (1932-33), and President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, (1950-51). He is the only doctor in Ontario who has held all three of these offices.

After graduating in medicine at the University of Toronto, Dr. Woolner spent some time in his practice on the Indian Reserve, Brantford, and in the Town of Collingwood. Fifty years ago he commenced his practice in Ayr and has continued ever since.

Dr. Woolner has been a member of the Waterloo Historical Society since 1925 and was elected vice-president of that body in 1946. At present he is a local representative for the Village of Ayr. The Historical Society joins with the doctor's many friends in the county in congratulations and sincere good wishes for Dr. and Mrs. Woolner. "Lang May Their Lum Reek."

Dr. Woolner is justly proud of his English, Irish and Scottish ancestry and those who know him best are aware that he possesses many of the best qualities of the three races.

On December 8 he was honoured at a "Doctor Woolner Night" at the Ayr Arena Auditorium when fellow physicians gathered from various parts of the province. The auditorium was filled with friends from all over the district and many parts of the county. The Rev. W. D. Goodger of the United Church was chairman. After the leaders of various organizations with which the doctor had been associated and a number of visiting physicians had spoken, Dr. Clarence Routley of Toronto, President of the Canadian Medical Association, gave the main address of the evening.

The guest was then presented with an illuminated scroll by Dr. Duff Wilson of Ayr. Mrs. Woolner was presented with a bouquet of roses by Miss Patsy Reid. Dr. Woolner made a suitable reply.

## THE ONTARIO PIONEER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The inaugural meeting of the Ontario Pioneer Community Foundation was held in the Kitchener Public Library, December 8, 1954, with the following present:

Mrs. T. D. Cowan, Galt; Mrs. R. M. Lamb, K-W Record; Miss L. Snider, St. Jacobs; Miss L. Heringa, O.A.C., Guelph; Mrs. H. Feasby, Kitchener; Ald. Anna Hughes, Waterloo; Mayor Frank Bauer, Waterloo; Ald. Durward Preston, Waterloo; Ald. Fred Breithaupt, Kitchener; Ald. Fred Dreger, Kitchener; Hugh Elliott, Galt; Willard Witmer, Baden; Clayton Rickert, Breslau; Dr. S. F. Leavine, M.L.A., Kitchener; Darcy Shantz, New Hamburg; C. T. Graham, Kitchener; L. R. Gray, London; W. H. E. Schmalz, Kitchener; Dr. G. E. Reaman, Guelph; H. B. Disbrowe, Elmira; A. W. Taylor, Galt; Dr. A. E. Broome, Kitchener; Miss Elizabeth Janzen, Kitchener.

Guests included Mrs. Hawkins, Guelph; Mrs. A. E. Broome, Kitchener; and representatives of the K-W Record and The Evening Reporter.

The original exploratory committee was disbanded on motion of Dr. Reaman, seconded by Mrs. Cowan, and carried.

The Nominating Committee's Report, presented on behalf of F. W. R. Dickson, chairman of the Nominating Committee, and read to the meeting by H. B. Disbrowe, was approved by all present. Mr. L. R. Gray, London, acted as presiding officer during elections.

Dr. Broome, President, took charge of the meeting and thanked the members of the exploratory committee for their two years' work in the interests of the Pioneer Village.

Names of the Directors of the Foundation were read and on motion of Ald. Fred Dreger, seconded by Willard Witmer, the names were approved.

The Advisory Committee names were read to the meeting, and on motion of A. W. Taylor, seconded by Dr. Reaman, were carried.

Names of the Consultants to the Foundation were read and on motion of W. H. E. Schmalz, seconded by Ald. Fred Dreger, carried.

The names of the Patrons were read and on motion by Ald. Anna Hughes, seconded by Ald. Fred Breithaupt, were approved.

Names of the Honorary Presidents were read, and with additions, moved by Mrs. Cowan, seconded by A. W. Taylor, were carried.

Dr. Broome spoke on the problem of obtaining the extra land adjoining the Doon property that is needed, and said expropriation may be necessary.

Mr. Hugh Elliott, Secretary of the Grand Valley Conservation Authority spoke to the meeting and offered the assistance of his organization.

The Kitchener City Council is considering a request to the G.V.C.A. re expropriation of the land.

On motion of Ald. Fred Breithaupt, the meeting adjourned.

Elizabeth M. Janzen,  
Secretary, Ontario Pioneer  
Community Foundation.

