
A Record of Events

pertaining to this Community
from 1850 to 1950

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PEACE - PLENTY - PROGRESS

Prepared by
THE OLD BOYS' RE-UNION COMMITTEE

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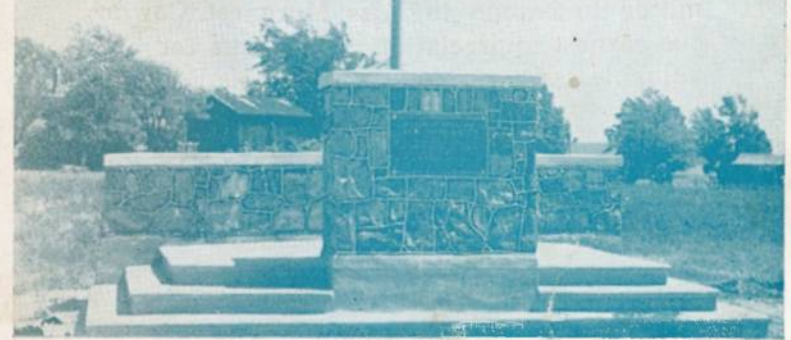
SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

—and—

**HISTORICAL EVENTS
of Blenheim Township**

—and—

**A CENTURY of PROGRESS
of the
Blenheim Agricultural Society
1850 - 1950**



DRUMBO OLD BOYS' RE-UNION

AUGUST 5, 6, 7, 8 - 1950

FOREWORD

THIS BOOKLET would not be complete without a note of appreciation and thanks to one of our Committee Members for her untiring effort in the preparation of this Edition. She has spent many hours of work and study in its preparation.

She is a woman of great ability, and has spent many years in the teaching profession and has for twenty-five years been a capable Secretary of our Library Board.

It is the wish of the Advertising Committee to extend to Miss Margaret Cowan our earnest appreciation and thanks for her valuable assistance in compiling this Booklet.

It only remains to be added that with Miss Cowan this Booklet was purely a work of love and so to her it is affectionately dedicated.

(Signed)

Chairman,

Advertising Committee.

The Drumbo Board of Trade

EXTENDS BEST WISHES
TO ALL
RESIDENTS & FORMER RESIDENTS
OF DRUMBO

...oOo...

It is our earnest desire that this Event may prove successful in every respect, and that Health, Happiness, Peace and Prosperity may prevail throughout Drumbo and vicinity down through the coming years.

Let us all endeavour to be worthy of the great heritage that has been left to us by our forefathers.

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Vice-President	-	-	L. Hall
Secretary-Treasurer	-	-	J. Higgins

Directors

M. Dayman	L. Etherington
J. Enticknap	Dr. Symington

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...oOo...

L. B. Reynolds, Proprietor

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Drumbo, Ontario

Drumbo Agricultural Society Celebrates its 100th Anniversary

By W. A. COCKBURN, Secretary-Treasurer

The year 1950 becomes the most outstanding and important in the long and creditable history of the Drumbo Agricultural Society for during this year the Society reaches the one hundredth anniversary of its existence. To commemorate this important event, the Department of Agriculture of the Province of Ontario makes a substantial grant to the Drumbo Society for the purpose of erecting a special type of Pylon with flag pole and bronze plaque, in recognition of the valuable service rendered to this community by the Society on behalf of Agriculture.

This structure has been successfully erected by the Board of Directors of 1950 and on Monday, August 7th at 1:30 p.m. during the Drumbo Old Boys' Re-union, it will be officially unveiled and dedicated by a representative of the Department of Agriculture.

HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY

To review the History of the Drumbo Agricultural Society, which was organized as the Blenheim Agricultural Society and has always been representative of the entire township, we must go back to the early pioneer days of this district, when pioneer homes were established by our forefathers in the midst of a valuable forest and the fertile soil gradually brought under cultivation, which in reality forms the foundation of our agricultural industry.

THE FIRST MEETING

From information available through the press and obtained from conversation with some of our early settlers, we find that the Blenheim Agricultural Society developed from a community get-together held during the summer of 1850 on the John Spiers farm, 2 miles south of the village of Drumbo, when a number of the rural people met in picnic form and after lunch and the usual social chat, discussed community conditions relative to the agricultural industry.

The importance of good live stock must have been in the minds of these early pioneers for, from this social gathering iminated the first calf show, which, from then on, continued to grow and enlarge until practically every product of the farm and rural home became a part of the annual show.

THE FIRST OFFICERS

The next year this organization met in a similar manner on the farm of the late William Dickson and the following year on one of the Hall farms in

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the North part of the township. The organization by this time was officially recognized as the Blenheim Agricultural Society. The next year, 1854, the first annual Fall Fair, open to all competitors, was held on the Muma farm, just North of the village of Drumbo, with his new barn just built that year used to display the inside exhibits. The officers conducting this first Fair were: President, Fergus Anderson; Vice-President, Francis Burgess; Secretary-Treasurer, Francis Williamson; Directors, David Bastedo, Arthur Tew, John Irving, Edward Bouchier, Adam Oliver, William Patton, Thomas Cowan.

OUTSTANDING HORSE SHOW

According to a press report of the Blenheim Township Fair held on October 7th, 1856, the Muma farm again provided excellent accommodation for the event, when special mention was made of the outstanding Horse Show which has continued ever since to be classified as one of the best in Western Ontario.

NO RECORDS FROM 1856 TO 1890

From this time on to 1890 our source of information regarding the Blenheim Agricultural Society is totally from press reports or information handed down from former officers or residents of the locality, as no minutes are available. But we do know that for several years the Blenheim Fall Fair was held alternately at the villages of Drumbo, Plattsville and Princeton. This plan had to be abandoned in order to procure permanent grounds and buildings for exhibition purposes. Drumbo then became the choice due to its central location in the township.

THE FIRST BUILDINGS

When the present location was chosen as a fair grounds, a portion of the land had to be purchased and a suitable building erected for exhibition purposes. This put the Society in debt for a few years, but with the guidance of a shrewd and energetic Board of Directors these difficulties were soon overcome and the Society has continued to prosper and improve by the purchase of more property and equipment as the years passed by.

OLD BUILDING AND FLAG POLE

Many of us will remember the old building, with its three wings and flag pole on top at the centre, which displayed the exhibits until 1905. It was then replaced by the present skating and curling rink through a co-operative plan with the Drumbo Curling Club, which, with a few minor alterations, still exists. The present arena has proven to be an ideal place for the display of exhibits and much favourable comment has been heard from people visiting Drumbo Fair, while several judges have referred to it as the best they have seen among the various Country Fairs.

NAME CHANGED TO DRUMBO FAIR

At the annual meeting held January 9th, 1907, the name of Blenheim Agricultural Society was changed to Drumbo Fair Agricultural Society largely due to the word "Blenheim" conflicting with the town of Blenheim in Kent County; but the Society is still representative of the Township of Blenheim.

ALWAYS FAVOURED WITH GOOD WEATHER

Over this long period of years Drumbo Fair has been favoured with

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Drumbo, Ontario

reasonably good weather during Fair time. A few wet and cold days have been experienced but we have no record during the past 60 years when the Drumbo Fair had to be cancelled.

On several occasions, when horses were the main source of power on the farm and more popular on our roads and highways, the Agricultural Society held many successful Spring Horse Shows. In more recent years the co-operation of other organizations such as Women's Institutes, Horticultural Societies, and various Ladies' organizations have added considerable strength and attraction to the Drumbo Fair. For a few years the Drumbo Horticultural Society conducted the Flower Show in co-operation with the Agricultural Fair. This will always be remembered for the magnificent Landscape and Flower Displays arranged in the arena.

FIRST TO CONDUCT BACON HOG SHOW

The Drumbo Agricultural Society was the first in this district to conduct a Bacon Hog Show which has now become so popular with many Societies. From this show last year 142 hogs were marketed with an average of 70% grading selects. This is just an example of the contribution the Agricultural Society is making to the farming industry in this district. We could mention other field crop competitions and Seed Fair work which are also sponsored by the Society

In 1939 when the Provincial grant to Township School Fairs was cancelled, the Department requested the Agricultural Society to do what it could to assist with this work, with the result that the annual School Fair of Blenheim Township has been held in conjunction with the Fall Fair ever since and has become a very popular part of the exhibition. From this amalgamation many junior activities have developed.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS PROVIDED FOR

The Society now have in their possession sufficient property for further development of our Fall Fair as well as providing more recreational facilities for the benefit of the community. Progress has already been made in this connection with the establishment of a fine ball park equipped with floodlights. So let us remember the Drumbo Agricultural Society is a service club operated by the people for the benefit of the people and welcomes the co-operation of all similar organizations.



