

*History of  
North  
Oxford  
Township*

*1867-1967*



Unveiling the plaque at the opening of the Township Office, the North Oxford Centennial project Shown are (left to right) Gordon Pittock, MLA, Miss E. A. Seldon, Clerk Treasurer, and Reeve Thomas Comiskey.

### *Foreword*

In this our Centennial year, we give thanks for all the blessings that have made our country strong, free, and respected among the nations of the world, and to our forefathers who settled on this fertile land. Through their energy, toil, and effort, they have left us a wonderful heritage which includes good homes, schools, and churches.

We are grateful for the opportunities afforded us, sad the responsibility now lies with us and future generations to carry on the ideals which have served our country so well.

The following pages contain the story of some of the achievements and activities of the people of North Oxford through the century; pictures which will bring memories of bygone days; pictures of those who are serving now, and of the youth of today who will serve in the future.

(Miss) E. A. Seldon.

## *North Oxford Township*

The Township of North Oxford is the smallest of all the rural municipalities of the County of Oxford. It has an almost uniformly productive soil with a minimum of swamp and sand. The primeval forest contained a high percentage of hardwoods, maple, beech and rock elm. It had some black ash and cedar swamp land which since has been drained and has become some of its most productive land. In general, the Township has a gently rolling terrain which helps in building and maintaining roads.

The first family to locate in what is now the Township of North Oxford is said to have settled here in the year 1784. At first, settlement was slow but became increasingly rapid as this part of south western Ontario began to be developed. Its population, according to the census returns of 1861, showed 943 males and 828 females to make a total of 1,771. It is recorded that this number indicated a rise in population over 1851 of 393. The settlers were, for the most part, immigrants from the British Isles. They were motivated by a hunger for land they could call their own. Tired of having to kowtow to squires and others of the aristocracy of the old countries, they looked forward to breathing the air of freedom where, "Jack was as good as his master."

In the ensuing years, these hopes and aspirations were sorely tested by the hardships and privations which attend pioneering in any heavily wooded land. Especially during the first few years, it was a hard struggle to get food and shelter. The forest was at once a friend and an enemy, a friend in that it provided logs for the first crude dwellings and fuel to keep warm; an enemy in that clearings had to be made to grow grain and vegetables for much needed food.

In spite of all the hard conditions of pioneering, the first settlers were probably as happy or happier than we are today amid all the amenities of modern living, and our houses and barns equipped with work-saving devices. It is said hard work never hurt anyone. Those trail blazers certainly had mountains of hard work, and often lived to eighty or ninety years with little medicine and no antibiotics. A scarcity of money fostered a fine spirit of cooperation and interdependence.

Our pioneer ancestors laid the foundations for all the fine homes, schools and churches we have now, in this centennial year of 1967.

### EARLY SETTLERS

The settlers who trickled into North Oxford after the 1779 survey numbered only fifteen at the 1825 census, in which the following names appear: George Karn, John McNames, Horace Fuller, John Craig, John Strong, James Carroll, Ira Fuller, Richard Levings, John Johnston, Jeremiah Finch, Abel Thornton, Thomas Bedford, Christopher Karn Jr., John Baldwin, Horace and Darius Cross. John McNames, James Carroll, and Abel Thornton were the only persons having taxable houses in 1825, and they were all built of squared logs.

### PIONEER DAYS

From an account of pioneer life in North Oxford by the late Dr. John Ruddick we quote as follows:

The first task was to make a small clearing for space on which to erect a log house. No doubt such few neighbours as there were would be ready to assist, as was the custom of the times.

With a shelter provided for the family, the of clearing the land began. My memory goes back to about twenty-two years after the first was felled. As I recall it, the land was then all under cultivation except a small acreage of bush reserved for future needs and a small field in which the stumps were still in evidence. Good barns and other outbuildings had been erected, the original house enlarged and improved and a fine orchard was in full bearing.

The house at first consisted of one good sized room with an attic that was used for sleeping quarters and storage. There was a trap door in the floor with an excavation below that served as a cellar. An ordinary ladder gave access to the attic. The furniture was mostly home-made, with the possible exception of the beds. These were devoid of springs. Rope was stretched across from side to side and from end to end, making a sort of network. On the ropes was a "tick" filled with straw or corn husks and an top of that, a feather bed. Heat, light, and cooking facilities were provided by a big fireplace. It was some years before a stove or even tallow candles were procured.

The parents slept in one corner of the room, the larger children in the attic and the babies occupied a "Trundle bed", a low, home-made affair that was pushed under the large bed in the daytime.

The single door was home-made, fitted with wooden hinges and inside latch. A piece of string or leather was attached to the latch and its loose end could be pushed through a hole in the door. When pulled from outside, the string lilted the latch and the door opened. To lock the door, the latch string was pulled inside.

In these early days it was not customary to knock on a neighbour's door. It was considered a sort of affectation to do so. One merely pulled the latch string and walked in. Here you have the origin of the old saying signifying welcome or hospitality "The latch string will always be on the outside".

The virgin bush offered little for human consumption beyond a few "greens", wild berries not flourishing in the dense forest. There was some game-squirrels, raccoons, porcupines and occasionally pigeons. The passenger pigeons came in great numbers - clouds of them - in the Autumn. They disappeared in the late 1870s. Game had to be hunted, which took time, and ammunition was scarce. No livestock, except hogs, could be kept until winter feed was grown. Hogs could live on roots and nuts to be found in the bush, but cattle, horses or sheep could not exist throughout the winter without some fodder.

After the first winter, potatoes were planted in the leaf mold where the trees had been removed, Fall wheat was sown as soon as the potatoes were lifted. After the second winter, some wheat was available and very likely also some corn. There still remained the difficulty of getting these grains reduced to usable condition by grinding or pounding. Grandfather carried wheat on his back five miles to a mill to exchange it for its equivalent of flour.

Corn was popular because it could be eaten in a variety of forms and was easier to grind than wheat. Corn on the cob, in season, would constitute the greater part of a meal. Corn meal mush and Johnny cake were as good then as they are now. A favourite dish of corn unknown to the present generation, was prepared as follows: The corn was soaked for several days in lye made from wood ashes. It was then boiled in successive waters until the lye was removed and the skin had peeled off, leaving a white, softened and somewhat swollen kernel. Served with cream and sugar or maple syrup, it was a very appetizing food. Its use continued beyond pioneer days.

Fortunately, maple syrup and sugar were to be had for the labour of

making. The utensils and methods of the pioneers were copied to some extent from the Indian, who were the original makers of maple sugar, using wooden spiles, birch bark buckets or wooden troughs for collecting the sap.

Cooking utensils, being limited to those adapted to use on an open fire, consisted chiefly of iron pots, kettles and frying pans with long handles. A roast was hung before the open fire. For light baking, a "reflector" oven was sometimes used in preference to the bake kettle. The reflector was made of tin in the form of a V shaped trough, three or four feet long and about one foot deep. The ends were closed but the top was open. It was so fixed in a frame that when in use, the open top faced the fire. Whatever was to be baked was placed on the lower slope of the trough. The upper part acted as a reflector to increase and distribute the heat.

When flour became more plentiful, an outside oven of the type still used in parts of Quebec, came into use and was retained long after cook stoves were secured. The advantages of the outside oven were that a dozen or more loaves could be baked at one time. Rough wood was suitable for firing and the house was relieved of the discomfort from the heat of a large baking in hot weather.

Grandfather made boots and shoes for the family. Hats and caps were made from platted straw for summer use and from home-tanned fur for winter. Socks and mittens were home-made, after wool became available. The wool was carded, spun and dyed by the women and taken to some local weaver to be made into blankets, heavy grey cloth known as "full cloth" for men's suits or a finer cloth woven with some pattern for men's shirts and women's dresses.

The family got their first cow by borrowing one from a neighbour who had preceded them in coming to the district. The understanding was that the cow should be kept all winter and if it had a calf in the spring, it was to be theirs. The calf was a heifer and before long the family enjoyed the luxury of milk and butter of their own production.

The opening of the Great Western Railway, now the Canadian National Railway, in 1854, reduced the cost of transportation on everything brought in from Montreal or Toronto and made it possible to secure many things then looked upon as luxuries, but which are now considered prime necessities. The Crimean War which lasted from 1853 to 1856 created a cash market for wheat and the price rose to \$2 per bushel, bringing prosperity to Ontario.

Among other things acquired at this time was a good kitchen stove. The fireplace was boarded up and never used again. A good team of horses supplanted the oxen and the pace of living was considerably accelerated.

It was sometime in the early 1860's when the oil lamp took the place of the home-made tallow candles. The oil and the lamp chimneys were rather expensive at that time and the "chimneys" had a way of breaking very frequently. (Unquote)

Some pioneer women carded, spun and wave the wool for their family's clothing and bedding needs. Nothing was wasted and rags were saved to be made into hooked, braided or woven rugs. The women created their own designs and made the dyes. They were also adept at making patchwork quilts. These crafts are still practiced today, but as hobbies.

The diet of the early settlers consisted of the staple foods that would keep for long periods. Pork was the main meat. Fresh pork was enjoyed while it would keep and the remainder was smoked and salted. The lard was rendered for cooking. Fruits were used fresh in season and preserved or dried

Township councillors appointed pathmasters Small townships had about 50, the appointment being for one year. The pathmaster would subscribe to a declaration and receive from the township clerk a list of names of those liable for work and the number of days for each. Statute Labour was generally done in June - a slack time between seeding and haying. One man, with team and wagon, was given four days credit for each day he worked. A man, working in a pit, one day credit. No regulation in size of load, resulted in a varied thickness of gravel dumped, leaving a rough uneven surface. This method continued until the appointment of a road superintendent in 1925.

The township was divided into four wards at that period. Besides the work done by statute labour, each councillor represented a ward and was allotted a sum of money to be spent on maintenance and construction in the division he represented.

The ratepayers were very interested in municipal affairs in the early days, as was evident by the minutes of the nomination meeting held January 7, 1852, when twelve candidates stood for election. Polling commenced after the nomination and continued the rest of the day until 4 o'clock, then adjourned to the following day, for completion at 4 p.m.

Councils had no established meeting place, as shown by the minutes. The council met January 19 at School House No. 3, with W. S. Light as Reeve, the next meeting to be held at McKay's Tavern, February 2, where it was passed that inns and taverns shall not exceed four in number and that 3 pounds sterling be paid for each license, including imperial fees.

The following council meeting, March 8, 1852, Abraham Hillsdon was appointed Clerk of the township, the office he held until the year 1893.

From the Township minutes of 1867. Council was held July 8, 1867 at the tavern of Mr. Lee in the Village of Thamesford. (Nowhere in the minutes of the council of that year is there any mention made of the Act of Confederation which united the existing provinces into a nation). It was moved by Mr. Lunn and seconded by Mr. Weir, resolved that the reeve draw orders on the treasury to pay members for the year. Orders were drawn in favour, of the following: Reeve Jarvis and Councillors, A. Dunn, Lunn, Oken, Whitelaw, for \$12.00 each.

Previous clerks of the township were:

|         |                |
|---------|----------------|
| 1842-46 | Thomas Peacock |
| 1847    | C. D. Martin   |
| 1848-49 | John Carnegie  |
| 1850-51 | Thomas Peacock |

Following Abraham Hillsdon's term of office, at a council meeting January 15 1854, a resolution moved by A. Gordon, seconded by F. Foster, resolved that Richard Seldon, be appointed Clerk of the Township of North Oxford at a salary of \$90.00 per annum.

Fifty years after confederation, the township council was composed of Reeve, R. S. Elliott, Councillors, H. Baigent, T. Hutchison, A. Dunn, E. Sandick. The country was engaged in World War 1 and following cessation of hostilities, the council on June 27, 1921, passed a by-law for the erection of a memorial monument to honour the memory of the men from the township who lost their lives. to be erected by Hayes Bros. Company for the sum of \$1,000.00.

## CENTENNIAL FARMS

| LOCATION                  | YEAR ACQUIRED | FIRST OWNER       | GENERATION              | INTERIM OWNERS                         | PRESENT OWNERS               |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| N. ½ Lot 11<br>Con. 2     | 1832          | George Brown      | Grandfather             | George D.                              | Stanley Brown                |
| S. ½ Lot 10<br>Con. 2     | 1842          | Edward Comiskey   | Great-Grandfather       | James, Edward                          | Thomas Comiskey              |
| N. ½ Lot 23<br>Con. 3     | 1851          | John Forbes       | Great-Grandfather       | James, willed it to grandson           | James Forbes                 |
| N. 1/2 Lot 13<br>Con. 1   | 1856          | William Gerrie    | Grandfather             | David, George                          | Mrs. George Gerrie           |
| Lot 23 Con. 1             | 1852          | Ebenezer Golding  | Great-Grandfather       | Henry, Henry, Earl                     | William Golding              |
| N. ½ Lot 23<br>Con. 3     | 1862          | John Henderson    | Great-Grandfather       | William, Arnold                        | Arnold and William Henderson |
| Lot 7 Con. 1              | 1836          | John Hutchison    | Great-great Grandfather | Donald, John, Arthur                   | Douglas Hutchison            |
| S.E. 1/4 Lot 19<br>Con. 1 | 1804          | Christopher Karn  | Great-great Grandfather | (Grandson) Samuel, Robert              | Robert Karn                  |
| Lot 4 Con. 2              | 1856          | Robert Kerr       | Great-Grandfather       | John, George                           | William Kerr                 |
| N. ½ Lot 19<br>Con. 3     | 1859          | Benajah Leslie    | Grandfather             | Thomas                                 | Joel Leslie                  |
| S. ½ Lot 12<br>Con. 1     | 1854          | Alexander Muterer | Grandfather             | Neil                                   | James Muterer                |
| S.E. Lot 5<br>Con. 4 & 5  | 1849          | Rev. H. Revell    | Great-Grandfather       | Henry, John                            | James Revell                 |
| Lot 7 Con. 3              | 1847          | William Seldon    | Great-Grandfather       | Richard, Arthur                        | Richard Seldon               |
| Lot 7 Con. 1              | 1844          | John Hutchison    | Great-Grandfather       | Elizabeth Hutchison Sutherland, Donald | Donald Sutherland            |
| S. 1/2 Lot 6<br>Con. 3    | 1850          | John Stephenson   | Great-Grandfather       | John, William                          | Harry Stephenson             |

## ROADS

From a trail in the woods the township road system has grown and accommodated the economic development of North Oxford. The first grader, drawn by a four horse team adequately shaped up and built a road suitable for horse-drawn vehicles. By 1915 automobiles had come into common use and with their increase came a demand for better roads. A number of smaller graders were purchased which made more mileage of surface maintenance possible in a shorter period.

When the old statute labour system was dropped in 1925 Leonard Minler was appointed road superintendent at 45 cents per hour. Mr. Minler's Model T Ford with a shovel, crow-bar, pick axe and small tools in the rear seat became an institution. Though this equipment appears humorous today, Mr. Minter gave his township 28 years of splendid service. Winter car usage demanded winter road service. Hired trucks with township snowplows attached were seldom equal to the demands after severe storms. Eventually a power grader with snowplow attachments was purchased.

Stanley Shannon, who succeeded Leonard Minler, supervises this equipment and the maintenance of over 61 miles of road. Inventory December 31, 1966 values the machinery shed at Lot 6, Con. 3, at \$1,500.00, land \$300.00 and equipment at just under \$40,000.00.

The Governor's Road was surveyed by orders of Governor Simcoe as a military road in 1794, but nothing much was done to develop it until 1812, when 50 pounds sterling was granted toward building a road from Levi Babbitts in the wilderness of the River La Tranche (The Thames) west of the Townplot (Woodstock). This road was also known as Dundas Street, as it was mentioned in early property deeds as the line from which measurements were taken. Maintenance and construction on the road was shared with the adjoining townships. It was the most heavily travelled road of all the township roads as it was a direct route between London and Woodstock.

During the term of the Hepburn Government the road was taken over as a provincial road and later turned back to the township. In 1946 it was assumed by the county. After the erection of the Canada Cement Company Plant, the Company offered to pay \$250,000.00 toward the paving of the road and this was accepted and paving was done on the west part from Rayside to Thamesford in 1958 and from Rayside to Woodstock in 1959. The City of Woodstock assumed the portion from Embro Road No. 6 to the City as a suburban road, paying 25% of the cost of that part.

Highway No. 2 was formerly a toll road - the right-of-way was purchased by private persons. The names of Golding and Stephenson are mentioned. The purpose was to provide a short cut between Thamesford and Ingersoll. Toll gates were erected, one near Thamesford and another near Ingersoll where the log cabin now stands. A long pole across the road stopped traffic going through until payment was made, then the hinged pole was wrung open and vehicles allowed to go through. The young people of that time took great delight in approaching the gates, quietly opening them and dashing through. The gatekeeper's ire aroused, he was on the watch for them the next time and made them pay double. Toll roads were in operation until 1904 when the county of Oxford purchased them, bringing them under a county system. The purchase price for the toll road which is now Highway No. 2 was \$3,500.00. With steadily increasing automobile and truck traffic, it was realized that the roads would have to be hard surfaced and this road



became Highway No. 2. Traffic on this road became so great that on one July 1st holiday, cars held up by the C.N.R. Ingersoll crossing were stalled bumper to bumper as far back as Dickson's Corners. With the paving of the Governor's Road and the construction of 401 Highway, the traffic today is very light in comparison with the other two roads.

Rayside Road No. 7, north from Ingersoll to Rayside, was originally a toll road. The two short bends in the road resulted in a number of fatal accidents. The road turned from a straight course to meet concession 1 and it has been said the hotel owners at Rayside gave the builders a hundred dollars to bring it that way. In order to get the number of miles required, it continued west on the Governor's Road one mile to the town line between West Zorra and East Nissouri. The toll gate on this road was located at the northeast corner of Lot 10, on the Tower Line Road. This road was also purchased from the owners in 1904 for \$4,000 and came into the county road system and was paved during William Banbury's term as Reeve. Because of the number of accidents, petitions to the council asked that it be taken on as a suburban road. This request has been granted and in 1966 survey work was done. The curve at Concession 1 will be straightened this year of 1967.