\* \* \*

#### *Officers*

President—Dr. A. E. Broome, Kitchener.  
Vice-President—Andrew W. Taylor, Galt.  
Hon. Secretary—Miss Elizabeth M. Janzen, Kitchener.  
Hon. Treasurer—C. T. Graham, Kitchener.

#### *Committee Chairmen*

Incorporation—Dr. A. E. Broome.  
Constitution and By-Laws—Dr. G. E. Reaman.  
Property—Fred A. Breithaupt and representatives of the  
Cities of Galt, Waterloo and Kitchener.  
Finance—C. T. Graham.  
Building—W. C. Barrie.  
Item Selection—W. H. E. Schmalz.

*Directors of the Ontario Pioneer Community Foundation*

Waterloo Historical Society—Mrs. T. D. Cowan, Galt; F. E. Page, New Dundee; Miss Emily Seibert, Kitchener; H. B. Disbrowe, Elmira; F. W. R. Dickson, Waterloo; Harold W. Wagner, Waterloo; Fred M. Snyder, Waterloo; Clifford M. Snider, Waterloo; W. H. E. Schmalz, Kitchener; Dr. A. E. Broome, Kitchener; C. T. Graham, Kitchener; A. W. Taylor, Galt.

City of Galt—J. M. Moffatt.

City of Kitchener—Fred A. Breithaupt and F. L. Dreger.

City of Waterloo—Duncan Douglass.

County of Waterloo—James A. Johannes, Blair, and Robert Barber, Hespeler.

Federation of Women's Institutes of Ontario—Mrs. Gordon McPhatter, R.R. 1, Owen Sound.

Ontario Library Association—Miss Dorothy Shoemaker, Kitchener.

Pennsylvania German Folklore Society—Dr. G. E. Reaman, Guelph.

United Empire Loyalists—James P. Lovekin, Toronto.

Teachers' Federation of South Waterloo—D. J. Hynes, Galt.

Kitchener Horticultural Society—Miss Elizabeth M. Janzen, Kitchener.

Further appointments to the Foundation will be made by Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Junior Farmers' of Ontario, Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Jr. Chamber of Commerce, Ontario Educational Association, Ontario Historical Society.

\* \* \*

**WINFIELD BREWSTER**

Winfield Brewster has been doing excellent work in recording the history of Hespeler. Many are the historical facts and interesting anecdotes in his booklets published in recent years. He has produced in succession: "Lot Six", "J. Hespeler", "Flood-gate", "Hespeler Yarns" and "La Rue de Commerce", the latter printed in November, 1954. We recommend them to our readers. Thank you, Mr. Brewster, for sharing with so many your answers to numerous questions of why certain things were done in the Waterloo County community of Hespeler.

## UNCOVER DOCUMENT SIGNED AT AYR

IN 1826

By *Robert A. Schmidt*

*The Ayr News, August 19, 1954*

Compiling histories of villages and rural communities is often a complicated task. The historian can usually trace an accurate course of the community's growth as far back as 100 years ago by the simple process of checking through old municipal records. However, prior to the period when this district was cut up into municipally-governed centres information is often sketchy and unsupported by documentary proof.

Such is the case regarding Ayr's long and illustrious history. It is generally accepted as fact that this village was founded in 1824 by one Abel Mudge, who established a mill here on Cedar Creek. There have been well-considered arguments, however, that the first settler did not arrive until several years later. These two schools of thought have been carrying on this debate since the village centennial was celebrated back in 1924, and it wasn't until this week that *The News* was shown an authentic document proving indisputably that Abel Mudge actually established his mill here in approximately 1824.

It was signed by no less an authority on the matter than Abel Mudge, who affixed his name on November 15, 1826.

The paper, an application for a road between what are now Roseville and Ayr, is at present in the possession of Andrew W. Taylor, North Dumfries historian, who has had it microfilmed for the Waterloo County Historical Society. It was loaned to him by Wilfred Doud of Branchton, who came across it by pure accident while clearing out records from an old building.

The document reads as follows:

"Application for Road,

"Dumfries, November 15, 1826.

"To William MCoy, Surveyor of Highways for the County of Halton, in the District of Gore, etc., etc.

