Keep

I

Ingersoll', Beginning and Development.

Treaty of Paris ceded

The first Parliament of Upper Canada met at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., in 1792.

By the Declaration of Independence, which closed the war between Great Britain and certain colonies in the present United States, thirteen colonies declared themselves independent of Grat Britain. By an Act of Congress, passed in 1776, July 4th. was established as a National holiday in United States and named Independence Day. - War of Independence started 1775 - ended 1781 - 6 yrs. - Independence recognized by Britain in 1783.

Canada ceded to Britain by Treaty of Paris 1763.

During the war many British settlers remained loyal to the British Crown, and after a few years negotiations, these United Empire Loyalists, as they were called, were offered grants of land in Upper Canada (Ontario). Col. John Graves Simcoe, who had been taken prisoner during the war by the Americans, and who had received kind treatment by several loyal British subjects, was appointed Lieut.-Governor of Upper Canada in 1792. Canada had been divided into Upper and Lower Canada by the Constitutional Act of 1791. Gov. Simcoe did not forget those who had befriended him while a prisoner. One of his first acts was to issue a Proclamation offering a township of land in Upper Canada to U.E. Loyalists who would undertake to bring in 40 families who would become permanent settlers. In the minutes of a meeting of the Upper Canada Council dated March 23, 1793, there is a record of receiving a petition, requesting a township in Upper Canada. This petition was signed by Thomas Ingersoll (not a U.E.), Gideon Bostwick, Robert Williams, Seth Hamilton, Abel Kelsee and others. Thomas Ingersoll was present to support the petition. The Council granted the petition and Mr. Ingersoll and his co-petitioners were granted 66000 acres. The petitioners were to select the land. Gov. Simcoe had known Mr. Ingersoll when he resided in Massachusetts. The settlers to be brought in were to have the land at 6d (12½ ¢) per acre. They were to erect saw and grist mills as required. With the assistance of his friend, Joseph Brant, a titular chief of the Six Nations Indians, with whom he became acquainted in New York, and assisted by a group of experienced Indian hunters, who knew the river trail exceptionally well, Thomas Ingersoll explored the unoccupied lands west of the Grand River. He chose the section which later became known as the Township of Oxford on the Thames and comprised the three Oxford townships (North, West and East Oxford). Pioneers knew how to determine fertile soil. They were guided in this by the size and thickness of stand of the trees. Large trees do not grow on poor soil. The trees covering the area selected by Mr. Ingersoll were mostly oak, maple, beech, ash, elm, pine and basswood. The trees were large and the forests were dense. The pioneer also desired plenty of streams to furnish transportation and power. Mr. Ingersoll knew this and evidently made a good selection. After selecting the area, he returned to his home in Mass. He returned in a few months with his wife, formerly Sarah Whiting, his family and possessions. After weeks of hardship he reached the selected site. Here he felled with his own axe, a huge basswood tree to make a clearing, wherein to erect his log dwelling. This log building stood on the east side of Thames St. where Gayfer's Drug store has been located for many years. Some years ago, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada traced deeds and took measurements to prove this to be the correct site. The lot contained much land on the north and south side of the dwelling. The Board desired to place a memorial plaque in the sidewalk in front of the store. Mr. Gayfer gave consent but the plaque was never placed. Possibly because the sidewalk belonged to the Corporation.

Battle of Plains of Abraham Sept 12 - 1759.

Abraham martin owned the plains

Joseph Brant's grave in the cemetery beside the Mohawk chapel Brantford built 1780

There is a good article re Brant in encyclopedia "Historical Articles" at back of reading book.

Thomas Ingersoll's ancestors emigrated from Bedfordshire, England. Two brothers, John and Richard settled in Mass. in 1627. Long before Mr. Ingersoll came to Upper Canada there were a few white men in small settlements along the River La Trenche (Thames) who were trading with the Indians. In 1793, Gov. Simcoe recorded in his diary, that on a trip from Niagara to Detroit he found the Western peninsula populous with Indian tribes, who travelled over ancient trails linking the outposts of civilization. On this trip the party encountered a few white men engaged in speculation. They also met four government mail

Small shipment to Buffalo see Gov's diary. Furs shipped via Kingston, Lake Ontario

mostly for Beaver skins, also some mink, a few bear, wolf & fox - transported via water using flat bottomed Bateaux rafts.

Wm. Cullen Bryant - famed American poet wrote "The beaver builds no longer by these streams, but far away on streams which ne'er reflect the white man's face".

died 1878

Shores of the Bay of Quinte in eastern Ontario were settled by United Empire Loyalists in 1784.

carriers. The first Post Office in Oxford County was established in Ingersoll on Jan.6th. 1821 and called Oxford Post Office. Charles Ingersoll was Post Master. No stamps were used at this time. Postage was paid in coinage. The revenue from this first Post Office in 1832 was £74 &h 5d.

Thomas Ingersoll was successful in bringing into the settlement 40 families and had arranged for several hundred more to come here from New York State. The government was not sympathetic toward these as settlers as it feared they would occupy lands that should go to the U.E.Loyalists. It therefore cancelled the contract with Mr.Ingersoll. The 40 settlers already here were allowed 200 acres each, their deeds dating from 1798 to 1806. These were the settlers who introduced civilization into the section, left many to perpetuate their names and emulate their virtues. In 1806, after the cancellation of the contract, Thomas Ingersoll, greatly discouraged, left the settlement, taking up residence on the Credit River at Port Credit where he died in 1812. Charles Ingersoll, his eldest son, who had served in the war of 1812-14 returned to the settlement. He secured his father's original farm at a sheriff's sale. He changed the name of the settlement from the village of Charles to Ingersoll, in honor of his father. Ingersoll made very little progress for some years after the war of 1812-14. In ~~the middle 1820s~~ 1826 the settlement contained 20 families. Places of business comprised a tannery, boot and shoe maker, two saw mills, a grist mill, an ashery, a cooperage, a distillery, a blacksmith shop, a carding and fulling mill and a general store opened in 1822 by James Ingersoll. This was the first store and James Ingersoll was 21yrs. old. In the period from 1830 to 1850 the settlement enjoyed a period of steady development. A large foundry was erected on Charles St. by W.A.Rumsey, where articles were made of iron and which were in demand at the time. The first steam boiler for power purposes was made in this foundry. Steam was beginning to replace water as mill power. This foundry was later operated by Mr.Eastwood and ~~still later by~~ Mr.Russell and others. The foundry was located where today(1952) stands the garage of Cook and Brown, the Machine agency of Walter Ellery and Son and eastward to the Arena. Dr. Carroll erected a flour mill on the north ~~west~~ east corner of Charles and ~~Carroll~~ Mutual Sts. Charles Parkhurst built and operated a carding mill on Charles St.west. (Charles St. was formerly known as Queen St.) Elisha Hall had erected ~~two~~ one saw mills, ~~one~~ on Canterbury ~~St.~~ ~~and~~ the other on Thames St.S. This later mill burned down and on its site was erected a flour mill by Mr.Smith. Most of the business institutions which had been established earlier increased in capacity and importance, especially those handling lumber ~~or~~ grain. During this period Ingersoll was doing a good exporting business in grain, flour, lumber, manufactured goods and small quantities of farm made cheddar cheese. There were no railroads at this time (see article "Railways Come to Ingersoll") and all goods were hauled to market by horses. London and Hamilton were the principle markets. Stage coaches furnished a means of transportation and these increased in numbers as roads were opened through the virgin forests. In the middle 1840s six fourhorse stage coaches passed each way through Ingersoll on the route from Woodstock to London, each day. Horses were changed about every 15 miles. Taverns were plentiful in Ingersoll even prior to 1850 (see article "Ingersoll Hotels") and between London and Brantford, a distance of 70 miles there were 30 taverns.

In 1852 Ingersoll became an incorporated Village (see "Ingersoll Becomes a Village") and remained so until 1865 when it became a town. Things were rather quiet around this period, except in a military way due to a threatened invasion by Fenians in the United States. Ingersoll organized a company of volunteers to help repel the invasion. This company was led by Capt Wonham and ~~was~~ called to service in the Western section near Windsor. The Fenians came and were defeated in 1866. Prosperity again came to Ingersoll and a steady growth was noted. Ingersoll had a boom year in 1887 when a number of important factories were built in the town. As business increased ~~banks~~ banks began to be established. The Commercial Bank established in 1863 was taken over by the Merchant's Bank in 1867 and continued to operate in the brick building on Thames St. South

Bank of Montreal opened in March 1919 - In 1922 it absorbed the Merchants Bank. In May 1958 - a depository unit was added on a 24 hour basis - 7 days a week. Managers - E.V. Leslie 1919-1921; G.C. Dewar 1921-1922; W.F. Dunn 1922-1930; Alex. Yule 1930-1947; C.E. Shaw 1947-1949; Frank Lovelly 1949-1957; W.G. Dery 1957- Walter Cooke Apr. 1966.

Thomas Ingersoll C
For First Log Hous

By STELLA MOTT

In 1799, when William Hambly of Woodhouse township was surveying the lines and concessions and lots of the townships of Dereham and Norwich, he frequently visited the Canfields in East Oxford and Fowler's in Burford and, on occasion, consulted Thomas Horner of Blenheim, but he made his headquarters, mainly, at Thomas gersoll's, in the Oxford town

Here during week, la
ead, washed clothing, an
ly, ground axes for his

time Thomas Ingersoll
n Oxford county for
He and his wife, the
h Whiting, were both
Berkshire, Massachus-
evidently, had moved to
ew York State before coming to
Canada. Their son, James Ingersoll, for 45 years registrar of Oxford county, wrote an article in the Sentinel Review in 1879 in which he told something of the early Oxford settlement. His father, he said, had heard of Governor Simcoe's offer of certain tracts of land to parties who would come to Canada and settle. He had also talked with Joseph Brant, chief of the Six Nations, whom Mr. Ingersoll had met about the same time, while the chief was on a visit to New York. The result was that Mr. Ingersoll and a

the townships, a measure necessary to prevent speculation, and do which discrimination could be made.

This taking place for a while
cked the rapid growth of popu-
n in the province by hardy
well disposed husbandmen
had just learned the value of
country. Mr. Ingersoll in par-
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nship by removing thither
ny other families at his own ex-
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nt in the small tracts they had
gun on as well as the actual set-
rs in the other townships."

evious to the escheating of
nships an extensive road

store in what is now the
of Ingersoll. He traded for
years commencing on a very
rate scale, having a variety
ticles "including, of course,
and tobacco, popular articles
way in a frontier settlement."

Dur g the Rebellion of 1837-38
Mr. Ja es Ingersoll was major of
Colonel William Halcroft's regi-
ment, serving to the close of that
"ill-conceived contest." In 1879 he
was Lieut. Colonel of the Reg.
Division of the South Riding of
Oxford.

In 1834 he became registrar of
Oxford County and in 1848 moved
to Woodstock. In that year he
married Catherine MacNab. Their
four children were Mary Blanch-
ard, wife of W. A. Campbell of
Kent, James Beverley, John Mac-
ab and George. They belonged
the Anglican church.

Mr. James Ingersoll was, un-
ubtedly, one of the first children
n in Oxford County and his fa-
was one of its most enterpris-
pioneers.

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ord

1200

WARNED CANADIANS

Laura Secord, Canadian heroine of the war of 1812, was born in Massachusetts in 1775.

2700

Book 1

95

1800

According to the Public Archives, Ottawa, one can read a letter from Thomas Ingersoll, Oxford, dated in 1797, that Thomas Ingersoll petitioned the Executive Council, then in session at Newark (Niagara), for a grant of land upon behalf of Rev. Bostwick, and others. The Council concurred and each was given a lot. Mr. Ingersoll was granted Lot 20 of the first concession of West Oxford township. Lot 20 is now known as the south east corner of King and Thames streets, Ingersoll. In

few other made application for a township, Mr. Ingersoll being selected to present the petition. To these, the grant of a township was made by the government of Upper Canada in March, 1793, at Niagara. The land selected was on the Thames river (La Tranche) where the town of Ingersoll now stands.

Conditions of Grant

Conditions of the grant were that Mr. Ingersoll and his associates should furnish 40 settlers who were each to have a farm of on to two hundred acres of land on paying the government a fee of sixpence, sterling, per acre.

In 1793 the Ingersolls arrived and Thomas Ingersoll cut the first tree, which went into the first log house, or white man's building of any kind in the three Oxford townships.

In 1799 The Upper Canada Gazette had this to say of the progress of the settlement. "Oxford has this year one thousand bushels of grain more than will be consumed within itself. The settlement in these townships were commenced at a period when the undertakers and their followers were under every possible discouragement common to a new country.

"Among these were Thomas Ingersoll, an enterprising man of considerable property, and who held the minutes of the Oxford Executive Council as his own; but not until most or all of his property was expended did he discover with others that the business they were engaged in was, in fact, that which was to end in nearly or

building project was well under way. The Gazette had this to say about it.

"These settlers being aware of the importance of roads in raising the value of property, early set about to open and extend them, and notwithstanding the numerous discouragements and the immediate necessities of their families they, in one year, at the expense of Mr. Ingrsoll, cut and bridged a road from Burford to La Tranche through a wilderness, twenty-five or thirty miles.

"Mr. Elisha Putnam of Oxford township by subscription has since continued the road from thence 30 miles to Allen's, Delaware township."

Plans were already made to extend this road to Detroit without government aid.

Returning to Mr. James Ingersoll's story we find his version of the escheating of the townships.

"Some evil-minded person reported to the home government that Governor Simcoe was likely to injure the country by encouraging Americans to settle here, as they might hold the land in bulk and thus prevent discharged Loyalist soldiers and their political friends from procuring grants." The result was that an order from England cancelled several grants, the township grant of Mr. Ingersoll among the number. The Ingersolls remained in possession of their original farm.

Moves to Toronto

In 1806, a few years after the escheating of the township, Thomas Ingersoll moved to Toronto township on the Credit River, where he died in 1812, leaving a widow and seven children. Charles Ingersoll, the eldest son, was in the War of 1812-14, raising at the start with William H. Merritt a troop of Light Dragoons of which Mr. Merritt was captain and he a lieutenant. The company served the British through the war.

In 1817 Charles came into possession of the original Oxford farm and the next year James, his 16-year-old brother, was sent there to take charge of it. He wrote later: "On arriving at the old place which I left when only five years old, I had no recollection of it. During the war all the fences were destroyed and the boards on the old barn removed but the log house in which I was born was standing and occupied by an old man named Ebenezer Case. The first improvement undertaken was the building of a saw mill which was put into operation on the 14th of April, 1819, after which we commenced to saw our own lumber. In 1820 we began to erect a small grist mill with one pair of stones, and building for a store, a distillery, and an ashery."

Charles moved his family to Oxford in 1821. Soon after this, he was appointed a magistrate, postmaster, and a commissioner of the Court of Request in which he acted with the late Peter Teeple Esq. Soon after, he was appointed Lieut. Colonel of the Second Oxford Militia, was returned to Parliament in 1824 and again in 1829-30 and was a member at the time of his death in 1832.

Opens First Store

In 1822, James Ingersoll, at the age of twenty-one, opened the

Found An Air Of Prosperity At Ingersoll
1855 Visi

IN 1855 a writer in the International Journal, Paul Pry, Jr., passed through this part of the country and recorded in his "Notes by the Way" impressions of the western part of the province. An issue of the Ingersoll Chronicle for October 12, 1855, printed excerpts from the article relating to the Village of Ingersoll.

The traveler found it "a place of marked enterprise and prosperity of about 3,000 inhabitants." He came by rail from Woodstock and found two omnibusses at the station to meet the train, one from Patterson's Royal Exchange Hotel on Thames street and the other from Carroll's Hotel on King street.

Crossing the river, the Thames, the bus came up Thames street. Here "an air of prosperity" was noticeable, several new buildings had been erected and others were partially constructed. According to an earlier notice in The Chronicle much of this construction was done in the fall of 1854 when brick buildings were erected on almost every street of the village.

One of the first buildings to be seen after crossing the bridge was the foundry and machine shop of W. A. Rumsey, "who has been 18 years established." The industry employed 20 men and used a ten-horse engine in the manufacture of reapers, mowers, threshing mills, straw cutters, cultivators and stoves. In March, 1856, W. Eastwood inserted a notice to the effect that he had purchased the extensive iron foundry and machine shop of W. Rumsey.

The steam engine works of William Dunn & Co. were "a little to the rear and near this on Charles street." This business consisted of a foundry, a machine shop and a wood shop for the manufacture of steam engines, mill gearing and plows. They also used a ten-horse engine, had 20 men in their employ, and were planning to enlarge the premises.

Between these two plants was a steam planning mill operated by by McKenzie and Ashwells. The upper part was occupied by A. Oliver, who had a wood and joiner's shop. Mr. Oliver was builder and he with Mr. Patterson of the Exchange have a con-

tract to build a railway depot for freight at the Suspension Bridge." Impressively Pry adds, "the building will be 3,000 feet long and will cost the G. W. Railway between $30,000 and $40,000."

Proceeding up Thames street the Exchange Hotel was "on the right." On the other side of the road were a number of "large commercial establishments, amongst them being Eastwoods, Pooles, etc." Samuel Poole was erecting a three-storey brick building. Close by was the medical dispensary of J. D. Cottingham, a practical chemist from London. According to the advertisements Cottingham was listed as a surgical dentist and he sold out to Dr. Weir in November, 1856.

Opposite was the office of Dr. James F. McCarthy. Mr. McCarthy was reeve of the village in 1855 and continued to practice in Ingersoll until his death in July, 1863. Beside his office was a large drygoods store owned by G. A. Cameron.

On the corner of Thames and King streets, S. S. Pomroy, of London, had erected a large store. It was a three-storey brick building. There were three stores on the ground floor, J. B. Sorley had hardware and groceries in the corner store; Mr. Williams sold drygoods in the second, and the third was a grocery owned by Mr. O'Connor. The second storey of the building was used for storage and living quarters and on the third floor was lecture room, another room for public meetings and a ballroom. A few yards west of this was the market, "a neat building."

In the early days of the village, King street, from Mill to Carroll streets, was the main business section of Ingersoll. Here numerous large drygoods and grocery stores were to be found. Amongst them were Daniel Phelan, W. H. Lamphier, Daniel Shell, Joseph Browett and Hope McNiven. Browett's building of brick construction was erected the year previous and then it had been planned to move the post office and also open an agency of the Bank of Upper Canada. There were two jewelry stores under the management of C. P. Hall and J. Barnett and a combination drug and book store owned by O. B. Caldwell. W. J. Brett had opened a sheet iron and brass works and near it was the business of J. Buchanan, tinsmith.

Besides the stores there were several carriage factories on King street. "Mr. William Smith has a large establishment with a convenient showroom facing on the street." Another factory, situated opposite Carroll's Hotel, was owned by James McIntyre, "the poet laureate of Oxford County." According to an adver-

Pomroy Royal Co

1854

His home Became The R.C. Separate School.

John.

tisement McIntyre began the business in March, 1855.

On the corner of Thames street was a cabinet and upholstery business managed by Charles W. Featherstone. He also was an undertaker. Another large business on Thames street was that of Mr. Galliford. This industry had a complete set of American machines for cutting, cramping and sewing and 20 men at work.

The town supported one newspaper, The Chronicle, which began publication in 1853. The writer said that Mr. Gurnett, the editor, was formerly associated with The Morning Post of Boston.

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876 Atlas

"Atlas of xford County" published in Toronto Sept. 1, 1876, by Walker and Miles. The atlas is the first of a series contemplated by the publishers and it lists and pictures in great detail each lot and concession, together with the owner; all thoroughfares and public buildings; and, as the atlas foreword says, "the views of residences and manufactories, while exhibiting evidences of wealth and taste on the part of our patrons, add not a little importance to the book."

A directory of the inhabitants of Oxford, with the postoffice address of each, is supplied which the publishers state will "supply data for the future historian of no little importance."

The following interesting history of Ingersoll, Beachville and Mount Elgin, was written by A. McCleneghan, Esq., of Woodstock. Other excerpts from Atlas will be published in The ribune at a later date. The Ingersoll story follows:

INGERSOLL

From 1852 to 1865, Ingersoll was but an incorporated village. The first reeve, or executive officer was John Galliford. Thomas Brown (the present reeve), for two years succeeding, held that distinguished position, followed, in 1855, by James F. McCarthy, Esq. In 1856 and the two following years, Mr. Galliford was reeve. From 1859 to 1863, Adam Oliver, Esq., held the position, when he relinquished it to Mr. Galliford. In 1865, Ingersoll ook the status of a town, with Mr. Oli- r as first mayor. In 1866, Mr. Oliver again chosen to that office, follow- 18 and 1868, by Mr. Galliford. ohn McDonald, Esq., was the position, followed by s McCaughey in 1870 and 1871. 1872, Mr. McDonald again took the ic chair, which he relinquished, in 73, to Peter J. Brown, Esq. In 1874, H. Sorley, Esq., was elected mayor, d occupied the position, with credit himself and advantage to the cor- ration, for two years, making way, 1876, for Mr. John McDonald. Thus see in 24 years only eight gentlemen ve been honored with the position Chief Magistrate.

he Corporation of Ingersoll for 1876

Mayor, John McDonald, Esq. Reeve, omas Brown, Esq. First Deputy eve, John Buchanan; Second Depu- Reeve, Joseph Gibson. Councillors, man Clark, George Foster, Hector mpbell, James McIntyre, William rtlo, James Waterhouse, L. hompson, Robert Vance, J. A. Wil- ms, M.D., J. C. Galloway.

Treasurer, R. A. Woodcock; clerk, illiam McLeod; assessor, James urdock; collector, chief constable, Henderson; constable, R. Craw- rd; chief of fire brigade, W. L. arn; assistant, R. G. Bickerton.

Ingersoll, in the enterprise of her ople, may be said to have had a de- ded advantage over the sister town Woodstock. With a just appreciation of their situation, the people of gersoll early pushed a road into the art of the lumber section to the th, and by establishing manufac- es, and in the exportation of lum- , a measure of prosperity was se- red that proved the prudence of the enture. Although the agricultural atistics given elsewhere would indi- te otherwise, Ingersoll is the centre the great dairy trade of Oxford; d at Ingersoll was held that exhibi- on of the staple products of Oxford tended to represent the capabilities this section at the great Exposition 1876 at Philadelphia, at which the llowing prizes were awarded: Spring eat, Fift: 1st, Alex. Wood, East ra; 2nd, Robert Forbes, West Zor- rd, F. Burgess, Drumbo. Morgan it: A. Burgess, Drumbo, special. den Drop wheat: 1st, John Clark- West Oxford; 2nd E. Cook, West rd. Winter wheat, Delhi: 1st, A. urn, Dereham; 2nd, A. Bell, bo; 3rd, F. Burgess, Drumbo. Treadwell wheat: 1st, George Uran, North Oxford; 2nd, E. Broughton, Blenheim; 3rd, W. S. Buckholder, South Norwich. Winter wheat, Clawson: 1st, William Harris, Dereham. Six-rowed barley: 1st, James Dutton, Drumbo; 2nd, John Sutton, Drumbo; 3rd, John McKay, West Zorra. Golden-vine peas: 1st, E. Broughton, Blenheim; 2nd, J. B. Munroe, Drumbo; 3rd, A. Wood, East Zorra. Peas, White Marrowfat: 1st, R. W. Barr, Woodstock; 2nd, R. Burgess, Drumbo. Peas, Multipliers: 1st, A. B. Moore, Otterville; 2nd, John Burns, Ratho. Peas, Black-Eyed Marrowfat: 1st, D. Wakefield, Blenheim; 2nd, William Harris, Mount Elgin. Crown peas: 1st, George A. Munroe, Embro; 2nd, J. B. Munroe, Embro. Early June peas: 1st, Isaac Edwards, North Oxford. White oats: 1st, Alexander Bradburn, Dereham; 2nd, S. S. Burtis, Burgessville; 3rd, R. Burgess, Drumbo. Black oats: 1st, S. S. Burtis, Burgessville; 2nd, Joseph Brough, Otterville; 3rd, Thomas Carr, West Zorra. Flaxseed: 1st, J. H. Brown, Beachville. Large Field beans: 1st, J. H. Moore, Otterville; 2nd, C. Lewis, Salford; 3rd, J. W. Elliott, Mount Elgin. Small Field beans: 1st, C. Lewis, Salford; 2nd, S. Burgess, Burgessville. Buckwheat: 1st, J. H. Moore, Otterville; 2nd, A. B. Moore, Otterville. Red Clover: 1st, William Ramson, Otterville; 2nd, A. B. Moore, Otterville. Timothy seed: 1st, C. Lewis, Salford; 2nd, A. Post, Mount Elgin; 3rd, J. H. Moore, Otterville. Hungarian seed: 1st, F. Comfort, Otterville. Strained honey: 1st, Albert Post, Mount Elgin. Beeswax: 1st, A. Post, Mount Elgin. Red Glazed corn: 1st, Robert Malcolm, Springford. White corn: 1st, William Ramson, Norwich. Judges: Williams Peers, John Forrest, John Markham, T. D. Millar, William S. King.

Of the many notable establishments in Ontario for the production of agricultural implements, machinery, etc., that known as the Noxon Brothers Company, of Ingersoll, is perhaps the most extensive. It was established in 1856, and incorporated in 1872, with entirely new premises of most elaborate proportions, at a cost in buildings alone of upward of $35,000. It gives employment to an average of 130 skilled workmen, with a yearly business of a quarter of a million dollars.

Adam Oliver & Co. have a very extensive establishment and are contractors on a large scale, and dealers in lumber, etc. Their saw-mill has a capacity of 10,000 feet per day, while their trade is made up of shipments of doors, sash, blinds, cheese-boxes, etc., and they employ throughout the year an average of 70 men. Oliver's business was established in 1853, and has been of continued prosperity to the enterprising firm, and to the town and neighborhood. Christopher & Brothers are in the same line of business with an establishment employing 100 men.

The Woolen Mill of Waterhouse & Bradbury is another ornament to the place, and a further evidence of the "push" characteristic of Ingersoll; while the cabinet factory owned by McIntyre & Crotty is without an equal in the county. Bailey's carriage factory and Eastwood's foundry are other evidences of prosperity.

Like most Canadian towns, Ingersoll is amply provided with churches, and, what is of still greater importance, the ministration of the gospel from the different pulpits is not without effect in securing the presence of the great bulk of the people at their respective places of worship on the Lord's Day.

The press of Canada has no indifferent representation in the Ingersoll Chronicle and the Oxford Tribune. The former started in 1855, by the late J. S. Gurnett, Esq., and now aly manager by his son, Mr. G. F. Gurnett; while the latter, under the management of Mr. Harry Rowland, in addition to current politics and literature, is the special organ and advocate of the dairy interest of the section. The News, published by Mr. H. Constable, is less for party and more for general interests than the other two, and the indications are that all three find room and verge enough, and, in return, are sources of pleasure and profit to the publishers. The two devastating fires that visited Ingersoll not long since, if carrying suffering to many, have been the medium of improvement in the general appearance of the town, and it may with truth be said that few towns in Canada enjoy to a greater degree the evidences of wealth and culture that belong to Ingersoll.

A manufacturing centre of such proportions must require a very considerable circulation of money, and in Mr. Chadwich, the manager of the Ingersoll Bank, the welfare of the town has its best friend.

Beachville

This is one of the oldest villages in the western portion of the county. At one time it was the post town for the entire neighborhood, including Woodstock. The improvement of the county by railway facilities crushed Beachville's prospects entirely: still it is a clean, neat settlement, with churches, stores, etc., and has a daily mail east and west, and to Embro.

Mount Elgin

This is a village in Dereham, on the Ingersoll and Port Burwell macadamized road. It is in the heart of the dairy interest of the county, has a good store, a daily post, and all other necessities. Culloden and Verschoyle are post-offices ~~between~~ Mount Elgin and Woodstock. west of

Ingersoll, long known as Ingersollville, was named by Charles Ingersoll in memory of his father, Major Thomas Ingersoll, who came to this country from Great Barrington, Mass., in 1793. The Ingersolls originally came from Bedfordshire, England, two brothers, John and Richard, settling in Massachusetts, in 1627. Major Ingersoll died in 1812. He was married three times and had eleven children. Laura, his first born, became famous under her married name, Laura Secord. Charles Ingersoll was a son by the third wife.

References to Thames Valley In 18th Century Manuscripts

By M. E. Cropp

On December 7th, 1791, Governor Simcoe wrote, "I am happy to have found in the surveyor's office an actual survey of the River La Tranche."

A reproduction of the map in question is included among the Simcoe Papers. Scattered along the river, on both sides, are 26 tiny squares, and a note in the corner which says: 'The Huts on the Banks of the River marked red are small settlements without authority, many abandoned'.

* * *

All this proves that the Thames Valley was definitely not an unknown quantity when official settlement began in 1793, and lends credence to various unconfirmed tales that have come down to us of certain individuals being settled here and there in the 1780's and early 1790's.

Many of these early settlers, or speculators, finding life too hard, or progress too slow, left, never to return. Others are known to have come back to their original claims after periods of ten, twenty, and even thirty years.

The account of Governor Simcoe's trip from Niagara to Detroit in the winter of 1793, as told by Major Littlehays, pictures the peninsula of Southwestern Ontario as being populous with Indian tribes, and the ancient trails as regularly traveled arteries linking the outposts of civilization. On the trip in question the Simcoe party encountered several other white men on the trail engaged upon their own private business, and were met, or overtaken by four Expresses (Government messengers or mail men).

They found two traders carrying on their business in the heart of the district; one, half a day's journey west of Brant's Ford, and the other 14 miles west of the Delaware Indian Village. They also passed an old camp, southeast of the present Woodstock, used by the party of Lord Fitzgerald who passed over the same trail in 1789.

* * *

Another map included among the Simcoe Papers proves later source material incorrect in one detail. Woodstock (not Beachville), is situated at the Upper Forks of the Thames, formed by the confluence of the Thames and Cedar Creek, but the portage trail from Brant's Ford, as stated in a previous article, came down to the Thames at Beachville. Furthermore, it crossed the river at Beachville on a log and kept to the north side of the river approximately as far as the present Dorchester, when it crossed to the south side again as far as the Delaware Indian Village. Here it again crossed the river, and kept to the north side approximately as far as Chatham, when it returned to the south side and remained.

Called Out For Action In Fenian Raid, 1866

Famous Names Linked With History of Ingersoll When Oxford Town On Thames Budding Centre

J. E. O'Neil

FAMOUS names are interwoven in the early history of Ingersoll, including those of Laura Secord and Thomas Ingersoll, and there still remains on Ingersoll's main street buildings to remind the citizens of today that the life of their town is linked with the story of the earliest pioneers.

On a corner of the business section there stands a weather-beaten, one-storey building, used as a harness shop which at one time was a trading post where Indians brought furs and exchanged them for the products of the earliest mills and distilleries of the district.

It was one of the Indian's famous chiefs, Joseph Brant, who exercised great influence on the course of local history by persuading Thomas Ingersoll to leave his home in Great Barrington, Mass., and seek new fields in Canada. Chief Brant offered to guide Ingersoll to suitable territory on the River La Tranche (the Thames).

With him came his daughter, Laura Ingersoll, who after her marriage was Laura Secord, who was destined to play a heroine's part in the rescue of Canadian forces from disaster at Beaver Dam, and to turn the tide of victory to the side of the country her father had chosen for his own.

The Government granted Ingersoll and his associates a township on the old Indian trail from Ancaster to Detroit. Mr. Ingersoll felled with his own hands a tree for a log cabin that was to be his home. This was on the spot that is now Thames street in the Township of Ingersoll. There were to be 40 settlers at first, and each was to have 200 acres of land to be paid for at the rate of six-pence per acre. Later, Mr. Ingersoll's grant was canceled and he removed, discouraged, from the district.

Ingersoll's son, Charles, who served in the War of 1812, returned to Ingersoll later and went eagerly to work. A store, a saw-mill, a grist mill, a pottery and a distillery were soon built and Charles Ingersoll was the district's leading citizen. He was twice returned to Parliament and died in 1832. The Town of Ingersoll was, in the early days, named Charles in his honor.

The famous Robert Ingersoll and founder of the Ingersoll watch concern, were descendants of Thos. Ingersoll's family. It is said that the founder of the Ingersoll watch went to Ingersoll a number of years ago in an effort to purchase the old Ingersoll homestead.

Ingersoll Company of Volunteers organized to help repel the Fenians in 1866 - was led by Captain Wonham. They were called to serve in the Western section near Sandwich & Windsor. There is a Wonham Street in Ingersoll.

100 YEARS AGO
December 14, 1858

For some weeks past Ingersoll has the scene of numerous outrages and sca a night has passed without a robbery assault taking place. These seem to have the result of the labors of an organized Two of the gentry now have been taken oner.

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EARLY DAYS ARE ADDRESS SUBJECT

Col. T. R. Mayberry Gave Some Very Interesting Reminiscences to Kiwanians Yesterday—Very Large Attendance.

A most interesting address was that given before the Kiwanis Club yesterday by Col. T. R. Mayberry whose remarks were reminiscent of Ingersoll' early days, and as such, remarks that found a sincere response on the part of his hearers. Col. Mayberry dwelt upon many of the old scenes, the old names, and the old conditions, indicating that in his advanced age his memory was as good as his observations of boyhood days.

ONLY TWO REMAIN

The speaker said that at the present time, there were but two business places which were carried on by representatives of the families which had conductd them in his boyhood days. He spoke of George Ross, who carried on a coal and wood business in his early days, and whose sign he could still remember distinctly. That business to-day is carried on by William Ross, his son. He could remember that business for sixty years.

The other place was—well, it was closely associated with the finest taffy his boyhood days had ever known. He said the store where this taffy was made and sold was in his boyhood days, situated on Thames street near where Cairn's store now is. He wa ssure there never was such taffy, and he was sure every boy in Ingersoll thought the same. It was made and sold by the late Louis Noe, who also sold toys and similar notions. The business to-day is carried on by his daughter, Miss Frances Noe, on King street east.

THOMAS BROWN.

In the early days of Ingersoll, Col. Mayberry said that Thomas Brown was one of the most public-spirited of men. He had served his town and his county in many ways. He was Warden of Oxford in 1896. He served on Ingersoll's council in many capacities, and was chairman of most of the committees formed in Ingersoll in those days. He had also been an ardent worker with the Agricultural society.

FIRST MAYOR WAS OLIVER

Col. Mayberry then stated that he recalled when Ingersoll was a village, and recalled its first Mayor when it was made a town. That man was Adam Oliver who conducted a lumber business on Victoria street on the property where O. E. Robinson now conducts his business. Brown was opposed by John Galliford, a shoe maker, in the election for the town of Ingersoll's first Mayor. Galliford was made Mayor by acclamation the next year however.

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH

The speaker said that he well-remembered when the present Anglican church was built. He had good reason to remember it, as he drew the first twenty thousand bricks which were used in its construction. These bricks were made on the Wiseman farm in West Oxford.

Col. Mayberry said he also remembered the building of the King street Methodist church. This was the original church as it stood prior to the alterations which made it appear the modern edifice it is to-day. He gave a number of very interesting incidents in connection with the opening ceremonies of the building, under the direction of Rev. Mr. Warner, who was the senior minister of the circuit which included Ingersoll at that time. Salford was also on the circuit then.

GREAT GRAIN MARKET

Ingersoll boasted a great grain market in those early days. It was a common sight to see seven or eight buyers waiting on the market for grain to be brought in and offered. The first one to see a grain-laden rig coming would approach it and climb up onto the load to sample the grain. He was usually accorded, by an unwritten law, the first privilege of bidding.

The grain was often stored in the storage quarters on Victoria street, where it was a common sight to see twenty or thirty teams lined up at once waiting to have their grain unloaded.

The speaker mentioned also the grist mill of W. S. King, and told of the primitive weighing methods that were in evidence there. A great with sixty-pound iron weights were used in a balance sense. For the part bushels there were other iron weights, but widely differing in their weight. It was frequently found that owing to the small range of the weights that the grain could not be weighed within five pounds of its proper weight when the part bushels came into effect.

CHAMPION BASEBALL TEAM

Passing on, Col. Mayberry told of the baseball team from Ingersoll which won the championship of Canada in 1867. He recalled very clearly the team coming back from Woodstock and of the possession of the silver ball which was indicative of the championship. He told of the late Joseph Gibson and other members of the team, and of seeing them play ball on a spot which later became the more northerly section of Wellington street.

THE VOTING SYSTEM.

The voting system had seen great changes since those days. At one time the entire riding of South Oxford had only some three thousand eligible voters because of a regulation that stipulated each man must be assessed for four hundred dollars at least before he could vote, and also a regulation which kept farmers' sons from voting even after they were twenty-one unless certain financial status could be shown. Then in later years this was regulated, and since that again the women were privileged to vote until at the present time the riding has about fifteen thousand voters.

THE DAIRY INDUSTRY.

The speaker gave some very interesting facts regarding the early dairying efforts in this county. He said that about 1835 there had been to Hagle's corners a man with a wife and some children who had as his sole financial possession, one English shilling. His name was Hiram Ranney. He was found to be very handy in taking the straw away from the old-time threshing separators of those days, and he soon found favor with Mr. Hagle, who operated a threshing machine in those districts. This machine was operated by horse-power, and was known as the open-cylinder type. It did not get rid of the straw during the threshing operation. Ranney was especially adept at keeping the straw back, and Hagle used him throughout the district, insisting to all the farmers for whom he threshed that Ranney be paid the sum of $1 per day.

LATER BOUGHT LAND.

By dint of hard work and saving, Ranney later bought some fifty acres of land on the site where the Baptist Church now stands at Salford. He started also with a few cows. In a few years Ranney, sensing the grazing qualifications of the country, owned over six hundred acres and had one hundred cows.

East side of Thames St. 2nd building south of King St.

This was one of the contributing factors to the rise in dairying in this section. The dairy business grew. A man named Farrington came over from New York state and built the first cheese factory at Norwich in 1864. In 1865 the first co-operative factory in Norwich was erected, and in 1867 the big cheese was manufactured. Col. Mayberry said he was probably the only man present who was at the shipping of that mammoth cheese from the factory south and east of Ingersoll. He was present as a barefoot boy that day, and recalled the five beautiful teams of horses which pulled the cheese into Ingersoll for railway shipment, and of the big parade that was formed to accompany it in. He said that riding immediately behind the big cheese were Messrs. Harris, Chadwick, Phalen and Caswell, the latter being the first exporter of cheese to England. The cheese was made at what was then known as the Ingersoll Cheese factory, but which is now referred to as the Harris factory. It stood just near the Jenvey farm in West Oxford, and east of the present home of J. C. Harris. And of course, just to complete the picture, Col. Mayberry told of and quoted bits of some of James McIntyre's odes to the big cheese and other cheese activities.

LIFE IS BETTER.

The speaker said that there had been a great change in the mode of life since he was a boy, and he was not slow to say that in his opinion the world was a better place in which to live today. There was but limited communication in those days without telephone, the radio, the automobile and but limited telegraph communication. He told of the mounted runners who patrolled the roads between here and Port Burwell to make sure that due notice would be given if the Fenians tried to get in at Port Burwell. There were, of course, no electric lights or other commodities such as make life lighter and more pleasant today. Then he saw much that was of deeper sentiment in the Mothers' Allowance Act; the Old Age Pension Act, the better upkeep of Houses of Refuge and so on, all of which indicated to him that the people of today were all their brother's keeper to a more or less degree, and more so than in the days of the past.

The chair was occupied by Dr. J. M. Rogers. F. N. Horton expressed to Col. Mayberry the sincere thanks of the club for the most interesting address, and said that he had always had the kindest regard for Col. Mayberry, one of the most whole-souled and kindly characters he had met since coming to Ingersoll, and whom he had known almost from the time he came.

1837

51 YEARS AGO

Thursday, Feb. 9, 1899

In 1831, James Ingersoll was postmaster of Ingersoll, and was still filling that position when the rebellion occurred and the postoffice was removed from the cobblestone building near the market to the corner of King and Thames streets, in the spot now occupied by the corner drug store. The next postmaster was Daniel Phalen, and the office was removed to the corner of King and Water streets.. When Mr. Phalen gave up the office, C. E. Chadwick was appointed and the office was removed to King street west. As a result of denouncing the government in a political address, Mr. Chadwick was dismissed and the late Joseph Thirkle was appointed and filled the position for about 25 years. He built the postoffice now in use. He died in 1882 and Joseph Gibson was appointed and has since filled the position.

1949 Bet work

Knecshaw's Drug Store

1901 - Royal Bank built on this

Crossed Ocean 55 Times To Boost Oxford's Dairying

While the "Fathers of Confederation" were drafting the constitution of Canada in Quebec City in 1864, the people of Ingersoll were planning the production of the world's largest cheese.

Each of these things was significant to Ingersoll, the first in that it established the trade of an entire continent, and the second because it marked the beginning of many years of commercial prosperity in Ingersoll. The town henceforth was known as the "cheese town," and has to this day remained the centre of one of Canada's finest dairy districts.

By the time the Mammoth Cheese was produced, under the supervision of James Harris, the fenians repelled and confederation authorized, Ingersoll had already passed through its hardest times.

Major Thomas Ingersoll made his way north from Massachusettes in 1793, two years after the first lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada had been appointed. He was an American by birth, but the settlement which he and other Americans with British sentiments established on the upper reaches of what is now the Thames River was to become one of the most British of all Western Ontario communities.

Major Ingersoll was married three times and had 11 children. A son by his third wife, Charles Ingersoll, named the Thames settlement "Ingersollville"sometime after the pioneer died in 1812.

Thus, a very prominent name was perpetuated. The Ingersoll family had been in America for many years. Jared Ingersoll was collector of the import tax on tea at the time of the "Boston Tea Party." Another Jared Ingersoll was a member of the council which framed the Constitution of the United States. Robert Ingersoll was nominated for vice-president of the U.S. The family must have been made of the stuff that heroes are made of, because they became as prominent in Canadian life as they had been in American life. Major Thomas Ingersoll was an intimate of both Joseph Brant and Governor Simcoe. A daughter by his first wife was Laura Secord, the heroine of Canadian History. One of his sons was the first white child to be born in Ingersoll.

Settlement of Ingersollville took place slowly, but after the second decade of the 19th century the village was well established. The usual industries and businesses were established and homesteads were founded by Americans who made their homes in Canada following the war of 1812.

By proclamation of 1851, Ingersoll became a village. In the meantime the Zorras were settled by a splendid class of Highland Scotch, the Township of Dereham was settled by Irish of a similar character, and the Norwiches received a mixed group, mostly Americans. The spirit of these people was of the best, and their co-operation in cutting and clearing the land led to a thriving grain industry.

Ingersoll had no sooner become a village when Russia declared war on Great Britain and the already great demand of grain from Britain was increased by the closing of Russian ports through which most of England's grain had formerly come.

This great advance in price and the optimism of the farmers was to have a disastrous effect, however, as overcropping of the soil has robbed it of its fertility when the war was over and the demands from the other countries levelled out. This condition of the country was one of the principal causes for the adoption of the dairying system in Ingersoll, which proved to be a source of relief. Scientific farming also had its beginning at this time in Oxford County.

At this point the progress of time [illegible] to mention a happening [illegible] with Ingersoll's advancement certainly did provide the entir[illegible] vince with a topic for discussi[illegible] seems that some imaginative sou[illegible] posed an alligator to be swi[illegible] about in the vicinity of the v[illegible] The word got around, and a pi[illegible] age of 10,000 curious people [illegible] their way to Ingersoll only to [illegible] of the greatest hoax of the era

The American Civil War h[illegible] effect on Ingersoll as well. It [illegible] however, a good one. The vessel[illegible] the United States were being [illegible] by Confederate ships which m[illegible] impossible for American dair[illegible] ducts to get to British markets [illegible] was an opportunity for Can[illegible] establish her own products in [illegible] a program in which Ingersoll p[illegible] considerably.

Ingersoll was known as the [illegible] of Dairying. And the village's [illegible] inence in that field resulted [illegible] establishement of many busi[illegible] By 1865 Ingersoll had become a[illegible]

Edwin Casswell, born in Wil[illegible] England, in 1830, was the ma[illegible] notable in the growth of Oxfor[illegible] nty's dairy industry. He is s[illegible] have crossed the ocean 55 ti[illegible] the interests of this trade. Hi[illegible] together with the support and [illegible] nistration of Sir Oliver Mowa[illegible] 30 years premier of Ontario, [illegible] Ingersoll, Oxford County, a[illegible] province in general, Canada's l[illegible] dairying district.

See Bud Short forward

First Ingersoll "Ile Chronicle" - 1855 by Frank Blackburn - Dec

To Editor - Mr. Gurnett

Oxford Tribune - 1974 - by Harr[illegible]

Ingersoll Sun - 1881 - C. R. Patie[illegible] 1886 - T. A. Bella[illegible]

The News - by H. Conor[illegible] 1874

died in 1988

Letter To the Edito[illegible]

Toronto, February 7t[illegible]

Dear Mr. Editor:

The enclosed item appeare[illegible] recent issue of "The Band[illegible] published here in Toronto. Y[illegible] free to make any use of it yo[illegible] As an Ingersoll old-boy and [illegible] scriber to The Tribune I [illegible] you might be interested.

Sincerely Your[illegible]

A. E.

Clem nate of — Byron Jenvey — Perley Hughes

403 Kenned[illegible] Toron[illegible]

"Bearing the inscription, [illegible] penheim, Mansel 85, London [illegible] Flageolet was brought to Ne[illegible] City from London in 1815 b[illegible] Uren, a native of Penzance [illegible] wall, England. History recor[illegible] this instrument and the own[illegible] 60 days making the crossing [illegible] Atlantic. It was first played [illegible] Uren when a young man in [illegible] don band. After some years s[illegible] North Carolina he came to [illegible] taking up a homestead in [illegible] County and one of his first a[illegible] tances was James Ingersoll, [illegible] wards Squire Ingersoll, Regi[illegible] the County of Oxford fron[illegible] the present town of Ingersoll [illegible] its name. On his farm Mr [illegible] frequently played this F[illegible] which could be heard for mil[illegible] quiet summer evening. About [illegible] in length it is played with [illegible] It has six brass keys and six [illegible] keys with six ivory ferrules. [illegible] it resembles dark cherry. Th[illegible] ument is approximately 150 y[illegible] and is now the property of a[illegible] son, Alfred E. Uren, a Toron[illegible] dent.

Village of Ingersoll Had Only 20 Families in 1828

Many of the older citizens of ngersoll will agree that for forty r fifty years the population of he town seemed to have been fixed t or near the five thousand mark, s if loath to depart from that gure. But during the past six or even years the population has eadily increased until now it is ell over sixty-three hundred. The oad-minded and public spirited icy of our professional and buss men, and our manufacturing working classes in their servi- to our community through the vice Clubs and other organizaons are all bearing fruit and tenng to make our town a better e to live. It is quite evident our citizens are just as anxs to see that all our people are good health and happy as they for the success of their own iness. This spirit together with character of our industries, all d to help Ingersoll hold her presgrowth and create a tendency expansion.

It is a long way back to Oxford lage, or the Ingersoll of 120 rs ago. Yet through the preyation of some old letters writin 1828 we are enabled to lift lid of that period and peak into village of 120 years ago.

In 1828 the village contained ut 20 families. The houses were uilt of logs with two or three ptions, which were frame. One ese was the Ingersoll home- or near where R. Neil's ore now stands and another southeast corner of King Wonham Sts. These homes have been considered the ions of the wealthy in those There were two general es where goods could be pursed in exchange for bushels of at, pounds of pork, or pounds, ings and pence, American or tican dollars or Spanish pieces eight. It was a common exre of tea or sugar for gallons whisky or pounds of candles. re was a tannery, two saw mills, rist mill, an ashery, a cooper , a distillery, a blacksmith , a carding and fulling mill and og schoolhouse. (The only church s in West Oxford on the land ated by Joel Piper in 1819 on present site of the West Oxford urch.) Wrong -

The following is a list of all the e residents living in the village: nuel Canfield, Joel Canfield, Da- Canfield, Abram Canfield, mas Canfield, Elisha Hall, rles Hall, Daniel Carroll, Reu- Carroll, Samuel Smith, Henry ith, Clark Hallaeck, J. Sherman, liam Sherman, George Bronson, Bronson, W. Bronson, Sey- ar Bronson, Mr. Wickwire, Wil- n Maynard, Zenas Maynard liam Kennedy, Moses Kennedy, Kennedy, George Underwood n Underwood, Joel Underwood eb Burdick, Jacob Doty, Peter n, C. J. Briggs, Mr. Chambers, Maricle, Charles Ingersoll, es Ingersoll, Sr., Sam Ingersoll, es Ingersoll, Jr., Thomas Inger- Chas. Parkhurst, Lyman Scho- l, T. B. Schofield, Henry Scho- l, Charles Van Every, Sam Van ry, John Miller, Sam Titus, es Boyce, Gamaliel Whiting, Gamaliel Whiting, Jr., Horace ting, Mr. Merick, James Swarts, Stimson, G. G. Stimson, J. D. son, Nelson Doty, Abel Doty, Austin Doty.

Elisha Hall's residence was at the east end of the village on the location occupied by the late James Fergusson, the Canfields lived just east of the Hall residence. The Carroll home was on the hill, King St. East, and Samuel Smith's hotel stood opposite the Ingersoll home, about where Zurbrigg's bake shop is now. Samuel Ingersoll's dwelling and tannery were situated on the southwest corner of King and Wellington Sts.

Mr. Bronson was the local Methodist preacher and he and J. Sherman occupied a log dwelling on the west corner of King and Water Sts., or the west end of what in later years was known as the Ark block. Sherman's cooper shop stood near his home. Scoffin's grocery stood on the south side of King East, near the dam. The ashery stood on the west side of the creek near the former location of our post office. (The former site of the Ingersoll Post Office was where the Canadian Tire Corporation is now located.) The log distillery stood down in the hollow where the jog is in Water St., just south of the creek. It was afterwards replaced by C. H. Slawson's pork house, which has also disappeared in the relentless march of time. L. Schofield's blacksmith shop first stood at the northwest corner of King and Water Sts., the site later occupied by the late L. Noe's candy shop, and now by a laundry. The Schofield shop was later removed to King West, about the location of J. Lee's residence. The Ingersoll store stood on the northeast corner of King and Thames and in it in 1828 was housed the post office. The old house where James Ingersoll was born stood about the present location of R. Neill's shoe store, and at that time was occupied by Mr. Miracle and J. Underwood. J. Doty's plank house stood near the southeast corner of Thames and Charles Sts. The log schoolhouse stood at the north side of the grounds now occupied by the Victory Memorial School. At this time there were but few homes on King St. west of Thames. Lyman Schofield lived on King West, Charles Parkhurst at the corner of King and Wonham. There were two log houses, one east and one west of Whiting Creek on the site of F. Fulton's mill, which was formerly known as the King's Flour Mills. James Boyce, G. Whiting, James Swarts and Mr. Merick lived still farther west of Whiting Creek on King St. Mr. Ingersoll's saw mill stood on the present site of the dam at Smith's pond, and Elisha Hall's saw mill on the site of the old Stuart's pond northeast of Victoria Park. The carding and fulling mill of Charles Parkhurst were on Charles St., near Whiting Creek and below the present site of F. Fulton's mill.

The log dwellings of the village generally had but two rooms below and a loft above. A ladder standing in one corner served as a stairway to the loft, where the children and hired help used to sleep. There were no stoves in those days, so the log homes were heated by large brick or stone fireplaces, usually at one end of the building. These fireplaces were large enough to take logs big enough to form a bed of coals that would last through the long winter night, and consequently made the boys work pretty sharp to chop wood as fast as the fire could take it. Of course, the wood cost nothing then.

The people of the village were poor and some of them would have suffered severely at times if it had not been for the generous, kindly spirit of Charles and James Ingersoll, who were ever ready to lend a helping hand.

The educational advantages were very limited. There were no free schools and every family in the village that sent children to school had to shoulder the burden of paying $2 per quarter for each child for their tuition, besides helping to board the teacher. We can readily understand that this must have been a real burden to the poor man who had several children. The books used were Murray's grammar, Woodbridge's geography, Dabo's arithmetic, the English reader, and Webster's spelling book. The only qualification demanded of the teacher was to be able to teach these subjects and to be a British subject.

The village did not possess a church at this time and religious services were held in the log schoolhouse or in private homes, and some times in the barn. The Methodist travelling preachers came around on their circuit once in two or three weeks on horseback and were well received and had good congregations.

