



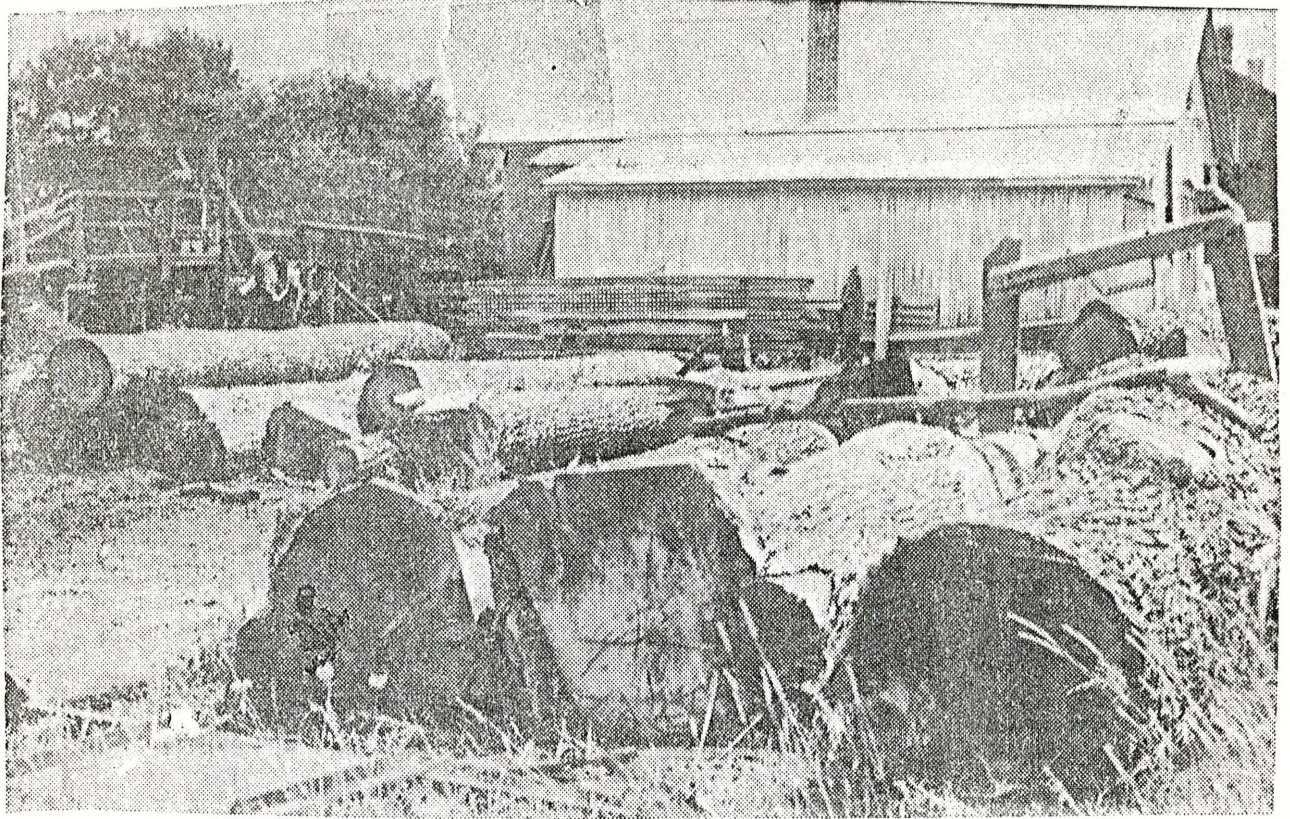
OXFORD'S GHOST TOWNS

During recent months, as *Sentinel-Review* photographer Ted Town went about his regular assignments, he's been gathering photos of the vanished settlements that are the ghost towns of Oxford County. Another is **Braemar**: located in East Zorra Township just northwest of the Oxford County Ski Club, Braemar received its name from a town in Aberdeen-

shire, Scotland. Some linguists hold the name was derived from the Gaelic *braigh*. "the upper part," and *mear*, "branch of a river." A post office was established here in 1862, but today only a few houses stand on the site.

W.J. Wintemberg, reprinted from the Ontario Historical Society's *Papers and Records*, Volume XXII, 1925.

SENTINEL REVIEW
May 18, 1988



THE CASSEL SAWMILL. top photos, is a thriving business in the community of Cassel and is operated by George Rockett. The sight of logs and an open air sawmill are just a fond memory to many peo-

ple but in Cassel they are a reality. Another scene of the past is shown in the **LOWER** photo of the Huntingford Church. The community of Huntingford is among the few mentioned in Shenston's his-

tory of Oxford in 1852. Today the Anglican Church at Huntingford, which was erected in 1839, is one of the few buildings still in existence as this community did not thrive as predicted. (Staff Photos)

Cassel

CASSEL

In the northeast corner of the township there is a community known as Cassel which served as the centre for the early German immigrants who had come here from Germany during the mass migration of Lutheran and Catholic Germans between 1825 and 1850. The name Cassel (Kassel) was taken from a city in West Germany which in 1567 was the capital of Hesse - Kassel Province and the capital of Westphalia from 1807-1813. It was also the capital of Hesse - Kassel Province from 1866-1945. It is situated on the banks of the Fluda Rand and is

the centre of the heavy manufacturing area of Germany where locomotives and other heavy machinery were built. Due to this, it was the centre of allied bombing raids which virtually destroyed the city during the Second World War. It is also the art centre of West Germany though the gallery was destroyed by the bombings. The paintings were saved. It is not hard to understand why this name was chosen as most of the settlers had come from Hesse Nassau and had come to this country to avoid coming under the heel of Prussian militarism.

In the census of 1852 there were 322 German born people in Oxford County and of this 212 were living in East Zorra. These German settlers were persuaded to come to Canada by Christian Naffziger who had come to Canada previously to explore the possibilities of forming a German community in this new land. He was so impressed with the possibilities that he returned to England and in 1824 he took up the immigration question with the British Government and cleared the way for German settlers to obtain land in Canada and in 1825 the first settlers arrived. Previous to this settlers of German descent had come up from Pennsylvania and formed a colony in and around Waterloo.

HIRED OUT

When the settlers arrived from Germany a lot of them were not financially able to start on their own so they hired out with the Pennsylvania Dutch settlers until they were able to strike out on their own. The Huron Tract at this time was open for settlement and many went to this. The majority stayed here while others moved a little south and took up farms that had already been settled, buying out the Scottish settlers who did not prefer the heavy land in this area. The Germans were particularly fond of this type of land as it was similar to the land they had worked in Germany. Today this type of land in the Zorras and in Easthope and Willmot townships to the north are readily recognized by the large acreage that is devoted to turnip growing and to

the magnificent orchards. In this area you will also notice that the buildings are usually very large and it is of interest to know that the German settlers were the originators of the present type bank barns that have become quite common in Oxford.

Among those who settled around Cassel we find such names as Schwartzentruber, Roth, Pletsch, Schroch, Lingelback, Junker, Kalbfleisch, Kaufman, Gickling, Erb, Iutzy, Ianzzy, Heinbuck, Hoist and Moghk.

Nicholas Kaufman was one of the early settlers and when he arrived on this side of the water he accidentally became separated from his wife and they both made their way here unknown to the other. Catherine Kaufman took up employment with some of the settlers. One of the ways the settlers tried her out for her good housekeeping habits was on her arrival to lay a broom across the door to see if she would pick it up or step over it; she picked up the broom and was hired. When she and her husband were reunited they took up land now occupied by Cassel and eventually built a hotel here.

BECOMES KNOWN

The Kaufman name became well-known as they operated a hotel, sawmill and a chopping mill and on the map of East Zorra in the Atlas of 1867 we find no less than five Kaufmans owning farms in and around Cassel. Others owning land in and around Cassel included Caistor, B. Elliott, Saltzer, Peters, Ropp, J. Currie, D. Morton, G. Hoist and J. Wettlaufer. At this time the village contained a good hotel, a grocery store, a wagon shop, blacksmith shop, two shoe shops, a sawmill and a comfortable schoolhouse. The population was never very large having about 50 residents.

There is located here a cheese factory and one of the early owners was Valentine Grenzeback who came out from Germany in 1848. David Morton, a Scot, also operated a cheese factory. In 1875 the Cassel cheese factory became known as the Elm Grove Cheese Factory and they made 2,300 cheese that year with an average weight of 57 pounds. A post office was opened here in 1866 and Henry Junker, the local boot and shoe maker, was selected as postmaster. He also was one of the proprietors of the hotel. In 1888 Simon Robrtson, the local grocer also served as postmaster.

South of the village, J. C. Kaufman had a sawmill and around this mill several houses sprang up and it became known as Slabtown. There was also a gristmill in connection with the sawmill.

These German settlers formed an Evangelical Church east of the village. It was a type of German Methodist and the present building now occupied by Mennonites was built through public subscription in the 1890's and many of the early settlers are at rest in the cemetery. In the passing of the years the Evangelical congregation diminished and the building was taken over by the Mennonites who in recent years have moved into this part of the township in increasing numbers.

