



C. Scoffin, Sec.-T.

April 18 1948

I, Charles Scoffin, was born in Ingersoll, Ontario, on the south west corner of Oxford & Dufferin St on Sept 28th 1868. I thought I might put in time recording the town's advancement since I was old enough to remember the past history of Ingersoll. First, I suppose it is the proper thing to do, is to give a history of myself. I was educated in town, passed through Public School at the age of 14 and on to High School.

I was then living on King st in a cottage my father built when I was three years old. He was Engineer at the Noxon Co. and was with them until 1881 when he opened up a Grocery store on King St E. My mother passed away in October 1885 and my father in March 1886, leaving me and my two-sisters.

I was 17 years old then and continued the store until 1889 when I went to the North West Territories and finally landed in Chicago, remained there some time. Then came back to Ingersoll, was married in 1894 and opened a fruit, tobacco and confectionery store on Thames St. I disposed of it in 1901 and went to Winnipeg to work at bookkeeping. When I came back, I went to work in Noxon's Office in 1907. I started as Office Manager at the Borden Co, or as it was called then, the St. Charles & I was with them until October 1936, and owing to an accident which resulted in the loss of partial hearing and later on, developed cataracts on my eyes, have been unable to do anything.

Now, as to my boyhood days, I was always interested in sports, was a fairly good Lacrosse player, and baseball, and I did like swimming. There was always a big event at Smith's Pond on July 1st. I won first prize in swimming one year and first in diving the next year. We didn't have hockey at that time, but we used to play Shinny. That was played on Partlo's Pond. I was always fond of music. I started choir work when I was 18 years old, a Jury Leader, King St. Methodist Church

I continued my father's store about 4 years. There is only one other store, John Gayfer, that was in business then. It was an uncommon sight to see 25 to 40 farmer's teams at each of the flour and grist mills on a Saturday morning. Wages at that time \$1.00 per day to \$1.25. Wood was the main fuel. We always got around 25 cord of 20" clear maple body wood at \$1.25 per cord. We would get it in the winter and split and pile it up in the Spring. Bread was 6¢ a loaf, eggs 8 to 10¢ a dozen, 10 lb. goose 40 to 50¢, turkeys, a nice one for 75¢, chickens 25 to 30¢ per pair, spuds 10¢ a peck, livers no charge, if you went to the factory for them, so the cost of living compared to wages was on a par. Lots of people kept a cow and chickens. We made our own soft soap and tallow candles and if you had a veranda on your house, or a piano, you were a cousin to the King.

We were a pretty healthy lot. I remember the first death from consumption, a man in our end of the town, a Mr. McCrumb on Canterbury St. They didn't call it T B at that time.

This was a wild and woolly town then. They talk about the teenagers in Toronto, but they haven't anything on the boys here. At this time, there was 3 gangs had ribbons--north of the river, blue. From C N Rlwy. and east of Thames St - white. From C N Rlwy and west of Thames St. Any boy seeing a girl home, had to keep his eyes peeled when returning for her was likely to receive a shower of stones and no wonder. You could go down town at night, and see all kinds of scraps, not boys, but men, but it was between Catholic and Orangemen. It was not safe for a fellow from Woodstock to come up here.

Or, an Ingersoll fellow to go there after the Public School was out at 4. You could go down to G. Murray's Wood yard where the Cole Co. building is now, and find anywhere from 10 to 20 couples fighting it out, but that is all changed.

We had a good town though. We had a lot of colored people here at that time and they decided to run them out of town. They did, but some returned. There was a house opposite Wellington St. on the north side of King - a one story, 3 apartments, and the whites tore that down. There was an old slave lived at the corner of Wellington and King named George Washington Bevins. They didn't interfere with him. He claimed he was 102 years old.

We had some young funny characters here. There was one outstanding one -- Rev. Solomon Peter Hale. He was a great preacher and he could, at that time, read, and I know, for I taught him his letters. He used to hold "Open Air" services in the Park and drew big crowds. Then, he got to preaching in the colored church, over the river and would hold services at night. Us young whites would go there. There are things that stick in your memory and this is one. They would take up the collection and then start his oration. We would all drop a copper<sup>in</sup> and he would thank everybody for the donations. One old colored fellow would yell "Glory, Glory" then S. P. Hale would ask for some of the brothers to speak so one night the "Glory" man started to pray and this was it -- "Good Lord, send the angel Gabriel down in a chariot of fire and take Bro. Jones right up to Heaven." After the service was dismissed, someone suggested we pay Bro. Jones a visit so we went and I, being the kid of the bunch, I was elected to do the talking. I walked up to the door, rapped, rapped again, then I said, "Bro. Jones," then he asked me what I wanted. I said, "This is the angel Gabriel come down to take Bro. Jones up to Heaven in a chariot of fire." "Now, look here you, go on away, Bro. Jones don't live here at all."