The concessions and sideroads are gravel surfaced and have been named and marked from the west town line as: The Banner Road - leading to Banner, Putnam Road, Golding Road, Dickson Road, Log Cabin Road, Rayside Road, Dunn Road, Quarry Road and Skyway Road. These roads are constructed and maintained by the township council, with the provincial government paying a 50% subsidy on the work and 80% on bridges.

The middle branch of the Thames River crosses the township, requiring three bridges. The First Concession never has been bridged. The Second Concession did not have a bridge until 1922. When plans were made to place a bridge there, it created a great deal of controversy as it was thought that for the number it would serve, it would be a great expense. Under the persistent efforts of Reeve Herbert Baigent, the majority of the council voted in favour. The cost was approximately \$7,000.00.



#### 1937 FLOOD

Fourth Concession Bridge, taken about 11 a.m. By 2 p.m. the water had until it reached the end of the bridge and when the water receded there was a wash-out 12 ft. deep which undoubtedly saved the bridge.

In, 1937, a flood occurred when continuous heavy rains and melting snow preceding April 26, 1937, turned small creeks into raging torrents,

carrying the flood waters into the valley of the Thames, causing the most disastrous flooding the area had ever known. The Third Concession bridge was destroyed, but the much criticized Second Concession bridge, which remained, proved its worth.

The cost of the replacement was \$12,800.00.



#### FOURTH CONCESSION BRIDGE COLLAPSE

The driver Pat Scalley, miraculously escaped unhurt.

On March 30, 1955, the Fourth Concession Bridge also met with disaster. A bulldozer, which had been leveling earth to give a better view of the cross roads at the Putnam Road, was loaded on a float. The driver started to cross, but the bridge collapsed under the heavy load. A new bridge was built at a cost of over \$22,000.00



Aerial view of the bridge built in 1955.

The Fifth Concession is the shortest road in the township, running west of the river to Lot 22. In 1930, legal action was taken by a resident against the township to have this road opened farther to the west. The case was dismissed without cost, on the grounds that the extensive flooding and the cost of a bridge would be too great for the benefit derived.

## TELEPHONE

The first rural telephone line in the township was one constructed by Dr. John McWilliams of Thamesford. He owned a tamarack swamp in North Dorchester and he had poles cut and used them as telephone poles. The unique feature of this line was that it operated on one wire: the calls were made by turning a crank on the telephone which rang a bell on the phone of the party called. Phones were installed in the homes of Thomas Hutchison, Donald Sutherland, Andrew Brown and Putnam Store. This line was bought out by the Ingersoll Independent Telephone Company and operated through a central in Ingersoll. This exchange was in operation many years before being taken over by the Bell Telephone Company, who opened a Thamesford exchange January 20, 1953. The first call was placed by Clark Murray, M.P. Bell Telephone introduced the dial system in June 1963.

## HYDRO

The steel tower line, built across the township in 1910, was the first visible sign of the coming of Hydro. In 1911 the lights were turned on in Ingersoll, and Hydro became a reality. In June, 1912, one of the first Hydro exhibits in Ontario was held at Beachville. Hydro demonstrations of the use of electricity for silo-filling, milking, etc. were held north-east of Ingersoll on the farm of George Raymond. In 1927 lines were built where three farmers per mile would sign a contract for service for a 20 year period. It was a once-in-a-lifetime thrill on a dull November afternoon, when suddenly the lights came on like a flash of sunshine.

Consumption of electricity has gone up by leaps and bounds. Today, if the Hydro is off, even for a short time, we realize how essential it is to modern living.

## POSTAL SERVICE

In 1875 residents of North Oxford went to Ingersoll, Thamesford, Beachville or Woodstock for their mail. Later, local post offices established at Rayside and Banner served those communities until rural mail delivery.

Rural Route No. 2, Ingersoll serves north and east of the town, and H. S. Cole was the first mailman. R.R. No. 3 began in July 1914, with J. E. Bobier delivering the mail to the west part of the township. The present mailmen are Cyrus Poyntz and Carl Hugill. R.R. No. 2, Thamesford serves residents east of the village. The first mailman was Frank Garner and the present one is Calvin Weir. Some residents of the township still go to Beachville for their mail.

## BOARD OF HEALTH

The first two medical health officers, Dr. Jones and Dr. J. A. Renwick, both appointed in 1921, served about a year. In 1922, Dr. T. M. Weir returned to Thamesford, accepted the position and continued in office almost 25 years.

The board included the Medical Officer of Health, the Sanitary Inspector, a member appointed by the council and a secretary. Reports were received from the Sanitary Inspector in connection with his inspection of schools, cheese factories and slaughter houses. The Medical Officer of Health visited the schools regularly, and with the aid of the county school nurses carried on an efficient program of immunization against communicable diseases.

On January 1, 1946, the County Health Unit became operative and the Township Board of Health was discontinued.

## NORTH OXFORD TOWNSHIP SCHOOL AREA BOARD

In May 1950, the North Oxford Council voted in favour of a township school area comprising the three schools, Banner, Dickson's Corners and Dunn's. In January 1957, the first township area board was appointed: Chairman, Stanley Brown, Roy Gordon, Joel Leslie, Robert Brown, Merle Harvey, and secretary-treasurer, S. J. Dundas. Ben Leslie succeeded S. J. Dundas in October 1951 and served until December 1966. Gerald Pirie is the township's representative on the Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute Board.

## INGERSOLL RURAL CEMETERY

Land consisting of 17 acres situated in North Oxford and adjoining Ingersoll was purchased for a cemetery in 1864 by a group of 168 local residents who became shareholders in the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery Company. The first meeting was held May 21, 1864 and the board elected: president, D. M. Robertson; treasurer, Charles E. Chadwick; W. A. Ramsey, Donald Wallace, Adam Oliver, James Noxon, Warren Harris, James Wallace and William McDowell. J. W. Canfield was appointed secretary, and G. W. Wonham was the surveyor.

There was a diphtheria epidemic at the time. Of the first 25 buried 14 were children, and 11 of those died of diphtheria. In 1882, the committee decided no more interest was to be paid to the shareholders. In 1927 a mausoleum was erected. The cemetery became a municipal cemetery August 1, 1955.

Members of the present board are: chairman, Miss W. L. Williams; secretary-treasurer, G. E. Hessenauer; representative of North Oxford plot holders, Arthur Hutchison; representative of Ingersoll plot holders, J. N. Meathrell; representative of North Oxford Council, Alwyn Patience; representative of Ingersoll Council, Robert J. Smith.

## "SACRED HEART" CEMETERY

The Catholic "Sacred Heart" Cemetery is situated on part of Lot 11, Con. 3

## PLANNING BOARD

On December 21, 1953, a communication from the Department of Planning and Development defined the Township of North Oxford as a Planning Area. This placed the Township Council in a position to appoint a Planning Board. The members were C. M. Riddle, James Dundas, Jack Smith, Jack Taylor, G. E. Sandick, George Glendinning and Reeve William Baigent ex-officio.

A building by-law and a zoning by-law were approved. Requests for approval of sales of properties, subdivision plans, severances, etc. are considered.

### Assessors and Date Appointed

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1897 James Clendinning | 1932 Charles Henderson |
| 1904 Robert Gordon     | 1940 Arthur Hutchison  |
| 1905 James Waring      | 1942 S. J. Dundas      |
| 1926 Emerson Nichols   | 1952 Charles Waring    |
| 1929 E. S. Allen       | 1961 Wallace Baigent   |

### Tax Collectors

|                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1897 Henry Revell    | 1934 Charles Waring    |
| 1904 Emerson Nichols | 1939 Fred McDermott    |
| 1931 Fred McDermott  | 1943 Miss E. A. Seldon |

## Auditors

|                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1897 William Gerrie (8)           | 1932 John Baigent (5)     |
| 1897 Christopher Brock (8)        | 1934 Neil Muterer (3)     |
| 1905 Alex Beattie (15)            | 1937 Harry Hinge (3)      |
| 1905 Charles Garner (15)          | 1937 Fred McDermott (2)   |
| 1920 Christopher Brock (6)        | 1939 Chester Branston (4) |
| 1920 John Muterer (9)             | 1940 Stanley Dunn (2)     |
| 1926 Charles Waring (8)           | 1942 Charles Waring (1)   |
| 1929 Fred McDermott (3)           | 1943 E. Burpee Palmer (5) |
| 1948 Millard, Rouse and Rosebrugh |                           |

(Figures in brackets indicate the number of years served)

## INGERSOLL JUNIOR INSTITUTE AND JUNIOR FARMERS

The Ontario Department of Agriculture and its Women's Institute Branch sponsored Short Courses in Ingersoll and made February, 1929, a memorable month in the lives of the young people who attended. G. R. Green, Oxford County Agriculture Representative, assisted by E. A. Summers, and Alex Muir, instructed the boys while Mrs. Gordon Cook, of Beamsville, a former teacher at McDonald College, Guelph, assisted by Miss McLaughlin and Miss Jean Cameron Smith taught the girls household science and home-nursing.

As a result of this very successful short course the Ingersoll Junior Institute and Junior Farmers Club were organized. The first officers were Junior Institute: president, Miss Margaret Leslie (Mrs. Roy Gordon); secretary-treasurer, Miss Marion Palmer (Mrs. Erle Hartwicke); Junior Farmers president, Joel Leslie; secretary-treasurer, Harold Sims. Monthly meetings were held at the homes of the members. Each group had its own special interest program, and then joined for a general program and lunch. During their first year, the Ingersoll Junior Farmers held a "dairy herd testing" competition. There was a keen interest taken in this as the first prize was a two week short course at the O.A.C. Guelph. They also took part in the Oxford County "better seed" campaign, and held a seed-cleaning demonstration at Ingersoll Fair.

Following is the list of names of the girls and boys from North Oxford who were members during the first year.

Margaret Leslie (Mrs. Roy Gordon), Nellie Leslie (Mrs. Cecil Burrell), Beatrice Leslie (Mrs. A. M. Doidge), Madeline Knox (Mrs. Douglas Kester), Iola Ingram (Mrs. Frank Caffyn), Marion Palmer (Mrs. Erle Hartwicke), Sadie Palmer (Mrs. Mervin Cuthbert), Isabel Brown (Mrs. O. Clifton), Nellie Sandick (Mrs. Alex Hart), Mildred Armstrong (Mrs. Joel Leslie), Jean Banbury (Mrs. Leroy Wilson), Margaret Shelton (Mrs. Leslie Nancekivell), Frances Kerr (Mrs. Harry Ellery), Edna Kerr (Mrs. Robert Trowhill), Louise Brown (Mrs. George Fraser), Ann Nancekivell (Mrs. George Jakeman).



JUNIOR FARMERS and JUNIOR INSTITUTE PICNIC Southside Park Woodstock, June 20, 1930.

Jim Allen, Stanley Brown, Stanley Hammond, Tom Hanlon, Joel Leslie, Kenneth Oliver, Cecil Riddle, Gordon Sandick, Harold Sims

The activities of the group included taking part in judging competitions at the C.N.E., London Fair and Royal Winter Fair. The Household Science Judging Competition included classes in nutrition, home furnishing and clothing and the Live Stock Judging included classes in cattle and swine, etc. Some of the other activities were one act plays presented in competition, a Garden and Canning Club, concluding with an achievement day, taking part in square dance competitions an annual picnic and an annual banquet. These clubs continued until after 1960.

These clubs had a beneficial effect on the youth of North Oxford. "How to dress well, eat well and live in harmonious surroundings are the phases of life taught in the competitions", is a quotation from the Farmers Advocate. The privilege of knowing and working with such outstanding leaders as Miss Florence Eadie and Miss Ethel Chapman also enriched the lives of the girls.

The clubs have been referred to, jokingly, as the "marriage bureau", and several happily married couples who first met at the meetings testify to the truth of the old proverb, "Many a true word has been spoken in jest".

#### 4-H CALF CLUB

The Ingersoll Kiwanis Club sponsors a 4-H Calf Club for boys and girls, and has an achievement day when prizes are given for the best calf, and for the judging competition. Several young people from North Oxford have won many first and second prizes.

## *Banner*

The hamlet of Banner was originally Spearman's Corners, named after Joseph Spearman, one of the first settlers who arrived in 1836. It is on the Fourth Concession (River Road) five miles west of Ingersoll. This community forms the south-west corner of North Oxford.

### PIONEER CEMETERY

At the corner formed by the intersection of the Fourth Concession and the Putnam Side Road, a pioneer cemetery still remains on a little knoll on the east side of the middle branch of the Thames River. It seems as if Mother Nature herself set this land apart for a sacred spot. It slopes gently to the roads and drops sharply on the other two sides. Jeremiah Minkler gave it to be a cemetery for all time. The earliest death recorded on the stones still remaining is Prudence Douglas, wife of Chileon Minkler, March 24, 1841. A wooden fence was built around the cemetery with a picket gate at the corner. Lilacs and roses, treasured by the pioneers, were planted on the graves. These roots are believed to have been brought out from the old country by the immigrants years before.

In 1952, to comply with the law that these old cemeteries must be restored, the profusion of lilacs and roses had to be cut down, and the tombstones removed. The stones, later, were grouped and set in a concrete base in the centre of the cemetery.

Family names on these tombstones are Dundas, Armstrong, Patterson, Spearman, Wolf, Collier, Whittaker, Minkler, and Mathews.

### PIONEER CHURCH

In the early days a little Anglican Mission Church was built north of the pioneer cemetery. The Rev. Henry Revell, rector at Ingersoll from 1845 to 1849, and other visiting ministers preached here. There were few churches in those days and this one must have served the district. We quote from an old record, "Services were held at Spearman's Corners and many travelled in winter by Oxford sled, and others walked to the services from Thamesford, a distance of four miles, sometimes carrying a baby for baptism.

No trace of this building remains

### BANNER CEMETERY

The pioneer cemetery was small and since plans for a new Wesleyan Methodist Church were being discussed, a cemetery behind the planned site of the new church seemed feasible. On January 28, 1856, David Doty gave an acre of land from Lot 21, Concession 5, and received "Five shillings of lawful money of Canada" necessary to make the transaction legal.

The first trustees were Armon Clark, William McFadden, Robert Dundas, David Dundas, Benjamin Minkler, Samuel Morris, Stephen Irwin, David Evans, and Robert Simpson.

In 1870 a shed was built to protect the horses from the weather during services. In 1934 extra land was bought from William Hammond to enlarge the cemetery, and later, a "U" driveway of crushed stone was added.

W. T. Ovens, who was secretary-treasurer for many years, bequeathed the money for the present iron fence with handsome stone posts. His successor S. J. Dundas left funds to purchase the shrubbery which now beautifies the spot where the shed once stood.

Times and prices change. In 1856 the cost of a plot was \$8.00, in 1967 it is \$100.00, though this includes perpetual care.

Members of the present board are: Joel Leslie, Chairman; Roy Gordon, Secretary-treasurer; Roy Newman, Harley Hammond, Ben Leslie, James Dundas, and J. E. Richardson.

#### BANNER CHURCH



From the year 1839, and probably earlier, the settlers in this area were receiving spiritual guidance from ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. This was the era of the "Saddle-bag Preachers", so called because they travelled on horseback, on organized circuits, to take the word of God to isolated districts where there were no church buildings.

The present church, built in 1856 was dedicated in 1857. In 1867, the circuit of Dorchester Station was formed and "North Oxford" congregation was included. The Rev. William Galbraith was the first minister, with an annual salary of \$180, board \$110, and "horse-keep" \$50, with this community's share being \$100. In 1874 the Wesleyan Methodist Church and a New Connexion Church united to form the Methodist Church.

The Pulpit Bible was a gift from one of the first trustees, and is inscribed: "Presented by Mr. and Mrs. Armon Clark to the North Oxford Church as a New Year gift, January 1, 1883."

In August 1902 the name of "Banner" appeared for the first time in place of "North Oxford" in the records of the church. Putnam Circuit was formed in 1904, with three appointments: Putnam, Mossley, and Banner, with the Rev. A. E. Moorehouse as the new minister.

During the next few months extensive improvement were made in the church, and a basement was built for a Sunday School room. There-opening services were held in February 1905 with a full church. A Tea-meeting was



held in the new basement the next evening, and over 400 people enjoyed the bountiful supper, which was followed by a musical program. When an appeal was made for money to help with the expenses, the response was overwhelming. The contributions met the entire indebtedness. The total expense then was \$1,602. Today it would be many thousands of dollars.

The Quarterly Meetings, which are now called Communion Services, received careful consideration. A silver Communion set was purchased and there was to be one service held on the circuit each quarter. The whole circuit meeting together for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper united the congregations in a special way.

Another highlight in the life of the Church was the union of the Methodist, Congregational, and Presbyterian Churches in June 1925, to become the United Church of Canada.

Through the years, further improvements were made to the Church, including a choir loft and two new classrooms, in 1925. In 1954 a new stairway with a back door into the basement was constructed.

The Centennial anniversary, which was held on June 17 and 23, 1957, proved to be a great reunion for the community. Former residents came from far and near for the celebrations, with lunch served on the Church lawn following the Sunday morning services. The guest speakers on these two Sundays were: Rev. A. J. Love, Rev. A. E. Duffield, Rev. A. E. Moorehouse and Rev. T. G. Husser. The minister for the past four years has been Rev. T. P. Moulton. The Putnam Pastoral Charge will be taken over in July by the Rev. Robert L. Raymont, who comes to us from a Saskatchewan Charge.

The history of this Church would not be complete without mention being made of the work of the women. They have always made a worthy contribution to the finances and to the social and spiritual life of church and community. The present officers of the United Church Women are: president, Mrs. George Baigent; secretary, Mrs. Wallis Hammond; and treasurer, Mrs. Erwin Brown.

A Sunday school has always been well attended ever since it was started in pioneer days. As a result of their religious training in Church, Sunday School, and in the home, six young people of Banner have dedicated their lives to different branches of church work.

