

FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL VOLUME

of the

**WATERLOO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**



NINETEEN FIFTY-SEVEN

FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL VOLUME

of the

**WATERLOO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**



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1958

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BELAIR

B. MABEL DUNHAM, D. LITT.
1881 - 1957

Charter member and former president
of the
Waterloo Historical Society

DR. B. MABEL DUNHAM

By Dorothy Shoemaker

Dr. B. Mabel Dunham was well known in Waterloo County as a school-teacher, librarian, clubwoman, author and historian. Her life-story with its many achievements has been told many times.

Library work was her chosen vocation. But perhaps above all she was a historian. When she told stories to the children usually legends were recounted. Her trips were often directed toward research for a book or for an article. Her reading was generally in the field of history. She purchased an excellent collection of rare books on the history of Kitchener, Waterloo County and early Canada for the Kitchener Public Library. And finally, she rendered great and constant service to the Waterloo Historical Society and was always ready to escort strangers around the Museum in Kitchener.

Although Mabel Dunham was born in Harriston, Ontario, she lived most of her life in her beloved Waterloo County. To tell the story of her mother's people, the Pennsylvania Dutch in Waterloo County, *The Trail of the Conestoga* was written. *Toward Sodom* continued the story.

Not to be partial (although I believe she was!) she then told the story of her father's forbears, the United Empire Loyalists, in *The Trail of The King's Men*.

The officials of her church — Trinity United Church, Kitchener — asked her to write the story of its first hundred years of service. This book, *So Great A Heritage*, is a wonderful compilation of historical fact, pictures of early church groups and individuals and the whole spirit of a pioneer church movement in Ontario.

Grand River was the culmination of all her thinking, research and love for the valley of the Grand. I remember her interest in searching for the actual source of the Grand River in the period when she was planning and writing the book.

Her work had its rewards. The degree of D.Litt. was conferred on her by the University of Western Ontario in 1947. The Canadian Association of Children's Libraries presented to her "*The Book of the Year for Children*" award in 1948 for *Kristl's Trees*. In 1953, the Council of the City of Kitchener set aside her birthday, May 29th, as *Mabel Dunham Day*.

Dr. B. Mabel Dunham died on June 21, 1957. She will be missed; but her books, articles, her love for this County, her work in the library and in the Historical Society are enduring things.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

It is very gratifying to welcome so many members and friends to the 45th annual meeting. The Waterloo Historical Society which was organized in 1912 under the guidance of W. H. Breithaupt and other leading citizens, has published valuable historical data in its annual reports for 45 years.

Librarians have told us that our publications are widely used by those who are interested in Waterloo County History. Without the aid given by the municipalities, we should not be able to place in all libraries of the county the historical material which is being built up, year by year.

We are happy that the Ontario Pioneer Community, conceived by Dr. A. E. Broome and nurtured by the Waterloo Historical Society in its early development, now is well on its way to successful achievement.

For the second time we are meeting in this splendid room in the Kress House. We appreciate the kindness of Mr. Preston Graham.

I wish to express my appreciation of the splendid co-operation of the council members. I have never worked with a finer group.



FOREWORD TO *THE TRAIL OF THE CONESTOGA*

"Miss Mabel Dunham, in her book 'The Trail of the Conestoga', has given an exceptional picture of the early immigration of these people. They came to this country to find it a wilderness, and almost within a generation, by their unceasing labours, they changed the landscape so that well-built and substantial homes found themselves surrounded by cleared land covered with abundant harvests. It is such literature that makes us realize the background of our country's story. We know and appreciate too little the initiative, patience and self-sacrifice which characterized the struggles of our forefathers in laying not only the material but also the political foundations of our country. If we go back to early days, we shall find that the problems which perplex us are no greater than those they successfully solved. In their example we should find alike strength and inspiration."

Kingsmere, Que.

W. L. Mackenzie King.

SECRETARY'S REPORT 1957

During 1957 the Waterloo Historical Society held two open meetings, four council meetings, and two executive meetings.

On May 10th an open meeting was held at the Kitchener Public Library with about fifty members in attendance. Miss Lillian Benson of London, President of the Ontario Historical Society was the guest speaker. She told of the work being carried on at the pioneer village at Sturbridge, Mass. and also showed coloured pictures of the village. She stated that through the efforts of the Ontario Historical Society a team of five cameramen from the Geneological Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints would begin to micro-film 1,000,000 Ontario public documents free of charge. She urged us to take more interest in the Ontario Society and to increase the membership.

During the week of April 8th to 13th the Historical Society had an interesting exhibit at the Sportsmen's Show at the Kitchener Auditorium. Indian relics and other items of interest to sportsmen were on display.

During the Waterloo Centennial celebrations our Society had a very fine display in the pavilion in Waterloo Park. This included a covered wagon, the first car manufactured in Kitchener, an apple-drying house, a very interesting Scottish display, as well as some antique farm implements. With the help of others Wilson Hunsberger organized the displays.

The Stroh collection of Indian relics was presented to the Society by Mr. Nathaniel Stroh.

During 1957, 55 acres of land was purchased for the Ontario Pioneer Community. On June 19th the official opening, dedication, and barn-raising took place. The Honourable W. M. Nickle, Minister of Planning and Development, officiated.

On October 18th Mr. Page presented to the Society a bronze plaque honouring Tecumseh, the Shawnee Chief. It is to be placed in the Indian Room at the Pioneer Village.

We appreciate the accommodation provided by the Kitchener Public Library for our museum and archives, the work of the young people who act as curators during visiting hours, and the cooperation of the library staff. We also appreciate the interest of the several persons who have donated articles to the museum during the past year. We especially appreciate the grants received from the cities, towns, villages, townships and county. Without these we could not carry on our work. The opening of a county historical building at Doon and proposed changes at the Kitchener Public Library will increase our obligations.

Grace E. Hall.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1957

Receipts:

Balance on hand January 1, 1957.....	\$1,399.23
Members' fees	279.00
Sales of reports and other books.....	21.80
Bank interest	50.49
Miscellaneous	4.75
Grants:	
Galt	\$100.00
Waterloo	100.00
Hespeler	25.00
Preston	50.00
Elmira	25.00
Ayr	10.00
Townships:	
Woolwich	25.00
Waterloo	100.00
Wilmot	25.00
North Dumfries	25.00
County of Waterloo	200.00
	685.00
	\$2,440.27

Disbursements:

44th Annual Report	\$422.95
Publications Committee Expenses	26.11
Stationery & Printing	24.16
Speakers	10.00
May and Annual Meetings	27.78
Ontario Historical Society	6.15
Subscription Preston Times	2.50
Advertising	5.37
Curator	52.00
Secretary	75.00
Postage and Exchange	45.23
Miscellaneous	2.45
Janitor	40.00
	739.70
Balance	\$1,700.57

Audited and found correct.

January 17, 1958.

Emily Seibert.

INDIAN RELICS COLLECTED BY JACOB GAUKEL STROH

By Nathaniel Stroh

During the pioneer days of the 1850's Frederick Gaukel, a congenial tavern keeper, managed a hostelry on the western corner of King and Queen Streets. Frederick and Gaukel Streets were named after him in recognition of his efforts, with those of other villagers, to secure the county seat for Berlin, and also because he donated the land upon which the county court house now stands.

On their journeys over the Indian trail leading from Detroit through Berlin to Guelph, and then up to the Midland district, tall, handsome, well-built Mohawks would stop at the Gaukel tavern, where, in return for the "Wirt's" hospitality, they would entertain the populace with ceremonial dances. Their appearances were most colourful with plaid, yellow or bright red shawls or blankets which were draped over their shoulders and held in place over the left, with the right hand.

Born and brought up about 500 feet from the main intersection of the village, on Queen Street south, Jacob Gaukel Stroh took full advantage of these periodic visits of the Indians. Being the tavern keeper's grandson, he naturally was not prevented from spending many fascinating evenings watching and listening to these copper coloured folk.

Young Jacob was so impressed by the transient Indians that he tried his best to find out all about them and how they lived in the past. During his youth he went on many trips with his father into the deep forest and across the small clearings of the early settlers. Not only was it their objective to secure honey from the wild bees, but it was also necessary to secure meat with the rifle and fish with the net. On these trips a careful eye was kept open for odd stones and Indian relics. A lover of nature, he devoted considerable time to becoming acquainted with the flora and fauna of the country, so he had opportunity to note the spots where Indians had had their encampments. These specific areas of campsites were searched and researched many times, and their exact location he carefully guarded as his secrets.

Throughout his life this naturalist operated a small tannery, and to his leather and fur establishment came the farmers with hides and furs to be tanned. In all cases he would show the various tillers of the soil the types of Indian stones he himself had found, asking them to kindly look out for similar samples while plowing their fields. In return for the pieces found and brought to the tannery, he would offer to tan some small skin or fur, such as the muskrat, mink, and raccoon. Or he might offer a leather tie strap for the horse, and in later years when he discontinued tanning, he paid nominal sums for the farmers' finds.

This collection of Indian relics was presented by the Stroh Estate to the Waterloo Historical Society in 1957, and will be on display so that all who are interested will be able to study the various pieces.

BONAVENTURE ISLAND

By Camilla C. Coumans

Miss Coumans, a native of Bruce County, teaches in the Commercial Department of the Kitchener and Waterloo Collegiate and Vocational School. At the 45th Annual Meeting she outlined the history of Bonaventure Island and illustrated her talk with coloured slides.

Bonaventure Island, three miles from Percé village, off the eastern tip of the Gaspé Peninsula, was named by Jacques Cartier in July, 1534, when his ships took refuge near the Island from an Atlantic storm. It is again mentioned by Champlain in 1609. Neither of these explorers set foot on the Island, but Champlain referred to its green sloping hills and the flocks of great white birds.

From the meagre records of the Island's history, it appears to have had an early settlement of fishermen, most likely some of the mainland French settlers. Between 1660 and 1690 there were enough permanent residents to justify the building of a church — a mission from Percé.

This period of prosperity came to an abrupt end in 1690 when a privateer, Capt. William Mason, sailing under a commission from the New York governor, came to Percé, and after landing his crew, pillaged and burned the settlement at Percé and later at Bonaventure Island. This expedition was probably made in reprisal for Frontenac's treatment of Salmon Falls.

We hear again of the Island during the Seven Years' War when Wolfe in 1758 made it an outpost arsenal and a refuge for the wounded. Presumably he selected the place because it required one line of defence on the near side. The only reminder today of this occupation is a small military cemetery — overgrown and unmarked.

At no time was Bonaventure inhabited by Indians except for a few Micmacs who abandoned it because of a lack of game. An effort is under way at the present time to introduce white-tailed deer.

The next attempt at a permanent settlement on the Island was made by one of the Jersey Island fishing syndicates, the John Lebotillier Company which brought out Jerseymen to whom were given small grants of land to insure the necessity of a livelihood from fishing rather than agriculture. The houses were arranged in three ascending tiers on the sloping western shore where the crumbling remains of these dwellings, constructed in the late 1700's, may still be found.

To the agent for the Company, a M. LeBrosse, may go the credit for producing the first completely pre-fabricated house in



THE COVE HOUSE, BONAVENTURE ISLAND

SKETCH BY D. M. S. SHAW

America. Dissatisfied with the simple structures of local timber, he returned to his native Jersey where skilled carpenters fashioned from cedar and pine the required timbers even to a neatly scalloped edge on the cornice and the pickets for an enclosing fence. The story has it that fifteen Jersey carpenters came with the ship bearing the future house and erected it on Bonaventure Island.

Known as the Cove House it still stands, is still inhabited — by a descendant of the famous pirate, Capt. Peter Duval — and still shelters in its overgrown garden lilac trees from far-off Jersey whose springtime blooms are fragrant reminders of gayer, happier days at the Cove House.

In 1919 the Quebec government established the eastern side of the Island — a rocky, precipitous forbidding coast — as part of a bird sanctuary which extends 124 miles out to sea to include other islands. The gannets, large white waterfowl, with a wing spread of six feet at maturity, arrive in April to nest and rear their young and depart in September and October for the southern U. S. coast and South America.

In the Quebec statutes, setting out the laws for the preservation of the wild fowl, is a section which reads — “It shall be unlawful for anyone to molest the birds by discharging a firearm, sounding a siren or speaking through a megaphone.”

On Bonaventure Island in 1957 there were twelve families — permanent residents. The summer population is increased by visitors who stay at the Island Lodge and by an increasing number of summer-home owners.

The Island has a wireless telephone communication with the mainland and can receive helicopter service, in case of emergencies, within two hours. The area remains a school section of its own, distinct from the mainland, and there is a small, neat church where Sunday service is held once a month.

In the homes of some of the Island residents are corner cupboards displaying fine artifacts of silver and china fashioned by craftsmen in Portugal, Italy and France and brought to the new world by the ships of the Lebotillier Company whose holds were then loaded with dried cod for the markets of Europe, a rich trade for that enterprising Jersey Company which plied its lucrative business as late as 1849.

Bonaventure Island has known two flourishing periods of cod and commerce. Perhaps it is on the way to a third — this time of birds and tourists.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

L'Île Percé—John M. Clarke
The Gaspé—John M. Clarke
Percé—Rev. C. E. Roy.

Mr. Sidney Maloney
Mr. Robert Maloney
Mrs. Paget
Bonaventure Island



NEW HAMBURG CENTENNIAL

In August, 1957 New Hamburg, population 2,000, celebrated the 100th anniversary of incorporation.

Josiah Cushman, about 1820, built a saw mill on Smith's Creek near the centre of the present town.* After the village called Cassel was virtually wiped out by cholera in 1834, settlers who came between 1834 and 1840 rechristened the settlement — New Hamburg. The mill and water rights came into the hands of William Scott, who for almost 30 years was the leading citizen. He was responsible for the erection of a four-storey flour mill, which after half a century was destroyed by fire in 1902; a wool-len mill; a distillery; a three-storey block of shops; and a fine residence.

At one time two pleasure boats, the Water Lily and the Mikado, made seven-mile trips on the Nith River from the William Tell Wharf to Ruthig's grounds and return for a 15¢ fare. In 1883 a cloudburst in the upper Nith Valley caused a great flood that carried away the wooden bridges and many other structures.

One of the most prominent residents was Samuel Merner who ran for Parliament as an Independent. New Hamburg's weekly paper, The Independent, was established in 1878 to support him. The first New Hamburg newspaper, Beobachter, was printed in German because 90% of the inhabitants spoke that language.

To many, New Hamburg is best known for harness racing. For years the Canadian Racing Derby has attracted the finest horses and thousands of spectators.

The new public school, Grandview, built in 1949, is the fourth to serve the community. The first was a log school house near Bleam's Road,** while the second, a two-roomed brick building on the site of the community centre, functioned until 1875. The third was the school on the hill which was built in 1874 and was vacated with the construction of Grandview and the Waterloo-Oxford District High School in 1955.

* New Hamburg Historical Notes, W.H.S. Report, 1936.

** History of New Hamburg Public School, W.H.S. Report, 1943.
Both written by the late O. A. F. Hamilton.

THE ONTARIO PIONEER COMMUNITY

An outdoor museum

Plans are progressing for the development of the Pioneer Community at the Homer Watson Memorial Park, north of Doon. The Grand Valley Conservation Authority has co-operated in the purchase of a house and barn, and slightly over 55 acres of land with a stream that meanders across, falling almost twelve feet from where it enters to where it leaves the property. Included in the purchase is the site of the Bush Inn, a tavern of the early days. The Huron Road, opened by the Canada Company in 1828 to connect Guelph and Goderich, crossed the Grand River at this point, and there was regular stage-coach service before the coming of the railways. On this land which many hundreds of settlers saw on their trip to their Canadian homes, we plan to create conditions that depict the history of southwestern Ontario.

Construction began in 1957. A timber frame barn and two sheds are well on their way to completion. All three are being roofed with hand-split cedar shingles. The lumber came from the Shuh barn and other sheds which were generously donated by the Board of the County Home for the Aged. Visitors can be shown the authentic hewn-timber footbridge across the creek. It is exactly the same as many of the first bridges that crossed streams where we now have busy highways.