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Historical Sketch of Drumbo

It was in 1793 that Governor John Graves Simcoe of Upper Canada ordered the construction of a Military Road from Hamilton to London and Detroit to facilitate colonization and also to afford means of moving troops to the west to repel invasion which Simcoe, as a veteran of the Revolutionary Wars in the New England States, expected to come from the U. S. A. The War of 1812-14 proved his foreboding true. The road was begun at once and was called the Governor's Road (now No. 2 Highway). To encourage settlements he ordered the survey of the first three concessions of Blenheim, north of the Governor's Road. From that time on settlers gradually moved in. John Galbraith, ancestor of Mr. Williamson on No. 2 Highway, located there in 1794 and the deed of that farm is dated 1804. Mrs. George Spiers has a deed of a relative in that district dated 1807. About 1832 or 1833 a great many Scotch families came to Canada and settled in the southern part of the Township up to the 5th Line. The names of these families were Cockburn, Speirs, Fair, McGaw, McCrow, Murray, McKay, Showers, Watters and Wilson. Settlers also came from the east by way of the river Nith from the direction of Paris. At Canning there was a flourishing settlement with several mills and at Moscow, called Howell's Mills, there was a small settlement; there settlers came up by what is now known as the 7th Line and the Clark farm was obtained from the Crown and now the sixth generation of Clark's is living there. The next farm, the old Laidlaw farm, now occupied by William H. Cowan received its deed from the Crown in 1811, thirty-two years before the first settlement in Drumbo. By 1844 there was a large enough settlement up the 7th Line, west of Drumbo, to warrant the erection of a Baptist Church. All these facts indicate that settlers from east, south, and west were drawing near the land on which Drumbo was located.

The first log house was built in Drumbo by Squire Henry Muma in 1843 in heavily wooded country. The report goes that he acted as land agent for a man by the name of Street who held the deed to the land on which Drumbo is situated. Some say that Jeremiah Cowan of Princeton was agent for Crown lands in the southern half of Blenheim Township and Squire Muma in the northern half. It is said that twelve years after he built the first cabin much of the land had been cleared and crops were being grown and domestic animals raised.

There has always been a great deal of discussion as to how Drumbo received its name. The following is authentic information. Squire Jackson, one of the earliest pioneers of the Township of Blenheim and a boundary line commissioner, was appointed to accompany Dr. Gwynne, who was being sent by the Government of Upper Canada to establish post offices in the County of Oxford. As these two men were driving towards the settlement of "The Windfall" as it was then called, the contour of the land, resembling the back of an ox, reminded Squire Jackson of Drumbo, in Ireland and they decided on the name Drumbo. Drum-bo means Ox Back.

Among the first residents of Drumbo were Greville Barr, Dr. J. B. Rounds, Deloss Melick, James Hazell, Robert Baldwin, S. Herbert and others whose names are unfamiliar. As far as is known, Miss Caroline Melick, 92 years of age, aunt of Mrs. William H. Cowan, is the oldest living descendent of the

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Drumbo

"Old Boys" "Old Girls"

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Drumbo, Ontario

early settlers. She is the daughter of Deloss Melick who had a blacksmith shop near the 7th Line bridge. The following located on farms nearby: John Maynard, Armstrong (on Law farm), Groom, Bennett, Clark, Kitchen, Roberts, Richard and John C. Burgess. Of the large Burgess connection of former days the only descendent residents in Drumbo is Gordon Burgess. Mrs. Lorne Wilson is the only living descendent of Squire Muma, her grandfather, who was born in Drumbo and has lived all her life here.

The Blenheim Council for some years met in the residence of Henry Muma until he built a Town Hall, near where the Bank of Montreal is now located. The first survey of the village was made by H. Muma in 1851. His property extended from the northwest corner of Oxford and Wilmot Streets out to the 8th Line; the northern part across the railway is the farm where Squire Muma lived after losing two houses in the fires of 1862 and 1864. Hermann Krueger now occupies this farm. The Railway from Buffalo to Goderich, the old Grand Trunk Line, was surveyed in 1854 when a large force of men began to work. The land was bought from H. Muma and the deed bears the date 1857. The Canadian Pacific Railway, called the Credit Valley, was completed in the 70s and also cut through the Muma farm. The first church service was held by an Anglican clergyman but the first church built was the Primitive Methodist in 1857. George Hicks kept the first store and Post Office in 1852. Drumbo grew very fast for a few years.

From Sutherland's County of Oxford Gazetteer and Directory of 1862-3 we find a list of 86 names indicating the professions and trades of the residents. Drumbo at that time contained ten stores, a good foundry, machine shop and planing mill, blacksmith, wagon, shoe, cabinet, harness, and carpenter shops, several agencies, four hotels, three churches and an excellent school. The population was 700. The churches were the Baptist and two Methodist Churches. There was also a Masonic Lodge which met Wednesday on or before the full moon each month; and a Temperance Lodge organized 1861; among its officers were Francis Burgess, Daniels, T. Passmore, Jane Passmore, W. H. Berney (Teacher), Patullo, Prentice.

In the aforesaid list are the following names which may be of interest to some of the older residents of 1950: P. Bawtinheimer, farmer, G. E. Barr (father of W. G. Barr who lived all his life in Drumbo) cabinet-shop, Bastendorf, J. P., tailor, Brown, four of that name, owners of tannery (on McTague lot), ashery, Drumbo Foundry (on Hunter property in western part of village) and C. C. Brown, currier, F. Burgess, farmer (on Gordon Ladwig's farm), John L. Burgess, farmer 6th Line, Chipman, J., tinsmith (otherwise known as "Pappy"), Robert Clark, Daniels, saddlery and harness, George Harrison, shoe shop, Landon, W. H., Clerk of Division Court, McKenzie, James, druggist, Post Master, Telegraph Office, Abraham Markle, farmer, Alex S. Markle, blacksmith, Walter Markle, Henry Muma, J. P., land agent, notary public, commissioner (to quell the Riel Rebellion), C. A. Muma, Salesman, Nelson Muma, carpenter, Alex. Murray, general merchant, A. Peck, carpenter, John Pollock, bakery, James Rogers, blacksmith shop, carriages, wagons, and buggies made to order on the shortest notice, Rounds, J. B., M.D., graduate of Victoria College, Toronto.

The Drumbo Foundry manufactured plows, cultivators, and all kinds of agricultural implements, castings of every kind such as mill gearing and mach-

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We extend a Hearty Welcome to All Drumbo Old Boys and Girls. We hope that your visit will provide many more experiences to add to your storehouse of happy memories.

Our welcome is extended also to all others who come to help us celebrate.

Congratulations to the Blenheim Agricultural Society on its 100th Anniversary.

Drop in and see us. We would like to hear more of the "Old Times" from those who know.

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Drumbo, Ontario

inery work; in connection with the Foundry was a first class planing mill, flooring and lumber dressed to order.

From the foregoing account it can be seen that there was a remarkable growth between 1843 and 1862.

But the ambitious hopes of the growing village were doomed to disappointment for in 1862 a disastrous fire occurred which destroyed many places of business and left 22 families homeless in a short time. The following article is taken from the Brantford Courier of June 7th, 1862:

"The thriving village of Drumbo is situated in the centre of one of the finest agricultural townships in Canada — namely Blenheim: and on Thursday, the 6th of June at 1 o'clock, the inhabitants were thrown into excitement by the cry of "Fire!" when it was found that the stable connected with the Central Hotel (corner of Wilmott and Oxford Streets) was on fire and from there it proceeded north and west, burning nearly everything to the ground. Henry Muma is the principal loser. He had in all eleven buildings burned, together with a number of barns and sheds. Henry Muma lost about \$25,000.00. Mr. Mann — general store, \$15,000.00. The fire would have consumed more but was kept down from four or five buildings by a fire engine brought up from Paris. Great credit is due the workers of it. The sad catastrophe has laid two of the principal streets in ruins. The village is now robbed of over fifty business places."

It gives one a shock to read the list of business places destroyed, especially when the majority of owners had little or no insurance. It is interesting to speculate what might have been Drumbo's future if such a disaster had not befallen the village.

The village suffered again from fire in 1864, when a large hotel owned by H. Muma, a large store and a tailor shop were burned. From this time forth, things remained almost at a standstill for a number of years — in fact up to 1876. These fires were a serious blow, embarrassing and discouraging those who would build; others moved away. Up and down the streets could be seen only vacant cellar spots which looked dreary for many a year. The Brick yards of C. A. Muma and W. Stevenson, employing nearly 20 hands, busy from May to November supplying material for building in Drumbo and shipping their products to outside points, were the life of the village for several years. The fine edifice, the Baptist Church was built in 1876. In 1878 C. A. Muma built the Royal Hotel; in 1888 a Board of Trade was organized. Mr. Wrigley was persuaded to locate here with a newspaper. In 1889 C. A. Muma built the brick building in which the Bank of Montreal is located, also two dwellings on Muma Avenue. In 1890 Henry Muma built the large brick block on the corner of Oxford and Wilmott Streets. Charles Taylor also constructed several buildings. About 1890 D. A. Haggarth built the fine red brick house which eventually became first the Presbyterian and later the United Church Manse.

OLD BUILDINGS

The frame building on Oxford Street now occupied by Carter's Garage and James Enticknap's awning shop, is the most historic and oldest public building in Drumbo. This building was a Baptist Church which was once situated where the Skating Rink stands. It was built about 1859 or 1860 when the settlement in Drumbo had grown sufficiently to induce the members of the

Alma Q. Turner

— DRUGGIST —

EXTENDS A WARM WELCOME
TO ALL
OLD BOYS AND GIRLS
AND
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
BLENHEIM AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
ON ITS CENTENNIAL

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Drumbo, Ontario

Windfall Church to build a church in Drumbo. In 1876 the present Baptist Church replaced the frame Church which was sold to James Rogers who moved it to Wilmott Street near the egg-grading plant and used it as a warehouse. George Law bought it later for a warehouse and moved it to its present site. This Church had a gallery.