EARLY SCHOOLS

Little is known of the early school but in 1839 three schools existed in the township. Each locality was responsible for its own education and later, when school sections came into effect, Cassel school became known as School Section No. 1 and is located at the road in front of where J. C. Kaufman had his Slabtown sawmill.

In the northeast tip of East Zorra where it joins Willmot and Easthope townships, a community sprang up around a sawmill and a cider mill which was operated by German immigrants. Though this community never reached any great size it did become famous as PunkyDoodle Corners. This name was given to it in fun by Squire David Peat of Ratho when he was getting some work done here and the name has stayed long after all else has been forgotten and today it is one of the best known names in Western Ontario.

SENTINEL REVIEW

July 28, 1962

Township of East Zorra in 1887

(Contributed)

In sorting over the old records and documents of the township of East Zorra for paper salvage recently, there came to light the assessment roll for the year 1887, when the present clerk, Edwin Parker, was assessor.

The roll contains much interesting data as compared with the last assessment roll of the township. At that time, that part of the village of Tavistock, south of

the townline, between the counties of Oxford and Perth, was included in the township and according to the roll had 316 of a population, with the balance of 3,553 in the township, for a total of 3,869. The last roll of the township records 2,829 of a population; thus it will be seen that the present population of the township is 724 less than in 1887. This no doubt is largely due to much smaller families of today compared with those of that time.

The total assessment in 1887 was \$2,954,320, and that of the Tavistock part was \$53,500, leaving a balance of \$2,900,820 for the rest of the township. The present assessment of the township is \$3,223,429, which is \$322,609 more than in 1887. The ratable property of the township has been further reduced since 1887 by 445 acres, being lands taken over by the Ontario Hospital and County Home, which are exempt from taxation.

At that time statute labor was in vogue, which the assessor had to compute according to assessments. Census of cattle, sheep, hogs, horses, the acreage sown to fall wheat, as well as the number of children between certain ages was taken.

The summary of the roll was: Acreage, 57,563; assessment, \$2,954,320; number of days statute labor, 4,855; number of dogs, 409; population, 3,869; cattle, 5,712; sheep, 2,025; hogs, 1,458; horses, 1,821; acres fall wheat, 5,364; children between 5 and 16—840, 15 to 21—328, school age 5 to 13—560 (which divided by school sections was an average of 40 to each school); vital statistics for the previous year, 71 births, 18 deaths; acres of woodland, 8,554;

swamp or waste land, 2,664; orchard and garden, 815 acres; cleared land, 45,420 acres.

In 1887 there were only five persons on the roll over 80 years of age, viz., John M. Wilson, lot 16, con. 16, 82 years; Mrs. Elizabeth Vincent, Innerkip, 82; Robert Campbell, lot 30, con. 18, 81; John Crackel, lot 34, con. 19, 80; and Peter Murray, lot 25, con. 10, 80. There were 45 persons between 70 and 80. The last roll contains two over 90, 19 between 80 and 90, 119 between 70 and 80, which with the comparison of population shows that the span of life has increased quite materially. The present roll shows 131 descendants occupying the properties of their ancestors of 1887, and there are 50 persons now living who were on the 1887 roll.

Hickson at that time had nine properties assessed and now has 50.

When Edwin Parker was appointed assessor he was a young man, 26 years of age, and in making the assessment walked the whole millage at a salary of \$65, commencing on February 9, finishing March 14, and presenting the roll completed on March 28. There was only one appeal, which was dismissed by the Court of Revision. Besides being assessor, Mr. Parker has served the township as councillor eight years, reeve five years, treasurer two years and has entered on his 30th year as clerk, which, in all, may be a record in municipal service. The members of council at that time (1887) were James Anderson, reeve; Louis Kaufman, deputy reeve; John McKay, R. W. Parker and Duncan Smith, councillors; D. W. McKay, clerk and treasurer.

NEWSMAKERS**THE JENVEY FILES**

Research from the files of Byron G. Jenvey

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The first railroad put through was the Port Dover and Lake Huron. With the railroad came prosperity. J. Vance opened a general store which served as a ticket office and waiting room. This building has been occupied by the Lovey's store and the Imperial Bank of Commerce. The present station was built in 1904.

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Spring work is in progress

A three phase electric pole line has been constructed on Thames Street from Ingersoll Street to Oakwood Street to improve service in that area, said a recent operational report released by the Ingersoll Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

General spring maintenance work is in progress, according to the report.

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The population of the village is usually around 150 people, but it is surrounded by a rich farming area.

The Wesleyan congregation followed the migration to Hickson. It obtained a deed for a church site on the north west corner on January 12, 1901. On February 19, 1901 a contract was let to Clarkson Brothers of Woodstock to supply all materials and build the church for \$5,180. The corner stone laying took place on June 18, 1901. The church bell tolled first on January 9, 1902. The church opening was on February 9, 1902, and the dedication by Reverend A. H. Goring of Stratford on February 16, 1902. Reverend Albert Kennedy was the first minister in the new church. His previous charge was Salford.

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In 1865 it was renamed Strathallen. This is a Scotch name for an English settlement. The English settlers were mostly Wesleyan Methodists. They settled here between 1820 and 1830. Circuit riders were their preachers. At first they worshipped in the pioneer school house.

In 1843 a church was erected on the south east corner of Lot 17, Concession 12. In 1861 a more commodious brick church was erected on the north east corner of the village. The first church was called Bethesda Chapel. The next was called the Strathallen Methodist Church. The Baptist church was built in 1875 and used until 1885, when it became a community hall and council chamber.

Early settlers were Joseph Fox, James Stewart, John Wilkinson and Grafton Smith. There were two taverns, a grist mill, a woolen mill, two grocery stores, a butcher's shop, a blacksmith shop, a saw mill, a cheese factory, post office, a school, a resident doctor, a shoemaker called 'Wax End' and a dressmaker, whose daughter, 'Swamp Angel' married 'Wax End.'

In 1876 when the railroad by-passed Strathallen, this village began to move to the new village of Hickson, near the railroad station. Besides moving many homes, the Methodist Church was torn down and moved to the west end of Hickson in 1902. The railroad caused the prosperous village of Strathallen to fade away.

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GENERAL

INGERSOLL TIMES

May 3, 1978

Strathallan Moved To Hickson Site

By ART WILLIAMS

If one looks at the map of Oxford and finds Hickson they will note that it is in the "Heart of East Zorra", therefore to write on Hickson one must also write on the Zorras as well, as one is not complete without the other.

The present townships of East and West Zorra were originally united for municipal purposes under the name of Township of Zorra. East Zorra became a separate township and a distinct municipality in the year 1845. Its settlement began about the year 1820. The township of Zorra was surveyed by Shubal Parke and the following were the first township officers: Joseph Fitch, town clerk and assessor, along with Henry Larne also assessor. At the time of their appointment there were only 154 acres cleared and 39 acres cultivated in the whole township. The first lot sold by the government was number two in the ninth concession and was purchased by a Mr. Strong in 1830. By 1861 it had a population of 4510 and according to the census of 1861 there were 901 children attending school in the township, also 168 births and 46 deaths. The township had three post offices, Braemar, Innerkip and South Zorra and also had a farmers' association which was known as "the East Zorra Agricultural Association".

Zorra was settled by people of three main nationalities, English, Highland Scot and of German Dutch. Being 536 from Scotland, 399 from Germany and 681 from England and 151 from the United States with a population so homogenous it was certain to cultivate a breed of people that would make any township second to none and the results can be seen today in the well-kept farms and the stately homes as one travels through Zorra.

STRATHALLAN

When one thinks of Hickson, one also has to think of Strathallan (Alma), a small hamlet that came into being in 1853 when Andrew Kennedy laid out the town site. By 1865 it contained a post office with John Lappin as postmaster and by 1867 contained two stores, a blacksmith shop, a shoe shop, one hotel, a physician and a carding mill; one church and a school with an average attendance of about 60. D. L. Murray was the teacher and the overall population was 80 souls. Some of its residents were Mr. Bartholemew, carpenter and builder; Cook Newton, a gentleman; Thomas Dunn, a farmer and William

Frost a laborer; Hugh Hamilton, a merchant; Charles Hopper, shoemaker; James Lappin, proprietor Great Western Hotel, Robert LeVillan, butcher; Daniel McKay, township clerk and blacksmith; George Manly carding mill operator; Henry Pigson, M.D. physician and surgeon; John Vandecar, tinsmith and dealer in stoves.

This hamlet was situated at a very advantageous location on the twelfth line of Zorra at lot 18 about a mile north of the Craigowan Golf Course halfway between Woodstock and Tavistock, on what is now known as the Mud Creek of the Thames River. Its location was ideal for all purposes except a railroad. When the Port Dover and Lake Huron Railroad went through Zorra in 1867, Strathallan was bypassed as it was not thought to be a good investment to spend money to overcome the gullies here when a station could be built at Harwood Corners, just a little north, that would serve the same purpose and people. This decision spelled the doom for Strathallan and the beginning of Hickson. A post office continued to operate here until December 1898 and since that time the dreams of Andrew Kennedy have faded and gone until now, no sign of Strathallan remains, only in the memories of such men as James Stewart of Tavistock and others who proudly call Strathallan home.