Although the people were poor and were deprived of many luxuries and many of the necessities of life, yet they seemed to have been contented and happy. The village then was but a small clearing in the forest, the river teemed with fish and the forest abounded in game, all of which could be had for the effort of fishing or hunting or by barter from the many Indians for very little.

It is a long way from 1828 to 1949, but from among the people of Oxford Village came many names that in after years were to be respected and honored. The succeeding generations of these villagers have distinguished themselves in almost every walk of life, and we today are proud to own them as our predecessors. Many of them did not have their names enrolled in the halls of fame, but they did their best for their community.

Ingersoll Once Busy Port

We have read much about the early history of our community and and the stirring events of the pioneer days, but possibly our entry into the status of an incorporated town, was surrounded by conditions of more importance and of greater interest, not only local, but of national and international as well. As the stage coach and the broken stone roads of toll gate days was a vast improvement over the oxcart and saddle bags of the old Thames valley trail, so the coming of the Great Western Railroad in 1854 gave Ingersoll a wonderful advance in trade with the outside world. The products of the surrounding farms and forest could now find easy access to world markets from the village that once had seen cargoes shipped by water down the Thames from the port of Oxford. Then began the real attack on the forest for wood could now be sold, wheat was worth more and the art of making cheese was already in practice.

The American civil war broke out in 1860 and in spite of the fact that the Northern States were fighting to abolish slavery yet England found herself to some extent lined up with the Confederate States. The result was that after some unpleasant incidents at sea, trade between England and the Northern States was broken off and at once the demand for Canadian wheat, dairy products, etc., advanced as it were overnight. The need for more cleared land to raise wheat and fodder for dairy herds became so important that we are told the sound of the axe could be heard in any part of the country throughout the long winter months and the tall lines of trees rapidly receded to the back in the holdings.

All this meant more trade for Ingersoll. Our merchant business increased in numbers and in volume, and our tradesmen were very busy. The population had kept pace with the expansion of trade and in the year 1864 Ingersoll found that she had outgrown the village stage and would be incorporated as a town at the end of the year. As has been said these were times of national and international importance. The American civil war ended in 1864 and the Fenian scare was beginning to be felt. The Fathers of Confederation were already talking about the possibility of the union of all Canadian provinces into a Dominion, also the plans for the big cheese had been laid.

The last village council was follows: John Galliford, Reev Dr. D. M. Robertson, Deput Reeve, and Jas. Noxon, R. McDonald, Arthur O'Connor, Councillors, with R. A. Woodcock, Clerk, and Ed. Doty, Treasurer. There was keen rivalry among our leading citizens as to who should have the honor of representing the new town in its first municipal council. The result of the election gave as in 1865 Adam Oliver, Mayor; James McCaughey, Reeve; and Edward Barker, Deputy Reeve, with James Bell, Aaron Christopher, James Noxon, R. H. Carroll, Edward Barker, C. P. Hall, Councillors, the clerk and treasurer remaining as in 1864.

Possibly the inauguration of our advanced status was not celebrated as such events often are, for at the time Canada was menaced by the called Fenian raids and the men from Ingersoll were called with the Oxford Rifles and travelled to the Niagara Peninsula. These raids, no doubt, hastened the consumation of Confederation of the provinces into the Dominion of Canada.

Thus Ingersoll as a town is years old, older than the Domi of Canada. We have had rapid pansion at times and have suff some grave set backs, but on whole our town has slowly and ly advanced in many ways unt day we have one of the most gressive towns in Western On and most of our citizens are loo forward with optimism to a and steady expansion of a com ity that will be as good a plac live as any other town, any wh

1938 - name changed Ward School to Princes Elizabeth School.

Ingersoll Sanitary Sewage System constructed 1947 & 1948. Cost approx $1.100.000.00 - 17 miles in plan - 11 mls. put in

New Hospital started in fall - 1948

Wilson Swimming Pool erected 1948

O'Neill & Allen Garage on King St. E. built in 1948

Thames Valley Conservation Channel constructed 1949 & 50

Addition to Princess Elizabeth School - 1950 - 75.000 & building 100.000 equipment

Kensington Park development 1947 - 1948

King St - Curling Rink sold to Hawkins Feed Co $7.400. 1948

Beaver Lumber Co - demolished the old Erskine Presb. Church on Charles St. W. & built a new building - 1949.

Mrs. Buchanan Solves Mystery Of Raid Medal

JAN 1950

The mystery of the Fenian Raid medal found by Kathy Zurbrigg, has been solved. It belongs to Mrs. J. V. Buchanan and was earned by her father, the man whose name is on the back—Cpl. C. G. Clarke, 22 Oxford.

Noting mention in The Tribune of its finding, Mrs: Buchanan writes:

"Many thanks to Bernie Zurbrigg for turning in to you my father's medal, which I gave to my grandson, Bobbie Buchanan, to put in his "treasure chest". My father, Capt. Charles Gustin Clarke, was a student at the Woodstock Institute, (later Woodstock Baptist College and now I believe a Catholic Institute), when The Fenian Raid took place in 1866, when he was only 20.

The Oxford Rifles were sent down to the Niagara and Fort Erie districts.

"The veterans many years later were presented with medals and a grant of land of 150 acres each, up in a then-inaccessible territory above Lake Superior.

"My father was a son of a pioneer Britisher from Yorkshire, John Clarke, who built the large stone house on the 1st concession, directly south of Woodstock. The main entrance has his initials, (J. C., and date 1842), chiselled in the stone above the deepset doorway.

"The home was always a centre of hospitality for their circle of friends in Woodstock and surrounding territory. My father's only sister, Marilla, married Thomas Oliver, the first member to represent all Oxford at Ottawa at Confederation. They established their home in a gabled brick house, still standing on the brow of Simcoe St., Woodstock, which later was known as Oliver's Hill. Beverly Ingersoll, son of James Ingersoll, first registrar of Woodstock, was killed on one of the accustomed bob-sledding parties there.

"On the maternal side, Cpl. Chas. G. Clarke came from the deMabille family of Anjou, France, which escaped the Hugenot massacre of 1572 by escaping to Holland, where after staying 100 years, they were given a grant of 3000 acres by the king of Holland in America. New York State and one of the largest cities is now built part on it.

"The ancestor who first came out to the New World was Pierre Gaspard de Mabille in 1624. After the American Revolution, the descendants came to New Brunswick in 1783, accompanied by a cousin, Peter Secord, founder of another old U. E. Loyalist family. His father-in-law, George Bowditch, pioneer hardware merchant, established 1846 in Woodstock, was also one of the Oxford Rifles Reserve. Upper Canada was really alarmed at that time."

Recalls Plank Walks, Gas Lights And Fist Fights in Town Council

APR 16-1936

Dr. J. D. Milne, Half-century in Ingersoll, Enjoying Life in 91st Year

Half a century ago, Dr. J. D. Milne, Oxford street, came to Ingersoll to make his home and to carry out the many duties of a veterinarian in a district that was a far cry from the modern facilities of today. He had just graduated at that time from what was then knowns as Smith's College, Toronto. It was April 17th that the new veteranian landed in Ingersoll. On the face of it all, 50 years is a fair length of time, and one over which all men are not permitted to look back.

The point of the story is, however, that Dr. Milne is not confined to a mere half-century of retrospect. It was in January of the present year that he marked the 90th anniversary of his birthday. He had seen much of life long before the came to Ingersoll—and even long before he took up the studies of his practice.

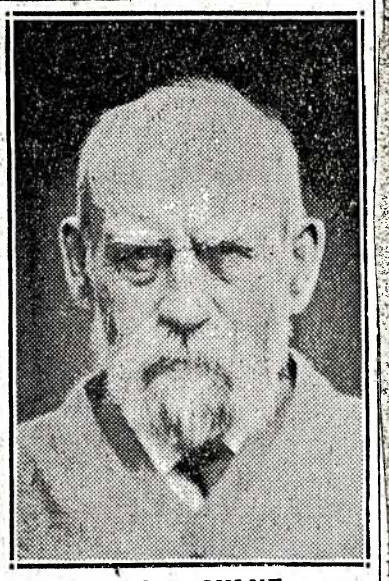
His story is interesting. He was born in Whitby township, two miles north of the town of Whitby. He was one of the seven children of Mr. and Mrs. George Milne. His father was a farmer. Without going into too much early detail, Dr. Milne records the fact that he entered the printing trade as a young man. For nine years he worked at that trade in varied places, ending up eventually in Massachusets.

Returning to Ontario, he went into his brothers' drug store in Pickering township, and for 13 years managed that business. His brother was a physician. Thus it was that Dr. Milne had considerable experience for years prior to his taking up the studies of a veterinarian.

PRACTISED 45 YEARS

For 45 years, he practised in Ingersoll, giving up his work only about five years ago. Dr. Milne recalls that when he came to Ingersoll those most prominent in the public life of the community were Thomas Brown, Walter Mills, William Watterworth, Joseph Gibson, J. T. Buchanan, Stephen King and others, all of whom have passed on. Doctors Walker, Hoit, Scott, McKay and Carroll were practising here at that time. These too have all passed on.

In a general way, the doctor recalls, Ingersoll was much as it is today, with the exception, of course, of improvements in stores and streets and homes generally. He recalls that telephones were few and far between. The hotels in existence then, as he recalls them, were conducted by Messrs. McMurray, McCarthy, Brady, Keating, Thompson, Marsden, Rice, Carroll and Frezell. They may have been others. The doctor says that he came to Ingersoll on April 17. On May 1st, the Scott Act came into force. Some liquor was sold in grocery stores. He does not recall any liquor stores at that time.



DR. J. D. MILNE

"Saturday's were busy days in Ingersoll then. The farmers did not come in in automobiles for an hour or two as they do now. They brought their horses and rigs along, and they stayed most of the day. The hotels were very busy, too," said Dr. Milne.

Going back over the industrial affairs of Ingersoll at that time, the doctor recalled that there were a number of flour and oatmeal mills, all doing a good business. These he named as the Partlo mill, Smith's mill, Stuart's mill, Ross' mill (now the plant of the Ingersoll Flour Mills Co.); and a mill on King street west near King's pond. He did not recall if this was King's mill or operated under some other name. Noxon's agricultural implement plant was going full swing and was a big factor in the community life. It was explained that the late Evans Piano factory, a furniture factory, a knitting mill and the Borden condensing plant were some of those to come after the doctor's arrival. He felt that there were less churches in Ingersoll now than at that time.

IS TOBACCO USER

"You will bear in mind," said the doctor "that all the sidewalks were plank affairs in those days, and the streets were illuminated by gas. Those were the days of the livery stables, too. There were three here when I came. One was McCarthy's. Another was run by a man named Googsburg, though I am not too sure of the spelling. Still another was operated by a man named Hultz. George Beck is the only man in business today who was in business here when I came. There is another living today who was in business at that time, in the person of George Smith, who was then a partner in the tailoring business of Thompson and Smith. William Beckes had a lumber yard where the office of the Morrow co. now stands".

Dr. Milne was asked if he used tobacco. He replied that he had smoked since he was 21 years of age, and had also chewed tobacco.

Asked if he had ever used liquor, the doctor frankly stated that he had—and had used it whenever he wanted it. He corrected this statement, and explained that he had qualified this by saying that it had been difficult to get in the more recent years. He also explained that a bit of liquor had often been very beneficial to him. In fact he felt there had been times when it had kept him alive. He explained, too, that all these things were in good order as long as they were not abused.

THE CLYDE HORSE

Dr. Milne said Clydesdale horses were just being introduced in the Ingersoll area when he came. He recalled that the late Duncan McLachlan and a man named Langfield, as well as one Thornton were among the first to import these horses into the district.

Recalling the council meetings of those days, Dr. Milne said there were frequently fist fights with a little blood-letting, but never as serious at the time as those matters sound at this distant date. The meetings, nevertheless, were usually spirited and of long duration. The doctor said he never aspired to any public office himself, but had always been interested in all the affairs of the times.

Dr. Milne lives alone. Heis his own cook and housekeeper, and makes a good job of both. He says he is in a fine condition of health—as good as he ever had. He is about the business section daily. His only complaint is that his legs are not what they might be. It is possible that this is due to a fracture when a young lad. He eats and sleeps well, and strangest of all, has most of his own teeth, still in good and serviceable condition.

Mrs. Milne died on August 10, 1933. The doctor recalls that they had been married 62 years at the time of her death. Mrs. Milne was a native of Pickering township. A son, James, is superintendent of the Borden milk plant at Norwich. The doctor is the only survivor of a family of seven boys and girls.

He is blessed with the full use of all faculties. He enjoys life. He has no complaints to offer.

Dr. Milne employed on several occasions by Byron G. Jenvey.

'THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG'

(St. Thomas Times-Journal)

In an editorial we refer to the Germans "letting the cat out of the bag," in regard to the news of the surrender of the German armed forces.

Most people, we believe, are of the opinion that this common way of saying that a secret has been disclosed, means a house cat. But it is not that kind of cat at all.

Away back in the bad old days of the British Navy, sailors who broke the rules or were guilty of some other offence were punished by lashes with the "cat o' nine tails," which was a cruel whip with nine thongs. This whip was kept in a bag. When a man was held for punishment his comrades would look around, and on the part of the ship where the punishment was to be inflicted they might see the "cat" lying on the deck. Accordingly, they would go to him and warn him what sort of punishment he was going to get by reporting that "the cat is out of the bag."

Oct 17-1932

-REVIEW, WOODSTOCK,

MASONIC LODGE FORMED IN CABIN BY THAMES RIVER

Pioneers From Old Lands Brought Craft With Them —Hid Working Tools During War of 1812 Lest Yankees Destroy Them

Of rich, historic interest are the minutes and other entries in the old books connected with King Hiram Masonic lodge in Ingersoll, which just celebrated its 130th birthday. As time goes in a new land, that means a long time. Many changes have come to pass. The things of an almost-forgotten yesterday are gone. Out of the old book of minutes of King Hiram Lodge, many interesting facts are taken by Harry T. Bower, secretary of the lodge.

These facts were presented by Mr. Bower at the banquet which marked the 130th anniversary of the lodge, and at which Walter S. Herrington, grand master of the Grand Lodge of Canada was present, together with other luminaries of the craft in Ontario.

1803 TO 1857

The old book, whence Mr. Bower gleaned his most interesting facts, contains the minutes of King Hiram Lodge from June 24, 1803, to April 7, 1857. The late John Ross Robertson, a member of the Masonic craft, paid a visit to Ingersoll and evinced such intere in the old book that he secu permission to take it to his prin ing office in Toronto where he put its pages in proper order and in its present binding.

"As the histary of every Masonic lodge is so closely linked up with the history of its locality," said Mr. Bower to the some 400 Masons assembled in St. James' Parish hall on birthday occasion last Thursday night, "I must ask you to allow me to take you back about ten years prior to the entries in the book.

"It is a fact fairly well established by our historical society that before the first military road joining the Niagara frontier to the Straits of Mackinaw there existed a well-defined trail over which generation after generation of neutral Indians (sometimes in peace and sometimes with hostile intentions) had travelled. This trail led from Ancaster, the outpost of civilization, through the Brant country to where it touched the River La France at the point where our Thames street (in Ingersoll) crossed the river, and thence following the river to the confluence with the north branch on the present site of London, and then west to the Straits of Mackinaw.

LOCATED GRANT

"It ran for the most part through country of tall trees and the western end still perpetuates the Indian name, 'The Long Woods Road.' The point here in Ingersoll, where the trail touched the river, formed a land mark by which it was possible for Thomas Ingersoll, Gideon Boswick, Seth Hamlen, Abel Kelson and others to locate the 66,000 acres of land

(Continued from page 1)

granted them for settlement by the British crown.

"In 1793 Joseph Brant, celebrated Mohawk, sent his trusted young men to guide Ingersoll and his party over the ancient trail to the site of what is now Ingersoll. Three or four years later saw the completion of the survey of Oxford township. The change in the name of the river to the 'Thames' from 'La France' and the establishmen of a little building which did duty for trading post, land office, registry and post office on the site of Ingersoll's present market square.

MASONS MEET

"For miles and miles around settlers made their way over the blazed trail and by canoe to this little building to post their letters and to trade. Was it not natural then that here they should meet, get acquainted and discuss the affairs of the day? Such men as James Burdick, Enoch Burdick, Samuel Canfield, Robert Sweet, Arial and Sikes Towsley, Joel Piper and others should not only have recognied in each other characteristics of good neighbors, but also feel that they had much in common, all being in possession of the secrets of Master Masons, though some owed allegiance to the Grand Lodge of New York, of England, Ireland, and even Holland.

"If you will allow me to draw upon my imagination, they finally got together, made appointments, held conversations and made plans until finally they sent a communication to the Grand Lodge of England asking permission to form a local lodge. After months of waiting they were at last informed to gather at Oxford-on-Thames on the 24th of June, 1803, where the representatives of the Grand Lodge in Upper Canada from Niagara, York and Kingston would meet them.

HELD IN CABIN

"They had no lodge room, but Bro. Robert Sweet offered his cabin. Grand Lodge opened at 11 a.m. and closed at one p.m. King Hiram lodge No. 12 closed at two p.m., having Wor. Bro. James Burdick as W.M., Enoch Burdick as S.W., Samuel Canfield, as J.W., and W.M. Sumner as secretary pro tem. The first candidate, Isaac Burdick, was initiated July 5, 1803. The fees were placed at $8.00.

"The lodge was now fairly well established and went along smoothly for eight or nine years, gradually getting a set of by-laws perfected and increasing their outfit of accessories until war clouds began to appear on the horizon.

"In the years preceding 1812, the government of Upper Canada, seeing the need of better roads to allow settlers to reach their locations, and also the necessity of better military communications between the Niagara and Detroit frontiers, had built bridges and made such improvements as to change the Indian trail into a fairly passable military road. Thus we had the ancient highway,—the first government road through this part of Ontario. It seems that our past history is very closely linked up with this highway. Over it our ancient brethren travelled to attend Grand Lodge at York or Kingston. Over it came their mail—seven pence from York to Oxford-on-Thames, and over it also came the marauding bands of Yankees in 1812.

GUARDED TOOLS

"The Yankees burned down the mill which served this settlement and which was situated on the land of and operated by the first Mr. Nicholls, one mile east of town (now tenanted by J. U. Nicholls, a direct descendant). This spread consternation in the community, and King Hiram lodge, fearing the loss of its paraphernalia, so hard to get in those days, by resolution on June 30, 1812, appointed Bro. David Curtis to take charge of the working tools for safe keeping until after the war.

THE OXFORD BATTALION

"Many members of King Hiram Lodge joined the Oxford battalion, one of its officers being Bro. Major Arial Towsley. They fought and distinguished themselves at the capture of Detroit, Fort Erie, Lundy's Lane and Malcolm's Mills. They received sixpence per day for a private.

"Along the highway came romance, for, as Lieut. Secord marched his men through and bivouacked at Oxford, he met Laura Ingersoll. They married and removed to the Niagara frontier, where she, by her pluck and cool thinking, was enabled to render such services to her country as to pass her name down to posterity as the Canadian heroine.

FIRST GRAND LODGE

"The first representative to Grand Lodge was Bro. Page of Ar[illegible] sent to Grand Lodge [illegible]

Early residents of West Oxford.

Joel Piper - Lot 12 - Con 1 South East Corner Piper's Corn

Said to be Burdick's mill

Old stage road

Lot 12 Con 1 West Oxford. Frank Scott farm at one time

Lot 18 Con 1 Norwich Township stage rd.

James Burdick built the first grist mill in Ingersoll District - Lot 15 - Con 1 West Oxfd. He owned & operated it - 1805 to 1810 - sold to Andrew West brook - a helper who returned to U.S. at start of war of 1812 - returned with Regiment & owned the mill. It was never rebuilt - The Burdick home on stage road 3½ mile east of Peter Cutler farm. Buildings on south end of farm.

doubtful - if she ever in Ingersoll. She is supposed to have lived in Niagara area

6

HE HAD JUST CUT THE RIBBON

George G. Beck, with bared head, had just cut the ribbon on Ingersoll's new bridge when this picture was made by Jack Craig, Mill street, yesterday afternoon. Beside Mr. Beck stands Councillor T. J. Morrison, who opened the ceremonies. Above, on the fire truck, as they appear, left to right, are: Councillors F. E. Kestle and Stanley J. Smith; Mayor J. V. Buchanan, and at right, Councillor A. H. Edmonds. Looking over Mr. Edmonds' shoulder in the background is Councilor J. A. Weir. (Sentinel-Review Engraving.)

Large Crowd on Hand for Official Opening of the New Thames Street Bridge

Nov. 11. 1937

"Dolph" Staples manager of Baseball Team drove first car over containing Mr Beck

died in 1945

George G. Beck Cuts Ribbon to Mark the Opening

CEREMONY WAS BRIEF

Mayor and Council, Also A. S. Rennie, M.P., Take Part

So named by J.V. Buchanan

Hundreds gathered yesterday for the official opening of Ingersoll's new Coronation Bridge. The ceremony, brief and to the point, was nevertheless given its niche in history by relative comparison with the past and expression of hope for the future.

George G. Beck, Ingersoll, oldest businessman, cut the ribbon which officially opened the new structure, and did it in just the way that George Beck would be expected to do it—quietly, without fuss and without undue ceremony. The honor which thus fell to him was a most popular one, as evidenced not only by the expressions of pleasure heard prior to the opening, but by the cheers which followed his introduction yesterday and his act[illegible] part of the work.

The fire truck, carrying Mayor Buchanan and members of the council, together with A. S. Rennie, M.P., and Public Utilities Commission Chairman, F. C. Elliott, pulled up to the point where the ribbon stretched across the structure, and thus served as a platform for the speakers. Mr. Beck also rode there.

Councillor Thomas Morrison opened the proceedings and referred to the passing of the old bridge, prior to introducing Mayor Buchanan to the gathering as the main speaker. Councillor Morrison paid tribute to all who had taken part in the construction of the new bridge, particularly referring to the Hamilton Bridge Company and J. A. Vance of Woodstock. The speaker expressed the opinion that the new bridge was one of which Ingersoll might be proud, and one which he hoped would give long years of service.

MAYOR BUCHANAN

Mayor Buchanan referred to the act of Providence which had moved the old bridge in the early spring, long after it had begun to outlive its usefulness for modern traffic.

He recounted the troubles which faced the council in undertaking the task of building the present structure, and made it plain that Premier M. F. Hepburn had searched the act carefully to see if, when appealed to for help, he could extend any to Ingersoll in a financial way. After careful and sincere study of the situation, the premier was stated to have told Ingersoll's representatives that he was absolutely powerless to assist financially.

The mayor did give credit to the government in having been sincere in its effort to help, only to find that such help could not be extended, Ingersoll being a town separated from the county. Despite the inability to help financially in a direct way, Premier Hepburn did do Ingersoll a great favor and kindness, it was stated by the mayor, when he built the temporary bridge which has carried traffic over the river from a period shortly after the washout of the old bridge until a few days ago. To Councillor Thomas Morrison the mayor gave full local credit for getting this generous help from the government. The speaker said that it was directly and solely due to Mr. Morrison's efforts with his friend, the premier, that Ingersoll got the temporary structure.

Mayor Buchanan also extended every credit to those who had helped in bringing to completion the splendid structure being opened on this occasion. Passing reference was made to the ravages of floods, of which Ingersoll had had her full share this year. This speaker, too, made reference to the link of the old bridge with the past, and expressed the hope that the new bridge would symbolize a new unity between those of the north and the south, and serve for many years to see Ingersoll and Ingersoll people prosper.

At this juncture the mayor introduced George G. Beck, who had been chosen to cut the ribbon as the token of the official opening of the bridge.

"George Beck was chosen not purely because he is the oldest business man in Ingersoll, and on that basis alone entitled to this honor, but also because of his fine character and his lovable disposition," said the mayor. This brought forth cheers as Mr. Beck climbed down from the fire truck and cut the ribbon. Again cheers went up as the task was finished.

A. S. RENNIE, M.P.

Oxford's federal member stated that he was particularly glad to be present upon the occasion of the opening of Ingersoll's new bridge. He was delighted, he explained, to be present with Mr. Beck upon such an occasion, and to share with Ingersoll people real pleasure in his selection as the man to officiate.

Mr. Rennie expressed the hope that the new bridge would serve to bring Ingersoll its share of the tourists who pass through and about the province each year for the betterment of the business condition in general of the community. In this connection the speaker urged Ingersoll's business men and residents in general to live up to their traditionally fine spirit so that the best the future could offer might come into being. The speaker closed with the wish that there might be lots of water pass under the present bridge before another was needed.

REV. F. C. ELLIOTT

Chairman F. C. Elliott of the Public Utilities Commission, which body donated the lighting system for the new structure, was paid tribute also by Mayor Buchanan for his part and interest in the venture.

Mr. Elliott congratulated Ingersoll's council and residents in general upon the fine new structure. He gave to Mayor Buchanan particular eulogy upon his great interest and great amount of work and responsibilty from the inception of the matter. Mr. Elliott assured the gathering that the Public Utilities Commission was always glad to be of help and service in the community in any way possible.

In closing the brief ceremony, Mayor Buchanan gave to the new structure the name of Coronation Bridge, and expressed the hope that it would see augmented happiness and augmented prosperity for Ingersoll people for many years to come.

The gathering dispersed following the singing of the National Anthem.

PERSPECTIVE!

George G. Beck, chosen to officiate at the opening of the new bridge yesterday, was 80 years of age on November 5th. He has been in business here continuously for more than 54 years. He came to Ingersoll as a young man and started in at the store where he now does business.

When Mr. Beck came to Ingersoll there were no telephones. There were no electric lights. There were no sidewalks other than plank ones. There were no paved streets. He saw all these things come to Ingersoll while he continued to do business.

It was considered most fitting that he should officiate at the ceremony in connection with Ingersoll's most modern addition to its municipal equipment.

He had the proper perspective.

BSR - attended

In some of the older brick houses in Ingersoll - like Dr. J.W. Counter's corner of King & Duke Streets, the cedar shingles were laid on a coating of plaster. When a new roof was required the plaster was discarded and replaced with sheets of asbestos and new cedar shingles put on. The idea was to prevent fire getting beneath the shingles to the sheath.

Geo. Mitchell - died Mch 21-1949 - 81
R. B. Hutt - died - 1939
Mrs. R. B. Hutt died Mch 24/59 - 78th yr
Alex. Rose - Auctioneer - died Apr 17/4[illegible] aged 84 yrs.

Geo Beck Sr died Apr. 1945
Geo Beck Jr. " 1951.
Wm. Manger - died July 12 - 1934 - 64 yrs
Chas. George - died Jan 9 - 1936
Wm. Bowman - died July 8 - 1936
Jas. Sinclair died Dec. 4 - 1929 - 85 yrs
Fred Brants. Thames St died Feb 26 - 1944 - 64 yrs
Col. T.R. Mayberry died Mar 10 - 1934 - 87 yrs
Ex Mayor Geo. Sutherland died Mar 12 - 1949 - 78 yrs
Celestia Hudson - Ex-teacher died Mar. 12 - 1944 - 92 yrs
Frank Cotterell died Mar 14/59 - 72 yrs
Geo. Bartlett - died Mch 4/62
Dr. L.A. Staples " "

Ingersoll in 1859 Seen 'Man's World'

By Charles S. Buck

The inhabitants of Ingersoll must have been assured that they lived in a man's world in 1859. At any rate, those who heard, or heard of, the answer to a question asked in a church of the village acted on the assumption — surely a large one — that the man in the entanglement could have done no wrong.

* * *

The heartbreaking incident was reported in the Ingersoll Chronicle of January 20, 1859, as follows: "The Banns Forbidden: A strange and very unusual occurrence took place in the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel of this place during the service on Sunday evening week. It was on the occasion of publishing the banns of marriage between two of our 'coloured population', — Graham and Rebecca Lodine or Sarrdine.

"After the minister — The Reverend G. Kennedy — had uttered the words, 'If there be anyone present who knows [illegible] just cause why these two [illegible] when up jumped one of [illegible] congregation, and said: [illegible] forbid the banns, as the [illegible] has a wife already!'

* * *

"The astonishment and [illegible] citement that prevailed a[illegible] this unexpected announcem[illegible] can be more easily imagi[illegible] than described. The would [illegible] bride was afterwards bur[illegible] in effigy for trying to ma[illegible] another woman's husband."

Walter Daniel died Nov 16 - 194[illegible] 83 yrs. of age

Laurence (Larney) Pickard died Feb 10 - 1960 - 86

Dr. Rachel Williams died Mar. 8 - 1960 aged 78 yrs

Indian names

Chief Joseph Brant - Thay-en-dan-egea
Mount Pleasant - Ka-na-da-sek-kah (new settlement)
Brants home - Tsi-ka-na-da-he-reh (property on hill)
Brants grandsire - Sa-Ga-Yean-Qua-Prah-Tor.
Hamilton - Ol-ron-wa-gonl.

Small bank Bills issued - 1935

SOUVENIR PROGRAM

OFFICIAL PRIZE LIST

INGERSOLL FALL FAIR

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
1847-1947

THURSDAY, FRIDAY and SATURDAY
OCTOBER 9, 10, 11, 1947

PRICE 25c

Official names on other side

Emerson Moulton,
President.

Bruce Dickout,
Secretary-Treasurer.

UNVEILING CEREMONY of the 100-year pylon presented by the Ontario Department of Agriculture to the Ingersoll, North and West Oxford Agricultural Society was a feature of the opening of the fair in Ingersoll yesterday. Unveiling the plaque are Mrs. John Ancekivell, left, representing Ingersoll and Miss Edna Currie, representing North and West Oxford. Watching the ceremony is W. P. Watson of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, who opened the fair.—(Staff Photo).

Preface - Written by Byron G. Jenvey. who also supplied the proof of 100 yrs. since founding of the fair.

INGERSOLL, NORTH and WEST OXFORD AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
1847 - 1947

The one-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Ingersoll, North and West Oxford Agricultural Society is being celebrated this year simultaneously with the holding of the annual exhibition.

The first Agricultural Society of this district was organized in the summer of 1847 and the first fair was held on Oct. 20th. The society at that time was known as "The Ingersoll Agricultural Society", but as time passed and more settlers took up land near Ingersoll, the area served by the society was extended to include the adjoining townships of North Oxford and West Oxford. Evidently, in the formative years of the society, good co-operation existed between urban and rural residents. The first president in 1847 was a banker and the first secretary-treasurer was a farmer. In 1852 the society was put on a more definite and permanent basis as required by a new Agricultural Act, the officers of that year being President, John Mathews, a merchant; Vice-President, C. E. Chadwick, a banker; Secretary, John M. Chapman, a druggist; Treasurer, Daniel Phelan, a merchant; directors, Adolphus Milne and James Henderson, business men, representing the town and the following farmers representing the rural sections: Jacob Choate, W. B. Mabee, Copeland Stinson, Geo. Walker, James Bodwell and Robert Cameron. This co-operation has existed to the present time.

Fair ceased 1959

In a young country, like Canada, one hundred years is a long time for one institution to be in existence. During this period of time many changes must of necessity take place. For many years after the founding of the Ingersoll Agricultural Society, the fairs were held on the north side of the Thames river at the westerly side of the town, but for the last seventy years they have been held in Victoria Park, a park possessing natural beauty. Exhibits and prize lists have changed in keeping with agricultural development and specialization. Our pioneers exhibited the good products of their farms for the benefit of the community. The prize list no longer contains a classification for the "Best Yoke of Oxen", but in its stead we find the tractor, the combine, the pick-up hay and

See other side

UNDER EXISTING circumstances, it is quite possible that two-and-a-half-year-old Margaret E. Love will have to continue to rely upon her neighbor and good friend, George F. James, for tales of the Ingersoll fall fair. For unless something radical happens to change present plans, the Ingersoll North and West Oxford Agricultural Society's annual fall fair will be no more. Margaret, here listens attentively, as Mr. James, who for 35 years was secretary of the fair board reads to her the inscription on the plaque commemorating the 100th anniversary of the agricultural fair. This year would have marked the 112th fair. Little Miss Love is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Love, Wellington street, and a great-niece of the late Miss Annie E. Moon, who was assistant secretary to the fair board for about thirty years. (Staff photo.)

Geo. James died Jan 1963. 86 yrs.

MANY REGRET ABANDONMENT

Development Of Farms Was Aided By Fall Fair

A responsive sentimental chord in many of the older residents of the town and district was struck by the announcement recently of the Ingersoll, North and West Oxford Agricultural Society that the Ingersoll fair was being abandoned.

In the days of their youth these residents looked forward eagerly to attending Ingersoll fair as did their parents, in common with most other residents, and there was concerted activity in the homes as preparations were in progress by mother and their daughters for the varied articles that would be exhibited.

The same spirit also prevailed among the fathers and their sons as their efforts turned to conditioning the livestock, horses, cattle, sheep and swine that would be exhibited.

The competitive spirit was strong and it was an outstanding factor in the achievement of success by the society in those years.

It is because of these memories and the general importance that was attached to Ingersoll fair in earlier years that the announcement that it was being abandoned created a feeling of regret that could not be suppressed.

Over a long period of years Ingersoll fair was undeniably a strong and most important attraction for both the residents of the town and those of neighboring rural communities. It was a traditional event a link in the historical chain spanning one hundred and twelve years.

ORGANIZED IN 1847

Authentic records show Ingersoll Agricultural Society was formed in 1847, during the early days of the village, with the following officers: president, John Mathews; vice-president, C. E. Chadwick; treasurer, Daniel Phelan; secretary, John M. Chapman; directors, Thomas Brown, Adolphus Milne, James Henderson, Jacob Choat, W. B. Maybee, Copeland Stinson, George Walker, James Bodwell, Robert Cameron.

It is an interesting fact that at the time of the formation of the society the British currency system was in effect and the winners of prizes at the first fair were paid in pounds, shillings and pence.

The primary object in the institution of the Ingersoll Agricultural Society was to stimulate interest in the varied agricultural activities. The land under cultivation at that time was meagre in comparison with the broad acres of the present time and livestock was comparatively scarce, with the numbers of cattle horses, sheep and swine far below the numbers which they reached in future years.

The oldtimers however had unflagging faith in the possibilities of the future and they had a rigid rule that their efforts should be for the development of farming through maintaining the highest possible standards in their livestock, their grains and their produce generally. It is also a matter of record that so far as possible this principle was adhered to through the years with stress being placed on the fact that Ingersoll fair was an "Agricultural Fair."

In the general activities of the fair for a long term of years loyal support was accorded the society by town and rural residents alike. Exhibitors were always numerous with the women showing notable cooperation with their displays of knitted, crochet and needlework, their fancy quilts of various patterns always being striking attractions.

KEEN INTEREST

Many of the older residents who were boys and girls seventy or more years ago often relate how keenly interested they were in Ingersoll fair, and of how they rushed in pell-mell fashion to the old palace which at that time was located in the present hardwood grove on the north side of Victoria park. There they found most attractive displays by local merchants and they were delighted with the publicity gifts they received, among which were pictorial blotters, which they proudly took to their schools where they served a very useful purpose in the copy writing they had to do.

For many years fair days also served as an opportunity for the reuniting of friendships. Farmers who had left the respective rural areas to live retired in Ingersoll or somewhere else returned to meet their old neighbors and other friends on fair days.

Horses for many years, despite the fact that they were numerous were always one of the most outstanding attractions at the fair. Their merits were discussed by rural owners in the general stores, the blacksmith shops and other places where men gathered, but the outcome of many of these discussions was the parting words "take your animal to Ingersoll fair and let the judges decide."

Following appointment as secretary-treasurer in 1911 and subsequent service for thirty-five years consecutively, this writer's opinion of the Agricultural Societ that the decline in the number of exhibitors and also in patronage had its beginning when automobiles and other mechanized equipment began to push the horses off the roads and also off the farms. This continued until a climax is undoubtedly shared by many of the former officers and members of the Agricultural Society was reached which made it almost impossible to get the desired competition in a number of the classes at the fair. Oldtime horsemen dropped out of competition. Prizes were increased to stimulate the interest but gradually there was a situation by which "gentlemen Farmers" were said to dominate, and with a few exceptions they were the principal prize winners.

INTEREST WANED

With the passing from competition of the old exhibitors of the district interest undoubtedly waned to a serious extent.

Interest, however, was stepped up in calves and cattle but it was evident that the best of these did not take the place of the fine horses of earlier years in which everyone seemed to be interestd.

An imprssive event in connection with Ingersoll fair took place at the entrance to Victoria park when its one hundredth anniversary was observed with a fitting ceremony in 1947.

A pylon was erected together with a bronze plaque with the following wording, which is prominently displayed in a cement base:

INGERSOLL, NORTH AND
WEST OXFORD
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
1847-1947
Presented by
ONTARIO DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
In recognition of one hundred years of service. Oct. 10, 1947.

While there have undoubtedly been obstacles in recent years that could not be surmounted owing to changed conditions in many respects, it will long be matter of regret with older residents who knew Ingersoll Fair in earlier years and realized its importance to both the town and rural areas, and the opportunity it afforded to the boys and girls to enjoy themselves in rollicking fashion has of necessity been abandoned.

1959 Free Press Woodstock Bureau

INGERSOLL, Aug. 19 — The Ingersoll fair has been suspended and an Oxford County fair combining all small town agricultural shows in the county has been suggested by members of the Ingersoll, West and North Oxford Agricultural Society.

Bruce Dickout, of Ingersoll, past president of the Agricultural Society, recommended tonight all agricultural societies in Oxford should pool their finances and organizations to support a centralized agricultural exhibition in Woodstock.

Lack of Interest

He said the Ingersoll fair was suspended this year because of lack of interest by the board of directors.

Mr. Dickout criticized the townships of West Oxford and North Oxford for their financial support. Each township donated $25 towards fair expenses while Ingersoll supported the fair with a $300 donation.

"The townships have paid the same amount for the past 40 years," he said. "Last year, North Oxford failed to pay its share at all."

"We can't expect to keep a fair operating under those conditions," he said.

Mr. Dickout said he believed the small town fairs were a thing of the past. He urged agricultural boards to support a central fair in Woodstock.

Deputy Reeve George Wallace, of West Oxford, and a director, contended that Ingersoll merchants and businessmen failed to support the fair. He supported Mr. Dickout's claim that a centralized fair was the answer to an agricultural show.

Mayor Norman Pembleton, of Ingersoll, said the town has supported the fair as far as it could. He said council donated $300 annually and it felt more support should come from the townships.

"Not Worth Effort"

"For the number of people who are interested and the number of people who support it, it isn't worth the effort. The agricultural society should support a county fair in Wodstock."

The Ingersoll fair, formed 114 years ago, was considered one of the best agricultural exhibitions in the county. It attracted entries in livestock, grains, and vegetables from the heart of the rich Oxford farmlands.

Mr. Dickout said health reasons prevented him from sitting again as president of the board. He said no one showed interest in becoming an executive officer at the annual meeting last spring and the matter was dropped.

He said another meeting was planned but no one showed interest.

The fair, he said, showed a deficit of $400 last year and $600 in 1957.

"Wouldn't Buy Much"

"We believe the two townships should have met the donation given by Ingersoll. Their donations wouldn't buy very much these days," he said.

Mr. Dickout said he had hopes that the fair might be formed again next year, but he said he would support a move to have a central fair in Woodstock.

Members of the fair board include Mr. Dickout, Emerson Moulton, Mr. Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. Burton Wilford, Mrs. Dennis Horsman, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Groves,of RR 1, Sal- Howard Groves, of RR 1, Salford, John Oliver, Clarence Cuthbert and Russell Houston.

Other fairs held annually in Oxford county include ones at Woodstock, Norwich, Embro and Drumbo.

A. D. Robison was re-elected president of the Ingersoll, North and West Oxford Agricultural Society at the annual meeting held in the council chambers. E. Moulton was named first vice-president; Alex Rose, second vice, and the following as directors: S. A. Gibson, B. G. Jenvey, Byron Galloway, Bernie Zurbrigg, L. P. Cook, Verne Meek, J. F. Way, Geo. Currie, H. Barnett, C. C. Gill, H. Little, A. Groves, H. Ellery, Gordon Sandick, R. J. Kerr, W. Banbury and James Hanlon, Jr. 1938

May 5 - 1949 - first margarine made in Ingersoll by Ingersoll Cheese Co.

Ingersoll's first newspaper
The Ingersoll Chronicle
A small beginning in 1852 by Joseph Blackburn —
Purchased by John Sayers Gurnett in 1854 - He was 22 and had worked on the Dodon Pod.
John Gurnett was succeeded by his Son J. F. Gurnett —
Geo. S. Gurnett died in 1876 —
Blackburn started the London Free Press in 1848
Oxford Tribune 1874 - by Harry Rowland
Ingersoll Sun 1881 by C. R. Patience
F in 1886 by T. A. Belleamy
The News by H. Constable in 1874 - lasted 2 yrs

Ingersoll Once Prominent Exporter In All Canada

By GEORGE JANES

Turning the pages of local history back 50 to 60 years the fact is established that Ingersoll occupied a prominent position as an exporting centre. Oldtime residents have related that the year 1888 was one of industrial expansion and that it was in 1865 that Ingersoll gave up villagehood for the status of a town.

For many years it was stated the town ranked fifth as an exporting centre, not only in Ontario but across Canada.

Some of the oldtime residents have paused in their conversations to remark that some 150 years have passed in bringing Ingersoll up for a settlement in the virgin forests to its present stature of a town of slightly over 7,000 inhabitants.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

There were many factors that contributed to the fame of Ingersoll as an export centre. There were local industries and a number of persons who had strong business relationships with the British markets. Among the firms those outstanding were the Noxon Manufacturing Co., Ltd., and the Ingersoll Packing Co.

Tremendous quantities of hams and bacon produced in the mammoth plant of the Ingersoll Packing Company on Victoria street were shipped to the British market. Cheese was also provided by the same firm, but there were a number of other chees exporters in the town who maintained offices and a corps of buyers who visited the factories through out th district and made purchases under stiff competition.

These buyers also took charge of the various lots of cheese purchased, inspected them, and did the branding either for warehouse storage or overseas shipment.

APPLES AND TURKEYS

But there also were other exporters in the town who made enormous shipments of apples, as well as turkeys to the British markets. Among them were the late Thomas Seldon, who carried on an extensive business for many years; the late J. B. Thompson and the late J. C. Harris, who a few years later became known as one of the foremost apple growers in the county and successful with his extensive shipments to the British markets.

In the days of its peak production the Ingersoll Packing Co. was said to have employed from 250 to 300 hands, and it is recalled that it was regarded as a day of great achievement when more than 2,500 hogs were slaughtered.

The Noxon Manufacturing Co. Ltd. was also said to have given employment to almost an equal number of workers during their busiest season with few if any layoffs during the year.

Their great plant on the West side of Thames street, near the bridge, consisted of a number of departments, moulding, woodworking, painting and assembling of the various types of farm implements. There were also large display rooms and commodious offices for handling of the essential details of the various departments.

NO IRON CURTAIN

It has been mentioned that in those years there was no iron curtain in Russia. The Noxon Company had strong business relationships with the country and on several occasions made extensive shipments of their reapers and mowers to dealers there. Accompanying the shipments was a qualified mechanic from the firm's plant who assembled the equipment on its arrival in Russia.

EARLY HISTORY

Some early history of the great Noxon plant was provided by one local historian many years ago. According to his records the Noxon Works removed from the site that has long been occupied by the furniture to their large premises to which reference has been made. This was in 1872. The founder of the firm was James Noxon, who was a leader in many of the progressive movements in the town in future years.

The extensive business of the firm which developed through better facilities and their wider markets did much for the prosperity of the town, as did the great volume of business done each year by the Ingersoll Packing Company.

For the year 1922 official figures for the total income of factory dairy products in Oxford county, consisting of cheese, creamery butter, whey butter, whey cream, milk for condensing power etc. milk and cream shipped from factories was given as $3,298,446.92.

Cigars Were Hand-Rolled In Early Day Local Plants

By GEORGE JANES

Looking back over a span of sixty or more years the fact was established that hand rolled cigars were made in Ingersoll in large quantities. In fact the manufacture of cigars was an important industry.

TWO FACTORIES

There were tmo cigar factories it was learned from some of the older residents who have known the town from childhood. There was the Smith factory on the south side of Charles street, West, at the corner of Wonham street, which was operated on the owner's premises near the large brick house which still stands there.

The other factory, operated by the late John Frizelle, was on the west side of Thames street, at the rear of the Ingersoll Auto Electric Block.

STEADY EMPLOYMENT

There were a number of cigar makers in the town who had steady employment at the two factories for a number of years. Each of the factories produced cigars which were widtly known by their brand names, and for which there was a keen demand.

The producers were given loyal support by the hotel proprietors and the local retailers and the volume of wholesale trade outside the town was also extensive.

One of the big outlets for the cigars, however, was the treating system in the hotels.

THE TREATING SYSTEM

When boon companions met at the bars and one volunteered to treat the usual question was "what will you have?" which frequently brought the reply "Oh, I will have one of those hand rolled cigars", which was probably followed up by giving the preferred brand name.

It was also mentioned that in those days cigarette smoking was in its infancy with the bulk of the smoking being confined to pipes and cigars.

Some of the oldtimers have recalled that in those years there was a 'man's size" glass of beer and a good cigar with a lingering aroma and a pleasing taste for a nickel each.

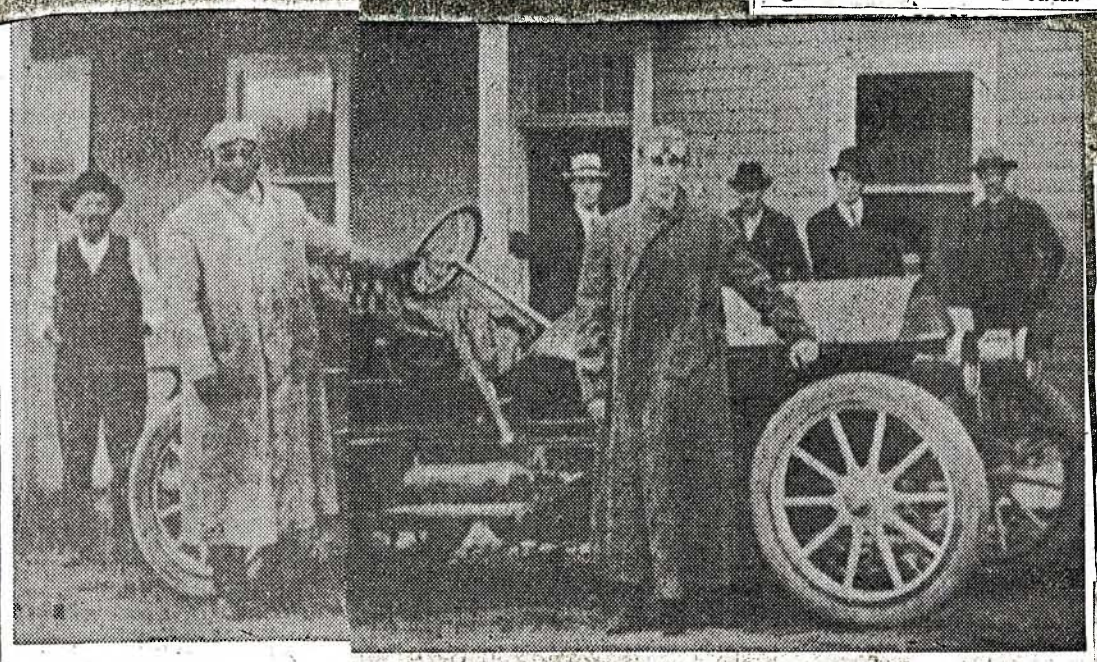
NO EXPLANATION

Moderate drinkers and abstainers who were smokers often returned to their homes with their vest pockets filled with cigars which of course explained as clearly as words where they had spent some of their time.

WENT ELSEWHERE

When production ceased at the two local factories, probably due in a measure to competition by larger firms with greater facilities, the majority of the cigar makers sought employment elsewhere, a number of them locating in London.

The large barn, a few doors West of Oxford St. on South Side of King St. & approached by a narrow lane was the Col Walker livery stable for many years. It was later used by O. J. Mitchell for a hearse factory and then by an implement agency.



JACK JOHNSTON came to Ingersoll in style, when he spent a night in town early in the century. The popular world heavyweight boxing champion of the era from about 1908 to 1914, came to town in his big touring car, driven by his personal chauffer. He obligingly posed for a photograph as he left the car to register at the old McCary House, where he took lodging for the night.

Asa McCarty

OLD TIME FIGHTERS VISITED HERE

Tom Burns, Jack Johnston Created Stir In Ingersoll

By GEORGE JANES

On two separate occasions within a comparatively short time many years ago Ingersoll was visited by two heavyweight champion pugilists.

They were Tommy Burns, the only Canadian ever to hold the World's championship whose real name, was Noah Brusso, and who was born at Hanover, Ontario, June 17, 1881.

Burns, whose height was only 5 feet 7 inches, and his weight at his prime was 175 pounds was widely known in Ontario lacrosse circles, started fighting in 1900. His last battle, records show, was in 1820.

On February 23, 1906, Burns won a 20-round decision from Marvin Hart in San Francisco. He claimed the heavyweight championship and in 1908 was matched with Jack Johnson for a fight in Sydney, Australia, for a purse of $30,000. The fight took place in the Sydney Stadium December 25, 1908. It went into the 14th round, when Johnson was declared the winner.

While still the world heavyweight champion, Burns visited Ingersoll one winter night, his presence creating much excitement at a hockey game in the old rink on King street, West, when he dropped the puck for the opening of play in the intermediate series of the OHA.

On a summer night some time later there was a ripple of excitement among sports lovers of the town when the news spread that Jack Johnson, and his chauffeur, were guests at the McCarty house where they remained for the night.

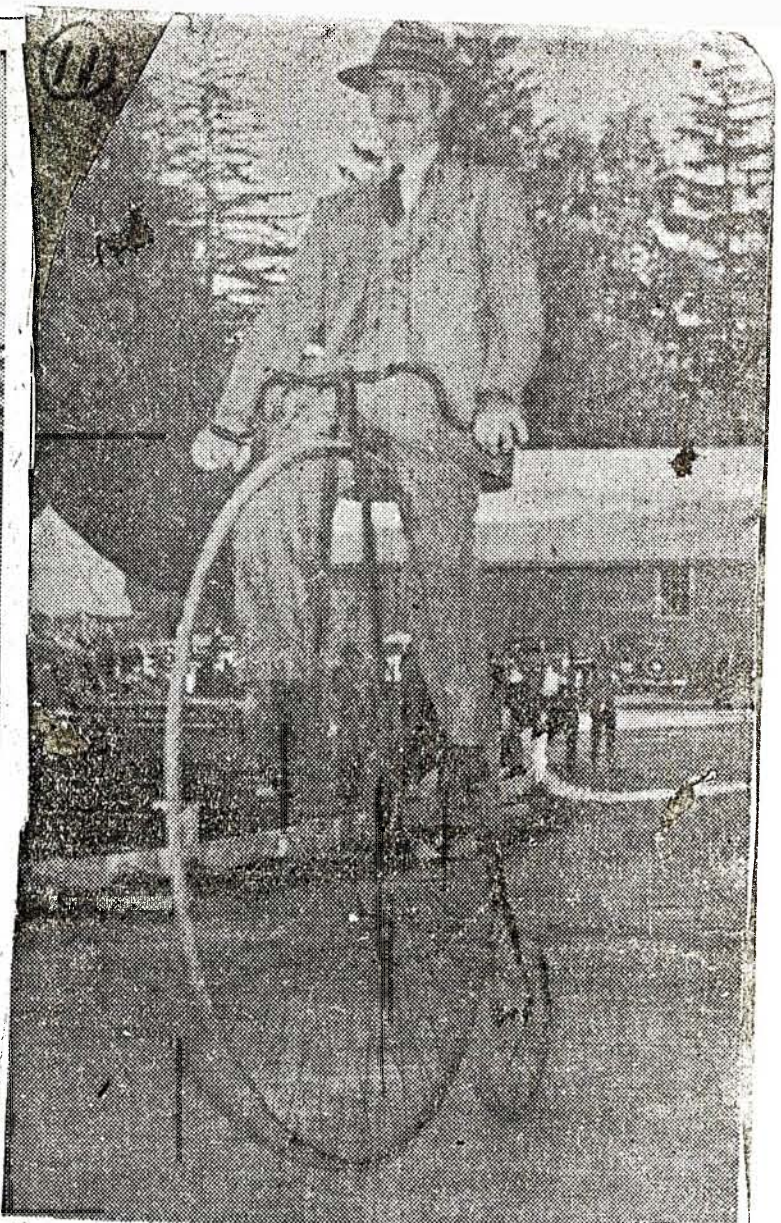
There was quite a rush on the part of those who were interested in ring celebrities and many who were in conversation with the World champion found him genial and unassuming with humor characteristic of his race. He was a huge man, standing 6 feet, 1 inch, with his weight in his prime ranging from 205 to 220 pounds.