Dr. J. B. Rounds' office and residence were in the Baptist parsonage; Mrs. J. J. Meggs lives in the residence of Dr. Terryberry; the Bastendorf house next to Joe Harmer's residence, formerly the Queen's Hotel, is said to be the oldest house in town; the next house, the Pollock home is also very old; both these houses escaped the fire of 1862. James Rogers' residence, now occupied by Irvine Haines, escaped the fire; J. L. Burgess' residence was a cottage on Mrs. H. E. Baxter's lot, later enlarged to present size by C. E. Baxter.

News of the village and vicinity is very meagre during the 60's, 70's and 80's until the publication of a few short-lived village weeklies beginning about 1890.

It may be of interest to read that in 1864 ducks (dressed) sold for 30c each, chickens 25c to 35c per pair, turkeys 50c each and geese 30c to 40c and compare these prices with those of recent years, chickens \$2.50 and up, turkey 70c per pound.

In 1865 Drumbo business men in lieu of a newspaper published a Drumbo Business Chart on a sheet 35" x 30" printed on one side only. The printer was Patterson of Ayr. Among the ads were the following: George Harrison, boot and shoe-maker, Dr. J. B. Rounds, physician, surgeon, accoucheur, Coroner for the County of Oxford, Issuer of marriage licenses; A. S. Markle, blacksmith, all kinds of carriage and wagon work done in a good workmanlike manner, stock taken in exchange for new work; James Rogers, carriage and wagon factory and blacksmith; Drumbo Foundry, S. D. Brown, proprietor; G. E. Barr, cabinet maker and undertaker on Mechanics Street; J. Daniels, saddle and harness maker; James MacKenzie, druggist in Apothecaries Hall, Post Office building; Travelers' Home (Queen's Hotel) P. Irving, proprietor, drovers accommodated with the best of yards for sheep, cattle and hogs. Good stabling and attentive hostler. T. P. Gray, licensed auctioneer; Temperance House, Good Temperance Drinks always on hand, Robert Ireland, proprietor; R. S. Mann, general store in Blenheim House; Wm. Stevenson, brick manufacturer; Henderson, J., merchant tailor.

The following interesting article on education in the early days is taken from an ancient paper of 84 years ago: "Before the middle of the nineteenth century great progress had been made in educational matters in the Township of Blenheim, and indeed throughout the whole Province of Ontario. The township had been divided into school sections, school houses erected and qualified teachers secured when possible. There was also frequently keen rivalry between the schools and the teachers. Each school and each teacher (in those days they were all male teachers) sought to show the highest results at the quarterly examinations which were made by the local superintendent and trustees.

"These were always interesting occasions and were much better attended by the parents and scholars than they are now. On two occasions at least there was a competitive examination of all the schools in the Township. The last one, held on April 25th, 1866, will be long remembered by those who took part in it

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Drumbo, Ontario

as a great occasion. The contest lasted three full days, running far into the night on the last day. Between two and three hundred pupils took part, representing fifteen out of the eighteen sections in the township. The local chronicler of the affair says that Chesterfield, Springhill, Plattsville, Drumbo and Richwood school mustered strongest. The competition took place in the town hall at Drumbo which was appropriately garlanded with green festoons, mottoes, etc. The proceedings were appropriately opened with Psalm singing to the accompaniment of the harmonium. Then followed a prayer by Rev. Wm. Robertson of Chesterfield. The local superintendent was Rev. J. F. Dockrey and the Secretary was Mr. Robert McLean of Richwood, then retired but for many years the most prominent teacher in the township. This unique educational tournament seems to have been a complete success, one of the judges having expressed the opinion at the close, that it was 'questionable if such a creditable appearance, or such a number of pupils, so intelligent, active and well-trained could be assembled in any other township in Canada.' They specially commended the proficiency of the competitors in 'reading, spelling, grammar, recitation and drawing.' The competition closed on the third evening by a grand re-union of teachers, examiners and friends, the most interesting feature of the programme being a dialogue in costume entitled "The Question of Dress Reform". This performance elicited great applause, and was followed by congratulatory speeches by Robert McLean, M. F. Ainslie, R. S. Mann and others. At "high twelve the programme was closed by singing the National Anthem and giving three hearty British cheers 'for our noble Queen and the constitution and educational interests of Canada.'

The following were the subjects of the contest: Reading, Boys' and Girls' Writing, Geography, British America, Greek and Latin Roots, Grammar, Spelling, and Meanings and Dictation, Physiology, Mechanical Philosophy, Recitation, Arithmetic, History, Book-keeping, Geometry, Drawing, Composition. The judges were generally ministers and their wives and any citizens who were better educated than their neighbours.

Among the pupils winning prizes are many from the old families whose names are very familiar: Fair, Speirs, Patullo, Pinkham, McLean, McCrow, Hunter, Cockburn, Fry, Wilson, Allan, Dawson, Bastedo, Shiel."

From 1865, the year the Drumbo Business Chart was printed to 1891 when the Drumbo Advertiser was being published is a far cry. No records of that quarter century are available; all we know is that a church, an hotel, some stores and dwellings were built during that time; these have already been mentioned in this sketch. Many changes took place in the business life of the village. J. L. Burgess was Post Master and general merchant and Dr. Pentland, physician and surgeon; Chandler and Co., druggists; W. H. Wegenast, harness maker; C. J. Daniels, farm implement dealer; Taylor and Mackie, planing and saw mills; Wolverton Milling Co.; W. C. Patten; Wolverton Carriage Works; John Law- rason, flour and feed dealer; Silas Dawson, general merchant in Blenheim House; D. S. Cullen, hardware merchant; J. J. Meggs, butcher; W. G. Barr, undertaker; J. P. Bastendorf, Merchant tailor.

There was a branch of the Salvation Army around 1890 as the Church announcements indicate. A letter was received recently in town from a member of the band who lived here sixty years ago.

In the news column are the following items: A new arrival of ladies' hats

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Dr. G. M. Bell

DENTIST

Office:

31 William Street
Paris, Ontario

Telephone
113

Dr. J. S. Bigham, M.D.C.M.

PHYSICIAN and SURGEON

Office:

Wilmot Street
Drumbo, Ontario

Telephone
234

WELCOME TO
DRUMBO OLD BOYS' REUNION

Morrow's

— WHOLESALE POULTRY —

Telephone 439

Drumbo, Ontario

Sippel's Painting and Decorating

Established in 1894

— FINEST WORKMANSHIP —

Dealer In

Quality Wallpapers Durable Paints

Brush and Spray Painting

Telephone 444

Drumbo, Ontario

Chas. Sippel

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An interesting item in this same copy was an account of a Ladies' Hockey match. "On Thursday evening, Miss Lily McTague's "Redcoats" defeated Miss Pearl Hall's "Bluecoats" by 4 goals to 3. It is not often we see young ladies playing hockey, but Thursday evening proved that they understood the game. The game was very fast and close and ten minutes overtime was played. For the Bluecoats Miss Pearl Hall and Miss Stella Meggs were the star players, Miss Meggs making several rushes from one goal to the other. For the Redcoats Misses Lizzie and Lilly McTague and Mamie Blumenstein played a great game. The line-up was as follows: Bluecoats—Pearl Wait, Edith Sipple, Edna Rapp, Pearl Hall, Stella Meggs, Annie Fritch, Jessie Cowan. Redcoats—Tena Baxter, Ethel Wilkinson, Cosy Burgess, Lily McTague, Lizzie McTague, Mamie Blumenstein, Pearl Alexander."

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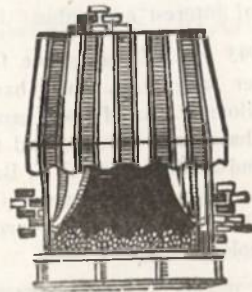
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A. D. ENTICKNAP & SON

J. A. Taylor, Manager

DRUMBO

ONTARIO



- TENTS
- AWNINGS
- TARPAULINS
- CANVAS BAGS
- BOAT COVERS
- FUNERAL TENTS

"EVERYTHING IN CANVAS"

Other news items were: Mr. Lorne Wilson has purchased Mr. Gidney's farm; Mrs. Darnley entertained her Sunday School class Friday night; Last Wednesday Parm Fritch left for Seattle, U.S.A., last heard from in Detroit; D. K. Fair has sold his farm to Robert Smart and intends moving to Drumbo; Mrs. C. K. Curry entertained a few of her friends; a Curling Match between the locals and 3 rinks from Paris was played last evening, visitors winning by 11 shots. Mr. Baxter's rink was the only winning Drumbo rink; Mr. and Mrs. Chester Fry left Wednesday for their Alberta home after visiting Mrs. Fry's mother, Mrs. Sutton. Many names figured in the news list, such as Joe Burgess, Mrs. George Law, Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Meggs, Wallace Fritch, Pearl Rathbun, John Passmore, Alex Knox, Mrs. Ralph Alexander, Mrs. J. Harner, Miss Eva Holder, Mrs. George Graham, Laura Cockburn, John Palmer, Mrs. Joe Prentice and many others.

The Drumbo Express of 1911 gave much more space to personal items than to ads. in marked contrast to the Maple Leaf.