Beatrice Leslie, Reg.N. who graduated from the United Church Training School in 1940, served as a missionary nurse in Battle River Hospital, Northern Alberta. She is now Mrs. (Dr.) A. M. Doidge, and lives in Barrie, Ontario.

Dorothy Ovens who graduated in 1961, was commissioned as a Deaconess, and is at present serving at St. Luke's United Church, Islington.

Charles Leslie was ordained to the ministry in 1933. He was granted his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1945, and is now Chairman of the Department of Philosophy at the Northern Illinois University, U.S.A.

Another local resident, Joseph Hennesey, was ordained a priest of the Roman Catholic Church in 1934. Father Hennesey is Chaplain of Westminster Hospital, London.

Nelson Hutcheson and Morley Hammond were ordained in 1959. Nelson is now serving in Wilkie, Saskatchewan, and Morley is a missionary in Korea.

Let us hope and pray that our little country churches will not have to close their doors, through lack of interest or ministers. They have served the communities so well in the past, there is surely a place for them in our lives in the future.

THE NEW CONNEXION METHODIST CHURCH  
DRIVE SHED-FORESTER'S HALL.

A New Connexion Methodist Church was built east of the present school on the farm of Joseph Spearman, Lot 21, Con. 4, about 1854. All written records of this Church have vanished, but we do know that services were held until 1874, and ministers came regularly from London to preach. In that year the Wesleyan and New Connexion Methodists united.

John Spearman bought the New Connexion Church, and used it for a drive shed. It was often emptied, tables set up and Tea-meetings held. These were an excellent way to raise money for Ladies Aid projects, as an admission was charged and the food all donated. In other words, all one could eat and an evening of fun for 25 cents; no wonder they were so popular.

In 1898, this building was bought by a group of men called the "Shareholders of Oxford Hall", and moved to its present site, west of the church, with Christopher Bartindale, the local building mover, directing. A platform was built inside at the south end, and the hall began its long service as a community centre.

The Excelsior Association No. 111 of the Patrons of Industry, an organization which handled groceries, twine, seed, etc., stored and sold their merchandise and held weekly meetings in the hall. In 1893, the receipts for the first four months were \$329.97.

Through the years "the hall" has been the scene of many gatherings such as Literary Society, Red Cross, Progressive Society, oyster suppers, banquets, and wedding dinners, political meetings, entertainments, plays, presentations to brides and grooms and to those leaving the community. For many years, the Christmas concerts, when the children had an opportunity to entertain, were held in "The Hall".

CANADIAN ORDER OF FORESTERS

In July 1898, several officers of the High Court of the Canadian Order of Foresters visited Banner, canvassing the community, and as a result, Court Banner No. 750 was instituted. The officers were: Chief Ranger, John George; Vice Chief Ranger, Maurice Breen; Recording Secretary, T. J. Leslie; Financial Secretary, William Clark; Treasurer, Thomas Caddey.

As the shares owned by the Shareholders of Oxford Hall became available, the Foresters bought them and they now own the hall. Through the years there have been many improvements made, both inside and out. Monthly euchres and dances, with old time music supplied for almost 25 years by George Bruce and several accompanists, helped with the expenses and added to the social life of the district.

The annual "At Home", when the families enjoy a delicious supper, program and dance, is one of the special events at the Forester's Hall, the other is the Foresters Walk, when the Foresters march from the Hall to the Church and attend Divine Service.

During a period of seventy years the conductors have been William Clark, then Arthur Richardson and now Hartwell Baigent.

The Rev. T. G. Husser, who joined Court Banner during his ministry here, is the High Chaplain of the Order.

The present officers are: Chief Ranger, William Mason; Vice Chief Ranger, Lawrence Mills; Recording Secretary, Jack Hutcheson; Treasurer, Jack Calvert,

## BANNER SCHOOL

When the earliest settlers arrived in this district, what little education the children received was taught by their mother in the homes. About the year 1840, a log school was built on the south-west corner of Lot 21, Con. 4, North Oxford, on a farm belonging to Joseph Spearman who donated the site for as long as it was needed for school purposes. In 1851, this log building was replaced by a frame building. A crisis arose in 1873 when an act was passed in the legislature that all schools must have a playground. Being unable to buy any land adjoining the school, the board bought a half acre across the side road on Lot 20, from William Loughlin, and had the school moved over, and a high fence built around three sides of the land.

One cannot help but admire the teachers of those days. They often taught as many as 50 pupils, all eight grades, and, some teachers, even the first year of high school, one teacher receiving \$15.00 a year extra for teaching "first form" (grade nine).

Early in 1900 it was decided that a new school was necessary, as the old school was in need of many repairs, and was by now too small for the community's needs. A new white brick school was built, and it was a never-to-be-forgotten day in September 1900, when the children carried their books over to the new school. The cost of the building, including new furnace and seating, was \$1,857. Some years later, an acre of land was bought to enlarge the playground which was much too small.

In the 1930s, pupils were encouraged to take an interest in school fairs and school garden's. Later, one teacher instituted hot lunches during the winter months, which were much appreciated and beneficial.

A few words must be written about the excellent musical instruction given by Mr. Verveel in the 1950s. He was ably assisted by the teacher, Miss Mildred Dundas. The pupils placed first and second in both choir and solo numbers on many occasions at the annual Rotary Festivals of Music held in Oxford County.

Progress is inevitable, so the "Little Red School Houses" are closing in favour of the centralized system. Whether for better or worse is for the future to tell. In June last year, the teacher and her pupils left the building for the last time.

A reunion was arranged for August 27, and invitations sent to as many former teachers and pupils as possible. The weather was perfect and more than 350 people registered on arrival. After a picnic lunch there was a program, during which each teacher present was introduced by one of her own former pupils. After the program, visiting was the order of the day, and teachers, pupils, and residents who had not met for many years, were soon getting re-acquainted, saying to each other "remember when?" The happy day soon passed, but the memories, we are sure, will live on for many years to come.

So ends the era of the "Little Red School House" at Banner.



MISS LOUISE ODELL, TEACHER - 1922

Back Row: Jack Calvert, Stanley Hammond, Jim Leslie, Frances Pirie, Harley Hammond, James Pirie, Joseph Hennessey, Mildred Calvert, Florence Pirie, Alexina Calvert, Madaline Knox, Hazel Little, Ida Little, Alice Ingram, Ethel Hutcheson.

Second Row: Jimmie Little, Vincent Rodenhurst, Norman Johnson, Gerald Pirie, Joel Leslie, Ivah Bartindale, Kathleen Pirie, Marion Rodenhurst, Beatrice Leslie, Nellie Pirie.

Front Row: Harold Johnson, Fred Hutcheson, Oswald Bartindale, Aubrey Clendinning, Raymond Kugan, Marjorie Clendinning, Helen Calvert.

PIONEER INDUSTRIES which hastened progress included a saw mill and a grist mill on the Thames River, a blacksmith shop east of Banner, and a brickyard on the farm of Benejah Leslie, Lot 19, Con. 3. Several red brick houses still remain, mutely testifying to the quality of the bricks from this brickyard.

#### MAPLE LEAF CHEESE FACTORY



#### MAPLE LEAF CHEESE FACTORY

Curing room, left, with residence above, covered passage to cheese factory at right.

Jonathan Jarvis took up 500 acres in the Fourth and Fifth Concessions. In 1867, he erected a cheese factory on the north west corner of Lot 1 in Concession 5, with the emblematic name "Maple Leaf". The factory was later leased to one of the early cheesemakers, Adam Armstrong.

This factory operated with many patrons until 1899 when the St. Charles Condensing Company, later called Borden's, opened a plant in Ingersoll. Many patrons left and shipped to this new condensing plant.

The Maple Leaf Factory was the first co-operative factory in North Oxford. According to reports, the job of hauling milk was let by auction, a first in Canada. The haulers wore uniforms of red coats and caps obtained from former militia bandsmen, or disbanded soldiers. They also carried guns when hauling the milk to the factory as bears and wolves were common in the district in those early days.

There were many cheesemakers during its years of operation, but one man, Thomas Caddey, who began cheesemaking in 1880, was known far and wide for his ability, and at times the factory was referred to as the Caddey factory. Many stories can be told of the card playing which took place at the factory, which was quite a social centre for the men.

In 1900, there were 98 patrons at the Maple Leaf Cheese Factory. The following is an interesting statement from the records of the year 1904:

Feb. 1904 - Chairman & President, Alex Rose; Vice-President, James Waring; Treasurer, Trader's Bank, Ingersoll; Secretary, Robert Gordon; Auditor, James Clendinning; Owner & Salesmen, Thomas Caddey.

The factory was closed in January 1912, as most of the patrons had started shipping to Borden's, or to Banner Cheese factory. Most of the machinery was purchased by Ben. Crawford, the Banner cheesemaker. The buildings were sold, except for the butter room which was used as a machinery shed for many years until it was removed in May 1966.

#### BANNER CHEESE FACTORY



BANNER CHEESE FACTORY- (Around 1915)

On February 19, 1906, a meeting was held establishing a new cheese factory on the Third Concession of North Oxford. Andrew Brown was elected president, and the directors were D. W. Calvert, Wilbert Ross, T. J. Leslie, and S. J. Dundas. The cheesemaker was W. H. Morris.

During the following winter, the factory was destroyed by fire, and a meeting was called to plan its reconstruction. This was a co-operative factory and the first cheesemaker was B. B. Crawford. In February 1908, the first

annual meeting was held, and the first secretary was W. T. Ovens. In succeeding years Ben. Crawford bought the factory and continued to operate it until November 1920, when it was purchased by Earl Brown, son of James Brown of the Red Star Cheese Factory, Embro. In an annual statement in 1924, the total pounds of milk received at Banner Cheese Factory was 4,110,000. and manufactured into 355,176 lb. of cheese. In March 1935, Earl Brown died most unexpectedly, and the factory was managed for several years by Mrs. Earl Brown, with Roy Newman as cheesemaker.

After graduation from Dairy School, Erwin Brown assumed the position of cheesemaker. In 1946, a record 5,288,709 lbs. of milk was received and manufactured into 443,631 lb. of cheese. The last cheese was produced in July 1958. At various times through the years, the milk was purchased by other plants which required milk for manufacturing purposes, mainly the Borden Company in Ingersoll. However, in September 1959, Canada Dairies Corporation, in Burgessville, commenced purchasing the milk for a new product, Multi-Milk, a form of concentrated homogenized milk. The milk continues to be received at the Banner Factory, and then trucked by bulk tank to Burgessville.

In June, 1963, a fire of undetermined origin destroyed the factory buildings, but through the concentrated efforts of the Thamesford and Dorchester Fire Departments-, the adjoining residence was saved. Immediate arrangements had to be made to transport all the milk to Canada Dairies for receiving.

In the year 1964, a record weight of over ten million pounds of milk was shipped to Canada Dairies from the Banner area.

#### POSTAL SERVICE

A letter mailed in Chazy, New York, on March 7, 1860, and addressed to "Mr. Jeremiah Minkler, North Oxford, Canada West" arrived at his home on March 13. Two of the postmarks still legible are "Ogdensburg, N.Y. Mar. 12.60." and "Paris, Mar. 12.60. D.P.O." There are three other postmarks but they are not clear enough to be read. This letter must have come through the Ingersoll Office.

On May 1, 1870 to June 30, 1871, a post office named Wesley was operated in a house at Spearman's Corners. According to the Postmaster General's report of 1871, its gross revenue was \$28.10, and the Postmaster's salary was \$10.75. Although not listed in official reports, local history records that a James Cain was the postmaster. After this post office closed, residents of Spearman's Corners went to Ingersoll or Thamesford for mail.

In 1883, a Credit Valley (later called Canadian Pacific Railway) station was built at Putnam, so the post office there became a central office and mail was delivered two or three times a week to the surrounding communities. Mrs. Sarah Clark was the postmistress for Spearman's Corners.

James Clendinning started a petition to get daily mail, and in 1893 E. N. Minkler suggested the name of the community be changed from Spearman's Corners to Banner. The petition and change of name were granted, and the daily mail became a reality. A catch post, a high post with two large hooks on which the outgoing mail was hung, was placed beside the Grand Trunk Railway tracks which crossed Mr. Clendinning's farm. About 2:30 p.m. the mail train came from London; a metal arm swung out and scooped the mail bag into the baggage car; and the bag of mail for Banner thrown out on the ground. James Clendinning carried the mail to the post office and Mrs. Clark sorted it in time for the school children to deliver it.



BANNER HOCKEY TEAM-Champions, Group 2, South Oxford 1931

Standing: R Brown, manager; B. McDermott, right wing; F. Rath, substitute; W. McDormott, defense; William Bruce, asst. manager; H. Hammond, goal referee.

Seated: W. B Hammond, defense; K Longfield, substitute; G. Oliver, goal; Joe Rath, centre; George Bruce, left wing; S. Hammond, substitute

Photo by H. W. Gallichan, Ingersoll, Ont.

People started subscribing to the daily papers according to their politics, The London Free Press expressed the views of the Tories (Conservatives), and the London Advertiser of the Grits (Liberals). Subscriptions were \$1.50 per year.

The local office continued until the start of Rural Mail Delivery in 1914.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF MAPLE LEAF CHEESE FACTORY 1904

Alex Rose Chairman & President; Jas. Waring, Vice-President; Trader's Bank Ingersoll - Treasurer; James Clendenning, Auditor; Robert Gordon - Secretary; Thomas Caddey - Owner & Salesman

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Cheese Made          | 308,972            |
| Yield                | 10.76 lbs.         |
| Price of Cheese      | 8.35 cents per lb. |
| Revenue to Patrons   | \$23,051           |
| Revenue to T. Caddey | \$3,535            |
| Insurance            | \$19.05            |
| Auditor              | \$15.00            |
| No. of Patrons       | 68                 |



## *Thamesford*

The Village of Thamesford originated about the year 1845. First known as St. Andrews, in 1851 its name was changed to Thamesford. The name, no doubt, suggested by the fact that before a bridge was built the Thames River was forded at that point. In the old "horse and buggy" days many small centres were much more important than they are now which is quite understandable since people depending on the horse and buggy for transportation seldom got far away from home.

### PIONEER CEMETERY

The remnant of a small cemetery can be seen about a half mile west of Thamesford on the south side of Highway No. 2. A few years ago the North Oxford Township Council in session passed a resolution to set up trustee board, to take care of neglected cemeteries within the Township. This little, neglected burying ground was ordered to be fenced and what markers remained were set in a cement foundation. On examination it was found that the names on the marble slabs, dated about 1850, were mostly of young children. The oldest name found was that of a man of forty-two, mute evidence that many children of those pioneer families fell victims to diseases like diphtheria and smallpox before anti-toxins and vaccines for immunization were discovered.

### PIONEER SCHOOL

The School house for S. S. No. 1, North Oxford, which disappeared about 1875, was located on the first line on a bit of land off the north half of Lot 22, Con. 2 on the east side of the Thames River. A swing bridge was used by pupil, who had to cross from the west. This school house must have been in use for many years but apparently all its records have disappeared and no one is living now in this Centennial year 1967 who attended there. Since 1875, the section has been merged with S. S. No. 5 of East Nissouri and all the children attend Thamesford school.

### EARLY INDUSTRIES

Thamesford soon became quite an industrial area and a distribution centre. It is said to have contained at one time, two carriage shops, an ashery which produced lye from which soap was made, five general stores and a woollen mill.

Thamesford became a Police Village in 1903.

### MEDICAL SERVICES

No history of the Township would be complete without some tribute being paid to the dedicated doctors who ministered to the physical needs of its citizens. The Doctor's life is a very strenuous one at best and in the "horse and buggy" days he was a real hero as he had to battle all kinds of roads and all kinds of weather using a horse and buggy in the summer and the open cutter in the winter. Often with little or irregular sleep, when an epidemic was raging, it must have been a real test of endurance and physical fitness.

From Thamesford not much is known of the earliest doctors except their names which are given as Doctors Ogden and Dawes. Doctor McWilliam began practising in Thamesford about the year 1880 and is well remembered

by many of the people living to-day. He was a fine appearing man and for his large country practice he had great need of physical fitness. It is said that in winter he had someone drive so that he could catch some sleep on the road between calls. He was held in very high and affectionate regard by young and old alike. He finally gave up his country practice and set up an office in London East about the year 1905. Dr. Babb, who had been his assistant for a short time, with Dr. McGougan, who had practiced in Thamesford for a few years, joined together as partners and successors to Dr. McWilliam. These two men upheld the high standard of medical excellence set by their predecessor. After a number of years of successful practice they were succeeded by Dr. T. M. Weir.

Dr. Weir, besides being a General Practitioner, specialized in Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat. He had a real endurance test during the 1915-1919 "flu" epidemic. He said that he went without sleep for so long during those terrible weeks that he became unable to sleep at all and had to quit for awhile. Dr. Weir practiced in Thamesford until his sudden death in 1958, except for a brief interlude when he took the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat course in New York and for a short time when he practiced in Woodstock.

Dr. Flowers followed Dr. Weir but only for a few years. Succeeding him is Dr. Kosmal, a man of Polish descent who was educated in Germany. After his illustrious predecessors he has a high standard to reach to equal them but he appears to be doing this.

The Township of North Oxford would like, at this time, to acknowledge its debt to Doctors from the Town of Ingersoll who, over the years, have so kindly and efficiently ministered to the physical welfare of so many of its citizens, Dr. C. C. Cornish, to mention one in particular, passed away in the year 1966 after over fifty years of practice. It is said of him that his invariably cheerful manner helped his patients as much as his prescriptions. As far as he was able to do so he responded promptly to calls from sick patients any hour of the day or night no matter how tired he, no doubt, often was. On the completion of his fifty years in the practice of medicine and, because of his senior position in connection with the hospital, he was honoured by a celebration at which a plaque was placed in the Alexandra Hospital at Ingersoll which memorialized his long and successful practice of medicine.