EARLY SETTLERS

Among the names of the early settlers who settled in what is now Hickson, we find the following; William Caldwell, J. Plaskett, G. Smith, A. Marks, J. King, G. Smith, D. Smith, David Copp, Daniel Dunn, Timothy Plaskett and J. B. Tree. Little did they realize when they put the station at Hickson that the station would grow and continue to be long after the name Port Dover and Lake Huron Railway had passed into history and that its successor the Canadian Pacific Railway would see the day when travel on this section would come almost to a standstill.

Prior to the coming of the railroad, Hickson was known as Harwoods Corners and consisted of two buildings; the William Caldwell blacksmith shop and the home of J. B. Tree. When it came to naming the station, Sir Joseph Hickson asked that his name be used and being president of the railroad, his wish was granted. He never lived here. He was born in England in 1830 and died in Montreal in 1897. He suggested the St. Clair River Railway tunnel at Sarnia but did not see this feat accomplished.

With the railroad came prosperity and J. Vance opened a general store which also served as a ticket office and waiting room for passengers of the railroad. This building has been remodelled and renovated several times and today is occupied by the Loveys store and the Imperial Bank of Commerce. The present station was built in 1904.

Hickson erected its first school in 1885 and one of its first teachers was J. A. MacDonald and he received \$200.00 a year for his services. J. C. King, now retired in Hickson was one of his students. This school building still stands and is used as a library and is located alongside the Loveys Turnip plant.

FIRST BANK

The first bank was located on the east side of the railroad tracks in what is now the Dawson home and was known as the Western Bank, in 1910. Later the Bank of Commerce took over and today the bank is opened twice a week with a staff coming up from Woodstock.

The first post office was opened at Hickson on July 1, 1883 with Miss Susan Vance as postmistress. She served until 1887 when Levi Elsley succeeded her and Thomas Loveys acted as postmaster from 1890 until 1910 when Cecil P. Harwood succeeded him and in turn was succeeded by Wilfred S. Rowe in 1912 and on February 1, 1918 Andrew C. Parker, the present postmaster began his duties officially.

The Strathallan Cheese Co. which was owned by the farmers of East Zorra, opened its doors in Hickson about 1880 having moved up from Strathallan. The present factory is the second one as the first was destroyed by fire. The products of this factory have long been famous where good cheese was marketed and today the Borden Co. continue to use the factory as a receiving station for milk, which is trucked to other plants for manufacturing purposes.

The site was purchased from a Mr. King for \$100.00 for one acre for the building and five acres for a hog yard for \$25.00. It was reported that 148 shares had been sold by January 4, 1879 and that it would cost about \$25 to receive the charter. A Mr. R. Johnston offered to make cheese for 65 cents per hundred.

On February 10, 1879 tenders were opened for the building of the cheese factory and prices ranged from \$2,490.00 to \$3,240.00. R. Bickerton received the contract. His bid was for \$2,700 officially opened at a picnic April 30, 1879. William Stewart was president and W. Harrington the secretary.

The present turnip plant was an outgrowth of the Loveys General Store and started around 1910 when they began shipping table turnips. In 1938 they started to wax turnips for the table turnip trade. They are shipped principally to the northern United States to Chicago and Cincinnati where as Rutabagas, they demand a good price on a keen market. Hickson ships between two and three hundred cars of turnips a year. The season usually starts in September and runs through to April and from seven to fifteen men are employed.

In 1904 the Oxford Telephone Co. supplied the residents of Hickson with telephones and in 1925 hydro became available. In 1957 Fire protection was supplied with the purchase of a fire truck by the township of East Zorra and located in Hickson across from the post office and general store of C. Parker.

Hickson like all other hamlets has had its ups and downs and the population has also had its ups and downs and at present proudly boasts of about 130 residents.

Among her sons who have left and made a name for themselves is Rev. M. P. Smith who served as a missionary in China and who now lives in Toronto.

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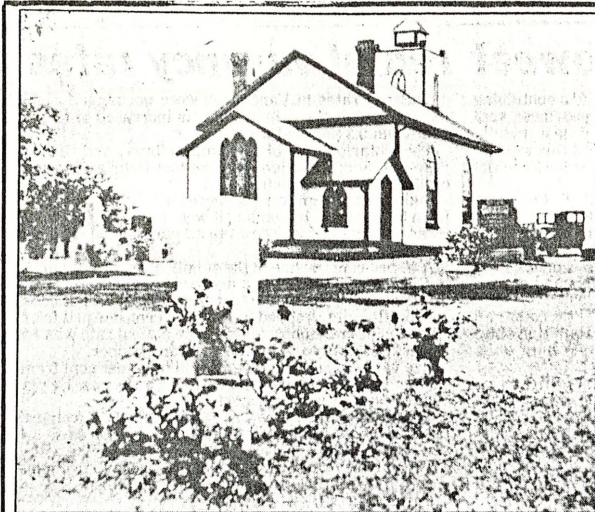
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In 1887 the Hickson area had nine assessed properties.



THIS 1926 PHOTO shows Christ Church, Huntingford, which had been renovated with a white stucco exterior and a green asphalt roof. Fresh paint in buff and ivory tones had been applied inside. Next weekend, the church marks its 150th anniversary.

IN HUNTINGFORD

Christ Church marks 150th anniversary

HUNTINGFORD — It was 1833 when Rev. Thomas Huntingford, Vicar of Kempford, Gloucestershire, England, sent his gardener, Joseph Turner, to Upper Canada to purchase land on which to settle his son Henry.

On Nov. 18, 1833 acting upon Mr. Turner's advice, Rev. Thomas Huntingford purchased Lots 12, 13 and 14 of Concession 11 in the township of Brock, Canada West. The area purchased by Rev. Huntingford was 600 acres and shortly thereafter Henry, his son, born in 1812, journeyed to Upper Canada and built a log cabin on this land.

Three years after constructing his home and clearing some farmland Henry returned to England and brought back his bride, Mary Ann Lee of Gloucestershire. During this same period of time other settlers arrived in the area.

One family already in the area when Henry first arrived was that of William Nixon. He received his land, lot 11, concession 12, from the Crown in February 1822. This land was sold to Joseph Thwaites in 1848 and again to Timothy Stanley in 1879. Phillip Shadwick received his land from the Crown in 1832. This was located at lot 14 and 15, concession 12 and was sold to Arthur Farmer in 1852. In 1836 Fredrick D. Fauquier arrived from England to engage in farming. In 1837 he purchased 50 acres at the centre of the east half of Lot 16, Concession 11. In August 1840 John Donaldson arrived from Cumberland, England and purchased lot 10, concession 11. Here the Cumberland Inn was built.

CHURCH BEGINNINGS

With a number of settlers in the area besides his son, Rev. Thomas Huntingford felt divinely obligated to provide for him and his fellow pioneers the ministrations of the Church. For this purpose he set aside one acre of Lot 14, concession 11, fronting the 12th

line, as the site for a church and cemetery. On this, with funds raised in England, he had a frame church built in 1839. In the autumn of that same year Rev. William Bettridge, first Rector of Woodstock, conducted services at 9:45 a.m. on alternate Sundays in the Huntingford Church and in the Church at Eastwood, both being near enough completion to be in use. How long Mr. Bettridge continued to conduct services with that degree of regularity in Huntingford is uncertain.

150th ANNIVERSARY

Next weekend, June 3-4, Christ Church, Huntingford, will celebrate its 150th anniversary. A Saturday dinner and garden party is planned at nearby Hidden Valley Park. Sunday's worship will be led by the Rt. Rev. Derwyn Jones, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Huron, and the parish's new rector, the Rev. Rob Doerr. The special preacher will be the Rt. Rev. Leslie Peterson, Bishop of the Diocese of Algoma.

As early as 1839 Rev. Thomas Huntingford had urged Bishop Strachan to provide the mission with a resident clergyman. In 1844 Rev. Huntingford sent his youngest son, Rev. Edward Huntingford, M.A., a graduate of New College, Oxford, England, to make an extended visit at his brother Henry's home, and to take temporary charge of the Huntingford Mission to organize the work there in preparation for a settled ministry. The first service conducted by Rev. Edward Huntingford in the Huntingford Church was Whitsunday, 1844.

The only record of Rev. Edward Huntingford's ministerial acts now in existence is a quaint marriage register bound in sheepskin. The first entry in it is the record of the marriage of Adam Shadwick to Esther Martin on July 1, 1844 performed by Rev. Edward Huntingford.

First Innerkip Settler Came To Area In 1822

By ART WILLIAMS

The story of the townships of Oxford is not a story of men against men, but it is a story of conquest by men with little resources save their own strong arms, iron wills, and alert intelligence assisted by women who along with their husbands were determined to win their little farms from the primeval forest.

Such was the case in East Zorra, a township unknown when Yonge Street, Toronto was built by Governor Simcoe in 1794. Zorra, which is Spanish for female fox, was originally surveyed in 1820 and included all the land of both East and West Zorra. By 1822 there were only about 145 acres cleared. The only taxable house was that of Alexander McGregor. There were 14 horses, 44 oxen and 84 cows.