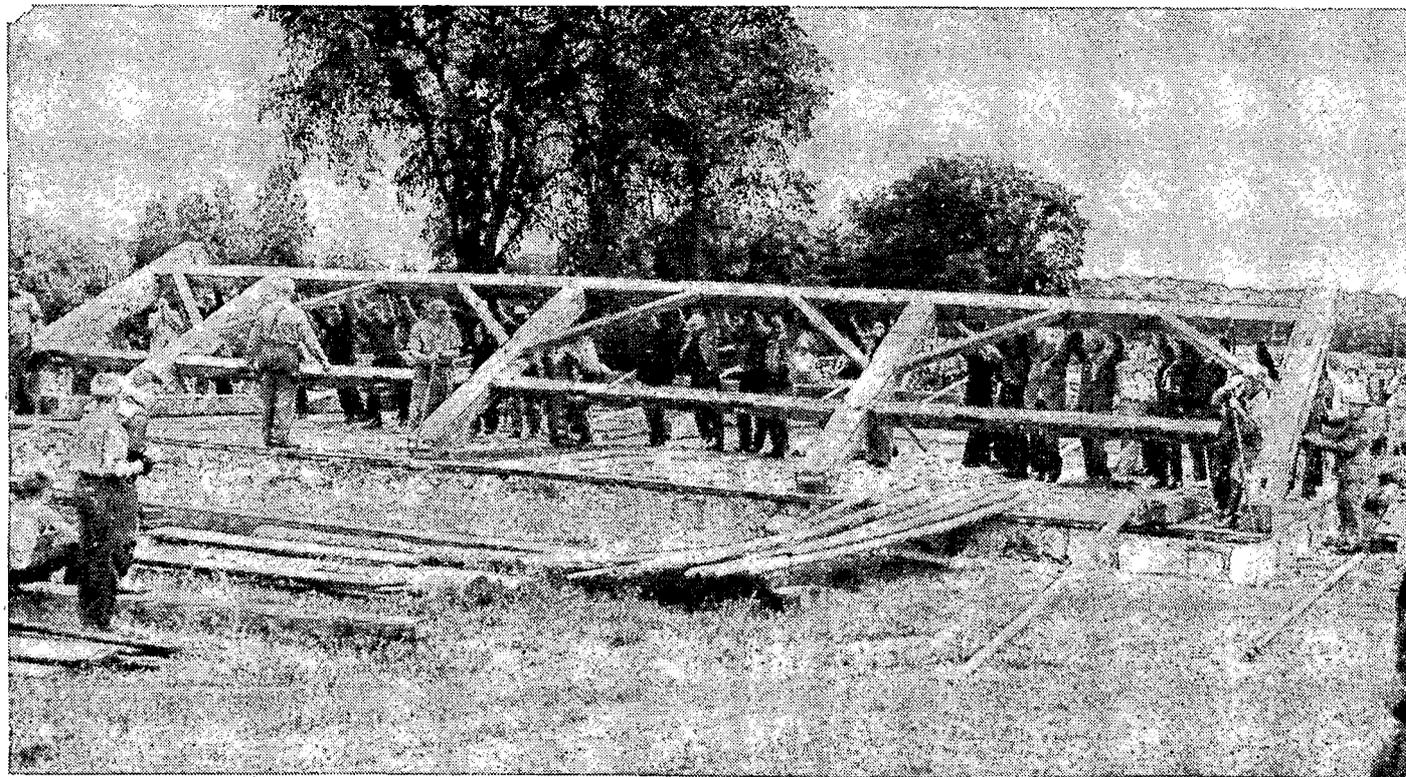
In June, at our barn raising, guests were present from as far away as Ottawa, and even Australia. Pike poles for the occasion were fabricated on the grounds and we plan to retain them as part of the permanent display.

Projects for 1958 include parking lot and roads, a log house and other buildings of interest, fireproof storage and display centre for permanent housing of a wide variety of articles of cultural and historic significance, and the further development of the master plan to assure the best utilization of the property for the purpose to which it has been dedicated.

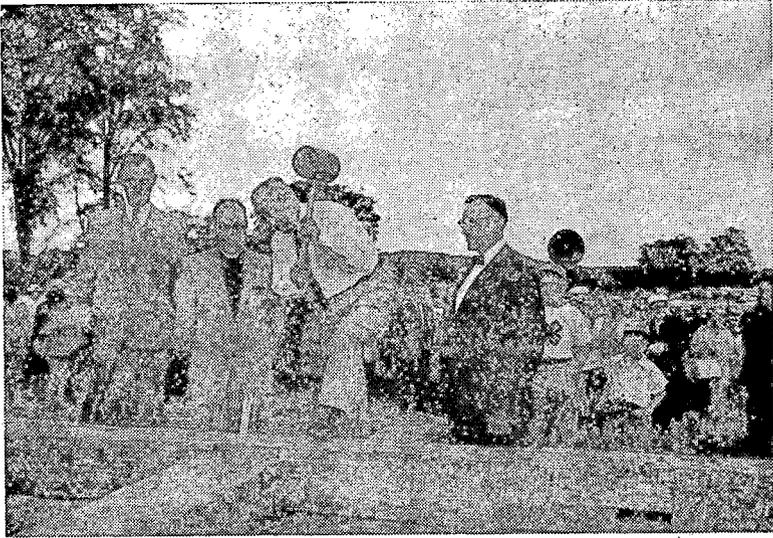
Our first president, Dr. A. E. Broome, who has been forced by illness to withdraw from active participation, maintains his interest and is available for counsel.

Soon we shall be inviting one and all to the Ontario Pioneer Community.

The Publication Committee acknowledges the assistance of Mrs. A. W. Taylor, Mrs. F. W. R. Dickson, Miss C. C. Coumans and Mr. N. Stroh.



At the old fashioned barn raising, men from many walks of life joined in the united effort. Mr. David Beattie, a contractor from Galt, who was in charge, is seen on the floor, facing the men, with his arms extended. While it was fun and a memorable experience, it was also hard work, but because of the number of volunteers who stayed with the job the operation was completed by early evening.



At the dedication of the Ontario Pioneer Community Museum, June 19, 1957, Hon. W. M. Nickle, Q.C., Minister of Planning and Development, drove a wooden pin to tie together the barn frame. Others in the foreground are, left to right: Mr. W. C. Barrie, of Galt, chairman of the building committee; Rev. Arthur Lewis, of Doon United Church, who offered the prayer of dedication; and Mr. Garfield Disher, of Dunnville, chairman of the Grand Valley Conservation Authority. Mayor W. C. Woods, of Preston, is in the background between Hon. Mr. Nickle and Mr. Disher. Mr. Andrew Taylor (not shown), acting president of the Pioneer Community, was in charge of the ceremonies.



CENTENNIAL OF SUDDABY SCHOOL, KITCHENER

September 27, 1957

Thirty-two former students of Central School, Berlin, all of whom entered prior to 1900, heard again the ringing of the old school bell, before it was received by W. H. E. Schmalz for installation in the school house at the Ontario Pioneer Community in Doon. The oldest former student present was 89-year-old Mrs. J. C. Breithaupt who entered in 1876.

Central School was renamed in 1910 in honour of Jeremiah Suddaby who in 1877 was first principal of the model school for training teachers.*

Guest speaker was Education Minister Dunlop who said that while he presided often at the opening of new schools, it was a novel experience to appear in a school which had seen a century of service. In 1882 the first kindergarten was opened with Janet Metcalfe as teacher.* At the close of his address Mr. Dunlop unveiled a plaque in honour of the centennial.

* Suddaby School, formerly Central School, W.H.S. Report, 1942.

THE JACOB BERNHARDT FAMILY HISTORY

By Clara Wurster Atkinson

The dates in this history were obtained from the records in German, of Rev. Jacob Huettner (pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Preston, from 1838 - 1849) and records of Rev. I. Wurster (pastor of St. Peter's 1854 - 1881). Rev. Huettner was the great grandfather, and Rev. Wurster was the grandfather of Mrs. Percy (Clara Wurster) Atkinson who completed this account at Preston on April 21, 1952.

Among the early pioneers of Waterloo County, Ontario, were Philip Jacob Bernhardt (known as Jacob) and his wife Barbara Rupp Bernhardt, who came to America in 1831 from Oberhofen, Alsace.

Jacob and Barbara were married in 1817 in Oberhofen and they lived there and also in Steinseltz. Typical of the ambitious, industrious people of those days, they spent happy hours tilling the fertile soil of Alsace and enjoying the exceptionally fine climate of the Rhine Valley.

Following the custom of those southern provinces, they harvested many kinds of fruit, especially grapes and prune plums, and made quantities of wine. Instead of carrying water to men working in the fields, they served them from huge jugs filled with grape and prune wine.

Another quaint custom which they observed on Shrove Tuesday was the making of fried cakes of the yeast variety (a tubful as the tale was told), and in the evening friends gathered to enjoy these large twisted cakes served with coffee. It was a time of feasting, dancing and merrymaking. There appears to have been an abundance of food. However, at that time many people were leaving Alsace for America, the New World.

In the spring of 1831 Jacob and Barbara decided to leave their homeland with its pleasant surroundings and neat farm, for the wilds of America. They set sail from Le Havre, France, with their five children: Catherine, John, George, Henry and Magdalene. After a long, rough voyage they landed at Buffalo, N.Y., on July 4, 1831. Independence Day celebrations were in full swing with fireworks and crackers even at that early date. Barbara, who had been accustomed to war and unrest in her homeland, was terrified. She thought they had landed in the midst of a terrific war, and decided that America was not the peaceful spot she had anticipated.

Barbara refused to settle in Buffalo, so they journeyed on by oxcart to the little town of Hamburg, N.Y. After resting there awhile they again travelled on, finally settling in a rural section near the village of Boston. To be exact, their home was between

Boston and Eden, both small New York State villages. Here they cleared the land and farmed until coming to Canada about the year 1841.

Being possessed of strong religious principles, and faithful to the Lutheran church in their homeland, they wanted to settle as near as possible to a Lutheran church in this wild country. While there they were quite close to the little old Evangelical church, which was located on the East Eden Road near Hamburg and was later torn down. The church was founded in 1829 by German emigrants who were on their way to Wisconsin but were marooned by the severe New York State winter.

It is almost certain the Bernhardtts attended this church when they arrived in 1831, but unfortunately the church records from 1829 to 1845 were destroyed by fire. It is therefore impossible to obtain records of attendance and christenings of children. However, the records of their confirmation in St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Preston, Ontario, show that the children born in America were christened near Eden, N.Y. Five more children were born to the couple in their American home: Rosina, Elizabeth, William, Jacob, and Philip.

They heard of the fertile lands along the Grand River near Waterloo, Canada, which lured them on to cross the border into the deeper wilderness of Canada. They settled in Waterloo Township north of Kossuth where the farm upon which they settled, now cleared of its forest and in a high state of cultivation, stands as a monument to their industry and patience. Here they lived for some years, until Jacob was in poor health, the work was too strenuous, and the boys were leaving home. They decided to settle in Preston, where they had been faithful members of the Lutheran church since their arrival in Canada. Also, the long drives to attend church had become wearisome.

Arriving in Preston, Jacob became an innkeeper. On April 11, 1855 he purchased Lot No. 17 on the corner of King and Montrose Streets (later the Von Ende property) from Dinah Sidney Smith. Here the Bernhardt tavern was located for many years. After Jacob's death in 1857, his son George carried on at the inn. Incidentally, Jacob's son Henry had purchased Lot No. 14 from Alex. Grant on Jan. 15, 1855.

Jacob and Barbara spent happy days at the inn, but not for long. Jacob died in 1857 at the age of 61 years. He was laid to rest in the old Lutheran cemetery behind the church, with Rev. Immanuel Wurster officiating. Barbara lived with her son-in-law and daughter (Mr. and Mrs. John Beck) at their home which is now 132 Waterloo St. N. in Preston. There she died on Jan. 24, 1881 at the age of 86 years. During a blinding snow storm that

drifted the snow so high that a tiny cutter almost overturned, she was laid to rest in the old section of the Preston cemetery (known as The Row) with Rev. I. Wurster officiating. The stone and inscription are still in perfect condition.

At the time of her death there were 84 descendants, but today there are many more Bernhardts.

BERNHARDT FAMILY RECORDS

Philip Jacob Bernhardt (known as Jacob)

Born in Oberhofen, Alsace, France, March 29, 1796

Married in Oberhofen in 1817

Died in Preston, Ont., July 23, 1857, of dropsy

Age 61 years, 3 months, 25 days

Buried July 25, 1857 in the old Lutheran cemetery behind the church by Rev. I. Wurster

Survivors: widow, 10 children and 22 grandchildren.

His Wife

Barbara Bernhardt (nee Rupp)

Born in Oberhofen, Alsace, March 28, 1794

Married in Oberhofen, 1817

Died in Preston, Ont., Jan. 24, 1881, of cancerous tumor

Age 86 years, 9 months, 7 days

Buried Jan. 26, 1881 in Preston cemetery by Rev. Wurster

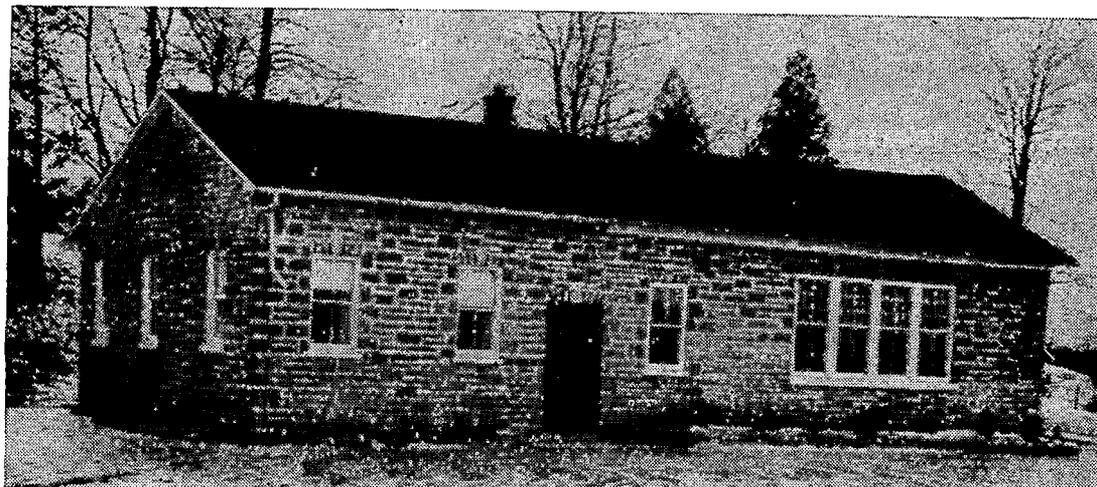
Survivors: four sons (one son George had died and one son John had disappeared);
four daughters; 40 grandchildren; 36 great grandchildren.

Total of 84 survivors

CHILDREN OF JACOB AND BARBARA BERNHARDT

First five children born in Oberhofen, Alsace. The other five children born near Boston, New York State.

1. Catherine—married (1) Michael Roos in Buffalo, 1833.
(2) John Hinderer in Preston, 1859.
2. John—married Anna Stepler in Preston, 1845.
3. George—married Elizabeth Stepler in Preston, 1845.
4. Henry—married Dorothea Rahn in Preston, 1850.
5. Magdalene—married Hubert Kratzmeier in Preston.
6. Rosina—married John Beck in Preston, 1867.
7. Elizabeth—married Gustaph Kraus, Baden.
8. William—married (1) Isabel Campbell, Galt.
(2) Kate Munroe, Galt.
9. Jacob—married Elizabeth Israel in Preston, 1861.
10. Philip—left Preston about 1881.



STONE SCHOOL

AYR NEWS

STONE SCHOOL CENTENNIAL—JUNE 29th AND 30th, 1957

By Hugh C. Elliott

Secretary-Treasurer of the Grand Valley Conservation Authority, Hugh Elliott lives on Greenfield Road in the stone house, built in 1856 on the farm settled by his great-grandfather in 1832.

Standing on a triangular piece of land at the intersection of Spragues Road (Highway 24A) and the Greenfield Road, near the centre of North Dumfries Township, the building known as the "Stone School" was erected 100 years ago by the ratepayers of North Dumfries School Section No. 19.

This year the people of the school section, many of them descendants of the pioneer families who in 1857 had found the original log schoolhouse inadequate for their educational requirements, decided to commemorate the event by holding a reunion and a memorial service on June 29 and 30.

A historical committee, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Milburn Lake, after considerable research into the records of the school, published a booklet "Glimpses of the Past," which recounted much of the history of the school section and the original settlers, most of whom were Lowland Scottish in origin.

The book contained numerous pictures, unearthed from cupboards and attics, in the district homes, which portrayed the metamorphosis of the solid stone building, simple in design but adequate for the needs of the time, which was modified, improved and enlarged into a schoolhouse and community centre with modern facilities and a pleasing exterior, facing the busy highway from Galt to Paris, with a cedar-covered hill as a backdrop.

The pupils now attending, some forty in number, participated in the ceremony of planting a crimson maple on the grounds. The reunion was attended by many who had first tasted the fruit of the tree of knowledge within its walls, and a Sunday service paid tribute to those who long ago had planned, and no doubt, had sacrificed, that no opportunity should be denied to those worthy of grasping it.

HISTORY OF S. S. NO. 19, NORTH DUMFRIES

From "Glimpses of the Past"

"In 1843 the townships were divided into school districts, and by 1846 they were called school sections.