#### MASONIC ORDER

The Masonic Order is a world-wide fraternal society, a society which makes all men brothers who wear the Masonic emblem and as brothers lend a helping hand to any member who has suffered misfortune of any kind. In their social service work they help many who are outside the order as well. The King Solomon Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 394 was first organized in 1881 and held its first meetings above a hotel horse-stable until better accommodation was secured about the year 1885. Charter members were as follows: Matthew Day, who was to be its first Master, Francis Patterson, John S. McKay, Hugh Kennedy, C. Brock, Noble Dickie, Alexander Henderson and John Campbell.

The first Master to attain the honour of District Deputy Grand Master was Frank O'Neil. W. H. Dunlop was the next D.D.G.M. from the lodge and lastly Dallas Sutherland was accorded the coveted honour. Other Grand badge officers were James Forbes, J. E. Richardson, Francis Patterson, William Smith and William Jamieson. The present Master is Donald Ranney.

The venerable building which houses the order and is owned by them is said to be about one hundred years old.

## POSTAL SERVICE

The McCarty family was a very influential family in the early history of the village of Thamesford. Nelson C. McCarty was appointed Post Master in 1863, a position which he held for fifty years. The Post Office, for many years, occupied a corner in a store which Mr. McCarty bought from Christopher Brock and in which he sold groceries and general merchandise. After new Government regulations required a separate building for the Post Office, Mr. McCarty erected a small building beside the store.

The next Postmaster was Mr. Daniel Quinn, who held the position for about twenty-two years. After his retirement Ernest Patterson was appointed. Ernest was a veteran of the first world war. It was during Mr. Patterson's term of office that a new building was erected by Mr. Walter Hutchison and rented to the Government for a Post Office. On Mr. Patterson's retirement, the present Postmistress, Mrs. Dorothy Richardson was appointed.



## LIGHTING

Before electricity became available, Thamesford was lighted by acetylene gas. A carbide gas company plant was situated near the river, on the west side, a safe distance from the populated area as there was some danger from explosions in processing the gas. The company started operation in 1890 and closed in 1913 when electricity became available. The plant was installed by George Harvey and managed by Washington Kester. Outside of places of business, public buildings and churches, only street corners were lighted.

## STORES OR BUSINESS

On the site of the present hardware store now owned and operated by Douglas Foote, was situated a hotel erected in 1860 by the late John Robinson. About 1868, it was purchased by a man named John Brock who started a grocery business. Later two of his sons, John and Milton, added a bake shop. After a few years, when Milton dropped out, John changed to a general store and a butchering business and quit the bake shop. All general stores in those days sold a variety of merchandise including hardware, dry goods, boots and shoes, etc. The general store also became a social centre where, in the winter, customers sat around the familiar pot-bellied stove and discussed everything from peanuts to politics.

John Shewan, a shoemaker by trade and a Scotchman by birth, operated a shop on the corner where the Post Office now stands. He and his wife came to Thamesford from Scotland about the middle of the last century. Two of his grandchildren, Lloyd and Jack are prominent business men in Thamesford now. The elder Shewan is said to have been an excellent shoemaker and repair man, producing both fine shoes and work boots.

The shoe shop became a harness repair shop during, and for awhile after, the first decade of this century. It was operated by the late A. F. Bain, who for many years was prominent in church and Sunday school work. His death occurred at Virden, Manitoba at the ripe old age of ninety-seven.

Christopher Brock was the village undertaker for many years, and had a furniture store as well, on the south side of Dundas Street, near where the Masonic building now stands. In religion, Mr. Brock was an Anglican and a staunch supporter of his church.

The advent of the motor car and the close proximity to London, Woodstock and Ingersoll brought about a serious decline in local business so that to-day- there are no old-time general stores in Thamesford in this Centennial year 1967. In the place of the five general stores formerly in operation is one large I.G.A. store operated by William Baker, one hardware, owned and operated by Douglas Foote on the same site and in practically the same building in which a general store once flourished.

There are still two barber shops, are operated by Jack Shewan, and the other by Clayton Taylor. In addition there is something comparatively modern, beauty salons for the ladies.

Thamesford, in its earlier history, had two butcher shops but now, only one is carrying on a butcher business. Until his death, about twenty years ago, it was operated by James Shewan. He has been succeeded by his son Lloyd who is maintaining his late father's reputation for efficiency and fair dealing. The shop is situated on Dundas Street immediately west of the hotel.

A modern Belledaire dairy bar, also situated on Dundas Street, directly east of the hardware store, now serves meals and sells some grocery items and a variety of refreshments.

There are two service stations on the south side of Dundas Street. One deals in Texaco products and is run by Jim Wilkins. The other one sells B. A. Product, and is managed by Elmer Armitage.

Branan Motors Ltd., near the west end of Thamesford, on Dundas Street, has a fine garage which sells and services Chrysler Products as a specialty and, of course, carries on a regular repair service for all makes of cars.

The W. H. Beaty turkey farm and processing plant is, perhaps, Thamesford's largest industry and completely within the Township of North Oxford. Mr. Beaty started in a comparatively small way only twenty years ago. In 1949 he bought the land and barn formerly owned by W. J. McKay, converting the barn at once for turkey. His business has expanded until now, in addition to the buildings in which to start the turkeys, he has a hatchery, a large processing plant and extensive cold storage facilities. The white turkeys covering the fields in the summer present quite a picture to passing motorists. Mr. Beaty expects to raise and market 400,000 birds from his North Oxford farms this Centennial year.

Matheson's farm machinery company has become big business. Founded by the late George Matheson it has grown rapidly as Mr. Matheson built up a reputation for fair and honest dealing. The plant builds the large forage wagons in addition to selling Gehl and Fox forage harvesting machinery. The business is now, being carried on by the sons of Mr. Matheson, Argue and William Matheson.

Another comparatively new industry is located on the north quarter of Lot 24, Con. 2, North Oxford. It is known as the Essex Refining Company. which processes bones, fats and offal.

An interesting venture is being conducted by Duncan Hossack on about ten acres at the south end of the south half of Lot 22, Con. 1, near the river. Mr. Hossack combines pleasure and profit in his fish hatchery business. A road allowance, once providing a route to slaughter houses is now graded and gravelled and provides access to this fish hatchery.

Situated near the centre of Thamesford is the Hotel Balmoral named, no doubt, after that famous palace in the Scottish Highlands built for Queen Victoria. This hotel was owned for many years by the late Robert McFarlan but is presently owned and operated by G. Mowat. Good meals are served every day and rooms are available for overnight guests. The hotel is licensed under the Liquor Control Board of Ontario.

A fine building has been erected by Thamesford branch 557 of the Royal Canadian Legion, now known as Patterson Memorial Hall. The lower storey provides a rendezvous for war veterans where refreshments are served. The upper storey is available for concerts and other social events. Earl Shelley is the president.

#### FIRE PROTECTION

In the year 1951. Thamesford acquired fire-fighting equipment and built a fire hall. D. S. McKay was appointed the first fire chief. The pumper, while owned by the Village, is available to North Oxford on a rental basis, \$800 yearly and \$50 for each time it is called out. This service has proved its worth to the Township on several occasions. The village is about to acquire larger and more up-to-date equipment.



THAMESFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY -(Built in 1934)

A new library was built in the year 1934 in response to a growing need for larger and more suitable accommodation. Additional room must soon be found because of increasing demand for more space as the Village continues to grow and more and more use is made of its facilities by school pupils. The building is also used as a polling booth for polling division No. 1 of North Oxford. Miss Anabel McKay presently presides as librarian.

A funeral home has been built by William Carrothers who conducts this service to the community with dignity and efficiency.

There has now been for quite a number of years, a Baptist congregation in Thamesford. A new and very attractive church was built about six years ago on a large lot in the Conway subdivision which is wholly in the Township of North Oxford. Pastor Bruce Scott from Innerkip is the Minister.

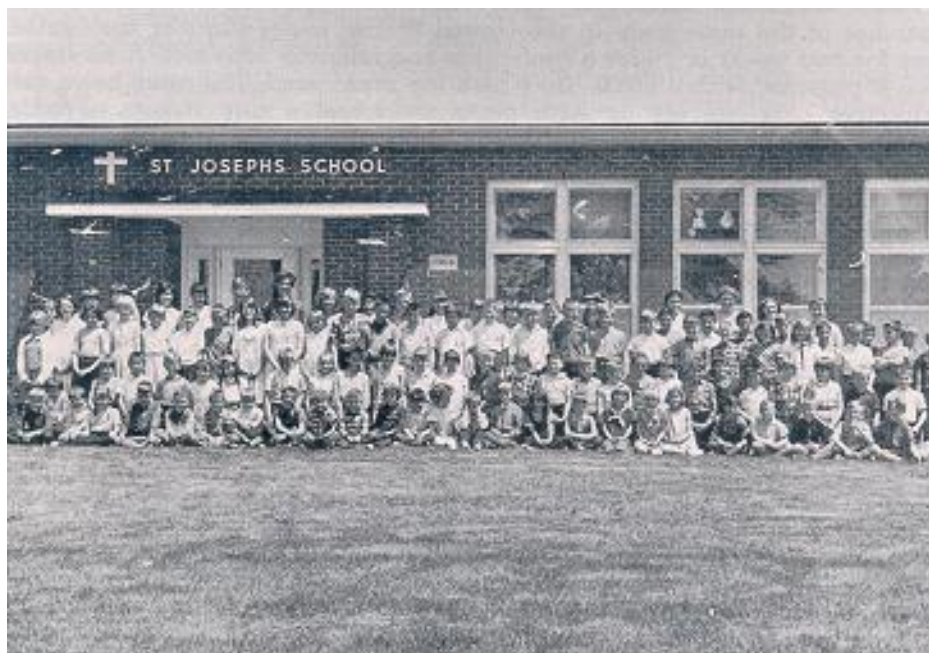
The history of the churches north of Dundas Street and thus in East Nissouri will not be recorded here but their profoundly beneficent influence, extending south over a considerable part of North Oxford is gratefully acknowledged.

East on No. 2 Highway, about a quarter of a mile from Thamesford is the Free Methodist camp. The Free Methodists of Canada are affiliated with churches of the same body in the United States. Every summer they gather here for two weeks or so for a conference and religious activities. A caretaker, who is provided with a house, lives here the year round. The camp has a very attractive park-like setting with many trees and a tiny stream of water running through it.

In 1964, St. Joseph's School was built in the Township, one half mile west of Thamesford and about fifty rods south of Highway No. 2. With rapidly increasing enrolment, an addition to the school became necessary and was built in 1966. It has now, in 1967, a total enrolment of 108. The present trustee board (1967) consists of Messrs. J. Moir, J. A. Morano, and H. Vader with M. Woodcroft as secretary. Busses bring Roman Catholic children from the surrounding area.

Thamesford is now a commuter's paradise. It is conveniently located on No. 2 Highway for many who work in London, Woodstock and Ingersoll.

The road signs have, for a number of years, indicated a population for Thamesford at an even 1000, but the last census, taken in 1966, places the number at 1,343. It is estimated that 260 residential units have been built since the end of the second World War. A new development in the south, known as the Andron Estates, is expected to add 180 new homes with spaces reserved for a school and a park. Water mains and under-ground cables to supply water and electricity have been laid for quite a number of new housing units, so Thamesford forges ahead.



1<sup>st</sup> Row: Theo Hendirksen, Betty Wullms, Julie Urback, John Jubenville, Henry Sloats, Timmy Collins, Peter Dimmers, Tom Christopher, Jimmy Poel, Theo Hendrikson, Debbie Woodman, Hired Van Donzel. Kelly Pelissier, Germain Loranger, Diane Wentzell, Patsy Kendall. Gary Jubenville, Grace Koolen, Patti White, Gilbert Albright, Jerry Roefs, Frances Koets, Steve Christopher, Bert Dimmers.

2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Janet Morano, Teresa McHugh, Joey Cameron, Jimmy Poel, Anna Vendenbergh, Lorrie Albright, Jamie Poel, Geraldine Cameron, Jimmy Heming, Joyce Dimmers, Gerald Brekelmans, Jo-Ann Wullms, Jimmy Wentzell, Annette Hendriksen, Lawrence Darmanin, Willie Koets, Robbie Vader, Ronnie Collins, Maureen Kelly, Jerry Poel, Victeur Loranger, George Mallia, Joan Pepping, Joanne Poel, Frank Van Ostaeyen, Ronnie Heming.

3<sup>rd</sup> Row: Mary Hegger, Denise Oliver, Sharon Doran, Janette Brekelmans, Anne Luyben, Prank Aarts, Ken Wullms, Fleurette Loranger, Nancy White, Rita Van Ostaeyen, Frank Brekelmans, David Woodman, Danny Gabler, Pete Hegger. John Luyben, Henry Brekelmans, Bill Luyben, Pat De Graalf, Michael Pepping, Paul Kendall, Willie Roefs, Marilyn White, Patty Wentzell, Paul Woodman, Matthew Aarts, Frank Van Ostaeyen.

Back Row: Marie Loranger, Jacquie Aarts, Catherine Aarts, Marianne Heming, Mary Dimmers, Wayne Foley, Marcel Heming, Doris Pepping. Bob White, Stephen Seward, Margaret Poel, Wilma Dimmers, Monique Aarts. John Poel, Penny Albright, Gerald White, Danny Collins, Bradley Seward, Danny Vader, Michael Morano, Rejean Loranger.

Teachers: J. Mazerolle, M. Metz, E. O'Neill, G. Quirie.

for winter use. Vegetables were stored in root cellars and pits. As transportation facilities improved, a wider selection of foods became available. Citrus fruits and bananas were imported but were still rare treats until the turn of the century.

### THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY



Wood burning engine and local workmen  
Photo from the album of the late Edward Dundas

The coming of the railroad was hailed with enthusiasm and joy by the settlers. It was to mean their emancipation from isolation and cash for surplus products.

The first train on the Great Western Railway made its initial run through North Oxford on December 16, 1853. This first train, drawn by a small engine with a large stack and an enormous appetite for wood, roared down the track at the thrilling speed of six miles per hour. The train and every station was decked with colored bunting. All officials were aboard. Even at this speed it was no pleasure ride. Passengers travelled in fear of their lives as accidents and mishaps were numerous.

It was a gala day for everyone who had gathered from miles around to watch the first train go through. The roar of the wood burning locomotive, and the echo of its shrill whistle was music to their ears. They joyfully anticipated all that it would mean in easing the burden of hard, unending toil. Faces of settlers, hitherto harassed by the struggle for a bare existence and lack of even the smallest luxuries, lit up with smiles, and heavy hearts were lightened in the certain hope of a better future for themselves and their children.

Spearman's Corners, now Banner, boasted a wood yard for the wood burning engine. Patton's Siding, on the Putnam Sideroad, served as a station and shipping centre for Banner and surrounding districts. A small shanty had been built beside the tracks which contained an apparatus with keys. With this, an operator could signal a train at Ingersoll or Dorchester stations to stop at the siding to pick up passengers or freight. Wood and farm products could be loaded at this point. The last shipment of wheat from Patton's Siding was made by Vincent Rodenhurst and John Spearman in 1904.

With the advent of the railway land was cleared more quickly. Cleared land meant increased crops and livestock. This farm produce was soon to find a market in the United States, opened by a Reciprocity Treaty negotiated by



Lord Elgin and "Floated in on Champagne", so our history tells us. Shipments of hogs, beef cattle and grain increased. The railroad brought money and as a result, the Niagara Bank opened in Ingersoll in 1856.

The Great Western Railway amalgamated with the Grand Trunk Railway in 1882. A second track was laid in 1904.

In 1923 this railway became the Canadian National Railway as we know it today.

#### MUNICIPAL HISTORY OF TOWNSHIP OF NORTH OXFORD

This township, though known by its district name of "North Oxford", was united with East and West Oxford under the designation of "Oxford upon the Thames" for municipal purposes.

By the old Township Meeting Act of 1838, junior townships were allowed to detach themselves as soon as they should contain thirty householders. Under the authority of this Act, North Oxford became detached on January 1, 1842.

The township was surveyed by Mr. Hambly in 1799. The following are the first and only lots granted previous to 1800:

Hon. D. W. Smith, July 16, 1799 - Second Concession, Lots 17, 18, 19 and broken front - 500 acres.

Hon. John McGill, Aug. 3, 1799 - Second Concession, Lots 8, 10, 12, 13, 15 - 1000 acres.

Hon. John McGill, Aug. 3, 1799 - Third Concession, Lots 9, 11, 13, 14, 16 - 1000 acres.

Hon. John McGill, Aug. 3, 1799 - Fifth Concession, Lot 8 - 200 acres.

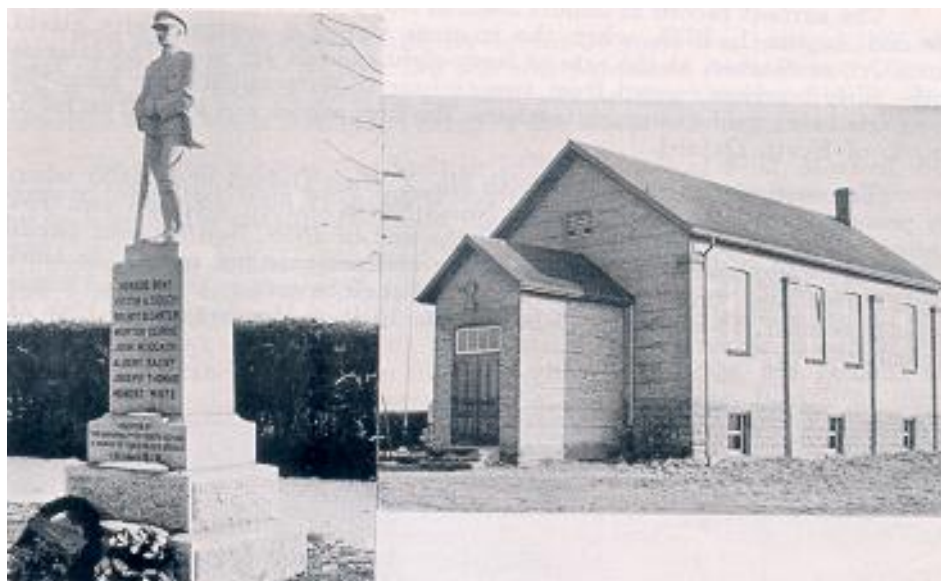
The first lot sold (not granted) by government was number 20 in the First and Second Concession. It was sold to Mr. Calvin Martin, Jan. 23, 1830, at the price of 15 shillings an acre. In the original survey, the westerly division of the township between North Oxford and Middlesex County commenced at Lot 1.