Messrs. J. Cook, George Bawtinheimer and H. E. Baxter took advantage of the excursion rates to visit Detroit. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Nolan are visiting friends in Montreal. Passed to Normal—The following students who wrote at the recent Entrance examinations have been successful: C. Baxter, T. Codlin, C. M. Fleming, G. P. Foe, M. M. Gibson, E. P. Law, E. D. Taylor, W. R. Wedge. Congratulations! Rev. W. K. and Mrs. Shearer entertained their Sunday School classes Tuesday. Drumbo Hockey Team defeated Wellesley and Elmira teams. Fred Beemer's house on 7th Concession, 2 miles east of Drumbo, was burned. By heroic efforts the contents were saved. Mrs. W. G. Tate of Hamilton, and W. J. Baxter, manager of Northern Crown Bank at Foam Lake, Saskatchewan, are visiting at the parental home. Other well-known names recorded in these columns are: George Law, Maisie McKinley, Clifford Fritch, Ethel Klosz, Emily Law, Harvey Markle, Frank Law, S. F. Ainslie, John Passmore, Addie Meggs, Thomas Cockburn (Brantford), Nellie Harmer, Nellie Burgess, Mrs. Allan Fritch, David Maynard.

Drumbo was made a Police Village in 1904. The first trustees were J. J. Pickard, C. Taylor, C. A. Muma.

In 1914 M. W. Binkley, W. G. Hunter, C. A. Muma were trustees. During the years civic honours have been shared by many citizens but sometimes there has been evident a reluctance to assume office. The last few years more interest has been shown due to the anxiety of the citizens over the dwindling supply of well water. The present trustees are Lloyd Hall, Jas. Reid, Howard Kennedy.

In 1888 the Board of Trade was started with C. A. Muma President; Dr. Pentland, Vice-President; Jas. Burgess, Secretary; Geo. Harrison, Treasurer; Directors, Chas. Taylor, John Pollock, Henry Burgess.

In 1914 President M. W. Binkley, Vice-President Andrew Laidlaw, Secretary, C. A. Muma, Assistant Secretary, H. E. Baxter, Treasurer, J. D. Cowan, Directors, J. Cook, C. Taylor, R. Wilkinson, H. Burgess, Rev. J. Cavers, Dr. J. A. Mitchell.

Division Court is held in Drumbo at regular sessions. The Clerks of the Court have been Squire Jackson, 1852, W. H. Landon, 1862, M. F. Ainslie, C. K. Curry, W. A. Hunt, J. D. Cowan, Charles Taylor, John Taylor. The present Clerk is L. E. Peterson.

Blenheim Township Seed Cleaning Plant

Seed Cleaning with Modern Machinery A Specialty
Service and Prices that are Right
All Kinds of Grain Cleaned and Treated
Bring in your Small Seeds to be Cleaned
— Work Guaranteed —

ARTHUR BALKWILL

Telephone 214

Drumbo, Ontario

● To the Drumbo Old Boys and Girls . . .
The Best of Luck and Good Wishes.

● To the Drumbo Young Boys and Girls . . .
The Best Advice —
Arrange a Savings Plan —
Provide An Income for Later Years.

The Canada Life Assurance Co.

J. H. MARKLE, Representative

Telephone 352

Drumbo, Ontario

COMPLIMENTS OF....

Howard Vance

— PRODUCE DEALER —

Specializing In

Spraying, Waxing and Shipping Turnips

Telephone 442

Drumbo, Ontario

MUSIC . . . The Universal Language

Mrs. J. H. Markle, R.M.T.

TEACHER OF PIANO and THEORY

Specializing with Beginners & Pre-School Age Pupils
Rhythm Band Classes for All Ages

Winner of "Truck Engineering" Shield of 1950, Oxford County
Registered Music Teachers Federation and Kiwanis Club Festival
for Junior and Senior Rhythm Bands.

Pupils prepared for Royal Conservatory of Music of Toronto

Examinations — Festivals

Monthly and Annual Recitals

Studio Equipped for Two Piano Playing.

Studio Telephones

Drumbo: 352

Princeton: 30 j 3

H. Wilson

Drumbo Agent

COMPLIMENTS OF....

Douglas Cleaners & Pressers

587 Canterbury Street

Woodstock

TRY U-SAN-O-CLEANING

THE BANK OF MONTREAL

Extends Its Heartiest Congratulations

to the

DRUMBO OLD BOYS' RE-UNION

and the

BLENHEIM AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

BANK OF MONTREAL

"Canada's First Bank"

Drumbo Branch: W. Duff, Manager

DRUMBO OLD BOYS' RE-UNION

AND

BLENHEIM AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY CENTENNIAL

MIDWAY ● RIDES ● SLIDES ● SHOWS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5th

9:00 A.M.—REGISTRATION and BILLETING.

1:00 P.M.—LAWN BOWLING TOURNAMENT.

8:15 P.M.—SOFTBALL GAME —

"Toronto Tip Tops" (World Champions)

vs. "All-Stars" — featuring Charlie Justice, the
world's best fast-ball pitcher!

New Dundee Little German Clown Band will be
in attendance.

Lucky Draw for Radio (Tickets Still Available).

Admission: 50c; Children 25c; Cars 25c.

JITNEY DANCE.

Antique Display in Township Hall

Auspices Baptist Ladies' Aid

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6th

10:30 A.M.—UNITED CHURCH SERVICE.

Minister: Rev. Dr. T. A. Symington.

Guest Speaker:

Rev. Andrew Lane, Forest, Ont.

2:00 P.M.—ST. PETER'S ANGLICAN
CHURCH SERVICE.

Rector: Rev. E. C. Ward.

Guest Speaker:

Rev. J. McKenzie Dobson.

3:00 P.M.—Official Opening and Dedication
of new C. L. Wilson & Son Funeral Home

3:30 P.M.—SHORT SERVICE at Cenotaph.

4:00 P.M.—MEMORIAL SERVICE
in Cemetery.

Special Speaker:

Mr. Ray Mann of Brantford.

New Dundee Band —

Ira H. Toman, Leader.

7:00 P.M.—BAPTIST CHURCH SERVICE.

Pastor: Mr. E. J. VonKeitz.

Guest Speaker:

Dr. W. F. Waters, McMaster University, Hamilton.

9:00 P.M.—BAND CONCERT.

Guelph Police Boys' Band (40 pieces). Collection.

— E. Denver, Leader.

MONDAY, AUGUST 7th

10:00 A.M.—PARADE.

Classes — Industrial and Commercial

(Cash Prizes: \$15.00; \$10.00; \$5.00)

Special (Prizes: \$15.00; \$10.00; \$5.00)

Junior

(Cash Prizes: \$3.00; \$2.50; \$2.00; \$1.50; \$1.00; 50c)

11:00 A.M.—HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

(Cash Prizes: \$12.00; \$6.00; \$4.00)



MAIN STREET OF DRUMBO, ONTARIO

1:30 P.M.—UNVEILING OF PYLON.

Commemorating 100th Anniversary of
Blenheim Agricultural Society.

Special Speakers—

F. A. Lashley, Associate Supt. Agricultural Society.

Warden Robert Rudy.

Clark Murray, M. P.

Hon. H. C. Nixon.

George Bell, Agricultural Representative of Oxford.

3:00 P.M.—SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

Three Games — 2 games in afternoon and finals at
8:00 p.m. (Floodlights). Cash prizes, \$25.00; \$15.00.

Admission: Adults 35c; Children 25c; Cars 25c.

6:45 P.M.—SOFTBALL GAME

Drumbo O.R.S.A. Champions 1935-36

vs. Drumbo 1950 O.R.S.A. Team.

10:00 P.M.—GRAND DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS

Lucky Draw for Electric Washer.

Admission: Adults 35c; Children 25c; Cars 25c

MONSTER DANCE ON NEW FLOOR IN ARENA

Admission: \$1.00 per Couple

The Strollers Orchestra

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8th

11:00 A.M.—OLD SCHOOL CLASS.

12:30 P.M.—OLD-TIME PICNIC.

Bring Your Own Basket!

Races and Games for Everyone!

2:00 P.M.—LAWN BOWLING JITNEY.

8:30 P.M.—GRAND GARDEN PARTY.

We have been successful in securing the following talent:

THE NICKLINGS—

High Jinks on High Bars — Sensational Acrobatic Team!

THE BARNAS—

Brother and Sister Team — Western Songs Sung in Harmony.

ZENA CHEEVERS—

Toronto's Finest Acrobatic Dancer.

THE WHIRLAWAYS—

A Roller Skating Act Packed Full of Thrills.

THE SYMPHONETTES—

Four-Girl Dance Line — Fast Steppers in Smart Routine!

MYRTLE ARMSTRONG—

Violinist — Hear her do imitations of old-time fiddling and the bagpipes.

THE PAULS—

Two Boys and a Girl — The Comedy Sensation of Ontario!

JAN SAY—

Star of Soldier Troup Show — At the Piano!

GLADYS CORNELL—

Mistress of Ceremonies in Songs — New and Old!

Draw for Television Set at Intermission.

POPULARITY CONTEST.

GRAND FINALE — PYJAMA PARADE.

Admission: Adults 50c; Children 25c; Cars 25c.

MEDICAL

Drumbo has been well served by the Medical Profession. Dr. J. R. Rounds was a prominent doctor here in the 60s and 70s. He was the first doctor in Drumbo and was very highly respected. His office and residence were in the Baptist parsonage. He was followed by Dr. Pentland who built the doctor's residence which has been used as such by all Drumbo doctors except Dr. Webb who had an office in Mrs. H. E. Baxter's residence. Dr. J. A. Mitchell practised here for over thirty years and his name is still a household word; no one has ever served the community with a more unselfish spirit than he. Many a doctor's bill was never sent to needy patients.

The following doctors practised here for a few years: Drs. Ford, Hawkins, Greer, McLean, Webb.