"Whereas the inhabitants of the Township of Dumfries and others of His Majesty's subjects are in want of a new road being laid out in the said Township of Dumfries, commencing at the line between the 11th and 12th Concessions at the line between lots numbers 36 and 37 in the 11th Concession, and at the term-

ination of a road which leads from Waterloo into said Township of Dumfries, thence continuing on the said line between lots 36 and 37 through the 11th and 10th Concessions, thence on the most advantageous site for a road to the mill lately erected by Abel Mudge on lot 35, near the line between the 7th and 8th Concessions.

"We the undersigned freeholders of this county, therefore request you as soon as convenient, to examine the above-mentioned premises, lay out said roads, and report thereon at the next Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace.

"Dumfries, November 15, 1826.

"Abel Mudge"

(Second signature not legible).

Affixed to the next page were the following 15 signatures, along with six others which age has obliterated: Jacob Wismer, John Hamacher, Samuel Snyder, Abraham Johnson, John Wismer, Henry Clemens, John Bricker, Jacob Hallman, Benjamin Hallman, Joseph Wismer, Henry Wismer, John Bricker, John Wereg, Henry Clemmer and Abraham Baker.

(It is noted in the above list that several names, along with that of the surveyor have odd spellings, and the two signatures of John Bricker occur in different handwriting. Nevertheless, they are signed in that manner.)

A second document, dated at Nelson on December 20, 1826, was signed by Mr. McCoy, the surveyor, advising the Magistrates of the District that he had completed the survey. The route he advised was identical to that suggested by Mr. Mudge and the other petitioners, although more specific mention was made of its termination some 400 feet south of Cedar Creek (about the Stanley Street intersection).

Oddly enough, the hard-surfaced road which now connects Ayr and Roseville still follows the general route laid out some 128 years ago.

Apparently Mr. Mudge was the main petitioner for the road, and this is likely since he desired to facilitate travelling for settlers to his sawmill. It is therefore reasonable to assume that he commenced building his mill a couple of years earlier. This being the case, Ayr's history definitely dates back to 1824.

Any information from readers regarding the location of farms of any of the signatories listed on the petition will be welcomed by The News.

## PIONEER ROADS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF GALT

*By Andrew W. Taylor*

Andrew W. Taylor owns Woodside Farm, one mile south of Galt. He is Second Vice-President of our Society, Vice-President of Ontario Pioneer Community, and author of "Banners Unfurled" and "Our Yesterdays". He has been a frequent contributor to W.H.S. Reports.

When, in 1816, Honourable William Dickson purchased the area that is now the Townships of North and South Dumfries he received it as a block, "His Majesty making no reservation for highway or any allowance for the Grand River". One of Mr. Dickson's first moves was to have the tract surveyed and he instructed that there be twelve concessions, each the width of the township and one mile deep. He asked also that there be a reservation of one chain (66 feet) between each concession and a sideline every sixth lot. Although the Grand River interferes, in many places these strips are the present roads.

In South Dumfries the six miles between lots 12 and 13 have been opened and are now part of the Galt-Brantford highway. As you travel from Brant County into Waterloo the line between lots crosses the river while the highway descends into the valley and follows the old East River road northward. This is the point where the course of the East River Road has several times been altered, not one of its four locations coinciding with the original allowance. (See the W.H.S. Report: 1949, page 27.) A straightedge laid on a map will show that a short distance south of the Footbridge the unopened line is close to the junction of the West River road and the concession road. At Riverside School it is one-quarter mile west and continues on through the hills toward Galt; at Highway No. 24A it is west of the Galt standpipes; at the Roseville Road it is west of the C.P.R. crossing. Probably the only travelled portion is a short strip running north from the Cedar Creek Road at the top of Sheldon's Hill. It terminates at an unopened allowance north of the Roseville Road. In the twelfth concession, because of a different arrangement of lots, roads do not coincide with those in the remainder of the township.

At the time Dumfries was opened for settlement the whole of Southern Ontario was crisscrossed with trails that for centuries had been padded by Indian feet. Tribes came and went, new generations followed old, but each succeeding redman accepted the established design. The first Europeans, too, used Indian routes. They no doubt widened them, and may have straightened them, and where it suited their purpose diverged to routes of their own. When a land surveyor was called in he accepted the road he found

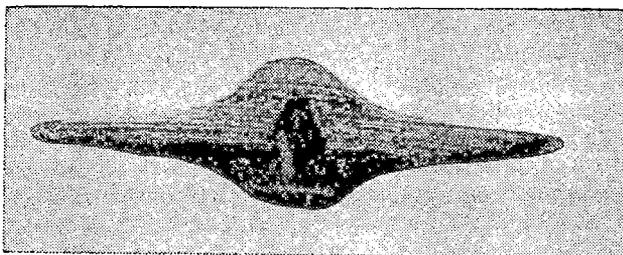
## W. C. BARRIE'S BUTTERFLY STONE

(See Page 51)