Thinking over my earlier life where I lived on Canterbury St., the changes are hard to believe. There isn't a family living on Canterbury St. from the Corporation Line to Thames St, none on Hall, Tunis, Wellington, King, Mill, Water. Not a business man that was here then. Our population was 3,600 to 4,000.

Our industries were the Noxon Co. My father was an Engineer there. He was oiling the cogs that drove the big drive wheel when he got his shirt sleeve caught and drew his arm in, grinding it just about off. He stopped the engine and started for up town. Someone started to find the cause of the shut down and found blood all over the floor. They traced and overtook him opposite the Presbyterian Church where it now stands, and took him home. Dr. Williams took his hand off and fixed him up.

There was the Eastwood Foundry on Charles St. E. Stuart's Oatmeal Mill on Canterbury St. Smith's on Thames St. Partlo's on Mill St. Carroll's on Charles St. King's on King St. Ross's on Victoria St. Woollen Mills on Charles St. Brown's Tannery on Mill St. J. L. Grant's Packing House on Victoria St. Bell's Planing Mill on Victoria St. Bixell's Brewery on Gas St. Caswell's Packing Co., Water St. Baileys's Carriage, corner King & Hall, Baddeus Carriage Wks. on Charles St. Siggan's Carriage Wks. on Oxford. Kerr's on Thames St. Buchanan's Hay Fork

Besides, there were McIntyre Furniture on King St. E. four tailoring shops -- J. Boles; Waterhouse & Bradbury; Mason's; Thompson & Smith: all on Thames St., and each employed from 9 men and up. There were, I think, 14 hotels at one time -- Carroll Hotel, corner King & Hall; Brady's, corner King & Thames; Dereham House, corner King & Oxford; Daly House, corner King & Oxford; Thompson House, King St; Trick House, King St; Kirwin House, Oxford St; McMurray House, corner Charles & Thames St; Royal, Thames St; Gallagher House, Thames St; Connor House, Thames St; Keating House, Thames St; Queen's, Thames St; Grant's (later called McCarty's), Thames St; Adair House, Thames St;

The Noxon Foundry was destroyed, or torn down and they moved to the plant now occupied by the New Idea Furnace Co. My father lost his hand there and continued at that position (Engineer) for 10 years when he opened up a Grocery store on King St. He continued to run it until his death.

Regarding property changes from Thames St on the south side of Canterbury, there was no houses up to Wellington. There was 5 houses from Wellington to the back road to the Park. and thence east, there was only two and Peter Stuart's warehouse to the Corporation Line.

On the north side of Canterbury, from Thames East, there were just 2 houses and a barn up to Wellington St. Then, to the Junction of Hall & Canterbury St., there was 4. From the Junction of Hall & Canterbury St. on the north side to the Corporation Line, there were ten on Hall St to Canterbury.

West side - 8 houses and the Carroll Stables. Concession to Tunis, there were 2 on Canterbury to Junction of Hall & Canterbury, 7 or 8 on Tunis to Harris St, 11 on Wellington St. from King to Canterbury, 11 from Canterbury on Wellington St. to the Park. On the West side, one, and an Ashery and the old baseball grounds.

On the East side, there were 3 up to the back of Victoria Park which goes to show the growth of the town in only one section of it in which I was more familiar.

Given to Byron G. Jenvey by Chas. Scoffin who died Oct 25. 1954 in his 87th year

Typed by Mrs. McWilliam.

Charles Scoffin, Ingersoll, Ontario

Adair House	Mc Intyre Furniture
Baddeus Carriage Works	Murray's, G
Bileys's Carriage Works	Mc Murray House
Bell's Planing Mill	Mc Crumb
Bixell's Brewery	Noxon Co
Borden Co	Queen's Hotel
Boles, J.	Royal Hotel
Brady's Hotel	Partlo's Pond
Bevins, George WASHINGTON	Scoffin, Charles
Brown's Tannery	Smith's Pond
Buchanan's Hay Fork	Siggan's Carriage Works
Carroll Mill	Stuart's Oatmeal Mill
Carroll Hotel	Thompson House
Carroll's Stable	Thompson and Smith
Caswell's Packing Co	Trick House
Cole Co	Waterhouse and Bradbury
Conner House	Williams, Dr.
Daly House	
Dereham House	
Gallagher House	
Gayfer, John	
Grant's Packing House	
Grant's Hotel	
Hale, Solomon Peter	
Jones	
Keating	
Kerr	
Kirwin House	
Mc Carty's Hotel	

Transcribed by Mrs F Mc William 1985