POST OFFICE

George Hicks was the first Post Master in 1852. James MacKenzie in 1862. J. L. Burgess followed with the Post Office in his small general store occupied now by Tottle's radio shop; afterwards J. L. Burgess moved store and Post Office to the adjacent Dayman building; Barwick was P. M. in western part of Hildred building; Andrew Laidlaw in Wolff's warehouse; William Ainslie in Harrison building; Marshall Gidney in Henry Burgess' confectionery and ice-cream parlour.

There has been rural delivery in this township for over thirty years. Present mail carriers are O. Kipp and S. Stevenson.

The first bank in Drumbo was a private bank of C. K. Curry located in the north-east part of John Vittie's house, previously occupied by C. E. Baxter's flour and feed store. When the Molson's Bank bought the private bank, the office was transferred to the present bank location in the Muma Block, later owned by J. H. Markle. Mr. Curry was its first manager. When the Bank of Montreal took over, the managers were Messrs. Hart, Ross, Fowler, Robson, Bell, Fink, Lawrence. The present manager is C. W. Daff.

HYDRO — Electric power reached Drumbo by 1913. In December 1913 the switch was turned on by Mrs. C. A. Muma and 1914 was a busy year as business men and householders installed electric power in their property. Mr. W. G. Barr was the first caretaker at the substation. Gordon Burgess long associated with Hydro and Lloyd Hall are on the present maintenance staff.

The Drumbo and Princeton Telephone Company was organized in the early 1900s and has given good service. In 1947 as the number of telephone subscribers had greatly increased it was decided to introduce the dial system in Drumbo and a building was erected in Drumbo for that purpose and now we have a service equal to any city service. The company is now called Oxford Telephone Company with headquarters at Innerkip with an exchange at Princeton.

To improve fire protection in addition to the fire engine equipment, a fire siren was placed on the roof of the building occupied by the drug store after the disastrous schoolfire of 1946. Seven large cisterns were dug in strategic places in the village and already have proved their worth in three village fires. Earl Kennedy's house, Orla's Restaurant and Carter's Garage chimney fire.

BEST WISHES
TO THE
OLD BOYS' REUNION
OF DRUMBO

Woodstock Central Dairy Ltd.

— Distributors of —

MacNicoll's DeLuxe Ice Cream

and

Quality Dairy Products

586 Dundas Street

Telephone 170

Woodstock, Ontario

Greetings to Drumbo Old Boys . . .

N. W. DANCE

— AUCTIONEER —

Farm, Furniture and Real Estate Sales Solicited

— For Prompt Service Call —

Paris, Telephone 461

Reita Beauty Shoppe

...oOo...

PERMANENT WAVING HAIR STYLING

OUR SPECIALTY

— Established 20 years —

Telephone 317

Drumbo, Ontario

Lena (Hearns) Ball, Operator

COMPLIMENTS

Richwood Community Store

FOR DRY GOODS AND GROCERIES

Dealer in Witts High Grade Fertilizer

Phone 290

Drumbo, Ont.

V. A. Stotesbury, Proprietor

GREETINGS

Wolverton General Store

The Place to Buy Your Household Needs

Jas. Hewitt, Proprietor

Phone 302

Drumbo, Ont.



Drumbo Old Boys Re-union, August 1950

COMPLIMENTS FROM THE

Ayr Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Co.

HEAD OFFICE — AYR, ONTARIO

...oOo...

If you are in need of
Fire Insurance Coverage
why not
Insure with the Ayr Farmers
and participate in
our refunds from surplus
and courteous settlements of claims.

...oOo...

L. E. Peterson - - - President
Miss A. L. Maus - Secretary-Treasurer

MILITARY

Drumbo had a company of infantry at the time of the Fenian Raid of 1866 with goodly number of local volunteers. Among these were David Maynard, Edward Fair, George Wilkinson to whom grants of land were given in Northern Ontario.

The company was commanded by Capt. Howell at this time. Capt. Howell had a grist mill at Moscow, then called Howell's Mills.

Later on, due to good railway connection with Brantford, the Drumbo company became a part of the 38th Battalion, Dufferin Rifles, with headquarters in Brantford. The Drumbo company was later in command of Capt. John Laidlaw, Major G. R. Patullo, and Capt. J. T. Cockburn who retired retaining his rank when the Dufferin Rifles became a city battalion about the year 1885.

Drumbo boys played their part in both Great Wars and ten gave their lives in the First Great War and four in the Second. Their names, engraved on the Monument on the school grounds are as follows:

1914 - 1918 — Gordon Cowan, Ferguson Cook, James Gibson, George Gibson, Robert Given, Chrysler Kilgour, Francis Law, Frederick Lodge, Robert McTague, William Wilson.

1939 - 1945 — Alfred Clayton, McBeth Murray, Bentley Robson, Charles Wallace.

ST. PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

The 80-year-old white brick church building is situated on land obtained from the late Squire Henry Muma. It was erected in 1868 through the efforts of Rev. H. Bartlett and dedicated in 1870. The church was closed from 1895 to 1911 when an annuity from the estate of the late Mr. Sprague of Galt whose name was given to the old winding road between Galt and Paris (Sprague's Road) enabled the church to re-open on the stipulation that a definite number of services be held each year. In 1912 Drumbo and Ayr were made a new parish and the Rev. H. Snell was the rector.

St. Peter's Church has the only church bell in the village. This bell was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Meredith and family in memory of those who served in the first Great War. The Rev. C. F. Johnson and the Rev. C. J. Queen who were in charge of the parishes of Princeton, Burford and Drumbo officiated at the dedication service of the bell in 1937.

In 1936 the ladies of St. Peter's Church organized a Guild with Mrs. W. Kent as President. In the church records are the names of the following who during the years have helped in the work of the church: C. A. Muma, A. J. Hall, S. Foe, Mrs. Mary Innis, H. Mercer, G. Hambly, C. Witmer, S. Robson, A. Williams and W. Kent.

A Sunday School was organized in 1950 under the Rev. E. C. Ward, the present rector.

The Rev. C. W. Miner, former rector, was the preacher at the 80th Anniversary Service on June 25th, 1950.

BEST WISHES
— TO —
DRUMBO OLD BOYS
— IN —
CELEBRATION OF THEIR REUNION



**CANADA SANDPAPERS
LIMITED**

PRESTON

PLATTSVILLE

Ontario

BAPTIST CHURCH

The first Blenheim Church, later known as the Riverside Baptist Church was organized about 1828 and a church building erected on the banks of the Nith, 5th Line. The Rupert family gave a plot of ground for the church building and the cemetery opposite.

In 1853 a second Baptist Church was built in Windfall. The charter members of this church were members of the Riverside Church who lived nearer their meeting house; apparently the Riverside Church held meetings in different sections of the township and as a result many churches were organized. Elder Haviland was the pastor of both Riverside and Windfall Churches.

In 1856 there was some discussion in the Riverside Church about building a new meeting house in Drumbo and later it was decided to move the Windfall building a distance of two miles to Drumbo. This was attempted but the roof fell in. So a frame church was built in Drumbo in 1859 or 1860 where the skating rink now stands at a cost of \$1,000.00. In 1876 a fine large brick church was built a short distance from the old site. This church still stands, tangible evidence of the enthusiasm of the early settlers. The church property in Windfall is now the Drumbo Cemetery, the land being deeded to the Cemetery Board by William Pinkham and David Maynard.

In 1839 a family named Kennedy from the U.S.A. settled near Richwood. Being Free Will Baptists they were instrumental in organizing a Free Will Church in the early 40s. In 1850 they built a rough cast meeting house in Richwood where meetings were held until about 1870. A Cemetery started in connection with the Church is now the Richwood Cemetery.

Among the Ministers who served the Baptist Church for nearly a century are the following: Elders Pickle (1856), Booker, Patten (1858), Fitch, Haviland, (1874), Hazelton (1877). Elder Patten gave the land for the Church and said he would preach a year for nothing but he preached for two years and was made the recipient of a fur coat.

Then followed Rev. Pengelly (1882), Leheigh, Stobo, La Flair, Harris, Clifton, Trickey (still living 96 years of age). Later pastors are Johnston, McLaren, Robertson, Forsythe, Anderson, Masseur, Von Keitz.

In 1876 the Baptist congregation was very large and filled to overflowing the large church. Many prominent families were enrolled as members. The following names are remembered by present members: William Pinkham, M. F. Ainslie, Richard, John and J. L. Burgess, Andrew and William Stockton, John and Wallace Rathbun, Allan Fritch, Arthur Lee, Alex Clarke, Kennedy John Rupert, John O. Given, James Innis, William Simpson, Dr. J. B. Rounds, David Maynard, David Mackie, J. B. Lawrason, William French, Thomas McGaw, C. C. Rounds. Of that large number, only half a dozen descendants worship in the church of their forefathers. Mrs. Frank Burgess and James Law (Burgess family), Mrs. H. E. Baxter (J. O. Given), Cicero and Joe Rounds, Mrs. Forsyth (Innis).

A few years ago the church building was renovated and redecorated and an organ installed in memory of two very devoted members, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Enticknap, a gift of their daughters, Mrs. G. Bell and Mrs. J. Taylor.

The J. B. English Co.

GROCERIES, BOOTS AND SHOES
CLOTHING GENERAL DRY GOODS

Agents For

Westinghouse Products Don-Therm Space Heaters
OUR AIM — SATISFIED CUSTOMERS

GREETINGS TO DRUMBO OLD BOYS

You may have time to visit Plattsville. If so, see the
J. B. English Co. — Blenheim's largest General Store!