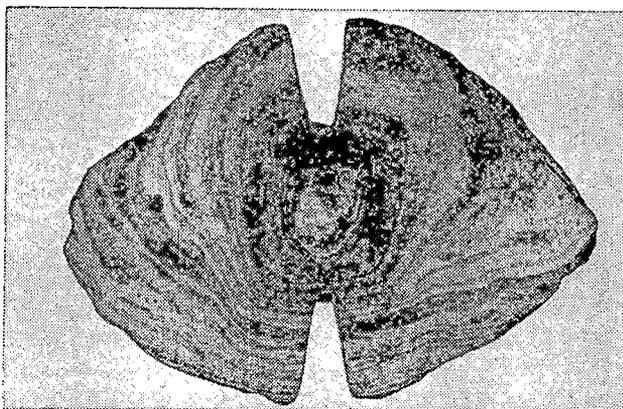
Proof of Indian habitation in our county for at least 2,000 years

Concerning this stone, Mr. Kenneth E. Kidd, Curator of Ethnology of the Royal Ontario Museum writes: "These objects were made by the ancient Indians inhabiting the region between the Atlantic Coast and Wisconsin south perhaps as far as Alabama, but more commonly in the central portion of that area. They are nowhere abundant, only occasional finds occurring. Usually they are made of a banded variety of slate, known as Huronian slate and show a high degree of skill in their manufacture. It is estimated that they are at least two or three thousand years old, or perhaps even more.

"There is still some uncertainty as to their use. Some people hold that they were personal ornaments, others that they were charms; but the best evidence suggests that they were used as counter-weights on spear-throwers, a device for giving additional strength to the propulsion of spears or javelins."



COURTESY OF DEPT. OF PUBLIC RELATIONS, GUELPH



COURTESY OF DEPT. OF PUBLIC RELATIONS, GUELPH

unless he had good reason for doing otherwise. It is therefore safe to conclude that parts of busy present-day highways, especially where they skirt some formidable natural obstacle, have been carrying traffic since before Columbus discovered America.