"The first school for S. S. No. 19 was built in 1835, across the Greenfield Road opposite the present school. At this time the country was mostly bush with only small clearings. The school was built on the road known as Sprague's Road. It was a road hewn from the forest early in the nineteenth century from Galt to Paris by men under roadmaster Jonathan Sprague, who was the great-grandfather of Mrs. Albert Johnston. The Department of Highways paved this road in 1930 and called it Highway 24A, but it is still known as Sprague's Road.

"The school was a low log structure, plastered with clay. Inside, the room measured 12 by 18 feet and this was divided into two parts, one used as the teacher's residence and the other for the instruction of those who came and there was an average attendance of 40 during the winter. The pupils sat on slabs of wood.

"The first teacher in that first school was Mr. McMurdie, who was an excellent instructor whose education was just what he had gained at Public School. He maintained order by the approved method of wielding the birch, as those were days of the belief 'no lickin', no larnin'. One of the illustrious pupils of that first school was Adam Young, a noted penman. He was known far and wide for his magnificent penmanship. Some others who attended were George Oliver, James Scott, Mrs. Thos. Chisholm, Mrs. Katie Scott and John Rae. Mr. McMurdie was remembered affectionately by the older settlers. He had the use of only one hand and he managed to support his large family, who existed in the residence, on a salary of £60 per annum.

"Another early teacher was William Veitch, who resided in the building with his brother who made violins.

"The second school, built in 1844, was also of log construction and was situated across the highway to the east and north. This building stood for many years after it was no longer a school, but used as a driving shed. It measured 22 x 24 feet, and part of it was also sometimes used as residence for the teacher. This school had benches for the pupils. Here during the winter there was an average attendance of 75.

"North Dumfries had become a township in 1852. The school tax rate in 1852 was two twenty-first parts of a penny on a pound and the government granted an equal amount. Trustees had the task of collecting the taxes and raising funds by the pupils paying a certain rate each month. The collection of taxes was later taken over by the township council. By the School Law of 1871, all Public Schools were made free, attendance was compulsory and all authority came from the Department of Education."

THE LONG HOUSE PEOPLE

By Elliott Moses

Introduction by W. C. Barrie:

My recollections of Mr. Moses cover more than 30 years in the Ontario Plowmen's Association of which he is a past president and director and for whom he took a plowing team to Britain. His home is on the Grand River, one and a half miles from Ohswéken. Mr. Moses is well known and has represented the Six Nations at many meetings. We welcome him to our 45th annual meeting.

Mr. Will Barrie is an old friend. What he has said about me I can also say about him. When I was in Britain I sat with Lord Adam and his wife. Lord Adam remarked that he had never expected to sit beside Moses, and I replied that I had never expected to sit beside Adam. Lord Adam was the only commoner who became a lord and people were surprised to learn that his wife did her own work.

Most of the Indians who settled along the Grand River are now a modern people and among the most advanced Indians in North America. Buses take 150 young people to high schools in Brantford and Cayuga. At school they are making good educational progress and are taking prominent parts in school activities. On the reserve there are 1,000 students, 30 teachers, and 25 classrooms, which are supervised by the regular county inspectors. After a test the highest ranking student in mathematics in Brant County was an Indian child.

In 1957 there are on the reserve 600 or 700 Indians who still hold to the old tribal beliefs. I am pleased to meet with you for the special purpose of making some comments that will help you to better understand this most interesting film, "The Long House People".

This film, dealing largely with the religious customs of the Long House People of the Six Nations, has been produced by the National Film Board of Canada. The Long House religion was the belief of all the Six Nations in the early days, and now that most of the people are Christians and the old religion is losing ground, the government considered it most important to preserve some of the ritual for future generations to see. How different from the attitude of the early missionaries and teachers who tried to stamp out the ancient customs! My father used to tell that he was punished if caught using the Indian tongue on the school playgrounds.

Since these people do not believe in publicizing their religious practices, it was first necessary to secure their permission and co-

operation. Most of those participating are living Long House People who were satisfied when they learned that the film would be used only for educational purposes.

The first scene is that of a famous young Indian dancer standing on an elevation to view the sunrise. Then he wends his way to his rather modern home and to his wife and child. After chatting for a few minutes in his native tongue he proceeds to the field where he uses a modern tractor to prepare the land for corn planting. Eventually the corn is planted and the people wait for growth to develop. The weather is unfavourable, the rain does not come, and the crop withers. The old chiefs are concerned and after examining the earth, they report to the tribe and decide to have a ceremonial rain dance.

The dance is held, the rain comes, and in due time the harvest is on in the old-fashioned way in which the corn is picked, braided, and hung high on poles to dry. Corn is the principal food of the Indian people and one of the important foods which they have given to the world.

When the harvest is finished the whole tribe gathers to participate in a religious ceremonial dance of thanksgiving. This is one of a number of dances held throughout the year. Actually, they put the Christian people to shame when it comes to recognizing the goodness and greatness of one to whom they refer as "The Great Spirit". It is not unusual for them to spend three or four days in succession in their ceremonial gatherings to show their faith.

To be a chief in an Indian tribe is an honour and a responsibility that comes to only a few. Those who are chosen must be honest and upright men who are not allowed to go to war because of the importance of their position. Only by appealing to the chiefs in council may a chief become a warrior. If he is granted permission, he must go through a special ceremony, whereby symbolically his power is taken from him and placed away until he returns. Should he be killed in battle his position may then be conferred on a young warrior, usually the eldest son of the deceased chief. If a chief goes to war against the wishes of the council and is killed, a new chief could not be appointed from his family.

The next scene shows an old chief who is very ill and is being watched over by a kind old woman of the tribe. The sick chief calls for the medicine men to come and heal him. They come, wearing their ritual masks and in preparation the stove door is opened. As the ceremony proceeds you will observe how the medicine men take ashes from the stove and rub them on the head of the sick chief. Ashes have always been used in such cases because of their supposed purifying agencies. The ceremony is finished and when the old chief has not improved, he finally sits up and in his native tongue expresses his peace with the Great Spirit. Then he takes his journey

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AN INTERVIEW WITH A SENIOR CITIZEN,

MRS. J. Y. GRAHAM

By Carol Dunnett

A most rewarding experience for me during recent months was making the acquaintance of Mrs. Nellie Graham, widow of James Young Graham who was well-known in Galt for many years. Mrs. Graham, who will celebrate her 96th birthday on March 14, 1958, now resides at Preston Springs where she delights all those who come in contact with her with tales of her interesting family and the early history of this section of the country.

Born in Sheffield, Ontario, in 1862, Nellie Lundy Graham was the daughter of the late Dr. J. B. Lundy and Lydia Eck Lundy. Dr. Lundy was born in Whitchurch township near Newmarket, the son of Isaac and Kezia Bostwick Lundy. Isaac Lundy was a stern old Quaker from Pennsylvania who settled at Newmarket. It was the custom in those days for the head of the family to decide the future occupation of his children and Isaac had decreed that John B. should assume his responsibility on the farm. However, John B. revolted against the idea since it had always been his dream that one day he should become a doctor. Thus it was that he left home without his staid old father's permission, determined to start his career by teaching school. After attending Rockwood Academy and later Toronto Medical School, he married one of his former pupils, Miss Lydia Eck, and settled in Sheffield where he practised medicine in the old home located on the property presently owned by Dr. Seaton. This home was later burned, charred beyond recognition, and all the surrounding growth completely destroyed.

Mrs. Graham, recalling the old stone school at Sheffield, is pleased that it still stands. She remembers many trips through the "Toll Gate" at the intersection of Concession St. and the Hamilton Highway, then known as the "Macadamized Road."

In 1878 Dr. Lundy moved his family to Galt, to the Date residence on North Water St. In 1881 fire destroyed this house but they were able to save most of the furniture since the fire burned slowly. The "Tassie Boys" having come to watch the fire and make an attempt at helping, had a gay time parading down to Main St. with blackened faces. The wreckage and property were sold to Thomas Todd who rebuilt it and added a strip of land on each side. It is now occupied by his grandson, M. Milne Todd.

Of interest to many readers will be the marriages of two of Mrs. Graham's sisters. Kezia became the wife of F. G. Hughes, a dentist; Dorita, known as "Dete," the first wife of the late Dr.

J. S. Wardlaw. Two brothers followed in their father's footsteps, Frank, a bachelor, becoming well-known in the field of medicine in Manitoba while Edgar married and also practised in Portage La Prairie. Dr. Edgar's son, Frank, is a medical doctor in Calgary.

In 1886 Nellie Lundy married James Young Graham, whose grandfather, Thomas Graham, emigrated from Ecclefechan, Scotland, in a sailing vessel around 1800. Thomas' wife, nee Carlyle (a cousin of the famous Thomas Carlyle), and eight children began the trip with him but Mrs. Graham became ill and passed away at Ellis Island.

The eldest son, William, at 18 years of age worked as a carpenter, later as a contractor for many of the old stone buildings in Galt, notably the City Hall and the residence of his daughter, Mrs. J. P. Brown. This residence, next door to First United Church, was owned and occupied for many years by Dr. Leslie King.

Thomas Graham was buried in the ground now known as High Park but his remains were later removed to the St. Andrew's St. cemetery. His tombstone with inscription is in the pergola there.

James Young Graham, son of William Graham, was apprenticed for three years to Henry Miller, the druggist. He opened his own drug store on Main St. in part of the location now occupied by Woolworth's store but later sold the business to Thomas McLelland and moved to the opposite side of the street.

The Graham family all belonged to Knox's Presbyterian Church, under Dr. J. K. Smith, first minister of the new church. James Graham was secretary of the Board of Managers for a time before his death in 1902. Mrs. Graham recalls that a series of revival meetings which drew large crowds, were held in the new Knox's church. As a result of these meetings First Church lost many of its members to Knox's. When the union of the churches took place many years after her husband's death, Mrs. Graham transferred her membership to First United Church.

As a bride Mrs. Graham was taken to her first home on Oak St., the property of which ran through to Spruce St. where the Narrow Fabrics factory now stands. John N. MacKendrick's old home was next door. In 1886 the property on McNaughton St. where the late Mr. MacKendrick built his new home was just a cow pasture. The grass was very poor but when remarks were made to this effect the MacKendrick's promptly reminded the speaker to consider the beautiful view of Galt which the cow had from her lofty height.

The Graham home which still stands had three stories at the back and 1½ stories at the front and faced Spruce St. In this home Nellie and James Graham reared four daughters and one son. Isabel died at the age of 36. Christine became Mrs. George Lethbridge and now resides in London. George Lethbridge was the organist at

Knox's church for several years. Jean married C. S. Evans, a son of W. E. Evans, a former master at the G.C.I. They live in Chatham. Evelyn married Harold Phin, a son of James P. Phin, once prominent citizen of Hespeler. She passed away in 1936. Dr. William Lundy Graham interned in Toronto General Hospital and in New York, later practising in Toronto. He was on the medical staff at Camp Borden until the end the second World War and has since retired. He did not marry.

After Mr. Graham's death, Mrs. Graham sold her property to Percy Fitch who represented the Narrow Fabrics Co. She then moved to 107 Wellington St., staying there until her children were out on their own, when she moved to Whitby where her daughter, Mrs. Phin, resided. She made her home with the Phins for 20 years after which she lived briefly in London, Ontario. Seven years ago she came to Preston Springs where she feels the ties of the past are much closer to her. Her love for the United Church has remained strong in her heart throughout the years, and, since coming to Preston she has become again a member at First United Church in Galt. While she is not able to attend services she welcomes a visit from Dr. Faichney periodically, and keeps up with the church's activities through the press.

Blessed with a clear mind and her eyesight, she takes a keen interest in the affairs of the community. The last of her generation, she is delighted with the news she receives about her grandchildren, most of whom have continued to favor medicine and science. The influence of her father, the well-known and beloved J. B. Lundy, who showed his determination to conquer at an early age, has been evident in the lives of her own children and grandchildren. Once again the combination of Pennsylvania and Scottish stock has contributed much to the growth and welfare of our local community and has continued to spread out to the east and to the west coast as the descendants of Isaac Lundy and Thomas Graham leave the mark of their sojourn here.



THE LONG HOUSE PEOPLE — Continued from page 22

to the happy hunting grounds which in the Indian belief is heaven.

Then we see a tribe in mourning. They gather in the long house with the lights turned low, and proceed to perform the ceremony for the dead. Immediate members of the deceased's family take no active part in the ceremony and remain silent, while chosen people act as mourners. After the burial is completed the tribe installs a new chief to fill the vacancy. The final scene in shortened form shows the ceremony of installation.

LAYING THE CORNER STONE OF GALT CITY HALL

From James Young's History of Galt, 1879 — page 255

No public celebration took place on Galt becoming a town, on January 1, 1857, but it was understood that at the laying of the foundation stone of the new Town Hall and Market, which would come off in the spring, and when weather would be more suitable for municipal festivities, suitable honour should be done the occasion.

This celebration took place on the 13th of May, and fitly gave expression to the buoyant, enterprising, and ambitious feelings which pervaded the citizens of Galt at that period. It was the most successful municipal display ever made in the town. All places of business closed at three o'clock. Half an hour later, a grand procession was formed at the Queen's Square, which presented a very fine appearance. "The marshal of the day, Mr. Adam Ker, mounted on a dashing charger, appeared to much advantage. The Galt band, which took the lead in the procession, discoursed that 'sweet delicious music' for which they are noted, and were followed by the Galt Rifle Company, in full uniform, under the command of Lieutenant Busby. Behind the Rifles came the Oddfellows, and the looker-on had scarcely ceased viewing the rich uniforms and discipline of the corps, when the splendid banner and glittering regalia of the Oddfellows arrested his attention, and claimed his admiration. The members of the St. George's Society came next, arrayed in regalia, and the red coats of the Firemen, and the peculiar dress of the Hook and Ladder Company, added much to the imposing appearance of the procession. The children of the Public Schools followed the societies, and the rear was filled up by the Mayor and Corporation of the Town, who were dressed in a becoming manner for the guardians of the public weal.

"When the procession reached the site of the Town Hall and Market, it was found that an unusually large number of spectators had gathered from all parts of the surrounding country. A large platform had been erected in the centre of the work, and, according to the chronicler of the time, there was seated upon it 'a dazzling constellation of youth and beauty, composed of the ladies of Galt and vicinity.'"

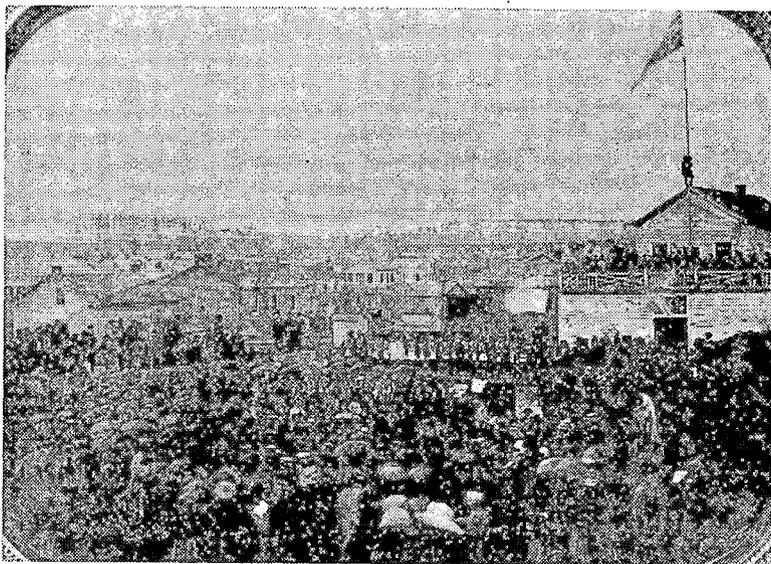
The ceremony began by the band playing the National Anthem, and by a deafening volley from the Rifle Company, after which Mr. Ker, the Clerk of the municipality, rose and read the following document:—

"The growing importance of the town being much inconvenienced from the want of a Town Hall and Market House; the Town of Galt, desirous of providing a remedy for that evil, and at the same time consulting the convenience of trade in this important and now incorporated Town, under the sanction, and with the liberal

grant of the Government, through the Clergy Reserves and aid of the rate-payers, resolved to erect this building of a character corresponding to the importance of the Town. Nor does it appear that any other time can be more suitable for such an undertaking, than when, in a period of general mercantile depression throughout the Province, the Town of Galt flourishes in affluence, population, industry, comfort, and domestic union — entirely free from debt to the Municipal Loan Fund — and the Province, at present, governed by a Queen, the encourager of the Arts, and under whose auspices it has attained its present eminent position.

“The corner-stone of this building was laid by Morris C. Lutz, Esquire, first Mayor of the Town of Galt, on Wednesday, the 13th day of May, in the twentieth year of the reign of Queen Victoria, in the year of our Lord, 1857.