Telephone 2-w

Plattsville, Ontario

BEST WISHES TO
DRUMBO OLD BOYS' REUNION

Plattsville Garage

A. M. Lachman

Electrical Contracting

Refrigerators, Washers, Ranges
— Sales and Service —

Telephone 45

Plattsville, Ontario

METHODIST CHURCH

The first Church in Drumbo was the Primitive Methodist built in 1857 at a cost of \$800.00 with a seating capacity of 200. Many years later it was used by Alfred Enticknap as a residence. The Wesleyan Methodist Church was founded in 1861 at a cost of \$1,200.00 and seating capacity of 250. This building was afterwards used as a warehouse by Alex Markle, blacksmith near the 7th Line bridge.

Some time later the two congregations joined and built the white brick church in the westren part of the village. This church flourished for many years with well-attended evening services until Church Union in 1925 when the Methodists closed their church and continued their worship in Willis United Church and the property was sold to Joseph Harmer.

Some of the Ministers who served the Methodist Church around forty-five years and at the time of union were Rev. C. L. McIrvine, Hobbs, Voaden, J. Albert Moore, Richardson, Eddy, Hall, Clark, Hill, Waddell, Copeland, Cavers, Morrow, Holley, Long, Railton, Yeoman, Stevenson.

Rev. T. Albert Moore later wa appointed Moderator of the United Church of Canada. Rev. Mr. Hobbs preached in his old church at the Old Boys' Re-Union in 1913.

Among the congregation were the following families: Barr, Harrison, Pickard, Berry, Passmore, Wilkinson, Prentice, Sutton, Allan, Blumenstein, Binkley, Fahrner, Markle, Bawtinheimer, Hearn, Giles, Codlin, Harmer, Laudreth, Hodgson.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The following sketch was written by John Speirs, the oldest member of the congregation and son of one of the early settlers.

I was asked by the Session of Willis Church, Drumbo, to give a sketch of Presbyterianism in Blenheim. This brings us backs to 1842, or 82 years from 1924. But still further back than this, from ten to fifteen years, there was a live little church one mile east of Princeton, on the Governor's Road, superintended over by the Rev. George Murray, who was sent out by the Scotch Missionary Society to organize churches, which he did in Woodstock, Paris, Ayr and Chesterfield, also Muir. I think he was also supported to quite an extent by that same Society. This church, my parents attended eight or ten years before I was born. Then when we moved from the Third Concession to the Fifth of Blenheim, we still attended that church.

Here I would like to give you a snap-shot of the first Sunday I attended that Church. It was a beautiful Autumn morning. We were up early, getting ready for that five-mile walk on foot. After being joined by the Fairs, the Cockburns, the Wilsons, the Watters, and on the Fourth by the McCrows, the Murrays, the Hardies, the Sparks, the McKays, the Richardsons, the Dicksons, the Whiteheads, also on every corner until we came to a certain log where the ladies put on their stockings and shoes, which they had been carrying up to this time. Now you may think that these early settlers would be a rather "shabby genteel squad." Not a bit of it. No man or woman ever left Scotland without their Sabbath 'clathes', which consisted of a Beaver Plug hat and a blue black

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suit with a quilted Scotch collar which I have never seen surpassed in my day. Then with regard to the ladies, they were equally well dressed, and as I cannot remember the fashion plates of the time, I shall just sum it up in one word — bonnie. Which means everything in Scotch. They might readily have been taken for a band of Rabbis, going up to the feast. When we got there it was Sacrament Sunday — we had a very long sermon,— to me at least! But recess came at last, and with lunch and a drink out of the old “oaken bucket”, that swung in the well, and an apple from Miss Galbraith — the first I had ever seen —my spirits revived. We were again called in, and again had another very long sermon, for the old gentleman never stopped short of “fourthly”, and generally still further. I arrived home at last, a tired, and sleepy boy. I have often wondered since, if we were asked to take the journey to-day, how many of us would be in church to-day? Not many!

But it was not many years after this that dissention came amongst them — God’s plan of broadening out. And as the population had increased to the north, the cry came “Let’s hae a Kirk o’ oor ain”. So they appointed a Committee to build, which they did on the Middle Town Line, on the corner of the Fourth Concession on the lot given by Mr. Hugh McCrow. The contract was taken by Nerian Lindsay, the same man that built the first. When building, we were supplied principally by students from Knox College, who preached in the new barn belonging to R. McCrow’s father. When built, the first minister called was Rev. Duncan McRuer who stayed with us ten years. He was not very long here when he was asked to preach in Paris Sunday afternoons, which he did for quite a number of years. The next called, was Rev. John Gillespie, who stayed with us twelve years. The next called, was Rev. Hector McQuarrie, who stayed with us eleven years. It was not long after he came that a request came from Drumbo and Princeton to have service every alternate Sunday afternoon, which was granted. About the middle of his ministry the cry came from Drumbo, “Let’s hae a Kirk o’ oor Ain”. So in 1869 they built, Princeton building a few years later. When the question was asked, “Would Mr. McQuarrie take Drumbo and Princeton for his salary?” He answered “Yes”. Then came the Buzz around the old bee-hive, and when it swarmed, one lit in Drumbo, one in Princeton and one in Shower Corners, which has remained until this day.

The next called was Rev. James Little, who stayed eleven years. The next called was Rev. W. K. Shearer who stayed with us some thirty years. About the last of his ministry the cry came “Let’s have a new Kirk”, with quite a cry of “Repair”. But they finally agreed to take round a subscription list to see which the most favoured. So when the subscription came in, it convinced the most of the doubting Thomases that the correct thing was to build. So in 1915 the corner stone was laid midst great rejoicing. The following year it was dedicated amid heartfelt thanks to God and all that helped build such a beautiful church. The next called was Rev. Andrew Lane, who stayed with us five years, and in June, 1924 we burnt the small mortgage of \$2,000.00 amidst great rejoicing.

As is the case of many rural churches the Presbyterian Church in Drumbo has through the years by death and removal lost entire families. It is sad to think of the many changes that have taken place. Members of the following families once filled the pews of the old church every Sunday morning: Rogers, Pentland, Hunter, W. G. Pollock, Jamieson, Beattie, Lillico, Baxter, Taylor, Murray, Harrison, Cowan, Clarke, Kyle, White, George Hunter, James Hall,

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Speirs, Cockburn, Fair, McGaw, Alexander, Easton, Black, Laidlaw, Fleming, Ronald, J. M. Hall. Of these families only the following remain: Mrs. Walter Lallico, George Speirs, W. H. and R. C. Cowan, Margaret, Jessie and Ethel Cowan, Mary Clarke, Jackson and John Clarke, Oliver Fleming.

Of families that came much later the following are still living: Mrs. J. J. Meggs, Mr. and Mrs. K. S. McLaren (A. B. Harmer), Mrs. Darnby, Mrs. Kilgour, Mrs. Sippel, Mr. and Mrs. L. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Watters, Mr. and Mrs. L. McDonald. None is left of the large Mitchell family.

THE UNITED CHURCH

The Methodist and Presbyterian Churches were united in 1925 and services were henceforth held in the former Presbyterian Church. The Methodists were welcomed to their new place of worship and complete harmony has prevailed ever since. As the Methodist Church had also been depleted in numbers, the two congregations together made up a goodly membership.

Rev. Andrew Lane left Drumbo in 1925. Rev. John Richardson was the first minister of the local United Church and remained eleven years. He was followed by Dr. Hogg, a preacher of outstanding ability who was with us eight years. During his pastorate in 1939 a Memorial Plaque was placed in the Church by Judge Donald Cowan of Brantford in memory of his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Cowan, devoted members of the Church for many years. Rev. W. G. Moores was pastor for two years. At the time of writing Dr. Symington has been pastor for two years.

The congregation learns with regret and sincere sympathy of the serious illness of Rev. John Richardson, who has suffered a very severe stroke and also of the very sudden death of Dr. Hogg, who had many friends in Drumbo and who expected to visit Drumbo again during the Old Boys' Re-Union.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

No historical sketch of any hamlet or community would be complete without some reference to the local Women's Institute. As all records up to 1930 have been lost or destroyed, the date of organization is not known but it must have been in the early 1900s as one person, Mrs. George Speirs has been a member since 1907 and it was in existence before the picture taken at an Institute picnic in 1910 at Mrs. J. D. Cowan's farm residence indicates it had a membership of over 60. Some time ago this branch obtained a prize for being the oldest W. I. in the district.

~~The W. I. was organized at the home of Mrs. C. K. Curry~~ and the Farmers' Institute was organized at the same meeting but the latter apparently had a short existence. Mrs. J. J. Megg is the only one living who was at that meeting. The first President was Mrs. Birley. Charter members and those who worked hard in the early years to make the W. I. a success are to be found among the following: Mrs. J. D. Cowan, Mrs. C. K. Curry, Mrs. C. A. Muma, Mrs. Easton, Mrs. Ralph Alexander, Mrs. C. E. Baxter, Mrs. Laidlaw, Mrs. Ainslie, Mrs. Pollock, Mrs. Joe Prentice, Mrs. R. D. Dayman, and no doubt there are others, but, alas, the records are lost. All these pioneers in this work have passed on but the work was ably carried on by many worthy successors.