In 1822 George Adams had purchased lot number ten in the seventeenth concession of Zorra consisting of 200 acres and to him goes the honor of being the first white settler in what is now Innerkip. He did not stay to see the village take form as he sold his land to Henry Goodman in 1834. The story of these men has been lost and today little is known of them.

On the 13th of February, 1851 George Lee of Scarborough purchased lot 10 from Henry Goodman and lot 9 from Francis Cardinal and shortly after sold lots to Charles Vincent and Andrew Thomson. To Thomson he also gave the right to build a dam to the height of 12 feet for the purpose of driving a flour mill. Also in 1851 Archibald Brown bought a lot now occupied by R. O. Hilderley and built a blacksmith shop which was to become a village landmark until 1952 when it was taken down. In December 1851 John Gould purchased land and erected a hotel also James Bell purchased land now occupied by the butcher shop and on this spot the first post office in Innerkip was opened.

MELROSE

It seemed that George Lee had purchased this land in hopes of starting a community here which he wanted to call Melrose but when the post office was opened it was learned that there was another town by this name. The postmaster at Woodstock, a Mr. Barwick was instrumental in the village being named Innerkip as he suggested the home town of his wife in Scotland. For some time it was thought that the name should be Inverkip as the town in Scotland was so named. In recent years it has been learned that the name Innerkip was the original name of the Scottish town. It had been changed to Inverkip after a family of Inverklides had taken over the estate of this town, and an Innerkip Society dates back prior to the changing of the name.

The name Innerkip means the mouth of the Kip which is a small stream in Renfrewshire, Scotland. Kip is gaelic for shoe-last.

Prior to 1850 all lumber had to be brought into the settlement from outside points presumably from the Vansittart Mill at Eastwood. In 1850 two sawmills were erected on the Thames River in the region of the eighth line bridge into Blandford presumably by a family of Deans from the Niagara district along with a grist-mill. In those days a miller was allowed to keep not more than one twentieth of a grist for his toll for his grinding, etc. These mills burned in 1885 along with a flour mill, the saw and grist mill were rebuilt.

ROADS

The first roads of East Zorra were the twelfth and sixteenth lines and in 1849 the Woodstock and Huron Road Company was formed and they made the twelfth line a good plank and gravel road. To cover expenses they erected a toll gate, one of which was near the present toll gate school. The fee charge was according to what was being taken through the gate, a buggy cost seven cents. This became a very important road prior to the coming of the railroad in 1867 as it was the main road to the counties to the north. In 1850 East Zorra produced 59,000 pounds of maple sugar according to the agriculture census of that year.

The first known school was built on the eighteenth line in the early 1850's and served students from both East Zorra and Blandford and became known in later years as the Union School and eventually No. 10 of East Zorra. In 1861 there were 17 students on the roll. In 1867 another school was built replacing the union school and in 1897 a brick addition was added to the stone structure. The present school was officially opened with a school reunion on December 13, 1930.

Such was the beginning of Innerkip, which in 1862 was listed as one of three post offices in East Zorra, the other two being South Zorra and Braemar.

Sutherland's Gazetteer of 1862 has this say of Innerkip. "A post village of East Zorra situated on the west bank of the Thames River and eastern boundary line of the township. The village contained one store, one church, a grist mill, two hotels, two blacksmith shops, a wagon and carriage shop, cooper shop and four lime kilns with a population of 200".

Mail was despatched Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 9 a.m. and received at 4 p.m. Among those listed with a profession or trade were the names Adams, Barney, Begg, Bell, Bowman, Brown, Burpee, Cullan, Clements, Culver, Davidson, Day, Dean, Doyle, Edwards, Gerrie, Gould, Greaves, Gunn, Harwood, Hotson, King, Laing, Lee, Lindsay, McDonald, McGill, McKay, McPhee, Rowell, Silver, Swan, Teeple, Town, Turner, Vincent, Walker, Wallace and White.

CHEESE FACTORY

1864 saw the coming of first cheese factory on commercial basis. Prior to that cheese was made at home. One of the first cheese factories was the Olive Leaf Factory on Lot 13 concession 16. It was owned by David Malcolm and Jane Lee was the first cheesemaker. In 1873 the East Zorra and Blandford Cheese Company was formed with Jessie Malcolm as cheesemaker. Another early factory was at the end of the 16th line of Zorra and the Strathallan Cheese Factory at Strathallan and Hickson. It is interesting to note that in 1875 the East Zorra and Blandford Factory was the second highest producer of the hundred and three cheese factories

in Canada and produced 6,245 cheese. During this period Oxford led Ontario with 48 cheese factories, Middlesex had 41 and Perth had 30.

The building of the Credit Valley Railroad which was to connect Toronto with St. Thomas began in 1875 and they worked from both ends meeting between Innerkip and Woodstock. The railroad officially began operation in 1879. The Innerkip station was built where the railroad entered Zorra. The present station was built in 1911 when the original burned. The CPR took over this line in 1883.

To Stratten Rowell goes the honor of being responsible for the first church at Innerkip when he built a frame chapel on his property on the 16th line in front of the present Willis Matheson home. It was one of the Baptist faith and services commenced there in the early 1830's. Prior to this these Baptists walked to the baptist church which was located on what is now Chapel Street, Woodstock.

The first Presbyterian Church was built in 1853 on land now occupied by the Presbyterian manse. The present church was dedicated on Jan. 30 1881, Prof. McLaren of Knox College being the guest minister. The manse was built in 1891. There was an Anglican church here from 1865 to 1925.

The Methodist revival meetings were first held at the seventh line bridge in 1882, and from these meetings came the present United Church building. The cornerstone was laid in 1886 and the church was dedicated on Feb. 6, 1887.

GAS WELL

Gas was discovered in the Innerkip area about 1900. This gas contained a large amount of sulphur and after being used for a few years in the homes of the village it was discontinued because of the sulphur.

The first rural telephone system in Oxford county was started in 1902 and 1905 Innerkip received its first phone being a toll booth at the present butcher shop. From this beginning sprang the present Oxford Telephone Co. which was formed in 1947 and is one of the few private telephone companies still in operation. This year sees the installing of the dial system.

In the spring of 1913 seventy-one rate-payers petitioned the County of Oxford to make Innerkip a police village. The first trustees were Jonathon Cowling, Dr. J. G. Hossack, and Dr. A. M. Hotson. The 1962 trustees are H. Zehr, R. Murray, Lee Malcolm. A new fire truck has been purchased to better the fire protection of Innerkip and East Zorra. The fire chief, L. Hilderley and N. Brooks, the assistant with twenty volunteers.

OTHER POST OFFICES

With the taking up of land in the township came the ever-growing demand for service of all kinds and this brought about the beginning of the country store usually located at a cross-road and as travel was difficult the residents petitioned for mail service to these stores. In order to receive mail, they must have a name and we find such names as South Zorra, Braemar, Strathallan, Hickson and Walmer appearing. The post office of South Zorra was located on the Woodstock-Huron gravel road at lot 14. It was established Nov. 6, 1852 and John Smith was the first postmaster. Thomas Cross, Mrs. E. M. Jardine, Thomas Izzard, Mrs. Carrie Izzard, Richard Wilson and Charles Peacock al-

so served as postmasters until rural mail was inaugurated on Oct. 1, 1914. Rural Route 6 of Woodstock now serves this area. The post office building is still located near the Huntingford Church on Highway 19.

Braemar was a little more fortunate as around this post office and store grew a small community, on the town line between East and West Zorra at lot 16. The Sutherland Gazetteer states that it received mail at 10 a.m. on Wednesday and Saturday and dispatched the same days. John Forbes was the first postmaster in 1862 and had a large general store handling a complete line of dry goods, groceries, hardware, china crockery and glassware. Alex Anderson, David Graham, Andrew McKay, Daniel Burke, Charles

Riley, R. O. Miller also served as postmasters between 1866 and 1914. It is now served out of the Embro and Tavistock post offices.

The post office at Walmer became established in 1866 with Robert Parker as postmaster at lot 9 concession 15. Other postmasters there were Robert Bunting, Abraham Bray, John McDonald, Robert Russell and Benjamin Bickell.

The inauguration of the rural mail was the beginning of a great many changes in the lives of the farmers of Oxford and brought an end to the trip while it was improvement it to the store for the mail and the chance to hear the latest news along the back concession but progress is the life of a community.



GAS WAS FOUND NEAR INNERKIP ABOUT 1900

Innerkip United marks first century

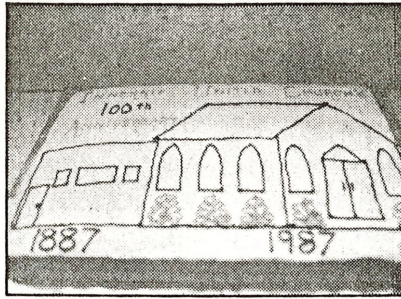
By ALISON DOWNIE
of The Sentinel-Review

INNERKIP — The United Church here officially turned 100 years old on Sunday.