“William Graham, Superintendent; H. B. Sinclair, Architect; and H. B. Sinclair and R. Burrows, Contractors.”



GALT CITY HALL SQUARE

May 13, 1857

The structure on the right has been replaced by Wesley United Church, but the stone one next to it still stands on Ainslie Street North. The frame building with the flag, before it was moved, occupied the site of the present City Hall and was the original hall of the Township of Dumfries. In 1817, Donald Fraser was growing wheat on this ground.



DUMFRIES TOWNSHIP HALL AS IT APPEARS IN 1957

When Galt City Hall was built in 1857, its predecessor was sold, moved, and remodelled as a house. It is now a double roughcast dwelling at 56 and 58 Cambridge Street, on the west side three houses south of Queen Street. Concerning it, Jaffray Brothers' **Picturesque and Industrial Galt, 1902**, has the following description: "The old hall, erected in 1838, was a large, square, frame, two-storey building with a gallery or verandah encircling it supported on stout wooden pillars, giving the whole structure quite an imposing appearance.

"The lower storey of this 'Noah's Ark', as it was then called, was used for theatrical and 'show' purposes, for public meetings, and as the rendezvous for the township fathers, who sat in state within its unattractive walls, enacting laws and regulations for the guidance of the settlers of Dumfries.

"The upper storey, entrance to which was gained by an outside stairway, is of especial historic interest in that it was the scene of the establishment of the first school of higher education in Galt." This was the beginning of the Galt Collegiate Institute.

FISHER MILLS

By Mrs. O. A. Snyder

W. H. S. Representative of Waterloo Township, Mrs. O. A. Snyder of Lyndenbrook Farms, contributed the 1955 Speedsville story. She is historical research convener for the Maple Grove Women's Institute.

Empires rise and fall, and so it is with our pioneer settlements. Some have enjoyed a constant, steady growth, expanding normally with the increase in population into towns, cities, or even large metropoli. Others, less favoured by natural resources or facilities of communication, have died out. This has been the common trend, the pattern most familiar to us.

Some of our original settlements, however, belong to still another class. They are those which have at no time shown evidence of much growth, but have simply adjusted themselves to changing conditions and have continued to operate on a more or less even keel.

Fisher Mills, situated one mile north-west of Hespeler, can be classified in this latter category. From the standpoint of population, the village itself rates just about the same as one hundred years ago.

Fisher Mills has never had a railroad. Its old stage coach line has long since been discontinued and has never been replaced by any other form of passenger service. Due to its proximity to surrounding towns, it has always been well supplied, however, with transportation facilities for its goods. Since the advent of motor transportation, transports, trailer trucks, and vans supply its industries' needs and carry their products to distribution centres.

Before we deal with our town in its present-day set-up, let us review some of its early history. A saw mill built in 1835¹ at Fisher Mills by Christian Strome apparently marked our "industrial beginning" as far as the village is concerned. Another saw mill built by Joshua Shoemaker two miles upstream in 1832² preceded the one at Fisher Mills, but was operated for a number of years and then abandoned.

We do not know exactly when the first dam was built at Fisher Mills. In 1842³ Christian Strome sold his saw mill to Jacob Fisher. Records in the possession of A. J. Shantz, present owner of the mill property, show a transfer of water rights from Chas. Cossin (owner of the Globe Hotel built on the north side

1. E. W. B. Snider Chart, page 20 — 1918 W.H.S. Report.

2. E. W. B. Snider Chart, page 20 — 1918 W.H.S. Report.

Also Ezra Eby Chronicles, page 477, Vol. II.

Mr. Shoemaker living on the farm known as the Peter Reist farm constructed a dam and built a saw mill. On the evening of May 15th, 1840, while engaged in fishing on the dam, he fell off the raft and was drowned.

3. E. W. B. Snider Chart.

of the stream) to Michael Fisher — father of Jacob — in 1842 and to his son Joseph in 1845. Apparently the Fisher family also purchased 40 acres of land at this time. In 1852, water rights were again transferred to Thomas Stewart, purchaser of the mill property.

Chroniclers differ as to the date when the original flour mill was built. Some place the date as 1843 built by Jacob Fisher; others claim it was built in 1854 by Thomas Stewart.

That the dam in the course of its history has been operated at two levels is clear. That it was not built up to its present level in 1854 when the mill was operated by Thomas Stewart is also clear. Six⁴ acres of land and water rights covering an additional twenty acres were ceded to subsequent owners by Abram C. Clemens and John Clemens.

The flour mill built either in 1843 or 1854 was built on the site of the present feed-processing plant. It was remodelled and "improved" a number of times. When completed, it was listed as a "hundred barrel" mill, and compared very favourably with other leading mills in the county.

One historical sketch dealing with the mill at Bridgeport speaks of other good mills being Snider's at Waterloo, Fisher's at Fisher Mills, and Erb's at Preston.

The flour mill at Fisher Mills had an interesting history. In 1864 it was purchased from the current owner, Thomas Stewart,⁵ by Aaron and John Clemens. Rollers were installed by the new owners and a stave and heading mill was operated in connection with the saw mill which had also been purchased by them.

The flour barrels made from the staves and headings were completed in a cooper shop situated near the A. J. Shantz residence. This shop is no longer intact, but its timbers form part of Mr. Shantz's straw shed.

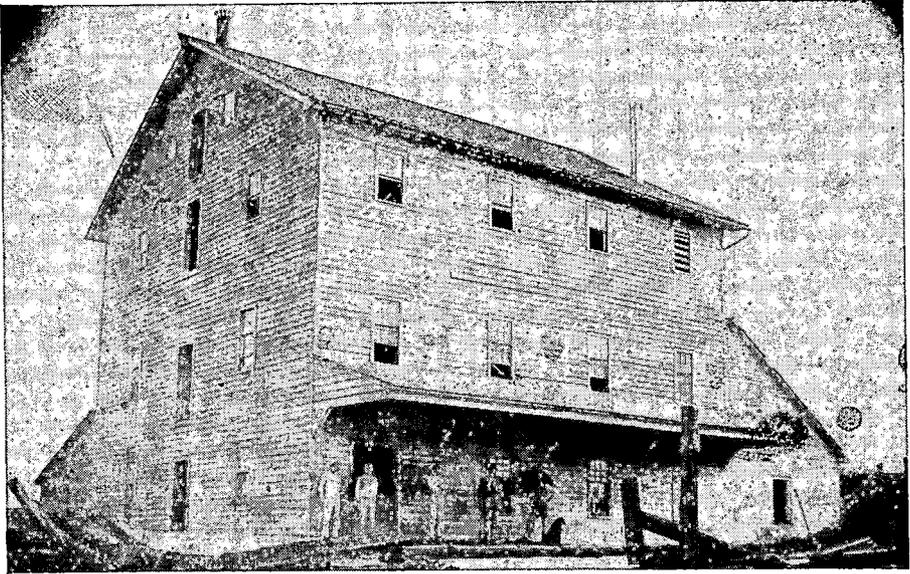
In 1882⁶ the brothers dissolved partnership and the mills were taken over by Aaron Clemens and after his death in 1888, operated by his estate for a short period. It was at this time, during the opening of wheat farming in Manitoba, that the owners decided to dismantle the 3½ storey mill and move it and its entire equipment to Birtle, Manitoba. Following this transaction, the old mill site was purchased by Joseph S. Shantz, and Absalom B. Snyder in December of 1890⁷. They operated the saw mill and built a feed grinding mill on the foundation of the old mill. A year later, the business was taken over by Mr. Shantz and some time later a cider and apple-butter industry added.

4. A. J. Shantz files.

5. A. J. Shantz files.

6. O. A. Snyder files.

7. A. J. Shantz files.



FISHER'S MILL

A. J. SHANTZ

Much of the early history of Fisher Mills has centred around the dam. It may be of interest to mention that for a period of five years, power for the town of Hespeler was generated at Fisher Mills. The dam is fed not by the Speed River, but by its main tributary, Chillago Creek. This is a name given to the stream by the Indians. We, unlike our neighboring residents, have no evidence that Champlain ever visited our area, but we do know that after the American revolutionary war⁸ the Six Nations Indians were given various grants of land in Upper Canada, the principal one being the Grand River territory. This comprised a section twelve miles wide with the River approximately its centre line from the outlet at Lake Erie to above the falls at Elora. The Grand and its tributaries provided a thoroughfare for the Indians in their trek back and forth.

The late Mrs. Sarah Reist Snyder who was born on the property now owned by the Ranchlands Golf Club two miles upstream from Fisher Mills, and who later, as the bride and wife of the late Levi Snyder, spent the rest of her life on their family farm beside the same stream one mile downstream from her childhood home, told of many interesting experiences with the Indians in the days of the pioneer settlement.⁹ Arrowheads are still un-

8. **Historical Notes on Grand River**, W. H. Breithaupt, 1930 W.H.S. Report.

9. Reminiscences recalled by members of family.

usually plentiful in two fields west of the stream, the one on the Clarence Rudy farm, and the other on the adjoining O. A. Snyder property. Whether this spot was an ancient battlefield, or merely a happy hunting ground remains a secret of the dim past.

Many of the farms lying along the east side of the stream are bounded by a range of hills which are sometimes spoken of as the outer fringe of the Credit Valley — Georgian Bay escarpment. During heavy rains and spring thaws, their run-off drains into Chillago Creek. The swollen waters of the stream cause the level of the dam to rise very rapidly. It has repeatedly taken a great deal of alertness and quick action on the part of the mill owner to prevent catastrophe. Water damage on the farm below the mill where Chillago Creek joins the Speed River has often been extensive. During the late 1880's a suit for property damage was brought against the mill owner by William Ellis, current owner of the farm involved. The court decision was in favor of the plaintiff. That this legal action did not develop into a family feud was later evidenced by the fact that a nephew¹⁰ of the plaintiff was married to one of the daughters¹⁰ of the mill owner. To avoid further difficulties, the farm in question was purchased by the succeeding mill owner and since that time clauses covering water rights have been inserted into all sales of land parcels involved.

A second spillway for the dam was completed a year ago. This does much to alleviate some of the difficulties of the past. A modern feed-processing plant with a seed-cleaning department was established by A. J. Shantz, present owner of the property, some years ago. Mr. Shantz also deals in fertilizers, fencing, twine, and many other lines of farm supplies. An Electrical Appliances Shop stocking deep-freezers, T.V. sets, etc. has recently been added to his establishment. The saw mill is operated seasonally, but not very extensively at present. The cider and apple butter industry has been discontinued. Flour milling has not been resumed on this site. The flour milled by Mr. Shantz has been milled several miles east from here in his other mill, known as the Speed Mill. Mr. Shantz also manufactures breakfast cereal and dog foods.

Our other industry which has added much to the economy of the community is a dual one, e.g. the growing and processing of potatoes. Soil analysts have found the soil in the district especially well adapted for the culture of potatoes. The Ontario Agricultural College Potato Experimental Farm, under the management of W. C. Calder, is situated in this district. Local agriculturalists grow large acreages of potatoes which are chiefly utilized in the making of potato chips. Ninety-five full-time and an additional forty-five part-time employees are employed in the local processing plant. During the peak season 900 bags per day are processed with an average daily turnover for the year of approximately 600 bags. Chief outlets for its products, of course, are within the Province

¹⁰ Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Ellis, parents of former Warden, Carl Ellis.

itself extending as far north as New Liskeard, but also selling as far west as the west coast. Established by E. G. Snyder, it is at present operated by Hostess Food Products, with Mr. Herman Neff, Manager.

A garage and service station, as well as a new residence, has recently been erected by Robert Pinder. Situated near the Chip Plant, Mr. Pinder enjoys a lucrative business. The old blacksmith shop operated by Fountain Winters is no more. On its site is the residence of Robert Saddler, a member of the township police force. The modern brick residence of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Paulitzki stands on the site of one of the two original hotels. Our oldest resident both from the standpoint of longevity and also of residence has been Mrs. John Cooper. Coming to the community as a young bride, and, although spending much of her time since 1948 with her daughter, May, in Sault Ste. Marie, she was a resident of the community for approximately sixty years. She passed away March 10, 1957 at the age of 93. Her son Bert and family live in the family residence here.

The old Globe Hotel, the stage coach stop, is still standing but was changed into a residence many years ago. It is at present the property of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Lichty. It was also used as a grocery store at one time by Mr. James Stager. The stage coach route from Preston to Guelph served its day well. On this all agree, although there is diversity of opinion among chroniclers as to the route itself. In a paper read at the annual meeting of the Waterloo County Historical Society in Kitchener in 1930, the late D. N. Panabaker describes the route as easterly from Preston to Westcott's corner, north through Beaverdale, then northeast to Fisher Mills and on to Guelph via Vance's Corners.

Looking at this route from a present-day perspective, this would be the logical way to travel from the one given point to the other. The Maple Grove Centennial Historical Committee¹¹, however, claim proof that the route came up through Speedsville, then east and north via the road leading in to the former Herbert Weber and Jack Eisenbach properties, then east to the Wanner Church and north to Fisher Mills. This latter route skirts much of the low-lying area in the district, continuing throughout on a higher, drier level of ground. To one familiar with the topography of the district, it would seem feasible to presume that this was the original route. It would also be within the realm of possibility to suppose that later on it might have been changed to the more direct route described by Mr. Panabaker.

It is interesting to note that Fisher Mills' greatest boom years in the rather hazy past were in the 1850's during the years when the main line of the Grand Trunk Railway from Montreal to Sarnia was being built. Situated as it is geographically, this on the surface seems a rather ambiguous statement.

11. Maple Grove Centennial Souvenir Booklet, 1951.

When we remember, however, that the roadbed between the Speed River at Guelph and the Grand River at Breslau was completed before the bridges over these rivers were built, we begin to see how Fisher Mills fitted into the picture. The great Western Railway had already been built through Galt, and supplies for the northern line were shipped to Galt and hauled by teams from Galt to Breslau, Shantz Station, Mosboro, and other points along the line. Since Fisher Mills was exactly half way between, both hotels and the blacksmith shop were kept busy looking after the needs of teamsters and teams.

Perhaps the most exciting thing that ever happened in the community from that day to this was when two locomotives — to be used as work engines on the road bed — were hauled with teams from Galt to Shantz Station. Short tracks were laid ahead for the locomotives to run on. One realizes what an engineering feat it was when one considers the sharp hills at Beavertdale and the lack of bridges over the Speed west of Hespeler. The story was often related by the late Rev. A. B. Snyder of the thrill experienced by local juveniles of that era, when the cortege came to rest for a weekend stop just below this farmer's barn. We have no official record of the rate of progress made in this project, but have often heard it quoted as three miles per week.

Of the early settlers in the rural community immediately surrounding our little village much could be written — the Clemens', Ellis', Stromes, Panabakers, Reists and Snyders, etc. Each family farm has its own unique history. Could these be compiled and gathered together, what a wealth of historical data it would give us. And could we add to these accounts a record of their hardships and the achievements of the pioneers, their joys and their sorrows, what an enlightening and enriching experience their perusal would be.

Lyndenbrook Farms lie within a three mile radius of the village. The home farm settled by John C. Snyder¹² carries with it the most poignant history. Born in Franklin Co., Pa. in 1792, he came with his parents to Canada in 1806. Son of Christian and Elizabeth Snyder, he, as a lad of fourteen settled at Doon, on the historic family homestead. In 1814, he was married to Catherine Shantz, after which they took up residence on lot 128 in this community. In 1834, the year of the dread cholera epidemic, he was stricken with the disease and died in the field in which he was working July 31, 1834. He left his wife and eight children. A daughter, Rebecca, was born April 10, 1835.

In 1824 he built the barn in use on the property and in 1828 the stone part of the present family residence. Though both buildings have been remodelled and added to a number of times, the foundations and hand-hewn timbers are as good as the day they were built — a memorial to the craftsmanship of the builder.

12. Ezra Eby Chronicles and family records.

His descendants have scattered to many far-off places. Many have also carried on on the home front. In the early history of our country, romance often flourished at close range. After the passing of John C. Snyder, the family carried on, on the family farm. On the adjacent farm another family was growing up, the Abram S. Clemens family. In later years three of these sons married three Snyder daughters.

The industrial expansion of our country brings with it an ever-increasing encroachment on our pioneer farms and on our small villages. As annexation after annexation becomes necessary and the identity of these farms and villages disappears, we watch their disappearance with a note of sadness, like the parting with old friends.

We would not wish to retard progress. We can only hope that the history they have made may be of some value to those who follow.



A ROAD AND BRIDGE COMMITTEE REPORT

1861

TOWNSHIP OF WATERLOO

Stengel Hotel,

December 21, 1861.