It has been recalled that at that time, Johnson was the owner of a then so-called high powered automobile, and that in making his trip east across South-Western Ontario he was fined in a number of places after facing charges of speeding.

The accompanying picture taken on the night of his arrival in front of the McCarty House, includes at the front, Johnson and his chauffeur; the late Asa McCarty proprietor of the hotel, and his late son Nelson (Dandy) McCarty in the doorway.

FAIR FLOAT FEATURES FASHION FLASH-BACK

The scene flashed briefly back to the Victorian era at Ingersoll yesterday when the float of the Salford Women's Institute passed by the thousands of people who thronged to the fair grounds to commemorate the pioneers who founded the North and West Agricultural Society 100 years ago. The float depicted a long gone age when Canadian agricultural lands were just beginning to peep out of the wilderness, and when many of the new propserous towns of Upper Canada were lonely grist mills at the fords of streams and rivers. These were the days of homespuns, of knitted underwear, of butter churns and babies' cradles. These were the days of which even the oldest at the annual fair yesterday could not reminisce. The Salford ladies seen in the high collars, the bustles, the dainty hats, and the long dresses, ironically remindful of the present day trend in milady's fashions, are left to right: Margaret Wheeler (foreground), Mrs. Alfred Dickout, Mrs. Charles Wheeler, Mrs. Walter Wilson, Mrs. Cecil Wilson (obscured), Gwen Gregg, and Mrs. Fred Gregg.



BONE SHAKER—Drawing a great deal of attention from the crowd and a swarm of kids on modern bikes, George Na[illegible] of Salford, shown here rode this old model bicycle around the track at Ingersoll Fair on Friday afternoon. The fete was in keeping with the opening celebrations of Ingersoll's 100th fair.—(Staff Photo).

Three Thousand Observe Solemn Fair Ceremonies

There were many reasons why the faces of officers of the Ingersoll, North and West Oxford Agricultural Society were wreathed in smiles yesterday—the ideal weather, the large attendance which gathered at the second day of the fair, the fine attractions, appreciative comments and the highly successful manner in which every feature was presented to the deeply interested spectators. The attendance was estimated at 3,000.

In many respects the fair was an unprecedented success, embracing many new features, all with a strong appeal. It was a case of seeing Ingersoll fair at its best.

Undoubtedly one of the most important contributing factors was the observance of the Society's centennial, which was of a very ceremonious nature.

The fair was officially opened by W. P. Watson, director of the Husbandry Department of the Ontario Legislature, who substituted very capably for the Hon. Thomas Kennedy, Ontario Minister of Agriculture.

At the unveiling of the pylon commemmorating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the society, Mrs. John Nancekivell, Ingersoll, represented Ingersoll, and Miss Edna Currie was representative for North and West Oxford.

Short opening addresses were given by President Emerson Moulton of the fair board, and S. A. Gibson.

The address of welcome on behalf of the town of Ingersoll was given by Mayor C. W. Riley. He considered it an auspicious occasion in the history of the society [illegible] added, "it is only fitting under the circumstances that one should pause to give not only appreciative but reverent thought to those courageous pioneers of 100 years ago, who despite their cramped environment, were actuated by progressive motives and in visualizing the development of the future conceived the idea of forming an agricultural society."

It was realized at that time, the speaker said, that those pioneers though confronted with the great task of hewing their homes out of the forest realized that basically agriculture would become the great pursuit of this district in the future.

Mayor Riley also mentioned that down through the years while other societies had added glamour and spectacular features to their fairs, the Ingersoll fair board had not deviated from their steadfast policy of putting agricultural interests first. He also mentioned that records of the society showed that the first legislative grants to the society were in pounds, shillings and pence.

Lasting Memorial

He considered that the pylon erected in observance of the society's 100th anniversary would also stand as a lasting memorial to the members who launched it and had served so faithfully in their day and generation.

In concluding his address Mayor Riley said, "to the strangers within our gates and all other visitors, on behalf of the municipality of the town of Ingersoll I have extreme pleasure in extending a most cordial welcome." He also offered congratulations to the Ingersoll fair board and expressed the hope that there would be continued development in the future.

Rev. C. D. Daniel spoke briefly and in the course of his remarks said some of his forefathers had lived in the eastern part of the county and probably at some time had led prize-taking stock into the Ingersoll fair.

K. R. Daniel, M.P. for Oxford emphasized the importance of the occasion, the centennial of the society He noted with interest and satisfaction that the fair board had added many new features to their program. He considered the community fair to be a necessary adjunct to the life of a community.

More Assistance

Mr. Daniel felt that although much was being done by the provincial and Dominion Governments on behalf of agricultural societies that still more assistance might be given. He added, "the community fair is the show window of the community."

He also emphasized the importance of the cheese industry, mentioning the records of both Hastings and Oxford counties. He referred to the feed grain situation, pointing out that in some districts it was serious with the likelihood of not much help being received from Western Canada. Mr. Daniel wished the society the best of success in the future.

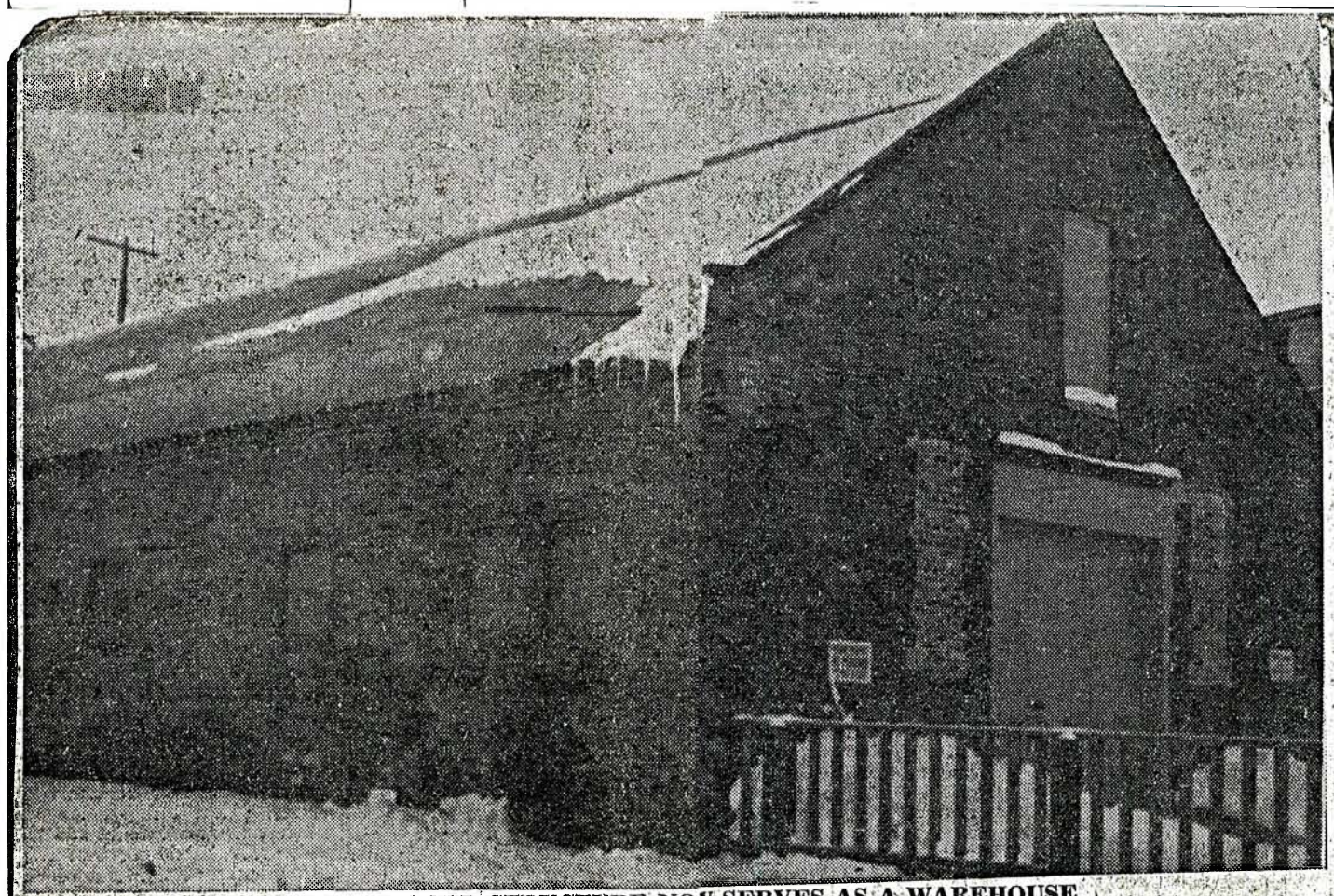
T. R. Dent, M.L.A. spoke briefly before introducing Mr Watson. He also congratulated the society on the many evidences of success and in connection with the 100th anniversary.

Mr. Watson said it was a pleasure to join with the Ingersoll, North and West Oxford Agricultural Society in celebrating their 100th anniversary. He conveyed the greetings of Mr. Kennedy and of his own department to the society and paid a tribute to the vision of the men of 100 years ago who had organized the society.

Consecutive years of progress, he said, had made the fair most outstanding. He also instanced the development along agricultural lines since the founding of the society. He mentioned that "production has now increased well beyond our capacity to consume." The speaker referred to the starving people of Europe and said "we must share our abundance with others who are in greater need than we are. Starvation, Mr. Watson considered, is a greater war-monger than the atomic bomb. "It is essential," he added, "lasting peace that there be peace for all."

B. G. J. acted Mr Walter to prepare his speech. We were leaving Ingersoll at London when Mr Walter told me to keep it so to Ingersoll fair, but he did not know what for. I informed him it was the 100th anniversary and dedication of a pylon. He then was prepared. I was unable to come due to a meeting in Middlesex.

B.G.J.



CENTURY-OLD STRUCTURE NOW SERVES AS A WAREHOUSE

To provide a site for Imperial Bank.

OLD LIVERY BARNS

Gave Great Service To Early Ingersoll

FEB. 1958.

By GEORGE JANES

In bygone years when horses held full sway in traffic, agricultural work and heavy haulage in the cities and towns, they were looked upon with admiration and sympathetic interest. In most cases where there were barns associated with hotels they provided comfort and rest for the weary animals, with the service almost equal the standard that maintained for patrons seeking refreshments, meals and lodging.

Few of the old hotel barns now remain, but they are still well remembered by many of the older residents of the town and district who were intimately familiar with the service they rendered. Not only did they provide shelter from the cold weather of winter, the heavy rains at intervals but also the blistering sun of summer.

The accommodation was adequate for all purposes, the stabling of the animals, as well as the housing of vehicles under adverse weather conditions.

An important personage associated with the hotel barns was the hostler, who took full charge of the horses turned over to him. He was usually a man who was fond of horses and who followed instructions to the letter as to the care that the animals should receive. These pertained particularly to the rations, the watering, blanketing and sometimes the grooming.

STABLING FEE

Many of the rural residents who came to town with loads of farm produce for marketing stabled their teams as soon as business had been transacted. Often they brought with them a supply of hay and oats and the hotel barn was merely used for the purpose of stabling. The teams and the supplies were turned over to the obliging hostler and a stabling fee only was paid, but often a tip was tendered as a gesture of appreciation.

There are bits of historical information associated with many of the old hotel barns which if marshalled in chronological form would constitute a very gripping chapter regarding the growth and development of Ingersoll.

Old authentic records established the fact that back in 1862 the late James Brady was proprietor of the Mansion House at the corner of Thames and King streets, on the site of which is now located the branch of the Imperial Bank of Canada.

Many years ago when the hotels of the town closed their doors following the temperance mandate, the Mansion House was sold and removed practically intact, placed on a Canterbury street site, where it has since served as a two-apartment house.

Other proprietors of the Mansion House were the late Thomas Laven for many years, and the late R. H. (Bob) Reid, who later for many years conducted the Oxford Hotel, in Woodstock.

In earlier years it was the custom of many rural students attending the Ingersoll Collegiate Institute to drive back and forth daily and their horses were usually stabled in one of the hotel barns, being cared for regularly by the hostlers. The students brought with them the feed required for the animals. The hostlers gave them the desired attention and frequently as a kindly gesture "hooked up" their horses and cheerfully sent them on their homeward way.

It is of interest that the old Mansion House barn is still standing. Its exterior appearance has undergone little change. For many years the big barn of brick construction has been the property of James S. Grieve and Son and is located at the rear of their King street store, being used for storage of large quantities of feed and farm supplies.

ONE CHANGE

One very important change in the interior of the barn is of comparatively recent date. It is in the form of a complete new concrete floor of a slightly higher elevation than the one it replaced.

In its original form there were wide doorways through which vehicles could be driven which greatly facilitated their movement. Marks on the walls of the old building plainly indicate the location of the stalls which it once contained. There were fourteen of them on each side, with racks at the front of the mangers through which the horses could pull wisps of hay and there also were feed boxes at the sides from which they could devour their rations of grain.

The wide space between the line of stalls afforded convenient accommodation for assembling the various vehicles when circumstances demanded.

In connection with the old hotel barns, the most of which have vanished, it might be said that the one in connection with the McCarty House, Thames street north, after undergoing some changes, became plant No. 4, of the Morrow Screw and Nut Company Ltd. on its original site at the south side of Victoria street, following the outbreak of World War One. Another of the old barns was burned down, while others were removed to conform to the trend of modern development.

Began in London

Salvation Army Plans 80th Anniversary Rites

1962

The Salvation Army in Canada will celebrate its 80th anniversary in London this weekend with special services, outdoor meetings and a concert by the world renowned International Staff Band from London, Eng.

In the spring of 1882 the first meeting of the organization in this country was conducted at what is now Covent Garden Market, by two English immigrants, Joseph Ludgate and Jack Addey.

It is this event that the Army is celebrating here April 28 and 29 with special guest Commissioner W. Wycliffe Booth, territorial commander of Canada and Bermuda taking part.

Dedication Service

Activities begin Saturday at 1:30 p.m. with a service of dedication at Wesley United Church, where Ludgate and Addey first met at a Methodist prayer meeting.

There will be an assembly at 3 p.m. at the rock at Covent Garden Market which marks the first open air meeting of the organization, and at 4 p.m. Saturday there will be a "March of Witness" for all uniformed Salvationists and uniformed young people's groups from the corps of the division.

The march will begin at Talbot and Carling Streets and down Dundas Street to the city hall, led by the London Citadel Band.

Various aspects of the Army's work will be depicted in the parade which will include the International Staff Band, the Woodstock Citadel Band and one or two other bands from Western Ontario centres.

Take Salute

Mayor F. Gordon Stronach and Commissioner Booth will take the salute at city hall, and Mayor Stronach will extend civic greetings.

A highlight of the anniversary weekend will take place at H. B. Beal Technical and Commercial High School at 8 p.m. Saturday when the International Staff Band will present its "Anniversary Festival."

Under direction of Lt.-Col. Bernard Adams the band will present a program of band music, male voice party, instrumental, vocal and pianoforte solos.

Included in the program will be "Music for the Royal Fireworks," by Handel and "Themes from the Italian Symphony." All seats for the performance are on a reserved ticket basis.

Open Air Services

Sunday at 9.15 a.m. a morning prayer meeting will be held at Beal Tech and at 10 a.m. an open air meeting will be held at Victoria Hospital with the International Staff Band providing music.

A second morning service will be held at Beal Tech at 10.45 a.m. and at 3 p.m. at the same school a meeting of praise and thanksgiving with special music by the staff band.

Another open air meeting will be conducted at Wellington and Dundas Streets at 6.15 p.m. and the weekend observances will conclude at 7 p.m. at Beal Tech with a Salvation meeting.

house was destroyed John Bowman was sick in bed. Mrs. Bowman and the youngest child got on a bureau and floated away. The child was drowned and Mrs. Bowman was rescued. Mr. Bowman in his bed floated downstream and was rescued. The rest of the Bowman family escaped. The Mclean boy trying to save a pet rabbit was drowned and found among the cordwood. Alex Laird was drowned but his wife and child clung to wood and was swept for a quarter mile. She tried to reach shore and the child slipped from her arms and was drowned. 500 yard of CPR was washed out.

headquarters staff in to ascertain that fur- ork could be carried on expeditiously as in the

roup of Whitehall's top ervants, however, is not well pleased at the man- which the government rried out its policy to dis- its workers throughout rovinces, or with the net of these transfers.

RS MOVED IN

ind this dissatisfaction is ome of these branches of ivil service have seen the n offices vacated by their

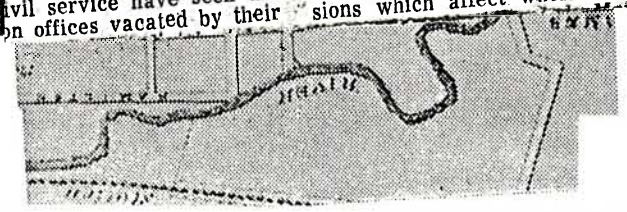
able office accommodation congenial working conditions should be assured. And satisfactory housing — with help towards house purchase — and educational arrangements should be made available before the moves take place.

MUST BE CONSULTED

Mr. Williams ends his article with this injunction:

"And, most important, staff should be fully consulted and given uninhibited opportunity to influence the decision of dispersal which may dramatically affect the future happiness of their families. Arbitrary decisions which affect whole fami-

April 4th 1887 King's dam broke around 7:00AM. This dam held back a pond of water covering about 15 acres on west side of Wonham Street and south of King Street. The water an early date supplied power for the mill on King Street. The rush of water took away a part of the mill and an apartment house of four dwellings and about 500 cord of cordwood. The brick engine house was destroyed. The cordwood was smashed against the one storey apartment house and casued its destruction. It was carried away. Those occupying the apartments were Mr. & Mrs. John Bowman and their three children with his father, Mr. John Bowman, Sr., also John McLean & his son, 18 years old, and Alexander Laird and his wife and small child. When the...



POLL 5

AT OR NEAR 31 King STREET WEST - ROBERTS BARBER SHOP

Roy Start - Chairman - Phone 490

Byron Jenvy - Assistant Chairman - Phone 269 J

~~Inside~~ Scrutineers

Morning -(~~Mrs. Tom Jackson~~- Phone 280 J
" -(Mrs. W.J. Tune - Phone 148 J
Afternoon - Mrs. F.G. Rich - Phone 24 W
" - Mrs. W.R. Marshall -Phone 411 J

Car Drivers

Morning - (Mrs. Morrice Turner - Phone 119 W
Assistant-(Mrs. ~~Roy Rogers~~ E. Start - Phone 90
Afternoon - Mrs. ~~Geo Roberts~~ Geo Roberts - Phone 432
Assistant - Mrs. L.W. Staples - Phone 94 W.

Result - Poll 5 - yes - 147
no - 63
" 5A - yes - 132
no - 44

To All Who Assisted In Monday's Favorable Vote On The HOSPITAL BYLAW Including:

The Lion's Club which sponsored the new building fund.

The Publicity Committee which conducted the excellent advertising campaign.

All those who sponsored and paid for advertisements supporting the Bylaw.

The Chamber of Commerce which organized and supervised getting to the polls the largest vote in years.

To all members of the ladies' organizations who promoted the project and assisted so splendidly in every possible way and to all those who loaned their cars.

The Board of Alexandra Hospital wish to convey its congratulations and warmest appreciation.

R. W. GREEN, Secretary. Dec 11/46 R. G. START, President.

The bylaw re grant $150,000 to proposed new hospital:
Vote Dec. 9-1946

	Yes	No
1	172	79
2	111	85
3	165	40
4	208	72
5	147	63
5A	132	44
6	103	3
Totals	1038	386

By-law carries by 652

P. E. TUCK, CHAIRMAN
R. A. BIGHAM, VICE-CHAIRMAN

VICTOR BROOKS, GENERAL SE
R. J. MILLER, TR

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL MEMORIAL
NEW BUILDING FUND
SPONSORED BY
INGERSOLL LIONS CLUB

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

December 11th, 1946

wise Clubs): Robt. Carr, Secretary (Merchants): R. Henley (Chamber of Commerce), A. E. Izzard
th): Herb. Fuller, (Labor) Allan Horton & Jas. Spavin to represent the town council.

Robert Carr, secretary; R. Henley; A. E. Izzard; Herb Fuller; Allan Horton
James Spavin to represent the town council

Mr. Byron Jenvey,
Ingersoll, Ont.

Dear Mr. Jenvey;

We could not let this opportunity go by without thanking you most sincerely for your invaluable help in connection with the advertising for the proposed new hospital. If it had not have been for the very effective advertisments in the papers, we feel the people would not have responded as well. By your efforts you can feel you have played a definite part in making the new hospital a reality.

Again thanking you and hoping that if it should again become necessary for further advertising we may call on you.

Sincerely yours,
Victor Brooks
Secretary

ON OCT. 1, 1912

First Nurses Graduated In Town Hall Ceremony

Miss Ethel M. Siple and Miss Lillian Hayward enjoy the distinction of being the first nurses to graduate from the training school for nurses in connection with the Alexandra Hospital. The graduating exercises were held in the town hall last night when one of the largest audiences that has ever assembled reflected the keen interest that has been manifested in the Hospital since its establishment three years ago.

The hall was taxed to the limit of its capacity, a fact that was also a tribute to the popularity of the successful nurses. That interest in the Hospital is not confined to the town was very evident by the large attendance from nearby districts.

It was a proud occasion not only for the nurses to whom diplomas were presented but to Miss Hodges.

Miss Siple read the valedictory address. The literary talent of Miss Siple was reflected in the address and she received many deserving compliments. She thanked the Superintendent, the Hospital Trust, the Medical Staff, the Ladies Auxiliary and all who assisted in their personal work and the work of the hospital.

The reply to the valedictory was given by Dr. Rogers, his address being an excellent one.

Dr. Bruce Smith who visited Ingersoll when the Hospital movement was first discussed gave an address, the influence of which must be far-reaching.

The pledge taken by the graduates was administered by Rev. R. J. M. Perkins which added a degree of solemnity to the occasion.

Wescott
Wm. Hawkins, sec.
Dr. Partlo
A. Horton, died in 1969
A. E. Izzard - died Aug. 1954
B. G. Jenvey

Wescott
William Hawkins
Dr. Partlo
A. Horton died in 1969
A. E. Izzard died Aug 1954
B. G. Jenvey

P. E. TUCK, CHAIRMAN
R. A. BIGHAM, VICE-CHAIRMAN

VICTOR BROOKS, GENERAL SECRETARY
R. J. MILLER, TREASURER

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL MEMORIAL

NEW BUILDING FUND

SPONSORED BY

INGERSOLL LIONS CLUB

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

DONATIONS -- V. G. SHIPTON
ADVERTISING -- K. W. HAWKINS
ACTIVITIES -- N. HARPER
A. G. MURRAY, EX-OFFICIO

Advisory Com. to council
L.a. Wescott-Chairman (Service Clubs): Robt. Carr, Secretary (Merchants): R. Henley (Chamber of Commerce), A.E. Izzard - (Industry) Byron Jenvey (Board of Health): Herb. Fuller, (Labor) Allan Harlow & Jas. Spavin - to represent the town council.

Publicity Com.
Wescott.
Wm. Hawkins, sec.
Dr. Portlo
A. Harlow, died in 1969.
A.E. Izzard - died ~~Oct.~~ Aug. 1959.
B.G. Jenvey.

December 11th, 1946

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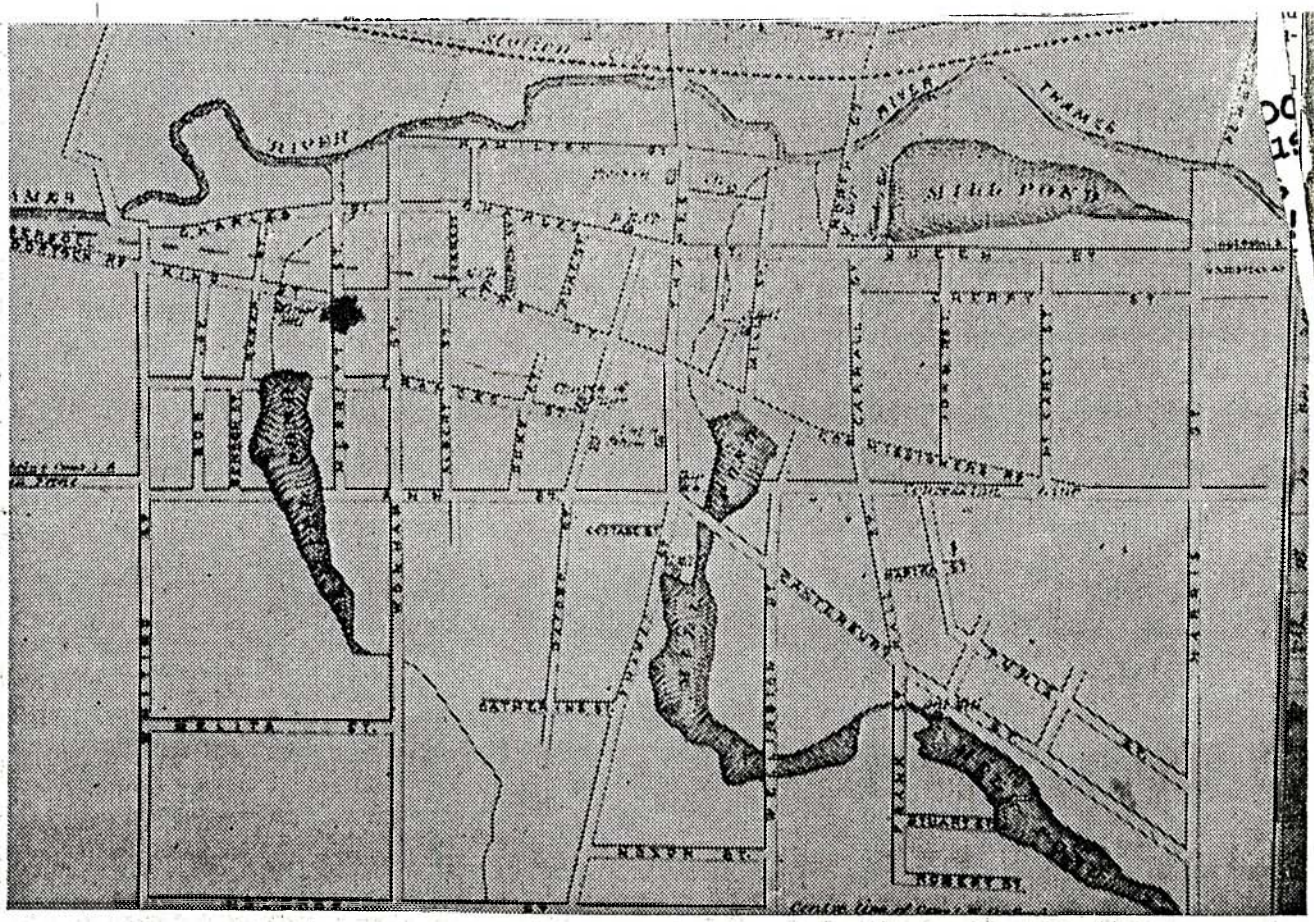
Secretary



IN THE map, which was published in 1876, the scene of the 1887 tragedy is shown (upper left corner). The cross indicates the location of Scott's mill, where the dam broke under pressure from the flooding waters, and the ramp-aging waters swept the victims downstream. The dotted line indicates the railway line where more than 500 yards of the CPR tracking was swept away.

be Proud of It

To those who so ably assist
Monday's voting, by driving cars
ing to get out the voters, we say
job well done. Your unselfish ef
gain is appreciated.

You have made a definite c
on the Hospital Question but to c
ing in getting out of such a lar

We congratulate the Public
ganizations which assisted this
Lions Club.

Ingersoll Chamber

Dec. 11-1946

"The Alexandra Hospital, Ingersoll and its Board of Directors, pay warm tribute on this 50th Anniversary of the Hospital to the many public-spirited groups and citizens whose support and assistance have made it possible for the Hospital to render services of high quality to the zens of our area.

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL 1909

NEW ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL 1959

With your continued support, the Hospital will enter a second half century of service with confidence, dedicated to the betterment of its health services in the interests of our community.

J. B. MITCHELL

THE INGERSOLL LAWN BOWLING CLUB HOUSE.

In Nov.1955, the Ingersoll Lawn Bowling Club Ltd. decided to erect a new and modern club house on their greens on Ann St. After several meetings a contract was signed with Beverly Anderson to erect a club house, 44 x 20' for the sum of $ 3309.00. Mr.Anderson erected the club house during the winter of 1955-6. Plumbing was done by Douglas Bros. Ingersoll and the eave troughs by James Henderson, Ingersoll. A sewer was constructed from the east end of the club house to the road by members of the club. The old club houses were sold to Walter Ellery for $200. He moved them to his farm for garages. The entire cost of the club house was $4874.00.

The official opening was on June 3,1956. Mayor Donald Bower cut the ribbon and declared the club house officially open.

There is a complete account and pictures in "Bowling Scrap Book".

Ingersoll, Ont.,
Dec. 11, 1946.

Mr. Byron G. Jenvey,
Ingersoll, Ont.

Dear Byron:

At the meeting of our Hospital Trustees held yesterday, all members were enthusiastic in their praise for the work of the Publicity Committee, in connection with the vote on the By-Law.

We fully appreciate the effective efforts which you have put forth on the Committee and what it has meant in achieving the desired results. The advertisements in the local papers were excellent and we know you and the members of your committee have spent many hours in their preparation. This unselfish service and your work in getting out the voters, acting as scrutineer, etc. has not gone unnoticed. The Hospital Trustees have requested me to convey to you our very sincere thanks and appreciation. Your greater reward will be the satisfaction of important work well done, in the interests of the community. We are delighted with the prospect of having a new Hospital and again thank you for your interest and assistance.

Yours sincerely,

R. W. Green

Secretary

Historical Sketch of Ingersoll Given by H. T. Bower

Sept 1948

H.T.B. died 1958.

The following historical sketch of the town of Ingersoll was given by Harry T. Bower, on Friday morning, during the program officially opening the new Ingersoll studios of radio station CKOX:

"Friends of the radio audience, I want to talk to you for a few minutes in keeping with this, the first broadcast of the Oxford Broadcasting Co. from its Ingersoll studio, on some of the outstanding incidents of Ingersoll's early history.

"Ingersoll had its birth in the year 1793—155 years ago. At that time the nearest settlement to the east was Burford, and to the west Delaware. All these settlements were connected by an Indian highway easily traced at that time because the trail had been used by many generations of moccasined feet as the Attawandaronk or neutral Indians carried on their trade with other neighboring tribes between the Niagara Frontier and the Straights of Mackinaw. This road ran through miles and miles of tall giant trees, elms, maples, beach, oak, pine and walnut, and the Indians called it the road of the tall trees which name is still used west of London—the Longwoods Road.

"The founder of this town was Thomas Ingersoll. The settlement was first called Oxford on La Tranch and later Oxford on Thames, and still later changed to Ingersoll. Mr. Ingersoll, an American citizen through his friendship with Governor John Graves Simcoe and Thayendanega, or more familiarly known to our students of Canadian history as Joseph Brant, got to know of this wonderful fertile land and soon obtained a contract from the British Crown whereby he and his company were granted 6,000 acres in Oxford for settlement, one side of the holding touching the Thames river.

"Guided by Brant's Indians, Ingersoll arrived here in the summer of 1793, bringing with him such men as Gideeon Boswick, Chas. Williams, Seth Hamlin, Abel Kelson, Ichabod Hall and many others, followed shortly by the Burdicks, Merritts, Wonhams, Carrols, Curtices and so on, all eager to get their allotment of land and to begin the tremendous task of carving out homes for themselves in the unbroken forests of the Thames Valley.

"Settlement land progress was slow at first, at least during the next 10 to 15 years. The survey of Oxford was not completed until 1796-7. Possibly the next outstanding event in the lives of these mighty empire builders was the first church service held here, in the log home of a settler, and conducted by Rev. Nathan Bangs, on August 1, 1801, under the auspices of the M. E. Church. According to the account written by Rev. Mr. Bangs, he was welcomed here by the whole community of settlers and all the Indians.

"The next event of importance was the founding of a Masonic Lodge in June, 1803, by Jas. Burdick, Enoch Burdick, Samuel Canfield, Robt. Sweet, Ariel Lowsley, Ham. Lawrence, Asokie Lewis, Joel Piper, Thos. Horner, Wm. Turner, and others. This event was important from a historical point of view because this lodge has preserved its minutes and records, and these records are authentic sources of information to-day.

"In the year 1804, Oxford had a distinguished visitor in the person of Lord Selkirk. He arrived at the Ingersoll's on June 1st and later wrote a descriptive story of his journey giving us the idea that in those days there was enough water in the river for large canoes, as he sent his horses along the trail westward and travelled with a party in three bark canoes paddled by Brant's Indians down to the mouth of the river. He also mentions the Nichols Grist Mill, east of the village and Putnam's mill five miles down the river. not on the river.

"As we near the period of about 1812 we find many have come to the Ingersoll settlement. There were several log houses in the village itself and a post office had been established in a cobblestone building still standing on the east side of our market square. Envelopes and stamps had not been thought of yet, but the mail went through. It cost 7d to send a letter from York to Oxford and the postmaster recorded the amount of postage with a pen in the upper right-hand corner of the package.

"Our first school was a log building situated on the northern limit of the present Memorial school grounds, which at that time was the frontage on King street.

"Mr. Ingersoll was married more than once and among the members of his family was a daughter, Laura, who spent her girlhood days in this community.?? She no doubt attended the old log school. On growing to womanhood she met Lieut. Secord, as he and his men marched over the Thames Valley road. Their friendship was the beginning of a romance that culminated in their marriage and her removal to live on the Niagara Frontier. The part she was able to play in the war of 1812-14, which earned for her the title of the Canadian Heroine should make citizens of this place proud that Ingersoll was the home town during her girlhood of this brave woman. Why the citizens of this town have never seen fit to erect a suitable memorial on our school grounds or other public place in her memory, is a question I cannot answer.

"As the war of 1812 loomed on the horizon, the famous Oxford Rifles were formed, consisting of two flank companies. A private received 6d per day. This battalion, under command of our own Major Ariel Lowsley and Thomas Horner, joined Brock and marched over the road of the tall trees and captured Detroit. They also took part in the Battle of Fort Erie and Malcolm's Mills. The Americans getting reinforcements came back across the frontier and sent along raiders to burn and destroy. They burned down most of the village of Oxford together with the Nichols Mill. Some of them returned again at night and captured Major Lowsley and carried him off a prisoner to Detroit.

"People had to pay taxes in 1812, but were not assessed as they are to-day. There are a few samples of the assessor's description of property in the Thames Valley in that year taken at random:

Willard Sage, bush 155, cultivated, 20; horses, 1; oxen 2; cows, 3.

Chris Canfield—Bush, 550; cultivated, 20; horses, 2; oxen, 2; cows 3.

Jas. Jones, bush, 0; cultivated, 0; horses, 0; oxen, 0; cows, 2.

Gilbert Harris—Bush, 92; cultivated, 8; horses 2; oxen, 0; cows, 0.

"Goods were paid for in bushels of wheat, lbs. of candles, pork, gals. of whiskey. Coinage was scarce, and American dollars, Mexican dollars, £ S d, Spanish pieces of 8 were all legal tender in Ingersoll in 1812.

"In the short time at my dispsal I have endeavoured to describe for you some of the main events of the first 20 years in the life of this community, but one could go on and mention many more events that created interest and excitement here since the war of 1812-14 such as the 1837 rebellion and the spectacular escape of the famous Dr. Duncomb and Elisha Hall, the coming of the Great Western Railroad in the 1850's, the changing over from village status to an incorporated town, 1866 the big fire, that destroyed our main business section, the winning of the International Baseball Championship by the Ingersoll team at Detroit, the visit of celebrated people etc. We are proud of these early settlers. May proud of these ear ylsettlers. May this generation perform their work in such a manner that the succeeding generations will be proud of us as we are of those who laid the foundations of the institutions and privileges we now enjoy. Thank you!

No record that she was ever in Ingersoll.

15

Ingersoll Stone or Plaque For Laura Secord Is Urged

By H. T. B.

Much has been published lately of the early history of Ingersoll and vicinity and of the Ingersolls. This has brought to light some of the old pictures, letters and stories of the dim past that have been treasured in the keeping of local families who trace their ancestry back to the early pioneers. Among such the writer has been allowed to read a short sketch of the Secord family into which our own Laura Ingersoll married before the war of 1812. JAMES -

Between 1791 and 1808 several families of Secords settled on the Niagara Frontier, near Ancaster and near Charlotteville in the region of Turkey Point. In an old map recently reproduced in the Free Press showing the school section for Charlotteville, we find David Secord settled on lot 19 in 1808, Mary Secord lot 10 in 1801 and Silas Secord, lot 4 and 5, in 1802, and their holdings were almost surrounded by clergy reserve lands. There was also a Major Elijal and Capt. John Secord secured land in the Niagara district.

All these Secords traced their origin back to the French Huguenot who lived in and near the city of Rochelle, France. Their Huguenot name was de Secor and many members of this family had rendered outstanding service to France, one of their number having held the post as minister to Charles IX. Henry IV of France, sometimes called Henry the Good and the friend of Good Queen Bess, passed the Edict of Nantes, 1598, allowing Huguenots to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience, but in the following reign of Louis XIV the Edict of Nantes was revoked and the Huguenots subjected to extreme cruelty and many of them escaped across the channel to England, taking with them their splendid knowledge, the silk and woollen trades.

Among these fugitives were the de Secor's. They mostly settled in or near the Cathedral City of Canterbury, where they soon set up their original industries and were eventually known as Sesords. They prospered and were good citizens of England, but their great love of religious freedom led many of t to again emigrate to America carve out new homes for themse in the region of what is now Je City. At the American Revolu they remained loyal to the Bri Crown and again gave up all to under that flag. Some of them their way to New Brunswick, other members of the family set in Upper Canada.

Laura Ingersoll Secord, the Ca adian Heroine, was the wife Lieut. David Secord, who just b fore 1812 was collector of custo at St. David's, the village that w called after him. His brother, Ca John, married a Miss Crooks, sist of Hon. Jas. Crooks, a member the government of Upper Can and a brother of Hon. Adam Croo Capt. John's son, Elijah (secon married Miss Sarah Augusta C loden, daughter of Lawrence Pe son Culloden of Blessington, I land, and who had a distinguish career in India. Culloden had se Napoleon, a prisoner on the Isla of St. Helena. Elijah the secon had three sons, Fred, John Percy, who were all very proud their father's Aunt Laura. Ca John Secord's daughter marri Thomas Hatt of Dundas, after wh Hatt Stree is called; a brother Tom Hatt married a sister of Allan Napier McNab of Dund Castle. So many of the Se families have married into some the best Canadian families.

Ontario and Quebec both ha their heroines, Laura Secord a Madeline of Verecheres who is co memorated by a statue on the s of her father's Seignory. Laura bl fed the Yankees that she was go to milk a cow and got away to w the British commander at Niag running all the risks of losing way and being scalped by Indians

Madeline bluffed the Iroqu when they attacked the Seignory the absence of her parents to Mo treal, by making out she ha larger force than they thoug while in reality she had only two small brothers and a couple servants.

Laura Secord's memory is ho ored in bronze at Lundy's La cemetery and in stone at Queenst Heights. Why not in Ingersoll?

When Laura Ingersoll Secord, in June 1813, walked the 19 miles from her home at St. David's to Beaver Dams to warn Lieut. Col. Jas. Fitzgibbons of an American plot to capture the Canadian forces, her brave deed became a proud part of our country's history.

The Union School was Public and Grammar Elementary & Secondary

The Union School in Ingersoll stood on the present Memorial School grounds at the north east corner.

Charles St. was first named Queen St.

On an 1857 map of Oxford may be seen the pictures of Adam Oliver's House - Cor. John & Victoria Sts and other

Hotel Election

The first election took place in the Royal Exchange Hotel which stood where Ingersoll's post office now stands. The community had its beginnings when Thomas Ingersoll undertook a settlement program here in 1793.

He left in 1806, his now famous daughter, Laura Ingersoll Secord accompanying him. However

brother, James, really started Ingersoll on its way to being the thriving progressive community it is today.

A lodge was organized here in 1803, and Harry T. Bower has the lodge minutes since that time.

A small pioneer public school stood on the N-E corner of Thames & Alma St. This area

First Village council meeting was held in the the School House.

2 Rooms in new High School basement - were first used for public school

First villages council meeting was held in the school house.
Two rooms in the new high school basement were first used for public school

The Union school was public and grammar, elementary and secondary. The Union school in Ingersoll stood on the present Victory Memorial School grounds at the north east corner. Charles Street was first named Queen Street.
On an 1857 map of Oxford may be seen the pictures of Adam Oliver's House, corner of John & Victoria Streets.
A small pioneer school stood on the north east corner of Thames & Alma Streets.

The first religious service held Oxford, now Ingersoll, was in e year 1801 on August 1st, over 47 years ago. This first service as sponsored by the Methodist pispocal Church and the minister as the Rev. Nathan Bangs. ?

Mr. Bangs was rather a remarkble man. He came to Canada from nited States in 1799 and while at Niagara attended a Methodist Episcopal service where he conceived he idea that he could be of much rvice to mankind if he himself ould become a travelling preacher d carry religious instruction to e settlers in Canada West. An storian of this church, Mr. Thomas ebster, gives us a fairly good idea some of the characteristics of is man in his description of Mr. angs' first visit to the Falls of iagara.

After a very difficult journey om Niagara on the Lake, up the orth bank of the river, through dense forest that covered the ghts, Mr. Banks at last got his t view of the stupendous scene. saw the turbulent waters of river rushing down the two or ree mile stretch to where they unged in two great masses, into e yawning abyss of mist 170 feet low and then sweep away in irling eddies and billows to the frhty whirlpool. The incessant under, the solemn grandeur, the describable power, beauty and blimity of the scene so impressed Bangs that he seems to have d brought home to him in a very rceful manner the awe and jesty of his Creator.

After a journey from Niagara the ancient trail, through Ancter and Burford, the preacher e into the settlement of Oxd. Many of the settlers who me with the Ingersolls, were formly members of the M. E. urch, but since for eight years had been in their forest homes hout any organized worship of denomination, they welcomed man and received him with much ndship. The news of the arrival a preacher soon spread alous the ils and blazed lines of the setment and nearly the entire popuion turned out for this great asion and helped to form a reious society for organized wor p in Oxford.

Told who he was

In conducting this first meeting, Bangs followed his usual proure. He first satisfied his congation as to who he was and at he had come for. So he began discourse in the following man: "My name is Nathan Bangs was born in Connecticut on Ma 1778. I was born again in th vince in May, 1799. I commenitinerating as a preacher of the pel in September, 1800. On the h day of June I left New York the purpose of visiting you, of om I had heard two years ago r a long tedious journey I am e. I am bound for the Heavenly y and my errand among you I persuade as many as I can to go h me. I am a Methodist preacher my manner of worship is to d while singing, kneel while ying, and to stand while preach to the people, meanwhile sit. As many of you as see fit to me in this way can do so and rest may choose their own way. result was that when he stood sing, they all stood, when he to pray, every man, woman child, both white and Indian, knelt down and when he asked if they would like these sercontinued at stated intervals stood up.

Rev. Bangs stayed at Oxford until Aug. 9th, 1801, when he started on his journey westward over the Thames Valley Trail, past the confluence of the north and south branches and the old fortified camp of the neutral Indians, near the present site of London, and on to Delaware. At this settlement he was treated to the luxury of a bundle of straw for a bed which proved far more comfortable than sleeping on the ground in the forest. The journey of this missionary over the difficult trail to Detroit and back to Oxford took several months and was packed full of interesting events mixed with many difficulties. He tells of one incident near Wardsville, where he visited the log cabin of a French Canadian settler. They were so delighted to have a visitor from the outside that the good wife knowing of a neighbor who had hoarded some tea brough from the Old Land, begged some from her to make tea in honor of such a great occasion. Having neither tea cups nor tea kettle, but necessity being the mother of invention, she scoured the dish pan, brewed the tea and treated the honored guest to the beverage that cheers but does not inebriate.

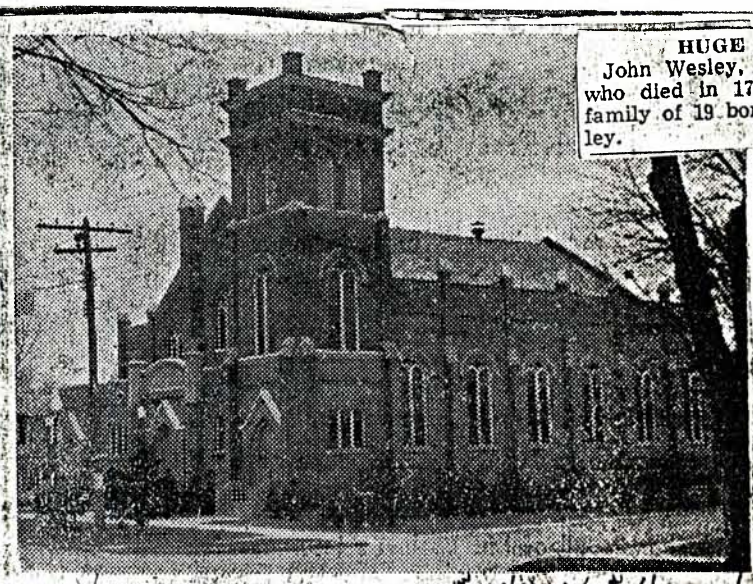
Slept on the snow

On his return he brought back a rather sad account of the sufferings of many of the settlers on account of ague and fever, produced by the miasma from the vast stretches of swamp lands to the west. He himself had to spend many nights in the woods sleeping on the snow covered ground while sleep was made more difficult by the howling of wolves.

Much could be written about this missionary, the Rev. Nathan Bangs, but as he formed the first religious society here for the M. E. Church, they were the first organization to own a church property. So far, all meetings had been held in the private home or the school house, but in the year 1819, the site of the present West Oxford Church was definitely used for services of the M. E. Church.

The following information was obtained from a copy of the original deed or transfer of land in West Oxford in 1823 and is one of the treasured possessions of a great grandson of one of the principals mentioned in the transfer. This deed of land reads in part: "A memorial to the registrar pursuant to the laws of Upper Canada of our indenture of bargain and the sale bearing date at Oxford in the district of London, in the said province, the twenty-ninth day of November in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three, and made by and between John Galloway of Oxford, aforesaid yeoman of the one part and (Joel Piper, Robert Corson, Jacob Wood) of the Township of Oxford district yeoman and Isaac Burdick and Thomas Wait of the Township of Zorra yeomen, trustees for the Methodist Episcopal Church, etc., whereby the consideration of five pounds of lawful money of the said province." In short the site of the present West Oxford Church was transferred to the trustees of the M. E. Church for £5 and the original deed was registered as Article 984, Feb. 19th, 1824, sworn to by Comfort Sage and Stephen H. Teeple and signed by Thos, Horner, registrar.

Father of Ed. Galloway - Ed. a son of 505-6
In brackets - new residents to church
his home - where Russell Currie lives.



HUGE FAMILY
John Wesley, Methodist founder who died in 1788, was one of a family of 19 born to Samuel Wesley.

METHODIST FOUNDERS
The name "Methodist" was o iginally given to Charles and Jo Wesley and some other Oxfor students in 1729.

Concrete Highway No. 2 between Ingersoll and Woodstock opened in 1923

T.L.E and P. railroad built from Tillsonburg to Ingersoll in 1901 - my 2nd yr. teaching at Salford. I assembled the pupils at rear of school, in the fall, to see the first train go through - Nathan B.J.

TRINITY UNITED
Saddle-Bag Preachers Brough Methodist Faith

built in 1845 - Parsonage in Oxford built 1874 - 1880 - chancel remodelled 1948 - 1901 - gallery removed

When Thomas Ingersoll and his party arrived at Oxford-on-the-Thames in 1793, he found almost an unbroken forest with the exception of some squatters who preceded him. They were the Carrols, near the present site of Beachville, another family of Carrolls near Ingersoll, the Lefaves at Thamesford and others.

Ingersoll at once allocated land to his followers, on the trail now known as the Hamilton Road and proceeded to improve road from Ingersoll to Beachville so the first community stretched along this old stage road for five or six miles. What is now known as Beachville, Centreville and Ingersoll was the original Thomas Ingersoll settlement.

Although settlement was begun in this section as early as 1793 there is no knowledge of any religious services being held until 1801. In that year on the first day of August, the first service was sponsored by the Methodist Episcopal Church and the minister was one of the old time saddle-bag missionaries, the Rev. Nathan Bangs.

Making a journey from the Niagara frontier over the ancient road through Ancaster and Burford, Mr. Bangs rode into the settlement of Oxford. Many of the settlers who came with Thomas Ingersoll were former members of the Methodist Episcopal church and they welcomed Mr. Bangs and aided him in the formation of the first religious congregation. This began the history of the Methodist Church in this community.

The Reverend Bangs stayed in Oxford nine days and then proceeded westward. From this time on to about 1812 the Methodist Episcopal congregation was kept together, for their religious services by their own leaders and were visited from time to time by Mr. Bangs and other travelling ministers.

As nearly all of these preachers came from the United States, in 1812 they were looked upon with suspicion as enemies and ordered to leave the country. Local teachers then carried on. A Mr. Burdich became a travelling preacher and his territory extended to Long Point.

Up to 1820 there had been no partcular place of worship in the whole community except the old log school that stood on the present Memorial School grounds or in a house. Later in that year the Pipins, Galloways, Burdichs and many others erected a log building for church services, near or on the West Oxford church. In 1823, the West Oxford church was transferred from the Galloway property to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church, Poel Pipin, Robert Corsari, Jacob Wood of the township of Oxford and Isaac Burdich and Thomas Wait of the township of Zorra, for a consideration of five pounds. The deed for this transfer was sworn to by Comfort Sage and Stepin Tuple and signed by Thomas Horner, registrar. Thus the West Oxford church was the first church home in the original Ingersoll settlement.

Joel Piper
Corson
Stephen Teeple

From 1823 to about 1840-50 the religious advantages of Ingersoll were limited and centred around the West Oxford church on the local school house but the various branches of the Methodist church were more organized and the visits of the travelling preachers more frequent, so that marriages and baptismal ceremonies were more certain. The village did not possess a church in 1828 and there were no ministers of any denomination regularly stationed here. The Methodist travelling preachers came around on their circuit once in two or three weeks, on horse back with saddle bags across the saddle. Generally they rode around to the different families notifying them of the service in the school house and they always had a packed house.

see story in County Book in Oxford past.

Parsonage on Duke St. built 1874 - 117 Dakota (Dr. Osborne) see Industrial Exposition - 1907

From 1840-1855 there was a rapid expansion in industry, trade and population and a corresponding expansion in church building among the various denominations. Many of these old churches are gone but among the different branches of the Methodist church which have united from time to time, until recently the last union formed the present United Church of Canada, there are several which are remembered by the older citizens. P.T. Walker - funeral home - Oxford

The Bible Christian Church was a rather imposing structure for those days and was situated on Oxford street on the vacant lot west of Victoria Mmeorial school. This building was removed to King street west where it still stands and is used as a dwelling and a place of business. The John street church, after being abandoned for church purposes was used as a ward school for many years and is still standing on its former location. Ingersoll once had a colored population sufficiently strong to support a church situated on Catharine street, near the creek that runs through part of Mr. Lucas' property. This church was called the British Methodist Episcopal church. Well remembered in Colquhoun days.

The old Charles Street church which stood where the armory is, is within the memory of most people in town. Saw the Tower fall.

With so many branches of the Methodist church in the early days situated in town it necessarily follows that many very distinguished Canadians of that faith have at various times been located here.

Rev. John Kay twice stationed at Ingersoll, was born in Napanee, Ont., in 1838. His father died when he was 14, yet he persevered in studies and work, helping his family and made such progress that he was received into the ministry in 1862.