In 1849, to take effect January 1, 1850, districts were abolished and counties were substituted. In 1851 it was enacted that the following shall form and constitute the county of Oxford: the Township of East Zorra, West Zorra, East Oxford, North Oxford, West Oxford, Dereham, Blenheim, Blanford, Norwich, East Nissouri and the Town of Woodstock.

In 1852 the part of Dorchester Township lying north of the Thames River and east of the middle of the road allowance between Lots 18 and 19 was detached from said township and annexed to form part of North Oxford. This annexation has caused some confusion as there is a duplication of lot numbers 19-24. A portion of the township of West and North Oxford was made into a separate municipality by the name of the Village of Ingersoll, to take effect from January 1st, 1852.

With the settlement of the township, the task of opening roads fell on the shoulders of the pioneers. A Herculean task, performed for the most part with only axes for tools. In swampy sections, logs were cut, hauled by ox team and placed side by side over the bogs, forming a corduroy road. Later, a system of statute labour was adopted to build and maintain roads. Every person on the assessment roll with property assessed at not more than £300 was liable for two day's work, £500 to £700, four day's, £700 to £900, five day's, and for every £300 over £900, or any fraction over £150, one more day. A farm assessed for \$4,500 would be liable for 17 day's work.

## *Dickson's Corners*



DICKSON'S HALL AND CENOTAPH

The name "Dickson's Corners" originated from a family of Dicksons who emigrated from Scotland and settled at this important, centrally located part of the municipality where Highway No. 2 cuts across the Second Concession of North Oxford, and the North/South Dickson Road crosses them both at right angles. While the Dicksons engaged in some farming, their main activity was the blacksmith business, with another building for woodworking which may have been the original schoolhouse. George Dickson, still remembered by many people in this Centennial year, 1967, was an expert blacksmith, winning a prize at the Chicago World's Fair for his craftsmanship in making horseshoes.

At the apex of the triangle, formed by Concession 2 and what was then called the Ingersoll-Thamesford gravel road (now Highway 2), the original hall was erected by a temperance society called the "Good Templars". Dickson's Hall served several purposes long after the temperance society's activities ceased. In it a successful and well-attended Sunday school was held for many years. In addition, it was used for a polling place and once a year nominations were held there for municipal offices. It was also a centre for concerts and other social events, except dancing, as many of the old-timers considered social dances to be inconsistent with its use as a religious centre. When this old building began to disintegrate, the present white brick hall was built in 1910, about 20 rods east, opposite the blacksmith shop. This served practically the same purposes as the original building. It ceased to be used for a Sunday school after 1925, as the coming of the motor car tended to compete successfully with Sunday afternoon services. Hence, Dickson's Hall is now little used. The present trustees are Lorne Mercer, Bev Appleton and William Henderson.

A war memorial was erected immediately east of the hall by the municipality of North Oxford, to immortalize the names of the honoured dead who fell in the First and Second Great Wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45.

### DICKSON'S CORNERS SCHOOL

The earliest record of School Section No. 1 of North and West Oxford is dated August 1, 1845, when the trustees signed a contract with David Curtis Jr., as teacher, at the rate of forty-eight pounds per year. The salaries of the early teachers ranged from twenty-four to sixty pounds per year, the lower rate being paid to women teachers. The first school was located on lot 3, con. 4, of North Oxford.

The section was combined with No. 1 West Oxford until 1855 when the present school section known as No. 3 North Oxford was laid out. The medium of exchange was Sterling until the end of 1858. Non-resident pupils in 1849 were charged a fee of one shilling and sixpence per month. In 1864 it was moved that "one quarter cord of wood shall be sent to the school house for each scholar, to be delivered before the 15th of March and the 15th of December".



DICKSON'S CORNERS SCHOOL-1908

Back Row: Guy Goodhand, Charlie Beattie, Bill Alexander, Wilfrid Hutchison, Vern MacMillan, Erwood Kerr, Walter Hutchison, Bruce Sutherland, Bill Dickson, Victor Baigent.

Center Row: Walter Smith, Bob Brown, Art Hutchison, Jim Forbes, Stanley Elliott, Annie Kerr, John Brown, Maude Cray, Rene MacMillan, Hazel Lethbridge, Florence Hutchison, Mabel Hutchison, Maggie Cove, Annie MacMillan, Evelyn Lowes, Sadie Baigent, Nellie Kerr, Cyril Lowes, Mr. Beattie.

Front Row (seated): Edith Cray, ? Longfield, Blanche Kerr, ? Longfield, Alfred Baigent. George Shelton, Gunnie MacMillan, George Forbes, Donald Sutherland, Bruce Dickson, Evan Sutherland, Gordon Forbes.

The schoolhouse which served for 90 years was built in 1866 at a cost of approximately \$1,000. The site was purchased from Robert Oliver for \$40. The plan cost \$4, clearing the land and building the lane \$14.75. The contractor was Francis Irving and much of the labour was supplied locally.

The teacher's house was built in 1872 at a cost of \$792. Most of the teachers from that time were married men who remained for several years and took an active part in the life of the community.

Beginning in the year 1880, Dickson's Corners School was about to enter a new and significant period. A teacher of exceptional ability, a man of dynamic personality was to dominate the educational and social scene for the next 38 years. At that date, 1880, the trustees were fortunate to obtain the services of Alexander Beattie to fill the position as teacher. Mr. Beattie, of Scottish parentage, was born near Innerkip. Mr. and Mrs. Beattie at once became active in community affairs. Mrs. Beattie was like a second mother to all the children who attended during that long period of 38 years. For many years Mr. Beattie did Sunday School work, first in the old hall as Bible class teacher and later as superintendent in the new hall, until his retirement in 1918. Two generations in the community were taught by him and the fine influence of the Beatties will live on indefinitely.

A former pupil recalls happy memories of those school days: "My main memories of the old school are of the bell that usually didn't ring; Mr. Beattie promising the little ones the button off his coat when they did well and our rapid arithmetic contests and spelling bee. Then there was all the fun from season to season: the games of nations and lost heir in winter; Mr. Colyer coming over to say that the ice was safe for skating on the creek behind the dam he had made; ante-over in the spring when the ground was muddy; then gag and French and English until the yard and the weather were ready for scrub and baseball; the lunches eaten in the woods in late May and June; the leaf houses in the fall and of course, the singing games and tag and swings. The big events were the picnic on the school grounds each June, and the annual Christmas Concert".

In 1946 the schoolyard was enlarged by the purchase of adjacent land from Bruce Dickson, now of Wisconsin. In 1956 a new three-room school costing \$32,000.00 was built to the south of the old stone school, which has since been removed, along with the teacher's house.

There have been 55 teachers at Dickson's Corners School since 1845. The following taught for over five years: A. Beattie, 1880 - 1918; A. Crawford, 1918-1925; C. W. Branston, 1930-1942; Gordon McEwan, 1942-1952; Mrs. A. Norman, 1953 -1958.



S.S. No 3 DICKSON'S CORNERS SCHOOL-1921

Back Row: Mr. E. R. Crawford, teacher, Earl Fishback, Dan Sturgis, Alice Pounds, Margaret Armstrong, Irene Entire, Katie Telfer, Marion Reith, Murray MacKay, Norman Kerr.

Middle Row: Mike Shelton, John Sutherland, Nora Seldon, Beth Bobier, Frieda Possnett, Anne Reith, Mildred Armstrong, Frances Kerr

Front Row: Fred Emerson, Margaret Shelton, Inga Truefitt, Nellie Pounds, Conrad Crawford, Coza Truefitt, Bernice Possnett, Helen Sutherland, Edna Kerr

#### LADIES AID AND I.O.D.E.

The Ladies Aid Society at Dickson's Corners dates back to 1890. It is still very active in the community, maintaining the Hall as its major project each year. The necessary funds for its upkeep are raised by socials, cooking sales, euchres, catering and such activities. Monthly meetings are held at the homes of the members. Present slate of officers is: president, Mrs. William Henderson; 1st vice-president, Mrs. Brian Crane; 2nd vice-president, Mrs. J. Kraayenbrink; secretary, Mrs. Charles Wright; treasurer, Mrs. Charles Patience.

At the start of World War 1, the Dickson's Ladies Aid and Banner Ladies Aid joined, and became a unit of the Red Cross in order to do war work. They turned in so much work that headquarters in Toronto, through Mrs. Plumtree, asked Mrs. J. C. Harris (Regent of the Lady Dufferin I.O.D.E. in Ingersoll) to form them into a chapter of the I.O.D.E., and on March 5, 1919, was formed the first rural chapter of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, whose charter was made for the "Village" of Dickson's Corners, with the following charter members taking the oath of allegiance to the King and the I.O.D.E. order:

|                   |                      |                       |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Mrs. E. S. Allen  | Mrs. G. Lethbridge   | Mrs. W. Seldon        |
| Miss Eva Bobier   | Mrs. G. Mackay       | Miss Annie Stephenson |
| Mrs. C. M. Colyer | Mrs. N. McCorquodale | Mrs. R. Sutherland    |
| Mrs. E. E. Harris | Mrs. E. W. Oliver    | Mrs. J. H. Sutherland |
| Mrs. H. Hinge     | Mrs. J. Revell       | Miss Joanne Telfer    |
| Mrs. R. Elliott   | Mrs. W. A. Ruddick   | Mrs. T. B. Way        |
| Mrs. F. Holmes    | Mrs. W. Shelton      | Mrs. J. Wickens       |

It is interesting to note that one charter member, Mrs. E. Harris, is still active and attends the meetings regularly.

In choosing the name "Admiral McDougall" for their chapter, they were honouring an uncle of Mrs. J. C. Harris - a master mariner of great honour who sailed the first steamship (Royal William) across the Atlantic solely on its own power in a voyage of 35 days. For this feat, in an all-Canadian built ship, drafted and perfected by Canadians. McDougall preferred to accept the title of "Admiral" rather than the Knighthood he was offered.

The first slate of officers of Admiral McDougall Chapter I.O.D.E. (1919) included: Regent, Mrs. W. Ruddick; 1st Vice-Regent, Mrs. E. Oliver; 2nd Vice-Regent, Mrs. J. H. Sutherland; Secretary, Mrs. E. S. Allen; Echo Secretary, Mrs. H. Hinge; Education Secretary, Mrs. G. McKay; Treasurer, Mrs. Richard Elliott; Standard Bearer, Mrs. W. Seldon.

The following 16 ladies have served as Regents since the Chapter's formation until the present:

|                   |         |                    |         |
|-------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| Mrs. W. Ruddick   | 1919-20 | Mrs. C. Miller     | 1955-56 |
| Mrs. F. Oliver    | 1921-26 | Mrs. G. Sandick    | 1957-58 |
| Mrs. E. Allen     | 1927-28 | Mrs. F. Hutcheson  | 1959-60 |
| Mrs. B. Patterson | 1929    | Mrs. G. Shelton    | 1961    |
| Mrs. F. Pirie     | 1930-31 | Mrs. J. Sutherland | 1962-63 |
| Mrs. R. Elliott   | 1932-44 | Mrs. G. Murray     | 1964-65 |
| Mrs. A. Seldon    | 1945-47 | Mrs. K. McLeod     | 1966    |
| Mrs. L. Wilson    | 1948    | Mrs. R. Cartmale   | 1967    |
| Mrs. R. J. Kerr   | 1949-54 |                    |         |

One of the Chapter's first duties after organizing, was to place an Honour Roll in Dickson's School for the boys who served in World War I, and also purchase a flag and flagpole for the Memorial Grounds. In addition, they sponsored jointly with the Dickson's Corners Ladies Aid, the Memorial Day services at the Cenotaph.

Through the years, the Chapter has supplied rural schools with I.O.D.E. calendars, pictures and books; sponsored an annual public speaking contest, and awarded a general proficiency prize to a grade 8 student. Donations are made annually for educational purposes to Hamilton I.O.D.E. headquarters.

The Chapter has sponsored an adopted child in Greece for the past four years and also assists any needy family in the community.

The ladies of our community are proud to belong to a world-wide organization such as the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire.

Present officers are: Regent, Mrs. R. Cartmale; Vice-Regent, Miss Betty Rose; Secretary, Mrs. G. Shelton; Treasurer, Mrs. J. Sutherland; Standard Bearer, Mrs. J. Ruddick



DICKSON'S SCHOOL

Back Row: David Hammack, Chris Bartindale, Terry West, Donna Dibble, Judy Millson, Tom Brown, Gregg Parker, Connie Kerr, Debbie Atwood, Joan Baigent, Cathy Kraayenbrink, Mr. Foss, Mrs. Shanks, Mrs. Gorman

Fourth Row: Jerry Thornton, Gary Pounds, David Parker, Sandra Skinner, Mary Ling, Marilyn Minogue, Wendy Wilson, Robert Seldon, Sterling Hawley, Robert Taylor, Brad Bennett

Third Row: Camilla Sutherland, Jack Nagtegaal, Danny Parker, Tom Wilson, Roger West, Grant Hammond, Dennis Dick, Tony Jongedyk, Sharon Hutchison, Ronnie Forbes, Maynard Hawley, Eugene Nakonecnyj, Bill Dibble

Second Row: Edwin van de Wolf, Larry Thornton, Dianne Wilson, Brenda Groom, Margo Johnson, Nora Lee Henderson, Genevieve van der Wolf, Joanne Bakelaar, Cynthia Wright, Laurie Leslie, Margaret Forbes, Donna Proper, Scott Hutcheson, Anne Clendinning, Roy Monique, Terry Wright

First Row: Steven Hammond, Ruth Anne Noble, Cindy West, Debbie Mercer, Scott Henderson, Donald Thornton, Cindy Thornton, Ann Hutchison, Douglas Proper, Donald Bakelaar, Robbie Robotham, Randy Groom, Brian Kerr, Mary Bakelaar, Josep Omielan, Danny Noble, Norman Baigent, Oliver van der Wolf



NORTH OXFORD PLANNING BOARD

Back Row: Wallace Baigent, Charles Reeves, Thomas J. Comiskey, Stanley Brown  
 Front Row: George Clendinning, Cecil Riddle, chairman; James M. Revell, vice-chairman



NORTH OXFORD COUNCIL - 1967

Back Row: Hartwell Baigent, Claire Minler, James Muterer  
 Front Row: Stanley Shannon, road superintendent; Miss E. A. Seldon, clerk -measurer;  
 Alwyn Patience, reeve; George West



## CLUBS



CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE NORTH OXFORD SWASTIKA CLUB

Miss Eva Bobier (Mrs. S. A. Dundas) was the first president. The meetings, which always concluded with an elaborate supper, consisted of a program such as sewing or quilting, planning garden parties, a baseball tournament, suppers in Dickson's Hall and other activities sponsored by the Club for the entertainment of the district.

Back Row: Miss B. Rose, Miss E. Bobier (Mrs. S. Dundas), Miss R. Dickson, Miss A. Wiggins (Mrs. B. Brown), Miss N. Dickson, Miss L. Waring (Mrs. M. Bartindale), Miss E. Kerr (Mrs. J. Gordon), Miss C. Adam (Mrs. E. Webster), Miss C. Patterson (Mrs. E. Dundas).

Seated: Miss M. Armstrong (Mrs. A. Rose), Miss L. Dundas (Mrs. John Clifford), Miss F. Metheral (Mrs. H. Worth), Miss W. Hutchison (Mrs. B. Metheral), Miss G. Clendinning (Mrs. A. W. Waring), Miss M. Breen (Mrs. V. Rodenhurst).

Absent: Myrtle Brown, Jessie Brown (Mrs. E. Pounds), Miss Smith,

THE NORTH OXFORD SWASTIKA CLUB was organized in 1910 when the swastika was a sign of good fortune with none of today's unpleasant associations. This was a social group for the young girls whose formal education was considered completed when they had passed the high school entrance examination.

During the First World War, boxes were sent to the North Oxford boys overseas.

Annual picnics were held, and a special reunion picnic in 1927 attracted a large crowd of former members and their children. When a girl was married, she was presented with a half-dozen silver tea spoons as a remembrance of her Swastika Club days. The Club continued until 1937.

DICKSON'S CORNERS FARMERS CLUB. This club was organized about 1917 as a branch of the "United Farmers of Ontario". The first president was William Colyer, and the secretary, Charles Henderson. The Dickson's club started buying farm supplies on a co-operative basis about 1919, and expanded almost every year until the 1940's. The club secretary acted as financial manager, Charles Henderson acting until 1922. George Kerr took over until 1925, then Stanley Elliott until 1929, followed by Gordon Oliver who acted until his death in 1946.

The club also had some social activity, one big event being the annual oyster supper which was always well attended.

Soon after 1916 the club went out of business.

These local community organizations were of great interest and assistance to the residents.

### MODERN BUSINESS

The blacksmith shop of by-gone days has been replaced by the modern garage of Stanley Omielan.

The "Tulip Gardens" beside the landscaped home of Mr. and Mrs. John Kraayenbrink adds beauty to the Corners. The trees and Flowers purchased from this nursery contribute to the loveliness of many homes in the district.

### SPORTS

BASEBALL - For many years Dickson's young people were quite sports-minded. The South Oxford baseball league was first organized in the 1920's with teams from Beachville, Folden's, Ingersoll and Dickson's. In those days the players organized the league themselves. This league only survived for about three years.

During the 1940s Dickson's School was fortunate in having another excellent teacher in Mr. Gordon McEwan who was a real live-wire in the community. He organized the young lads into an outstanding softball team which won the North Oxford-East Nissouri championship in 1945 and later in 1948 won the league championship in an Ingersoll and District league, which played its games under lights in Ingersoll.