*Drumbo W.I. was organized in Drumbo Township Hall⁵³
Feb. 1907 - Miss Jennie Baxter (Mrs. W. G. Tate, Hamilton)
was first Sec. followed by Miss Agnes Baston.*

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In much more recent years Mrs. Darnley, Miss Dora J. Bawtinheimer, Mrs. R. C. Cowan and Mrs. Kent were active members, holding office and helping on many a program. Now by reason of ill-health their activity has ceased. Mrs. Darnley and Mrs. Goodwin have had the honour of being appointed District Presidents.

As the general program of W. I. work is well known, there is no need of repetition in this short sketch but its diversity is shown in the list of convenerships given below.

In very recent years the W. I. has mourned the loss of six active members of long standing. Mrs. John Gibson, who never lost her Scotch accent, was a faithful attendant at meetings in fair weather and foul, trudging up hill to the village as long as her legs would carry her; Mrs. Will Harmer, who was the competent Secretary when she was cut off by an untimely death; Mrs. John McVittie and Mrs. Joe Harmer, willing workers; Mrs. Oliver Gibson, who met a tragic death in a railway crossing crash in 1948 and lastly, Mrs. Roland B. Fry, a most interested member for many a year, who had compiled historical data of Bleunheim for the Tweedsmuir Book Contest, who died this Spring. All these members are very much missed and the W. I. meetings do not seem to be the same without them.

Institute Officers for 1950 are: President, Mrs. R. Harmer; First Vice-President, Mrs. J. Dawson; Second Vice-President, Mrs. W. Muma, Jr.; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. H. E. Baxter; Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. C. Cadwell; District Director, Mrs. J. Goodwin; Institute Directors, Mrs. H. Krueger, Mrs. W. Gibson, Mrs. J. Klosz; Pianist, Mrs. H. Rounds. Conveners of Standing Committees are: Agriculture and Canadian Industries, Miss Eva Holder; Citizenship and Education, Mrs. William Gibson; Community Activities and Public Relations, Mrs. R. Patton; Historical Research and Current Events, Mrs. George Speirs; Home Economics and Health, Mrs. George Hodgson.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Public Library was founded in 1900 by several citizens who had the best interests of the community at heart: Rev. W. K. Shearer, Dr. J. A. Mitchell, J. D. Cowan, Chas. Taylor, C. E. Baxter, Jas. Little, Andrew Laidlaw. For over a quarter of a century Dr. Mitchell housed the library books in his drug store and acted as librarian. J. D. Cowan was secretary-treasurer for over twenty years. His daughter, Margaret J. Cowan, has held the same office since 1924. Since Dr. Mitchell's time the library books have been moved five times and now the library stack room is in the new public school. Librarians in the past twenty years have been Mrs. Henry Burgess, Mrs. Geo. Law, Mrs. Jas. Law, Mrs. Thaler, and Miss Turner. Last year the library distributed about 500 Juvenile Fiction Books among the village and surrounding rural schools, gave 1,200 Fiction to the Frontier College for distribution in Northern Ontario, 200 Non-Fiction to the March of Books, Halifax to replenish European devastated libraries, discarded 800 books leaving 2,000 volumes on hand. Each year the Library readers have the use of 400 books as the Drumbo Library is a member of the Oxford County Library Co-operative; 100 books are brought by motor each quarter and the previous consignment taken to another Library. These books are obtainable at Turner's Drug Store.

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SPORTS

The building of the Curling and Skating Rink about 1904 gave a fine opportunity for Winter Sports, such as curling, skating, and hockey. In 1933 the Drumbo Hockey Team won the Provincial Rural Hockey Championship. As Drumbo had the only rink in Blenheim for many a year, people came from all parts of the township for their Winter Sports and many hockey game were played here.

Lacrosse was a favourite game here two generations ago. Andrew Laidlaw sponsored a team of local boys and others which played in a field west of Drumbo. These young school boys had the nerve to play with teams from Guelph, Galt, Paris, Brantford and Woodstock and sometimes won to their own surprise. The Drumbo players were Art Balkwell, H. E. Baxter, Will Cowan, Don Cowan, Gordon Cowan, R. Featherstone, Jack Kyle, Alex Murray, John Taylor.

In the 30s a Softball team was organized consisting of Drumbo school boys. By dint of continual practice they finally made their way to the top and secured two Provincial Rural Championships in the years 1935 and 1936. Many exciting games were played on the school grounds here and many fans still rehearse some of the crucial games. Gordon Burgess was umpire for many games. In 1935 J. H. Markle was President of the Club and Fred Hodgson Secretary and in 1936 N. H. Moyer was President and W. S. Murray, Secretary. The Captain of the team and Coach was Cameron Cowan, pitcher; other players were: Lindsay Sparks, catcher; Earl Sparks; McBeth Murray; Stuart Cowan; Harry Clark; Harvey Dafoe; Junior Kennedy; Glenn Taylor; Ralph Innis; Giles Patten; Joe Clifford; Chas. Codling.

The Tennis Club was organized about 1920 and courts laid on H. Krueger's farm north of Drumbo; in 1925 they were moved to the Cowan property near the east railway bridge where for twenty years many of the young people enjoyed a good game of tennis and many local tournaments were held as well as contests with neighbouring communities.

Land was secured for a Bowling Green around 1927 on the corner of Oxford and Mechanic Streets and a Club House was built later. Many tournaments with outside rinks participating take place during the season. The most popular tournament is the yearly contest for the Peterson Trophy donated by L. E. Peterson when a great number of rinks assemble for the event.

Drumbo has not been lacking the ancient game of horseshoes, on vacant lots. J. H. Markle and Irvine Haines can account for some of the noise.

A few years ago a Badminton Club was formed and games are played in the Township Hall.

For a time interest in Softball lagged as many of the famous team left the village but interest was revived about six years ago when Harry Walton appeared on the scene and a Softball team was organized with many outside players. The games are now played on the Agricultural Fair Grounds. Through Harry Walton's initiative and influence Drumbo has a fine ball diamond with flood-lighting. This diamond is said to be one of the best in Ontario.

Local girls have a Softball team with Stuart Cowan as coach. The following are the players in 1950: Esther Harmer, pitcher; Wilma Scott, catcher;

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E. Scott, B. Perry, M. Gibson, J. Vance, M. Murphy, E. Bawtinheimer, R. Hess, A. Noddin, P. Mackie, J. Rowe, L. Clayton, M. Enticknap, R. Cadwell, P. Murphy. Jas. Enticknap is manager of the Club and Wm. Schliehauf is secretary.

REFLECTIONS

*Looking back on my school days now
My heart begins to soften,
If only time hadn't passed so fast
And I had passed more often.*

DRUMBO SCHOOLS

Records that are available state that the first school building in Drumbo was situated a little to the north east of the building now owned by Mr. J. Cook on the north east corner of Oxford and Wilmot Streets and a Miss Muma was the teacher. This school was lost in the fire in 1862 which burned a large part of the village.

In 1863 a log school was erected about a quarter of a mile east of the village on the south west corner of a farm owned by a Mr. Armstrong, later and better known as the Law farm, and now owned by Mr. George Duncan. A Mr. Bell taught in this school.

In 1865 a two room, red brick school was built on the opposite side of the road on land purchased from Mr. Frank Burgess and now owned by Mr. Gordon Ladwig. Some of the teachers at this school were M. F. Ainslie, D. A. Haggarth and A. Dale. This building served until the end of the year 1890 when another school was built in the village on land purchased from Mr. Walter Patten. This school was opened January 3rd, 1891 with D. A. Haggarth, principal, and Miss Agnes E. Lindsay, assistant teacher. C. H. Clarkson was the next principal. The trustees who were in office at this time were Mr. A. Clark, George Law and J. D. Cowan, a trustee and secretary-treasurer for over 36 years. This building was used for public school purposes for a number of years and about 1903 continuation school classes were added to provide secondary education for those who desired it.

A few of the teachers in the Continuation School were Miss A. Robinson, Dr. McMillan, Mr. Merritt, Miss M. T. Cowan, Miss Nellie King, Miss Jessie Mitchell, George Hambly, K. Griffith, Mrs. Howlett, Miss Elizabeth Scott, Miss Grace Blake and Miss Betty Bainbridge. In the Public School Misses Alberta Dennis, Isabel Law, Verna Clark, F. Prentice, Emily Law, Addie Meggs, Janet Smith, Violet Chown, Mrs. Chas. Sippel, E. W. Sparks and Miss M. Halman.

This school was in use for 56 years and was lost by fire April 10th, 1946.

The present school, built on the same site, but only as a public school, was opened September 3rd, 1947, with Mr. E. W. Sparks principal and Mrs. G. S. Cowan assistant teacher. The present principal is J. A. Higgins.

The following are the trustees who have been in office since 1890: J. D. Cowan, Joe Prentice, Chas. Rounds, Wm. Wegenast, John Rathbun, C. E. Baxter, John Gibson, Dr. J. A. Mitchell, Walter Markle, Norman Gray, A. Enticknap, and those who are still living: David Codlin, Wm. Codlin, K. S. McLaren, Frank Hambly and Wm. H. Cowan.

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When Provincial Legislation permitted the formation of Township School Boards in place of local boards, Blenheim Council in 1944 decided to adopt the new plan and for school purposes divided Blenheim into two sections, North Township School area with eight school sections and South Area with nine schools, Drumbo being in the latter area, and January 1st, 1945, the new boards took over the work of the local boards. The members are elected at the same time as the Township Council.