Rev. Eardly Koyle born at Centralia, became a minister in 1878 and was stationed at Ingersoll. He was gifted with wonderful oratorical power and became an outstanding exponent of his chosen profession.

Rev. D. C. McIntyre, M.A., Ph. D., born in 1845 at Duart, Kent county, attended Chahtam high school and Victoria University, became mathematical master of Ingersoll high school which position he resigned to study theology. He was stationed in many cities and towns throughout Ontario.

Rev. John Laycock, born at Embro in 1848, joined the Methodist Episcopal church at the age of 21, ordained in 1873 served Ingersoll and many other charges and held important offices in the Niagara Conference.

Rev. Edward Dewart, born in County Cavan, Ireland, in 1828, came to Canada at the age of six, became a school tacher in 1847, ordained in Weslyan Methodist church in 1851. Stationed in Ingersoll in 1867 to 1869, when he was elected editor of the Christian Guardian which post he held over 21 years. While at Ingersoll, Mr. Dewart published a volume of poems "The Songs of Life" descriptive of the joys, sorrows, hardships and splendid courage of the pioneers of Western Ontario.

The Rev. Solomon Peter Hale, pastor of the congregation of the B.M.E. church in Ingersoll. He worked hard among his flock and was a good citizen. He loved to astonish his congregation with the use of big words which, when investigated by skeptical members of his audience, were usually found to convey the idea intended. He lived in poverty and died in poverty but he was a hero and a good man. Knew him (colored) man

The present minister, Rev. Charles D. Daniel came to the church in 1938. During the war, while the minister was chaplain overseas, Rev. Harold Parr was minister.

Of late years, a new memorial organ has been installed, with chimes, which peal out every Sunday over the country side. A new lighting system was installed and both the church and the Sunday school have been redecorated.

more facts - book - wood - Co - Dr

(17)

Church Places Stone For Education Building

In 1965 - Trinity United Church purchased the Boles house and lot west of the church building - demolished the house & used the lot for parking. reported price $1500

INGERSOLL, June 21—L. A. Wescott, chairman of the building committee of Ingersoll Trinity United Church, officiated at the cornerstone laying of the new, $140,000 Christian Education Centre this afternoon.

In his remarks Mr. Wescott thanked members of the congregation who had responded to the extension of their pledges.

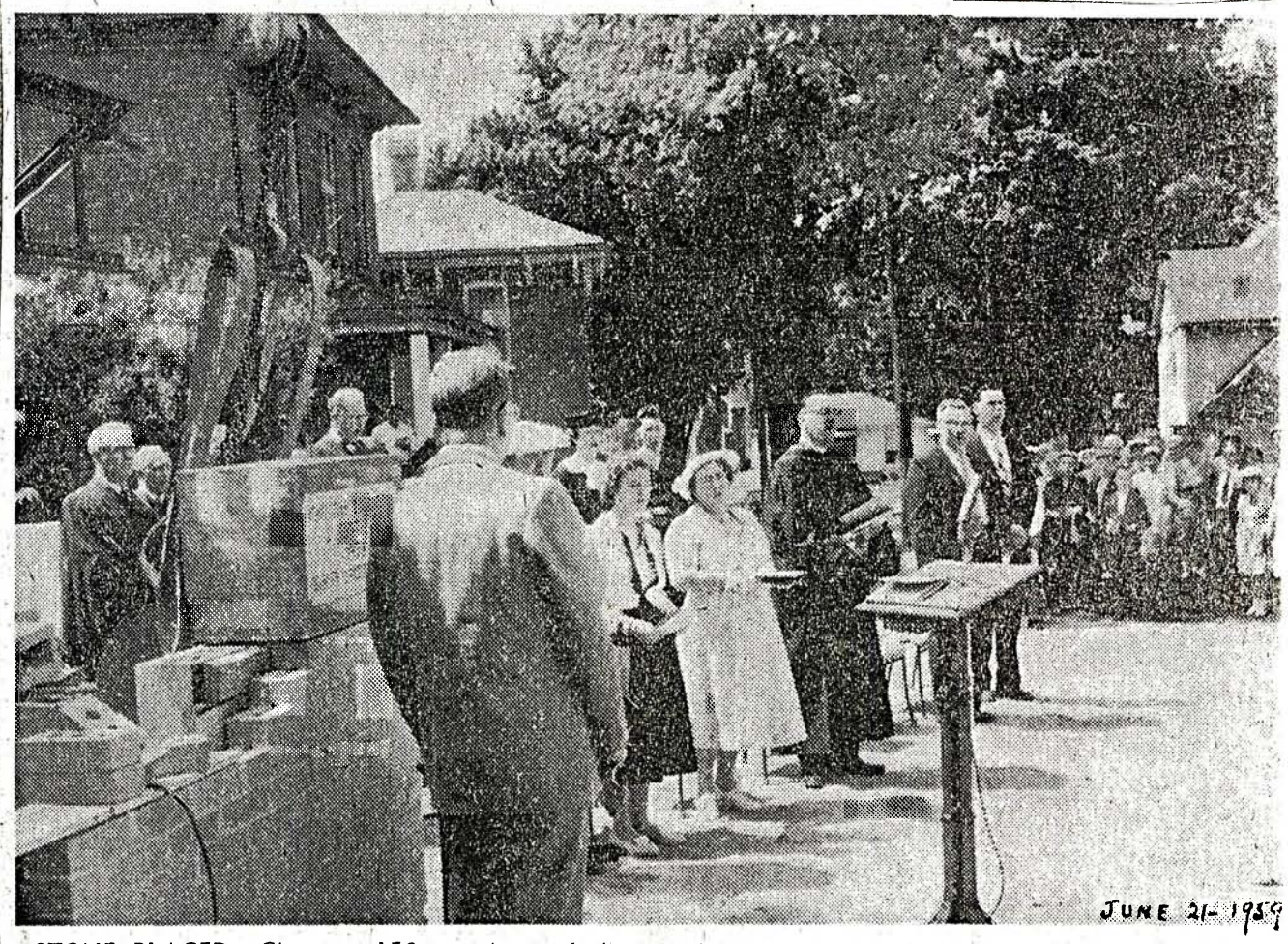
Need Co-operation

He said the centre would supply all the physical requirements but members must co-operate with the minister and group leaders to perform its real purpose.

Assisting the Rev. Ralph King in the service were: J. C. Ferguson, clerk of the session; Mrs. Clifford Beynon, president of the Women's Association of the church; John Edwards, Jr., chairman of the Christain Education committee; Mrs. George Smith, president of the Women's Missionary Society; R. R. Smith, general superintendent, Christain Education Centre; and Mis Beth Barnett, representing the children and the youth of the church.

Anthem—"How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place" (Brahms); Offertor "Andante con Moto–Sonata V" (Mendelssohn); Postlude Chrale Prelude on 'Andernach' (Willan); anthem "Rejoice in the Lord", (Sellars); Offertory, "Scherzo", (Whitlock) and Postlude Allegro Maestoso–Sonata 19, (Rheinberger.)

On Sunday next, December 6, Trinity United Church will hold "open house" from 2 p.m to 5 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., when all visitors will be made welcome.



JUNE 21-1959

STONE PLACED—Close to 150 members of the congregation of Ingersoll Trinity United Church were present Sunday afternoon for the laying of the cornerstone of the church's new $140,000 Christian Education Centre. Here the Rev. Ralph King leads the congregation in song.

Trinity Church Dedicated Christian Education Centre

The Right Rev. Angus J. MacQueen, London, Moderator of the General Council, The United Church of Canada, in his dedication sermon at Trinity United Church, Ingersoll on Sunday, November 29th, told those present the functions and vocation of the church included the worship of Almighty God, preaching of the Gospel of Christ, promotion of Brotherhood and Fellowship in the world and the building of moral character. The Moderator's message marked part of day-long services at Trinity United Church, which in the morning included the rededication of the redecorated sanctuary and renovated narthex by the Reverend Duncan Guest, of Centralia, president of the London Conference.

During the morning service the presentation of a plaque was made to Mr. L. A. Westcott, in recognition of his services as chairman of the building committee. Mr. Gordon B. Henry, finance chairman, read the presentation address on behalf of the members of the congregation and presented the plaque.

Afternoon services marked the dedication of the chapel, and $120,000.00 Christian Education wing by the Moderator.

Greetings from the Oxford Presbytery were brought by the Rev. W. J. Maines of Embro, chairman; and by Rev. Dillwyn T. Evans, chairman of the Ingersoll Ministerial Association.

Following the sermon of dedication, the presentation of the key ceremonies took place, the following taking part: Alex Morton of London, representing the architect, Harold L. Hicks, passed the key to the contractor, Gordon C. McLeod, representing Songhurst and McLeod, who passed the key to the chairman of the building committee, Mr. L. A. Westcott, who passed it to Rev. W. J. Maines for the United Church of Canada, who in turn presented it to Rev. Ralph E. King, minister of Trinity United Church.

As the new chapel was dedicated representative members from the church, Sunday School and various midweek groups, moved from the body of the church to the chapel for the ceremony, conducted by the Moderator.

Gifts and memorials were then dedicated by Rev. Duncan M. Guest, with Mr J. H. Hunsberger, Clerk of the Session reading the list which included:

For the Chapel—Pendant Cross, Dossal Curtain, Pulpit and Lectern, Communion Table, Chancel Seats, Double Kneeling Bench, Pulpit Bible, Pulpit Hymnary, Hymn Board, Offering Plates and Bible Marker, Chapel Hymnaries, Two Chapel Pews.

For the church parlour—Piano, Console Table, Four Side Chairs.

For the board room—Piano, pictures of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip.

Thanks were also extended to Mr. J. W. Noble for his donation of tulip bulbs and for his landscaping the church front, and to Mr. and Mrs. Bert Barker for providing flowers for the planter in the Christian Education Centre.

Special music was contributed during the day, with Mr. Harold A. Riddolls, Mus.Bac., Director of Music presiding at the console of the organ and included:

Women Have Major Role In Town's Church Life

Jan. 3-1962

EDITOR'S NOTE: On Wednesday night women of Trinity United church held the inaugural meeting of the new women's organization, "The United Church Women". The inaugural meeting was a fitting climax to the months and months of planning and organizing that have preceded it. The following interesting history and comments was prepared especially for the Sentinel-Review on his occasion by Mrs. Harold Riddolls.)

Through the years women of Ingersoll have played an important part in the life of the church. In 1801 the first recorded religious service held at Oxford-on-the-Thames, later to be known as Ingersoll, was conducted by Rev. Nathan Bangs. While there was no organized woman's society then historical sketches and oral reports record the busy days spent by the women preparing for the approaching visit of the minister. The scattered neighbors were visited and inivted to attend the service; elements were prepared for the communion service; babies were enrolled for baptism; young couples were prepared for solemnization of marriage; provision was made for hospitality for the minister and for the families who would come from a distance to spend the day.

On Sunday, September 17, 1854, the new Wesleyan Methodist Church was opened in Ingersoll and the following evening the women of the church prepared a banquet in their new kitchen and served it in the new dining room. The kitchen and dining room along with a sewing room were located in the ground floor of the new church; the auditorium occupied the second floor; the third floor provided living quarters for the pastor and his family, while the attic provided temporary shelter for negro slaves emigrating from the United States. The kitchen and sewing rooms were well used by the women in caring for these sojourners and for other needy people in the community. Due to the increased population churches were erected on King street by the Wesleyan Methodists and on Charles street by the Episcopal Methodists.

UNITE CONGREGATIONS

In 1909 the two congregations united to form the Ingersoll Methodist Church and since the King street church was the larger it was used for the united congregations. That year the Women's Missionary Society afternoon auxiliary was formed and Mrs. Fred Wally was the first president. The next year or two saw the start of girls' Mission Band, the Learn-to-do-wel Mission Circle and in 1915 a boys' Mission Band.

In 1925 the United Church of Canada was created and the King st. church became Trinity United Church. At that time there were three women's organization, the Ladies Aid, the Guild and the Willing Workers.

Another missionary group was formed in 1926 and named after a missionary working in Korea at that time, the Emma Palethorpe Missionary Auxiliary.

At the time of the union a new parsonage was required at 57 King street to replace the one at 117 Duke street and the women of the church paid over $1,000 to complete the deal.

In 1933 the Ladies Aid, the Guild and the Willing Workers amalgamated and the organization was known as the Woman's Association of Trinity Church. Two hundred and fifty women signified their desire to become members and at the inaugural meeting of the newly-formed association 115 women were present. Ten units or groups, including one evening group were formed. Through the years many changes have taken place and there are now eight groups with a membership of 270, five meeting in the afternoon and three in the evening.

More women were becoming interested in the missions of the church and in 1941 the Dr. Margaret McKellar auxiliary was formed and named after a medical missionary in India who had been raised and educated in Ingersoll. In that year also the Beatrice Leslie Mission Circle was organized and chose its name in honor of Beatrice Leslie, a Banner resident, who served the United Church in a hospital in Western Canada. This circle matured and in 1955 became an evening auxiliary and a new group, the Betty Facey Mission Crclie, came into being, named for Miss Betty Facey who is a deaconess of a United Church in Stratford. Since 1945 the Women's Missionary Society has sponsored a Baby Band, a boys' and girls' Mission Band at Alma and Explorers and CGIT groups both at King street and Alma.

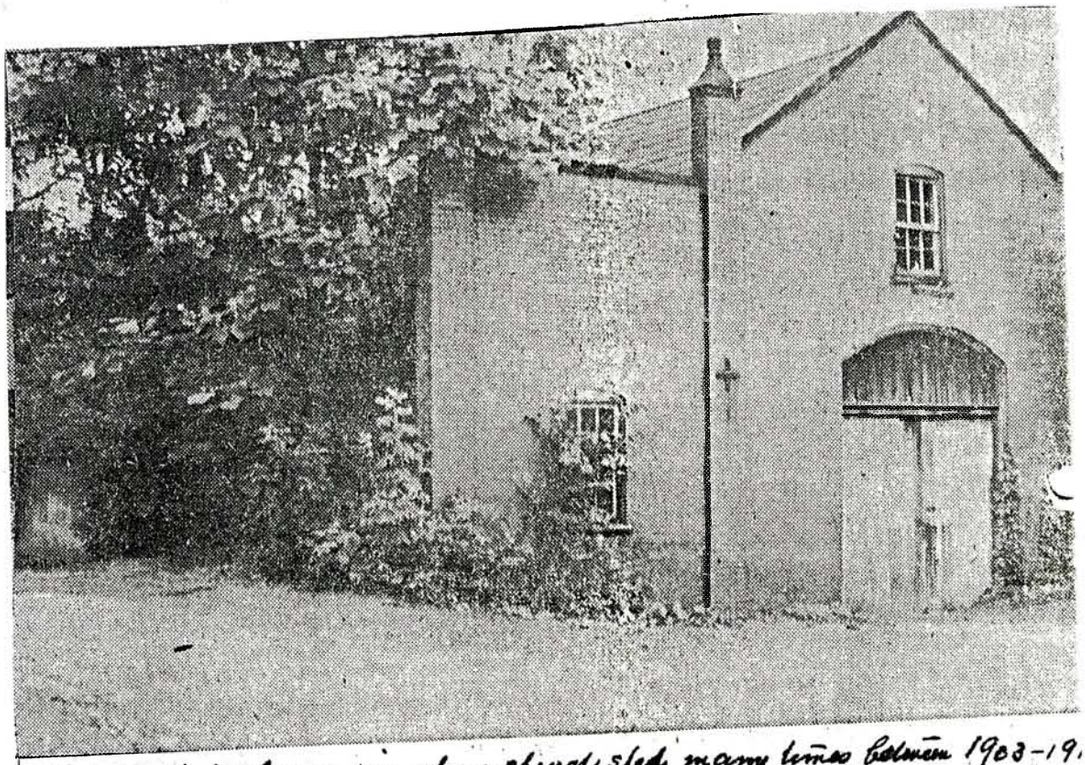
The WMS obtains its allocation through the systematic givings of its members who also do supply work and pack bales for at home and overseas missions.

MANY PURPOSES

The Woman's Association is responsible for the maintenance of the church parlors, the kitchen and the nursery; flowers are furnished for the sanctuary; the sacramental wine is made and linens for the communion service are cared for and annual gifts are contributed to many United Church projects. When the new Alexandra Hospital was erected in 1950, $1,000 was contributed to furnish a two-bed room.

The Women's Association has played a prominent part in the furnishing of Alma Street in 1958, and also in the building program at Trinity United Church in 1959. In the past two years in addition to their annual commitments the WA has helped to substantially reduce the church debt by the burning of two notes. U.C.W-JAN-1962

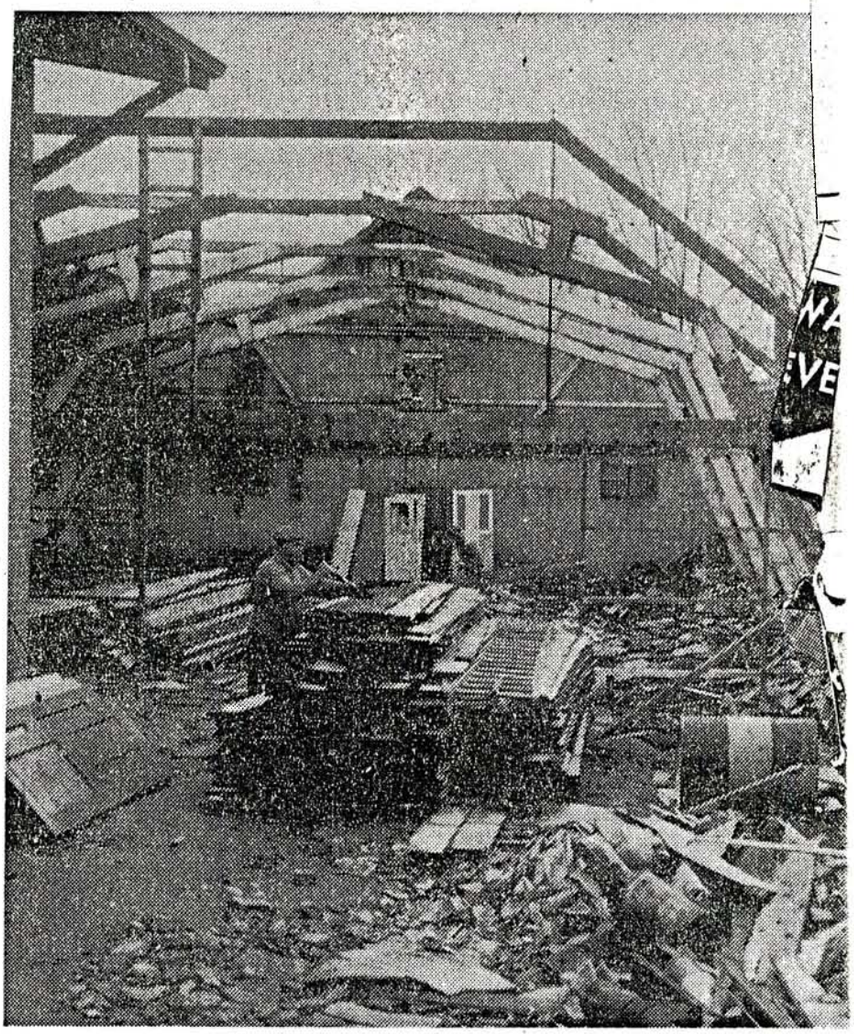
Now a new era begins — we have a new name — "The United Church Women" — but the purpose "To unite all women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a medium through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service" is but a broadening and a deepening of the principles for which we have stood through the years and a step closer to the United Church motto "That all may be one".



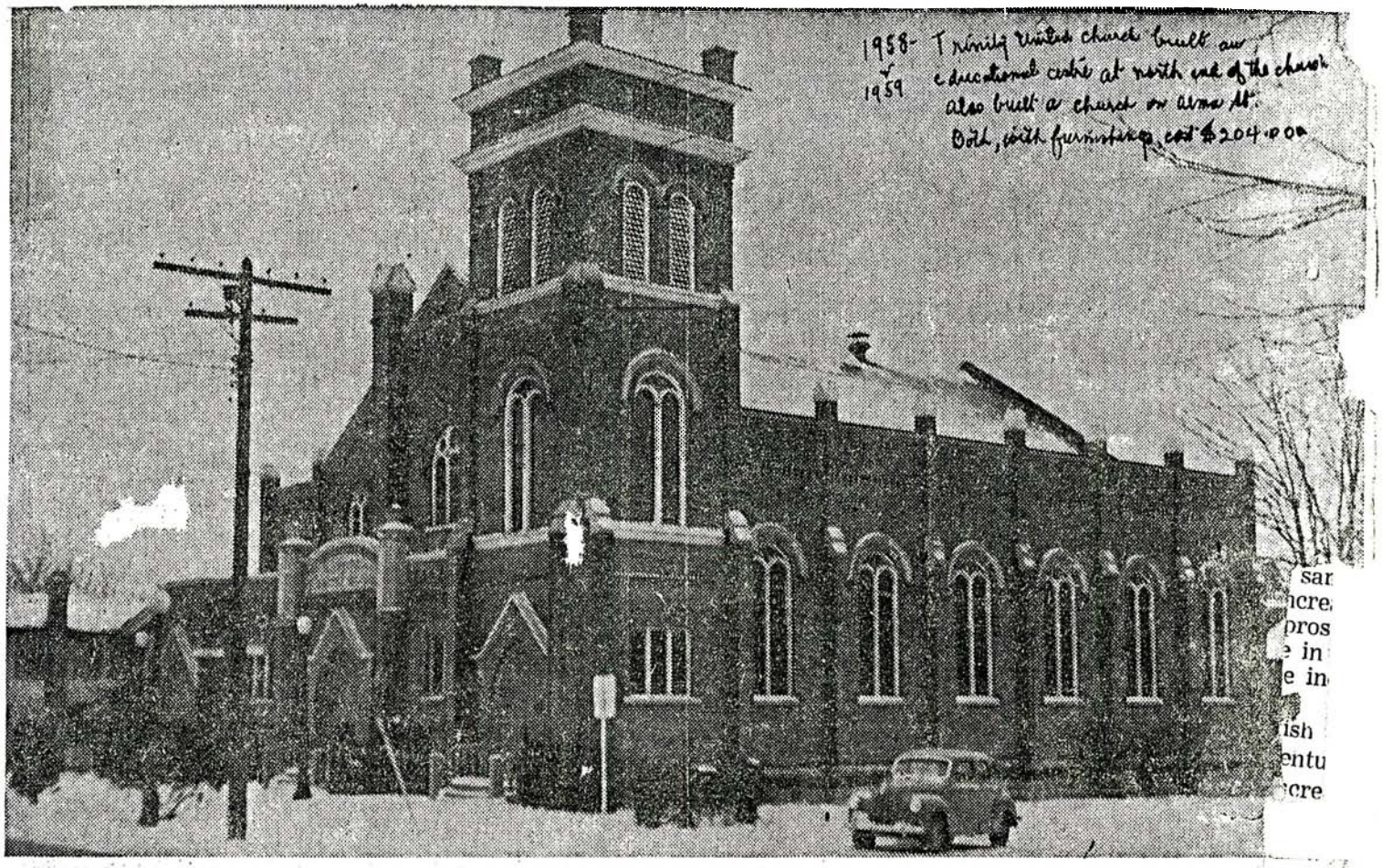
I have tied horses in above church shed many times between 1903-19.
B.

TO MAKE WAY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

THE LONDON FREE PRESS, Saturday, Nov. 7,



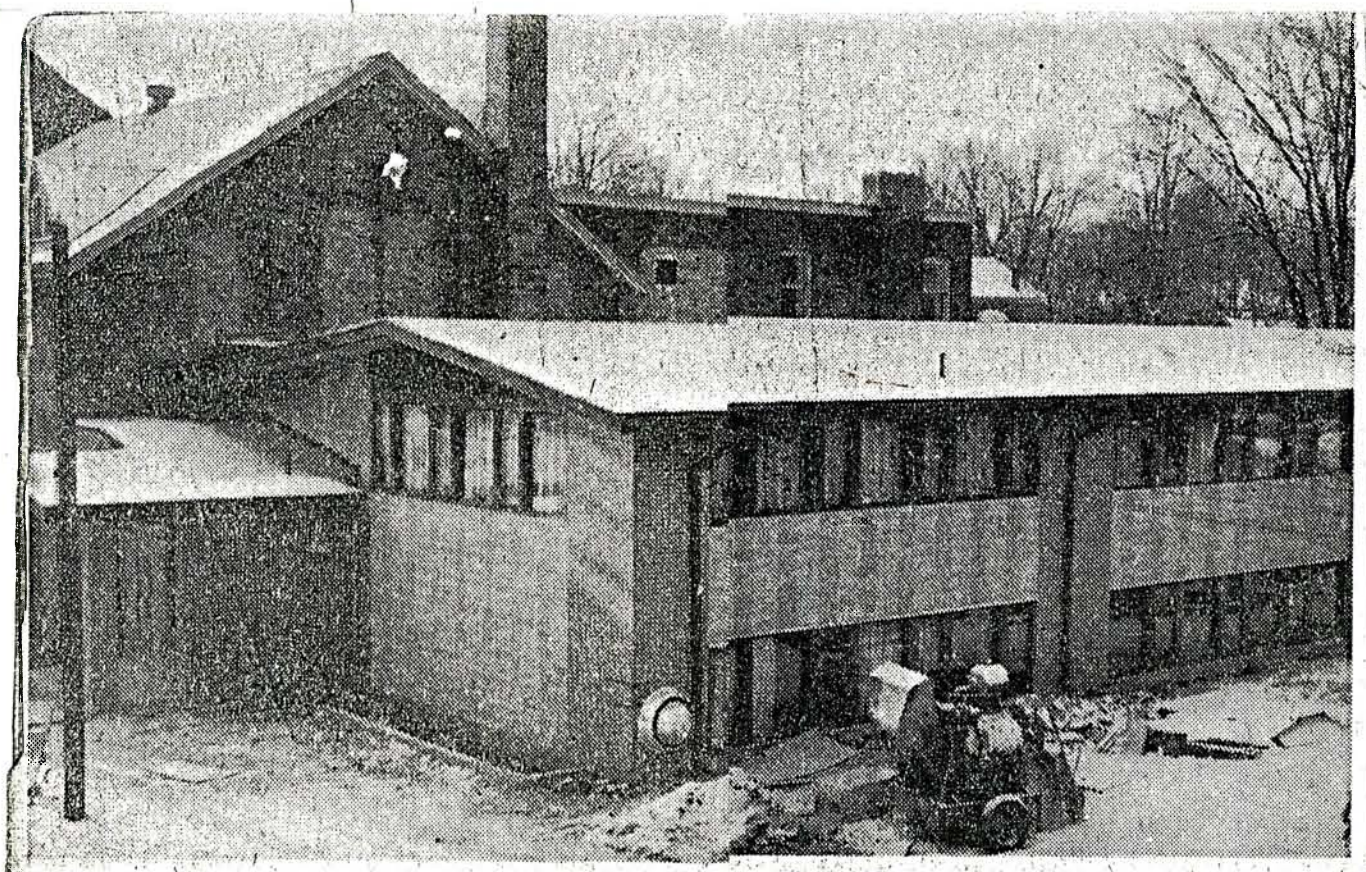
LANDMARK DISAPPEARS—Making way for a 30-car parking lot for Tri United Church, Ingersoll, this 90-year-old church shed is being demolish Above, at extreme left, can be seen a corner of the $110,000 Christian Edu tion centre of the church, recently completed. The shed, originating in h and buggy days, was later used as a gymnasium. (Photo by Lonafield)



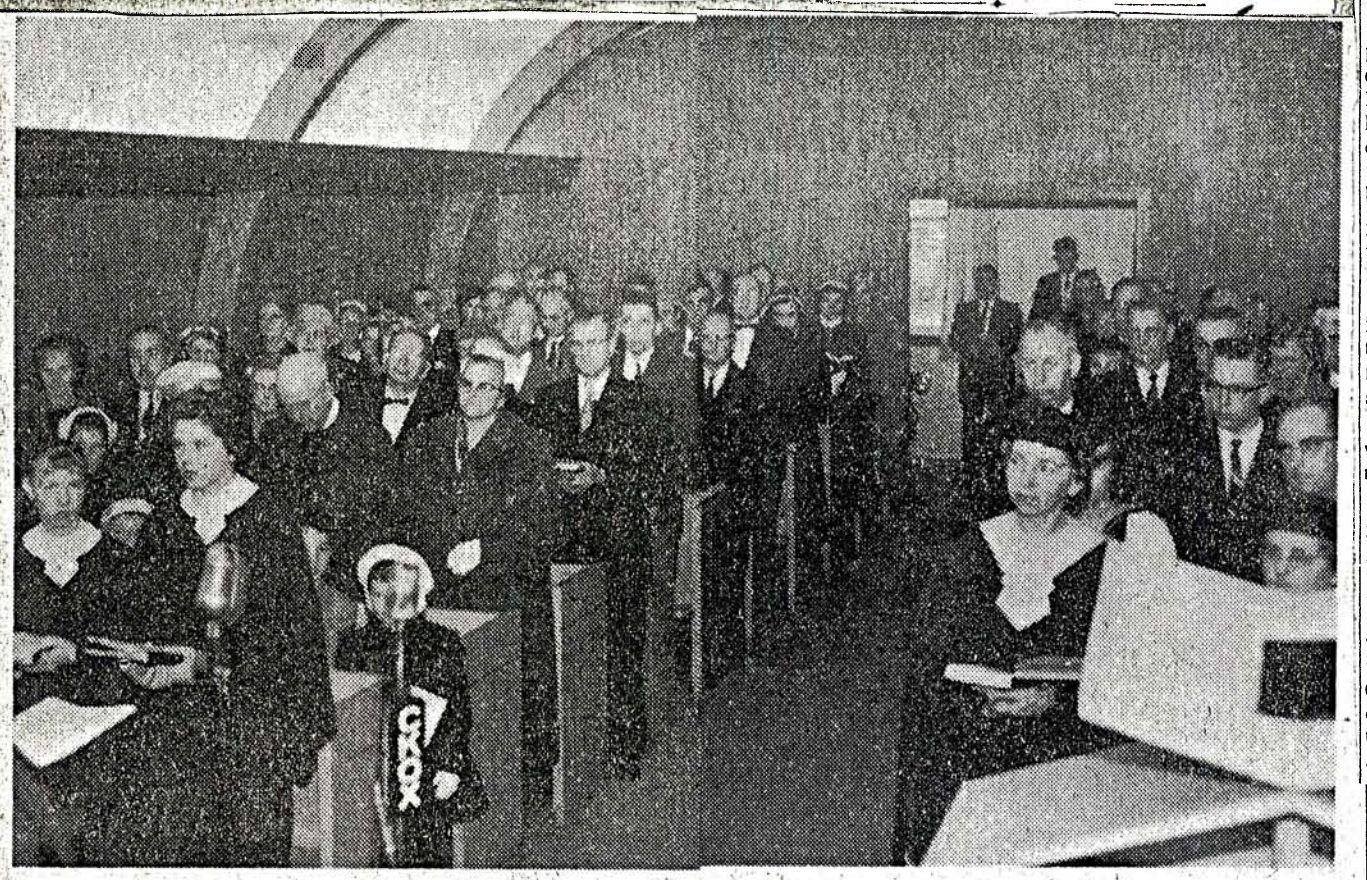
TRINITY UNITED CHURCH HAS LARGE CONGREGATION

Mch -1955.

Trinity United Church in Ingersoll is situated on King street west. With a congregation of over 1,500 representing between six and seven hundred families, Trinity United has one of the largest congregations in the community. Rev. C. D. Daniel has been minister at Trinity for the past 18 years. He tendered his resignation to the board this year, to take effect on June 30, 1955. Rev. Mr. Daniel is a past president of the London Conference and at the present time is the chairman of the settlement committee of the conference. There are seven WA groups in the United Church congregation, seven WMS groups including a boys' and a girls' Mission Band. There are also an active men's fellowship and Young People's group within the church. Two excellent choirs provide music for the weekly as well as special services, under the leadership of organist and choir master, Harold Riddolls. The senior choir has been chosen annually as one of six choirs to take part in t Hearts and Voices Lenten grams over CFPL, and has be consistent winner at the Woo stock Music Festival, last ye winning the three classes, lar choir, small choir, and cho group. A 50-voice junior ch sings at a morning service e each month. (Staff Photo)



DEDICATED AT INGERSOLL—Dedication of this $120,000 new Christian Education wing marked an historic moment at Trinity United Church, Ingersoll, yesterday. The Rt. Rev. Angus J. MacQueen, London, moderator of the United Church of Canada, officiated at the ceremony. Two floors in the modern addition include a board room, minister's study, ladies' parlor, banquet room and kitchen. Construction began a year ago.



SERVICE IN CHAPEL—The eventful day at Trinity Church also included dedication of a new chapel (above) and rededication of the church's redecorated sanctuary and vestibule. The new chapel, built in the former Sunday school rooms, seats about 100 and will be used for weddings and other special services. Furnishings, donated as memorials, were dedicated by the Rev. Duncan M. Guest, president of the London Conference of the United Church. (Photos by Longfield).

Additions To Church Dedicated

1959.

INGERSOLL, Nov. 29 — Overflowing congregations at Trinity United Church here yesterday joined in the dedication of the church's new chapel, Christian Education wing and renovated narthex and sanctuary.

A sermon of dedication was given to the afternoon congregation by the Rt. Rev. Angus J. MacQueen, London, moderator of the United Church of Canada.

Functions of Church

The functions of the church, Dr. MacQueen told the congregation, include the worship of Almighty God, preaching of the gospel of Christ, the promotion of brotherhood and fellowship in the world and the building of moral character.

Increased Facilities

The moderator officiated at the dedication of the new Trinity church chapel, created in the former Sunday school rooms, and its $120,000 Christian Education wing which encompasses a ladies' parlor and board room, minister's study, banquet room and kitchen.

The ceremonial presentation of the key to the new rooms was performed by Alex Morton, London, representing the architect, Harold L. Hicks; Gordon C. McLeod, contractor; L. A. Westcott, chairman of the building committee, the Rev. W. J. Maines, Embro, chairman of the Oxford Presbytery, and the Rev. Ralph King, pastor of Trinity Church.

Bring Greetings

Mr. Maines brought the greetings of the Oxford Presbytery and the Rev. Dilwin T. Evans spoke for the Ingersoll Ministerial Association.

A representative procession of various church, Sunday school and mid-week organizations moved from the church to the new chapel for its dedication. J. H. Hunsberger, clerk of session, read the list of gifts and memorials which furnished the chapel.

At a special morning service, the Rev. Duncan Guest, Centralia, president of the London Conference of United Churches, officiated at the rededication of the church's redecorated sanctuary and narthex.

Contractors - Songhurst and McLeod - Ingersoll.

(18)

JUNE 6 - 1965

REV. J. C. HILLBORN — of Courtland was named associate minister at Trinity United Church, Ingersoll, at a congregational meeting yesterday. The appointment is effective July 1. He has been a minister at Courtland United Church for three years. (Photo by Longfield).

left in 1968 for Maritimes.

1946 - 25 YEARS AGO

Dedication of organ chimes took place at Trinity United Church, presented by Charles Wilson and accepted by A. G. Carr for the church.

MRS. HAROLD UREN
- - - Ingersoll

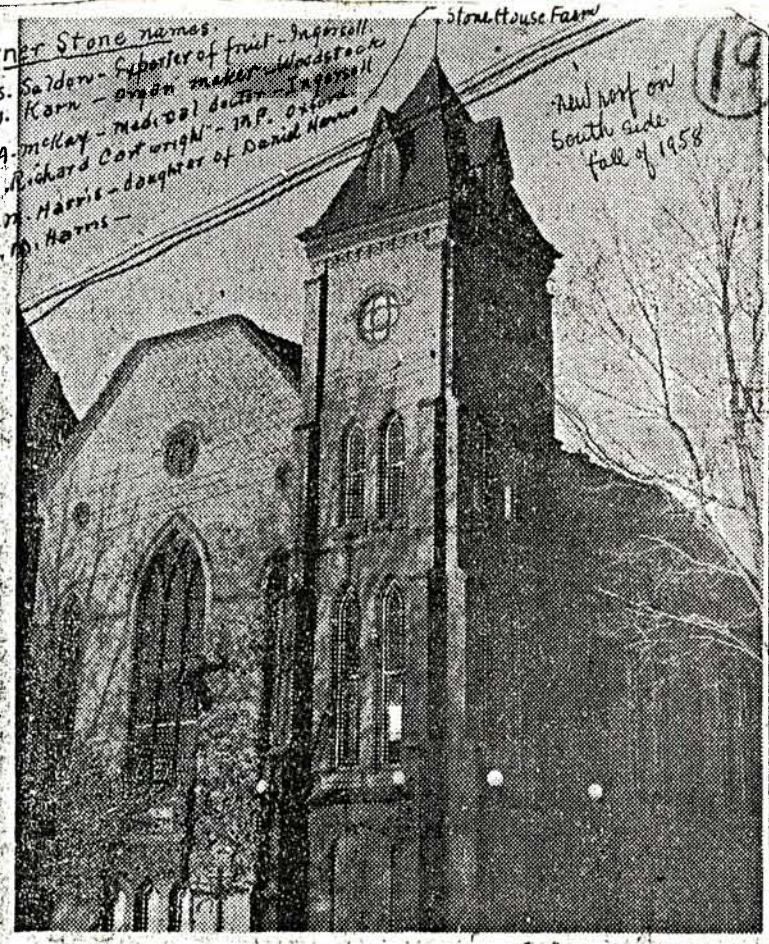
Ingersoll

INGERSOLL — Mrs. Harold Uren was elected president of the United Church Women of Ingersoll United Church. Officers were installed Jan. 14. Other officers are: Vice-presidents, Mrs. A. P. Silcox, Mrs. Reginald Bradfield, Mrs. Norman Barnes; recording secretary, Mrs. George Clifton; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Edward McKim; assistant, Mrs. J G. Miller; treasurer, Mrs. Ernest Underwood.

Representative to the Official Board, Mrs. Harold Uren; representative to the Committee of Stewards, Mrs. Charles Meatherall; chairman of co-operation in Christian and missionary education, Mrs. Norman Barnes; representatives to Christian education, Mrs. J. C. Cryderman, Mrs. George Francis; buying, Mrs. D. S. Hackney; kitchen, Mrs. F. H. Worton, Mrs. W. T. Sullivan and Mrs. W. H. McBride; social assistance, Mrs. Earl McLeod; Literature, Mrs. G. W. Fleming; Christian education, Mrs. T. W. McGuffin and Mrs. R. A. Lewis; life memberships, Mrs. W. H. McBride and Mrs. V. J. Oakley; nominating, Mrs. R. A. Lewis, Mrs. A. H. Corney and Mrs. T. W. McGuffin; press and publicity, Mrs. Steve Woloshyn; auditors, Mrs. Dan Fletcher and Mrs. R. A. Lewis; visiting, Mrs. Arthur Robinson.

Unit leaders are Mrs. F. H. Worton and Mrs. R. S. Pinkerton.

and buggy days, was later used as a



BAPTIST CHURCH

Present Building Rose From Ruins Of Original

Baptist denominational activities in Ingersoll cover a period of 91 years and for 85 of those years the work has centred around a church located at the corner of Thames and Canterbury streets.

The Ingersoll Baptist church was founded in 1858 and Elder George Wilson was the first pastor. At first the people met for worship in the town hall, but in 1864 they had the joy of meeting in their new chapel located on Thames street.

The Baptist beginnings were humble indeed. The first church building was of frame construction and of severely plain design. It was not until 1884 that all indebtedness was removed from it.

Near the close of 1888 Rev. J. F. Badker of Whitby became pastor and he was able to lead the church forward to the erection of a new building. This was a matter members had been considering for some years, but obstacles, chiefly financial, stood in the way. Through Mr. Barker's leadership these were overcome and a church seating 500 was built in 1890. On January 4, 1891, it was officially dedicated taking the name of Tabernacle Church.

An era of definite progress seemed to be opening with the building of the new church. Rev. James Grant succeeded Mr. Barker in 1895. But during Mr. Grant's ministry the church was almost totally destroyed by fire. During an electrical storm one night in May, 1898, the church was hit by lightning and only the walls were left standing.

The insurance paid the mortgage and the church faced the tremendous task of building, in effect, a new church on the ruins of the old. The necessary funds were raised by subscription. On February 19, 1899, the new church, a fine red brick structure, was dedicated.

No major changes were made in the design of the church until 1946. In June of that year extensive alterations in the front of the auditorium were completed. A new pulpit and choir seats of white ash were installed. New console, gates and screen for the organ were added, and as well the organ was completely overhauled and electrified. The platform floor was renewed in hardwood and new lighting was installed. A new communion table and pulpit Bible were also dedicated.

Rev. George A. McLean, whose ministry was the longest in the church's recent history, preached his farewell message on the day of dedication.

Twenty ministers have served the Ingersoll Baptist church in its 91 year history. They are: George Wilson, 1858; Thomas Baldwin, 1864; John Dempsey, 1868; S. C. Keitch, 1880; David Hutchison, 1880! Thomas Trotter, 1882; H. C. Spiller, 1883; J. M. Munro, 1887; J. F. Barker, 1889; James Grant, 1895; S. E. Grigg, 1903; M. C. MacLean, 1905; C. J. McLean, 1910; Joseph Janes, 1910; Donald McIntyre, 1919: A. J. McDonald, 1925; Don Cameron, 1932; George A. McLean, 1937; Murray Simmons, 1946, and J. M. Ward, 1947. Rev J. R. Simpson - Apr 1-1963 at Lockhart Building

Water aerating system installed west of waterworks Pump House - West on Carlee Bowman Reservoir. cost $28,000 - 1950 includes the well

Water reservoir (underground on Wonham north of Standpipe built in 1890 - 1931-2 cost - capacity 750,000 gals cost - 138,000 gals

Wells drilled 1931 & pumping house 1932 erected on Merritt St - 1931 -

Brick street built - 1916 - 8" concrete base at centre, tapering to 6" at curb - 1 inch sand on concrete

Ingersoll Church Dedicates Lights

1953

INGERSOLL, Dec. 14—A large congregation attended a special dedication service at St. James Anglican Church, when new Gothic lights were dedicated by the Rev. Dr. A. H. Crowfoot, of London.

A bronze memorial pulpit light, given by Mrs. W. H. Street, was also dedicated in memory of her husband, William C. Street, a former warden and official of the church.

The Rev. Carman J. Queen, rector of St. James, conducted the service.

Cost of the system was approximately $4,000, which has been subscribed by the members of the congregation and the church organizations.

ST. JAMES

(1955 - redecorated interior - cost $4500.00) 1949.

Rector Once Architect Designed Anglican Edifice

THE FIRST CHURCH - MOVED TO KING ST. - BRICK VENEERED - OPPOSITE FUNERAL PARLOR

(This is the first in a weekly series of historical features about Ingersoll's churches).

Services have been held in the parish of St. James for 115 years. This parish was founded in 1834, the first services being held in a school-house situated somewhere near where the Victory Memorial School now stands. some say 1852

In 1840 the first church was erected on a lot bounded by King and Francis streets and by Albert and Earl streets. The frame building was built on the brow of the hill, with sheds on the east and burying grounds on the west.

The land on which the church was built was given to the parish by Major Thomas Ingersoll, a Loyalist who had settled here in 1793 on the advice of Chief Joseph Brant. Thomas Ingersoll was the father of Laura Secord, whose name has become inseparably linked with the story of the War of 1812.

The connection between the parish of St. James and the Ingersoll family was recalled in 1948. On May 9 the late Archbishop C. A. Seager delicated a special memorial stone on the grave of Charles Ingersoll, eldest son of Thomas Ingersoll.

The present handsome church building is 80 years old. Begun in 1868, it was completed a year later, and with its opening the parish of St. James moved from a missionary to a self-supporting status. Cost $9000.00 complete

The church as it stands today was largely planned by the Rev. Canon J. Perrott Hicks, a native of Ireland, who was the rector at the time. He was peculiarly fitted for the work, having been an architect in his early life. The building, an imposing structure of Gothic architecture, as long as it stands will remain a monument to the memory of its first rector. Perhaps nowhere in this part of Ontario is the power of the classic Gothic church to inculcate a feeling of a Divine presence better illustrated.

The next significant milestone in the history of the parish came 60 years later, with the addition of the Parish Hall in 1929. The corner-stone was laid by Fred A. Ackert, chairman of the building committee, at a special service on a beautiful autumn afternoon, September 28. Cost $25000.00

The silver trowel used that afternoon now rests on the mantel in Mr. Ackert's home on Duke street. Beside it is a picture of Rev. W. E. V. McMillen, who was rector at that time.

The hopes of those who built were well fulfilled. The hall is today one of the finest in the Diocese of Huron.

Mr. McMillen's term as rector, the longest in the history of the church, included also the celebration of the centennial in 1934. The celebration, well remembered by the people of Ingersoll, consisted of special services on three successive Sundays in October as well as week-night meetings.

The parish of St. James has had 16 rectors during its 115 year history, from the Rev. John Rothwell who came here from England in 1835, and the present rector, Rev. C. J. Queen, who began his ministry in 1946.

The others were: 1848, Henry Revell; 1854, J. Walker Marsh; 1860, Johnston Vicars; 1864, J. Perrott Hincks; 1877, Edward M. Bland; 1885, Ernest L. Saunders; 1889, Robert Kerr; 1890, J. H. Moorhouse; 1894, Arthur Murphy; 1897, James Thompson; 1906, R. J. M. Perkins; 1919, Willmott E. V. McMillan; 1936, C. K. Masters, and 1939, H. E. Merifield.

Rev. Arthur Murray died recently in Vancouver at the age of 93. Mr Queen left - March 1 - 1956 Rev. L. Pocock began Apr 1 - 1956

No. 19 highway - Landscaped Ingersoll to Tillsonburg in 1930. Rev Sadlier - 1964

Jan - 1949 - sold to A. Wood - Simcoe. June 2 - 1952
Thomas Lee - buys "Tribune" from Wm Veale.

Sept 1 - 1950 - (see further back) finally paid for Oct - 1956 - Cost - Parking meters started operating. $18000.00

March - 1951 - Ing. Tel. Co. sells to Bell Co. - see article further on

Feb - 1951. Fleischer and Jewett open new building - Hames St.

1950. New liquor store building - on Oxford St. by Jas. Ferguson
This liquor store opened on Feb 22/51

Sept: 1951 Beverage warehouse - corner King and Oxford - opened Sept. 1951.

1872 - Gas lighting system installed

1865 - Ingersoll becomes a TOWN.
Adam Oliver - Mayor
R. A. Woodcock - Clerk.
1888 - Sept - 4 - Wm Smith - Clerk.

1856 - old village hall burned. also market building & town clerks office with all records & books

1879 - Ingersoll organized first fire brigade - C. E. Chadwick - Mgr

1881 - C.P.R. built through Ingersoll - Ct Thomas - Woodstock

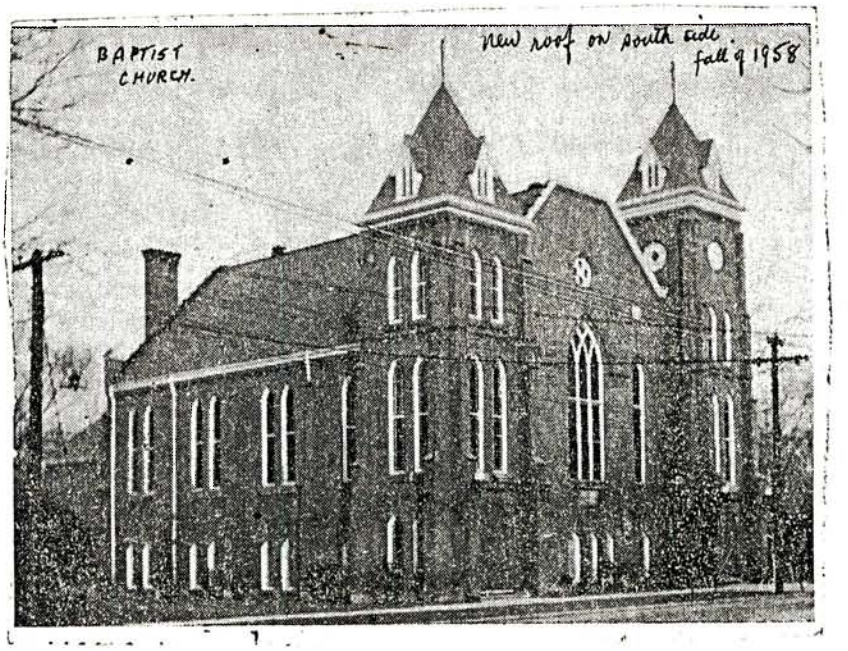
1890 - Waterworks installed - Engineer - Leitch.

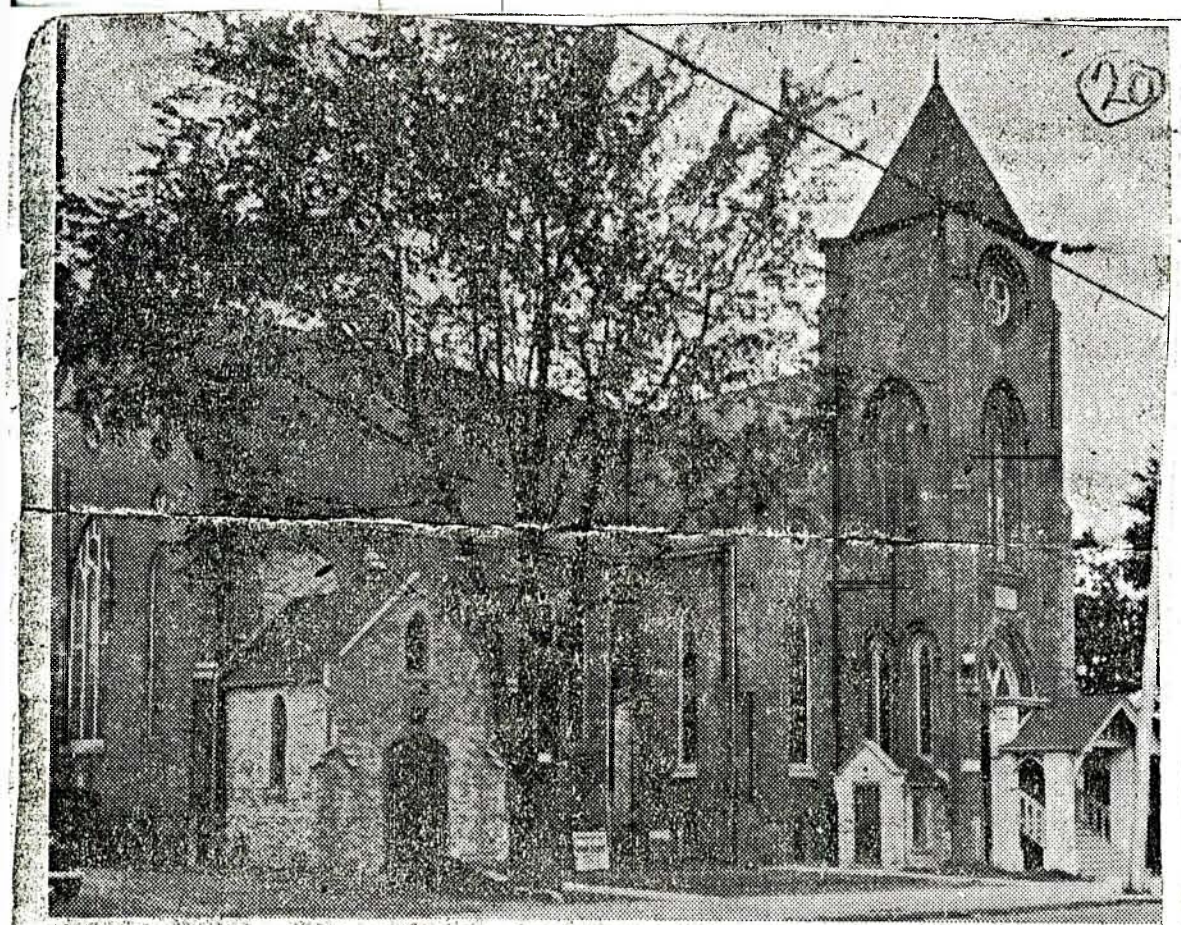
1890 - Silica Barytic sidewalk built from Baptist Tabernacle to Atlantic House by Otto Gudlick - Detroit - in 1891 - Ingersoll Co. formed with Walter Mills - Pres.