Gents:

Your committee on roads and bridges beg leave to report that we have inspected the bridge lately erected by J. W. Martin over a branch of the River Speed on the second concession of this township and have found the same completed in a good and workmanlike manner according to the plans and specifications. We have also inspected the road leading from said bridge to Groh's hill (near the Department of Lands and Forests office) and find the timber standing very thick on both sides which prevents the sun and wind from drying said road.

We would therefore recommend this council to pass a bylaw to have said timber cut down thirty feet on each side of said road from the centre thereof. We have also employed John W. Martin and Peter Idington to cut down Groh's hill on said concession and found that the same could not be done without interfering with the road leading from said hill to the Village of Hespeler (Highway #24). We have therefore purchased a strip of land from Isaac Groh, 225 feet in length and 20 feet in width, for the sum of ten dollars, to widen the curve in the said road leading to the Village of Hespeler. We have also agreed with the said Martin and Idington to remove Groh's fence and to put up posts and railing on the sidehill of the Hespeler Road for the sum of seven dollars. All of which is respectfully submitted.

WENDEL BOWMAN

S. D. MARTIN

Committee on Roads
Bridges.



KITCHENER-WATERLOO RECORD

ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH 1857

CENTENNIAL OF KITCHENER'S FIRST R. C. PARISH

At the laying of the cornerstone of the first St. Mary's Church by Bishop De Charbonnel, the sermon was given in both German and English by Father Holzer, S.J. Since there was delay in delivery of red brick, two feet of the upper wall had to be done in white. It was not until 1856 that the structure was completed and blessed by Bishop Farrell, the first bishop of Hamilton. The church was dedicated to St. Mary of the Seven Dolours. The building had no heating system and on very cold days it was necessary for the priest to thaw the chalice before it could be used. About once a month a priest would come from New Germany, now Maryhill, to hold services. In 1857 Rev. George Laufhuber, S.J. made his quasi-residence in Berlin and carried out his mission activities in the surrounding district.

In 1830, when Berlin had a few homes, a blacksmith shop, a tavern, and a general store, the sixteen Roman Catholic residents had to travel nine miles to St. Agatha to attend service. At times a travelling missionary would celebrate mass at a local home. From that small settlement has grown the expanding city of Kitchener which in 1957 possesses one of the finest Roman Catholic church buildings west of Toronto.

On Sunday, November 17, 1957 the congregation started a three-day programme to mark the 100th anniversary of the parish.

St. Mary's owes its beginning to a zealous group of Catholics from Strasburg, Williamsburg, Bridgeport and Lexington, who banded together with those in Berlin to establish the city's first parish. Primarily responsible for the founding was the Order of the Society of Jesus, whose members are known the world over as "the shock troops of the Roman Catholic Church". The Jesuits also settled in New Germany and slowly transformed Kitchener into a religious focal point. When Berlin had a population of about 750, it became the county seat and it was at this time that Rev. Rupert Ebner, S.J. suggested the combined effort to build the church in Berlin.

Father Laufhuber left in 1859 to pioneer in other districts. Rev. Francis Breikopf, C.R. became pastor on January 6, 1861. Two years later he had the frame tower erected and two bells installed. The Berlin council paid for the ringing of the larger bell at morning, noon and evening until they had their own bell. A clock with four faces was placed in the tower. Later this clock was taken to St. Clements.

In 1900 the cornerstone of the second church was laid.



REV. GEORGE LAUFHUBER

SASKATCHEWAN REMEMBERS.

By Florence Conway Pratt

Mrs. R. J. Pratt, of Wynyard, Saskatchewan, was born in Guelph, Ontario. After attending public school in Zealandia, Saskatchewan, collegiate in Hamilton, Ontario, University of Saskatchewan, and Saskatoon Normal School, she taught for four years until her marriage, in 1927, to a Saskatchewan barrister. One of the first women to receive a commission in the R.C.A.F. during World War II, she has always been active in church and community enterprises. She has served for nine years on local school boards, and, for a time, on the provincial executive of the Trustees Association; several years on the Hospital Board, one of them as president; and six years on the Wynyard town council, two of which she was a member of the Urban Municipalities executive. Most issues of the local newspaper receive copy from her pen. She writes, "On the whole, life has been pretty good, always interesting, occasionally annoying, but never boring, and I hope to continue to be active for some time to come." Mr. and Mrs. Pratt have a thirteen-year-old son.

On a rise of ground above the shore of one of Saskatchewan's lakes, one August afternoon, I stood, silent, drinking in the magic all about me. To the South, across the hay land, the fields were already golden with the coming harvest. To the North, so still was the air, the surface of the great grey lake was almost glassy, as it stretched away to the distant horizon.

We had been picking wild black currants, the large juiciness of them this year, almost beyond belief. A line from some long-forgotten poem came to my mind, "The pressed wine of the gold and scarlet years." Truly the prairie in autumn is like wine — rich, full-bodied wine. It races through one's veins and sets one atingle with joy and expectancy.

All the day, thoughts of my mother had been hovering in the background of my mind. How she would have revelled in this lovely spot; this perfect day! I wondered if ever, even once, in all her years on the flat, dusty, Saskatchewan prairie, she had ever dreamed there could be such beauty in Saskatchewan.

And then there was that letter which had come, "I feel that your memories of Ontario, the stories your mother told you of her childhood, your father's and mother's decision to move west and how they fared after they got there could all add up to a very good article for the Waterloo Historical Society Report."

What a lot of ground to cover! How does one put on paper, not just the memories of a lifetime but the collected memories of several lifetimes? For this is what my recollections of my mother's stories really are.

I suppose my parents decided to move West for much the same reasons as did thousands of others — the hope, if not of fame, at least of fortune. The results were much like those of many others, a pretty good average.

My father brought our little family to Saskatchewan in 1910. At that time, our town, Zealandia, was at the end of steel of the Canadian Northern Railroad, now the Canadian National running between Saskatoon and Calgary. It was, and still is, known as the Goose Lake line; but if ever there was a lake anywhere near there, the evidence of it had disappeared before my time of residence.

There was a small, muddy, water hole we called Devil's Lake, near Harris, the next town to the East. In later years, this lake was rechristened Crystal Beach and for a time became a kind of summer resort for many people from Saskatoon, 60 miles away. Devil's Lake was a more descriptive name. It was 12 miles from Zealandia and so far as accessibility in those days was concerned it might as well have been 1,200 miles.

The land at Zealandia was rich and fertile, but there was neither tree, nor stone, nor hill in sight. And the wind blew and blew and blew; sometimes a gale, sometimes only a breeze, but always it blew.

To eyes accustomed to the beauty of the Grand River Valley, how very bleak the prairie must have seemed. Yet the prairie, even in depression years, was never really bleak. On a moonlit night in August, the sheaves of grain marching in serried ranks across the fields, or on a winter's night of rare stillness, the sky aglow with the shimmer of northern lights, there is an ethereal quality to the prairie—a beauty which lifts the soul out and beyond the present; and for a moment in time one knows that even the least of us might yet achieve the impossible.

I do not recall much of that first winter — only that it was long and cold, with blizzards and lots and lots of snow. It seemed more like a bad dream than a fact when our elders worried about the Methodist minister and his family, who spent the winter in a tent. We were too young, my sister and I, to be greatly concerned for anyone but ourselves.

But the scarcity of fruit was something we could comprehend. All winter, there was talk of Ontario and especially of the wonderful apples which grew there — snow apples, so rosy and red, and russets! And the wonderful applesauce and biscuits my mother used to have when she came home from school. Somehow, apples, or the lack of them, came to signify the luxury of everything in food. In the fall, Uncle Neil would send us some. We talked of those apples and we dreamed of them and when, in November, two huge barrels finally arrived by freight train from Ontario, my sister and I could hardly contain our excitement. At last the top was off and someone reached in for an apple — alas! It was nothing but sodden brown pulp. So were they all, all the apples in both big barrels! Years later, when I heard of one of the Taylor boys from India describing the first baked fruit he had seen as rotten apples, a picture of our two barrels rose before me.

There were no heated freight cars in those days and the early prairie frosts had been too much for the tender juiciness of Ontario fruit. The huge barrels (even today I cannot recall ever having seen sturdier or larger) did prove useful. The following spring they were set at the house corners where for years they caught the only soft water we ever had in summer. In the winter, one was moved inside to a corner of the kitchen, there to be constantly refilled with snow, which, melted, supplied our soft water.

My mother was Kate McPherson, christened Catherine Wilkinson McPherson, 3rd daughter, 5th child, in a family of six. The others were Archibald, Neil, the twins Grace and Mary, and the youngest, Flossie. She was the daughter of John McPherson and Florence Wilkinson, a grand daughter of that Archibald McPherson mentioned in "Our Yesterdays" who, assisted by his brother-in-law, helped to drive some cattle and a flock of sheep from his father's farm near Caledonia, N.Y., to Dumfries. Whether one would call it Scottish stubbornness or a kind of quixotic determination to accomplish, if not the impossible, at least the very difficult, this same characteristic seems to have carried on into the present generation. I frequently find our son, Bill, and myself determinedly trying to do what appears to be well nigh impossible.

Like most children, my sister and I used to beg mother for a story, especially, "tell us a story about when you were a little girl."

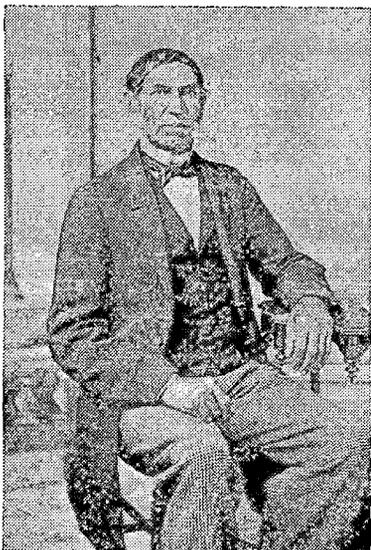
Only now, in retrospect, do I realize with what nostalgia she must often have told us those stories; tales of her home so far away in Dumfries, tales of her brothers and sisters and friends.

We heard much of life on the farm near Galt, but strangely, it seems to be those incidents which impressed some sort of character trait which stand out most vividly in my memory; perhaps we heard these more often. Even today, I can almost see my great grandmother, blind for fifteen years before her death, (whom I never knew) carefully running her fingers over the window ledges to make sure they were free of dust, or washing the plates and feeling over them to make sure they were clean of all food scraps. In this dusty country, where one might dust several times daily and still, on occasion, write one's name on the furniture, I frequently feel a twinge of guilt that I am not a better housekeeper.

There was a story, too, of how, in order to qualify for Sunday morning breakfast, all the children must first learn a verse from the shorter catechism. I have strayed far from such strict religious observance, but I sometimes wonder if perhaps that very story, and another of how an ancestor considered the installation of an organ in the church such blasphemy that he could no longer darken the church doors, may not have contributed in some measure to the fact I still hold firmly to at least a few principles.

A picture, now hanging in my own home, has very definitely contributed to my intolerance of several kinds of wrong doing. According to my mother's story, when great grandfather McPherson brought his bride from New York state to the farm at Dumfries, the two of them rode on one horse, carrying what few possessions they could, among them a wedding gift, the picture referred to above. It portrays the Life and Age of Man from the Cradle to the Grave, ascending and descending a flight of stairs at ten year intervals. In an archway, below the stairs, a young couple walk arm in arm, faces averted from a table round which are seated several gay young men, holding aloft their brimming glasses. Under this is the caption, "Resist the Devil and he will flee from you." Just why, I cannot tell, but as a child, that picture fascinated me. And more than once, when tempted to commit some offence against the moral code, the words and scene would come to mind, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

There was a story of grandmother who was small and wiry, rather like mother's sister Mary (Mrs. Thomas Taylor). Some boys had been coming out from Galt and making off with her prize poultry. One day, she happened to be outside doing something which required the use of a butcher knife when there came a terrible cackling. With-



ARCHIBALD McPHERSON

Born north of Loch Tay, Perthshire, Scotland, in 1802. Came to Caledonia, New York State, with his parents, in 1804. Settled on the East River Road, North Dumfries, in 1824. Died there in February 1895, aged 93 years.

MRS. ARCHIBALD McPHERSON

Born Grace Scrimger, in 1808, at Johnstown, New York State. Married in 1825 at the age of sixteen, and died in March 1898 in her ninetyeth year. Her father, William Scrimger, a native of Inverness-shire came to Johnstown, N.Y. in 1807, to Caledonia, N.Y. in 1820, and to Dumfries, Upper Canada in 1826.

out a moment's hesitation, waving the butcher knife ferociously, she took off in the direction of the hen house. The boys disappeared in a hurry; but long after, when some young fellows were passing on the road, one was overheard making the remark, "Steer clear of that place. A crazy woman with a knife lives there." Our sympathies were all with grandmother and we considered she was quite right in wasting no time in taking after the marauders. If they were thoroughly frightened, so much the better.

Grandmother, however, was an invalid for some time, and most of mother's stories concerning her had to do with her illness, her poor twisted back, and how she bore her suffering so bravely. Because of this illness both my mother and her sister Mary had to leave school earlier than the others. Perhaps just because these two could not continue with their education, they both were very determined their children should have the opportunity of good schooling. But also, I think, there was a kind of respect throughout the family, not just for book learning, but for that wider knowledge which comes from good manners, good habits, kindness and consideration. Certainly, in our Saskatchewan home, my mother was always on hand when someone needed help.

Mother told us too, of a lovely high swing between two tall oaks. They had wonderful fun on that swing, but unfortunately, one day it broke and the riders came crashing to the very stony ground below. No bones were broken and somehow the children comforted each other, trying not to cry.

And there was the story of the time Uncle Neil, the prankster of the family, raced the girls to the hayloft to see who would put down the first forkful of hay. My mother, always the tom-boy, got there first of course. With a mighty heave on the fork, she, fork and hay, all careened together to the stable below. On the way down, the fork somehow hit her nose and it bled profusely. The older ones took her behind the barn, comforted her and warned her by threats of worse to come, that she must on no account tell what had happened. Apparently she did not tell, for, though the family realized her nose was swollen from a bump, no greater thought was taken at the time. But often they would wonder whatever had happened to Katie's nose, "It used to be so pretty and now it was so crooked." It was not until years after her marriage that an operation convinced the Doctors of what she had long suspected; the nose had been broken.

Somehow, from these two stories, I learned about courage and loyalty.

There were not many books in our western home. We were far from the source of supply and express rates were high. But from the books we had, mother read to us, first the simple nursery tales, beloved of all children, and later from her school readers. She read "The



This East River Road house was built for Mrs. Pratt's grandfather and grandmother McPherson when they were married in 1869. The picture was taken about 1886.

Inchcape Rock" and we saw the rising waves of the storm and shuddered at its fierceness. With Lord Ullin, we too suffered a father's agony for a lost daughter. And when she read about the sailor lad, "My little lad, my Elihu," somehow we knew with what aching tenderness our mother loved us too.

I have never been there, yet I have seen the Inchcape Rock and felt the violence of the waves lashing over its rugged edges. I know a father's heart-break for his lost daughter. I know something of India, China, Europe. All this is mine from stories she told or read so vividly.

How can we, who have travelled the world over, even if only in our dreams (and who shall say the dream is not greater than the fact?) how can we find hatred for any neighbor? There can be only sympathy, pity or joy with them, an effort at agreement and perhaps some day some small contribution toward understanding and comradeship of all men one for the other.

There were Bible stories from a beautifully illustrated and treasured volume sent one Christmas by our Aunt Grace. And every Sunday there were the Sunday School papers.

Later, when I attended Collegiate at Hamilton, and visited for holidays at the homes of Uncle Neil McPherson and Aunt Mary Taylor, at Galt, all the beautiful countryside along the Grand River came alive in earnest . . . the golden reds and yellows of the autumn foliage, the flowing river, the apple orchards, the hickory nuts, the sheep in the meadow, the pin factory, the post office which so often had been surrounded by floods. All these, so real in mother's stories, were now visible facts.

She was determined that, even though cultural opportunities in the west were comparatively limited, such as they were, we would at least be exposed to them. Travelling concert troupes came seldom to our little town, but I still recall the very special occasion, calling for best clothes as well as manners. "Be sure to remove your toques," she warned, when the Toronto Ladies' Quartette visited our community.

My mother had a gay and happy spirit. She sang about her work. Small things or events, unnoticed by others, could please her greatly. When, during her illness, just before her death, she said to me one day, "I think I am glad I shall not get better. I watch the faces of the people on the street. None of them look happy any more." I wanted to cry.

But, in a way, what she said was true. People were not happy in those days of the 1930's and perhaps they have not been really happy since. Not in the lovely, adolescent, innocent way of the Gibson Girl days, at any rate. Perhaps this is as it should be. People, en masse, or individually, must grow and mature with the hope that one day the world may find a happiness undreamed of in the salad days of the adolescence of history.