#### DICKSON'S CORNERS SOFTBALL TEAM

Champions 1949 Ingersoll and District League

W. Kerr, D. Hutchison, G. McEwan, L. Hutchison, H. Baigent

R. Kerr, H. Kerr, W. Dodd, G. Hollingshead, M. Hutchison.

HOCKEY - The South Oxford hockey league was organized in the 1920's and lasted many years, with Dickson's being among the first teams to join. It expanded over the years and had teams from many centres, including Dickson's, Banner, Dunn's, Beachville, Centreville, Embro, Thamesford, Kintore, Burgessville, Mt. Elgin, Dereham Centre, Verschoyle, Putnam, Crampton and others.

Dickson's team won the championship in this league in 1928 in a playoff with Embro



DICKSON'S HOCKEY TEAM  
 Champions South Oxford Hockey League, 1928

-Photo by H. W. Gallichan

Standing: Alex. Hossack, centre; Gordon Oliver, left wing; Nelson Oliver, sub.; George Kerr, goal (secretary treasurer)  
 Seated: E. Kerr, sub.; M. McMurray, defence; A. Oliver, defence (capt.); Charles Henderson, president, C. Hinge, right wing

## *Rayside*

Rayside is a tiny Community situated at the intersection of County Road No. 7, and the Governor's Road.

This area has a history, and was well settled as early as 1830, chiefly by Irish and Scottish people. Several homes were of retired British soldiers.

First called Dornoch, the name was changed to McKay's Corners, then to Campbell's Corners after John Campbell, who helped put the community on its feet, and finally to Rayside after a Mr. Rayside, who was a member of the Ontario Legislature from 1882 to 1898.

John Campbell erected a large frame hotel on the north east corner. It was patronized by people travelling between London and Woodstock, and was also a stopping place for teamsters hauling pine lumber from the south. Meals were cheap in those days, just twenty-five cents.

The community once had two stores, a blacksmith shop and a post office. John Campbell's son, James, operated one of the stores on the south west corner, and, a little further south, Peter Garden kept the other one. There are records of pork spare-ribs selling at five cents a lb., ham -twelve cents per lb., butter 16 cents per lb., and eggs at ten cents a dozen.

Mr. L. Martin operated a busy blacksmith shop west of Campbell's store.

The Ross family, one of whom later became the Sheriff of Oxford County, acquired Lot 9, Con. 1, in 1829, and another early settler, Robert McDonald, took up farm land on Lot 10, Con. 1, and later left to become manager of the County Home in Woodstock.

A private school located one and a half miles east of the Corners, served for many years, assisted by some small government aid.

The post office occupied a part of James Campbell's store. Mail came out from Thamesford three times a week. When the Canadian Pacific Railway went through, just north of the Corners, a petition was circulated to get daily mail service. The customary daily mail service for such communities was granted, which was for a slow moving train to hook the mail bags from a support, while the arriving mail was simply tossed out on the ground.

In 1897 Campbell's Corners became Rayside. A farmer, John Gunson served as postmaster until 1905. The post office was then moved to the former hotel, which was the residence of the new postmaster, Fred Day. He served until Rural Mail Delivery started in 1914.

A new modern restaurant, "The Rayside Inn" operated by Mrs. Stuart Nancekivell, caters day and night to a fast moving class of travelers, many crossing from coast to coast, in addition to local business.

## *Dunn's Community*

The district north and east of Ingersoll was named after William Dunn. He and his descendants have had a prominent part in the life of the community.

### DUNN'S SCHOOL

School Section No. 4 North Oxford consists of the land lying between the Governor's Road on the north, the Thames River on the south, Lot 8 on the west, and Lot 15 on the east. It also includes Lot 16, and a portion of Lot 17 in Con. 4.

Most of the early settlers in this area were either Scottish or English. The eastern portion of the section was occupied by an English family by the name of Crawford, who had land from the Governor's Road to the Thames River as early as 1796.

The first school was located on the south west corner of Lot 11, Con. 3, of the township. It was in operation before the renowned Dr. Ryerson became Minister of Education.

As more children came from the north, along the Governor's Road, the school was re-established on the north east corner of Lot 10, Con. 3, North Oxford. This new school, known as the White School, was erected on land obtained free of charge from a Mr. Henderson.

The school still seemed far from the centre of the section, and it was impossible for smaller children to attend, especially during the winter months. For several years, a small private school was maintained near the south east corner of Lot 1, Con. 2, West Zorra, supported by the families of that district.

In the 1860's, due to the hardship on many families, of supporting two schools, an agitation was started to re-establish the public school in a central location.

The trustees, at this time, William Dunn and B. H. Crawford, who lived in the north-east corner of the section, were enthusiastic over the proposed change, while Samuel Allen, supported by Rev. George Kennedy, a Methodist clergyman, opposed the change.

The difficulty was settled with Inspector Carlyle making the decision, and in the autumn of 1872 an acre of land from the south-east corner of the north half of Lot 12, Con. 2 was purchased. Due to the enthusiasm and untiring efforts of Mr. Dunn, in the project, the new school became known as Dunn's School.

In the autumn of 1873, classes were begun in this new one-roomed brick building. A Sunday school was started in the school in the summer of 1886, and two of the superintendents still remembered are William Patterson and Charles Dunn. During the same autumn, a Literary Society was organized, meeting every two weeks. The Literary Society built a shed to provide shelter for their horses during these meetings.

In 1910, R. A. Paterson of Ingersoll, a former pupil at Dickson's School, became Inspector of Public Schools.

In May 1923, a fire destroyed Dunn's School and practically all of its records. The entrance class held classes at the home of Emerson Nichols while the others were dismissed for the rest of the term.

By September, 1923, a new red brick school with basement and

library, and heated by a furnace, was ready for classes. A new shed was also built. The new school was built at a cost to the section of \$9,000. In September of 1933 a supervisor of music, Mrs. Labell Phinn, was engaged to teach music in the school. On January 1, 1950, the North Oxford School Area was formed, consisting of Dunn's, Dickson's and Banner schools. In this year, L. B. Hyde was succeeded by R. J. Thompson as school inspector, who in turn was succeeded by the present inspector, A. P. Silcox.

In 1953, the school Board opened another room, in the basement of the school, for the junior grades, while the senior pupils with grades six, seven, and eight brought from Dickson's by bus, occupied the original school room. In 1957 an additional room was built and ready for the fall term. At this time the basement room was closed, but had to be re-opened in 1959. So there were three rooms operating for two years. Now, in 1966 and 1967, all three rooms are again in use as grade six pupils from Banner and Dickson's schools are being transported by bus to Dunn's school.



DUNN'S SCHOOL  
Built, 1873 - destroyed by fire, 1923

#### S. S. No. 4, NORTH OXFORD- DUNN'S-SCHOOL FAIR-1920

First Row: Sadie Riddick, Margaret Brown, Kenneth Oliver, Sadie Palmer, Marion Palmer, Clarence Clement.

Second Row: Marie Atkins, Katie Guthrie, Gladys Patterson, Stanley thrown, Anne Nancekivell, Gordon Patterson, David Gerrie.

Third Row: Annie Dickson, Melvin Patterson, Jim Hutson, John Hutson, Helen Couch, Nellie Sandick.

Fourth Row: Edith Patterson, Fannie Archie, Manson Hartford, Irene Yake

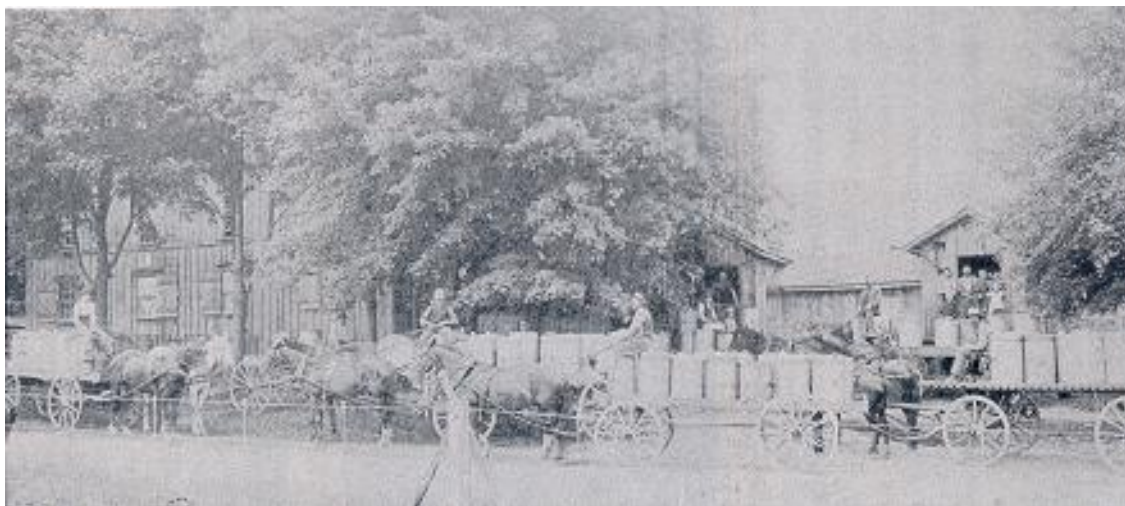
Fifth Row: George Guthrie, Martha Riddick, Gordon Sandick, Lawrence Patterson, Elmer Atkins

Lauretta Oliver and Robert Sutherland -Standard bearers

Teacher-Ruby Hilliker



First prize for school parade -1920



THE ORIGINAL DUNN'S CHEESE FACTORY BUILT IN 1872 BY WILLIAM DUNN

Left to right: Curing room with living quarters above, third storey is store room, where dances were often held; Factory and two weigh porches. The large member of 40 and 30 gallon cans indicate the quantity of milk delivered each day.

THE NORTH OXFORD CHEESE, AND BUTTER  
MANUFACTURING CO. LTD.

In 1872, William Dunn built Dunn's Cheese Factory on the north half of Lot 13, Con. 2, North Oxford. At the World's Fair held at Philadelphia in 1877, he was awarded several medals and diplomas as evidence of the superiority of his exhibits from his cheese factory.

On February 16, 1883, at a meeting of the patrons of Dunn's Cheese Factory, it was decided on a motion of William Hayes, seconded by William Gerrie, to form a Joint Stock Company. It was moved by William Hayes, seconded by John Bowie, that this company assume the name of the North Oxford Cheese and Butter Manufacturing Company.

William Dunn offered his factory buildings and all appurtenances in connection therewith, including six milk wagons, for the sum of \$2,000. This offer was accepted, also Peter Dunn's offer to manufacture at 85 cents per hundred.

John Henderson and Thomas Dunn suggested forming a union between Henderson's Cheese Factory and The North Oxford Company. At a meeting on March 8, John Henderson offered his building, and utensils, including five milk wagons, for \$1,000. On March 9 the directors offered Mr. Henderson \$750, provided that he should sell among his own patrons stock to the amount of 25 shares at \$20 a share, and Mr. Henderson accepted.

On March 22, since the sale of Dunn's factory had not been finalized, William Dunn leased it to the North Oxford Cheese and Butter Manufacturing Co. Ltd., for 21 years, said lease executed by William Dunn, and by William Hayes, president, and William Gerrie, secretary.

On the same day a Charter was granted to the newly formed Company, as witness the following:

THE ONTARIO GAZETTE  
Published by Authority  
Vol. XVI TORONTO, SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1883 No. 13  
GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Provincial Secretary's Office,  
Toronto, March 31, 1883.

PUBLIC notice is hereby given that, under the "Ontario Joint Stock Companies' Letters Patent Act", Letters Patent have been issued under the Great Seal of the Province of Ontario, bearing date the twenty-second day of March, 1883, incorporating William Dunn, William Hayes, Joseph H. Lowes, William Peterson, and John Bowie, Yeomen, and William Gerrie and George Raymond, Esquires all of the Township of North Oxford, in the County of Oxford and Province of Ontario, for the purposes following, that is to say the manufacture of cheese and butter, by the name of "The North Oxford Cheese and Butter Manufacturing Company," with a capital stock of three thousand dollars, divided into one hundred and fifty shares of twenty dollars each.

ARTHUR S. HARDY,  
Provincial Secretary

On April 3, William Dunn was appointed salesman for the current year at a salary of forty dollars; and William Gerrie secretary and treasurer for the current year at a salary of 1/4 of one per cent of all cheese sold, and Henderson's buildings were advertised for sale in the Ingersoll Chronicle.

On November 5 accounts from W. Dickson and Son for repairs, \$2.10; and from W. Barton, blacksmith, for setting tires, \$1.50, were presented and ordered to be paid. The Secretary was authorized to advertise in the Ingersoll Chronicle for a cheesemaker to manufacture next season, tenders to include Boxes and Boxing, firewood, etc.



November 19, tenders from 17 cheesemakers were read, the lowest tender being 75 cents, the highest 90 cents. On Peter Dunn's refusal to make for 80 cents the tender of Arthur Hunter was accepted, on condition that he agree to the distributing of whey in proper proportion among patrons.

January 30, 1884, at the first annual meeting of the Shareholders and Patrons of the North Oxford Cheese and Butter Mfg. Co., the secretary read the following report:

|                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Total Milk                   | 2,187,482 lbs. |
| Total Cheese                 | 209,663 lbs.   |
| Average yield                | 10.19 tbs.     |
| Average price                | 11 cents       |
| Chews shipped                | 204,286 lbs.   |
| Cheese patrons               | 5,377 lbs.     |
| Cash from buyers             | \$22,452.44    |
| Value of cheese - to patrons | \$600.73       |
| Amount reed on shares        | \$523.40       |
| Receipts, all sources        | \$24,222.85    |
| Total expenditures           | \$24,323.92    |

Moved by W. H. Hayes, seconded by William Bourn that the price for making be left to the Directors. Moved by William Dunn, seconded by Michael Dunn that honesty and cleanliness be enforced among patrons.

Nine Directors were elected, as follows: Robert McDonald, W. K. Hayes, George Raymond, J. S. Henderson, William Bourn, William Paterson, Donald Chisholm, Michael Dunn, Robert Sutherland.

March 3, 18A4, the secretary, William Gerrie, was authorized to pay John Wade for digging ditch, \$4.00; also C. R. Patience for printing, 75c.

August 4, it was moved by Robert McDonald, seconded by George Raymond, that the secretary be instructed to invite the Inspector of Weights and Measures at London to inspect the scales used in this factory as soon as possible, say on Saturday or Monday. Carried.

November 20. Special meeting of Directors at 3 p.m. at McMurray House, Ingersoll. Tenders received from 18 cheesemakers, the lowest being 75 cents, the highest 84 cents. On a motion and amendments being put to a vote the tender of James Nichols, was accepted.

In 1902 the old factory was replaced by the present brick factory.

In April 1905, the North Oxford Cheese and Butter Manufacturing Co. Ltd. sold out to George MacKenzie, who had been the cheesemaker since 1897. He, in turn, sold the factory in 1916 to Thomas J. Humphrey, but bought it back again in 1917. In 1921, Evan MacKenzie purchased it from his father, and operated it as a cheese factory. In later years the milk was shipped to William Neilson Co. Ltd., of Beachville, who bought the property in 1962.

#### CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

In 1910 a branch line of the C.P.R. was built from Ingersoll to St. Marys to connect the Ingersoll, Embro, Lakeside, and St. Marys communities with the main line of the C.P.R. at Zorra Station. This line, which crosses Dunn's, provided passenger coaches, and freight service for the many products shipped from Ingersoll factories.

Today the trucks have supplanted this railway, another casualty to modern methods.



DUNN'S SOFTBALL TEAM - 1923

BACK ROW: L. Brown, 3rd base; M. McKenzie, centre field; M. Nichols, left field; E. McKenzie, manager; W. J. McCaffery, coach; B. Nichols, right field, capt.; N. Sandick, pitcher; G. Oliver, short stop.

FRONT ROW: I. Brown, 2nd base; L. Oliver, short stop; Lillian Brown, 1st base; I. Sandick, catcher.

## SPORTS

The Girls' Softball Team of Dunn's Community was organized in 1920. The girls took a great interest in the game, and the team was soon good enough to enter the many softball tournaments arranged throughout Oxford County,

Gay scarlet uniforms, were purchased for the girls with some of the prize money won by the team. Their most successful year was 1923, when the team won 28 of the 35 games played during the year.

## DUNN'S COMMUNITY CLUB

In 1934, John Robbins, who taught at Dunn's school from 1933 to 1941, organized the Dunn's Community Club to enliven the social life of the district.

Garden parties were the highlight of the summers, and a program of ball games arranged to keep the younger fry out of mischief. In the winter months "social evenings" were held, with the occasional guest speaker. At first the club was for adults only, and being before the days of "baby sitters", attendance was small. Later, the children were also invited, resulting in increased attendance and livelier meetings.

During the war years these social activities were dropped but in 1951 the Club was re-organized with the following officers: president, Claire Minler; vice-president, Alex Robley; secretary, Mrs. J. Brown; treasurer, Pat Houston.

Each summer a picnic is held on the school grounds for the children, during the last week of June, and a party at Hallowe'en. During the winter, euchre parties and dances are held every two weeks, and these are very much enjoyed.

The present officers are: president, Jim Muterer; vice-president, George Cuthbert; secretary, Audrey Paterson; treasurer, Jim Budden.

## *Beachville*



Perhaps in writing of the history of the eastern tip of North Oxford, the coming of the first known white settler in Oxford, John Carroll, would be an excellent point at which to begin.

John Carroll came to Canada from New Jersey in 1784 and is believed to have settled on Lots 23 and 24, Con. 1 within sight of what is now the village of Beachville. His family consisted of nine sons and two daughters. Early records reveal that his family and their descendants played a very important part in the development of the area, and in many other fields.

It was to the shanty of John Carroll that the first mail in Oxford County was brought in 1791, "Beachville" being the name chosen for the Post Office in honour of a Mr. Beach who operated what was, no doubt, the first grist mill on Oxford County.