1891 - Electric lighting installed in Ingersoll.

The present - Ingersoll Y.M.C.A. began 1924. First known as the Triangle Club and later became the Ingersoll Community Y. It began at the recreation hall in connection with the Anglican Church. Herbert Handley was the first director and secretary.

Its next location was in the renovated kide building just north of the Anglican Church on Oxford St.


BAPTIST
CHURCH.
New roof on South side
fall of 1958



St. Paul's Presbyterian Church To Observe 100th Anniversary

1949

Commencing on September 25 and for four weeks, the congregation of St. Paul's Presbyterian church will mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the first Presbyterian church in Ingersoll.

St. Paul's Presbyterian church, Ingersoll, has had a rich and colourful history. There were two Presbyterian churches in the early days. In Scotland there were several groups within the Presbyterian church, the Established church, the Free church, the United Presbyterian church, and others. When the early settlers came to Canada they brought their own church prefence with them. In Ingersoll Knox was the Free church and Erskine the United Presbyterian church.

In the year 1834 the Synod of Ross in Scotland sent out the Rev. Donald MacKenzie whose ministry, it may be said, laid the foundation for Presbyterianism in this part of Western Ontario.

A little grove of trees on the north side of St. Andrews street, which seems to have been the favorite spot for holding religious services in those days, and on which Knox church was subsequently built, was where Mr. MacKenzie preached to an ever-increasing number who gathered during those years between 1834 and 1846 to listen to his messages of salvation and hope.

During the summer of 1847 encouraged by a generous offer made by Mr. James Ingersoll (a member of the Ingersoll family after whom the town was named, the few Presbyterians built a small brick church known as Knox church on St. Andrews street.

In September, 1848, the Rev. Robert Wallace preached for a call in this new church. He received the call and was inducted as the first minister in January, 1849.

Among the first members of Knox church we find the names of Mr. and Mrs. R. Falconer, Mr. and Mrs. W. Dunn, Thomas Telfer, Mr. and Mrs. W. Telfer, Mr. G. Telfer, Mr. and Mrs. Haining, Marion Sinclair, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. H. Matheson, Alex. Morrison, Alex. Brown, Mr. R. Kerr, J. Barker, D. Ross, A. Gordon. The first Kirk Session was composed of Joseph Barker, Donald Ross and Alex Gordon. Later as the congregation grew W. Hayward, Hugh Davidson, and John Bearss were elected to the session.

Rev. Wallace was minister until 1860 and he was followed by Rev. John Straith. The congregation grew rapidly and a gallery was added to the church.

Rev. Straith resigned in 1870 and he was followed by Rev. R. N. Grant whose ministry made a very deep and lasting impression on the spiritual life of Knox church.

Turning to the history of Erskine church we find that the Rev. Archibald Cross was inducted as first minister on January 11, 1855. In the first year of Mr. Cross's ministry, a church was built on Charles street west on the site now occupied by the Beaver Lumber Co.

The first session of Erskine church consisted of T. Hislop, D. Irving, J. Hay, R. Kerr, D. Kerr, J. Walker, J. Lawson, J. Muir and J. Grant. Mrs. Grace Smith who lives with her daughter, Mrs. W. Bailey, Cemetery Lane, was baptized by Rev. Cross in Erskine church in 1855. Mrs. Smith who is 94 is enjoying good health. Her memory is very vivid and she well remembers the building of St Paul's church in 1872. Mrs. John Gibson, 93, of Mossley district another member of St. Paul's church was a member of Erskine church.

Rev. Cross left in 1869 and he was fofllowed by Rev. Peter Wright who remained until 1873. During his ministry a new church, which forms part of the present St. Paul's, was built.

The Rev. John McEwen followed the Rev. Peter Wright. During his ministry an organ was introduced into the service of praise. For some time there was talk of union between Knox and Erskine. In 1889 the final union was consumated and the new church was called St. Paul's.

The Rev. E. R. Hutt was ordained and inducted on August 26, 1890, as the first minister of the new St. Paul's church. The history of the congregation during his ministry is marked by growth materially and spiritually. The seating capacity of the church was found to be inadequate and steps were taken to enlarge the building. A large addition was made on the south side and a new pipe organ was installed.

The Rev. A. Bright became the next minister of St. Paul's and he labored faithfully until 1914 when he went to be assistant minister of Parkdale church, Toronto. The Rev. R. McLeod followed Rev. Bright. The World War, 1914-18 came during Rev. McLeod's ministry and he served for a time as chaplain. Mc. McLeod resigned in 1919.

It was during the next minister's ministry, the Rev. G. Wood, that the question of church union between the Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian churches was considered. By an overwhelming majority St. Paul's decided to remain Presbyterian. Mr. Wood went to be assistant minister of Trinity church and 127 members from St. Paul's went with him.

The next minister of St. Paul's was the Rev. J. A. Brown. By his faithful and untiring efforts and deeds of kindness, he endeared himself to his people. After serving for seven years he died on April 20, 1932.

Rev. Dr. H. H. Turner followed Mr. Brown. Dr. Turner's ministry extended from 1932 until 1946. During this time the world passed through the depression and World War II. In 1935 extensive renovations were made to the church. Dr. Turner retired at the end of September, 1946.

The present minister, the Rev. G. W. Murdoch, was inducted on January 17, 1947.

In preparation for the Centenary the church has been redecorated inside and outside. A new organ using the old pipes has been installed by the Lye Organ Co., of Toronto, the original builders of the organ. The organ will be dedicated Sunday, Sept. 18, in loving memory of the men who gave their lives in the two World Wars. Chimes will be dedicated in memory of Miss Janet McKellar, offering plates in memory of Alex Rose, a pulpit Bible in memory of James Cuthbert.

New Ingersoll Post Office built - 1898.

Anglican School Hall built in 1929.

Has in T. Buchanan's manufacturer of Haying machinery

A Little Grove of Trees Was First Presbyterian Church

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Ingersoll, commemorates one hundred years of Christian witnessing in Ingersoll and community. Beginning September 25th and continuing for four weeks, special services will be observed.

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Ingersoll, has had a rich and colourful history. There were two Presbyterian churches in the early days. In Scotland there were several groups within the Presbyterian church, the Established church, the Free church, the United Presbyterian church, and others. When the early settlers came to Canada they brought their own church preference with them. In Ingersoll, Knox was the Free church and Erskine the United Presbyterian church.

In the year 1834, the Synod of Ross in Scotland, sent out the Rev. Donald MacKenzie whose ministry, it may be said, laid the foundation for Presbyterianism in this part of Western Ontario. A little grove of trees on the north side of St. Andrews St., which seems to have been the favourite spot for holding religious services in those days, and on which Knox church was subsequently built, was where Mr. MacKenzie preached to an ever-increasing number who gathered during those years between 1834 and 1846 to listen to his messages of salvation and hope.

On a sultry summer afternoon in 1846, the Rev. W. C. Burns was preaching beneath the same little grove of trees when a violent thunderstorm arose and frightened the worshippers. Mr. Burns assured them that they were as safe there as anywhere and advised this handful of people to secure that very spot for a site for a church which they subsequently did.

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In September, 1848, the Rev. Robert Wallace preached for a call in this new church. He received the call and was inducted as the first minister in January, 1849.

First lead pencils in 1862.

Sterling money £. sh. d. changed to $. & ¢ in 1857 + 58

Steel pens replaced quills in 1830.

Hydro Electric Agreement with Ingersoll made in 1908.

First used in Ingersoll in 1911

Coal oil lamps replaced candles in Oxford in 1864. ? maybe

There died on Sunday May 8 Robert Kneeshaw in his 78th year. Coming with his parents to Canada from England in 1832, they settled in Montreal. In 1857 Mr. Kneeshaw came to Ingersoll and before the fire carried on business on the east side of Thames street on the site where Hendry's dry goods store is. Later he located in the Corner Drug Store in conjunction with the the late John Gayfer. He is survived by his widow and brothers in Hamilton, Nebraska, Australia, New Zealand, and a sister in Oshawa. Four of six children died, the survivors being Misses Elizabeth and Alice.

I recall Mr. Kneeshaw as a friend of children. He was a druggist: The corner drug store was torn down & the Royal Bank erected. B.J.

Aug. 4-1956 - Transformer station, Mill St, struck by lightning - South West part of town without Electricity from 8.45 P.M to 3.00 A.M.
Aug 8-1956 - transformer explosion - whole town dark 8.15 P.M to 11 P.M.

Among the first members of Knox church we find the names of Mr. and Mrs. R. Falconer, Mr. and Mrs. W. Dunn, Thomas Telfer, Mr. and Mrs. W. Telfer, Mr. G. Telfer, Mr. and Mrs. Haining, Marion Sinclair, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. H. Matheson, Alex. Morrison, Alex. Brown, Mr. R. Kerr, J. Barker, D. Ross, A. Gordon. The first Kirk Session was composed of Joseph Barker, Donald Ross and Alex. Gordon. Later as the congregation grew, W. Hayward, Hugh Davidson and John Bearss were elected to the session.

Rev. Wallace was minister until 1860 and he was followed by Rev. John Straith. The congregation grew rapidly and a gallery was added to the church. The session exercised careful scrutiny over the lives of the members and those guilty of infractions were warned and threatened with suspsnsion when their lives were thought unworthy of their Christian profession.

The question of instrumental music in the church gave much concern and the session's resolution set forth their opinion that "To allow the use of instruments in the worship of God in the sanctuary, would be inexpedient and would endanger the unity and peace thereof." In the early church a precentor led in the singing of the Psalms with the aid of a tuning fork. It was some years later before an organ was allowed in the church. One old Scot said that he could not deny that it was a fine kist o'whistles but an awful way to worship the Lord.

Rev. Straith resigned in 1870 and he was followed by Rev. R. N. Grant whose ministry made a very deep and lasting impression on the spiritual life of Knox church.

(To be continued)

20

BYRON G. JENVEY

Byron G. Jenvey Again Chairman Board of Health

1943

At the inaugural meeting of the board of health held last evening Byron G. Jenvey was appointed chairman for the ninth consecutive year. Secretary R. McNiven presided for the first part of the meeting and all members were present.

In again taking over this office, Mr. Jenvey said that he appreciated the honor and welcomed Mayor K. R. Daniel to the meeting, expressing the hope that he would be able to attend the board of health meetings and so act as a connecting link between the board and the council.

Chairman Jenvey said he would like to see the board discuss more thoroughly this year the milk problem in the town in regard to the enforcing of the bylaw which says that no milk may be sold in the city unless it comes from T. B. tested cattle. He suggested that the vendors might present certificates to the effect that their herds were free from T.B. before licenses were granted them.

Mr. Jenvey pointed to the fact that fluid milk has increased in consumption in Canada some 13 per cent. during the past year and said that the matter of increased consumption of dairy products is becoming a serious problem. As milk is a preventive food against disease the subsidy of milk should be looked upon as a health measure.

In reference to the storm sewers in the town during the past year the chairman explained that there was little in the way of complaint as the heavy rains had taken care of this problem. The citizens of the town were fortunate in regard to epidemics, none having occurred.

Mr. Jenvey referred to the matter of pasteurized milk which is sold here and said that the butter fat tests are higher here than the law requires and in this regard it is a matter on which those concerned might be congratuated. He said there are still many persons who feel that raw milk is just as good, from a health point of view, as pasteurized milk, but from many years' experience and observation, it was his contention that these people obtain advice from medical authorities.

CO-OPERATION

Mr. Jenvey spoke highly of the services rendered by the Medical Officer of Health, the sanitary inspector and the public health nurse and said that the co-operation among the board members had been good. He expressed the hope that this state of affairs might be continued through the current year.

James N. Henderson spoke briefly, congratulating Mr. Jenvey on his re-appointment. He felt Mr. Jenvey had the health of the citizens of the town at heart and he also would do all he could in this regard. He also welcomed Mayor Daniel to the meetings.

Mr. Henderson spoke briefly on the matter of the sewage question and felt that during these years the matter might be talked over and planned so that after the war something concrete might be accomplished in this connection.

Miss J. M. McNaughton and John Wilford both spoke in appreciation of the co-operaation of board of health members during the past year as did also the press representative. All spoke particularly of the fine spirit of co-operation and harmony which had prevailed during the past several years.

Dr. H. G. Furlong extended congratulations to Chairman Jenvey on his re-appointment and said that in him the board had good leadership. This spirit of co-operation was necessary in order to produce good work and results, he said. From a medical standpoint he felt that more discussion should be engaged in regarding the milk question in the town. Referring to the question of the proposed sewerage system, he said that the matter had been more or less of a "football" proposition for some time and had possibly been shunned on some occasions at least because of the expense involved. For a town of this size however, he felt that the installation of such a system was absolutely necessary, particularly if the town is to go ahead. He added that it will be a benefit here industrially.

GARBAGE COLLECTION

Referring to the matter of garbage he said under the conditions which existed in the matter of snowbound roads, it had been impossible to do better with the collections than had been done. He expressed the hope, however, that something more satisfactory might be worked out in this regard during the coming year.

P. T. Fleischer said he was honored to be re-appointed by the town council to the board. He spoke briefly on the matter of the proposed sewerage system question and said that while it must be a question of the future it was his opinion, after discussion with a local industrialist, that at the present time both labor and materials were too scarce for the work to be undertaken.

Mayor K. R. Daniel congratulated Mr. Jenvey on his re-election to the chairmanship of the board and reiterated the statement of one of the former speakers in regard to the fact that he had the health of the citizens of the town at heart. He spoke of the local garbage situation during the past few weeks but added that the roads were now open and the situation is being cleared up slowly. During the past three days considerable progress had been made in the disposal of garbage which has been more or less at a standstill for some time due to the weather conditions

SEWERAGE SYSTEM

In regard to the sewerage system Mayor Daniel said it was an acknowledged fact that Ingersoll should have had such a system many years ago. During these days of war emergency and pressure of time devoted to production of munitions, it would be impossible to entertain the thought of going ahead with such an undertaking but in the meantime he certainly saw no harm in talking about it and discussing the question.

Mayor Daniel said he was pleased to have heard the many expressions regarding the spirit of harmony which had prevailed during the past year in this board. He said he would endeavor to attend all meetings if possible.

Chairman Jenvey again referring to the sewerage system question, said it seemed that the time for the council to go ahead with such an undertaking would be in the rehabilitation period of which people in this country are thinking at the present time. If this matter is undertaken immediately after the war, both money and materials and labor will be available.

The report of the sanitary inspector showed that inspections had been made in all local meat shops, dairies and restaurants; milk samples submitted, communicable disease cards placed and some complaints re garbage dumping investigated.

On motion of P. T. Fleischer and J. N. Henderson it was decided the chairman be supplied with a copy, each issue, of the Municipal World.

On motion of J. N. Henderson and K. R. Daniel and of P. T. Fleischer and Dr. H. G. Furlong a number of accounts were passed for payment. On motion of Messrs. Henderson and Fleischer the board requested an appropriation of $2600 from the municipal council for current expenses. Messrs. Henderson and Fleischer moved and seconded that the board make a grant of $50 to the Y. M. C. A. for use of their building for the public health nurse for the year 1942.

It was decided that regular meetings of the board be held on the third Friday of the months of March, May, October and December of this year with special meetings in cases of emergency or at call of any member.

BGJ. served eleven years as chairman of Ingersoll B. of H. — then Ingersoll joined County Health Group. 1947

1943

to places of supposed safety. Mr. McIntyre's Cabinet factory in the rear of Mr. McDonald's block, was in imminent danger and must certainly have gone had it not been for the superhuman efforts of Mr. McIntyre, aided by his men, who worked like Trojans on the roof, thus saving not only their own buildings but both sides of King street, which must certainly have gone had the fire once reached this large factory, as all of the surrounding buildings are frame, and if they had gone the amount of suffering and destitution would have been incalculable.

ASSISTANCE FROM ABROAD

"When the fire was at its height and the efforts of our own firemen, with their inefficient apparatus, were nearly exhausted, the mayor telegraphed to London and Woodstock for assistance. The response was immediate, and too much praise cannot be given to the firemen of these two places for the manner in which they helped us in our severe trial. A public meeting of the citizens of the town has already tendered thanks for this timely assistance, by resolution and we are sure it is the outspoken expression of every citizen of the town. Many farmers and others owning teams in the vicinity of the town drove in and rendered great assistance in removing goods to places of safety; to these also, thanks are due.

TWO MEN BURNT TO DEATH

"While the fire was at its heights, to add to the terrible excitement, the fearful report went forth that a man had perished in the flames, and we regret to have to report the fact that this report proved only too true. Mr. C. C. Paine, pumpmaker of this town, a highly-respected citizen, while endeavoring to save goods from Mr. R. H. Young's saddlery store, remained too long in the building and met with a fearful death, while those who stood by, knowing of the fearful tortures which he must have been suffering, were powerless to render assistance. His remains which were reduced to a small heap of cinders, were extracted from the ruins on the following morning and were only recognizable from the fact that they were found about the spot where he was last seen alive. His remains were interred in the cemetery on the Friday following. Shortly after, it was again reported that another man had lost his life and this report we are sorry to say, also proved true, the unfortunate victim on this occasion being Mr. John Omand, a native of Brantford, who had for some time past, been in the employ of Messrs. Noxon Bros. He lost his life by the falling of a wall in Mr. Fawkes' jewelry store while endeavoring to save the goods. His remains were removed to Brantford for interment on the 1.15 train on Wednesday. Dr. Springer held a coroner's inquest on the remains of the two unfortunates on Wednesday morning and the verdict returned in accordance with the above facts. A third report was raised that still another life had been lost, but this report, we are happy to be able to state, proved incorrect. It originated from the fact that one of the London firemen was missing and someone having said there was another man in Fawkes' building at the time the wall fell. This statement, however, proved incorrect, and a few days after the fire, the man turned up at home in London, having gone to Hamilton for a day or two without the knowledge of his friends."

~~(Take The Scrap Book Follows)~~—..

The aged report also cites the fact that a number of additional alarms were turned in during the progress of the fire or after its supposed control. These were due to the fact that fire broke out in varied places at varied times, presumably from flying embers or excessive heat. The night was described as one of horror.

ORIGIN OF THE FIRE

The Chronicle further says:

"Many surmises and theories have been given as the origin of the fire but nothing is really known as to the facts of the case. Parties who were near at hand at the first break out, say it must have been the fiendish work of an incendiary, and that to make the work effective, the part of the building in which the fire first broke out, was profusely saturated with coal oil or some other inflammable substance. This surmise seems to bear upon its face the semblance of truth, as the volumes of smoke which rolled up from the upper loft of the barn, were of that heavy, black nature which could scarcely have been produced without the aid of some such foreign substance. The building had for some time past been unoccupied, and a new tenant was just about to move in. No lights or fire had been used on the premises by the new tenant, and it seems almost impossible that it could have had its origin accidentally.

PROPERTY STOLEN

"As if people were not sufficiently tried by the loss which they sustained by the property being consumed by fire, they must also suffer the loss of being preyed upon by ravenous parties, who flock together on occasions of this kind, and possess themselves of valuable goods which had been rescued sometimes at the hazard of men's lives from the flames. Such was the case at this fire. A large amount of valuable property, which was known to have been saved from the fire, has since been missing. No trace of it can be found and the only conclusion that can be arrived at is that it must have been stolen by the heartless wretches who make a point of reaping the harvest out of the misfortunes of their unfortunate neighbors."

The great Ingersoll fire is still a topic of deep local interest, particularly among older residents or those who had relatives in business here at that time. It is felt that the detail precented herewith will prove of much interest.

D. A. Bucknell Sr. mentioned at beginning of this article lived on the 50 ac. farm in the Harris Survey - immediately South of Ingersoll - it is said he taught school at Sweaborg North School - and walked the 6 to 7 miles both ways each Teaching day - He was reported to have been of a very cross nature -

The above school - no 7 - was purchased by the Dep't of Highways - Ont - and demolished in 1955 - see West Oxford Section

My wifes father, Jas Mayberry who lived at Hagel's Corners, saw the fire, mounted a horse, rode to Ingersoll, climbed to top of a cottage on Corner of Thames & King (S.E. corner) and helped firemen who were using a pump, for 4 men on each handle - the fire did not cross King St - (above told to me by Mr Mayberry)

The horse was allowed to go home alone.

Byron.

List of Buildings Destroyed In Disastrous Ingersoll Fire 80 Years Ago Completed

East side of Thames street — Building owned by James Brady, loss $200, insured for $100. Occupied as follows: H. Vogt, jeweller, loss $700, insured for $300; R. Frezell, cigar factory, loss $50.

Building owned by John Boles, loss $800, insured for $500. Occupied by J. Towle, grocery, loss $50; Adair & Cairns, grocery and liquor store, loss in removing goods $1,500, insured for $2,000.

Building owned by J. Stuart, slightly damaged.

John Boles, clothier, loss building and stock $1,200, insured for $2,400.

Dr. Scott, office and residence, loss $1,200, insured for $2,800.

Total Loss

Building owned by John Leigh, total loss. Occupied by T. F. Fawkes, jewellery, loss $1,300, insured for $800.

Building owned by ....., loss $3,000. Occupied by G. J. Shrapnell, grocery, loss $6,000, insured for $3,500; Miss Patterson, millinery, loss light; John Hugill, photographer, loss $1,500, no insurance.

Building owned by G. J. Shrapnell, loss $5,000, insurance $2,500. Occupied by S. W. Macfarlane, dry goods, loss $6,000, insured for $5,000.

Building owned by Eastwood & Marr, loss $2,000. Occupied by J. N. Elliott, grocery, loss $3,000, no insurance.

Building owned by J. Boles, loss $3,500, insured for $2,000. Occupied by Reid Estate, dry goods, loss $10,500.

Building owned by W. McMillan, loss $5,500, insurance unknown. Occupied by J. G. Chown & Co., hardware, loss $12,000, insurance $8,500; Mechanics' Institute, loss $500; F. A. Baker, photographer, loss $3,000, no insurance.

Barker Building

Building owned by E. Barker, loss $6,000, insured for $2,000. Occupied by T. H. Barraclough, boots and shoes, loss $12,000, insurance $6,000; Holmes and Giolespie, dry goods, loss $15,000, insured for $12,000.

Blocked owned by S. Poole, loss $15,000, insured for $7,500. Occupied by Tripp & Co., druggists, loss $6,000, insured for $4,000; A. McKenzie, dwelling, loss of furniture; James McNiven, dry goods, loss $7,000, insurance $3,000; James McDonald, hat and fur store, loss $1,500, no insurance; Miss Brown, dressmaker, loss $100; James Johnston, dwelling, loss of furniture; A. Bristole, rooms, $100; Wright, furniture and clothing; Pulford, variety store, loss $2,400, insurance $1,600; A. Macaulay, dry goods, $8,000, insurance $4,000.

Building owned by Jas. White, $3,000, part insured. Occupied by J. Gayfer & Co., druggists, $7,000, insurance $2,500.

D. White & Co.'s dry goods and building, $47,000, insurance $18,000.

Building owned by Mayor McDonald, $3,000, insurance $2,500. Occupied by O. B. Caldwell, druggist, loss $2,000, insurance $1,400; A. McLean, books and stationery, $1,500, insurance $4,500; Jas. F. McDonald, law office, loss $150; Miss Caldwell's room, loss on furniture $700. Next building (frame) also belonging to the mayor, and was occupied by L. Nee, fruiterer, $300, insurance $400; R. Gaines barber shop, $100.

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Scrap Book Has Story of Great Ingersoll Fire

In a wonderfully-preserved scrap book, the pages of which are yellowed with age, a splendid story of the great Ingersoll fire of May, 1872, has been located. The scrap book was found in the attic of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leo J. Kirwin, West Oxford, and was the property many years ago, of D. A. Bucknell, Sr., who was a school teacher in the Ingersoll district. The Kirwin family now occupies the home of the late Bucknell family.

The reference to the fire is taken from the Ingersoll Chronicle of the issue of Saturday, May 25, 1872. The heading shows that over 80 proprietors in Ingersoll's business section suffered loss and two men were burned to death in the great catastrophe. In part, the Chronicle story says:

"In the calamity of fire, Ingersoll has perhaps experienced the most disastrous destruction of property that has visited any of the western towns of this province in many years. Having been in a measure free from this scourge for years, the people and the authorities had in a measure become reliant and fearless of the imminent danger under which they were living, and were totally unprepared to subdue the ravages of the devouring element if it was once allowed to get under headway.

"Several reports of the fire have been given in the daily papers furnished them by telegraph, which, of necessity, have been very meagre, and in many instances, inaccuracies have occurred, which from the hurry from which they were prepared, were impossible to avoid. Outside of the town, few persons have any adequate idea of the extent of the fire or of the destruction and loss which has been sustained. We have been at the greatest pains to gather the minutest details and incidents connected with the destruction, and shall endeavour to give a full and correct report. While it is to be regretted that the town has sustained such a severe loss in property and wealth, the loss of the lives of two of our town's people is a matter which has been uppermost in the minds of all and the surviving friends of the unfortunate victims have the united sympathies of the whole people.

START OF FIRE

"The fire broke out a few minutes before eight o'clock on the evening of Tuesday the seventh inst., in part of the stables attached to the Royal Exchange hotel, on Oxford street near the corner of Charles street. The hotel was situated on the corner of Thames and Charles streets. It was owned by John Walsh, Esq., who also owned a large amount of property in the vicinity and was last occupied as a hotel by W. Hayward who vacated it about three weeks previous to the fire. Mr. Searles had leased the place a few days before and had moved a part of his furniture into it, preparatory to opening out again in the same business. The barn and hotel were old frame buildings and were thickly surrounded by other small frame tenements which rapidly succumbed to the intense heat. From these buildings the fire spread rapidly in a south and easterly direction, taking as it went south, the late residence of Mr. Charles P. Hall and the Prince of Wales hotel, lately occupied by Mr. William Gallagher, but since his removal therefrom to the Atlantic House by Mr. J. Bowman. The market square prevented a further spread of the fire in this direction. The buildings on the west side of Oxford street and north on Charles street, including the Daily House stable, Mr. Chambers' hotel, the old Wesleyan church building, Mr. R. McDonald's barn, containing a large quantity of coal oil, Messrs. Badden and Delaney's carriage and wagon factory, the McMurray hotel and several other smaller buildings, sustained a severe scorching and narrowly escaped taking fire, but were saved by the strenuous and untiring exertions of the inhabitants whose only appliances were buckets of water and wet blankets and carpets. While this mass of frame buildings was burning, although the wind was very light, coming from the northwest, the heat was very intense and flames rolled along as the waves of the sea, one over the other, each succeeding those licking in and consuming another of the many small buildings at the rear of the splendid three-storey brick block on the west side of Thames street which seemed to catch and burn simultaneously the whole length, leaving it a heterogenous mass of ruin. Many of the buildings in this block were new or nearly so, and were occupied by Mr. Vance, bakery and confectionery store. The upper storey was the Masonic hall; the store of the estate of Mr. George E. Perkins—both these stores had very handsome fronts; Messrs. Browett and Barker, hardware; the Niagara district bank, over which C. E. Chadwick, Esq., the agent, lived; Messrs. J. and H. Little, grocers; Mr. Alexander Gordon, merchant tailor; Mr. G. W. Walley, crockery and glassware; Messrs. McCaughey and Walsh, barristers; in the upper storey was the Oddfellows' hall; the Chronicle office, erected last summer and only just completed by Mr. J. S. Gurnett, editor and proprietor; north of this block on the same side were three frame buildings demolished almost as soon as they took fire, occupied by J. F. Morrey, cabinet show room; Byrne and McGolrick, saddlers; Mrs. Curtis, milliner and dressmaker; M. Miller, grocer; Miss Webster, milliner and dressmaker; Mr. F. G. Lewis, photographers; and Mr. Curtis, boot and shoemaker. The next building on this side of the street was Mr. M. B. Holcroft's grocery store, which being of brick and very high stayed the progress of the flames in this direction. His building and stock was very much damaged and will require a good deal of repair before it presents the fine appearance it did before the fire. The remaining stores in this block are occupied by Mr. J. O'Neill, grocer; Robert Agur, broker; N. Hayes, insurance agent; Warren Harris, boots and shoes; R. Y. Ellis and Bro., hardware, all of whom had their stocks and furniture more or less damaged by water and removal. The goods from many of the stores on this side of the street were removed to the stores opposite, in the hope that they would be safe, but so fierce was the fury of the flames that before the west side of Thames street was half burnt, the east side caught fire and the main street of the town was one channel of fire.

"When the east side of the street caught, it was utterly impassable and the only means of saving the goods in the stores and the furniture of the houses was to take them out of the back doors down to the bank of the creek which runs at the rear. This was a very difficult and tedious process and as a consequence, very little goods were saved. The parties who occupied this side of the street were: Mr. H. Vogt, jeweler, frame building torn down; Mr. T. F. Fawkes, jeweler; Mr. G. J. Shrapnell, grocer; Mr. J. Hugill, photographer; Miss Paterson, dressmaker; Mr. S. W. McFarlane, dry goods; Mr. J. N. Elliott, grocer; estate of Alexander Reid, dry goods; Messrs. J. G. Chowan and Co., hardware; Mr. F. A. Baker, photographer; Mr. T. H. Barraclough, boots and shoes; Messrs. Holmes and Gillespie, dry goods; Mr. M. Tripp, druggist; Mr. Alex. McKenzie residence; Mr. James MacNiven, dry goods; and Mr. H. MacNiven, residence; Mr. James McDonald, hats and caps; Mr. Alexander Macaulay, dry goods; Mr. R. F. Hunter residence; Mr. John Gayfer, shop and residence, druggist; Messrs. D. White and Co., drygoods; Mr. O. B. Caldwell, druggist; Mr. Allan McLean, stationer and bookseller shop and residence; Mr. James F. McDonald, barrister.

The last three occupied the large three-storey building owned by John McDonald Esq., mayor. This building was very high and covered with a slate roof, and although the building was thoroughly riddled, it in a great measure prevented the further spread of the flames. While it was burning the London firemen arrived, and having taken up a good position in the creek, threw two good streams upon it, getting the fire pretty well under control. Up to this time—11 o'clock—it was hard to conjecture where the fire would stop. The remaining stores on this side of the street were Mr. E. Robinson's grocery; Mr. R. Kerr's drygoods; Mr. William Dundass' grocery; Mr. L. Noe, fruiter, and Mr. Robert Gaines, barber. The last two occupied frame buildings which were pulled down to prevent the spread of the fire. The other stores were brick—Messrs. Kerr and Robinson, occupying the handsome block built last summer by the Hon. F. Smith—and their stocks suffered considerable damage by removal. On the north end of this block the fire extended as far as Dr. Scott's brick office and store which was badly riddled and a great loss sustained in the damage of furniture and fixtures. The frame building recently vacated by Mr. G. J. Shrapnell was saved as also the building occupied by Adair and Cairns, grocers. Their stock was badly damaged by water and removal.

FEARS OF FIRE EXTENDED

"Had not the ravages been stayed where it was, it was a very uncertain matter where it would have ended. Hundreds of families in the vicinity of the burnt district packed up their goods and were busily engaged in removing them

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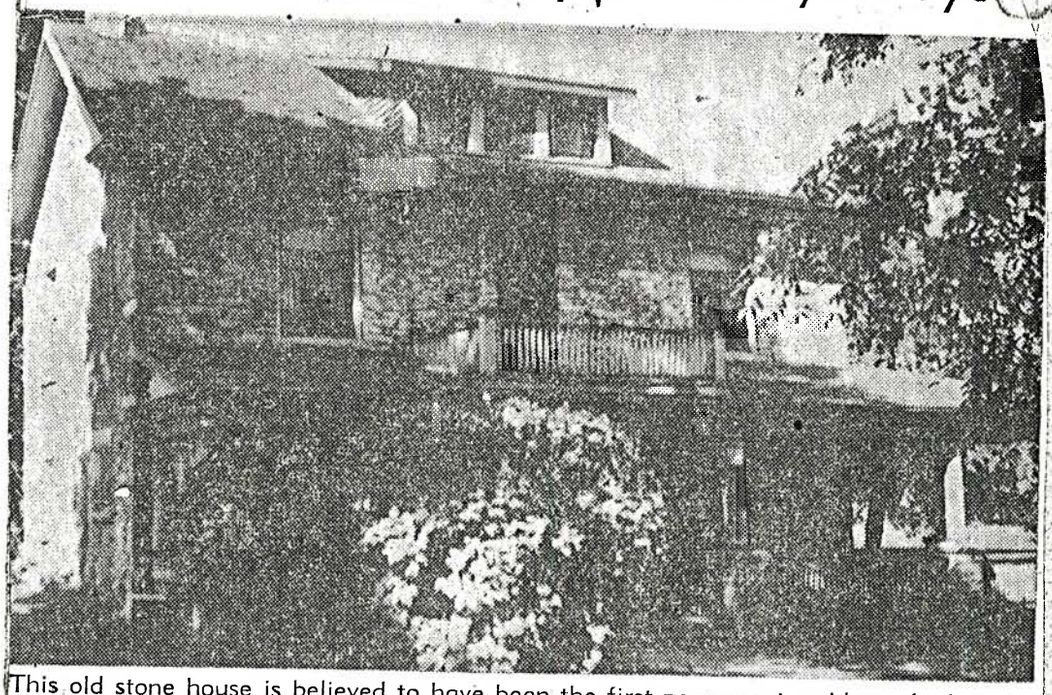
Courtesy of Brigham Stare — 1930

Dates Back To Early St. Marys Days



This old stone house is believed to have been the first permanent residence built in St. Marys. Dating back about a century, it was built by the Ingersolls, whose part in founding the Perth County settlement is described by A. S. Garrett elsewhere on this

Ingersolls, U.E.L. Family, First Owners Of Townsite, Now St. Marys In Perth

The first settlement of St. Marys was mainly due to the Ingersolls, a U.E. Loyalist family who had located on the Niagara frontier. One of them who served with the British forces in the War of 1812-14 was Col. Ingersoll. As a reward, he received the grant from the Government of the Township of Oxford with the proviso that a certain number of settlers be obtained in a stipulated time. The Town of Ingersoll is said to have been named for him.

James and Thomas Ingersoll were sons of the colonel and they came to Blanshard and owned most of what was later the St. Marys townsite. James afterwards lived in Woodstock where he was registrar of Oxford County and known as Squire Ingersoll. Thomas remained at St. Marys and was active in developing the hamlet then known as "Little Falls."

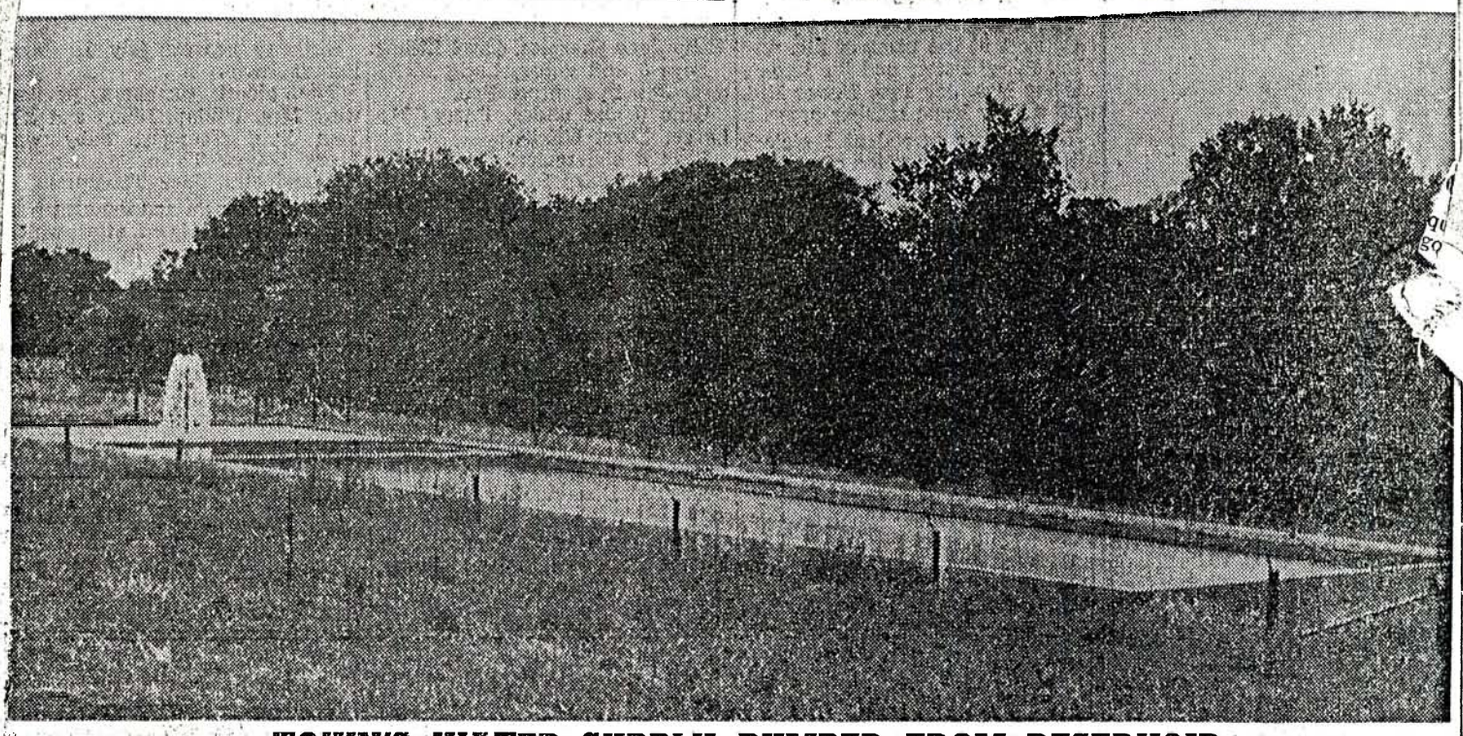
1841 Log Cabin

Thomas Ingersoll made a clearing and built one of the first log cabins in the vicinity, about 1841, according to local lore. Mainly through the activities of the Ingersolls, a sawmill and then a grist mill were built within the next year or two.

The stone house erected by the Ingersolls, about a century ago, is believed to have been the first permanent residence in the community, following the primitive log shanties. Constructed of flagstone, the house still stands in picturesque surroundings, just west of the Thames River and north of the main thoroughfare. It was rebuilt in 1914 and one of its many attractions is a modernized fireplace.

The stone house is now the home of Miss L. F. Ingersoll. Her father was Justus Ingersoll, the latter a son of Thomas Ingersoll.

THE SENTINEL-REVIEW, SATURDAY, JULY 5, 1952



TOWN'S WATER SUPPLY PUMPED FROM RESERVOIR

Six hundred gallons a minute is being pumped from this reservoir to supply the thirst of Ingersoll residents. Situated in the township of West Oxford, the P.U.C. installation holds approximately 560,000 gallons of water. The flow of water causing the spray is to break up the water so that as much air as possible can get in it. This process is called aeration. (Staff Photo)

Vivid Description Of Fatal 1872 Ingersoll Fire Carried In Early Paper; Great Area Wiped Out

One hundred years ago Ingersoll was incorporated as a village — 90 years ago it was a flourishing town with a population of 2,756, nearly double that of 10 years earlier — 80 years ago catastrophe struck the thriving community.

Details of the holocaust which wiped out most of the business section of Ingersoll about May 8, 1872 are given in a clipping from The News of May 10 in that year. The loss exceeded $300,000 as fire destroyed practically the entire block bounded by King, Oxford, Charles and Thames streets. In addition to the heavy damage to property two persons lost their lives in the flames.

In Headlines

The News headlines read:
"Great Fire in Ingersoll"
"TWO LIVES LOST"
"IMMENSE LOSS"
"The Business Part of the Town in
"ASHES"
"FULL PARTICULARS"

Blasts Council

Cause of the fire was given as incendiarism but the story says nothing about arresting anyone for the crime. However, The News strongly criticizes the town council in terms which newspapers today would never do, having regard to possible libel suits.

But the old clipping tells the story completely and with embellishments which do not appear in modern news writing. It follows:

Newspaper Account

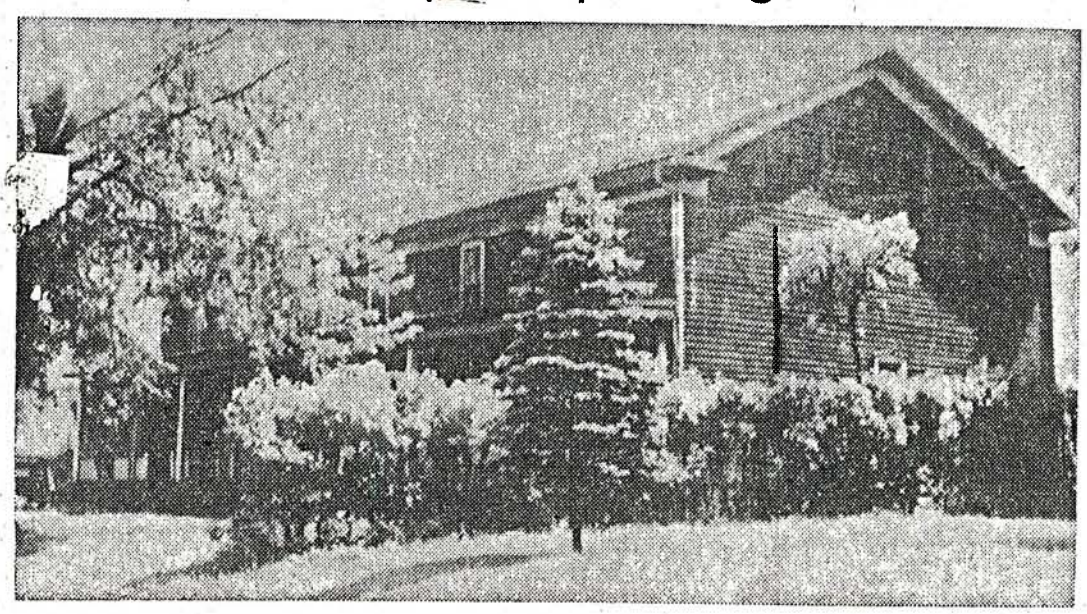
On Tuesday evening, at 8 o'clock there commenced a fire in the stables in the rear of the Royal Exchange Hotel, which afterwards proved to be the most destructive that has ever taken place in any town in Canada. A majority of the people have no hesitation in supporting the idea that the terrible destruction of life and property has been caused by an incendiary. The idea is especially supported by those living close to the starting place. The flames spread very quickly, and in a very few minutes all the frame buildings on the east side of Oxford between King and Charles and on the south side of Charles between Oxford and Thames, were completely destroyed, but not, however, before making great headway amongst the line of buildings commencing with the Royal Exchange Hotel on the west side of Thames street, With the rapidity of lightning the flames, all the time increasing in fury, rolled along the front and rear of the brick buildings on this side of the street, and then crossing over to the handsome stores on the other side, the whole street became a perfect sea of fire, throwing out a light to be seen in all the towns for many miles around, probably as a warning to the councils and people of those places to be prepared in case of the appearance of a blaze than careless and unfortunate Ingersoll.

Wired for Help

Although the firemen worked as hard and willingly as any men on the face of the earth could, they were awfully unequal to the occasion, on account of the want of sufficient quantity and good quality of hose. The firemen and citizens were all becoming exhausted in their to all appearance useless efforts, and the mayor telegraphed to London and Woodstock for as-

Once Church, Escaped Ingersoll Fire

This church on John St. far from fire of 1872



This building, one of those in Ingersoll still standing after the disastrous fire of 1872, was originally the community's Roman Catholic Church. The first Catholic Church in Ingersoll, it was listed in a directory of 1862 and stood originally with the end towards the street. It now houses apartments. Many Ingersoll buildings were lost in the great fire which is described on this page.

were carried three and four miles distance, and in no part of the town east of Thames street were the buildings safe. Almost every housetop was necessarily kept swept and dampened. The people worked nobly in carrying out goods from the stores on the west side of Thames street, but placing them on the opposite side of the street, they were almost entirely destroyed by the flames which crossed the street. The contents of the Chronicle office were nearly all destroyed in this way.

Double Fatality

Although the loss of property has been terrible, and very hard for the sufferers to bear, the regret caused by these is nothing compared with the terrible end of two of our citizens, C. C. Payne and John Omand. The former has been a resident of Ingersoll for many years, and has always borne an honorable character. Intimately acquainted with most people in town and county, he, with the circumstances of his death, will linger in their memory for all time. In endeavoring to save the property of others he lost his life—an awful sacrifice! He was engaged in getting his arms full of goods, and although called to leave the goods and hurry out, he remained too long. He was seen to fall but help could not be sent him. When his body was recovered, there was scarcely anything about it that would make it recognizable, its appearance being so awfully changed.

John Omand, late of Brantford, was a young man employed in the moulding department of Noxon's foundry, and almost a stranger here. We understand that he was a hard skilled worker at fires, and that at the last meeting of one of the fire companies, he was proposed as a member. Although not exactly a firemen, he wore and died in the harness. He was with several others, all of whom it is feared had not escaped, in Fawke's building at the time a brick wall fell on the roof partly covering him in. Every effort was made to save him but without avail.

Council Censured

In the face of the great destruction of property, which has completely destroyed Thames street, a street second to none, in appearance, in any place outside of large cities—in the face of the awful deaths which have taken place—is it possible that the members of the late council can have quiet consciences? When their neglect to pay necessary attention to our fire brigade has been so plain to everyone, we think not. We hope, after this severe lesson, even though we do feel poor, that something will be done to prevent a future scene of the kind we have been forced to witness.

What a different tale we should have been able to have told today had we had waterworks! Let us have them, and let other towns have them. We should be sorry to hear of any one of our sister towns suffering as we now are, and we hope they will study our hard lesson and be benefitted. Neighbors, do not keep a "penny wise and pound foolish" set of men in office to manage your affairs—take a lesson. Our niggardliness and carelessness have resulted in loss of human life, and poverty to the town. Where on Tuesday afternoon were rows of handsome business houses, now there is chaos. On Tuesday afternoon there were those amongst us who were doing prosperous businesses and were in easy circumstances, but who, today, are poor indeed. On Tuesday afternoon there were two hale, hearty men with us who are not with us now, and we believe these things would not be recorded today, had proper attention been paid towards the safety of the town and its people. We have had a lesson—let us profit by it.

Destroyed

DESTROYED—East side of Oxford street between King and Charles, south side of Charles between Thames and Oxford, and (nearly) both sides of Thames between King and Charles. The following are the names of the losers and amounts of each person's loss.

OXFORD STREET—4 buildings owned by C. P. Hall, valued at $1,700, insured. Occupied by J. Holt, Silversmith, loss $200; N. Morrison, dwelling, loss $400; R. Clayton, wagon shop, loss $200; Miss Doyle, dwelling, loss $400, no insurance.

Building owned by C. E. Chadwick, loss $600. Occupied by Barret and Mrs. Smith, as dwellings, whose losses were $400 each.

Prince of Wales Hotel, owned by Jas. McCaughey, loss $1,000, insured for $600. Occupied by John Bowman, loss $600.

CHARLES STREET — Fram building owned by C. P. Hall, los $1,000, insured. Occupied by Dr. Bowers, loss $300; Mr. Dibbs, loss $100; Bridgman, loss, $50; C. McDermaid, $100; H. Kelsie, $100; Mrs. Waite, $100.

WEST SIDE OF THAMES STREET—Royal Exchange Hotel, and four other buildings, owned by John Walsh, loss $8,000, no insurance.

Other Buildings

Buildings occupied as follows: Hotel by Mr. Searles (moved in

$1,000; Masonic Hall, loss $1,0 insured for $500; Perkins Este loss $3,000, insured for $2,200.

Buildings owned by C. E. Ch wick, loss $4,000, insured $1,5 Occupied by Brewett and Bark hardware, loss $9,000, insured $3,000; N. D. Bank, loss $1,400; E. Chadwick, as dwelling, loss furniture $1,400, insured for $1,4 and L. J. Chadwick, who lost all

Brick building owned by Jo Boles, loss $4,500, insured for $2,5 Occupied as follows:

Dry Goods

H. O'Connor, dry goods, l $2,300, insured for $1,000; J. & H. Little, grocers, loss $3,000, sured for $1,400; Odd Fellows' H loss $800, insured for $400; A. C don, clothier, loss $1,400, insu for $1,000.

Buildings owned by G. W. W ley and occupied by him as cro ery store, loss $7,500, insured $3,000 on stock and building. S ond storey occupied by J. P Caughey as law office, and th storey as Good Templar's hall. T G. T.'s loss $350 and Mr. P Caughey $600.

Chronicle office building contents, loss $8,000, insured $3,200. Third storey ocupied by Young Men's Christian Associati loss $130.

Building owned by F. G. Le loss $1,000, insured for $400. Oc pied by Mrs. Curtis, millin loss $500, insured for $350; M. M ler, grocery, loss $800, insured $500.

Curtis' Shoe Store, stock sav Morrey & Barker's furnit warerooms, loss $3,000, insured $1,000.

Building owned by Mr. Wa worth, loss $1,000, no insura Occupied as follows: Byrne & Gelrick, saddlers, loss $700, insu for $700; Miss Webster, millin loss $100, no insurance. F. G. Le loss $1,000, insured for $600.

M. B. Holcroft, grocery, $2,500, insurance $6,000.

J. O'Neill, grocer, building stock insured for $7,500, loss $2,

Building owned by H. O'Con loss $400, insured for $2,000. cupied by R. Agur, banker, l light; W. Harris, boots and sh loss $2,000, insured for $3,000.

(To Be Continued)

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On Tuesday evening, at 8 o'clock there commenced a fire in the stables in the rear of the Royal Exchange Hotel, which afterwards proved to be the most destructive that has ever taken place in any town in Canada. A majority of the people have no hesitation in supporting the idea that the terrible destruction of life and property has been caused by an incendiary. The idea is especially supported by those living close to the starting place. The flames spread very quickly, and in a very few minutes all the frame buildings on the east side of Oxford between King and Charles and on the south side of Charles between Oxford and Thames, were completely destroyed, but not, however, before making great headway amongst the line of buildings commencing with the Royal Exchange Hotel on the west side of Thames street, With the rapidity of lightning the flames, all the time increasing in fury, rolled along the front and rear of the brick buildings on this side of the street, and then crossing over to the handsome stores on the other side, the whole street became a perfect sea of fire, throwing out a light to be seen in all the towns for many miles around, probably as a warning to the councils and people of those places to be prepared in case of the appearance of a blaze than careless and unfortunate Ingersoll.

Wired for Help

Although the firemen worked as hard and willingly as any men on the face of the earth could, they were awfully unequal to the occasion, on account of the want of sufficient quantity and good quality of hose. The firemen and citizens were all becoming exhausted in their to all appearance useless efforts, and the mayor telegraphed to London and Woodstock for assistance. London immediately sent the Phoenix Company, twenty men of the Hook and Ladders, and a company of volunteers with the Great Western Fire Engine. The fire had reached the Mayor's block (slate roofed) when they arrived, and they immediately set to work in that quarter, and in a short time the people were pleased to see that the danger of the fire getting into Smith's block and the buildings on King street, was over. The Woodstock firemen, under the command of Capt. McKay, almost as soon as the alarm was given in that town, were ready to come to our aid, but they were unavoidably delayed for a long time by the tardy arrival of the train which was to bring them here. Many of the citizens used their fast horses and drove here, and did such service as will not be forgotten. The Woodstock firemen completely subdued the second attempt of the flames, about 3 o'clock, and remained with us, rendering good service to the end.

The sincere thanks of the people of Ingersoll are tendered to the firemen of London and Woodstock, who so nobly rendered us their mighty aid in our great trouble. We are afraid to think what might have been the consequence had not their aid been received.

Firemen Praised

It is only proper to say that our own firemen, under the direction of Chief Engineer Brady behaved nobly throughout, and it is in no way their fault that their efforts were not more successful, or t' outside aid was required. Br-

were carried three and four miles distance, and in no part of the town east of Thames street were the buildings safe. Almost every housetop was necessarily kept swept and dampened. The people worked nobly in carrying out goods from the stores on the west side of Thames street, but placing them on the opposite side of the street, they were almost entirely destroyed by the flames which crossed the street. The contents of the Chronicle office were nearly all destroyed in this way.