A well-attended celebration beginning at 11 a.m. ushered in the church's birthday. A special service featured guest speaker Rev. Douglas Hall, a former Innerkip resident, who is a professor of systematic theology at McGill University. Because of the large crowd, a video camera was used to record the proceedings in the sanctuary and relay the event to a couple of television sets for the large number of worshippers who gathered in the church hall to watch.

The service was followed by a special cake cutting ceremony and Sunday School children filled the skies with anniversary balloons.

The history of the Innerkip United Church dates back to revival camp



meetings held on the banks of the Thames River by a Methodist minister. The cornerstone of the first church was laid in 1886 and it opened for services in 1887.

In 1899, the present parsonage was built on the corner of Vincent and Coleman streets, 12 years after the construction of the sanctuary.

The year 1925 was an important one

in the church's history. That was the year the United Church of Canada was formed and the local circuit, which included congregations in Innerkip, Eastwood, Bethel and Windfall, became known as the Innerkip Pastoral Charge.

A new church hall was constructed in 1948. In 1961, the church's white frosted windows were replaced with stained glass. During the year 1964, the Christian education wing was added and in 1973 the church sanctuary was renovated.

The church remains a vital part of the Innerkip community. In addition to Sunday services, the church serves as a meeting place for many community groups including Messengers, Explorers, CGIT, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides, Global Village Women, UCW, Adult Fellowship and Bible study groups.



REV. JOHN LINDSAY greets members of his congregation who attended a service Sunday in recognition of the 100th anniversary of

the Innerkip United Church.

(Staff photo by Alison Downie)

SENTINEL
REVIEW

May 4, 1987



OXFORD'S GHOST TOWNS

During recent months, as *Sentinel-Review* photographer Ted Town went about his regular assignments, he's been gathering photos of the vanished settlements that are the ghost towns of Oxford County. Another is **Strathallen**: located in East Zorra Township just south of Hickson, the village was originally called Alma. In 1865, when the post office was established, the name was changed to what had been the name of the school section for

many years. According to the 1876 provincial Atlas, "there has been little attempt made in the last few years to increase the proportions of Strathallen. The agriculturalists of the neighborhood are too opulent for that." A few houses and a campground occupy the site today.

W.J. Wintemberg, reprinted from the Ontario Historical Society's *Papers and Records*, Volume XXII, 1925.

SENTINEL REVIEW
May 17, 1988

TAVISTOCK

(Continued from last week)

The Presbyterian church was founded in 1878 by a missionary named Reverend Fleming. It started with 12 members. Reverend Stewart took charge in 1879 and the members rented the Baptist church. In 1925 they joined the union and worshipped in the Knox United Church.

The Baptist church was organized in 1851 by Reverend Snider, who held service in a log building. A brick church was built in 1868 and had a membership of 63. The church was rebuilt in 1904. In 1926 it was taken over by the continuing Presbyterians. It is St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church now.

The Zion Evangelical church was organized around 1860 and in 1870 a frame church was erected and used until 1904 when a fine new brick church replaced it. Reverend D. Kreh, was pastor at the time of building. The parsonage was built in 1916.

The Tavistock Lutheran Church was originally a United Evangelical, under the Reformed Lutheran Body. It began in July 1881, under Reverend L. Becker. On November 6, 1882, it transferred to the Missouri Synod with Pastor Kaiser in charge. In 1866, Christoph Merkel became the first resident pastor. A balcony was put in the church in 1903 to accommodate the membership. A parsonage was built in 1888.

The Amish Mennonite group originally worshipped in a country church but now rents the Presbyterian Church.

A new public school was erected in the early 1880's. Val Stock was one of the first teachers. In 1916 a two-room addition was added on the north side.

The Gazette, a weekly newspaper was established in 1895 by J.W. Green. It was independent in politics and kept abreast of the times.

Tavistock was incorporated in 1909. The first meeting of the council was on February 15, 1909, with Reeve H. Vogt presiding and councillors: J. Zimmerman, M. Schlemer and D. Rudy, present. J.G. Field was clerk. Tavistock joined Oxford County in 1909.

The waterworks system was put in, in 1911 and hydro changed from its source at Field's Woolen mills to that of the Hydro Electric Commission of Ontario.

A Carnegie library, very modern and complete, was erected in 1916.

The arena was erected in 1923 and opened in January, 1924. The ice surface was 175-feet by 75-feet.

In 1930 an Old Home Week was held in Tavistock and a souvenir program printed.

VILLAGE OF SALFORD

This village is located on the bend of the trail between Ingersoll and Port Burwell and about four miles south of Ingersoll. Settlement began here around 1795 to 1800. The area was first surveyed in 1799 by a Mr. Hambley. It was resurveyed in 1810 by a Mr. Wilmot and again in 1822 by Russell Mount.

The entire district was covered with heavy timber, an evidence of good soil. The trees were principally oak, pine, elm, basswood and maple, all considered good Canadian varieties.

Until 1798 the township of Dereham was a part of Norfolk county and had been attached to Norfolk for six years.

In 1798 an Act of King George the third made Dereham a part of the County of Oxford. For municipal purposes it was attached to West Oxford Township until 1832, when Dereham elected its first council.

The first clerk was Harvey Tillon. After the arrival of Col. Ingersoll in Oxford in 1793 the Salford area settled rapidly. The first land grants in Dereham were made Sept. 4, 1800.

John and George Ball received all of the first Concession (20 of 28 lots) Hon. Robert Hamilton received nearly all of concessions 4-5-6. Robert Addison received the east half of concession 7-8-9-10-11-12. Hon. Peter Russell the east parts of concessions 11 and 12. The first land sold by the Governor in Dereham, the north half of lot 12, concession 1, to Stillson Hackett, was on January 22, 1834 and the price was \$4.20 per acre.

According to reports, Dereham settled faster than other parts of Oxford, especially the northern half. As more and more settlers arrived a problem arose regarding the delivery of mail.

The first Post Office in the County of Oxford was established January 6, 1821 at Ingersoll. It was called the Oxford Post Office. Charles Ingersoll was the first Postmaster.

The village known today as Salford was at that time known as Manchester and it received its mail for several years through the Ingersoll office. When Manchester was large enough (population 100), it warranted a post office for itself, the postal authorities requested a change in name as there was at the same time a Manchester in Eastern Ontario.

(Continued next week)

Railway Through Oxford Beginning of Tavistock

TAVISTOCK OWES ITS ORIGIN to the foresight of an early settler in the area, Captain Henry Eckstein.

Henry Eckstein had settled in 1845 at the present-day village of Sebastopol. Three years later, he heard that a railway was to be built through the area, passing about a mile south of his home.

So Henry Eckstein promptly moved one mile south, and settled himself where Tavistock now stands. Today a cairn marks the spot where his log cabin stood at the corner of Woodstock and Hope streets in the town.

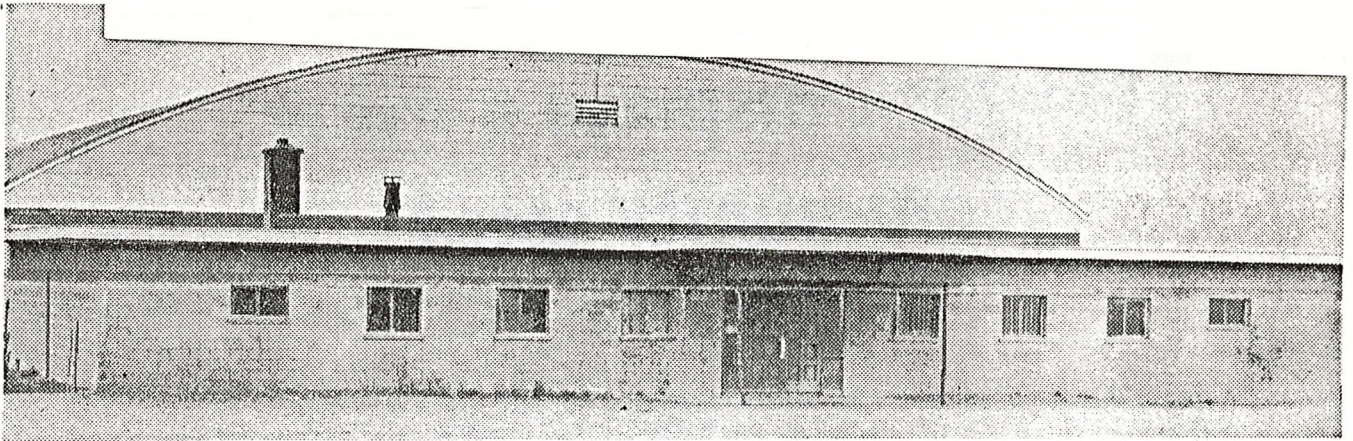
Eckstein guessed well, for nine years later, in 1857, the Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway, linking Brantford and Stratford, was built through towards the Huron Tract.

Tavistock, like many other Western Ontario towns, has had several names. The first was given by Eckstein, who named the place Freiburg after his home town in Germany. Later, the village was called Inkermann. And still later when a post office was established the authorities gave it the name Tavistock.