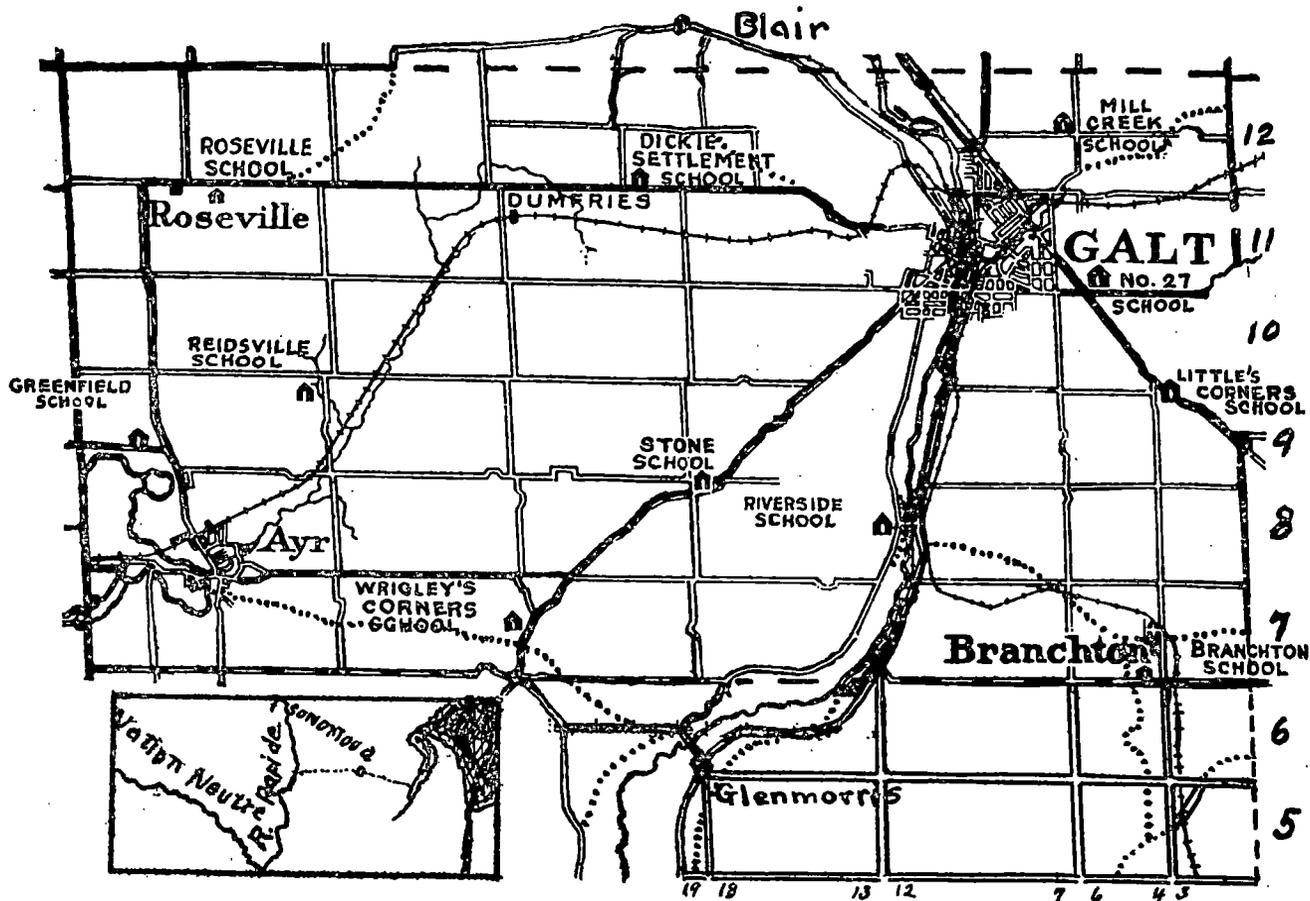
As proof of the antiquity of habitation in this area we have the "butterfly stone" recently picked up on the farm of Mr. Lex Edgar, lot 32, concession nine, North Dumfries. This relic, now in the possession of Mr. W. C. Barrie, is estimated by experts to be at least 2,000, and perhaps 3,000 years old.

Basically our present-day township roads are a composite of trails used by the pioneers and the systematic pattern laid down by Mr. Dickson. Where woodland paths have become roads there had to be a survey, since from the beginning of settlement a registered plan was required before there could be any expenditure of public funds. Where records of the first survey are available they provide many useful clues as to the location of trails. Much assistance for the present article has been derived from ancient documents loaned by Mr. W. W. Doud of Branchton and by Mr. Sidney Martin of Galt. These papers have been microfilmed for the files of the Ontario Agricultural College and of the Waterloo Historical Society. One of them, a request that a road be surveyed from Roseville to Ayr, is reproduced elsewhere in this issue.

From the above documents it may be deduced that on the higher ground east of the Grand River a very ancient road ran from the vicinity of Brantford and crossed what is now Highway No. 5. It did not touch the site of Paris, but stayed on the higher land east of that town, and merged with the present River Road in the second concession of Dumfries. When it came to what is now Glenmorris, the old trail kept on the heights, while the present road descends into the village. Considerable information about the East River Road from Galt to Paris is available.

When Joseph Shoerg and Samuel Betzner came to Waterloo, in 1800, they followed the Governor's Road to The Forks of the Grand (Paris) and turned north along the river on a trail that took them to their own land. (See W. H. S. Report: 1915, page 13; 1919, page 63.) In 1816, Honourable William Dickson and Absalom Shade travelled the same way. With an Indian guide "they proceeded up to the east side of the river by the regular Indian trail, which in many places a single pony and rider had difficulty in making their way along. As they proceeded leisurely northward, they examined the country from various elevations and especially the points where streams intersected the river".