Double Fatality

Although the loss of property has been terrible, and very hard for the sufferers to bear, the regret caused by these is nothing compared with the terrible end of two of our citizens, C. C. Payne and John Omand. The former has been a resident of Ingersoll for many years, and has always borne an honorable character. Intimately acquainted with most people in town and county, he, with the circumstances of his death, will linger in their memory for all time. In endeavoring to save the property of others he lost his life—an awful sacrifice! He was engaged in getting his arms full of goods, and although called to leave the goods and hurry out, he remained too long. He was seen to fall but help could not be sent him. When his body was recovered, there was scarcely anything about it that would make it recognizable, its appearance being so awfully changed.

John Omand, late of Brantford, was a young man employed in the moulding department of Noxon's foundry, and almost a stranger here. We understand that he was a hard skilled worker at fires, and that at the last meeting of one of the fire companies, he was proposed as a member. Although not exactly a firemen, he wore and died in the harness. He was with several others, all of whom it is feared had not escaped, in Fawke's building at the time a brick wall fell on the roof partly covering him in. Every effort was made to save him but without avail.

Council Censured

In the face of the great destruction of property, which has completely destroyed Thames street, a street second to none, in appearance, in any place outside of large cities—in the face of the awful deaths which have taken place—is it possible that the members of the late council can have quiet consciences? When their neglect to pay necessary attention to our fire brigade has been so plain to everyone, we think not. We hope, after this severe lesson, even though we do feel poor, that something will be done to prevent a future scene of the kind we have been forced to witness.

What a different tale we should have been able to have told today had we had waterworks! Let us have them, and let other towns have them. We should be sorry to hear of any one of our sister towns suffering as we now are, and we hope they will study our hard lesson and be benefitted. Neighbors, do not keep a "penny wise and pound foolish" set of men in office to manage your affairs—take a lesson. Our niggardliness and carelessness have resulted in loss of human life, and poverty to the town. Where on Tuesday afternoon were rows of handsome business houses, now there is chaos. On Tuesday afternoon there were those amongst us who were doing prosperous businesses and were in easy circumstances, but who, today, are poor indeed. On Tuesday afternoon there were two hale, hearty men with us who are not with us now, and we believe these things would not be recorded today, had proper attention been paid towards the safety of the town and its people. We have had a lesson—let us profit by it.

Destroyed

DESTROYED—East side of Oxford street between King and Charles, south side of Charles between Thames and Oxford, and (nearly) both sides of Thames between King and Charles. The following are the names of the losers and amounts of each person's loss.

OXFORD STREET—4 buildings owned by C. P. Hall, valued at $1,700, insured. Occupied by J. Holt, Silversmith, loss $200; N. Morrison, dwelling, loss $400; R. Clayton, wagon shop, loss $200; Miss Doyle, dwelling, loss $400, no insurance.

Building owned by C. E. Chadwick, loss $600. Occupied by Barret and Mrs. Smith, as dwellings, whose losses were $400 each.

Prince of Wales Hotel, owned by Jas. McCaughey, loss $1,000, insured for $600. Occupied by John Bowman, loss $600.

CHARLES STREET — Fram building owned by C. P. Hall, los $1,000, insured. Occupied by Dr. Bowers, loss $300; Mr. Dibbs, loss $100; Bridgman, loss, $50; C. McDermaid, $100; H. Kelsie, $100; Mrs. Waite, $100.

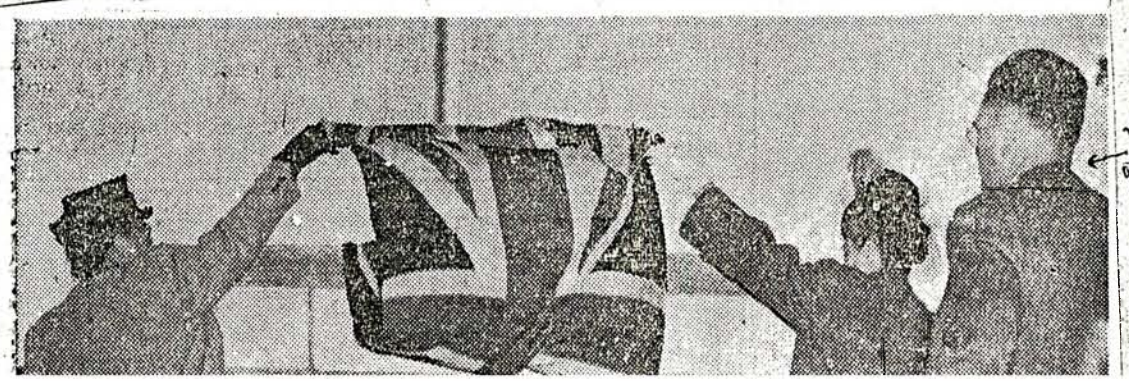
WEST SIDE OF THAMES STREET—Royal Exchange Hotel, and four other buildings, owned by John Walsh, loss $8,000, no insurance.

Other Buildings

Buildings occupied as follows: Hotel by Mr. Searles (moved in day of fire) loss on furniture $700; R. H. Young, saddler, loss $1,000, insured $600; I. R. Greenaway, shoe store, loss $300, insured for $200; Mrs. Meredith, fancy store, loss $1,200, insured for $600; Dr. Walker's ofice, loss $200, fully insured.

R. Vance's brick bakery and confectionery, loss $8,000, insured for

The date—June 22, 1900; the occasion—The Ingersoll Old Boys' Reunion. The total weight of those boys is about 1600 pounds, or about 200 pounds each. Front row, left to right—P. J. Griffin, "Dip" Hook, Charlie Harris and Jack Richardson. Back row Chub Smale, Marsh McMurray, Charlie Bailey and Wm. McMurray. I knew all above but 1st & last



Mr Watt's Ont Live Commis

Indoor Pool, Auditorium Of Old Y Still Remain

Oct 29/52

By Yvonne Holmes

With attention directed toward the coming Y "Blitz" Campaign, the Tribune thought it would be interesting to delve into the history of the Y and to compare the early activities with those of today.

The most startling piece of information offered was that the Y was once in the old Royal Hotel building where Deamude's and Albrough's stores are now. Furthermore, it was stated, the old swimming pool is still there—in the basement of Albrough's music store.

This, naturally, aroused our curiosity and consequently we visited the most fascinating place we have ever seen. One hundred and thirty-five feet back from the front door that opens with the familiar merry jingle, through doors and doors and more doors, twisting and turning and climbing, one finds this amazing place.

As closely as we could ascertain this YMCA of the early 1900's consisted of one swimming pool, one good-sized recreation room, one large hall and four smaller rooms. There were also numerous cubby holes, dressing rooms and hall ways.

The swimming pool is 60 feet long and 15 feet wide. The depth goes from four to six feet. The wall around the pool is about three feet thick and so sturdy that a heavy hammer can't put even a crack in it. Peering down through a trap door at the long-deserted pool, one can't but compare it with the Maude Wilson Memorial Pool so recently filled with laughing youngsters.

The larger recreation room must have corresponded to the present gymnasium in the Anglican Church. It was probably here that the members would go through their calisthenics, then go down for a quick "dip".

Perhaps in the smaller rooms there were games, or committee meetings. The chess club may have held tournaments there and perhaps craft classes were once in progress too.

It is ironical that Ingersoll, which so badly needs an auditorium houses this "white elephant" hall. Upstairs is the only hall in Ingersoll with a gallery.

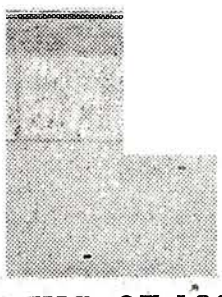
Estimated at 70 feet by 20 feet by Mr. E. H. Albrough, who so kindly showed us around, the hall is complete with stage, dressing room and gallery. Well lighted with windows and lighting fixtures it was at one time illuminated with gas. The stage is 15 feet wide and at the back of the stage a trap door leads down to a dressing room. The gallery at the opposite end offered the best of views with tiered seats. Unfortunately present fire regulations absolutely rule out its use.

In the early days the Y had a very weak financial backbone. In 1901 a meeting was held to discuss the advisability of continuing the YMCA in Ingersoll and a resolution was passed that it should be continued. A board of directors was appointed to try to straighten out the financial situation. W. C. Forman was treasurer at that time.

The Tribune was also told that it was partly through the efforts of Mr. John Gayfer, who was a very interested and active member of the association that the YMCA in Ingersoll was saved from oblivion.

There is a vast difference between this Y building and the present one on Oxford Street. We doubt, though, that there was much difference in its purpose or its training. Hard working Christian men and women, who believed then as now "Our Greatest Asset Is Our Youth."

tank also belonged
deed to
Ontario



Ethel Nancekivell

MARKS HOLDING OF 100TH FAIR

Edna Curne.

In 1947 the Ingersoll, North and West Oxfor d Agricultural Society marked the holding of that body' s100th fall fair by the unveiling of a memorial plaque at the base of a flag pole especially erected for the occasion. The plaque and flag pole CERE- mony took place .The fair this year follows the Centennial celebrations in the town opning on Tuesday. (Staff Photo)

Miller.
of popularity, the Royal Hotel,
Noah Sinclair met the stage c.

Hotel (St Charles) co...
to St James (Anglican)

Postoffice

Alex O. Murray (Imperial Bank) Chairs

east built by John Boles Sr. father of John S. Boles
not the house with fountain on lawn. dry goods merchant

25

PERPETRATED A GIGANTIC HOAX ON PRESS AND SCIENTISTS OF CONTINENT

Ten Thousand People Present When Climax of "Mystery" Came About After Months of Anxious Speculation as to Dreadful Creature Inhabiting Pond; The Confession of a Famous University's Emissary.

1957

The most gigantic deception ever practised on the public of more than 50 years ago, the launching of a "mystery" which stirred the press of the continent, brought scientific investigators from near and far, and for many months remained "unsolved," is one of the most diverting chapters in the history of Ingersoll. The placid waters of a pond which then occupied the site of one of Ingersoll's public parks was the scene of the hoax which on one day had a "grandstand" of at least 10,000 people. The incident, or chain of incidents, is best described in a picturesque article from the pen of Mr. James Sinclair, regarded as the official historian of Ingersoll, and one of its most venerated citizens. The Free Press is indebted to Mr. Sinclair for the following, which he writes under the heading of "What's That in the Pond?" from personal observation. Mr. Sinclair chuckles when he recalls the special train, crowded with Londoners, which arrived on the day of the exposure.

WHAT'S THAT IN THE POND?

This was the question each was asking his neighbor when the mysterious manifestations began to make their appearance in what was then known as the "Village Pond" in distinction from the other ponds in the neighborhood. The pond in question was Partlo's pond of the present, and for days and nights men could be seen, some armed with shot guns, prepared to give the monster a fitting reception.

At frequent intervals the placid surface of the water would be thrown into violent commotion as if some unseen force had suddenly exerted its influence or come to the surface and disappeared, while at some distance the same thing would happen. For a brief period all would be still, only to be repeated in some more remote part of the pond, giving the impression of some amphibious creature sporting itself without revealing its character. Hence the mystery.

AROUSED SUPERSTITIONS

As a matter of course this situation could not long continue without exercising the superstitious element among our citizens. Conjecture and imagination began to give form as to the cause of this most singular exhibition. The press became interested and the wonderful and unaccountable phenomenon was spread far and wide with the usual result that the more it was discussed the more the people became interested until nightly groups of people could be seen viewing the astonishing spectacle. Representatives of the press from many outside places came, saw and returned filled with wonder until the matter was spread over the whole country.

This condition of affairs had been kept up for months, and the various experiences of those who had claimed to have seen it were eagerly believed. By some it was said a traveling menagerie had a sick alligator on their hands, and on its apparent death it was transferred to the pond, where it was supposed to have regained vitality and was now the interesting source of observation.

Others claimed it exceeded in size any alligator known to exist, which, of course, intensified the interest. Learned bodies all over the country, were discussing the unusual phenomenon until the subject aroused interest in the neighboring republic, and our local mystery had been invested with the dignity of some resuscitated prehistoric creature and instances of suspended animation were exhumed from the records of the past. The mysterious actions of this creature were encircled with the utmost exactness and its nonappearance only seemed to still further excite wonder.

WATERFOWL DISAPPEAR

The waterfowl, it was said, had entirely disappeared. At all events they became so intensely interesting that a demand was made in the interest of the public in general and by several of the leading papers for the privilege of witnessing the capture or destruction of this mysterious source of wonder, that a day was appointed, and as this matter had passed beyond the limits of merely local interest, it was decided that a public holiday would be the most appropriate and accordingly the 24th of May, then approaching, was set apart for the performance, which being duly advertised, was looked forward to with much interest and, as the result proved, a greater interest had evidently been taken by parties at a distance than could possibly be imagined, so much so, that when the time arrived were utterly unable to meet the demand for food or accommodation.

STRANGERS APPEAR

However, as the day was drawing near strangers began to make their appearance and added to the number of wondering and puzzled spectators. Among the number were representatives from some some of our local (that is Canadian) museums, and also a prominent individual who was known as the professor from a scientific institution in the United States, who arrived a day or two previous. This gentleman was very reticent. However, he came prepared with literature and sketches of all known prehistoric creatures. He found accommodation at the Royal Exchange Hotel, known in after years as the "Bummer's Roost," which was located where our post office now stands.

In private conversation this gentleman was quite voluble, when his favorite subject was touched upon, and his explanation of the disturbance of the water was not the action of the supposed creature itself, but was caused by the prey of the monster when attacked and in the act of being devoured. This explanation, given with all professional importance and "ex-cathedra," so to speak, was at once accepted by his listeners. All night long rigs came driving into town, every place was congested, and shake-downs were in evidence in every available place. Barn lofts were at a premium, and butchers and bakers were at their wit's end. It was apparent that this feature of the occasion had been overlooked.

In the morning of the eventful day early gun fire, which was always a feature of interest, was not necessary to waken out citizens, or our visitors. All night long the streets were alive with expectant and wondering people, and the vicinity of the pond was tenanted the night through and the still mysterious exhibition was interesting the multitude The professor was by this time a central figure, and doubtless feeling his prominence, became more dignified in his attitude, and eventually lapsed into a cold civility toward his questioners. Long before the hour appointed for the opening of the flood gates the vicinity of the pond was thronged by a sleepless and hungry crowd.

A SPECIAL SITE.

The professor and press representatives were given a special site from which to view the event. Field glasses and telescopes were making their appearance, and everything was now in a state of readiness. At last the gates were about to be opened and men with guns were ready to deal the fatal blow should capture alive not be deemed possible. A heavy raft was also got in readiness, with ropes and pike poles and such other implements as were thought suitable to such a dangerous task. At last the word was passed, and the gates prepared to open. The interest and excitement was now at fever heat, and the slaughter or capture of this most mysterious creature about to be accomplished.

As the water began to lower and this hideous creature about to be revealed the more nervous of the female spectators began to show signs of fainting and the crowd nearest the water began to move back. The people in the vicinity of the professor were eagerly watching his every movement. An individual, a little the worse of liquor, addressing the professor, said, "Boss, how would it do to throw in a dog and see what it would do to it?" Another voice, replying, said, "Keep still or you'll get thrown in," whereupon the first speaker said "he could lick the man that said that," and if he was alive when this trouble was over he'd do it.

However, the parties were quieted, and no further disturbance permitted, as a substantial force of special police had been enrolled.

ALL READY.

Press representatives were arranged in a suitable position and with writing material in evidence, and the preliminaries all written up, the opening of the gates was awaited with a nervous tension that can well be understood.

As several manifestations had taken place during this prolonged wait the people were kept interested and from every possible position where a view of the pond could be obtained, the throng of people could be seen packed as close as they could stand together, numbering well into the thousands. The gates of the pond were now opened and the rush of the pent-up water resembled a Niagara in miniature, adding that feature to the occasion that music does to the performance of the drama, and equally appropriate, from its reality. From the extent of the surface it was some time before the diminishing of the water was perceptible. Binocular glasses and telescopes were trained over the scene.

RAFT UNDER WAY.

The raft in the meantime, manned by two intrepid fellows, had got under way with the before-mentioned implements on board, also a heavy rope, with a running noose, prepared to lasso the monster, the professor, standing with his powerful glasses, surrounded by a group of reporters recording his every utterance. At length, as the waters subsided, an object came into view, and from the shore came the warning to the "boys" on the raft to "be mighty careful," "take no chances," "give it the pike." The professor had discerned it and declared it to be a "haired" creature. In the meantime the boys on the raft had got a view of it, and instantly steering their unwieldy craft towards it, when within striking distance, plunged the pike into it. A mighty shout rose from the assembled multitude. "Well done, boys." Another pike was let go at it, and, shouting from the shore renewed with increased volume. The "boys" on the raft were now intensely excited, and getting the noose ready when one of them caught in a bight of the rope, stumbled and fell into the water.

THE DEATH AGONIES.

This was attributed by the people on the shore to the death agonies of the doomed creature striking the raft. However, the man soon scrambled on board and succeeded in getting the noose over the carcase and pulling it as tight as their united strength could, as the rope was a heavy one.

Orders were at once issued to close the gate in order to permit the prize to be floated shorewards. After some difficulty this was accomplished, and with their burden in tow they endeavored to reach the shore.

As yet the creature, whatever it was, was completely submerged, except when it would happen to roll over, when a glimpse could be had of it, just enough to renew the excitement on shore.

It was now evident that the boys on the raft were unable to land their game unassisted. Light ropes were thrown them and on being secured to the prize willing hands were ready to lend assistance, and in order to complete the task a team of horses were backed up to the water's edge and a stout logging chain attached to the object, which was as yet in deep water, and dragging on the bottom, was not yet discernible.

PROFESSOR EXCITED.

While the crowd of people in every direction prevented the movement of the horses, in vain constables tried to move them A way was made for the professor, however, at the point of landing, who now showed every appearance of intense excitement. By this time the carcase had been moved some distance and the professor got one look at it and turned deady pale. Could it be possible? He put away his glasses and stood with his arms folded, but never spoke.

In the meantime an Irishman had got a look at it, and at once, in an enraged tone of voice, exclaimed, "'Tis a hoax! Be heavens, 'tis a hoax! The hide of a 2-year-old stuffed wid straw and loaded wid bricks to keep it under water. May the divil fly away wid the man than planned it."

The professor, supplementing the remarks already recorded, said, "It is more than a hoax; it is an outrage on the people of half the American continent. Look at the representatives of the press, sent here at great expense, and with great expectation, based on the reports circulated from this contemptible little Canadian town."

SYMPATHY LOST.

This last remark cut him adrift from the sympathy of our people, and his chagrin from this time on was enjoyed all the more. The professor wished to meet some of our town officials and lodge a protest. In this he was accommodated, and for this purpose he was introduced to the member of the Council who would be most likely to receive him fittingly, if not graciously. On meeting the officer the professor presented his card and began the conversation by saying he had called to protest against the outrage that had been perpetrated on such a large number of people, many of them like himself, in a representative position in the interest of science, etc. He stated that he was a citizen of the United States and would not be imposed upon in this way "Well," said his listener, "what do you intend to do about it?" "Well, I intend to get together the greatest number possible of this grossly insulted multitude and compel you to make amends for your deception."

A COUNTER-ATTACK.

"Well, what do you suppose I intend doing with you? If you don't take the first train leading out of this town I will have you locked up. Don't run away with the idea that you are the first American citizen who has met disappointment in this country. Some years ago your people thought you could wipe us out in a very short time, but found their mistake when our lads ran your countrymen over the cliff at Queenston Heights on the Niagara River, and I don't know but some of the clothes are lying in the bushes yet."

This the professor did not know, but said he would find out the truth of it "Well, you can't make a mistake; the place is marked by a monument, 216 feet high, and a figure of the man on the top of it who did the trick. His name was Brock. Now, professor, your best plan is to treat the whole thing as a joke, congratulate yourself on the fact that you came to Canada in time to help us celebrate the 38th birthday of her most gracious majesty Queen Victoria. Now, professor, while we are talking allow me to point out to you the mistake you made. On your arrival here instead of getting in touch with our people you kept aloof, and in your every movement showed a disposition to be left alone. Relying no doubt on your scientific knowledge and the reports that had circulated through the press of your country, which I must say were grossly exaggerated, but which we did not feel bound to refute. It is possible, too, that you might have received a 'confidential tip' that would have been of service to you. However, you had better put your disappointment against your experience and square the account."

By the time this was said the professor began to realize the situation and in reply said, "Well, I suppose it is my only course, and I must make the best of it."

"Say, professor, do you ever take anything?"

"Well, I do occasionally, but to tell you the truth, I haven't had a square meal since I struck your town. The whole town has been eaten clean out."

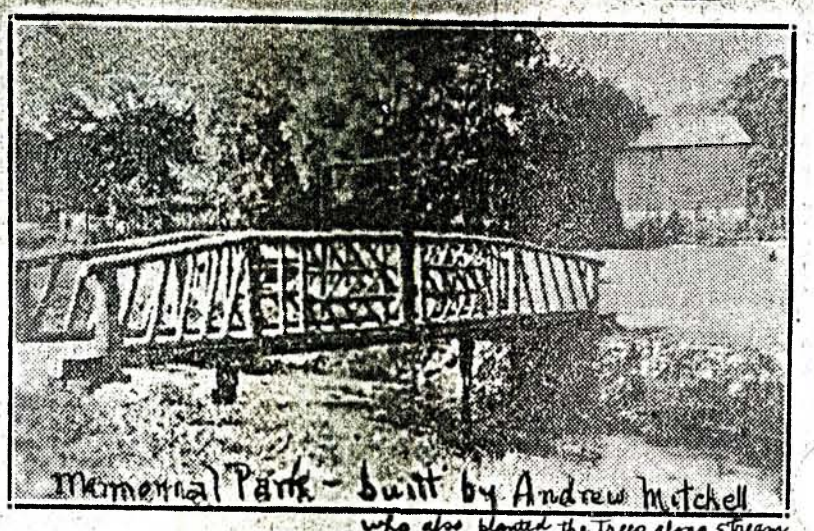
"Well, you must come home with me to supper and stop overnight."

For which invitation the professor expressed his thanks and accepted. Just as they had finished this conversation the team of horses drove past with the "alligator" dragging behind, and a crowd following, shouting, singing, yelling, some cursing, etc. When the professor looked at it he laughed, while all said was, "Well, I'll be d—d; what can I say when I get home?"

EXPLANATION.

It is now fitting to give our readers the cause of all this excitement. When the late John Stuart began to make oatmeal in the mill now known as Stuart's Mill a certain amount of offal in the shape of oat hulls, etc., was allowed to pass into the creek leading to the pond in question There it fermented and the gas so formed caused the disturbance on the surface water and this fact, coupled with the ignorance of the cause the part of the people, led some of our practical jokers to turn the circumstance into a feature of our 24th of May celebration, and I think you will agree with me that it was a howling success

RUSTIC BRIDGE IN INGERSOLL



This bridge is one of the play centers of Ingersoll and attracts the eye of the visitor.

A Hoax Worthy Of Phineas T. Barnum

Did you ever hear the story of the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on the people of Canada and the United States?

It was not the Cardiff giant, but something equally ingenious.

It appeared in Ingersoll more than half a century ago.

It brought tens of thousands of people to the Oxford town.

Its suspense continued for months.

It is told about in this special Ingersoll edition.

26

Town Hub Of Industry Threatened

June 1951

By Kathryn Hansuld

The closing of the cheese market in the Oxford County town of Ingersoll has brought back memories of a great industry.

It was cheese that brought fame to Ingersoll back in its village days. By reason of trade connections on the British markets, to which tremendous quantities were supplied by local exporters, it became known as "the hub of the cheese industry" in Western Ontario. And across Canada, as well, Ingersoll has become known as the "Cheese Town." The application was even used in sports' circles with local teams being known as "the cheesers."

* * *

Through the Ingersoll Cheese Board which was established following the organization of the Canadian Dairymen's Associaion in 1867, large quantities of cheese were sold regularly. That revenue has long been a great factor in the prosperity of the town and the neighboring districts.

A plaque in the north wall of the post office building (erected by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada) has the word "First Cheese Factory—built in the County of Oxford in 1864. The widespread adoption of the co-operative factory system in this and other counties marked the beginning of the modern dairying industry in Eastern Canada. The Canadian Dairymen's Association was founded in Ingersoll in 1867."

* * *

Many of Ingersoll's older citizens recall the annual two-day sessions of the latter association. Held in the town hall, the meetings stressed not only increased production but the most modern equipment and, above all, superior quality.

As early as 1863, there had been much discussion for the manufacture of what has gone down in history as "The Mammoth Cheese," the arrangements being completed in 1864. It was decided that all requirements should be made in the town so that outsiders would not know their purpose. The production of the cheese which weighed three and a half tons was a feat which focused much interest on Ingersoll and surrounding community.

* * *

Advancement in the manufacture of cheese had then reached the stage where the products of district factories were being sold on a substantial reputation and were invariably asked for under the name "Ingersoll District Cheese."

New factories sprang up in the district with the result that production was materially increased and no favorable efforts were spared to gain all possible favor on the British market. It is recorded that on behalf of the cheese industry of the district the late Edwin Casswell made a total of 55 trips across the ocean.

As early as 1835 "Father Ranney" of the Salford district made the first cheese for sale on the local market. At one time he owned some 100 cows.

Prominent dairymen mentioned in connection with the development of the dairying industry were James Harris and Harvey Farrington, brothers-in-law of Father Ranney. The mammoth cheese was made in the factory of James Harris, West Oxford.

* * *

Many young people came to Ingersoll and district to learn cheese-making as well as mechanics to gain information as to the nature of the equipment manufactured there for the purpose.

A statement for the year 1923 showed that there were 6,837,124 pounds of cheese produced in Oxford County, the value of which was $1,326,231.66 which, with revenue from other products, brought the total to $4,207,445.72.

Now, with the closing of the Ingersoll Cheese Market, there closes a chapter in a cheese-making era, featuring the Town of Ingersoll.

Nov. 1951.

END OF ERA

May 1951.

Cheese Market Closing Recalls Great Industry

If for no other than a sentimental reason there are doubtless many residents of the town and district familiar with the background of the dairying industry who will regret the closing of the Ingersoll cheese market.

It was cheese that brought fame to Ingersoll back in its village days and by reason of trade connections on the British markets to which tremendous quantities were supplied by local exporters it became known as the "hub of the cheese industry" in Western Ontario, and across Canada as well Ingersoll has been known as the "Cheese Town," even with the appelation being applied in sports competition to local teams as the "cheesers."

Through the Ingersoll Cheese Board, which was established following the organization of the Canadian Dairymen's Association here in 1867, tremendous quantities of cheese were sold regularly, and the revenue thus derived was at that time and is still recognized, as having been a great factor in the prosperity of the town and the neighboring districts.

A plaque on the north outside wall of the postoffice building, erected by the Historic Sites and Movements Board of Canada has the wording, "First Cheese Factory"—the first cheese factory in Canada was established in the county of Oxford in 1864. The widespread adoption of the co-operative factory system in this and other counties marked the beginning of the modern dairying industry in Eastern Canada. The Canadian Dairymen's Association was founded in Ingersoll in 1867."

Many of Ingersoll's older citizens recall the annual two-day sessions of the Dairymen's Association that used to be held in the town hall, the large number of dairymen, buyers and outstanding speakers who attended and the stress that was placed not only upon increased production, but the most modern equipment and above all, superior quality. 1865

As early as 1863 there had been much discussion for the manufacture of what has gone into history as the "Mammoth Cheese" and the arrangements were completed in 1864. It was decided that all requirements should be made in Ingersoll in order to keep outsiders from knowing their purpose. The cheese which weighed three and a half tons was successfully produced and was a feat which focused much attention and interest on Ingersoll and the surrounding community. Advancement in the manufacture of cheese had then reached the stage where the products of district factories were being sold on a substantial reputation and were invariably asked for under the name "Ingersoll District Cheese."

New factories sprung up in the district with the result that production was materially increased and no efforts were spared to gain all possible favor on the British market. It has been recorded that on behalf of the cheese industry of the district the late Edwin Casswell made a total of 55 trips across the ocean.

It also has been recorded that as early as 1835 "Father Ranney" of the Salford district made the first cheese for sale on the local market. He is also said to have had at one time a herd of 100 cows. Other prominent dairymen mentioned in connection with the development of the dairying industry are James Harris and Harvey Farrington, brothers-in-law of Father Ranney." The mammoth cheese was made in the factory of James Harris, West Oxford, near Ingersoll.

Many young men came to Ingersoll and district to learn cheese-making as well as mechanics to gain information as to the nature of the equipment manufactured here to gain information as to the nature of the equipment here for the purpose.

A statement for the year 1923 showed that there were 6,837,124 pounds of cheese produced in Oxford county, the value of which was $1,326,231.66 which had revenue from other products brought the total to $4,207,445.72.

I attended several of these Dinners.

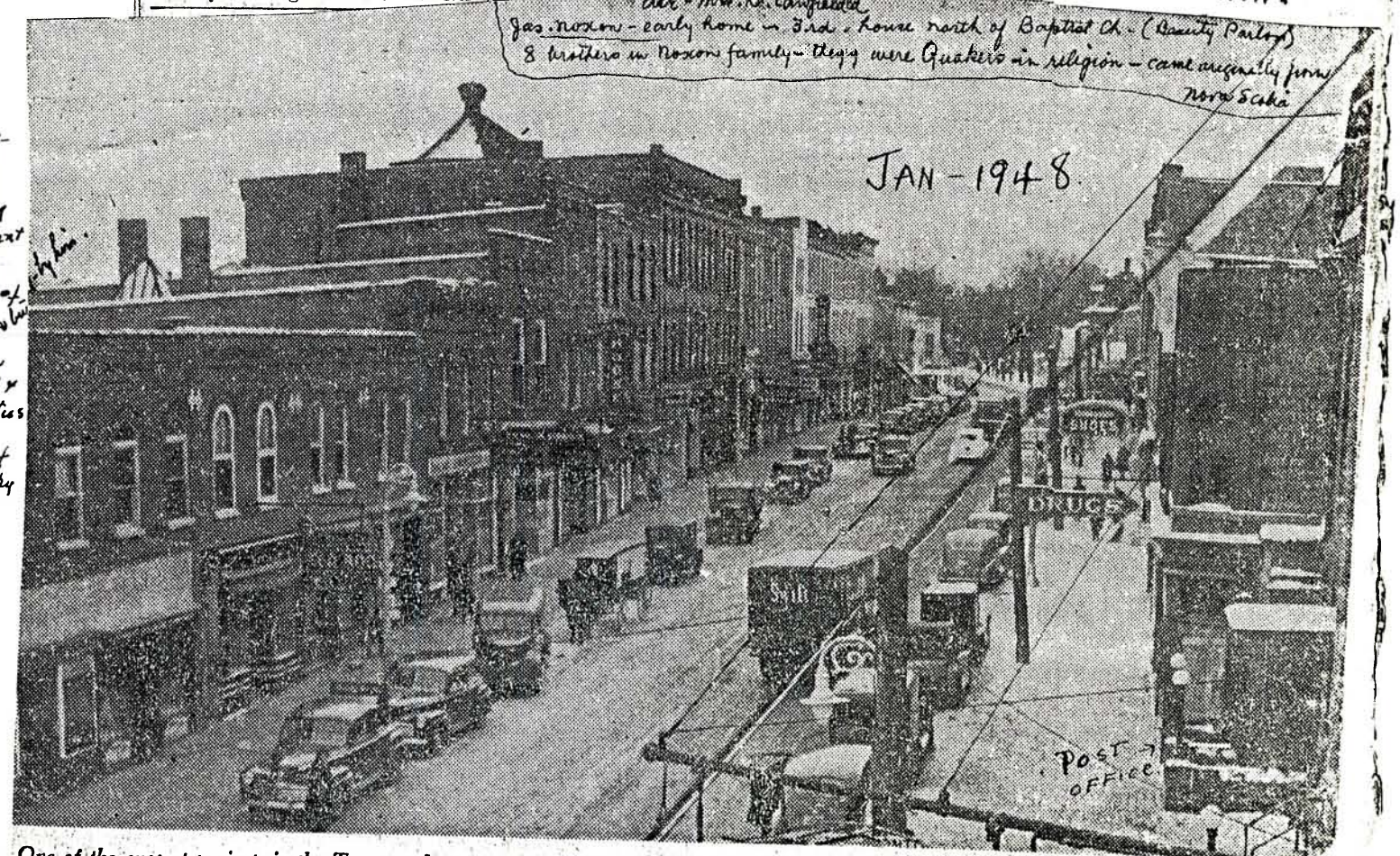
House on S.E. corner of Oxford & Ann sts built by ~~Sam~~ Oxfordia
next south - a cottage
then red brick built by Foster Wilson of Dereham
next one by J.B. Jakes local lawyer.
next one - red brick by Percy Smith -
next old brick.
"Cork Castle" built by Brady - later owned by R.B. Hatt & new house erected -
next two red brick houses built by Jas. Mogford with
next by ~~Samuel~~ Wallerworth Sr. from plan brought from California.
Old white brick on S-W-Corner of Francis & ~~Earl~~ Earl built by Mr. Prentiss
Mr. Burnett - Editor of Ingersoll Chronicle - built the large brick house on S-W-corner of Albert & Francis & the cottage owned by Thomas Seldon - Geo Mason bought

Old Residences
on N.E. corner of Francis & Earl St. - the O'Neil house built by father of Chas. O'Neil at one time a grocer
next house west built by Mr S. Logie - shoe merchant
next house ~~north~~ East of O'Neil house - The home of Thos. Wells - Barrister
large frame house on S-W. corner of Oxford & Ann St - built by Justus Miller.
Big brick next south of Miller house built by Andrew Bodwell and next south of the Bodwell house, The W.D. Nellis house
Old white brick house south of above houses built by Christopher Bros.
2 newer homes built between these

The Pomeroy Block now gone - was where the Royal Bank now (1945) stands - with a few stores - north and west -
(Homer Campbell Block) ... unknown name -
The Jarvis Block - on north side of King St - just east of Stream and extending to Water St. It was in the records of 1862 and built several years earlier -
The Browett Block - on north side of King St and East of Mill St. - believed to have been built in early 1834
first Gore block.

Freeman Noxon - built - Miss A. Seldon house
Jas Noxon Sr - old hospital
his son Wm - trade commr in London Eng.
Stephen Noxon - built house - Corner of Oxford & Dufferin (Branch home)
Samuel Noxon - built John Sayler house on west side of Oxford St
310 Oxford St.
305 - Oxford St.
DORLAND NOXON - CHARLES ST. W.

Sam. Noxon - sons died - diphtheria
Freeman Noxon - one son, Wilbur
Stephen Noxon - 2 dtrs - one died other - Mrs. Branch
James Noxon - sons - Jas; Wm; & Samuel.
dtr - Mrs. Ch. Campbell
Jas. Noxon - early home in 3rd. house north of Baptist Ch. - (Beauty Parlor)
8 brothers in Noxon family - they were Quakers in religion - came originally from Nova Scotia



One of the current projects in the Town of Ingersoll is the widening of Thames street, removal of poles and other apparatus restricting a wide open main street through this progressive Western Ontario district. Ingersoll is increasing its population, augmentin industrial business and increasing the number of residence hospital and new collegiate institute are other proje considered by the community.

Spirit of Progress from Ingersoll's Earliest Days

By GEORGE F. JANES

It is a far cry from the village of Ingersoll of 1851 to the status of the town of Ingersoll of today. Official records show that the village of Ingersoll was erected under the authority of the 12th Victoria, chapter 81, section 58, by proclamation bearing date 12th September, 1851, to take force and effect on the following 1st day of January."

The limits of the village were minutely defined as situated partly in the township of Oxford West and partly in the township of Oxford North, in the county of Oxford.

The acreage given as comprising the village was 1,722, 725 acres in North Oxford and 997 acres in West Oxford.

Records also reveal that the postoffice in the village was the first established in the county. For some time it was known as the "Oxford Post Office." It was established Jan. 6, 1821, and Charles Ingersoll was appointed postmaster, followed by James Ingersoll in 1834 and Daniel Phelan in 1847.

The first election for village council was held on Monday, 5th of January, 1852, at the Royal Exchange Hotel. James McDonald was returning officer and the result of the voting was as follows: John Galliford, 82 votes; W. A. Ramsay, 97 votes; Thomas Brown, 72 votes; Charles Parkherst, 68 votes, and James Murdoch, 57 votes.

Edward Dotty was appointed treasurer, and James Barrie, village clerk.

The first board of school trustees was elected on Tuesday, Jan. , and comprised the following: Wm. Barker, chairman; David Payne, secretary; John Buchanan, Edward Morris, Henry Schofield, and Adam Oliver. There was one public school at the time with 150 pupils. The teacher was James Izard, with F. Reynolds, assistant.

There is much of historic interest associated with the town of Ingersoll. It has, as a background, the dauntless and heroic spirit of the early pioneers of the district—those hardy men and women, who more than a century and a half ago began with unflinching courage and determination the tremendous task of hewing homes out of the unbroken forest and serving in many respects as beacon lights for the advancement of civilization.

It was out of the unconquerable spirit of those early pioneers and their boundless faith in themselves and in the future of this district that a settlement was formed which carried the name "Ingersoll" and which was determined to grow not only numerically but in its importance as a trading centre.

Down through the years from the time the tiny settlement was established there has been traceable the spirit of progress.

Pioneer Family

The name "Ingersoll" is linked with a pioneer family, Thomas Ingersoll's, and in this connection the following information was some years ago compiled by the late James Sinclair, who had spent the greater part of a long life here. Thomas Ingersoll by his first wife was the father of Laura Ingersoll, afterward known by her married name "Laura Secord," heroine of Canadian history. Thomas Ingersoll was married three times and was the father of Charles and James Ingersoll, the latter being the first white baby born in Ingersoll. Thomas Ingersoll, prior to coming to Canada, was intimately known by Governor Simcoe and also by Brant, the noted Indian Chief."

From what has been gleaned settlement took place slowly until 1800 and village proportions were reached some twenty years later.

"The situation of the village was on the river trail at the point where the Indians for centuries in their journeying had directed their course south-east in a straight line toward Brantford. It is recorded that the first saw-mill was erected in the village by Elisha Hall, who came here from across the border and became a very influential citizen. He also erected a second mill on the site of what in comparatively recent years was Smith's mill. The first foundry in the village was established by W. A. Rumsey and was later operated by W. Eastwood. A flour mill was established on Charles street east by Daniel Carroll following the completion of the Upper Dam on the Thames river and the creation of Carroll's pond. Development continued rather rapidly and it was not long after that Charles Parkhurst established a carding mill, which proved of inestimable service to the residents of the district. Some time later, according to records, Mr. Parkhurst added spinning to his equipment and exchanged yarn for the fleece wool.

"It has been related that it was at the first foundry here that the first steam engine in Oxford county was built. Among other manufacturing enterprises which followed in the wake of early development was a tannery conducted by Thomas Brown, who later became a potential influence in leadership of community affairs and who as Mayor gave the name to Victoria park, and a distillery, which was operated by G. T. Jarvis. Of the distillery it has been said it produced an excellent brand of whiskey."

Records of early development show that the Ingersoll and Port Burwell Plank and Gravel Road Company was formed in 1849.

The distance of the road is given as 31 miles of which "16½ miles are within the county of Oxford." The average cost per mile of the road which is gravelled is given as £275 and that which is planked £300 per mile.

Much of an interesting nature has been related by early pioneers of the days of the stage coach and the experiences of both drivers and passengers of that time. Often six four-horse stage lines ran from London to Ingersoll and horses were changed every fifteen miles.

After flourishing for some time the stage coach passed out and the means of travel began to turn to the projected Great Western Railway, maturity of which brought a new phase of development to the growing and ambitious community.

Ingersoll attained the status of a town in 1865, which was celebrated with marked enthusiasm. The late Adam Oliver, noted for the extent of his lumbering business, his saw mill and yard being situated on Victoria street, was the town's first mayor. The coming of the railway in the early 50's gave a decided impetus to development. A more general progressive spirit was evidenced with industrial advancement being made regularly.

Agriculture and manufacturing have each played an important part in Ingersoll's development, even from the early days, and in combined form they have provided a foundation for stability in all branches of business that is probably not surpassed by any town of similar size in the province.

In the early days before Ingersoll attained the status of a town, when pine and other heavy timber was plentiful in the neighboring districts, lumbering was an enterprise that contributed in no small degree to building up the community. In the rural districts a chief occupation during the winter months was felling the great trees, cutting them into logs and hauling them here where they were converted into lumber.

Reminiscent of those early days are some buildings in the town at the present time wholly constructed of lumber produced in the district and which are still in a remarkable state of preservation.

Much of the pine lumber used at that time was obtained from a section of West Oxford some six or seven miles south-east of here, and although most of the once plentiful pine trees have disappeared, it is still alluded to by many of the old-timers as "The Pines." Most of this area has been converted into large, well tilled farms, on which graze some of the finest dairy herds for which the district is noted.

With the depletion of the pine forests and other timber in the district the necessity of other branches of manufacturing was generally realized.

Soon there was a marked trend upward in agricultural development with the consequent demand for more farm machinery, and it was at this time that the need was supplied to a great extent by the former Noxon Company.

Dairying also soon became a most important factor as the production of cheese steadily increased in the various contiguous sections. For many years Ingersoll was known as "the hub of the dairy industry."

Emphasizing the important relationship which the town has had with dairying a plaque was placed on the north wall of the postoffice building in 1933 by the Historic Sites and Movements Board of Canada, which bears the following inscription:

FIRST CHEESE FACTORY

The first cheese factory in Canada was established in the county of Oxford in 1864. The widespread adoption of the co-operative factory system in this and other counties marked the beginning of the modern dairying industry in Eastern Canada. The Canadian Dairymen's Association was founded at Ingersoll in 1867.

Events show that with the establishment of Ingersoll as a village and later as a town, that greater and more substantial progress and development resulted. Today Ingersoll's population exceeds 6,000; the town has splendid schools, fine parks, progressive organizations for community advancement, good churches, excellent manufacturing plants and its present big municipal undertaking is the installation of a modern sewerage system and disposal plant.

Sentinel-Review Staff Member—George F. Janes, in charge of the Ingersoll office of the Sentinel-Review

Sentinel-Review Staff Member—Mrs. Margaret Thompson, in charge of office work, Ingersoll office.

sister to Mrs Geo. Jane

OPENING DAY—It was with all the pomp and ceremony of the day that the Woodstock, Thames Valley and Ingersoll Railway coach "Estelle" made the first run to and from Beachville on November 8, 1900. The above photo was made at Beachville by W. H. Spinks and it shows the car and a number of members of town council and other representative citizens. Included in the group are Mayor Scarff, W. A. Karn, Dr. Rice, W. G. McKay, John McKay, D. Dodge, Dr. Odlum, S. G. McKay, J. H. Nelles, F. Richards, W. Sweet, D. Ross, John McKay, R. W. Sawtell, C. Wilson, Charles Hamlyn, G. R. Pattullo, Rev. M. Baker, Alex Watson, Charles Clarke, W. S. Hurst, William Spinks,, D. W. Karn, A. B. L. W. Hunt, C. S. Johnson, Messrs. Ickes and Armstrong, the promoters, and J. G. Walls.

Railway Lasted 25 Years

A quarter of a century was the lifetime of the Woodstock street railway which connected this city with Beachville and Ingersoll. Formally known as the Woodstock, Thames Valley and Ingersoll Railway, operations began on November 8, 1900 between Woodstock and Beachville and continued until 1925 when the railway line was abandoned and a bus service inaugurated.

The Woodstock office of the company was closed in January, 1939, after 39 years service as a waiting room, conductor's quarters, private office and board room. The offices were formally leased in March, 1902, at which time two new cars were added to the equipment. Improvements were also being planned in 1902 to Fairmount Park, which was opened on the bank of the Thames between Woodstock and Beachville to induce additional traffic on the railway. The park was named after Fairmount Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, home state of the promoters of the railway.

The Woodstock-Ingersoll line was established in 1900 and the car "Estelle" made the initial trip on November 8 of that year as far as Beachville, the track to Ingersoll not being completed until later in the year. The tracks did not at first run from Norwich avenue, as called for in the franchise granted by the Woodstock council, but that part of the construction was not long delayed.

Other Ideas

A proposed service to the two railway stations in Woodstock was never carried out and a city belt line, discussed several times, was

I had many rides on this railroad. B.J.

28

never built because of the increased expense which the promoters estimated would cost $5,000 a mile extra.

Establishment of a street railway in Woodstock was a topic of council discussions in the early 1880's, but the Thames Valley Railway was the first such endeavor in Woodstock and district. The early 1900's was a period when the air was full of radial projects.

During the early and successful operation of the road, an effort was made to obtain an extension from Beachville into West Zorra, north to Youngsville, but the ratepayers defeated a bylaw to purchase stock. Embro voted in favor but the project was never proceeded with.

Old Scrapbook

A scrapbook found among the archives of the company contains the complete record of all the doings in connection with the railway, from arrival of the promoters up to the fall of 1903. Clippings from the Sentinel-Review, Times, Express, Ingersoll Sun and electrical journals were found in the book describing the progress during the early years.

Dr. S. Ritter Ickes and J. W Armstrong, of the firm of Ickes and Armstrong electric street railway promoters, came from Pennsylvania toward the end of 1899 and applied for a 99-year franchise. The law firm of Wallace and Little acted as their agents.

A 50-year franchise was offered by the council. Some members advocated only a 25-year franchise but the bylaw eventually provided for 50 years. In January, 1900 the promoters stated $100,000 has been subscribed for stock, and it was said that $130,000 was actually invested, first and last. Council passed the bylaw on January 23, requiring that the line be completed within 18 months, and that the company pave the street allowance between the rails.

The charter of the Ingersoll Radial Electric Railway was revived and proved a stumbling block for a time, until the railway committee of the Legislature decided in favor of the Woodstock project.

First rails were laid July 3, 1900. About that time Dr. Ickes and Mr. Wallace took for a drive over the route Dr. Oenslager and his brother, John Oenslager, "two of the gentlemen from Harrisburg, Pa., most largely interested in the Woodstock street railway." The constructing company was called the Von Echa Company.

Full Ceremonial

In the same month in 1900 the company opened an ofifce in the McLeod building, opposite the old North American Hotel. A trial run was made on the line November 7, and it was opened to the public the next day with full ceremonial.

The Times of the period had this to say: "The handsome car Estelle is a double truck, 30-foot Brill, stronger than the average steel railway car, and beautifully decorated. Other cars will follow the 'star' as soon as the track is completed.

"J. G. Wallace, Esq., the efficient and popular attorney for the Woodstock, Thames Valley and Ingersoll Electric Railway Company, is also its president, and the entire board of directors is made up of prominent Woodstock men"

Those who made speeches at the inauguration included Mayor Scarff, R. W. Sawtell, W. A. Karn, F. Richards, D. R. Ross, G. R. Pattullo, and Rev. Moulding Baker. Other guests were Dr. Rice, W. G. McKay, John McKay, D. Dodge, Dr. Odlum, S. G. McKay, J. H. Nelles, W. Sweet, C. Wilson, C. Hamlyn, Alex Watson, Charles Clarke, W. S. Hurst, William Spinks, D W. Karn, A. B. Lee, G. W. Hunt, W. A. E. Moyer and C. S. Johnston.

For a time the coverage of the line by local newspapers was almost humorous with every minor incident being chronicled in the pages of Woodstock publications. If "Estelle" left the tracks which often was the case, or hit a dog, or failed to hold going down Dundas street hill and hit the Mill street curve too fast, it was duly reported.

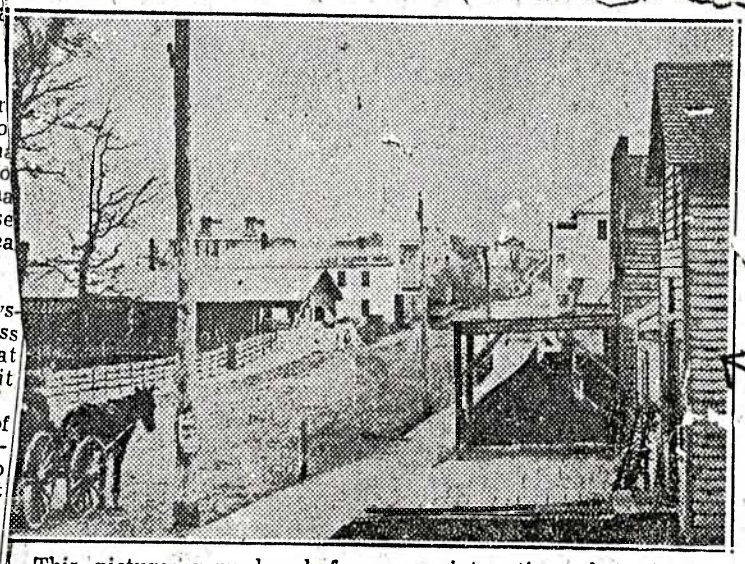
In December, 1901, when "Estelle" failed to climb the hill on account of snow, it was announced by the company that a snow plow would be purchased.

Plans of the Tillsonburk, Lake Erie and Pacific Railway for an entrance to Ingersoll appear to have interfered for a time with approval of the Woodstock company's route, and the rails were laid to the town limits before the council finally granted a 40 year lease. On June 14, 1901, the first trip from Woodstock to Ingersoll and back was made. Toward the end of the year it was proposed that mail be carried.

The Von Echa Company was active in Brant county, and efforts were made to enlist its interest in northerly extensions. Deputations from as far away as Goderich came to look over the line here.

After the first six months of operation the directors met and ordered payment of five per cent. on the bonds and two and one-half per cent. on $100,000 of preferred stock. At that time the directors were J. G. Wallace, president, D. W. Karn, R. N. Ball, E. W. Nesbitt and W. H. Armstrong

Interesting Photograph Recalls Ingersoll Street in the 60's



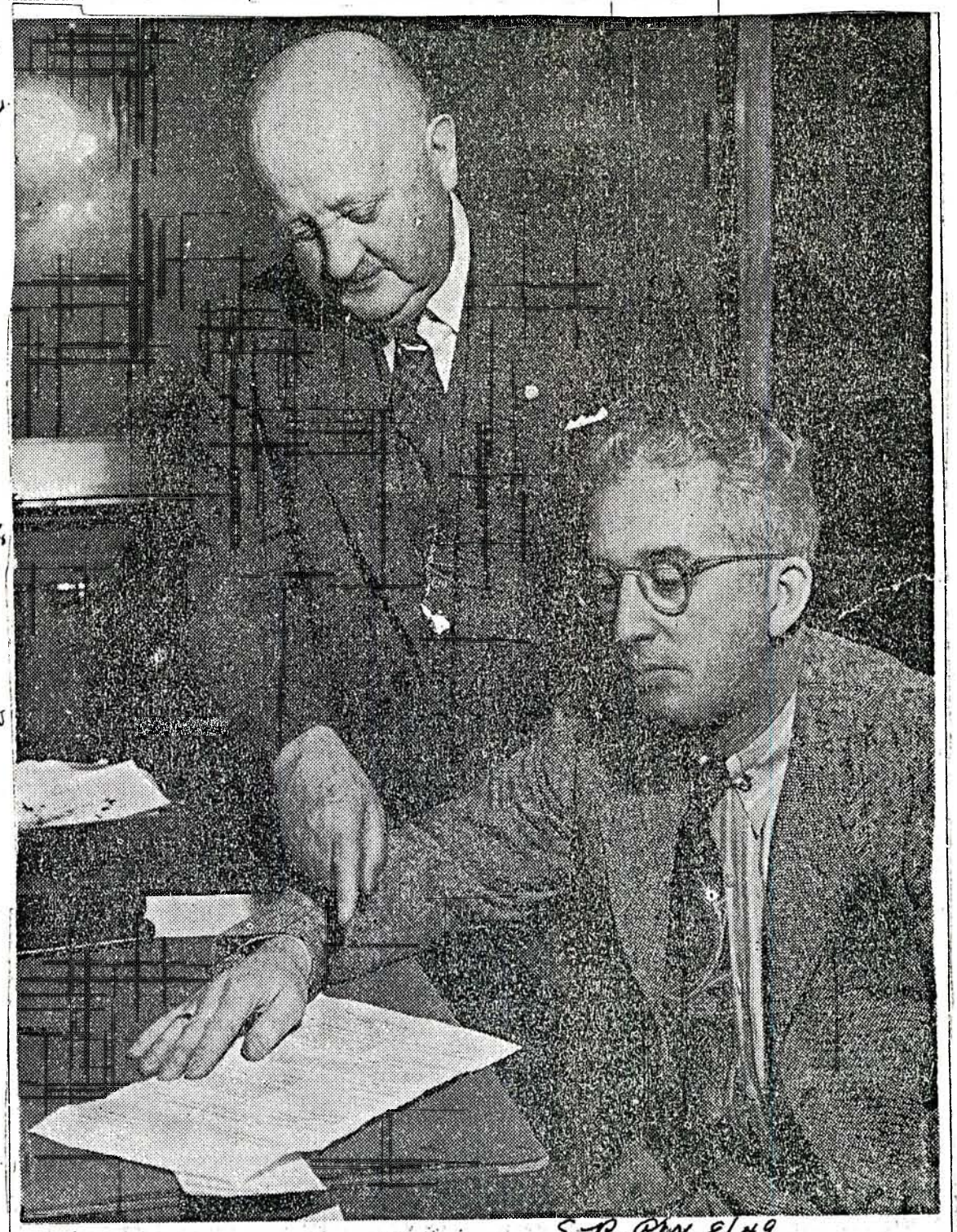
Mr Kerr's Carriage Shop when I went to I.C.I. B. Gibson

This picture, reproduced from a print estimated to be from to 73 years of age, shows a view looking north on Thames street. was taken from a point approximately where the C.P.R. now crosses that street—but there was no C.P.R. through here at that time. There is but one building shown in this picture which still exists today, that being what is now the Sacred Heart school on Thames street north, formerly the Rumsey property. This building is immediately behind the pole in left foreground. Sacred Heart church does not show in the picture, for the reason that the present edifice was not yet built. It will also be noted that trees are showing in full maturity on the left, where the Noxon company plant later came to be constructed, and to make a name for Ingersoll throughout the world as well as a fortune for a family. Strangely enough, the Noxon plant has served its long decades of usage, and is now out of any similar picture which might be taken today. Note that the superstructure of the present Thames street bridge does not show—it too was not yet constructed. Only a little wooden affair with small hand-rails cross the stream. Note the fencing also which borders what is now Ingersoll's Main street from the river flats, and also the sheds of the Great Western Railway which extend eastward to Thames street. The white building bearing the sign, goes under the name of the "Great Western House" and is believed to have later become the McCarty house, now also removed from the scene. Leaning against the building at the right are old wooden harrows, this being said to have been an implement shop.