Until shortly after the turn of the century, Tavistock had a steady growth. In 1909 agitation was strong to have the community incorporated a village. This was finally done, but not before the village, divided by the boundary line of Perth and Oxford counties, had had a long internal battle over which county to join. The final decision was to incorporate with Oxford.

LONDON FREE PRESS

June 11, 1949



Tavistock sees building surge

TAVISTOCK — A continuous program of new construction has created a considerable change of scenery in this village bordering Oxford and Perth counties. During the past year a new motor hotel was constructed, a nine classroom area public school was completed, and expansion was recorded at several local industries.

Minor work was completed early in the year at Tavistock's new Centennial Arena which officially opened in November, 1965, and many local improvements were made including the reconstruction and extension of village streets and installation of sanitary and storm sewers.

The new motor hotel is located on the same site as the former Arlington Hotel, an old three - storey landmark which was totally destroyed by fire in September, 1965.

Though the hotel, which includes 10 sleeping units, has been operating on a limited basis since last November, considerable interior work is still to be done. Banquet room, snack bar and dining room facilities is scheduled for completion.

Reconstruction may have cost \$100,000 or more, according to Village Clerk Robert Rudy. The hotel has a beverage room licence and is owned and operat-

ed by former Arlington Hotel proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. Mica Todorovic, and a brother, Bozodar Todorovic.

Tavistock's new area public school built at a cost of \$300,000, provided space for about 325 pupils as they returned to classes last fall. It is located on a 10 acre tract of land at the rear of the Tavistock memorial hall.

In the same area is the new arena where installation of 750 seats and dressing rooms is being undertaken as the community's centennial project. About \$8,000 plus federal and provincial grants, will be needed to complete the installation.

Over-all cost of the arena is approximately \$100,000. The cement block building houses a natural ice surface of 75 by 175 feet and has already been used as an ice and roller skating arena. There is standing room for an additional 300.

Industrial expansion in the form of a \$30,000 building addition was made at J. G. Field and Co. Ltd. The firm spins yarns and manufactures about 150 varieties of men's and boys' knitted socks, ranging from sports lines to heavy work socks.

(Continued on Page 13)

Finishing touches were made last year to Tavistock's \$100,000 Centennial Arena, right, which was officially declared open late in 1965.

LONDON FREE PRESS

January 21, 1967

Tavistock displays a lively community spirit

TAVISTOCK — Arena improvements and a wide variety of community entertainments marked a lively centennial year in this village of 1,300 bordering Oxford and Perth Counties on Highway 59.

Official centennial project was installation of seating for 750 and dressing rooms in the arena. One side has been completed in regard to new seats and the balance of the \$5,000 job will be done in the spring.

Five entertainments during the year proved outstanding successes.

The Tavistock Band tattoo attracted 4,000.

The Women's Institute celebrated their 65th anniversary with a strawberry social.

The Rotary Club had 16 entries in its beard-growing contest and declared Herb Wagler the winner.

Board of Trade served 1,500 at its annual sauerkraut supper, a record high.

The Home and School Association sponsored a week-long antique show in the school auditorium and displayed 1,500 items including a rare fruit-cleaning machine.

Winding up the centennial theme is a history of the community being prepared by Carl J. Seltzer under sponsorship of the Rotary club and due for distribution shortly.

First winner of a scholarship fund in memory of five children killed in a railway accident near Tavistock, was James Lorne Yausie, 19, of Tavistock, student at Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School. He is an architectural technology student at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, Toronto.

Tavistock Union Cheese and Butter Ltd. has a 1,500 square-foot, \$18,000 addition under way to increase capacity. During 1967 farmers supplying milk and cream to the company received upwards of \$1,000,000. The firm makes 700,000 pounds of butter annually and cheese by the thousands of pounds.

Also in the line of industrial expansion, J. G. Field Ltd. is

adding new machinery for an expanded building at a total cost of \$75,000. More than 150 varieties of knitted socks are manufactured at the Tavistock plant.

Martin Feed Mills Ltd. took over the old Tavistock Milling Co. operation, handling a full line of poultry, livestock feeds, custom grinding and mixing. Branch Manager John Bolender reports 11 on staff and extensive interior renovations being carried out. Head office is at Elmira.

McConnell Nurseries has completed its second year of local operations. The firm erected a 200 by 65 foot aluminum siding building for packing nursery stock and shipping at the end of Jacob Street.

The South Easthope Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company, 96 years old, built a \$30,000 one-storey office.

Among the other notes of progress was construction of five new homes; a portable classroom to the Tavistock and District Public School for a kindergarten; resurfacing of four streets at a cost of \$5,000.

The Public Utilities Commission drilled a new well and erected a building in Tavistock Park.

Wilker subdivision in the west end includes 17 lots with steady building progress. Three homes are up, two going up and two more lots sold on the three-acre tract. An additional 28 acres available when the need arises.

LONDON FREE PRESS

January 20 1968

May 31st, 1974Tavistock

The president, Rev. H.E. Wright, acted as chairman and welcomed 52 members and friends to our meeting.

Moved by Mrs. Chisholm and seconded by Mrs. W. Lapworth that the minutes of the last meeting be adopted as circulated. Carried. The treasurer reported there was a balance on hand of \$602.41. She moved the adoption of this report and this was seconded by Mr. Calder. Carried.

Mr. George Calder displayed a very attractive picture of the geneology of the Vansittart family. He spoke of his visit with Mrs. Cameron of Peterboro, a relative of the family, and of the articles given to him that had belonged to the family for preservation in Woodstock. He suggested that our Society frame this geneology. Moved by Mr. Len Coles and seconded by Mrs. J. Klippenstein that the Society pay for the cost of the frame.

Mr. Ed Bennett reported on the unveiling of five plaques on historic buildings on May 22nd last. He stated the Committee were planning to place plaques on all commercial buildings of historic background in 1975.

Mr. Ed Bennett consented to represent the Society at the Annual Founders Day Service at Old St. Paul's Church on June 16th. The treasurer was authorized to purchase a suitable wreath to be placed on the Vansittart Mausoleum.

Mr. Gordon King introduced our speaker of the evening, Mr. Carl Seltzer, his subject being "The History of Tavistock".

A few comments on the background of our speaker. His ancestors made a notable contribution to the development of the Tavistock area, his father Jacob, having been born in this area in 1858, a son of Jacob Seltzer, who came from Hennen, Germany, about 1855. His mother was a daughter of Conrad Wilker, whose parents also came from Germany and were early settlers in the area.

The founder of Tavistock was Capt. Henry Eckstein who died at the age of 85 on the 5th of February 1903. He came to this country from Germany at the age of 14. He built the first hotel in the Village, a log one. This was burned and in 1854 he built the Commercial Hotel. He rented the hotel to Charles Mohr in 1880 and started farming west of the Village on a large farm which he owned for some time. He was an enthusiastic and clever business man. In the early sixties he organized a local company of volunteers, he being Captain.

Previous to the building of the B & L.H. Railway in 1857 there were only five inhabitants, viz: Charles Wood, who kept the first store, D.H. Carss, who kept a tavern, Robert Reid in Krug & Falck's store, W.H. Munro, tinsmith and Henry Eckstein, who kept a tavern. On the opening of the Post Office in 1857 the Village was given the name of Tavistock. A census was taken in 1878 which showed the population near 1,000. At this time it contained some very fine commercial blocks and many first-rate residences. There were three churches - Baptist, Lutheran and Methodist, a large school with 3 departments, 4 hotels, 1 livery stable, express office, 2 telegraph offices and law and medicine are represented by 3 physicians and a conveyancer. In the year 1909 Tavistock was finally incorporated as a separate municipality.

A waterworks system was installed at a total cost of \$17,379.00 for fire and domestic purposes around November of 1911. Hydro power was brought into Tavistock from Stratford in 1916. In the autumn of 1889 the first telephone switchboard was installed in the store of Fred Krug. As far as rail service was concerned Tavistock was taken care of firstly by the Brantford and Buffalo Joint Stock Company in 1851 and later known as the Buffalo, Brantford and Goderich Line. Eventually in 1870 the smaller companies became part of the Grand Trunk, which in 1922 became part of the Canadian National Railway System. Freight trains will stop in town, but express and telegram service must all be taken care of through the Stratford Office, on the basis of economy.

For about 25 years after the turn of the century the horse was the chief means of conveyance for man and goods. Tavistock was a self-sufficient unit with its carriage and wagon and cutter and sleigh manufacturers, its harness makers and its horse breeders. Contractors would fetch their lime from Beachville by horse and team with an intermediate stop of Strathallan. Fine teams of greys would wear their sponge-filled straw hats as they pulled their loads of flour to bakeries in the near-by towns, gravel dealers reckoned their deliveries in wagon loads of 1½ yards, which they unloaded by tilting out the composite floor after removing the logging chain levered tightly around the sides and bottom. Today Tavistock cannot be termed even a "one-horse" town, for even the milkman has been motorized.

The Library - In the Tavistock Gazette a notice was contained as follows: "The Reading Room of the Tavistock Public Library will be open daily from 2-5 p.m. and from 7-9 p.m. upstairs in V. Stock's new block. Membership tickets are .75¢ per year." Also later reported "The corner stone of the Carnegie Public Library was laid in 1916 and is one of the most modern of its kind to be found in many places much larger than Tavistock. It has 6000 volumes. On the ground floor is an assembly hall, a board room, vault and lavatories."