Many records of happenings in the years after 1784 indicate the development that took place in this area of the township and their importance to a much wider area. In 1793, Governor John Graves Simcoe travelled from Niagara-on-the-Lake to London on foot. The route seemed to follow an old Indian Trail from the land of the Mohawks. His papers reveal that he entered what is now the Township of North Oxford at a point five miles west of the Little Forks in the Thames, crossing the river on a log. This would be at what is now Beachville. Something of interest shown on Governor Simcoe's map is a deer fence. Judging by the distance from the streams marked on the map this was apparently located north of Ingersoll. A "V" shaped fence of no doubt considerable length was erected. The Indians would frighten the deer into running into this barricade, then into the centre of the "V" where they could be caught easily.

Indian Trails provided the only access by land to the area. Stories tell of settlers being led to the area by the great Indian Chief, Joseph Brant, no doubt, among them, settlers of what is now North Oxford. Relationships between the Indians and the white settlers seemed to be excellent. Old timers of today, who were born here, recall stories of a tow-path along the river which the Indians used to travel never being closed or fenced by the settlers.

While the soil in the eastern part of the township is excellent for agriculture, it seemed from the start of settlement that it was to assume an unusual role. It was, for a time, to be a hub for development of the area, and settlers moving northward soon prompted stores to be built. In the 1820s Calvin Martin operated a saw mill where the present C.N.R. station stands. A store building, located across from what is now the Legion Hall in Beachville, believed erected in the 1830s by Enock Burdick, has during its years of existence, housed a carriage factory and a blacksmith's shop. It still stands today, a momento of bygone days when it's owners carried on a thriving business, customers coming from as far away as Little Falls, (St. Marys). Another blacksmith shop was located on what is now King Street about 1900. David Karn and William MacDonald were two of the smithies.



Remains of Burdick's Furniture Factory, destroyed by fire, re-roofed and used as a blacksmith shop

With travel and business came taverns. The Surveyor Hambly tells of staying at an Inn at Beachville in 1800. One known as Carroll's Tavern stood at the junction of the Governor's Road and the Beachville Road and could easily have been in operation before 1850. Among those who ran this tavern were Isaac Thain, William Carroll, and Elias Karn. Another tavern, sometimes known as the Railway House, stood between the CNR and the Thames River and this too, could have been in existence prior to 1850. Among other operators of this tavern were William Karn and James Karn. In 1862, Samuel Pelton erected the brick hotel, The Royal Exchange, on the north side of the CNR in Beachville. Later this was run by the Bennett family. About 1890 a distillery was in operation on the south side of the Governor's Road near Lot 27. One hears stories of whisky being sold there for 25 cents a gallon.



The Royal Exchange Hotel built by Samuel Pelton in 1862

Perhaps one should list some of the shops and other phases of business in what was for many years North Oxford, now, part of Beachville village. In the 1850s Thompson-Muirhead and Company operated a machinery shop just off Oxford Street. Later Robert Whitelaw became associated with the firm, also running a foundry. The Whitelaw foundry moved to Woodstock where it is still in operation, possibly one of Oxford County's oldest established industries.

The carriage factory of James Dickie occupied a large frame building on the corner of Martin and Queen Streets about 1865. Stores were known

to have been operated by a Mr. Nellis, William Hill, Steven Thorndyke, a Mr. Johnson, and a general store in later year, by E. J. Hacker.



Cheese Factory, built by James Ireland, 1885.

A cheese factory was located on the south side of Queen Street about 1890. This was operated by James Ireland, and later by Thomas Hurnsly. It was purchased by William Neilson early in the 1900's, who later re-located across the river in West Oxford, Beachville. Reports tell of another cheese factory located north of Beachville, part of Lot 21. From the information learned, this factory could have been in operation in the 1860's possibly one of the first cheese factories in the County.

The Canadian National Railway Station has been a scene of activity over the past century. At first it was only a shipping point for the Embro district. Each day would see long lines of teams bringing grain and other export products down from the north.

In writing the history of industries of the eastern part of the township, no doubt the limestone industry deserves the most attention. While written records of its early years are not available, it is generally assumed that lime was first burned when the settlers needed lime when erecting a log house.

In his diary, Capt. Philip Graham, the first reeve of North Oxford, tells of lime being burned on his farm in 1833. Stories have been told of how lime was burned by digging a pit. Quantities of wood were then burned in the pit until there was enough heat to turn the limestone into quick-lime. Later upright kilns, sometimes called draw-kilns, were used. These were of limestone construction with brick lining, usually 10 to 12 feet square. Limestone was thrown in from the top or the sides. Poke holes were provided for pushing the lime down when ready to be removed. At the bottom, was an opening for removing the lime. There were many of these kilns in existence 75 to 125 years ago. A few years ago, a local resident told of finding definite remains of a lime kiln in his back yard. Its location would indicate that it must have been in use prior to the building of the railway in 1853.

Limestone used in the early days was often removed from the river bed. Old quarry holes are numerous along the river east of Beachville. Water seeping into these holes was a problem, so sometimes a water wheel was employed as a source of power for removing the water. In some cases a shaft would run for many yards from the wheel to the site of the quarry. Resting on wooden blocks, the shaft would require frequent applications of grease, sometimes a pork-rind. When the wooden blocks became dry, some say the resulting howl could be heard for a mile. There were apparently different types

of water wheels used. Sometimes plank, fastened to the spokes of large wagon wheels sufficed to make one. Sometimes power was supplied for the pumps by a horse power and a team of horses.

As can be imagined, these quarry operations required large amounts of wood for fuel. Stories handed down through the years tell of the great numbers of teams, even ox teams, hauling immense quantities of wood each winter for burning lime. Folklore tells of seemingly endless piles of wood at these kilns. In the 1870's Cole and Hacker operated a lime kiln just east of Beachville. As the river forms the boundry between West Oxford and North Oxford, it can be seen that the teak of writing the North Oxford history regarding the limestone industry is quite difficult without bringing happenings in West Oxford into the picture.

About 1900 the Standard White Lime Company began operations at the west end of the Village of Beachville where stone differs somewhat from that at the cast end of the village, being whiter. About this time, the Beachville White Lime Company started quarry operations farther west. Later these operations became the holdings of the Gypsum Lime and Alabastine Company, now Domtar Ltd. Beachville White Lime Company now commenced operations in a different location west of the Monroe's Sideroad. Later this was acquired by the North American Cyanamid Company, now Cyanamid of Canada. Further west, a short distance cast of Ingersoll, the Innerkip Lime and Stone Company started quarrying operations, and later this plant was purchased by the Steel Company of Canada.



Cyanamid of Canada Limited -- facing North

The quarrying operation of today is a far cry from the early settler satisfying his primitive needs. Wood burning was replaced by coal, and now by natural gas. The tiny lime pits and draw kilns are mere toys compared with the massive upright or rotary kilns of today. Hydro-electric power, diesel fuel and gasoline have replaced the horses and water wheels and much of the manual labour. Little could those who quarried over a century ago envision the giant industry of today, possibly the largest open faced mining operation in North America. Its products are used in almost countless forms, bearing testimony to the famous quality of this enormous bed of calcitic limestone.

In 1858 a school was located north of Beachville on the site of the Rural Hydro Office. Later this was moved to Oxford Street West in the village, and used until 1885. Remodelled, it is now used as a dwelling. Reports tell of other schools, previous to this, one located on the south side of Oxford Street (Lot 20, Con 2). In 1880 the Union School No. 5. North and West Oxford was built in West Oxford. A new Union School, built in 1913, continues to serve parts of West and North Oxford. In 1880 C.O.F. Lodge was formed in Beachville, and a lodge hall erected on the east side of Martin Street. This Chapter of the Lodge is not now in existence, and the building is used as a dwelling.



Beachville Baptist Church, completed and dedicated in 1949. This Church replaces the building destroyed by fire in 1943.

The Baptist Church of Beachville is the only church in the eastern part of North Oxford. It was erected in 1866, burned in 1943 and later rebuilt and is still in use. The Congregation celebrated its centennial in 1966. The pulpit has been filled by student ministers under the supervision of Rev. George Lockhart, of Ingersoll Baptist Church, for the past two years.

In 1856 the eastern part of the township saw the start of its subdivisions. About 240 acres (parts of Lots 20 and 21, Concessions 1 and 2) were sub-divided by John P. Thompson into 426 lots. Two years later, another man, W. S. Boulton, purchased a large block of these lots. He went to England for funds to promote the scheme. However, it is reported that he died on the way back, and the sub-division was left to get along on its own. This plan, #75, is still used today as legal description for the lots it contains. Plans for other sub-division, were made but didn't materialize. A recent sub-division, #948, was started on Lot 27, and has been developing steadily.

April of 1937 was cold and wet and the ground was saturated. High water levels were noted in January and had prevailed throughout the winter. On April 24, the rain started, continuing all that day and the next. On 26th the flood conditions became severe. By midnight the river valley was already a scene of death and devastation. The 12:45 p.m. C.N.R. Chicago to Montreal



flyer dropped into a washout about 200 yards east of Monroe's sideroad. Killed were the engineer and fireman. Three others were injured. On April 28 the body of a third man was found in a baggage car. Dr. J. D. McDonald, of Ingersoll, answering the call for aid hurried to the scene, but on attempting to cross the river from No. 2 highway, had his car washed from the road and was drowned. One house was washed away, foundation and all, leaving only a pump sticking up in the air, Other houses were damaged off Monroe's sideroad. This settlement of about five homes was later abandoned.

The quarries suffered severe damage. The Gypsum Quarry hole filled in about 4 p.m. of the 26th, and the North American Cyanamid hole at 10 p.m. The dykes retaining the river were literally shoved into the quarry holes, the torrent of water flowing in, for a time resembling Niagara Falls. The Gypsum Quarry, at the time, estimated their damage at \$75,000. The approach to the river bridge in the village of Beachville was badly washed out, although open to traffic the next day.

In 1952, the eastern part of the township was given fire protection through an agreement with the Beachville Fire Department. 1959 saw the merger of the Ingersoll and Woodstock rural hydro areas with construction of the area office just north of Beachville - the first electricity heated hydro office in Ontario.

Over the years many people such as the Carrolls, Burdicks, and Karns, have contributed to the settlement and progress of the community. Another, Capt. Philip Graham, R.N. was the first Reeve of North Oxford. His neighbour, W. S. Light, served as reeve for 13 years, including a term as Warden of Oxford. A later resident, William McGhee, was warden in 1911 and also served as Sheriff of the County from 1912 to 1937.

As we look back into the past, we realize that we owe much to those who have gone before us, as our part of the township has been transformed from its pathless forest to its present state of progress.

## *Finale*

### THE HONOURABLE DONALD SUTHERLAND, P.C.



An Oxford son who filled a great many offices within the gift of the people, was Donald Sutherland, born April 8, 1863, to Robert and Elizabeth Sutherland (nee Hutchison) of West Zorra.

Always interested in farming and in country life, he settled on Lot 7, Con. 1, North Oxford, land of his maternal grandmother's since 1844. In 1896 he married Minnie Pearl Hossack, who was also born in West Zorra. Here they raised a family of five sons and two daughters.

A keen student of local and world affairs, his long career in public life started as a councillor in his home township of North Oxford in 1896. In 1901 and 1902 he served as county councillor for Ingersoll, North and

West Oxford.

At the urgent request of his friends, he entered Provincial politics in 1902 when he gained for the Conservative party in South Oxford the seat which had always gone Liberal since Confederation. Reelected in 1905, he introduced a bill into the legislature to regulate the speed and operation of motor vehicles on Ontario highways. Appointed Director of Colonization and immigration for the Province of Ontario by the Whitney Government on March 10, 1909, he moved the family to Toronto but retained his farm in North Oxford.

Urged to be a candidate in the Federal election of 1911, he resigned as Director of Colonization and returned to Oxford to successfully contest the seat - the first Conservative elected to the House of Commons for the constituency of South Oxford. He moved the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne in the special war session, August 19, 1914. In the ensuing Federal elections of 1917, 1920 and 1925 he successfully held the seat in Oxford.

He was sworn of the Privy Council and appointed Minister without portfolio in the Meighen Cabinet in 1926, resigning when the Government was defeated.

He was appointed to the Senate of Canada on July 20, 1935 and was a member until his death on January 1, 1949.

A member of the Masonic Order from 1897, he received the fifty year medal from the Grand Lodge in 1948.

To quote from the Woodstock Sentinel Review editorial at the time of his death: "Senator Sutherland was known and respected over a very wide area. He was a doughty campaigner and not one to be easily discouraged. As a public servant and as a farmer he left his mark on his Township, his Province and his Country. No man could have a better epitaph than that."

## DR. J. A. RUDDICK



John Archibald Ruddick was born of Scottish and United Empire Loyalist parentage at the south half of Lot 24, Con. 4, in North Oxford on September 3, 1862. He was a son of the late Lawrence Ruddick and Marion Moir. At an early age John Ruddick took up the art of cheese making in which he became very proficient. He was quite probably inspired by the close proximity of the Maple Leaf Factory down the hill from his home. In 1880 he worked in a cheese factory in Norfolk County at Vittoria, and later went to D. M. McPherson of Lancaster, Ontario to manage one of his chain of 34 cheese factories which increased in the next five years to 78.

On September 8, 1886 John Ruddick married Harriet Emily Congdon who graduated as a nurse from Toronto General Hospital.

In 1889 he became Field instructor for the Dairymen's Association of Eastern Ontario. In 1891 he was appointed to the staff of the Dominion Dairy Branch under the direction of Professor James W. Robertson. His first responsibility was to supervise the manufacture of the mammoth cheese made in Lanark County which required 207,200 lb. of milk and had a total weight of 11 tons. This cheese was 28 feet in circumference and six feet in height. It was shown at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893, giving Canada a worldwide reputation for high quality cheese; and later shipped to Great Britain where it was displayed and sold to a well known caterer. Part of the cheese was shipped back to Canada in 1894 where it was found to be of excellent quality even after having been displayed in varying degrees of temperature.

He organized the Eastern Ontario Dairy School in 1894 and was superintendent until 1898 when he was appointed Dairy Commissioner of New Zealand for 2 years.

In 1900 he was invited back to Ottawa to become chief of the Dominion Dairy Commission, a position which he held until his retirement in 1932. During World War I on an honorary and unremunerative basis he represented the British Government in Canada as purchasing agent for farm products for the British Army.

In 1924 Queens University at Kingston conferred on John Ruddick the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD).

Dr. Ruddick died at the age of 90 in Ottawa after having spent a lifetime in service to his country and to the people of the dairy industry whom he loved so dearly. Dr. Ruddick's writing of a concise and complete history of Canadian Dairying published by Ryerson Press in conjunction with other articles on the dairy industry of Canada may be classified as an ideal legacy from one of the nation's sons of North Oxford.

## WAR SERVICE FOR NORTH OXFORD

The record of service from the Township of North Oxford marks bravery and loyalty which is equal to or greater than any other part of Canada. In fact, the men who served in the first and second world wars were willing to pay with their lives, as may be seen on the monument which was erected at Dickson's Corners in 1921 by the Council of North Oxford, as a fitting tribute to these men.

Residents of North Oxford, although the community was not known as such then, served in the war of 1812-14. Capt. John Carroll and another brother, Henry, were both killed in the war of 1812-14. They were sons of John Carroll, one of the first settlers in Oxford, who came from New Jersey in 1784 and settled in lots 23 and 24 near Beachville. Capt. Carroll was killed at Delaware as a prisoner of the Americans, under the traitor Mathew Westbrook and is buried in West Oxford Cemetery. His brother Henry was killed in the Battle of Stoney Creek on June 16, 1813. Another brother, James, became sheriff of the county and held the position for 20 years.

It is known that men of North Oxford served their country in the Fenian Raids of 1866 and were sent to Sarnia, Windsor, and other border points, where trouble was expected.

Although there are no records to prove that men of the township served in the Boer War, it is reasonable to believe that there were some, since the Oxford Rifles (which was the county regiment) supplied small detachments for service with different regiments which saw service in South Africa.

It is interesting to note that our beloved and highly respected late Governor General Vanier, who died March 5, 1967, was a member of the Royal 22nd Regiment. The original 22nd regiment, which incidentally is one of the oldest in Canada, was formed in Oxford County. In 1863 an order dated August 14 set up a battalion "to be styled the 22nd Battalion Volunteer Rifles (later the Oxford Rifles), the headquarters of which will be at Woodstock Ontario." This battalion was composed of six companies, No. 5 being from the Township of North Oxford. There was also one from the Village of Thamesford. On the 22nd March, 1967, the Oxford Militia marked its 169th anniversary.

There are many names of gallant men in North Oxford who rushed to the colours in both world wars to serve their country in army, navy and airforce. It would not be fair to mention any, lest one name be omitted.

Since there were many who served the 168th Battalion, which was later called the Oxford Rifles, it is of interest to point out that of the 943 ranks, there were 418 total casualties and 159 deaths.

Each year on the Sunday prior to November 11, a Remembrance Service is held under the auspices of the I.O.D.E., and the Ladies Aid of Dickson's, in conjunction with the Canadian Legion, to pay tribute to those men who paid the supreme sacrifice and whose names were placed on the monument at Dickson's by the Council of North Oxford.

Below is a list of those who paid the supreme sacrifice in World War I and II

HORACE BRAY  
 VICTOR A. COUCH  
 WILMOT B CARTER  
 MORTON GERRIE  
 JOHN MAGGACH  
 ALBERT SAXBY  
 JOSEPH THOMAS  
 ROBERT WHITE  
 HARRY McDERMOTT  
 LAWRENCE PIRIE

JOHN DOWNING  
 GEORGE SERVANT  
 ALBERT McCREERY  
 THOMAS HUTCHESON  
 JACK HOLLINGSHEAD  
 In Memory of our Fallen Heroes 1939-1945

Created by the Municipality of North Oxford  
 in Memory of Their Fallen Heroes  
 1914 -1918

### TESTIMONIAL DINNER

A testimonial dinner, on April 25, 1964, was held at the Ingersoll Inn in honour of Miss E. A. Seldon who had just completed thirty-seven years services - two as assistant to her father, and thirty-five as Clerk-Treasurer of the Township of North Oxford.