Mother taught me to dream, to hope. She gave me whatever ideals I may have. In one of L. M. Montgomery's books, the author speaks of "the race that knew Joseph." In a world where physical frontiers are gone, where only the frontiers of the spirit remain to be conquered, the real heroes must be "of the race that knew Joseph."

If stern Scottish ancestry has passed down a little knowledge of the need for sternness still, a little understanding of human ills and weaknesses, and of man's great capacity for joy and gaiety and comradeship, then we are fortunate.

More and more today, women go out of the home to work, yet I think it is still true that "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world". Who has yet determined which has the greater influence in character molding, heredity or environment?

Although often monotonous, and usually unsung, through her influence on her children, woman's place in the shaping of man's destiny is as great, if not greater, today, than it has ever been in the past. I think my mother was one of those who "knew Joseph." For this, I am deeply grateful.

THE DOON PUBLIC SCHOOL

By Mrs. George Ayres

This history of School Section 27 of Waterloo Township was read at a historical research meeting of the Grand River Women's Institute Branch of Doon and Blair. Mrs. Ayres, Secretary-Treasurer, obtained the information from minute books of school board meetings, 1877 - 1956.

Until 1877 the children from Lower Doon attended school in Blair, and those from Upper Doon went to Strasburg. Blair had the first public school in the township while Strasburg had the second. What a long walk they had! It must be remembered that children started school at five years of age and stayed there through the whole long day.

At this time Doon was a thriving village with several industries. Chief of these was the Doon Twine and Cordage Company which was operated by Joseph and M. B. Perine. Mills and two brick yards also provided employment.

On Wednesday, May 9, 1877, a meeting was held in Doon to elect three trustees for the new S. S. No. 27. This was formed by taking properties from the older sections one and two, Blair and Strasburg. This arrangement was in accordance with by-law 400, passed by the council of the Township of Waterloo on Friday, April 20, 1877 at the Township Hall. The meeting was properly advertised and three copies of the published notice are still retained by the present school board. All property owners and tenants are clearly stated, including my grandfather, Michael Wildfong.

The names are as follows: From S.S. No. One: Frederick Beck, Henry L. Drake, William Thom, I. L. Byers, Benjamin Unger, Jacob Z. Detweiler, Joseph Detweiler, Abel Detweiler, James Schofield, William Graham, William McGarvey, William Marshall, John Tilt, Isaac Roos, William Hope, James Morrison, William Weaver, David Jemison, George Orr, Widow Clark, Jesse Jones, Joseph Henheffer, Joshua Pedder, Jonathon McFee, William Allen, Thomas Slee, Aaron Shantz, Michael Wildfong, Grand Trunk Railway Station.

From S.S. No. Two: Frederic Beck, Jacob L. Kinsey, Joseph Kinsey, William Weber, Benjamin Burkholder, George Bullock, James Card, David Cole, Frederick Bullock, James Morrison, Mrs. Watson, John Tilt, John Bear, Charles Kreason, Joseph Perine, John Shaw and C. O. Sizer.

The first trustee named was Thomas Slee, grandfather of the present trustee, Harold Slee; second was Jacob Z. Detweiler and the third, Joseph S. Perine. David Cole was chairman of the meeting. In those days school trustees after their election signed a "Declaration of Office" in which they promised to do their honest best.

On June 1, 1877 a meeting was held to "choose a school site, and to consider how the funds for purchase of same, and for building and furnishing shall be raised". After much discussion the loca-



DOON SCHOOL 1907

tion chosen was a part of the farm then owned by John Shaw. A notice inviting tenders for the construction of a brick building was inserted in both the Galt Reformer and the Galt Reporter, the leading local papers of that time.

The tender of Messrs. John and Benjamin Bean for \$800 was accepted and construction began at once. A total loan of \$1,050 covered all costs: \$800 for the building, \$100 for the site, and \$150 for the furnishings. What a difference between then and now! Our new school cost \$45,000.

Plans and specifications were endorsed by Inspector Thomas Pearce. I remember very well Mr. Pearce's visits to our school. We children were always delighted to see him, a tall old gentleman with a white beard. Following his inspection he always gave us a half holiday.

Everything went well and on January 3, 1878, the new building was opened with Miss Mary Hannah Slee as teacher. Her starting salary of \$250 a year was increased to \$350 after four years. She was succeeded by Miss Berah Bechtel, a relative of Mrs. Homer Watson.

So things went along, sometimes smoothly, sometimes otherwise, with a succession of names appearing on the books both as trustees and as teachers. Within ten years it was necessary to build an addition, complete with basement and modern furnace. The original structure had no basement and was heated by "the largest size Superior base-burner coal stove". Since two teachers were required Miss

Maggie Cutley of Wingham was hired at \$300 for the senior room and Miss Aleda McKie at \$200 for the juniors. There being no janitor, care of the fires, sweeping and dusting were part of the teachers' duties, sometimes with the assistance of older pupils.

However some labour was hired and entries in the minutes read:

Mrs. Miller cleaned school twice	\$ 8.00
Mr. B. Bear tended furnace	8.00
James Card cleaned outhouses	1.50
Coal for the year	20.61

This must have been augmented by wood, as even at the low price of coal the sum was not sufficient to buy a year's supply.

It was some years before complete caretaking was instituted with Jacob Beck, a relative of Sir Adam Beck in charge.

In 1916 one room was in use, but by 1920 it was necessary to re-open the other. Since then two rooms were used, although occasionally the attendance has been almost too small. The fluctuation of population was due largely to the practice of the Doon Twines Co. of bringing out immigrant families, chiefly from England. Most of these stayed here only a year or two and then moved on where opportunities seemed better.

The miracle of hydro came to Doon in 1912 when the twine mill was wired for power. Gradually the home owners followed suit. I imagine it was discussed at many board meetings, but not until 1921 did the trustees investigate the possibilities. Because the cost was a big item and many ratepayers considered it was unnecessary, it was 1932 before the school was finally equipped with electric lights.

The school fairs, which were introduced in our section in 1914, were a source of great pleasure and inspiration to the children and most of us were sorry that they were discontinued. In 1926 an adjoining field was purchased from James McGarvey to enlarge the yard and provide an excellent playing field.

In 1946 Doon became a constituent of School Area No. 3, along with Blair, English Settlement, Plains, Williamsburg, and Nine Pine Schools. This arrangement continued for seven years until in 1953 it was dissolved at the request of most of the sections involved.

Once again we were independent, with our own three trustees. The days passed uneventfully until Sunday, January 8, 1956, when very early in the morning, fire broke out. Despite the aid of Preston and Kitchener fire brigades the school was destroyed, leaving only the blackened walls.

Any joy which the children may have felt was short-lived as accommodation was secured in two of the Doon churches and lessons began again in a few days. Due to a very wet spring and summer construction of the new school was not completed for opening day in September 1956, but there was little lost time.

We, the ratepayers of this school section, take great pride in our beautiful, modern building which we hope will stand for many years, and from which children may go out to take their places with as many pleasant memories of the new school as we of an earlier generation have of the old one.

THE UNION GAS COMPANY PIPE LINE

By Andrew W. Taylor

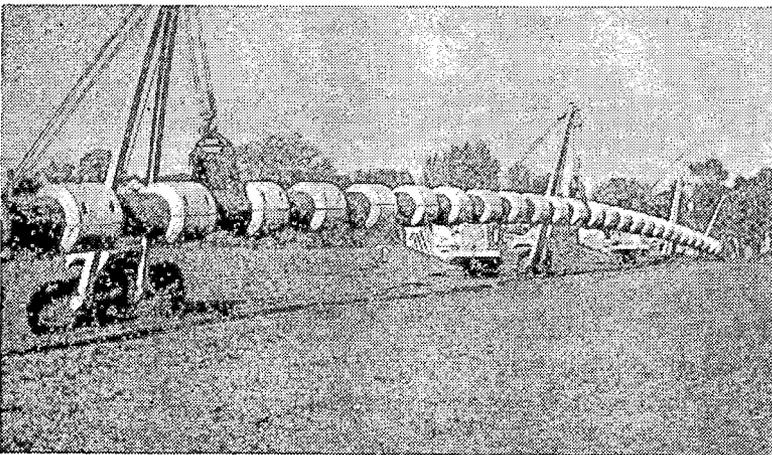
There is a fascination in watching the methods and machines of twentieth century construction. When the Canadian Bechtel Company laid the Union Gas pipe line across our County, in 1957, I had a ringside seat.

At our farm it began in August when a truckload of men, armed with chain saws and axes, began cutting a swath through the bush. They were fittingly described by a Gas Company inspector as "tree butchers."

In their wake came a crew to cut fences, place temporary gates, clear fence lines, and, with a power auger, bore across and place thirty-inch casings under railways and highway.

Pipe was laid beneath the river in early October. Sections were put together on the bank, weighted with concrete clamps, and carried and dragged to position in the bottom of a ditch that had been excavated beneath the riverbed. It was another month before the main pipe laying began.

One day in early November, caught up in the thrill of it all, I made my way to a spot midway between the Alps and Greenfield roads. I must have been on Lot 23 for I could see the Lisso, Currie, and Sherk buildings. I had come to walk the line and see once again the various pieces of equipment that had been steadily making their way westward past our house during the preceding days. At the point where I stood, from east to west as far as I could see, lay a ditch, six feet deep, with earth neatly piled on one side and 40-foot lengths



For the river crossing, pipe was put together and weighted with concrete, carried to the water edge, and dragged into place beneath the riverbed.

of 26-inch pipe strewn in an irregular line on the other. The giant which had dug this ditch was a great wheel with shovels on it; the pipe had been placed by truck and crane, working ahead of the trencher.

Somewhere away to the west, leading the way, were surveyors with tape and plumb bob. They had started at the western boundary of Toronto Township in Peel County, and, near the spot where I stood, had left a marker which indicated 201,041 feet.

As I struck off toward the Grand River the first crew I approached was a survey party following the bed where the pipe was to be placed, marking the curvature on each section. When I came to the hills known as "The Alps", back hoes, which are modern versions of the old-fashioned steam shovel, were digging a portion that the trencher had skipped. Two machines were broken and, at the foot of the hill, a loaded truck was so thoroughly stuck in the mud that even a caterpillar tractor could not release it. It carried timbers on which very shortly the pipe was to rest. Farther along the next operation was the bending of each length of pipe to the shape designated by the surveyors' markings. One after another each section was lifted by crane and clamped in a huge press until the instruments showed it had been shaped. Hard on the heels of this gang came men with a pushcart generator and an electric buffer, polishing the ends that soon were to be joined.

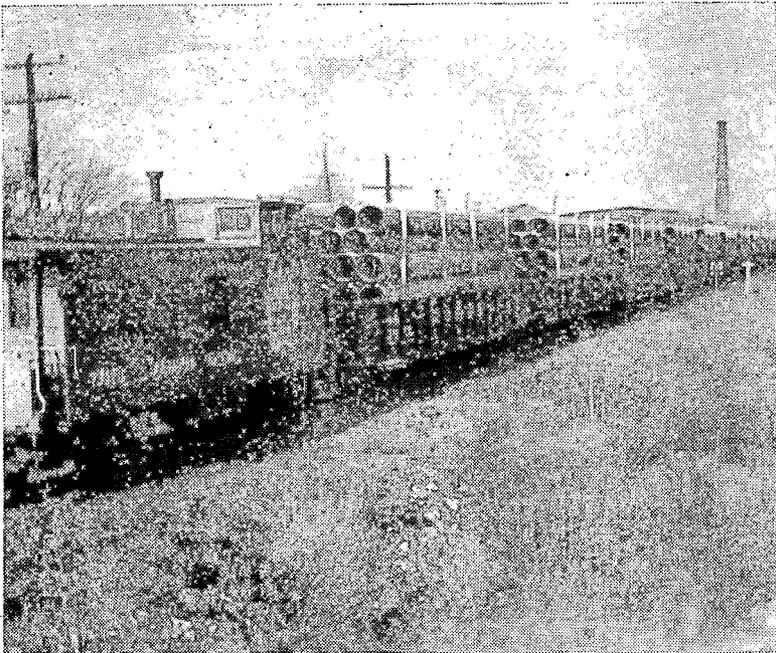
By this time I had walked nearly two miles and had crossed the road between Lots 18 and 19. The next crew had a welder. Each forty-foot length of pipe was picked up by machinery and held in place, as it was welded to the preceding one. The pipe line was taking form and was well above ground on blocks of wood. Another quarter of a mile and I met four men, three cleaning the joints with steel brushes, the fourth with a shovel, whose duty it was to see that under each joint there was room for a man to crawl. After crossing Highway 24A I soon came to a series of 10 or 12 welders, drawn on wagons, putting the finish on each joint. A man with a pail, gathering discarded welding rods, and another carefully closing the gap at each fence line, seemed to bring up the rear. However, an X-ray tester was working at the West River Road.

Somewhere east of the river was the group who tarred the pipe and wrapped it with felt and the ones who placed the pipe in the ditch. With caterpillar tractors and side booms they picked up the endless miles of tube and lowered it into place. Bulldozers shoved in the fill and levelled the ground.

All the workers seemed to have one thing in common. Any one of them, from the vice-president down, approached landowners with caution, and at the first sign of friction would hold up his hands and say, "Don't shoot me. I'm only a hired man. I don't set company policy."

The line has been built in haste in order to build up a market for natural gas in Ontario during the present winter. Connection has been made with the systems of Stratford, Brantford, Kitchener, Waterloo, Galt, Preston, Guelph, Hamilton, Toronto, and many other places. The supply comes from Texas, and across the border via two twelve-inch lines under the Detroit River at Ojibway, south of Windsor. It is part of the preparations for the time when the Trans-Canada Pipe Line will provide gas from Alberta. With the arrival of Canadian gas the supply from Texas will be cut off and the present pipe line will have a new function. Demand for natural gas in the coldest part of winter may be as much as twenty times that of a normal period in summer. Because the heating of homes and other buildings is a very important service, the Company has developed a method of providing adequate volume for all occasions. There are two underground storage fields in Dawn Township, Lambton County. Over the years the fifteen billion cubic feet of gas which they originally contained has been used up. Now, the excess of gas that arrives during periods of low consumption is pumped into these old wells to be held against the time when consumption is heavy.

Thus the line has a dual purpose. It brings American gas to provide supplies for a program of immediate expansion and it will be a vital part of the arrangement for handling the load in periods of peak consumption.



Pipe is said to have cost \$20 per foot

THE 59TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By Ada Currie

Miss Ada Currie, 37A Douglas Street, Guelph, is an active member of the executive of the Wellington County Historical Research Society.

Wellington County Historical Research Society were hosts to the Ontario Historical Society, in Knox Presbyterian Church, Guelph, June 20, 21, and 22, 1957. A fine collection of books and papers was on display by courtesy of the Guelph Public Library.

On Thursday afternoon, Mrs. Alex. Hammond and Miss Jessie Hill gave witty and illuminating talks on "Wellington County" and "Guelph City" respectively, following which tea was served by Miss Mabel Stewart, president of the local group, and other members of her Society.

In the evening, Dr. C. F. Klinck's appropriate address, "John Galt — The Literary Reputation of the Founder of Guelph," given in the city which he planned and where his influence continues, was much appreciated; and Dr. Templin's coloured slides of "Historic Spots in the Elora-Fergus District" and his comments thereon, were a delight.

The highlight of the Friday morning session in Elora was the reading of the "Diary of Mahlon Burwell, 1827" by Mr. R. M. Lewis. Following luncheon served by the Elora Women's Institute, the group visited beauty spots in the neighborhood: the Gorge Park, Mr. Brown's peony gardens, the County Museum, and buildings of special interest. The name of Elora is derived from that of a place in India, the antiquity of which dates back to 200 B.C.

At Ennotville where a royal welcome and afternoon tea awaited us, Mr. Addison Gear, chairman of the Library Board, and others received the guests and Miss Isabelle Cunningham read the history of the library — active and successful since 1830.

At the annual dinner, Dr. G. E. Hall, President of the University of Western Ontario, gave an address "Our Thanks to King Canute." Because of many requests, it has been published in Ontario History, Vol. XLIX, No. 3. Dr. George F. Stanley, representing the American Association of State and Local History, presented an Award of Merit to the Wellington County Museum for developing in a short period of time one of the best small museums in Canada, giving it to the County Warden, Mr. W. A. Walker. The museum, administered by a joint Board from the Historical Society and the County

Council, was an old store, renovated, decorated, and set up under direction of Miss Ruth Home, in 1954. Its harmony of light, color, and arrangement elicits appreciative remarks.

On Saturday, through the courtesy of the Department of Public Relations of the O. A. C. and the Museums Section of the O.H.S., pictures in colour of thirty-six museums in Ontario were shown by automatic projector.