The Fire Brigade - A volunteer fire brigade was organized on November 23rd, 1911 with an enrolment of 20 men. The fire equipment was kept in various spots. Their remuneration was 50 cents per practice and \$1 for a fire run. The squad became so proficient that at the tournaments it often emerged with first prize; there is a trophy at the Fire Hall to attest it.

Agriculture - At the present time there are 41 Century Farms in the Tavistock area. These have been the stronghold of Ontario agriculture, farms which have been in the same family for three, four and even five generations. On these farms still stand the houses and barns, the symbols of our pioneers, still sound and full of the character of their builder-tenants. These are the farms that started with a self-sufficient colonist, who produced almost everything he used. The late Professor Kennedy often said: "He who would shape the Present must first look to those great people who in the Past carried out their convictions with courage."

Education - In 1842 there were but two schools in the township of South Easthope, one in English and one a German school. By 1849 the number had increased to 33 with four in South Easthope. The first local school was built in 1880 and in October 1966 a new Public School in Tavistock was officially opened.

Churches - The Baptist Church

This church was organized in 1951 with its 15 members. In 1867 with increased membership a new church was built. It was rebuilt in 1904 and in 1926 was taken over by the continuing Presbyterians and renamed St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

Knox United (formerly Presbyterian) A church was built around 1902 at a cost of \$3,500.00 with a membership of 112.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - This church was built in 1881 and the parsonage in 1888.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church - A church was built in 1856.

Trinity Anglican Church - The first service was held in a log building in 1847. A new church was opened on June 14th, 1861 at a cost of \$577.

St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church - A wooden chapel was built in 1839. The present stone church was erected in 1863. The adherents joined the new church when it was built in New Hamburg. The church is well preserved and is a fine example of early architecture and excellent stone-work.

Zion Evangelical Church - A frame building was erected in 1870 and in 1904 a new brick building was erected. As of January 1st, 1968 the official name of the church is Zion United Church.

There are so many more interesting facts about Tavistock that were brought to our attention so vividly by our speaker that it would be impossible for me to record them all. I would suggest that you read Fact & Fantasy - a history of Tavistock. Our speaker was the editor of this interesting book.

Mr. Vance thanked the speaker for a very graphic picture of the pioneer days in the Tavistock area.

The meeting adjourned and a social hour followed.

.....
Chairman

.....
Secretary

THE VILLAGE OF TAVISTOCK

This village is located on the northerly boundary of Oxford County in the north part of the township of East Zorra. It was founded in 1848. The first settler was Henry Heyrock, who built the first home in 1845. He was followed by Henry Eckstein.

The settlement, called Sebastopol, preceded Tavistock by a few years. Henry Eckstein stayed in Sebastopol for the three years. The place was named Sebastopol in 1852 until 1855, during the Russian War, after a town of that name in the Crimea.

Henry Eckstein learned that a railway was going through about a mile south of Sebastopol and decided to locate near the railroad. He erected a log house on the corner of what is now Woodstock and Hope Streets, in 1848. He used this building as a store and dwelling. He named the place Freiburg, after his home town in Germany. A few years later, the hamlet was named Inkerman. There were only five families in the settlement previous to the completion of the railway. There were: Charles Wood, storekeeper; H. Eckstein, tavern; Robert Reid, general utility man and W.H. Monro, tinsmith. With the completion of the railway in 1857, Inkerman started to grow and many moved to Sebastopol, to the new village.

The first Post Office was opened in 1857 and the village was named Tavistock, after a town in Devonshire, England. From this time more substantial homes and business places were erected. Henry Eckstein started the improvement by building the Commercial Hotel in 1850. The next lot of settlers included the names of Henry Schaefer, Antoni Gluecklick, John Holmer, M. Bellinger, August Bechlerger and Duncan Stewart.

In 1868, John Zimmerman opened a barrel and stave factory. In 1869, a planing mill was established by Mistert Kalbfleisch, Schaefer and others.

In 1866 George Malcolm established a flour mill and there followed a broom factory, carriage factory, sawmill, flax mill, blacksmith shop, harness shop and also stores.

In 1880, a flour mill was established by Mistert Falbfleisch, Klein and Paehlam. This became the Tavistock Milling Company in 1886. This mill was destroyed by fire in 1893, rebuilt again, and burned down. The present plant was built in 1924.

A woollen mill was established by Mr. Preston in 1868 and sold to John Steinman and John Gerhardt in 1869. In 1877 this business was sold to Field and Hetherington.

Increased business called for a bank. In 1899 the Standard Bank opened a branch office and in 1905 a branch of the Traders Bank was established.

The first medical man in Tavistock was Dr. Preiss of Hamburg, Germany. He was followed by Dr. S. Kirving, Dr. Ranklin, Dr. Niemeier, Dr. Steele, Dr. Campbell, Dr. Cawthorpe, Dr. McTavish and Dr. Taylor.

Hotels flourished in the olden days of the licensed bar. The Commercial, Union and royal were among the earliest. Then came the Arlington and the New Oxford.

Trinity Lutheran Church's Reverend W. Horn conducted the first service among the Germans in the district, near Sebastopol in the early 1830's. In 1856 a church was erected at Sebastopol during the pastorate of Reverend C.K. Kressman. The present brick edifice was erected in 1884 at a cost of \$16,000.

Reverend R.F. Veit was pastor at the time and remained till 1916. Reverend O.T. Stockman became minister in 1917. The brick parsonage was erected in 1897.

The Presbyterian church was founded in 1878 by a missionary named Reverend Fleming. It started with 12 members. Reverend Stewart took charge in 1879 and the members rented the Baptist church. In 1925 they joined the union and worshipped in the Knox United Church.

The Baptist church was organized in 1851 by Reverend Snider, who held service in a log building. A brick church was built in 1868 and had a membership of 63. The church was rebuilt in 1904. In 1926 it was taken over by the continuing Presbyterians. It is St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church now.

The Zion Evangelical church was organized around 1860 and in 1870 a frame church was erected and used until 1904 when a fine new brick church replaced it. Reverend D. Kreh, was pastor at the time of building. The parsonage was built in 1916.

The Tavistock Lutheran Church was originally a United Evangelical, under the Reformed Lutheran Body. It began in July 1881, under Reverend L. Becker. On November 6, 1882, it transferred to the Missouri Synod with Pastor Kaiser in charge. In 1866, Christoph Merkel became the first resident pastor. A balcony was put in the church in 1903 to accommodate the membership. A parsonage was built in 1888.

The Amish Mennonite group originally worshipped in a country church but now rents the Presbyterian Church.

A new public school was erected in the early 1880's. Val Stock was one of the first teachers. In 1916 a two-room addition was added on the north side.

The Gazette, a weekly newspaper was established in 1895 by J.W. Green. It was independent in politics and kept abreast of the times.

Tavistock was incorporated in 1909. The first meeting of the council was on February 15, 1909, with Reeve H. Vogt presiding and councillors: J. Zimmerman, H. Schlemmer and D. Rudy, present. J.G. Field was clerk. Tavistock joined Oxford County in 1909.

The waterworks system was put in, in 1911 and hydro changed from its source at Field's Woolen mills to that of the Hydro Electric Commission of Ontario.

A Carnegie library, very modern and complete, was erected in 1916.

The arena was erected in 1923 and opened in January, 1924. The ice surface was 175-feet by 75-feet.

In 1930 an Old Home Week was held in Tavistock and a souvenir program printed.

TAVISTOCK

With the completion of the railroad in 1857 Inkerman took deep root and started to grow and many of the inhabitants of Sebastapol moved to the fast growing village. A post office was opened up the same year and was given the name Tavistock. The exact reason for this

name is not known but it is claimed that a government official named it after a home town in England. From that time on more substantial and modern homes and business places were erected. Even before this Eickstein took the lead by starting the erection of a hotel in 1850. Among the early names we find those of Henry Schaeffer, Antoni Gluecklick, John H. Holmer, Mr. Bellinger, August Bechberger and Duncan Stewart. In 1868 John Zimmerman opened a barrel and stave factory, in 1869 a planing mill and furniture factory were established by Messrs Kalbfleisch and Schaeffer. There followed such industries as a broom factory, carriage factory, sawmill, flaxmill and a flour mill was established by John Malcolm in 1866. In 1880 a flour mill on a site now occupied by the Tavistock Milling Company was established by Messrs Klein, Kalbfleisch and Paehlman. It was re-organized in 1886 as the Tavistock Milling Company and enlarged to a 125-barrel capacity. Seven years later the mill was destroyed by fire, later re-built and again destroyed by fire. The present plant was erected in 1924.

The woollen mill was first established in 1868 by Mr. Preston who sold out in 1869 to John Steinman and George Gerhardt. Steinman bought out Gerhardt and in 1877 sold to Field and Hetherington and Field later bought out Hetherington. In 1868 John Zimmerman established his stave factory and this became known as Zimmerman Bros. in 1919. In 1906 they purchased the planing mills of J. Kalbfleisch. At the time the plant was destroyed by the recent fire it had a daily capacity of some 10,000 boxes requiring in the neighborhood of 40,000 feet of lumber.