The original picture likely around 1856 is the property of Mrs. Jane Wright, formerly of Ingersoll and West Oxford, who is now residing with her son, Murray Wright, at Avon. It is believed that the photograph was taken two or three years after the Great Western railway came through. The Grand Trunk had not been thought of at that time. Naturally, Mrs. Wright values the old photograph very highly.

Gw.R. Dec 1853 & 1854

S.A. Gibson died Feb 13 1953. aged 80 yrs.



S.R. Apr 8/49

SAM GIBSON, who holds the unique record of 60 years' continuous service in the Ingersoll post office gives some friendly pointers to Robert Wark (seated), who succeeds him as postmaster. Mr. Wark has been with the post office since 1921.

100 YEARS AGO
February 25, 1861

More census returns were given. Populations included: Chatham 4,402, Woodstock 3,350, St. Marys 2,778, Stratford 2,746.

$100 PER YEAR

Electric Railway Men Talk Over Rent Terms

INGERSOLL — Dr. Ickes and Lawyer Wallace of the Woodstock, Ingersoll and Thames Valley Electric Railway were in town last night and met the committee of the town council in reference to the terms of the proposed bylaw.

The members of the committee have agreed to concede the 40 years' franchise and the company will be required to pay besides taxes a rental of $100 per annum for the first 10 years, $200 per annum for the second 10 years and $300 per annum for the balance of the term.

The only bone of contention was the terms of rental which the representatives of the company considered too high. The committee however were as adamant and the bylaw will be submitted to council for approval on those terms.

The rails have been laid and the poles erected as far as the corporation limits and the stringing of the wires has now been proceeded with.

If no further delays occur it is expected that the cars will be running here in a few days.

The proposed route in town will be along Charles Street to Oxford and up Oxford Street to the market.

At a meeting of Council following Monday the bylaw was duly considered as passed.

When Streetcars Ran Between City, Ingersoll

By SPENSER HUNTER

Street cars used to rumble along Dundas street not so many years ago and the clang of the motorman's foot bell was a familiar sound.

This may be news to many of Woodstock's more recent residents but the older ones will well remember.

The line was known as the Woodstock, Thames Valley and Ingersoll Electric Railway. It ran from Dundas street east, with the track in the centre of the street, westward down Dundas street hill to Mill street, then turned down Mill street, along the west side, to Park Row, and along Park Row to the highway and on to Beachville and Ingersoll.

HOURLY SERVICE

The car barns and power house were on the highway just west of Dickson's greenhouse and part of the building is still there. An hourly service was run with a car going in each direction from the power house.

Old records reveal that the line was established in 1900. Dr. S. R. Ickes and J. W. Armstrong of Philadelphia came to Woodstock and negotiated the new project. The Woodstock law frm of Wallace and Little were their agents. The promoters announced that $100,000 had been subscribed, which was later increased to $130,000. The company opened an office in the McLeod Block on Dundas street, opposite Vansittart Avenue.

The first car was named the "Estelle," described as a "handsome, modern type street car, stronger than the average and beautifully decorated." A trial trip was first made with free rides given many citizens and the line was opened as far as Beachville the next day.

OPENING CEREMONY

An opening ceremony was held to inaugurate the line and speeches were made by several prominent citizens.

Among these were J. G. Wallace, attorney and president of the company, Mayor James Scarff, R. W. Sawtell, W. A. Karn, F. Richards, D. R. Ross, G. R. Pattullo, Rev. Moulding Baker. Other guests were Dr. A. T. Rice, W. G. McKay, John McKay, D. Dodge, Dr. Odlum, S. G. McKay, J. H. Nelles, W. Street, C. Wilson, C. Hamlyn, Alex Watson, Charles Clarke, W. S. Hurst, William Spinks, D. W. Karn, A. B. Lee, G. W. Hunt, W. A. E. Moyer and C. S Johnston.

For a time Woodstock's three newspapers took great interest in the new road and every incident was chronicled. If the "Estelle" left the track, as she did occasionally, or hit a dog, or failed to hold going down Dundas street hill and hit Mill street curve too fast, it was duly chronicled. Other new cars, larger and heavier to carry both passengers and freight, were added later on and a complete service provided.

AMUSEMENT CENTRE

Some time after the line was established, an amusement centre was erected between Woodstock and Beachville on the south side of the highway, known as Fairmount Park, to increase the patronage of the railway. A merry-go-round was erected near the road and a pavilion built farther back among the trees for summer plays. A stock company known as Tom Walsh Players presented plays there three nights a week and Woodstock and Ingersoll people swarmed there to attend. Picnic grounds were also established and boating was provided across from the park, at the Thames river. Fairmount Park thrived and prospered for several years, much to the benefit of the railway.

With the advent of the automobile, business of the railway began to fall off and the line was abandoned in 1925 and a bus service was inaugurated which continued for a few years longer, eventually being taken over by another bus line.

Louis Bale, still living in Woodstock, and the late William Taylor were conductors on the railway line for many years.

Here is a Proclamation . . .

PROCLAMATION

County of Oxford,
VILLAGE OF INGERSOLL, To Wit:

Public Notice is hereby given to the Municipal Electors of the Village of Ingersoll, in the County of Oxford, that in obedience to a warrant to me directed, by His Excellency the Governor-General, I require the presence of the said Electors

AT THE INN OF JOHN PATTERSON,

IN SAID VILLAGE,

On Monday the 5th January next,

AT THE HOUR OF ELEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE FOREMOON,

For the purpose of electing five fit and proper persons to serve as Municipal Councillors for said Village, and three fit and proper persons for Inspectors of Houses of Public Entertainment for the same, for the year 1852.

Given under my hand at Ingersoll, this 22nd day of December, 1851.

Jas. McDonald,
Returning Officer.

Geo. Laycock, Printer, "Western Progress" Office, Woodstock.

. . . For the First Election

On First Monday Just 100 Years Ago 1st Council Named

JAN. 3rd 1952.

When Ingersoll's 1952 council is sworn into office this coming Monday, January 7, it will be precisely 100 years to the very day that Ingersoll's first council was elected.

Ingersoll's incorporation as a village took effect January 1, 1852, and election of the first council took place the next Monday. The election was held at the Royal Exchange Hotel, where our postoffice now stands, and the following constituted our first council: John Galliford, reeve, and councillors W. A. Ramsay, Thomas Brown, Charles Parkhurst and James Murdock. The first board of school trustees was elected the following day and included Adam Oliver, who became Ingersoll's first mayor when the community was incorporated as a town some 13 years later.

Thus when taking office the 1952 council will mark an historic occasion. The new council includes: Mayor, Thomas J. Morrison, and Councillors H. W. Fick, Glenn Topham, Mrs. Mildred Mills, Claire Rigby, Don Bower and Tommy Lee. It is likely that the new council, to mark the occasion, may pass a resolution of loyalty and respect to the King, and in return, receive the greetings of His Majesty upon the town's 100th birthday.

In addition, council is due for a surprise Monday evening as they sit down to deliberate; a ceremony will take place of which councillors at the moment have no knowledge.

By Byron G. Jenvey

Jan 5 1952

In 1852—100 years ago—Ingersoll became a village. At that time there were 175 names on the village directory. All did not have the right to vote for members of the first Village Council as this privilege was for freeholders only, at that time.

The election for the first village council took place on Monday, Jan. 5, 1852, and is said to have been hotly contested. W. A. Ramsay, a leading foundryman, headed the polls by securing 97 votes. The election was held in the Royal Exchange Hotel, operated at the time by John Patterson. The Royal Exchange Hotel stood where the present Post Office, erected in 1898, now stands.

The hotel was destroyed in the great fire of 1872, which started in the stable at the rear of this hotel on the 7th of May at 7 o'clock in the evening, and raged until 11.00 o'clock. The hotel was among the first of 80 establishments to become a prey to the flames. The stable where the fire started was located on the southeast corner of Charles and Oxford Streets.

Possibly the fact the election was held in the Royal Exchange was because it was one of the most up-to-date hotels in the village. It operated one of the first omnibuses to and from the Great Western Railroad station which was erected in 1854, the year this railroad was built through Ingersoll. The returning officer for the first election was James McDonald, the merchant. There must have been others by the same name.

Lord Elgin was Governor General at the time Ingersoll became a municipality with legal status, a village with a council, his term of office being from 1846 to 1854. He toured this section of Oxford county on horseback in 1849. On his journey from Ingersoll to the place now known as Tillsonburg, he dismounted at Dereham Heights and spent some hours with the pioneers of that place. They were so pleased with his appearance and mannerly bearing, that they changed the name of the settlement to Mt. Elgin. While much discussion was taking place about Ingersoll having an election and becoming a village, Lord Elgin again passed through the settlement, this time via the river, in a small steam boat called the "Mohawk". He continued on to Sarnia.

Prosperity Permeated The Area

By 1852 there were many merchants in Ingersoll and business was brisk by barter. The first store was opened by James Ingersoll, son of the founder of the community, in 1822. James was 21 years of age at the time. John Patterson, innkeeper, and a man of good financial reputation, joined with Adam Oliver, a large buyer and exporter of lumber as well as a builder, and later Ingersoll's first mayor, to accept a contract to build a freight shed, 3000 feet long, near the Suspension Bridge, Niagara District. The contract was for $40,000. The shed was completed in the early 1850's.

The Adam Oliver home, a brick dwelling, erected about the time Ingersoll became a village, still stands on the south-west corner of John and Victoria streets. His lumber yard covered the block west of the residence. Great quantities of lumber were teamed from the south over the Ingersoll-Port Burwell plank and gravel road to Ingersoll. The company operating this road was formed in 1849. James Ingersoll was secretary-treasurer in 1850 and 1851 and J. M. Chapman in 1852. At this time the office was in Ingersoll.

(20)

In 1852, Ingersollville was an active grain market. American buyers came here to purchase wheat. Due to war in Europe, the Russian wheat markets were closed to Britain. Britain then sought Canadian wheat. Sometimes 20 to 30 wagons loaded with wheat would be lined up at the Victoria street storage. The mills in the village were doing a rushing business also. Wheat was selling at $1.50 per bushel.

During the formative years of the village, prior to and following 1852, dairy farming for milk production, and cheese making by private enterprise, was making forward strides. Britain was the buyer. An early exporter was Edwin Caswell, who crossed the ocean 55 times in the interests of the cheese industry, a few trips being made while Ingersoll was a village, but most of them after the establishment of co-operative factories, which began in the Ingersoll district in 1865.

Four years after Ingersoll became a village, a disastrous fire burned out the main business block. This was on the north side of King street east between Water and Mill streets. ~~and the following year~~ 1857, Ingersollville received almost continent-wide advertising through the Village Pond Hoax, "What's in the Pond?" The pond known as the Village Pond was between King and Canterbury streets. It has been known as Memorial Park for several years.

The community that became Ingersoll was founded by Thomas Ingersoll, who moved into this choice section of Canada West on the advice of his good friend, the famed Indian chief, Joseph Brant. Ingersoll came in with other settlers in 1793, and Mr. Ingersoll personally felled the tree from which he erected his log home where the ~~Public Utilities~~ office now stands.

Later, however, Mr. Ingersoll's grant of 66,000 acres in this area was cancelled, as a result of a dispute over the settlers he was bringing in, and he moved to the mouth of the Credit river, where Port Credit now stands. Among members of his family with him in Ingersoll was Laura, who as Laura Secord has become one of Canada's heroines.

In 1817, Thomas Ingersoll's eldest son, Charles returned to Ingersoll, accompanied by another son, James, and together built up the community, having a share in many interests. Charles named the village after his father, and in 1821 became the community's first postmaster. His brother, James, first white child to be born in Ingersoll, became registrar and held the post for 52 years. Charles and a son, Thomas, died in a cholera epidemic in 1832.

When Ingersoll became an incorporated village, its population was about 1190, and its acreage 1,772, with 725 acres in North Oxford and 1,047 in West Oxford.

The first Ingersoll council meeting was held in the Union school house at 2 p.m. on Jan. 12, 1852, according to a paper on the minutes of the early council meetings read at Monday's inaugural session of the 1952 council by Stanley J. Smith a member of the council of 1951.

The council appointed John Galliford, esquire, as reeve. Rev. Henry Revell opened the first council meeting with prayer and the benediction was given by Rev. W. H. Landon, editor of the Western Progress, Woodstock. Mr. Landon preached many times in the Baptist Mission, North Thames street and knew practically everyone in the village.

New roof put on the Town Hall, July 1952

King St. - resurfaced July - 1952 - from Ingersoll Inn to Mobrett St. 2" coating

INGERSOLL

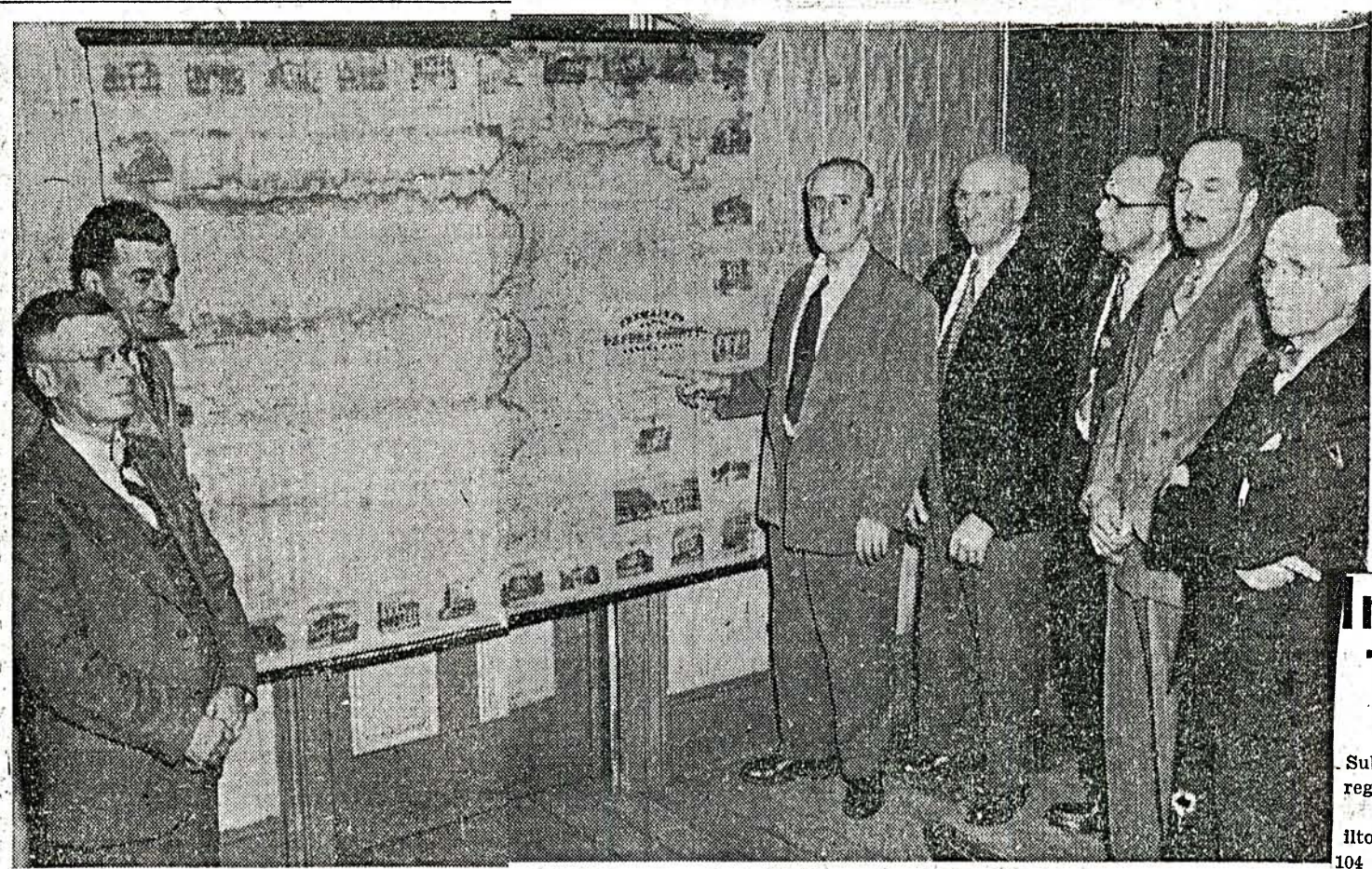
A contract covering roof repairs to the town hall was awarded to Contractor H. G. Riddell at a price of $2,130. The work is under a seven-year guarantee. MAR. - 1952.

Aug 6 - 1952
Contract let to J. J. Brewer to paint the Ingersoll Town Hall for $726.00

Sandblasted Aug & Sept 1958 $1750

Not written by O.S.J. - The first Ingersoll home stood where Stephens' Dry (Rigby's) is now. Property of Public Utilities, who at one time kept the Ingersoll Hist. Soc. by deeds and measurements that Stephens store was proper site to place a plaque on Ingersoll - Dominion was given but act had - expired out. see Pub. Supply.

30



Jan 7.-1952- 10.am.

Retiring Council Studies Old Map

Retiring members of Ingersoll's 1951 council are seen grouped around what is considered to be the only map of its kind in existence. The map was drawn in 1857 and a picture on the border shows Ingersoll's first town hall, which was gutted by fire between the time initial work on the map of Oxford had begun and when it was published. Officials here say that Ingersoll was the first settlement between Niagara Falls and Detroit. Seen studying the map, from left to right, are: Glenn Topham, Fred Wurker, Stanley Smith, historian, Dr. J. G. Murray, Norm Pembleton, H. W. Fick, C. A. Eidt. —(Staff photo)

Several of these

J. S. Buchanan died Apr. 20/56 St. Catharines Hospital. Burial in Ingersoll

51 YEARS AGO

Thursday, October 17. 1901

Six thousand people gathered to get a glimpse of their future rulers, the Duke and Duchess of York as they made a two-minute stop in Ingersoll October 12. Miss Jean Jackson, daughter of J. B. Jackson, K.C., first ascended the platform and presented Her Royal Highness with a handsome bouquet. She was followed by Mayor Miller, Mrs. Miller, ex-Mayor Mills and Postmaster Gibson.

I biked in from Salford school, where I was teaching and was among the six thousand — B. G. J.
5.05 P.M.

Ingersoll Names Jenvey To Roads Body Fifth Tim

1952

INGERSOLL, May 5—Council reappointed Byron Jenvey to Suburban Roads Commission for his second five-year term a regular meeting tonight.

Mr. Jenvey in his report told council the commission feels H ilton road should be resurfaced. N . 19 Highway widened from 7 104 feet, and that Harris street, which connects No. 19 Highway to No. 2 should be widened.

Mr. Jenvey told council the [illegible] —B.G.J.

Silas Brady died Feb 10. 1956 88yrs old

The inaugural meeting of the 1952 Ingersoll Council Monday night coincided with the 100th anniversary of the first Ingersoll Council. Eight living ex-mayors who were present in the council chambers are pictured above with His Worship Thomas J. Morrison, the present mayor. They are, left to right: William English, London; Silas Brady, C. W. Riley, J. M. Wilson, Mayor Morrison, A. H. Edmonds, K. R. Daniel, J. V. Buchanan and Dr. J. G. Murray, retiring mayor.

Jan 7-1952 Not known by B.G.J.

Former Mayors of Ingersoll At Centennial Celebratio

1952.

INGERSOLL, Jan. 7 — Eight former Ingersoll mayors, all that survive today, were on hand at the inaugural council meeting here last night.

The session marked exactly the 100th anniversary of the first council to be elected in Ingersoll.

Ex-mayors present were William English, now of London; S. E. Brady, J. M. Wilson, J. V. Buchanan, A. P. Edmonds, K. R. Daniel, all of Ingersoll; C. W. Riley, Beachville; J. G. Murray, Ingersoll.

wd of some 125 people into the council chamber h the session. It saw a large cake surmounted with candles presented to Mayor Tho J. Morrison, who cut it and the first piece to Mrs. Mil Mills, Ingersoll's first woman c cilor.

Standing committees were pointed as follows (first-na chairman): Finance, Harry Fick, T. R. Lee, Clare Ri board of works, Lee, Rigby, F fire, water and light, Rigby, Topham, Don Bower; police, ham, Bower, Mrs. Mildred M welfare, Mills, Lee, Topham; p buildings and grounds, Bo Mills, Fick.

In pioneer days of Ingersoll - Christop Bros. - contractors, erected lead lined tank for an oil refinery on the property just north of Stone Fertilizer plant, about the place where the T.L.E.&P. RR. is now. The refinery never operated - Funds short

Mr. Merrigold erected the tanks and refinery for oil on the north side of #2 Highway near where the street car barn is located. This refinery was in operation for years - oil came from Lambton County.

Mr. Clouse had an ashery near the G.T.R. tracks on east side of Pemberton St. -

E. W. Ulrey - John St - formerly of West Oxford Twp. died Feb. 25 - 1934 in his 95rd. yr.

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Inaugural Meeting And Centennial

JAN. 7—1952

Ingersoll paused for a breather by commemorating its 100th anniversary Monday night and then began the steady march towards the 200 year mark. In the top photo are the 1952 civic leaders. They are, from left to right, Mildred Mills, Glenn Topham, Don Bower, Mayor Thomas, JJ. Morrison, Tommy Lee, H. W. Fick, Claire Rigby. The lower photo shows Mayor Morrison and the eight living ex-mayors of Ingersoll who attended the centennial celebration. From the left are: A. H. Edmonds, J. V. Buchanan, K. R. Daniel, Dr. J. G. Murray, retiring mayor, Mayor Morrison, Silas Brady, William English, C. W. Riley, J.J M. Wilson,—(Staff photo.)

all in above 2 pictures known by B.S.J.

100 Candles Shine At Town's Birthday

Eight ex-mayors of Ingersoll—all those alive today—were in council chambers Monday night upon the occasion of the inaugural meeting of the 1952 council, and the 100th anniversary of Ingersoll's first council.

With all speaking a few words of the past and the present, and expressing best wishes to the new council for the future, they were: William English, now of London; J. V. Buchanan, the earliest mayor of the group; Silas Brady, J. M. Wilson, Alex. H. Edmonds, C. W. Riley, now of Beachville; K. R. Daniel, and the retiring mayor, Dr. J. G. Murray, who holds the record for number of terms as mayor. They were all introduced by the new mayor, Thomas J. Morrison.

As council convened before a [illegible] crowd, Rev. C. D. [illegible] Trinity United Church, president of council of churches, performed the invocation and asked Divine guidance for the council in its deliberations. Then Father William Morris of Sacred Heart Church, in his message, noted that the citizens too, have a responsibility in ensuring that the town was governed wisely and well. To council, he said: "the people have put their trust in you, and you must do a good job."

Father Morris stressed that council's service must be unselfish. There would be critcism. Destructive criticism should be ignored, but constructive criticism heeded. "Go out and try and win more peace, more happiness and more prosperity; you'll do a wonderful job."

As Mayor Morrisom finished his inaugural address, there was a knock on the door and in strode two young men carrying a tremendous cake with 100 candles, in honor of the community's birthday. Bearing the words, in paint and icing, "The Corporation of the Town of Ingersoll 100th anniversary," it was Mr. Bernie Zurbrigg's contribution to the celebration. Roger Reeves and Bud Bowman, both dressed like Benny the Baker, carried it in as the crowd gasped in amazement and delight, and a very much surprised mayor received it. The cake about two feet by three and a half, weighed nearly 40 pounds, and was a beauty.

Mayor Morrison, after thanking Mr. Zurbrigg, handed the special knife which will be suitably engraved and given to the mayor, to Councillor Mildred Mills, and invited her to serve it. Mr. Zurbrigg got the first piece, and then everyone in council chambers shared in it, with the councillors passing it around.

An official resolution thanking Mr. Zurbrigg was passed, and so was a special message of loyalty to the King and Queen, upon the town's 100th birthday. The message read: "Resolved that upon this historic occasion the 100th anniversary of this council, we do humbly and respectfully convey by special message to His Majesty, King George and to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, greetings and a pledge of continued love and loyalty on behalf of this council and the people of Ingersoll."

Leading off the ex-mayors, Mr. Daniel urged that the town's business be conducted at the council table, and not on the streets. "Be big enough to settle your difference here," he urged. Dr. Murray congratulated the new mayor and council, and Charlie Riley commented that he had the record of putting the town further in debt than anyone else. He said after 15 years as councillor, Mayor Morrison was entitled to the chair. Mr. Buchanan said he never knew anyone who had done more than Mr. Morrison. He recalled "the good old days," when crowds overflowed council, and he said there was much satisfaction to be gained from public life.

"Tom's going to be a good mayor," said Alex. Edmonds, mentioning he had served with four of the mayors present. He mentioned Mr. Buchanan had trouble when the bridge went out, "and I had mine when the swimmer went in."

Mr. English recalled the "battles" in the old days, and suggested the greenhorns could learn plenty from the older men, but not to depend on them entirely. No matter what you did, he said, there would be criticism. Ingersoll was a wonderful town—"make it progressive, beautify it, build wisely, and have the citizens help, too. But you'll have to spend money to make it."

Mr. Wilson hoped the attendance augured well for community interest in the future. Mr. Brady, oldest of them all, said it was 25 years ago that night he was introduced to the chair. Morrison he said, would make a good mayor. Harry T. Bower, specially invited to speak, mentioned some of Ingersoll's history, and he told council they would get most criticism from people who wouldn't stand themselves.

Inaugural Address

In his inaugural address, Mayor Morrison said in part:

"There are missing from this board many faces whom I have had the pleasure of working with for a long period of time. They all have contributed much to the civic affairs of this town. I particularly refer to Dr. J. G. Murray, who during his long period of service has been most unselfish with his time and resources.

"To those whom now has been entrusted the sacred duty of office, I congratulate you on your success. Mr. Fick and Mr. Topham have weathered the storm and their work will be shared by four newcomers, amongst whom a lady, something new in the annals of Ingersoll's civic history. I am sure this august body will be enhanced by her presence, not only from the standpoint of ability but also of dignity.

"At this season of the year, it is not only one of happiness, but also one of reflections. We must all realize that our real work is reflected in whatever contributions we make to a better life for ourselves and for others. We are moved at this time by the spiritual, rather than the material things of life, our hearts feel lighter, our praise and thankfulness rise more freely from our hearts.

"The world takes on a new radiance because our thoughts and hearts are looking forward. There are many leaders in the world today who would abolish everything we hold dear. Even in our own country, there are some who preach hate and intolerance. We need a light of faith to guide us in the months ahead.

"It is my sincere personal wish that we be given strength and moral courage to legislate on behalf of all citizens of our fair town and to them good health and happiness in abundance in the coming year.

Stone flagpole base in Memorial Park - built 1923 - Stone given and delivered by Byron Jenvey. Cairn built by Mr Turk - a stone mason

Concrete swimming and wading pool built about 1924 in memorial Park

The stone Kitchen in Memorial Park - built in 1934.

Sir Sanford Fleming Toronto Architect designed Canada's first Postage stamp in 1851.

Before Oxford's Forest Slashed

(34)

At this time of the year, with the great trees along the roads and in the woodlots of Oxford ablaze with autumnal color, the thought often occurs of what this district must have looked like before the forest was slashed and the land cleared.

Looking at the woodlands today, one feels like the archaeologist who discovers a few bones of some prehistoric monster and from it strives to create a picture of what the animal was like in its native environment. In the case of the ancient forests of Oxford, we are somewhat more fortunate in that we have the works of contemporary writers to help us in reconstructing the scene.

Anna Jameson, travelling by stage coach from Toronto to Detroit in 1837, gives the following picture of the forest between Brantford and Woodstock as seen through the eyes of a visiting Englishwoman:

"No one who has a single atom of imagination can travel through these forest roads of Canada without being strongly impressed and excited. The seemingly interminable line of trees before you; the boundless wilderness around; the mysterious depths amid the multitudinous foliage where foot of man hath never penetrated, and which partial gleams of the noon-tide sun, now seen, now lost, lit up with a changeful, magical beauty . . . the solitude in which we proceeded mile after mile, no human being, no human dwelling within sight."

Later on she gives a vivid sketch of the typical clearing:

"The aspect of these was almost uniform, presenting an opening of felled trees of about one acre or two . . . great heaps of timber trees and brushwood laid together and burning; a couple of oxen dragging along another enormous trunk to add to the pile." She talks to a settler, who tells her: "You may swing the axe here from morning to night for a week before you let the daylight in upon you."

Mrs. Jameson also describes more open types of forest:

"Oxford, or rather Ingersoll, where we stopped to dine and rest previous to plunging into an extensive pine forest called the 'Pine Woods' . . . the forest land through which I had passed, was principally covered with hard timber as oak, walnut, elm, basswood. We were now in a forest of pines, rising dark and monotonous on either side . . . These seven miles of pine forest we traversed in three hours and a half; then succeeded some miles of open, flat country called the oak plains and so called because covered with thickets and groups of oak dispersed with park-like and beautiful effect."

18 Log, 2 Plank Houses in Ingersoll In 1828; Registry Office Aged 120

In 1828 Ingersoll had only 20 houses, 18 log and two plank. Brick buildings did not begin to appear in the county until the 1830's. The oldest building in Ingersoll is the brick registry office built by Charles Ingersoll at this period. It now houses the jewelry shop of W. B. Ross and Kerr's Meat Market. It stands next to the Town Hall on King street west.

Likely 1894 remembered by O.J.T.

Business Blocks

Certain "fine brick business blocks" mentioned were McCarthy's, Pomeroy's, the Caledonia Building, Browett's Block, Taylor's Block, Jarvis Hall, and the Odd Fellows' Hall.

Campbell bet.

Taylor's Block now contains the Dominion Store, and the Jarvis Block stands on King street, east, next the creek. At one time it had a section spanning the creek. James McIntyre, the poet, had his furniture and undertaking business in this part. About 1884 the spring floods broke three dams on the creek, and this part of Jarvis Hall was washed away. As one old timer said, "There were coffins from here to Dorchester. which I recall seeing.

room of the peasantants took chap es by leaving out their washing on the line overnight! Mr. McFee sta ed that when the workers were i Ingersoll he saw his first "med cine show" which consited of couple of blackfaced comedian and a Professor dispensing som nostrum guaranteed to cure an thing from cancer to a cauliflowe ear . . . . for only one shilling pe bottle! His other recollection wa seeing a man roll a barrel of bee from Bixel's brewery and, whe coming over the Thames stre bridge, it took off sideways an dropped into the river and promp ly sank. A negro track layer dive into the water to retrieve the tre sure and did not come up. Anoth negro dived in and came up wi his lost comrade who held a dea clutch on the barrel of beer. ?

First Train Came to Woodstock

DECEMBER 13, 1853

first railroad train passed through Woodstock, enroute to London. The train consisted of an engine, baggage car and four coaches. The coaches were painted red and golden letters read "Canada Great Western Railway," known today as part of the Canadian National Railway system.

From the outset, one of the bitterest controversies of the last century was occasioned by the CGW contemplating the building of a railroad . . . running from the Niagara frontier to the Detroit river . . . through a practically unbroken wilderness of trees, rocks and swamps. British financial interests had poured thousands and thousands of pounds sterling into the fantastic proposition, yet, by the time the ribbon of steel had reached the Niagara escarpment, at Dundas, the directors of the road had met their nemesis in the form of a depleted treasury. Moreover, a whispering campaign, sponsored by rival American railroads and Atlantic seaboard shipping companies, that the CGW would prove another South Sea bubble, did not contribute much to enhance the success of the venture.

TO THE RESCUE

In 1850, the Honorable Francis Hincks, MPP, for Oxford county, came to the railway's rescue. He shook up the company's directors, field engineers and other railway personnel. He then fathered a bill through the provincial parliament to permit counties to issue debentures for the subscription of shares in the uncompleted railway. He then addressed every county council between Hamilton and Windsor. Mr. Hincks propounded the theory that the inhabitants of Canada West would benefit more from the new railroad than the share or bondholders in England. He had facts and figures which were undeniable. He held public meetings in Woodstock and Oxford village (now Ingersoll) and requested the merchants and individual citizens to subscribe for shares. He appeared before the Oxford county council, in June, and requested that body underwrite £25.000 stock. Naturally, Reeves and Deputy Reeves, from Nor Dereham, Nissouri and the Z swamped the idea upon grounds that the railway was ng too far away from their r pective townships.

The Honorable Hincks had a ace up his sleeve and he decided o play it. He informed the council that sufficient money had been promised to bring the railroad to the crest of the escarpment. He had been begged by the counties flanking Lake Erie to change the proposed route and follow the north shore of the lake to Detroit. He also informed them that he was a representative from Oxford and if they did not want the railway to traverse the entire length of Oxford county then he would abide by the council's wishes. He would resign his seat and advocate that the CGW strike a more southern route!

COMMITTEE SET UP

The council knew that Mr. Hincks was the soul of integrity and he would follow out his threat of resignation. Upon the motion of J. M. Ross, Embro, and John Harrington, East Zorra, a special railway committee was set up under the chairmanship of John Barwick, an esteemed resident of Blandford township, to bring in a report at the next session.

Mr. Barwick addressed several meetings to the farmers of the back fifties. He admitted that it was an impossibility for the roadbed of the railway to go up and down each concession to serve each farmer! He thought that if the railway went through the middle of the county that it would be treating both north and south farmers with equality. He pointed out that they were teaming the majority of their grain to either Woodstock or Oxford-Upon-the-Thames and they would still have to do so, railroad or no railroad.

It would be remiss if some of Mr. Barwick's report was not included in this article: "Last year, the farmers of Oxford had a surplus of 448.062 bushels of wheat over local requrements. We propose to show that to tra port quantity of surplus wheat to Hamilton by railroad that a saving of £9.334 12s.6d., will be effected and the whole amount is saved by the grower. Your committee are informed by all grain and flour merchants, in Woodstock, that they invariably pay 2s.7d. per barrel for the carriage of a barrel of flour from Woodstock to Hamilton. While the G Wproposed to carry one for sixpence, thereby a saving of 2s.1d., per barrel, or 5d. per bushel on wheat will be effected. A saving of 5d. per bushel on 448.062 bushels of surplus wheat, would be £9.334.12s.6d, or in other words, Messrs. Andrews, Sutherlan dand company ;and Finkle and company would have given the Oxford county farmers £9.334.12s.6d. more for the surplus wheat had there been a railroad from Woodstock to Hamilton.

PLAIN FACTS

"Nothing can be more plain than this: if a barrel of flour is worth 20 shillings in Hamilton, and its transportation from Woodstock to there costs 20 shillings and sevenpence, it is quite evident that the Woodstock merchant cannot afford to give more than 17s.5d. in Woodstock, whereas if its transportation costs only 6d. per barrel, he could afford to give 19s.6d., per barrel. The whole of this saving goes into the growers' pocket; and not only that but whatever the price of wheat might be in Hamilton, this saving will be the same."

Mr. Barwick weighed all the pros. and cons. in an impartial manner. He closed his report with a little advice in a few words, namely: "Men may talk about the burden of taxes to build a railroad, but the tax which people pay to be without them is a hundred fold more oppressive."

Mr. Barwick went around the bush to obtain his logical conclusion that Oxford could not lose on the venture and the county council met on Dec. 2, 1850, and passed a bylaw to subscribe £25,000 towards the building of the railway.

Mr. Barwick addressed the council previous to the vote being taken and he warned the opponents

Author had a good imagination

"It is a foregone conclusion that several other participating municipalities will not take out stock if Oxford county refuses." Even the main objector, Warden Benjamin Van Norman, Tillsonburg and Dereham, withdrew his objection and supported the bylaw.

From the historical papers of the late James A. Crawford and an interview we had with the late Neil McFee, of Ingersoll, in 1934, one can form quite a composite picture of the construction of the Canada Great Western railway through Oxford county, in 1853. Mr. McFee was six years old when the first train whistled for hand brakes to make a scheduled stop at Ingersoll for water and wood. He sat upon a lumber wagon and when the engineer blew the whistle all the workmen downed tools and rushed to the right of way to see the train emerge out of the practically unbroken wilderness. Lad like, Mr. McFee jumped off the wagon and landed upon an upturned axe. He cut his foot and it required several stitches by Dr. Hoyt to close the gash. Naturally, one would have a rather difficult time to convince Mr. McFee that he could not remember the first train through Oxford.

MOTLEY CREW

There were 1200 men engaged in the construction of the road. They were mostly recruited from the British Isles and Europe. Every country was represented . . . . Italians, Greeks, Russian, Poles, Scandinavians, Texan mule skinners and the failures from the California gold rush of '49. Never in Oxford's history was there assembled a more motley and heterogeneous crew than the laborers of the construction gangs. Crews slashed timber, scrapers pulled by oxen, horses and Missouri mules, heaped the rock and earth to make the roadbed; portable steam saw mills sawed the ties from the timber which laid felled by the cutters some few yards ahead. There were tie-layers, stump blasters, rail-layers, spikemen, water-boys, bridge and culvert builders, teamsters, harness makers, blacksmiths camp cooks, carpenters, telegraph linesmen and a score or more of Oxford county farmers and early settlers who secured work on the CGW. Never in Oxford, from its inception, in 1792, to 1853, was ready cash poured into the county with such abundance. Woodstock and Ingersoll merchants reaped a harvest of pounds, shillings and pence, which has probably never been equalled to this day.

It was July, August and September, when the railroad cut a swath through the bush of Oxford. Construction camps were spacedi eight miles apart . . . . Smith's Creek (Princeton), Eastwood, Beachville, Patton's Siding, and on to Lionden and eventually Windsor.

Then came the bane of alll construction engineers! Whiskeyy and women! These gay fillies cof the fifties were camp followers (of the old school. They invariably ooccupied the site of the old railway camp of a couple of weeks previouss . . . . some eight miles to the rear. For three months Oxford played Mine Host to the riff raff of the AAmerican continent . . . . those whho toil not neither do they spin. Once half million of railroad money irin the form of gold and silver sterlling to be garnered in by the slyy and slick card sharps, gamblers, saloon keepers, faro operators and painted ladies.

SADDLEBAG PREACHER

The only good feature of the camp was on a Sabbath morn . . . . The Reverend W. H. Landoron, of Woodstock, Oxford's saddldlebag preacher of the Baptist faith, held an open air camp meeting to coax the strayed sheep back intoto the fold. He endeavoured to impress upon the Jezebels of his motley congregation that the joys of today might prove eternal misery tomorrow. Some repented and someone did not.

The only distillery and brewery, between Hamilton and London, was located in Ingersoll. G. T. Jarvis operated the still, and Max E Bixel made the brew. One can easily conjecture that business was rushing as the camp followers neneared Ingersoll! Where was the law? In 1853, there existed very little law in Oxford. There was a sheriff and High County constable. The villages of Woodstock and Ingersoll each had a constable and what took place in some other township was no concern of theirs.

Fights and brawls were a nightly occurence. There existed only a few roads and to report a breach of the peace took at least a day. By the time the law arrived all differences had been mended, or nobody would talk. The railway paid four shillings per day and paid once a month. The operators of the camp knew when pay day would arrive and they would arrange with someone to walk into the High County Constable's office and report an imaginary murder either at the top, or the bottom, of the county. By the time the constable's old grey mare jogged to the borders of either Perth or Elgin counties and returned it took at least two days and a couple of days was all which would be needed to clean the unsuspecting out of his cash.

Many farmers' wives reaped ready pin money by serving home cooked meals of meat, fowl, or fish. Homemade pickles, pumpkin pies and newly baked bread were quickly disposed of. When the gangs laid the rails through the villages of Woodstock and Ingersoll

Red brick house-east of Bowling Green-built by Hollinrake-Dry Good merchant

Red brick house-west side B Greens-built by E.E. Dundas Grocer.

Next west to above built by Booth-cheese buyer

next west-by Herb Robin

white brick across road from store on corner built by Stephen King. also red brick next east to Steve King.

Old white brick on corner next to above built by Harry Hearn.

Brick cottage next north of above W on Bath st. built by Fred Dolley-druggist

Brick house-corner Oxford, early frame house-bricked in + occupied by Mr. Hault-owner of Furniture Factory opp-Salvation army

3 storey House north of above on west side of Oxford a red brick-built by Henry Boyse-Flour & feed merchant

next house, north, red brick built by Sam Wotherworth Piano factory supt.

David white, brother of John White-dry goods merchant, Woodstock built the large white brick residence on east side of Oxford St. opposite Hospital property [illegible] Dry goods store [illegible] (now in [illegible]). the residence has been owned for several years by a [illegible] Mrs. Hickwood.

R. J. ROBERTSON

Centennial Celebration Now in Planning Stage

The people of Ingersoll wouldn't like it if any assessment of the happenings of 1951 failed to record that 1951 was the town's centennial year. But then, as plans are now being made to celebrate the anniversary in the summer of 1952, some clarification should be given the date.

Actually, the Village of Ingersoll was incorporated in the fall of 1851, but according to the interpretation of old documents it did not become effective until the first of January, 1852. But if Ingersoll wants to mark its 100th anniversary in the summer time—the best time, after all—then it is their business. And the present year should be a gala one if plans do not go awry, although the Town Council has been slow to sanction a celebration in '52 and arrangements have not yet been finalized.

In spite of all this Ingersoll is definitely among the old and esteemed communities of Western Ontario, with a long and romantic history which would seem of interest in any year.

It was the home of many outstanding people, like Laura Secord and Aimee Semple MacPherson, and was the centre of an area represented in early government by such people as Sir Francis Hincks.

Thomas Ingersoll came into the area as early as 1793, and he felled the trees from which he built the first log home, on a site now occupied by the Public Utilities office. Ingersoll later moved to a place now called Port Credit. However, Ingersoll's oldest son returned to the community in 1817 and the community grew rapidly from this time. Charles Ingersoll named the village after his father and he became the first postmaster of the area. His brother, James, was the first white child to be born in Ingersoll. He held the post of registrar for 52 years.

At incorporation time the village had a population of 1,190. A proclamation had been issued in the name of Lord Elgin, the governor-general, and freeholders voted on January 5, 1852, for a council of five "fit and proper" persons. W. A. Ramsay, a foundryman, headed the polls with 97 votes received at the Royal Exchange Hotel.

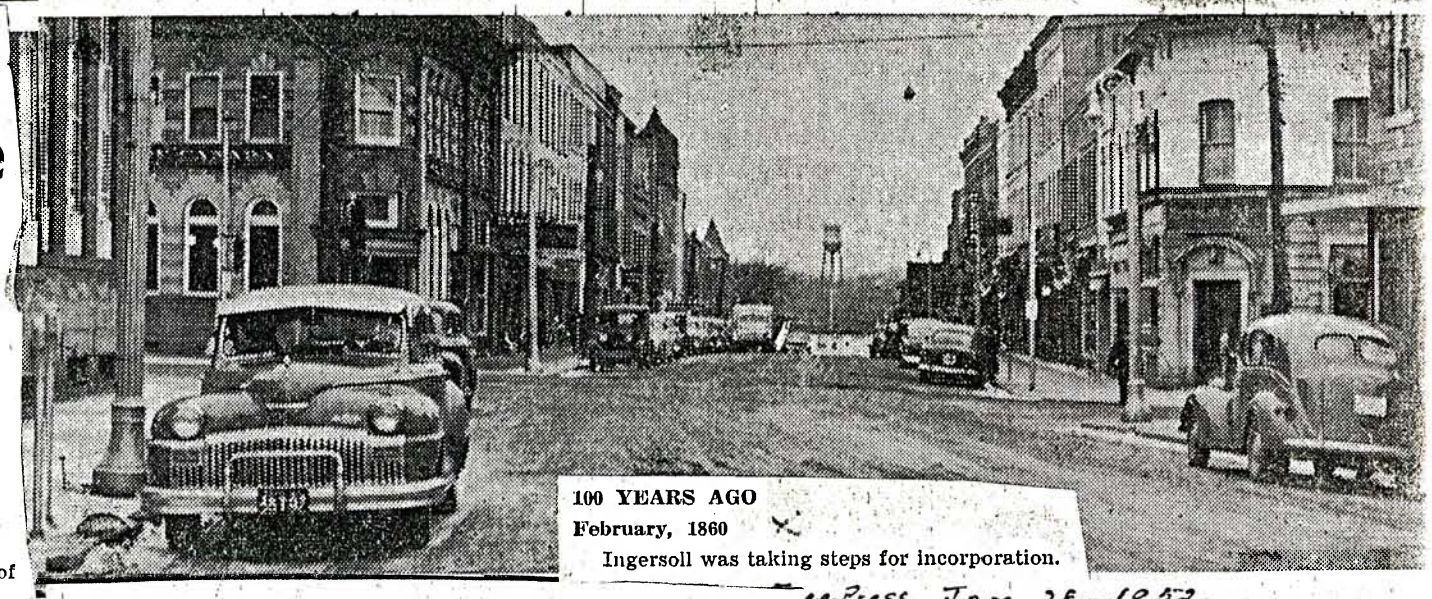
* * *

Business in Ingersoll boomed from the time of incorporation. It gave a certain prestige to the community which was exploited to the full by the settlers who were eager to make Ingersoll a trading and business centre. The village at the time was important in lumbering, and it was not long before the district was to become internationally famous as a producer of cheese. Ingersollville was also an active grain market, and when the Russian wheat markets were closed during the Crimean War both Britain and the United States sought grain in Canada. Wheat was then selling at $1.50 a bushel.

In 1856 the village was partially destroyed by fire, but Ingersoll had no monopoly on such events, it being a common occurrence in the early days.

Thus, this history of Canada West, this 100 years of life in Ingersoll, will be uppermost in the minds of the town's citizens during the present year. Just how elaborate the celebration will be is not known, but it is an excellent opportunity for Ingersoll to dress up in a gay costume of pageantry, to fete summer visitors with an air of abandon not known in the community since the days of "the great cheese," the historic symbol of Oxford County which during the time of Confederation was a wonder of the entire commercial world.

In the meantime, Ingersoll has been receiving letters and telegrams of congratulation from other municipalities in Canada. Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent and Premier Leslie M. Frost have both sent their good wishes for continued progress and prosperity. At this historical juncture, Mayor Fred Childs, of Woodstock, suggests that by the year 2052—the bicentenary of Ingersoll—the communities of Ingersoll, Centreville, Beachville and Woodstock will be just one long street, lined by the pretty homes of the district's residents, and representing one of the proudest and most prosperous streets in all of Canada.



100 YEARS AGO
February, 1860
Ingersoll was taking steps for incorporation.

...e Press JAN. 28 —1952.

...rsoll's main street is seldom idle. The busine... ...on of the town is well supplied with well stocke... ...ness places which serve a wide area. The town wa... incorporated as a village just 100 years ago.

Town Residents Working For New School Building

Students of Ingersoll and five municipalities included in the school district of Ingersoll waited in vain for the proposed new collegiate building in 1951. But everyone involved have great hopes that the difficulties will be ironed out so that construction will get under way early in the New Year.

As early as February the collegiate was proposed. It was to cost $750,000 and would contain 21 rooms for accomodation of 520 pupils. Town council revealed the plans after the Department of Education had given sanction.

Everyone in Ingersoll agrees that a new building is necessary. That isn't the problem. The problem is mostly concerned with the location of the new school. North Oxford, West Oxford, West Zorra and East Nissouri, and Ingersoll are involved.

Seventy-per cent of the cost is to be assumed by the Ontario Government. The other portion of the costs are to be divided between the municipalities, in addition to the cost of the land.

* * *

The entire year has been one of plans and frustrations. Ingersoll passed a by-law to enable certain municipalities to detach from the high school district of Ingersoll so that they may be added to the suburban High School District of Woodstock.

In June, nine classrooms were recommended for 30 pupils each. There is also to be a library classroom, art room, music room, two general science rooms, physics room, commercial room, shop, home economics room, gym-assembly room (60 feet by 80 feet), and a cafeteria. Administrative offices, teachers' rooms, guidance office, wash rooms, corridors, dressing rooms and nurses' room completes the layout. The total cost does not include the site, extension of services, such as power, water and sewer that may be required.

The selection of a site was long held in abeyance due to the varied requirements. Following guidance from the Ontario Department of Education, a site was finally agreed upon in July. It included 10 acres of farm land located on the extension of Thames street in North Oxford, immediately beyond the northern limits of the town. Shore and Moffat, of Toronto, were commissioned to draw plans, and estimated attendance in the area for last year was 335, this being the basis for the size of the building which could accommodate as many as 520 pupils.

The Ingersoll District Board had by this time taken steps to borrow $750,000 through debentures issued under the supervision of the Ontario Municipal Board. In August some objection was raised in respect to the proposed site. This objection was led by the Public Buildings and Grounds Committee. Some officials, however, favored the site, a central location, on the basis of population.

By September the proposed 10-acre site was still on the books, but not without a good deal of objection. Ingersoll Council itself was not in favor of the site because it would necessitate annexation and servicing by the town. There was some consternation that if the school was not built on this site it might not be built at all.

Feb. 19 — Town Council auth... orized the increase of tax rat... to raise $288,593.49 for estimate... expenditures for 1951.

April 2 — Two building projects — the new collegiate and a new registry office at Woodstock — were sanctioned, Ingersoll havin... a joint responsibility for the reg... istry.

April 8 — Ingersoll Community Camera Club planned a woodcock hunting trip armed only with cameras.

April 10 — Wage talks at Ingersoll Machine and Tool Company got under way to settle differences between union and management which flared up a week before with a walkout and a subsequent lockout.

May 2 — These appointments were made to the public school teaching staffs: Miss M. Allen, Ingersoll; Miss M. Hamilton, Thedford; Miss H. Harris, London; Miss M. King, Woodstock; Miss M. McKillen, Woodstock; Miss V. Thompson, Tillsonburg, and Miss A. Kennedy, Ingersoll.

July 2 — Various organizations of the town were asked to investigate the possibility of staging a centennial celebration in 1952. The project awaits leadership.

Balanced Economy Provides Security

Ingersoll is a peculiar combination of agriculture and industry, with steady security coming from both. It is a town with many comfortable bank accounts and is composed for the most part of farming folk, a people with old farming traditions.

Sometimes the town is accused — and perhaps rightly — of being over reluctant to change. But the town nevertheless belongs to the citizens of Ingersoll, and in the final analysis what happens within its confines should be what the majority wants to happen.