After Dr. A. S. Hardy Hill introduced the subject, a panel consisting of N. S. Kelly, M.A., B.Paed., Ruth M. Home, Alice McFarlane, and R. W. E. McFadden, B.A., B. Paed., discussed "Junior Historical Work — the problem and need."

A bus trip through Guelph, and the unveiling of a marker to honor the memory of John McLean, 1799-1880, explorer and author, erected near his former dwelling, at which Professor J. M. S. Careless and Hon. Dr. MacKinnon Phillips represented the Ontario Government, concluded the program. Tea at the home of Miss Mabel Stewart completed the happy occasion.



THE PRINTER OF ROSEVILLE

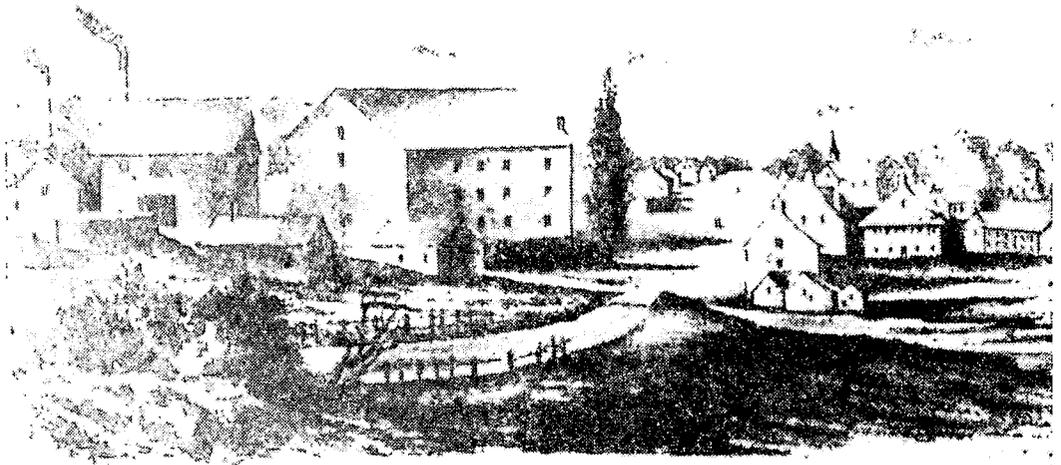
Louis M. Kaiser at the age of 90 is the oldest active printer in Canada, according to the "Canadian Printer". He has operated a job printing business in Roseville for 65 years and for 50 years in the same building he now occupies. His long association with the Galt Reporter began when he was learning his trade.

Mr. Kaiser is his own press composer and for many years has operated the business by himself. Down through the years he has printed for many firms and he is well known in the printing world. Recently he was made a complimentary life subscriber by the "Canadian Printer and Publisher".

Louis Kaiser lives in the 110 year old family home and operates his presses in a frame cottage of the same age. As a warehouse he uses a stone building which was constructed by his grandfather who lived in it for many years.

Our printer friend acted as bailiff for the Roseville area, and for 25 years performed the duties of a Justice of the Peace. At his advanced age his eyesight is keen, his typesetting touch is sure, and his handwriting is fine and full of character. The Waterloo Historical Society wishes him every happiness in the twilight of his busy life.

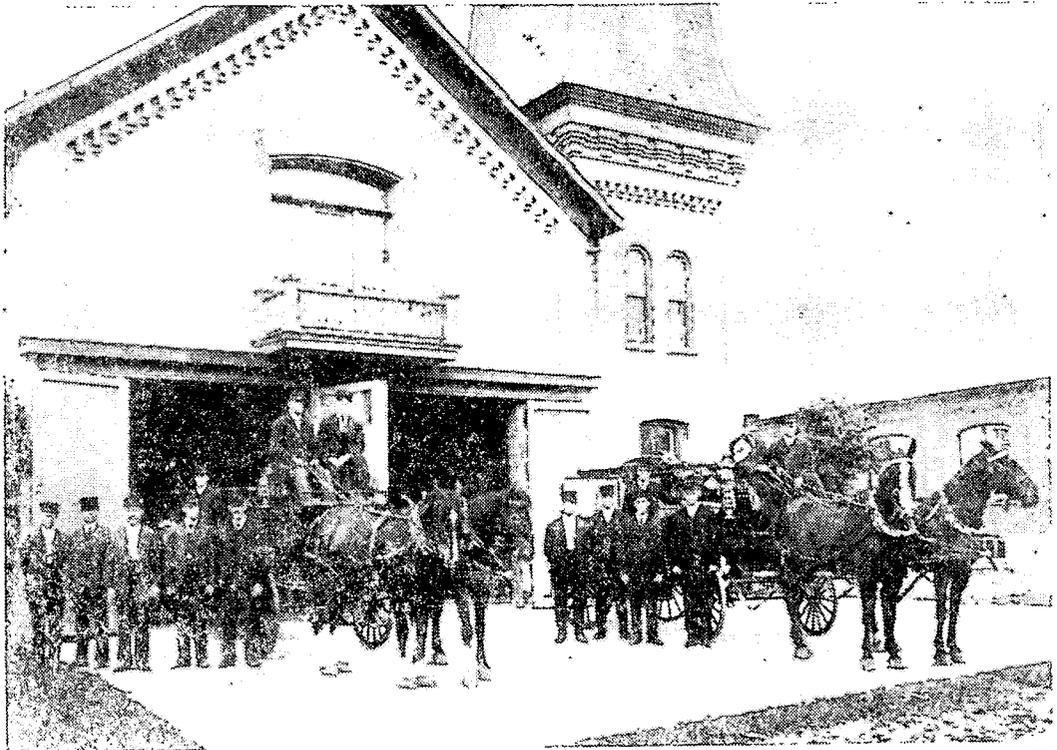
F. E. Page



ERB STREET WEST, WATERLOO IN 1853

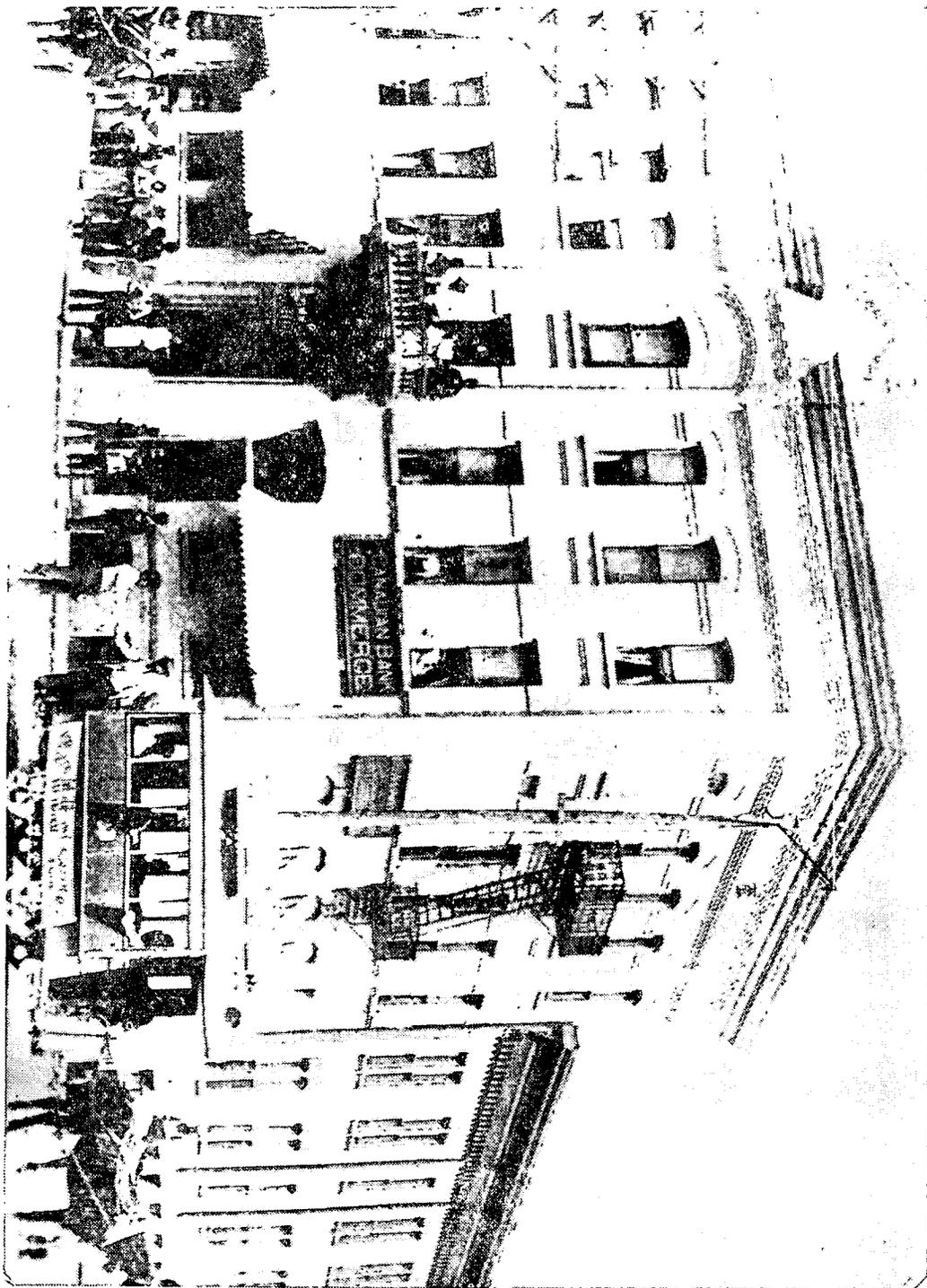
KITCHENER-WATERLLOO RECORD

In 1957 City Hall stands to lower right.
The large building in the centre is the old Seagram distillery.



WATERLOO FIRE BRIGADE OF 1912

KITCHENER-WATERLLOO RECORD



HORSE-CAR DAYS

KITCHENER-WATERLOO RECORD

Operated on single line of track every half hour between Waterloo and Berlin. This photo shows Zimmerman House (Waterloo Hotel) in 1890.

WATERLOO 1857 - 1957

By F. W. R. Dickson

On the evening of January 16, with the temperature below zero, there was a spectacular fire, a controlled conflagration of some 4000 discarded Christmas trees. This was the opening event in the centennial celebration of Waterloo which had been incorporated as a village on January 1, 1857. Through numerous committees and with the cooperation of hundreds of citizens, plans were developed for a combined Centennial Jubilee and Band and Folk Festival, June 26 to July 1, 1957.

After the announcement of these plans many items of historical interest were reported in *The Waterloo Chronicle* and the *Kitchener-Waterloo Record*. On January 5 the *Record* carried an account of the highlights of a talk by "Mr. Waterloo", Ford S. Kumpf, at a dinner meeting of the Waterloo Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Kumpf recalled that Waterloo was so thrifty in its infancy that it turned off its street lights and made use of moonlight for illumination. Before hydro came in 1910 the community purchased electricity from William Snider, a miller who operated a generating plant on Laurel Creek. The town stipulated that the lights were to be turned off when the calendar indicated that the moon would shine. Because of this there were many dark nights. In its early days as a town, a policeman during the day and a night watchman who was paid by the merchants provided protection. The constable's duties included ringing the curfew bell and cleaning the gas street lights. It was said that Waterloo was the second municipality in Canada to adopt a nine o'clock curfew.

Mr. Kumpf reminisced about the time Waterloo tried to annex 113 acres of Kitchener (Berlin). The property belonged to Joseph E. Seagram who wished to build his home in Waterloo. Because the annexation plan stirred up such a hornet's nest Mr. Seagram in 1896 donated the land where the K-W Hospital was built.*

George Randall, a farmer and contractor for the Grand Trunk Railway, and William Hespeler, a Berlin merchant, started a distillery in a Waterloo gristmill in 1857. The original partners specialized in the production of "Alte Kornschnapps". The Seagram family entered the firm of 1870, and in 1911 the firm was incorporated under the name of Joseph Seagram and Sons Ltd. "Seagrams

* On the 15th of October, 1896, Joseph Emm Seagram and Stephanie Seagram deeded to the Berlin and Waterloo Hospital Trust, for the purpose of erecting and maintaining a hospital, etc., Lot 15 of the German Company Tract, known and described as the Mount Hope Cemetery in the John Hoffman Survey.

Subsequently all bodies were disinterred and moved to Mount Hope Cemetery on Moore Avenue.

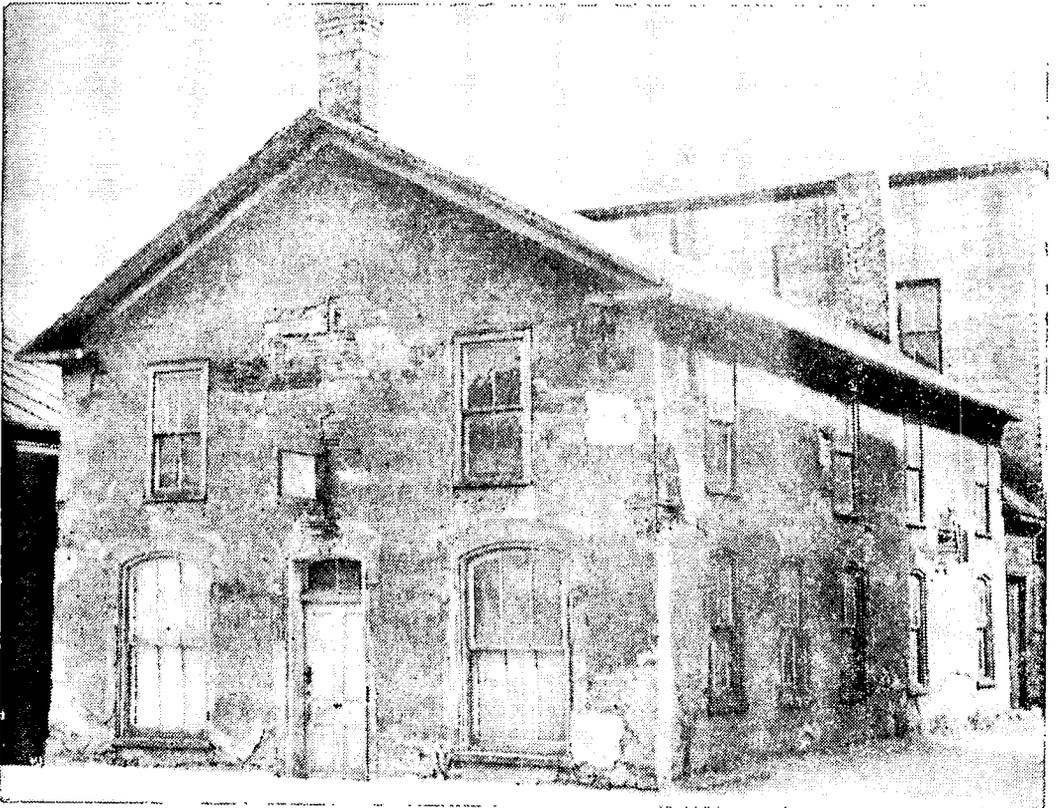
The deed of gift contained many provisions including points related to: No person to be refused admission because of race, religion, etc.; no part to be sold; and use of the land for other than hospital purposes would cause the title to revert to the Seagram Estate.



KITCHENER-WATERLLOO RECORD

WHIP BECAME BIG TREE

Poplar grew beside grist mill built in 1816 and razed in 1927.



KITCHENER-WATERLLOO RECORD

WATERLOO'S OLDEST BUILDING

Once the home of two newspapers, this structure at Erb St. E., in 1957 is owned by Waterloo Glove Manufacturing Company.

Since 1857" became well known far and wide. On June 27, 1957 the growing business opened a \$1,500,000 bottling plant on its thirteen acre site. Also, in their centennial year, Seagrams presented a \$250,000 stadium to Waterloo College. It was significant that the Canadian Open Golf Championship for the Seagram Cup was held in July at the local Westmount Golf and Country Club.

A giant willow, believed to be about 150 years old, was removed from the Seagram property on Caroline Street in June, 1957. This tree had provided shade for distillery workers for a century and for gristmill employees for a long period before that. It stood 70 feet high and had a spread of 100 feet. While this willow and its massive stump were being removed by crane and power shovel, some were wondering if this were the historic tree "that had sprouted and grown" from the switch planted by one of Abraham Erb's men in 1806 after it had been used as a whip on the trip from Pennsylvania. Research has shown that the tree which had been a landmark grew beside the old mill that was located behind the present Metropolitan Store. Mrs. Nelson Hoffman, whose home was nearby; remembered that when the old mill was removed in 1927 the poplar tree was cut down.

It is interesting to read about the tree in Parsell's Illustrated Atlas of the Dominion of Canada, Toronto, 1881.