In 1828, this road was surveyed and confirmed as a public



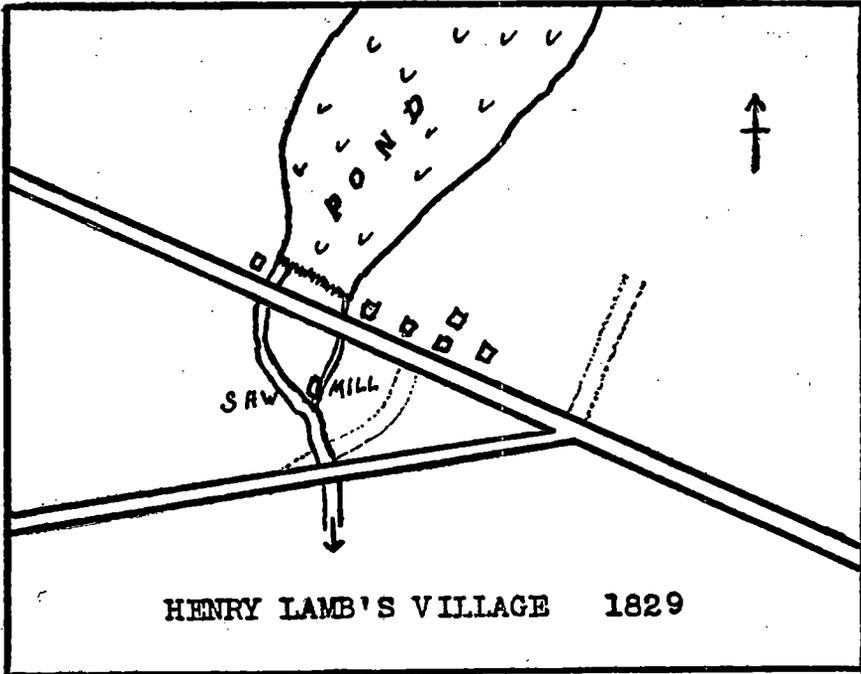
On this map Honourable William Dickson's road pattern can be clearly seen. Dotted lines indicate probable Indian trails. Lower left is portion of Jean D'Annville's Map, 1755, showing the Indian village of Tsonontoria and a footpath from the western end of Lake Ontario to the Grand River.

highway by the Magistrates of the District of Gore. The move was requested by sixteen freeholders, including the writer's great-grandfather, Thomas Taylor. Augustus Jones, the deputy provincial surveyor, began at the eastern end of the (Main Street) bridge in the village of Galt and accepted the road as he found it to the vicinity of the present Footbridge. Here, because of a swamp, for a short distance he chose a new route to the east. Since the higher road has now been abandoned it seems probable that the present highway through the swamp is close to the Indian trail. Next, the survey followed the old road which lay along the bank of the river, and in South Dumfries climbed to the ridge nearly opposite the Mississauga Rapids. This portion is no longer in use (See W. H. S. Report: 1949, page 26). Through Glenmorris and south for a mile the old trail appears to have been to the east, but the surveyed route fell in with it again in the fourth concession, "thence following the said road (only by avoiding some of the hills as well as by straightening the said road in many places) till it connects the Dundas Street Road, on the hill at the head of the ravine nearly opposite the bridge — all of which the aforesaid road may be well known by the trees being fully marked with blazes on both sides".

A short time later, before any statute labour had been expended upon it, the portion on the hill was abandoned in favour of a route closer to the river. Beginning at lot 24 in the second concession, it provided access to the plaster beds of Honourable William Dickson, and a better approach to Paris.

In lot S2E, concession nine, Mr. Jones lists the owner of the land as John Abbott. A short time later, probably in 1829, Mr. Abbott died and was interred on a hilltop in his bush. Similarly, in lot S2E, concession eight, the owner was James Dickson. There is a tradition that there are three graves facing east on the highest point of the hill east of the Footbridge. James Goodall had this land in the early days and he was succeeded by his son Archie, so it is possible that the graves are those of Mr. Dickson and his family.

The skeleton of an Indian girl was found, eighteen inches underground, beside the foundation of Mr. L. G. Tillson's home, lot S1E, concession nine, in May, 1954. With the bones were beads, earrings, bracelets, and parts of a necklace. One silver ornament was stamped "Montreal". This find was on land that for well over 100 years had been the yard around a barn. There is a tradition that from that point south to the Grand Valley powerhouse was an Indian camping ground, with a well-trodden path to MacGregor's spring. Indian graves were uncovered in that vicinity and south of the Footbridge when the Grand Valley Rail-



A portion of a surveyor's sketch. Dotted lines show how present day roads intersect Highway No. 8

way was built in 1904, also north of the Footbridge when the grade of the Lake Erie and Northern was made in 1913.