No one should say that 1951 was a boom year for Ingersoll. It wasn't. Neither was there a recession. The old Oxford town held its own just as it has done for over 100 years.

But big things were in the offing. The Chamber of Commerce and other civic groups added some spirit to the long drawn out program of readying the community for more industries, providing better water and hydro facilities (the town is now being converted), improving streets and sewers.

This is a chronological list of some of the happenings and activities which were recorded in the newspapers during the year:

Feb. 3 — The small group of people interested in the theatre who gathered last fall to discuss the possibilities of organizing a Little Theatre in Ingersoll, saw The Ingersoll Little Theatre a reality, and ready to go into production.

* 1951. *

Feb. 5 — Town Council revealed a plan to build a $750,000 collegiate institute. The 21-room building was to accommodate 520 students from Ingersoll and district.

Feb. 8 — The Ingersoll Telephone Company, which was organized in 1906 and served 5,000 people in the area, was sold to Bell Telephone Company. When the agreement became effective in March the 52 employees of the company were transferred.

Spirit of People Lauded by Lawson

June 14 1950

Following is the text of the speech given yesterday by the Lieutenant-Governor, Hon. Ray Lawson, as he opened the new Alexandra Hospital:

Today we are celebrating a momentous and an historical occasion in the history of Ingersoll.

It is nearly two years since we last came to Ingersoll, our pleasure at that time being the official opening of the Wilson Memorial Swimming Pool.

During the intervening months I have heard many complimentary remarks regarding the pool which Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Wilson gave to this community.. This modern pool, with all the newest accessories, has been a model for other pools being built throughout the Province.

Today we are marking another milestone in the history of Ingersoll. We are pleased to take part in this ceremony opening this fine new Hospital, a building erected for the benefit of the whole community. The people of Ingersoll and district are to be congratulated on their vision and foresight and their great community achievement.

The endeavour to extend to all citizens the best possible medical and surgical facilities with skilled nursing care, will contribute in no small way to the general well-being of all in this Community, and to **all those** who have given freely of their time in bringing this splendid structure to such a successful completion, a great debt of gratitude is due.

Need Pride in Community

For pride in one's own community—the endeavour to extend to all citizens the best possible medical care and surgical facilities—is the very spirit that best serves to make a nation prosperous, contented and happy.

The progressive and energetic character of our people acting together for mutual welfare is the force which makes so many of our Ontario Communities outstanding models of self improvement.

To all who worked or gave ,we wish to express our sincere thanks and to heartily congratulate them, for if ever a Hospital belonged to the people of a community, this Hospital is surely an outstanding example. It is an example of what free men and women in a free country can achieve, and so long as the bricks and mortar stand it will be a monument to those who have so loyally supported and worked for it.

Our Province owes a great debt to them.

A Hospital in a community may well be likened to any public utility or any public service and you may well be very proud to have this Hospital completed with the highest possible scientific equipment so hospital care for all classes may be provided.

Prepared To Save Lives

This building is well equipped and is prepared to provide the greatest of all services, **"the saving of human lives."**

Here, by the services of the strong and well, the ailing are protected through an agency which has for many years been deserving of praise and blessings particularly in times of catastrophe and suffering.

Great advances have been made in hospital facilities and accommodation, just as great advances have been made in medicine and surgery. Any conventional hospital, though faithful to the tradition of the past, must keep pace with the progress of the age.

In our Province, actually under construction at the present time, there are 21 new building projects under way, as well as 69 substantial additions being made to existing hospitals, which will provide a further 6730 new beds, making in all a total of 23,227 hospital beds available when these building projects have been completed.

On all sides we hear people complaining of hospital charges being so much higher than they were 20 years ago, -- this may be correct as far as the daily rate is concerned, but medical science has greatly improved and new, expensive "wonder drugs" are in every-day use.

The average person stays in hospital less than half the time necessitated 20 years ago for the same ailment, and is usually able to quickly return to gainful occupation, so that the hospital bill in total is actually far less.

Shows Unselfishness

During the past year many of the world's greatest doctors have visited our Province and today I am particularly reminded of Lord Whitby, who was head of all transfusions and the blood bank in the last great war; and Lord Webb-Johnson, President of the Royal College of Surgeons in England, and Sir James Learmouth, the famous blood vessel surgeon who operated on the King.

While on a trip to England last month, I had the pleasure of again meeting these famous doctors who praised our Canadian contribution to medicine and surgery that has gained the admiration of vistors from all parts of the world. This great work could not have been accomplished but for the well-equipped and well-staffed hospitals in our Provinces. Nor could it have been accomplished had it not been for the men and women in our Province who have worked for larger, more efficient hospitals and well-equipped laboratories.

The construction of this institution suggests that there is and has been in this community, that fundamental unselfishness which must be the cornerstone of every community project.

Greatly Impressed

When I had the opportunity of being shown through this new building, I could not help but feel greatly impressed by the evidence on all sides of the sound planning and the skill applied by all concerned.

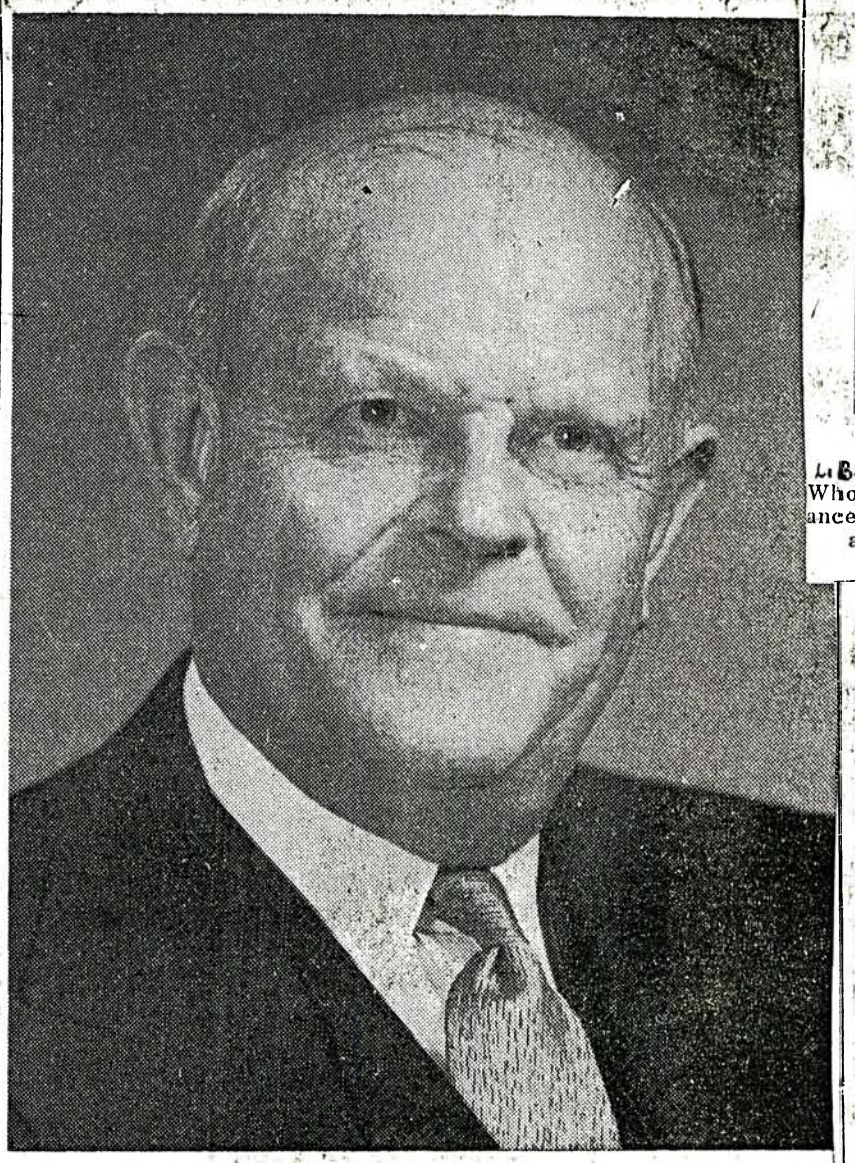
May I sincerely congratulate the people of Ingersoll and district for the vision in building this Hospital as a useful and humanitarian achievement.

And in conclusion, let me again congratulate you on your great success in achieving a concrete dream, one that will serve to mark your untiring devotion and great work for humanity in raising the standard of health and to help others live a more effective and satisfying life.

I know that if you are fortunate enough to retain the same committees in charge who have already distinguished themselves, there need be no apprehension as to the inestimable value of this hospital to your community.

Always keep in mind that no individual or group of people ever rise to their full power until they are inspired, dominated and driven by a great purpose, kindled into a master passion, and all people are to be measured not by the things without, but by the things within, not by environment or possession, but by the reach of their inner purposes, and by the splendor of their ideals.

Opens New Alexandra Hospital



LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, HON. RAY LAWSON

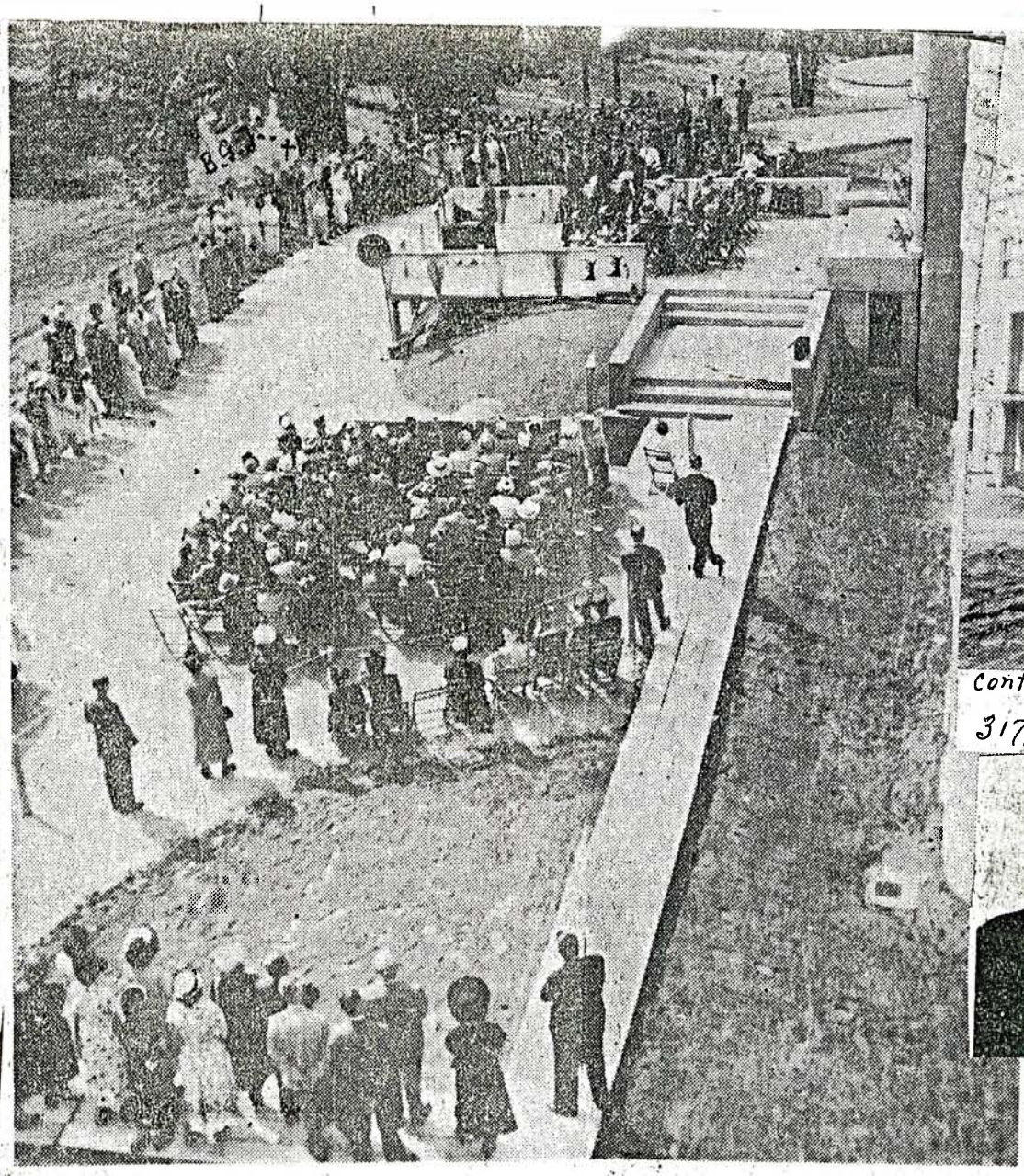
DR. ANGUS McKAY
Liberal M.P.P. South Oxford.
Who gave generous financial assistance in the founding of the Hospital and member of the original Medical Staff.

DR. J. M. ROGERS

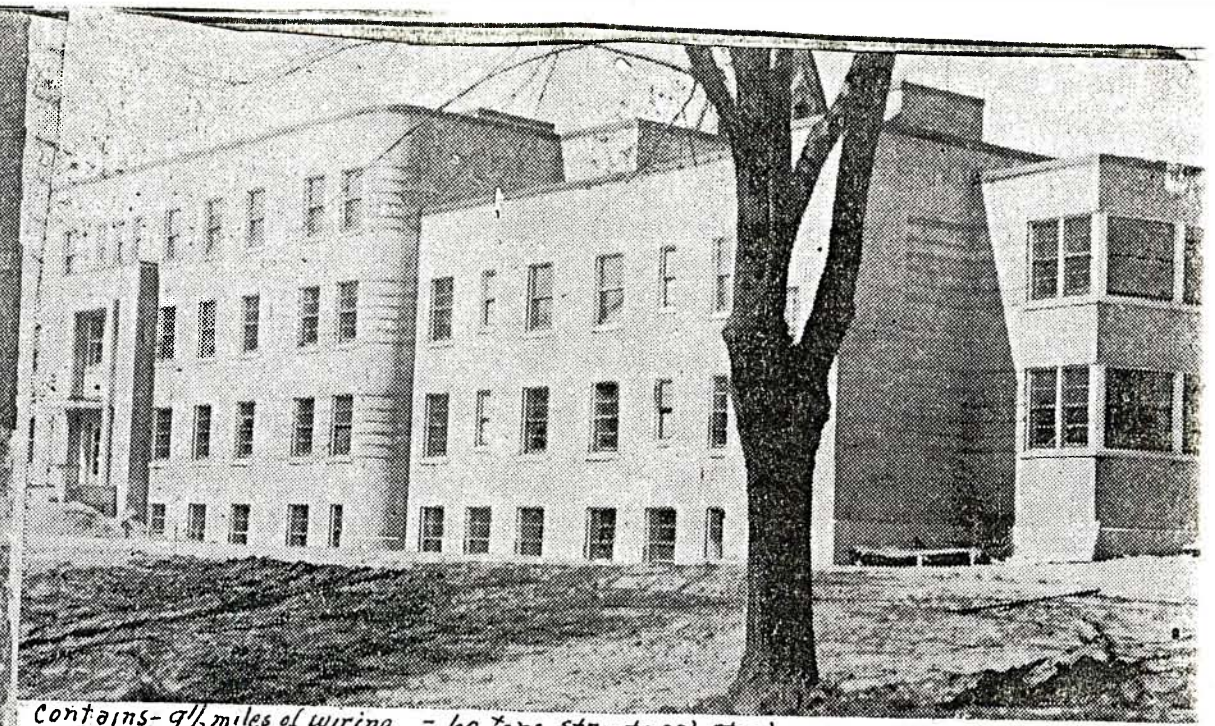
Leading spirit in the founding Alexandra Hospital and member the Board of Directors for many years.

GEORGE SUTHERLAND
First President

36



Just a small part of the large crowd who attended the hospital opening exercises yesterday can be seen in this picture taken from the roof of the building. The School children were massed in the shady areas of the valley at the extreme left of the picture.



Contains - 9½ miles of wiring - 60 tons structural steel.
317,000 BRICKS

The New Alexandra Hospital

3rd storey Prepared in 1960

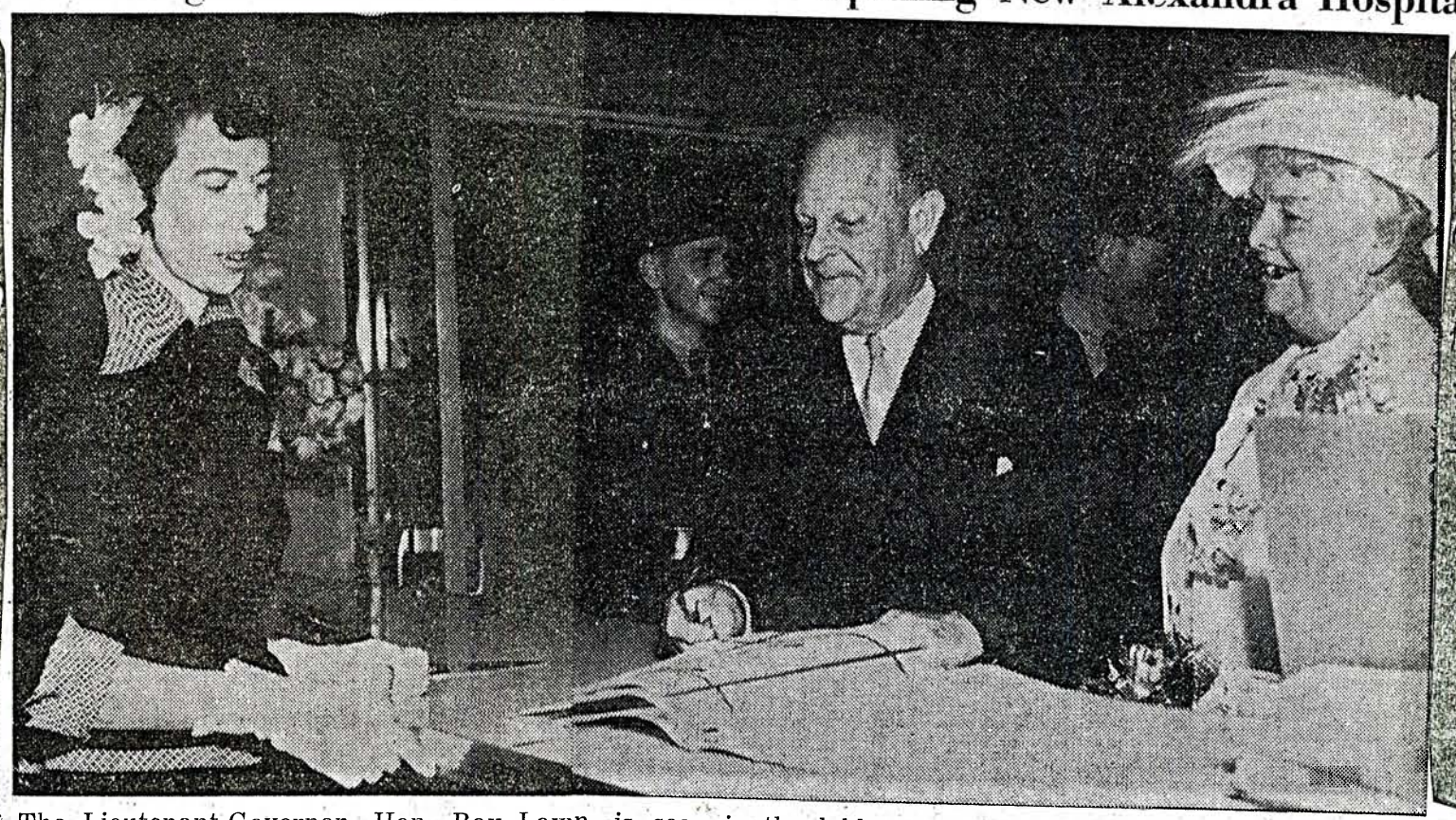
EXECUTIVE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY, 1950
Left to Right: Miss Annie Moon, Mrs. Robt. Hutt, Mrs. P. L. Smith, Miss Dora Harrison, Mrs. P. M. Dewan, Mrs. W. S. Ashman, Mrs. F. Rich, Miss Alice Walker, Mrs. James Baxter.
Mrs. P. T. Fleischer (Inset)

The Women's Auxiliary to the Alexandra Hospital Trust was organized on Feb 21 1909. It celebrated its 50th anniversary on Feb 24 1959.

the Hospital Trust was formed in JAN. 1909.

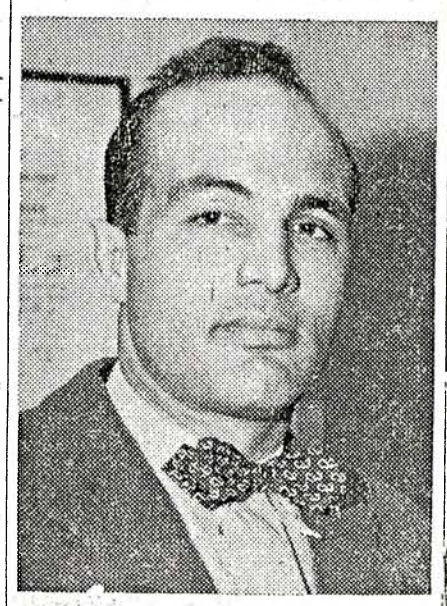
...day, June 15, 1950

Lawson Signs Remembrance Book After Opening New Alexandra Hospital

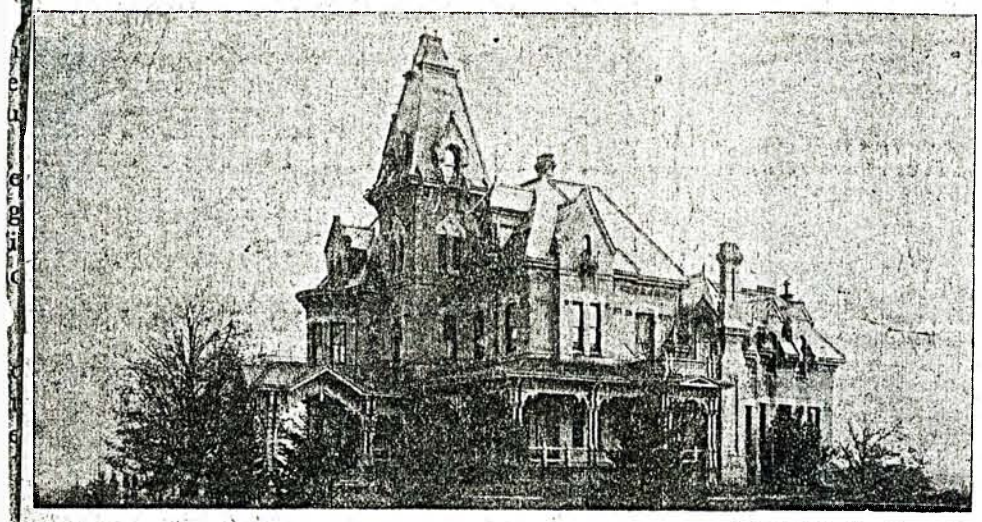


The Lieutenant-Governor, Hon. Ray Lawn, is seen here with Mrs. Lawson, signing the beautiful hand-painted Remembrance Book created by Miss Betty Crawford, librarian and well-known painter. Miss Crawford seen with them discussing the book which will remain in glass case in the lobby of the hospital. This photograph was taken by Ron Laidlaw, of the London Free Press, and The Tribune is grateful to the Free Press for also engraving the picture and rushing it to Ingersoll in time to appear in this issue of The Tribune.

BUILT INGERSOLL'S BIG NEW HOSPITAL

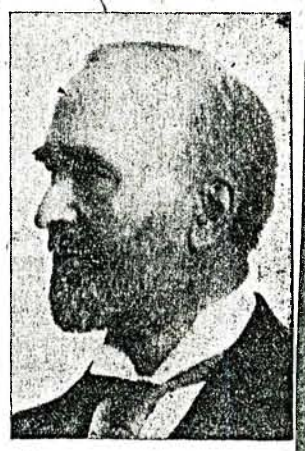


BILL SCHWENGER
of
Construction Ltd



ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL, 1909 painted by Jas. Noxon.

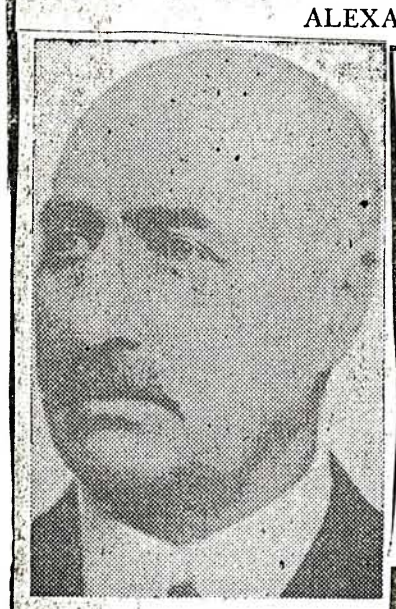
His son William was Ontario agent General in England



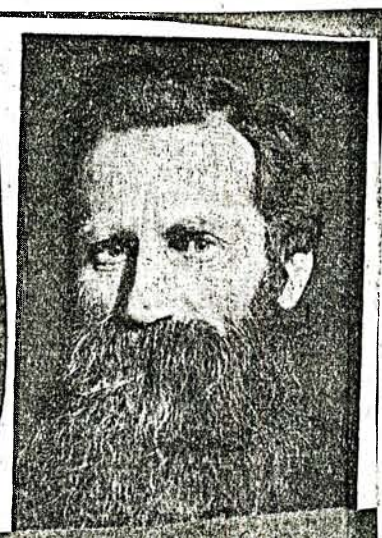
JAMES NOXON

STEPHEN NOXON THOMAS SELDON

Three members of the original Board of Directors



JOHN E. BOLES



JOHN E. GAYFER

Member of Board for 27 years
President 1925, 1928, 1931, 1932, 1935

DR. RALPH WILLIAMS

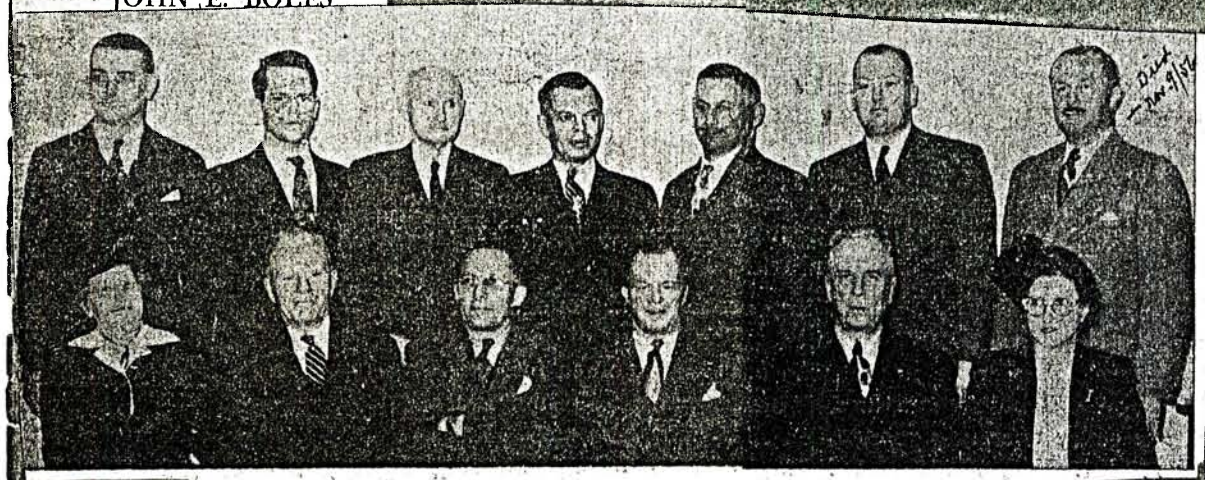
Only surviving member of Staff 1909

DR. JAMES B. COLERIDGE

Member of Medical Staff, 1909

DR. J. D. McDONALD

Member of Medical Staff for many years.



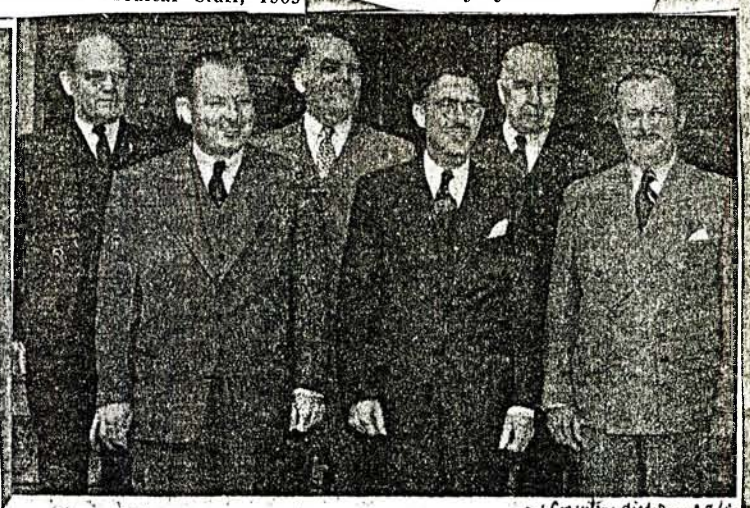
1950 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

Back Row, Left to Right: R. S. Foster, John Mitchell, T. N. Dunn, C. J. Hines, Thomas Pellow, Reeve of West Oxford and County Representative on Board, Dr. G. H. Emery, Dr. C. A. Osborn, Medical Representative on Building Committee.

Front Row: Mrs. F. H. Adams, A. E. Izzard, R. G. Start, A. R. Horton, R. W. Green, Mrs. James Baxter.

ROYDEN G. START, K.C.

President
1937, 1939-1941, 1946-1950



MEDICAL STAFF, 1950

Left to Right: H. G. Furlong, G. H. Emery. C. C. Cornish, J. W. Rows, J. W. Counter, C. A. Osborn

ALLAN HORTON

Chairman of the Building Committee

MRS. W. A. SUDWORTH

First President of Women's Auxiliary 1909-1910

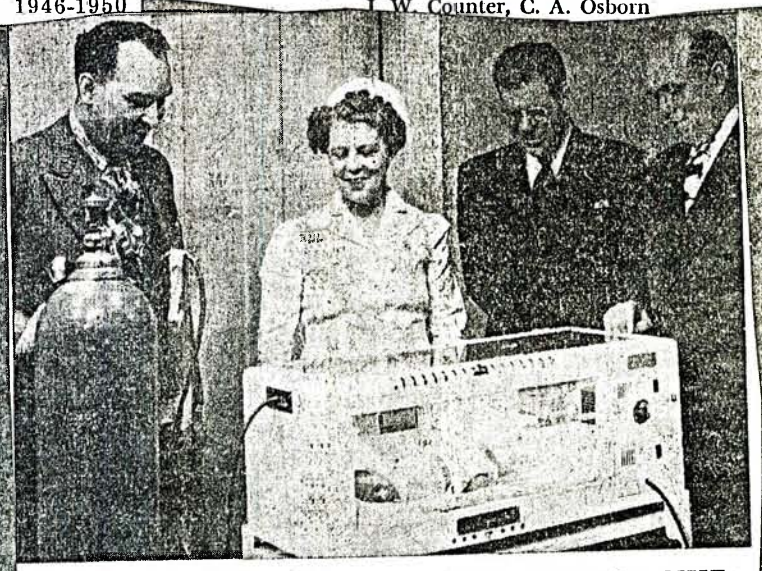
MISS ANNIE MOON

Treasurer 1922-

FIRST PATIENT in New Hospital.

MISS EFFIE BOWER

Who in collaboration with Miss Alice Walker compiled this record of Alexandra Hospital.



MRS. SMITH, SUPERINTENDENT, ACCEPTS THE INCUBATOR, PRESENTED BY THE LIONS CLUB, INGERSOLL

Members of the Club shoown are, left to right: C. D. Palmer, Kenneth Ekkins and Morris Rowsom

THE FIRST SUPERINTENDENT
Miss Ada C. Hodges
1909-1937

MRS. ELIZABETH DUFF
(Mrs. Donald Rose, Ottawa)
Superintendent 1937-1942

MISS L. G. COPELAND
Superintendent 1942-1945

MRS. R. L. SMITH
Superintendent 1945-

THREE CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY
died Mch 24/59
Left to Right: Mrs. R. B. Hutt, Mrs. T. N. Dunn, Mrs. J. D. McDon

MRS. P. M. DEWAN
President of Women's Auxiliary
1948-

COMMITTEE ON FURNISHINGS
Left to Right: Mrs. P. L. Smith, Miss Annie Moon, Miss Alice Walker, Mrs. P. M. Dewan, Mrs. James Baxter, Mrs. F. Rich, Mrs. R. B. Hutt, Mrs. R. L. Smith, Mrs. E. Wilson.

LADIES OF THE AUXILIARY WHO HAVE SERVED ON THE TRUST
Left to Right: Mrs. Verne Meek, Mrs. J. E. Hargan, Mrs. F. H. Adams, Mrs. James Baxter.

"I now declare this hospital open and ready for patients" said the Hon. Ray Lawson as with surgical scissors he cut the tape opening the hospital. With him is Superintendent Mrs. R. L. Smith.

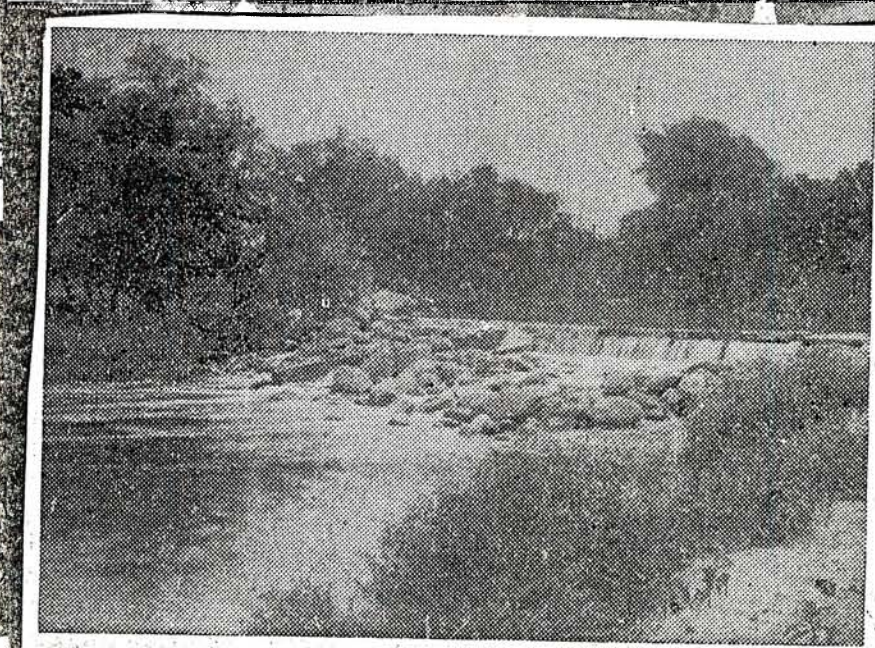
GROUP AT LAYING OF CORNER-STONE
Left to Right: Dr. J. G. Murray, Mayor of Ingersoll; Rev. G. W. Murdoch, President of the Ministerial Association; Mrs. P. M. Dewan, President of the Women's Auxiliary; Mr. K. R. Daniel, M.P. for Oxford; and Mr. Allan Horton, Chairman of the Building Committee.

An air condition unit put in the hospital during summer of 1959 – Est. cost $15,000.00

I knew all on this page except Miss Copeland, ~~Mrs. Emmel-Wilson~~ and the Auditor Hon Ray Lawson
B J

The Hon. Ray Lawson, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, officially opened the new $565,000 Alexandra Hospital at Ingersoll yesterday during impressive ceremonies on the steps of the new building. He is seen here speaking to the large crowd of civic dignitaries, citizens and school children. In the background nurses of the hospital can be seen looking out of the windows.

A. R. Horton, chairman of the building committee is seen at the speakers' platform. On the right beside Lt. Governor and Mrs. Lawson is R. G. Start, president of the hospital committee.

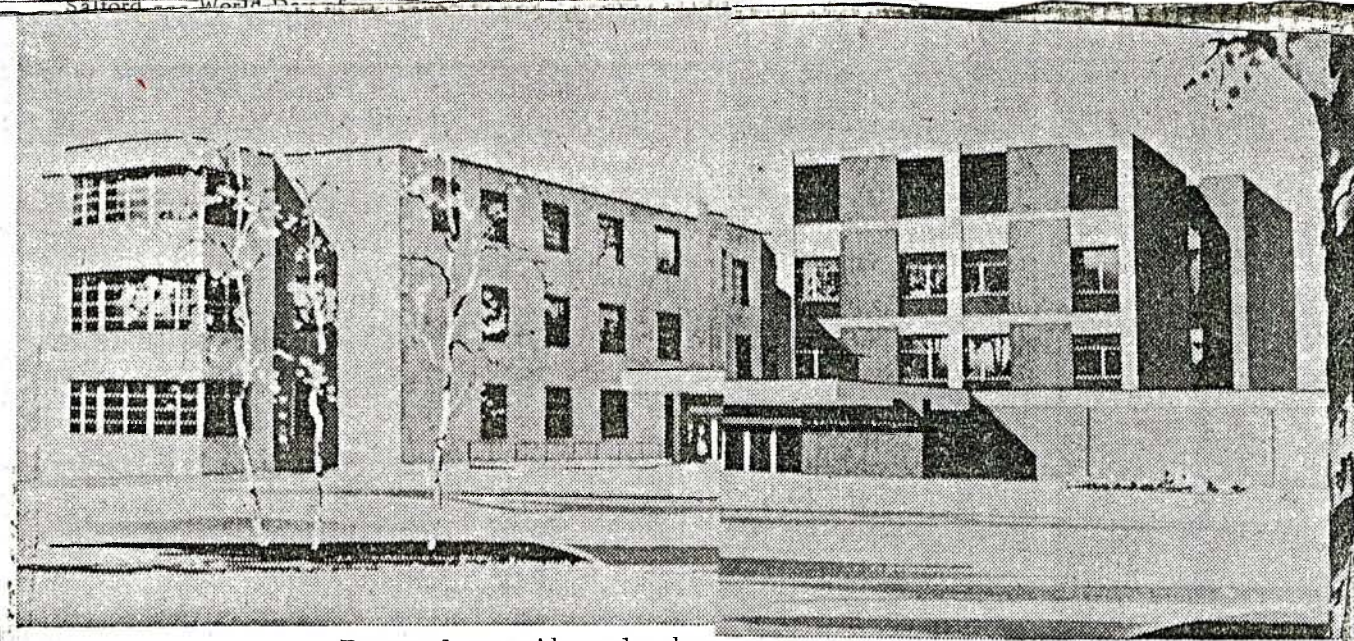


1908

The upper dam just east of Ingersoll on the Thames R. destroyed in 1949 when T.V.A. straightened and improved Thames Valley water course

Victoria Park, Ingersoll, was purchased Apr 22 1869 – 4.12 acres from Mr Benson, and 7.88 acres from the executors of Elisha Hall estate who were Peter Brown, James Canfield and Dennis Horsman. The above 12 acres has had a few small additions. The original agricultural park was on McKeand St in new valley and a circular pad. A picture of Dennis Harsman appears in the [illegible] section of the [illegible] Ind.

The new park was laid out by Park Club in 1884



Proposed new Alexandra hospital addition on right

May 25-1968

Expansion At Hospital Is Due To Start Soon

By JESSIE ROBINS

INGERSOLL — Early summer will see the sod being turned for the much-needed expansion of Alexandra hospital.

Growing out-patient demand, cramped quarters, and overtaxed facilities are the prime reason for the proposed renovation and expansion. Physiotherapy and occupational therapy, steadily growing with Alexandra's emphasis on patient rehabilitation, have been operating in makeshift quarters.

EXPANSION

The base area of the present hospital which now provides most of the out-patient services as well as laboratory, kitchen and storage facilities, will be expanded to accomodate staff needs, storage, a central sterilization area, new large kitchen facilities, cafeteria, ambulance, patients' dining area and allied needs.

Service, such as laboratory X-ray, physio-therapy, emergency treatment and the out-patient department, will move to what is now the first floor. Emergency treatment will be expanded with this service staffed around the clock.

The second floor will house the obstetrical section with renovations such as a fathers' lounge, and a classroom for nursing students who will be receiving intructions in the hospital beginning in 1969.

Intensive care units on the third floor will be expanded and an advance pediatrics department is planned with the innovation of a supervised playroom for child patients.

1965 SURVEY

A survey taken in 1965 for Ingersoll and area gave the projection for years ahead together with the services which will be required for the local hospital. Thus, the expansion plans take into consideration the incorporation of basic structural provisions for future expansion.

The Alexandra hospital of the future will soar to seven stories, and for this reason, the footings and foundation will be built of a strength to carry this weight. Inability to bear additional weight on the present foundation is the reason today's building cannot rise beyond three floors.

ELEVATORS

While one main elevator will service the new expansion, the pads and shafts for a bank of elevators for the future will be incorporated in the new building.

The main entrance, which now faces Thames Street South, will be changed to a front entry on Noxon Street. At the present time, the main entrance will be the emergency entrance will be built side-by-side in order to cut costs.

Alexandra hospital is set in a picturesque park-like acreage on top of a hill from which the grounds, with venerable maple and shrubbery plantings, slopes downwards. To the north of the hospital is the historic Smith's Pond which supplied water power for mills of early days.

WILL PRESERVE

The expansion program will preserve the present grounds with the building area taking in what is now the parking lot.

Alexandra Hospital, long the proud possessor of a fine record of dedicated and efficient service to Ingersoll and district, is taking another step forward in this expansion program. Their aim is to provide this area with a hospital which is up to date and able to meet all needs of the present while still having an eye on the future.

Hospital gets own ambulance

1970

INGERSOLL — Effective April 1, Alexandra Hospital will operate its own ambulance service, administrator George Hayter said Thursday.

The new service, implemented by the Emergency Health Service branch of the Ontario Hospital Services Commission, will be available at 485-1700.

Mr. Hayter said Woodstock Ambulance Ltd., which will continue to serve the hospital until April 1, will provide back-up service after that date.

April 15 completion target set for hospital addition

1970

INGERSOLL — "Despite being plagued by labor problems, a shortage of materials and changes in planning, the new addition at Alexandra Hospital should be completed by April 15," said Jack Huntsberger, Chairman of the Board at the Hospital. The statement was one of his comments at the annual meeting of the Alexandra Hospital Trust, held at the hospital last night.

The noise, dust and confusion has been a constant reminder to both patients and staff during the past months but Mr. Huntsberger has nothing but praise for the tremendous attitude of all employees at the hospital. Even with construction taking place during the past year more patients were admitted throughout 1969 than in 1968.

Mr. Huntsberger was also disturbed about the reluctance of the public to make donations for the addition. To date slightly over $13,000 has been given by clubs and organizations. The Chairman noted that 20 years ago people in the community had donated over $100,000 for an addition to the hospital.

FURTHER ADDITIONS

The chairman brought a sigh from the audience when he said that further additions might be required in the near future to keep pace with new developments. Fortunately, he added, the present project has been constructed with future additions in mind.

Ambulance service could be operating from the hospital by April or May which would be an improvement from the present setup whereby both Ingersoll and Woodstock are serviced from ambulances stationed in Woodstock. The ambulance service idea is a result of the Regional Planning Council, a new organization of hospital personnel from the City of Woodstock and the towns of Ingersoll and Tillsonburg.

G. L. Hayter, who was appointed secretary of the council, said one of the main objectives of the body is that any planned projects concerning any one of the three hospitals will be done through the Regional Council. The council is also working on bulk purchasing orders of medical and other miscellaneous supplies. The basic aim of the three-month-old council is to cut down on operating costs within the three hospitals.

Total operating revenue of Alexandra Hospital was $1,395 above the total cost of expenditure in 1969. The 1969 revenue totalled $891,044 a sizable increase over 1968's figure of $730,087. Roy Start, who gave the Treasurer's Report noted that of the $889,649 spent on expenditures, $638,456 was spent on salaries for hospital employees.

Officials on the hospital trust estimate that the anticipated cost of the addition when completed will be $1,904,013 and that total revenue will reach $1,897,498. To date $1,602,324 has been paid off by the hospital. Of that amount the Town of Ingersoll paid $250,000, the County of Oxford subscribed to $205,000, and the Alexandra Hospital committee paid $199,000. A bequest from the estate of Mrs. James A. Cole gave an additional $21,973 to the project.

Dr. J. W. Rowsom said few people in the community are aware of the fact that Alexandra Hospital has one of the best accreditation standings in Ontario. He said Ingersoll's hospital has facilities on a par with cities of hundreds of thousands of people.

The hospital trust also elected 10 Directors for the year and those elected include: William Bell, John Nadalin, B. W. Carr, Blake Coyle, P. M. Dewan, Jack Huntsberger, Norman McLeod, Robert McFarlane, Roy Start, and Ken Swance. G. L. Hayter was appointed secretary of the hospital trust.

Improvements for hospital

Feb 19 1971

INGERSOLL — The building committee of Alexandra Hospital had a busy year during 1970, according to the committee's annual report.

A 12-foot addition to a smoke stack to keep fumes out of the air-conditioning in-take, cost $3,350, the report states.

Interior signs were installed last year to direct persons to desired departments within the hospital.

The committee also did the groundwork for the new two-bay ambulance garage which is expected to be ready for use next week.

Total cost of the newly constructed garage was approximately $25,000.

Father of Laura Secord Founded Ingersoll, 1793, Paying 12 Cents An Acre

Lost Grant and Become Discouraged, But Soon Restored Home and Established Town—Canadian Heroine's Name Linked With Oxford Colony.

Two famous names are interwoven with the history of Ingersoll.

They are those of Thomas Ingersoll and Laura Ingersoll Secord.

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whom Ingersoll met in New York, and Brant offered to guide Ingersoll to desirable lands on River La Trench (the Thames).

True to his promise, Brant sent six of his best young men to show Ingersoll the lands. Application was made to the Government, then held at Newark (Niagara Falls), and an order-in-council was passed, on March 23, 1793, granting Ingersoll and his associates a township on the old Indian trail from Ancaster to Detroit. The place selected was the summer camping ground of the Indians for many years. Work was commenced at once by Mr. Ingersoll and his colony, Mr. Ingersoll felling with his own hands an elm tree for the log house that was to be his future home.

Some accounts say Basswood Tree.

Gayfer's drug store now stands on

(Continued on Page 21)

Hospital wing grant approved

Oct-13-1967

Free Press Woodstock Bureau

WOODSTOCK—A $1,245,000 addition to Ingersoll's Alexandra Hospital was promised a $135,000 contribution by Oxford County council yesterday.

Norman L. McLeod, chairman of the Ingersoll hospital board, contacted later, said working drawings for the addition still have to be completed and final approval received from the Ontario Hospital Services Commission.

He said the board hopes to call tenders later this year and start construction before spring.

Ingersoll council has agreed to contribute $165,000.

County council agreed to pay its share over four years, starting in 1968.

Alexandra Hospital will expand from 10,948 to 28,270 square feet, while the number of beds will increase by 5 to 75.

Of the 75, plans are to have 42 for medicine and surgery, 5 for obstetrics, 10 for pediatrics and 18 for chronic care.

Labor and delivery room area is to be increased from 837 to 1,800 square feet and surgery from 1,468 to 2,400 square feet.

Emergency and out-patient, physiotherapy, laboratory and morgue, administration, radiology, dietary, stores, housekeeping and laundry areas will be expanded.

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NAMED FOR FATHER

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The horse barn in Victoria Park burned in 1960 and a new one erected same yr.

Thomas - 13 yrs. old.

The Palace at the Fairgrounds was built July - 1937.

Nabob & Ken Daniel built the building occupied by LOBLAWS - on Thames St - built IN 1929.

Early Fraternal Societies in Ing.

Masonic { King Hiram Lodge - instituted 180
St. John's Lodge No-68
Harris Chapter, No. 44 - R.A.M.

Chosen Friends - No. 231.
Samaritan Lodge - I.O.O.F. - founded 1857
Unity Encampment - I.O.O.F.
Keystone Rebecca Lodge - founded - 1902
Court Marquis of Lorne - 6157 - A.O.F. - founded 1878
Princess Louise Circle - Companions of the Forest.
Court Littlejohn - juvenile Foresters
Catholic Foresters - Court Sacred Heart - founded 1892
Canadian Foresters - Court Oxford - No 12.
Sons of England - Lodge Imperial No. 176
Local Orange Lodge - Pride of Oxford No 743.
Independent Order of Foresters - Court Ingersoll -
Catholic Mutual Benefit Association - No. 19

Mr. Start il with flag attend Hockey arena as chairman

CHAIRMAN - - - Mr. R. G. Start, K.C.

INVOCATION - Rev. Geo. W. Murdoch, B.A.

SPEAKER - - Mr. K. R. Daniel, M.P.

SEALING DOCUMENTS IN THE STONE - - Mr. A. R. Horton

LAYING CORNERSTONE - Mr. R. W. Green

SPEAKER - His Worship Mayor J. G. Murray

SPEAKER - - - Mrs. P. M. Dewan

A.O.U.W. - Ancient Order of United Workmen
Oak Lodge No No 120 - founded 1887.

{ Canadian Odd Fellows - Royal Green
Victoria Lodge - No. 115 - founded 1888.

Canadian Order of Home re Circles - Ingersoll Circle No. 57 founded 1884

Royal Templars of Temperance - Empire in Council No 192 - founded 1887

Mausoleum in in Ingersoll Rural Cemetery built in in 1928.

The Norsworthy by Building on King S. west of Royal Band was built 1896

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Thomas Ingersoll was the father of Laura Secord and had he not resolved to move from Massachusetts to Canada at the urging of Chief Joseph Brant, the whole history of Canada might have been changed.

Thomas Ingersoll was a member of the same Ingersoll family which produced such men as the famous Robert Ingersoll, and the creator of the Ingersoll watch. The family developed at Great Barrington, Mass. It was after the Revolutionary War that Thomas Ingersoll, feeling the heavy economic pressure of disjointed times, sought new fields.

GUIDED BY BRANT'S MEN.

The forests and rivers of Canada were glowingly depicted by Chief Brant, whom Ingersoll met in New York, and Brant offered to guide Ingersoll to desirable lands on River La Trench (the Thames).

True to his promise, Brant sent six of his best young men to show Ingersoll the lands. Application was made to the Government, then held at Newark (Niagara Falls), and an order-in-council was passed, on March 23, 1793, granting Ingersoll and his associates a township on the old Indian trail from Ancaster to Detroit. The place selected was the summer camping ground of the Indians for many years. Work was commenced at once by Mr. Ingersoll and his colony, Mr. Ingersoll felling with his own hands an elm tree for the log house that was to be his future home.

Some accounts say basswood tree.

Gayfer's drug store now stands on the site of the early Ingersoll home, on Thames street.

LAND AT 12 CENTS AN ACRE.

The conditions of the grant to Ingersoll were that there were to be 40 settlers, each to have 200 acres or more, upon the payment of sixpence sterling per acre. The balance of the 66,000 acres was to be held in trust by Ingersoll for the benefit of himself and associates, who could secure title by paying the same price.

(Continued on Page 21)

Arrangements had been made to bring in 1,000 settlers from New York State, when representations were made to the home Government that such settlers would be injurious to the country. The order was rescinded and Ingersoll's grant cancelled. Between 80 and 90 families had already settled. Col. Talbot suffered the same treatment, a man of whose loyalty there could be no question. Col. Talbot's lands were after restored and he advised Ingersoll to go to England, but the latter had neither the time, the money nor the friends to aid. Discouraged, he left the settlement in 1805, removing to Etobicoke.

Mr. Ingersoll was a justice of the peace while in Oxford and performed the marriage ceremony. His last home was on the River Credit, where he died in 1812, leaving a large family, whose descendants are found throughout the length and breadth of Canada.

His son, Charles, who served, as did his sister, Laura, although by different agencies, in the war of 1812, returned to Ingersoll in 1817 and repurchased his father's Oxford farm at sheriff's sale. James Ingersoll was the first white child born in Ingersoll. With Charles, he went earnestly to work. First a saw mill, then a grist mill, a store, a pottery and a distillery were built. This was the real founding of Ingersoll as a village and Charles Ingersoll brought his family there in 1821. Soon after he become a magistrate, postmaster and commissioner. He was also appointed lieutenant-colonel, twice was returned to Parliament and died in 1832 of cholera. His eldest son died at the same time.

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