"Town of Waterloo, within whose borders as at present constituted the first settlement was made in 1806. The pioneer of the town was Abraham Erb, one of a party of forty-eight who came from Franklin County, Pa., in the year named, to the Canadian El Dorado. Mr. Erb purchased a tract of nine hundred acres, embracing the entire site of the present town. Upon halting on the bank of the small stream which meanders through the place, a man employed by him as a teamster celebrated the arrival at the goal of their immediate hopes by planting in the ground a small poplar branch which he had used as a whip during the entire journey from Pennsylvania, and, to the surprise of every one, it sprouted, grew and developed into a majestic tree, which still spreads its branches to the breeze at the rear of the flouring mill; and, having braved the storms of more than three-quarters of a century, still constitutes a landmark in the locality, and a leafy monument of the first innovation upon Nature's handiwork in the embellishment of neighbouring scenes."

Numerous schemes were developed to advertise the centenary. In the spring bearded men were seen; in June the gold carpet was laid out on parts of the main thoroughfares into the city where on the yellow-painted pavement one read "Waterloo 1857-1957". Also in 1957 Waterloo College Associate Faculties began cooperative applied science courses and two municipal parking lots were established by council to increase free parking areas.

On Thursday, June 20, 1957 a stagecoach from Milton met a conestoga at the Kitchener-Waterloo boundary on King Street. Both municipalities celebrated their 100th anniversaries at the same time. The stagecoach carried Milton's mayor, dressed in clothes of the 1857 era; a suitably attired town crier; the driver; and three charming young ladies who wore attractive costumes of olden days. The coach, borrowed from the Toronto Transportation Commission, had been operated from 1880 to 1896 between Toronto and Richmond Hill. The conestoga, loaned by Amos Baker of Maple, was driven by Lorne Weber, who had guided this same 1797 vehicle from Pennsylvania at the time of the Waterloo County Centennial. After greetings, the procession, including Alderman Frank Doerner's 1927 Model T Ford, proceeded to the city hall where Mayor Ledwith of Milton presented 25-cent shinplasters to Mayor Whitney, receiving in exchange Waterloo wooden nickels.

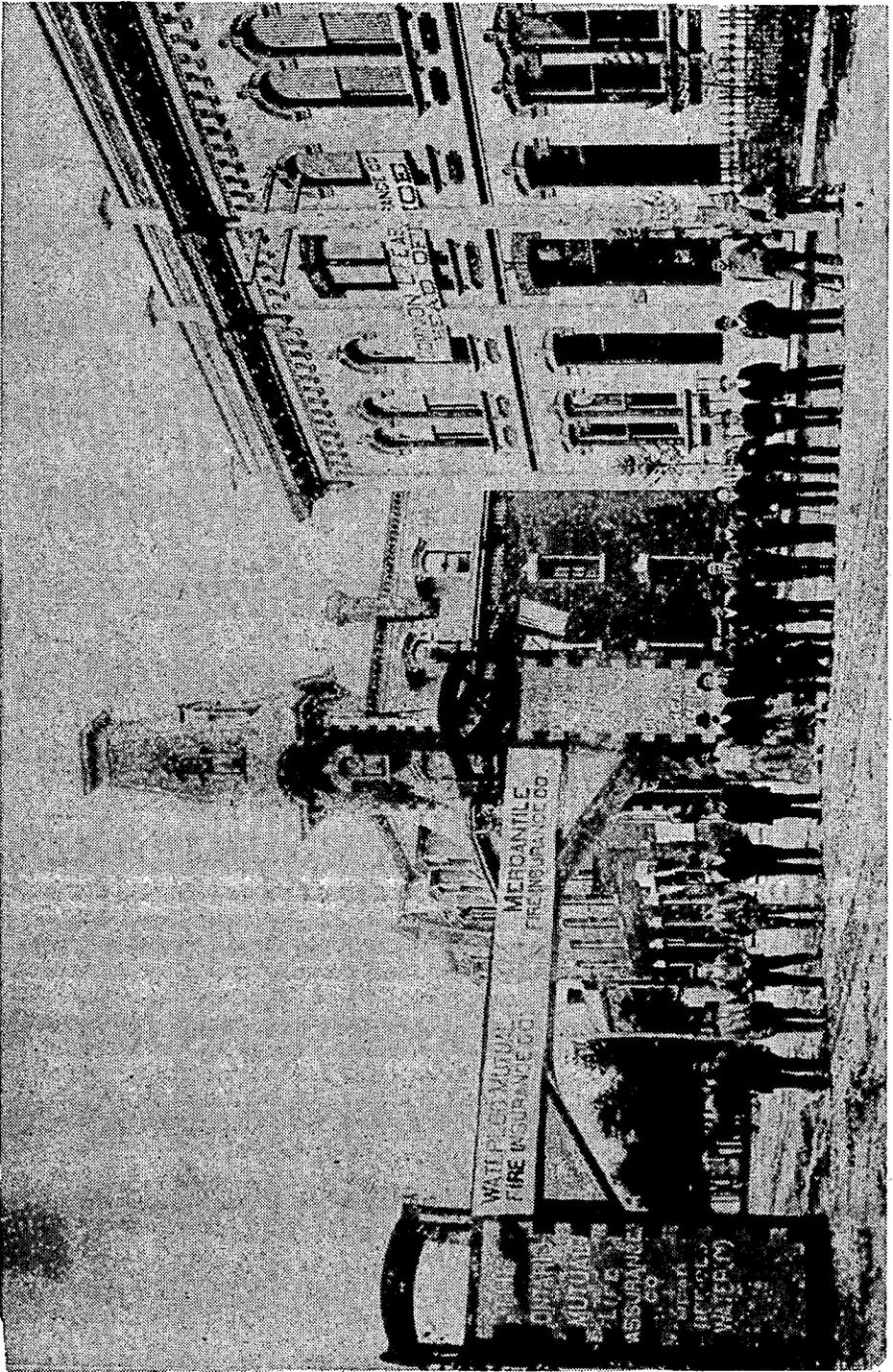
Arriving at the same time as Waterloo's main celebrations were torrential rains, the tail-end of "Hurricane Audrey" that did so much damage in the southern United States and caused the water in many Ontario lakes and rivers to rise even higher than after "Hurricane Hazel" that washed out the Waterloo County International Plowing Match in 1954.

The bad weather curtailed activities and decreased attendance and revenue. The venture cost Waterloo \$38,817.09 of which \$8,370.02 was in capital assets. The sale of the official souvenir programmes, which sold for a dollar, was also adversely affected.

During the early stages of the band festival the directors stood in puddles of water while their bandsmen appeared in a variety of outfits to protect their uniforms. The band festival, one of the largest of its kind on the continent, having struggled through a Saturday afternoon of scattered showers, was finally rewarded by a clear evening. More than forty bands paraded to the park to participate in the night performance.

On Sunday morning while centennial services were held in the churches the sun shone brightly and helped to dry the sawdust and shaving-covered park oval. Here, in the afternoon, Waterloo and Kitchener held a combined Decoration Day Service in memory of the Twin Cities war dead.

Another afternoon event was the unveiling of a plaque honouring Abraham Erb, the founder of Waterloo. Ontario Labour Minister Daley uncovered the plaque, erected beside the 138 year old log schoolhouse in Waterloo Park. A great-great nephew, Irwin Erb, told of the arrival of Abraham Erb and his three brothers. Dr. G. E. Reaman of the Pennsylvania-German Folklore Society was instrumental in persuading the officials, represented by Leslie Gray, to erect the plaque which reads:



INSURANCE MEN IN 1890

KITCHENER-WATERLOO RECORD

Executives of four Waterloo insurance firms in front of arch during Saengerfest. Waterloo Mutual Fire Insurance Company now occupies building on right. Other corner building is old Commercial Hotel.

"Abraham Erb (1772-1830). Like many pioneers of this district, the founder of Waterloo was a German Mennonite from Franklin County, Pennsylvania.

"In 1805 he purchased 900 acres of bushland on the site of this town. He settled here in 1806 and erected the first sawmill two years later. His gristmill, built in 1816, remained in continuous operation for 111 years, and formed the nucleus and social centre of a thriving municipality.

"Erected by the Ontario Archaeological and Historic Sites Board."

Later that afternoon in Waterloo Park at the commemorative cairn unveiling, Dr. Hilliard, who at 89 was the oldest surviving mayor, reminisced about early days. He asked if any one could name another place of 3000 that became the birthplace of insurance when it was surrounded by people who did not believe in insurance. Sealed in the cairn were important papers of city, park board, and centennial committee. Also for examination 100 years hence was the 1928 Annual Report of Waterloo Historical Society. This issue contains a 46-page history of Waterloo. One plaque on the cairn gives the reason for its existence and another lists the 1857 village councillors; the 1957 city councillors; and H. C. Gerster, general centennial chairman. Donald Roberts, former mayor and president of the Waterloo Chamber of Commerce, presided at the last two mentioned events.

On Sunday evening Dr. Glenn C. Kruspe conducted the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra and the K-W Philharmonic Choir in an excellent programme. After opening remarks by Mayor Leo J. Whitney, Rev. A. R. Cragg gave the prayer of invocation and as chairman called on H. C. Gerster for the scripture reading and Rev. A. L. Conrad to lead in prayer. Rev. J. B. Martin gave an inspirational address and Erich Traugott was trumpet soloist.

Monday morning, July 1, saw Waterloo's largest parade. It displayed old and new fire-fighting equipment, vehicles of all kinds, floats of industrial and business groups, riders, clowns, and bands. Features in the afternoon were a rodeo, a baby show and roving musicians. For those who wanted other kinds of entertainment Waterloo Lions Club provided a carnival that continued for two extra days. What had been scheduled as the final programme featured the beard growing contest and fireworks.

Postponed by inclement weather the centennial pageant, "These Eventful Years", was finally presented on Tuesday evening, July 2. W. J. Cowsils wrote the story that depicted in a series of dramatic scenes the history of Waterloo. Earl W. Stieler of the K-W Little Theatre directed and with many able assistants produced a fine performance.

It has been impossible to describe all the displays in the park and in places of business; and to name all who contributed to the celebrations. May the satisfaction of knowing that they served their community be their reward as Waterloo begins its second 100 years of incorporation.

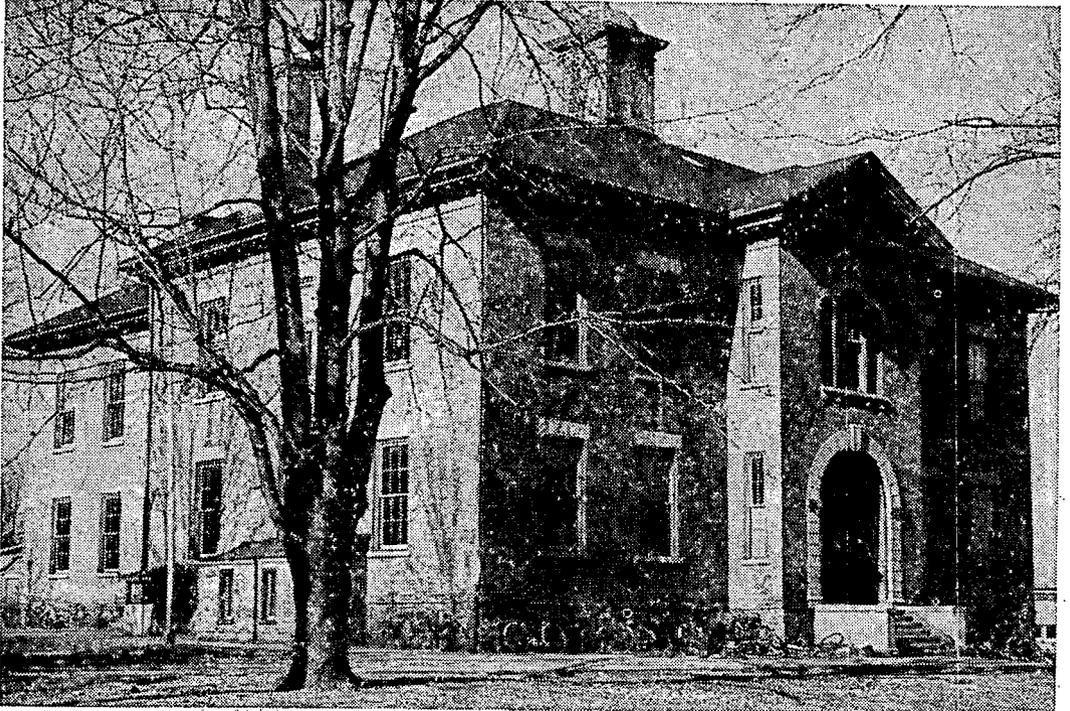


ONTARIO DEPARTMENT OF TRAVEL AND PUBLICITY

ABRAHAM ERB PLAQUE

Waterloo, June 30, 1957

From left to right: the Honourable Charles Daley, Ontario's Minister of Labour, who unveiled the plaque; Leslie Gray, a member of the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board; Mayor J. Leo Whitney, Q.C., Waterloo; Irvin Erb, great-great nephew of the pioneer whom the plaque commemorates; and Donald A. Roberts, former mayor and president of the Waterloo Chamber of Commerce.



CENTRAL SCHOOL, WATERLOO 1855-1952

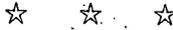
KITCHENER-WATERLOO RECORD



WATERLOO'S FIRST SCHOOL 1820

KITCHENER-WATERLOO RECORD

Waterloo's first school was the log cabin (lower photo) built in 1820. The second school was a stone structure erected in 1840. Central School (top photo) was the third school. It was built in 1855 and was razed in 1952 when MacGregor School was constructed.



FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE IN WATERLOO — BUILT 1820

"This school building was erected on the present site of No. 3 Church (Central) St., Waterloo, on the south side of Church St. near King St. in the year 1820 and served as a school for 23 years. In 1843 it was removed to a site east of the Kitchener and Waterloo Collegiate and Technical Institute, King St., Kitchener, where it served as a residence for 50 years. In 1893 it was removed to this park."

INDIAN STONE

"Used centuries ago to dress skins, furs, grind grain, etc. It was found on site of Indian village, Suraras Springs on Huron Road, two miles south of Mannheim.

Presented by

J. G. STROH, 1928."

ANCIENT OAK

"Section of abnormal growth of river bottom oak which grew on Conestogo River flats near St. Jacobs. Circumference 18 ft., diameter 6' 7". 700 years.

Presented in 1910 by

J. G. STROH."

The above three signs are shown in the lower photo. In 1957 the Abraham Erb plaque was erected to the right of the school.

DIED IN 1957

Photographer of notables, including King George V, Canadian prime ministers, and Sir Winston Churchill, Ernest Denton, 74, died November 11. He took more than 1,000,000 pictures in his travels, twice around the world, and was best known for his panoramic views of Waterloo County.

A well-known Galt resident and retired school principal, Enoch Eby, 80, died October 17. Mr. Eby grew up in Wellington County, obtained his third class certificate from Suddaby School, Kitchener, in 1896; and later attended Ottawa Normal School. He was an elder of Wesley United Church and after his retirement operated a gladioli farm.

William Henderson, Sr., 81, died September 28. Founder of Henderson's Bakery, he served as alderman, reeve, and mayor of Waterloo; as chairman of Waterloo P.U.C.; and as elder for 45 years and in other capacities in Knox Presbyterian Church. Former president of the K-W Rotary Club, he had for many years delivered the club's annual Robert Burns Day address and in 1954 was guest speaker at the Robert Burns Society of New York City.

Charles F. McKenzie, retired Waterloo Trust head, died August 2. In 1922 he returned to Galt to become first manager of the Galt Branch, Waterloo Trust and Savings, and was largely responsible for its growth. He was secretary-treasurer of the old Galt Amateur Athletic Association in 1923-24-25.

A native of Sheffield, Dr. James McQueen, 90, died June 3. He practised medicine at Lambton Mills, at Freulton for 28 years, and at Galt for 36 years. He was Medical Health Officer and Coroner for West Flamboro Township; M.L.A. for North Wentworth County 1911-1914; Coroner in Galt; former president of the College of Physicians and Surgeons; and first chairman of the Galt Board of Education in 1926. He was active in many organizations and an elder of First United Church, Galt.

E. O. Ritz, 76, who conducted a business in downtown Kitchener longer than anyone else, died August 20. When he started operating his drug store in 1905, it was open from 7:00 a.m. until midnight and specialized in drugs, prescriptions, and cosmetics.

Mayor of Kitchener in 1948 and 1949, James W. Washburn, 62, died December 7. He was an alderman for eight years, member of Kitchener P.U.C. for five years, a well-known custom tailor and past-president of the K-W Sales and Ad Club.

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For 1912-1947, see 35th Report, 1947. (Incorrectly dated 1948)

A detailed index is being prepared by Miss Grace Schmidt, reference librarian, and is available at the Kitchener Public Library.

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