Present at the head table on this memorable occasion were Miss E. A. Seldon, Thomas Morrison, Mayor of Ingersoll; Gordon Pittock, M.L.A. for Oxford; W. M. Sutherland, Warden of Oxford County; and Henry Finlayson, Reeve of North Oxford. Among others present were the Ex-Reeves of the Township, all of whom paid tribute to Miss Seldon's long and efficient service. Miss Seldon was then presented with a desk set as a token of the high regard in which she is held.

Fitting eulogy was also paid to Miss Seldon's father, the late Richard Seldon, who was her immediate predecessor for a like period of thirty-five years.

Council meetings which were held in the Seldon home since the appointment of Richard Seldon as Clerk-Treasurer in 1894, have been pleasant social occasions due to the generosity of the Seldon family. In the horse and buggy days, council was called in the morning, stopped at noon while the members enjoyed dinner together, and concluded in the afternoon. The advent of the automobile ended these bountiful dinners but Miss Seldon still served delicious lunches and home-made candy. Truly the Seldons, father and daughter, had created a Seldon tradition for the finest in public service and qualities of refined hospitality.

On February 21, 1967, at the Ontario Good Roads Association Convention, held at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Miss Seldon was the recipient of a Long Service Certificate award for over forty years service.

### CENTENNIAL PROJECT

In 1965, Council, under Reeve Henry Finlayson, made plans for the construction of, as a Centennial Project, a Township Office. The construction was completed in 1966 and the official opening took place on October 29, 1966.

The opening ceremony was attended by a large number of residents and former residents of the municipality. Reeve Thomas Comiskey, as Chairman, gave many interesting facts in connection with the building and the completion of the project. The Federal Government was represented by Wallace Nesbitt M.P., the Provincial by Gordon Pittock, M.L.A. and Ingersoll by Mayor Thomas Morrison and all extended greetings and congratulation, on the fine building. Rev. Robert Brawn of Thamesford United Church conducted a Dedication Service. The unveiling was performed by Miss A. Seldon and Gordon Pittock, M.L.A. Wardens of the County Council from North Oxford Township were W. S. Light, 1859; Matthew Day, 1883; William McGhee, 1911; Henry Hanlon, 1930; J. Winston Nichols, 1946; Cecil Riddle, 1957. These names along with the names of past reeves and the names of the clerks of the township, are engraved on brass plates and are placed on a plaque in the hall of the office. Photographs of these were also hung on the wall of the Council Chamber.

The total cost of the Township Office, including land, landscaping and paving; building, furniture and all furnishings; and the plaques, amounted to \$38,854.22. The estimated value, as at December 31, 1966, was \$42,220.51.



### REEVES OF NORTH OXFORD TOWNSHIP

|                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1842-1845 Phillip Graham    | 1907-1908 James Clendinning  |
| 1816-1848 Wm. S. Light      | 1909-1911 Wm. McGhee,        |
| 1849 James Henderson        | 1912-1913 Alex Rose          |
| 1850 John Brady             | 1914-1915 T. J. Leslie       |
| 1851 James Henderson        | 1916-1917 R. S. Elliott      |
| 1852-1858 Wm S. Light       | 1918-1919 Herbert Baigent    |
| 1854 John Armstrong         | 1920-1921 Andrew Dunn        |
| 1855 Noll McKay             | 1922 Herbert Baigent         |
| 1856-1862 W. S. Light       | 1923-1925 H. E. Golding      |
| 1863 Henry F. Martin        | 1926-1927 Edwin B. Allen     |
| 1864 John S. Henderson      | 1928-1930 Henry Hanlon       |
| 1865-1866 George Weir       | 1931-1933 Arthur Hutchison   |
| 1867-1875 Jonathan Jarvis   | 1934-1936 Robt. J. Kerr      |
| 1876-1879 William Dunn      | 1937-1939 W. W. Banbury      |
| 1880-1883 Matthew Day       | 1940-1942 Arthur Richardson  |
| 1884-1886 Edmund Jarvis     | 1943-1944 John Baigent       |
| 1887-1889 Wm. Colyer        | 1945-1946 J. Winston Nichols |
| 1890-1892 Matthew Day       | 1947-1948 James Calder       |
| 1893-1896 Wm Colyer         | 1949-1954 H. P. Dunn         |
| 1897-1898 Donald Sutherland | 1955-1957 Cecil M. Riddle    |
| 1899-1900 E. A. Dundas      | 1958-1960 Wm. Baigent        |
| 1901-1903 John Muterer      | 1961-1964 Henry Finlayson    |
| 1904-1905 Alex Rose         | 1965-1966 Thomas J. Comiskey |
| 1903 Thomas Hogg            | 1967 Alwyn F. Patience       |

## COUNTY WARDENS FROM NORTH OXFORD



Wm. S. Light  
Warden  
1859



Matthew Day  
Warden  
1882



Wm. McGhee  
Warden  
1911



Henry Hanlon  
Warden  
1930



J. Winston Nichols  
Warden  
1946



Cecil M. Riddle  
Warden  
1957

## CLERK-TREASURERS



Abraham Hillsdon  
Clerk  
1852-1893



Richard Seldon  
Clerk  
1894-1929



NORTH OXFORD STUDENTS BESIDE THE SCHOOL BUS - APRIL 20, 1967

Back Row: Annie Pirie, Christine Peden, Carolyn Savage, Julie Henderson, Janice Baigent, Betty Hammond, Jane Bullard, Patricia Comiskey, Mary Cronkwright, Brenda Patience, Veronica Cuthbert, Brenda Nadalin, Verna Cuthbert, Heather Wilson, Kae Knox, Sharon Gilbert, Jean Richardson, Brenda Bennett, Margaret Brown, Sheila Pirie, Joan Pounds, Paulette Dick, Pamela Dick, Elenore Wardrop, Janet Seldon, Miss Sutherland, Mrs. Revell, Mr. Herbert

Second Row: Susan Patience, Susan Moir, Carol Allen, June Errey, Marilyn Savage, Eily Hegger, Adrian Dimmers, John Patience, Kevin Kerr, Tom Patience, Rick Hammond, Donald Knox, Gerry Rickard, Chris Reade, Bob Richardson, Ross Gerrie, Doug Bankes, James Hawley.

Front Row: Cynthia Bennett, Mary Lou Stephenson, Kathryn Baigent, Barbara Hutcheson, Vickie Baigent, Margaret Anderson, Diane Baigent



TOWNSHIP SCHOOL AREA BOARD 1967

Back Row: J. E. Richardson, Dr. James Gill, William Kerr, Morley Hutchison  
 Front Row: Gerald Pirie, N. O. representative on IDCI board; Merle Harvey, Floyd Jenkins, secretary





#### DUNN'S SCHOOL

Back Row: Paul Nancekivell, Aubrey Huntley, Gordon Gower, Susan Harvey, Judy Brown, Casey Boersma, Donna Petrie, Patty Brown, Allen Harvey, Edna Hacker, Gary Overholt, Kathy Howard, Nancy Legacy, Bill Millson, Brenda Howard, Mrs. Currie, Mrs. Meatherall, Mr. MacKay,

Fourth Row: Johnny Spratt, Donny Huntley, Heather Clements, Doug Clendinning, Linda Hutchison, Judy Gower, Anna Overholt, Ronnie Hammond, Pam Baigent, Nancy Anne Henderson, David Brown, Patrick Fleuelling, Martin Jongedyk, Roger Thornton, Allen Howard, Philip Eden, Doug Huntley, David McDonald, Colin Huntley, Doug Chivers, Teddy McDonald

Third Row: Ken Chivers, Mark Clement, Kim Eden, David Nancekivell, Margaret Jane Eckhardt, Tracy Brown, Tom Collins, Paul Boersma, Danny Petrie, Bob Patton, Clinton Legacy

Second Row: Noreen Dodd, Connie Ling, Jeanne Henderson, Bill Kish, Gary Proper, Lewis Skinner, Gayle Gordon, Shelley Petrie, Ricky Wardrobe, Betty Gower, Kerry Budden, Kathy Goncharenko, Joyce Clendinning, Karen Garton, Jerry McDonald, Joan Howard, Cindy Patton.

Front Row:- Randy Million, Lynn Kish, Mark Nancekivell, David Boersma, Donny Gill, John Boersma, Ricky Harvey, Alex Goncharenko, Steve McDonald, Denise Eden, Helen Overholt, Mary Eckhardt

Absent: Jim Hutcheson, Mary, Betty, and Shirley Dickson

The committee entrusted with the preparation of this booklet have tried to portray life in North Oxford through the years, and list the officials. There are many people not mentioned who, by their influence and hospitality, have contributed much to the spirit and progress of the township, and to them we pay tribute and say "Thank you".

We also wish to thank all who have shared in the work, typed, loaned pictures, or supplied information, especially the writers of the Grace Patterson Women's Institute and Byron Jenvey of Ingersoll.

This book was written in the spirit of thanksgiving, with the hope that we and our readers will come to appreciate how God has blessed us by allowing us to live our years in Canada, the land of opportunity.

#### HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Chairman, Mrs. Roy Gordon; secretary, Mrs. Charles Waring; Cecil Riddle, Arthur Hutchison, Thomas Comiskey, Alwyn Patience, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Fine, Mr. and Mrs. James Hanlon, Mrs. Hartwell Baigent, Frank Nichols, Charles Reeves, John Baigent, and Centennial Committee co-chairmen.

#### CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Co-chairmen, Miss Jean Sutherland, James Revell; secretary, Mrs. William Kerr; Stanley Brown, Thomas Comiskey, Mr. and Mrs. Alwyn Patience, James Forbes, Wallis Hammond, Mrs. George Pounds, Mrs. R. Cartmale, Arthur Hutchison, Harry Stephenson, E. J. Richardson, D. W. Ranney.

#### CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

A day of celebrations in the beautifully landscaped grounds of the new centennial Municipal Office will be North Oxford's part in Canada's birthday observances.

Our party begins at 2 o'clock, on Friday, June 30, when Wallace Nesbitt, M.P., Gordon Pittock, M.L.A., Oxford County Warden Vernon Cuthbert, and Mayor Thomas Morrison from Ingersoll, will bring greetings from their offices.

Choirs from each of our public schools will be part of the afternoon program. An historical fashion show is highlighted for the afternoon, and again in the evening, M.C.'d by popular Bill Brady from CFPL radio and television station in London. Variety entertainment numbers are interspersed throughout the program.

Leaving the lighter side, a centennial tree planting ceremony with a red maple donated by Miss E. A. Seldon in memory of her father, Richard Seldon and seventy-three years of association between the Seldons and North Oxford.

Between the afternoon and evening programs, caterers will supply chicken barbeque dinners, with side dishes, and desserts provided through Dickson's Ladies Aid and the I.O.D.E. A variety program and open-air dancing on the paved office parking lot for the young in heart and spirit, is the planned finale for what the committee hopes will be another historical event in the township.

Then, in a true spirit of thanksgiving, on Sunday, July 2, a centennial church service at Banner United Church This service will be conducted by Rev. Stanley Johnston, of Thamesford, assisted by Pastor Bruce Scott, of the Baptist Church, Thamesford. The guest speaker will be Father J. Brisson of the Sacred Heart Church, Ingersoll.

## EPILOGUE

The proud image of Canada at her hundredth birthday is the total reflection of her people's character, their record of achievement and the attitude with which each of us will proceed into the future. North Oxford is a fair example of the magnificent heritage being handed to Canadians in this year of Centennial celebrations.

We hope and pray that at Canada's second Centennial there will be municipalities of people such as North Oxford, that can still be proud of their country because it will be the Canada they themselves will have helped to build.

## RESIDENTIAL AREAS NOT SHOWN ON MAP

**THAMESFORD VILLAGE**

DUNDAS ST. S/S

Branan Motors Ltd.

D. Hossack

British American Oil

W. Armitage, L/H

Thamesford Lawn Bowling

O. B. Nielson

W. Armitage

Mrs. J. McKay

M. T. Christopher, T.

Miss G. McKay

A. T. Quart, T.

William Carrothers

W. H. Beaty

William J. McKay

Thamesford Public Library

Mrs. E. Richardson

E. C. Taylor

W. Hutcheson

Post Office

Thomas-Brown Hardware

E. H. Brown

D. J. Foote, L/H

W. F. Stevens, T.

Belldaire Milk Products

G. F. Valentine

O. Karn

Mrs. M. A. Shewan

L. Shewan, T.

A. Shewan, T.

T. Gilbert

Masonic Hall

Mrs. K. McFarlan, T.

Dr. R. Kosmal, T.

L. Shewan

Hotel - G. Mowatt

H. Hodgson

D. Carey

Mrs. P. Foster

D. W. Murray

J. Montgomery, T.  
 J. Wilkins  
 S. Parsons  
 H. Hogg  
 F. C. Thomas  
 E. M. Winder  
 A. Branan  
 J. Moir  
 Mrs. G. Baigent  
 G. Brown

No. 2 HWY, E/S  
 Free Methodist Camp  
 Rev. J. A. Robb

No. 2 HWY, W/S  
 Beaty Farms Ltd.  
 W. H. Beaty

Mrs. M. Ralph  
 British American Oil Co.  
 T. Rendle, L/H

BROCK STREET N/S  
 F. J. Quinn  
 R. Hossack  
 R. Allen  
 Mrs. J. F. Jones  
 Baptist Church  
 W. R. Baker  
 D. A. DeKolver  
 G. A. Matheson & Sons Ltd.  
 The Canadian Legion  
 L. Beacham  
 Mrs. A. J. Morrison  
 G. H. Whitwell  
 W. H. Beaty  
 A. J. Thom  
 A. M. Shewan  
 J. Metz  
 C. Feeney, T.  
 O. Karn  
 J. Funk  
 P. Oliver  
 C. Gee  
 Bell Telephone Co.

BROCK STREET S/S  
 A. D. Jones  
 L. J. Hennessy  
 D. W. G. Wilson, T.  
 F. Hunter  
 W. A. Easton, T.  
 D. Errey  
 A. W. Rinn  
 Beaty Farms Ltd.  
 F. J. Skeggs, T.

W. L. Lewis, T.  
Cold Springs Farm  
J. Bregman, T.  
Beaty Farms Ltd.  
W. H. & E. Beaty  
W. Oosterink, T.  
Mrs. M. Parsons  
J. Hartman, T.  
D. A. Patience  
M. DeVries  
M. Oliver  
J. F. Bullard  
Robert McFarlan

ST. ANDREWS ST. E/S.  
Mrs. M. O'Neil Estate  
Mrs R Bennett, T.  
H. W. Fergus  
H. Annen, T.

ST. PATRICK ST. W/S.  
J. F. Noble  
T. J. McFarlan Estate

ST. PATRICK ST. E/S.  
J. R. Goldsmith  
D. E. Webster  
R. S. Best, T.  
P. R. Marsh, T.  
H E.P.C.

ELIZABETH ST. N/S.  
G. F. Ollson,  
C. Pond  
Rev. P. Docksey  
R. G. Lossing  
R. J. Hutton  
J. G. Parfrey  
R. W. Puschelberg  
D. G. Oliver  
H. W. Leonhardt  
J. A. Tosland  
M. F Merner  
J. L. Jackson  
J. Stulen  
J. M. Campbell

ELIZABETH ST. S/S.  
T. Van Donzal  
Mrs. F. Alderson  
C. C. Sutherland  
V. Vaughan  
G. H. Wolfe  
K. L. Dobbie  
D. L. Scotland

L. W. Smith  
W. S. Griffiths  
C. R. Weir  
G. R. McLarnon  
J. Baigent  
William Dresser  
N. Cummings  
T. A. J. Haller  
T. Hann

ALISON ROAD N/S.

J. F. McDonald  
G. G. Bell  
J. C. Woodman  
R. G. Weir

ALISON ROAD S/S

R. E. Gow  
P. Golding  
G. Smith  
Andron Estates  
Thamesford Realty Ltd.

STANLEY ST. E/S.

N. Craig  
E. Garner  
Beaty Farms Ltd.  
G. Young  
K. Colbert  
A. Heibein  
A. Reade  
J. Flynn

STANLEY ST. W/S.

A. Ranney  
H. Keasey  
R. G. MacIntosh  
W. F. Wright  
N. Stover  
R. B. Alguire  
C. G. Denomy  
W. L. Alexander  
W. Skinner  
J. B. Wentzell  
D. E. Vaughan  
R. W. Deary

No. 2 HIGHWAY N/S LOT 1, CON. 2

R. Pelissier  
K. Milson

LOT 2

R. Webb  
Mrs. M. F. Lehwaldt  
R. Forbes

## LOT 3

C. Blashill  
 J. Hawley, T.  
 A. Blashill  
 M. Sloat  
 J. Kraayenbrink  
     H. W. Hegger, T.  
 A. T. Wood  
 Mrs. L. Dickson  
 J. Kraayenbrink  
 S. Omielan

## No. 2 HIGHWAY S/S. LOT 2, CON. 2

L. Savage  
 J. P. LeBlanc  
 Mrs. M. Lehwaldt

## LOT 3

R. E. Minogue  
 J. W. Sender

## LOT 4

Dickson's Corners Hall

## NORTH TOWN LINE E/W. LOT 11, CON. 3

J. Garton  
 Misses H. and L. Murray

## LOT 17 &amp; 18

O. Dona

## NEWTON STREET

G. Spratt  
 C. Webb  
 K. McLeod  
     D. McLeod, T

## NORTH TOWN LINE

K. D. Shoults  
 C. M. Eggett, T.  
 C. Caddey

## CATHOLIC CEMETERY ST.

I. Eden  
 C. Helmuth

## NORTH TOWN LINE

A. Atkinson

## DAVEY STREET

J. Eckhart  
 K. Legacy  
 E. Kish

NORTH TOWN LINE

W. Cox

D. Petrie

B. Petrie

H. Petrie



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