In 1899 the Standard Bank opened a branch and seven years later the Traders Bank opened. The Bank of Commerce now controls the banking business.

The first medical man was Dr. Preiss of Hamburg, Germany.

INCORPORATION

In the year 1909 Tavistock was incorporated as a separate municipality. The vote was taken in January and the first meeting of the council was on Monday Feb. 15 with the following in office: Reeve Henry Vogt, Councillors, John Zimmerman, Henry Schlemmer, John Roth, David Rudy; clerk, J. G. Fields.

Prior to 1880 the scholars from Tavistock went to school at Sebastapol. In the early part of 1880's a public school was erected in the village with Val Stock as one of the first teachers. In 1916 a two-room addition was added to the north side, previous to this a room in the basement had been fitted for a classroom.

The Tavistock Gazette was established in 1895 by J. W. Green and since then its owners have been F. H. Leslie, N. E. Dopp,

W. Appel, L. W. Appel and G. K. Brown. It is independent in politics and has been a service to its community.

The Baptist Church was organized in 1851 by Rev. Mr. Snyder and services were held in a log building. It is credited with having 15 members and a few adherents but with the opening up of the country the congregation increased to 63 in 1866 when they erected a brick church. It was re-built in 1904 and in 1926 was taken over by the Presbyterians and re-named St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. The Presbyterian Church dates back to 1878 when Rev. Mr. Fleming was sent to the village to preach and to organize a congregation. The following year Rev. Mr. Stewart of North Easthope became a stationary minister and the congregation which had held services in a hall over a hotel shed rented the Baptist church. When the vote of Church union was taken in 1925 the majority voted to go to union. The Tavistock Lutheran Church was organized on July 31st, 1881 with Rev. L. Becker as pastor. The name of the church at that time was United Evangelical Church and on Nov. 6th, 1882 connections with the Reform church were severed and Pastor Kaiser of Wartburg under the Missouri Synod came to serve the congregation. In 1886 Christoph Merkel became the first resident minister.

Celebrated Poet Bemoans Lost Chance To Visit Stalwart Scots in Region

By STANLEY J. SMITH

When the celebrated poet and writer, Dr. Charles Mackay (author of the Canadian Boating Song) toured through this district, in 1858, he bemoaned the fact that he, as a staunch Scotsman, did not have the time to visit the two Zorras. . . More commonly known throughout Canada as the roarin' Zorras. In one of his sketches he writes: "It was with regret that I left unvisited those rural districts of Upper Canada where the ultra-Highlanders turned out of their holdings in the north (of Scotland), have founded a new Scotland, and where they unfortunately, in an unwise love of their mother-land, cultivate the Gaelic to the exclusion of the English language, and where, with a more pardonable love of country, they keep up the sports and games, the dress and music of the Gael, and far more Highland in their habits and prejudices than the Highlanders at home."

About the time that Woodstock was being settled by ex-officers of the British army and navy (1834) there was a like movement of Scottish immigrants locating in East and West Zorra. The majority of these sterling Scotch settlers came from Sutherlandshire, Ross-shire and Inverness. Similar to the English settlement, of Woodstock, the sturdy Highlander had also served their king at Corunna, Salamanca and Waterloo. When they commenced to arrive, in the early thirties, the township possessed only a few settlers and squatters. Mostly United Empire Loyalists from the United States. . . The Hodgkinsons, Codys, Youngs, Coukes, Burdicks, Reeds, Galloways, Wilkersons, Rowells, Aldridges, Tafts and Karns. The latter family settled in 1820. One son, James Karn, was a general merchant, in Embro, during the early sixties, and one of our most prized possessions is Mr. Karn's "Day Book" which recorded every financial transaction between he, and the settlers, from 1861 to 1864, (The American Civil War was being fought at this period). The Day Book is probably the most complete history extant today, on the customs, habits and Scotch thrift, of the early Zorras. Little money was in circulation. Mr. Karn bartered dress goods, seeds, groceries, boots, hardware and building supplies, for wheat, oats, eggs, cordwood, hides, tallow, wood ashes and butter. His trade was enormous in the latter because he shipped the butter to Buffalo for cash, probably for the American army.

He opened his Day Book with several notations on the inner fly leaves: "Cow put into Hugh Matheson's Pasture on 20th, June, 1864," then in pencil he scribbled under-

neath, "Cow Calved July 15, 1864"; "Aug. 1864 — Amt. of money on hand belonging to Sabbath School, \$2.38. Amount remitted to treasury \$5.00 Balance owing me \$2.62." The fact that he did a good butter trade is in this item, "Agreed to take from Webster, Mount Elgin, 50 firkins of well dried ash to hold not less than 100 lb. each at 50 cents each. Half cash and half trade."

Apparently, there was no housing shortage in Embro, in 1865, he records, "Mr. Jamieson has rented the little house on Kincardine st. at \$2 per month payable monthly commencing March 1st, 1865." The Day Book also tells how Mr. Karn shipped eggs from the Zorras to Buffalo, "To 10 brls. containing 650 doz. eggs and 800 lbs. of oats. Shipped to J. B. Manning and Company, 72 Main street, Buffalo. Teaming expenses to Paris \$2.64." One will wonder why Mr. Karn did not ship from Woodstock on the Great Western Railway. This was because the GWR and the Buffalo and Goderich railroad had no connections, at Paris. It was cheaper to pay a drayman to haul direct to Paris, than to haul to Woodstock, than pay the CGW to Paris, and then tranship at the latter place, by another drayman, to place the eggs on the Buffalo train. Mr. Karn received cash for the eggs and oats.

How did the settlers pay the stipend of the Reverend Donald Mackenzie? "Paid cash to Rev. Mackenzie — 5 hides at 3 cents per lb — Tot. 350 lbs. — \$10.50; 10 doz. eggs at 7 cents per doz. 70 cents — Total \$11.20." The Reverend Mackenzie was a noted Zorra minister and according to Mr. Karn's book he was a consistent "Swapper" for tea, sugar and oatmeal.

Generally, Mr. Karn paid half cash and half goods for the majority of his sales. In the wintertime, he shipped frozen hogs to Buffalo. He paid 5 cents per pound for pork, but after the Civil War was over the price dropped to 3½ cents per lb. Other prices which he paid the settlers were: Barley 48 cents per bus.; cordwood 62½ cents; butter 14 cents, but after the war, 11 cents; Wheat \$1.56; Beef, hind-quarters, 5½ cents fore-quarters 4½ cents. Mr. Karn only bought beef during the winter months.

To prevent an argument, Mr. Karn always wrote down who ordered the goods and to whom the goods were given. "Mrs. Mulls. Gate. (Delivered or Demanded) son One pair pants, \$2.50," or he would write son, daug. self, aunt or order.

On an order, invariably, it was by some workman who ordered the goods and charged the account to the person having the work performed. One of the most poignant

is this, "Ordered by John Gunn, west end, for Widow Rose, 1½ cut nails, 5 yds. black Orleans, 12 yds. rope, 3 pr. handles, 30 screws, tacks, 4 yds. black cotton, one coffin plate. Cash \$1.00. Bal. \$4.50." In other words, the price of a coffin was \$5.50, plus the carpenter's labor and boards. The rope cost three cents per yard and it must have been used as "piping" or "corded edge" when the five yards of Orleans was cut up to cover the coffin. The word "Orleans" means "New Orleans" where the finest cotton came from. The next day, Widow Ross ordered, "1 black bonnet made and trimmed, \$2.87, weeds, 25 cents."

For out and out Scotch thrift. . . 'Twas the night before Christmas . . . "Dec. 24th, 1863, Angus McKay, one orange, 5 cents Worm-Candy 25 cents!"

If Milady wanted to dye her dress it would cost her 11 cents. "Mrs. James Pelton, Pink root, 5 cents, madder, vitrol, venetian red 6 cents." The Reverend Mr. Graham must have had a trying day without success, "Rev. Graham borrowed 5 cents for tollgate." the following day, "Rev. Graham paid loan. Cr. 5 cents." The smallest item on Mr. Karn's book was this, "Geo. Fowler's daught. 4 hair pins, 1 cent."

The book opens in pounds, shillings, and pence and closes in the decimal system. At this late date it is difficult to ascertain why. The decimal system was adopted in 1837. Mr. Karn did not change until January 2nd, 1865. He made a note, "Entered Jan. 2nd as 31 of Dec. 1864." His last customer in

sterling was, "Alex McPherson, ½ quire paper. S.B. ink 6d. tot. 1s 0d." His first entry under the decimal system, he made an error and the book does not show that he corrected the error, "Donald Ross, Teamster, (misses) 6 yds. S. stripe at 30 cents—\$1.80. 1 yd. factory cotton at 22 cents, Tot. \$2.00." Mr. Karn lost two cents on the transaction.

Next week it will be described how Mr. Karn differentiated between the Rosses, Munroes, Mirrays, McKays, and Mathesons.