The first South Area Board members were Roscoe Buck, chairman, Cameron Rupert, Stewart Hamilton, Henry Banburry, S. E. Milton. The present members are: S. E. Milton, chairman, Cecil Cadwell, Marshal Daniels, Perry Sibbick, Earl Barker. The Secretary-Treasurer of the Board is Wm. H. Cowan who held the same position on the local school board since 1921.

After the school fire in 1946 the Continuation School pupils were transported by bus to Woodstock Collegiate Institute. —Wm. H. Cowan.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Drumbo has had no local newspaper for about forty years. Hence the records of that period are very scanty. If there should be an Old Boys' Re-Union in Drumbo in the year 2000 A.D. and if the community has escaped the Atom Bomb, it is hoped that, when someone is hunting in the attic for information about the year 1950, the following list of business places and owners may be of as much use and interest as the list given in 1862 in Sutherland's Directory was to the present writer.

Andrews, F. J. — Variety Store recently established in store once used by L. Wilson as funeral parlour and furniture store.

Balkwill, Arthur — Seed Cleaning Plant.

Bell, Mrs. Geoffrey, A.T.C.M. — Teacher of Violin and Piano.

Bigham, J. W. — Doctor.

Bonney, William — Pool Room Operator.

Booker, E. D. — General Store in Muma Block, formerly occupied as general store by C. A. Muma, W. A. Hunt, E. Coleman, M. W. Stroud, Stewart Murray, T. McGaw, J. H. Markle.

Burgess, Gordon — Hydro Maintenance Staff.

Butcher, E. — Trucker, sold out to Drumbo Transport; operator of milk route.

Carter, V. — Garage and Service Station in building used by George Law as warehouse.

Cohen, B. — Beauty Parlor.

Cook, Jos. — Harness and Shoe Shop; settled here in 1906; therefore he is the oldest businessman in the village.

Cowan, R. C. — Hardware Store and Service Station in building erected by D. S. Cullen, Hardware Merchant and bought by J. D. Cowan in 1907.

Davidson, J. M. — Bakeshop and Groceteria (Gordon Prentice opened this Bakeshop in the building used by J. J. Meggs as residence and meat shop. For a number of years Drumbo had had no bakeshop and the general stores supplied the citizens with imported bread after John Pollock, an early settler, who had baked and deviled for over half a century, gave up the business).

Dawson, Joel — Road Superintendent.

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Dayman, M. — General Store, Garage and Service Station; Store once owned by J. L. Burgess, followed by J. J. Pickard, J. McTavish, R. D. Dayman, Duff, C. W. — Bank Manager.

Duncan, D. — Carpenter.

Enticknap, A. D. and Son — The oldest business firm established over sixty years ago (formerly a hardware store and tinsmith and awning shop) — now an awning business carried on by Mr. and Mrs. J. Taylor (Evelyn Enticknap).

Enticknap, Jas. — recently established awning business above Carter's Garage. Etherington, L. — Electrician, Inspector for North Blenheim Insurance Co.

Gidney, M. — Postmaster.

Haines, I. — Township Clerk and Treasurer; Notary Public; Insurance agency. Hall, L. — Hydro Maintenance Staff.

Harmer, Jos. and Lawrence — Garage and Service Station, Hardware Store and Locker Storage.

Hearnes, Ed and Ross — Barber Shop; one of the oldest stands in town.

Hildred, W. C. — General Store in old Blenheim House once owned by Cox, Silas Dawson, R. McGaw, M. W. Binkley, W. S. Murray.

Hodgson, Reg. — Meat Market in shop where his father, George Hodgson did business for over twenty-five years.

Hughson, Gordon — Dealer in Scrap Iron.

Kennedy, Earl — Plumbing and Refrigeration.

Kennedy, Howard — Trucker.

Kent, Wm. W. — Monument Dealer.

Lawrence, B. — Sales and Service Station.

Markle, J. H. — Canada Life Insurance Agent, Tobacco Farmer.

Markle, Mrs. J. H. — Teacher of Piano and Theory.

Martin, B. — Service Station and Lunch Counter.

McVittie, J. — School and Township Hall Janitor, once Village Constable.

Morrow, J. — Flour and Feed Store, Coal and Lumber Dealer, Egg-Grading Plant, Chopping Mill.

Morrow, D. — Orla's Restaurant, Poultry Processing Plant.

Peterson, L. E. — Division Court Clerk; Justice of Peace; President of Ayr Fire Insurance Co.; Farmer.

Piggott, A. — Wood Working Shop.

Reita Beauty Shoppe — Lena (Hearnes) Ball, Operator.

Reynolds, L. — Flour and Feed Store, Chopping Mill, Coal and Lumber Dealer in building erected by C. E. Baxter; Business continued by H. E. Baxter, purchased by Fred Hanke in 1936.

Sippel, Chas. — Painter and Interior Decorator, son of John Sippel who began the same business here 56 years ago.

Sippel, Mrs. Chas. — Musical Director in Rural Schools.

Spencer — Roof Repair Work.

Tottle, W. — Electrical Supply Store; Radio Repair; First Television set in town ni building once used by J. L. Burgess as general store and post office.

Turner, Miss Alma — Druggist for 21 years in the same store as Dr. J. A. Mitchell occupied for over thirty years.

Vance, Howard — Turnip-waxing Plant in C.N.R. yard; Produce Dealer.

Wilson, Lorne and Howard — Funeral Directors with fine new Funeral Home opened in 1948 — Lorne Wilson — Taxi, Ambulance and Express Service.

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NEW DEVELOPMENTS

An attempt has been made at reforestation in Blenheim Township. By 1950 reforestation plots are found on the following farms: Roy Baxter, Irvine Campbell, Wilfred Cockburn, George Fry, Edward Hewitt, Walter McDonald, Charlie Robson, Percy Scott. The County of Oxford has a plot on McKenzie Hall's farm, 9th Concession, called the Hall Tract.

The tobacco industry has greatly increased during the last decade. Fifty-nine farms are now growing tobacco, seven of these owned by Elliott Brothers, Woodstock. Two Drumbo merchants, J. H. Markle and W. S. Murray, sold lucrative businesses to engage in tobacco farming. Mr. Murray's farm on 11th Concession is the one furthest north.

About ten years ago a Hutterite colony from the West settled in Blenheim and bought the late Mr. Stephen Hall's fine farm. The colony now comprises 900 acres with a reported membership of 46 under the management of Julius Kubassek, king of the colony. The colony is noted for the fine produce they have for sale, such as strawberries, raspberries, muskmelon, etc.

Another showplace is the Peter and Paul Turkey farm owned by the Dobson family on the old Landreth farm on 9th Concession. These thousands of turkey are raised every year.

Drumbo has changed very little in appearance for many a year. During the wars very little building was done but in the year 1950 five dwelling houses have been built by Lloyd Hall, Joel Dawson, C. Racknor, Burt Martin and William Muma, Jr., the last one on the site of the match factory: and hereby hangs a tale that may interest some. About fifty years ago Messrs. C. E. Baxter and John Pollock decided to establish a match factory in Drumbo; they bought a lot, built a factory of white brick, purchased equipment, secured the services of experts and actually put matches on the market. This successful venture was altogether too much for the powerful Eddy Match Co. of Hull, Que. So they undersold the local product and also enticed every expert the Drumbo men engaged and whose services were absolutely essential, by the offer of much higher salaries and as a result the Drumbo factory had to close its doors and once more fate was against Drumbo's progress.

There is a great change in our standard of living in the last half century. Even village life has been greatly influenced by the introduction of electric power and the invention of the gasoline engine. Millinery stores are a thing of the past; milady goes to the city for head-gear; no more church sheds; no blacksmith shops; no livery stables for commercial travellers' benefit; no hotel sheds; no train bus like Ralph Alexander's with old Min attached; no village constable, for the Provincial Police car passes through the village daily; Penman Co. of Paris send goods to Drumbo to be made into stockings by Drumbo women in a work room in the old Royal Hotel; our pasteurized milk comes by truck from Woodstock and we pay double the price; every commodity one can think of is brought in by truck.

All public schools are visited by the public health nurse and children are

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regularly examined and inoculations are given. Itinerant musical directors give instruction in music in the country schools; school pupils are transported by bus; quite a number of Drumbo residents work in Paris, Brantford; a loud speaker (a machine) announces important events; the first television set has come to town; streets, dwellings and public buildings have electric light; the housewife's burden is lightened with the coming of many electric devices.

Not due to gasoline or hydro is the improvement in streets and pavements. Oxford and Wilmot Streets are paved and the condition of others much improved. The older residents will remember the old sidewalks, consisting of two planks with the width of a plank between them, which proved a fine trap for the unwary and many a tumble on a dark night, or when in a hurry to catch a train or otherwise unsteady, is recorded. Another great improvement in the Township is the removal of the jogs at the Concession lines. Various reasons have been given for this public nuisance, faulty surveyor's chains and tough obstacles in the way, and (according to some) whiskey kegs. Motor traffic has brought about great improvements on the side-roads as well as the main roads and snow ploughs are used extensively to keep the roads open in winter for cars and trucks. So life has changed in fifty years. What changes will have taken place by 2000? Wouldn't it be fine if we could come back to old Drumbo in a hundred years' time? or would it? May the old boys and girls who come back to the Re-Union of 1950 enjoy their visit and if they live on to a good old age with mind and body unimpaired, and enjoy recalling the scenes of their early life in Drumbo and find some pleasure in perusing this imperfect sketch of Drumbo's past, the writer has her wish fulfilled.

University of
— Margaret T. Cowan, B.A., Toronto.



A U T O G R A P H S