In 1829, the concession line between North and South Dumfries from the Grand River eastward was opened. It apparently was one of the projects associated with founding a city — a city that died in infancy. Conceived by Mr. Henry Lamb, it was on the Dundas-Waterloo Road (Highway No. 8) a mile or so east of Sheffield. He obtained several hundred acres for a site and named the place Romulus. For a time it was a busy centre but it passed away with its owner. The only trace that now remains is Mr. Lamb's grave, a pile of rough limestone laid on the surface rock, located east of the highway. (See W. H. S. Report: 1920, page 114). An 1829 diagram shows Lamb's saw mill and mill pond with the road leading from the Grand River through Dumfries and Beverly to it. It does not show what is now Highway No. 24 leading to Brantford, but includes the road past Branchton to Little's Corners, the St. George Road, and the old East River Road along the river.

A bridge on the Grand River at Glenmorris followed. The argument, as stated, declared that this new road made the building of a bridge imperative and that the site was more favourable than the point where the road reached the river. In 1833, the settlers raised a sum exceeding £250 and the project was approved. At the same time, an alternative site further south at the fifth concession was rejected. In 1834, when the bridge was finished, a way was opened to the West River Road. A portion of the latter was relocated and a connection was made with Sprague's Road. Presumably these are the roads that are still travelled.

The West River Road was surveyed in 1829. From the second concession of Dumfries it would seem to follow an ancient route. Exceptions are through lots 24, 23, 22, 21, 20, and 19, concessions five and six, west of Glenmorris, and in the vicinity of the Footbridge. In these places the old trail was nearer the river. North of Galt it continued where we now have the Blair Road, past Blair and Doon as far as Parkway (German Mills) and probably beyond.

Another trail followed the present Roseville Road out of Galt and, because it connected with the Huron Road, was described as leading to Lake Huron. The portion from Orr's Lake west through the twelfth concession was closed in 1846.

Sprague's Road, Highway No. 24A, from Galt to Paris, is almost certainly of Indian origin. It runs to the river's edge at the site of the Dixon Dairy in Galt where there was a ford. Mill Street and Beverly Street, both used from the beginning of settlement, appear to be part of the same route and no doubt led along the north side of Mill Creek, and to Puslinch Lake. Many camp sites have been found near Wrigley's Corners. In this vicinity, the trail was probably crossed by a portage from the Grand River near Glenmorris to the Nith near Ayr. A road was surveyed along this route in 1834. The portion west of Sprague's Road was closed in 1856.

Sprague's Road was blazed by Jonathan Sprague who had a contract for the work, evidently very shortly after the opening of the township in 1816. His main equipment was a compass, an axe, and a yoke of oxen. He was born near Beaconsfield, Oxford County, of Pennsylvania Dutch ancestry, on June 27, 1804. He died February 7, 1873, and lies buried in Burgessville cemetery. The Sprague family Bible is in the possession of a great-granddaughter, Mrs. A. C. Johnston, R.R. No. 4, Galt.

William B. Sprague, whose name has also been linked with the road, in the 1820's owned a quarter of lot 24, concession eight. This is north of Wrigley's Corners.

A 40-foot road was opened, in 1823, from Joseph Bowman's saw mill (Blair) along the north side of Cedar Creek to the vicinity of the cemetery a mile east of Roseville. The North Dumfries part was closed in 1848. It is interesting to note that as far back as 1823, Cedar Creek was known by its present name.

An Indian trail once ran from the vicinity of the Institute for the Blind in Brantford, and passed east of St. George and west of Branchton. The route is much the same as Young's History of Galt tells us Absalom Shade took when prospecting in 1816. Highway No. 24 follows the trail from Tranquility to The Governor's Road. South of that the old road lay to the west; and north of it veered to the east. Near Branchton it met an east-west trail that came down to the Grand River a short distance south of the Footbridge. The fact that in this area both the east and west river trails came close to the water's edge suggests that this was a crossing-point centuries before the present bridge was built.

The east-west trail probably passed near Sheffield and led to the Indian village one and one-quarter miles northwest of Westover. This was an important Indian settlement (See W. H. S. Report: 1920, page 109). It nestled on the southwest side of a very high morainic hill, and probably for centuries native tribes found shelter there. Thirty years and more ago, the area was very thoroughly worked over by curio-hunters and load after load after load after load of ash was drawn away and spread on the farm. One wonders what secrets of distant days might have been revealed if the work had been done by trained archaeologists.

"Of all national assets, archives are the most precious: they are the gift of one generation to another and the extent of our care of them marks the extent of our civilization."

An inscription in the stonework of the Dominion Archives Building, Ottawa.