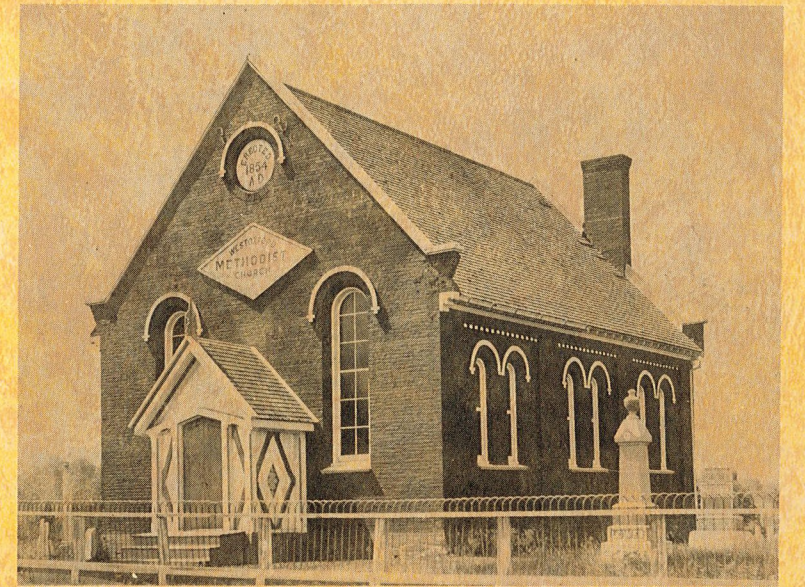


**HERITAGE RENEWED**



THE OLDEST CONTINUOUS  
PROTESTANT CONGREGATION  
IN OXFORD COUNTY  
ESTABLISHED IN 1804

A HISTORY  
OF THE  
WEST OXFORD UNITED CHURCH  
AND CEMETERY



#### OUR COVER

The front cover of this book shows two of the oldest pictures we were able to secure. The church appears much as it is today with the exception that when the basement was installed, more masonry was added and a new entranceway has been erected. The name "Methodist" has of course been replaced by "United". In the picture a good fence surrounds the church and cemetery, because in early days many farms lacked good fencing and roaming livestock would have wrecked havoc on these grounds. Many of the financial records reveal concern regarding this fence and considerable time and money was spent on it.

The cemetery picture depicts the monuments of Mr. William D. Reynolds, one of the three octogenarians buried there, and his three wives — Sarah, Sarah and Mary. These stones with their inscriptions have been objects of great interest to many visitors throughout the years.

The title "Heritage Renewed" was chosen in the hope that those who read this book will be made much more aware of the many benefits — both religious and material — which our present generation has derived from the dedication and determination of those early pioneers. While it is unlikely that the church will ever again be the center of community activities, as it was in previous days, it is hoped that for many years it will continue to serve the community as a place of worship, where people may go to renew their fellowship with God, which is indeed the primary function of the church.

Though there are many errors and omissions for which we apologize, we hope this book will be among your most cherished possessions.

COMPLIMENTS OF FRANK C. BRINK

This Book is  
Dedicated to the Pioneer Families  
of Oxford  
Who settled in this district and  
Who established the Church in 1804  
and to  
The members of those families  
Who are buried in the Cemetery.  
Also to  
Those people in the community  
Who have continued and maintained  
The Church and Cemetery through the years.



COUNTRY CHURCH – Brian F. King

I think the nearest place to God  
That men will ever find  
Lies sheltered in a country church,  
Where faith and hope are shrined.

A church where men return the love  
Of Him who fills with grace  
The hearts of those who help sustain  
The Shepherd's meeting place.

#### THE WEST OXFORD UNITED CHURCH AND CEMETERY

The West Oxford United Church was the first organized Church in the County of Oxford, at that time "Oxford-on-the-Thames". It was organized in August 1804 as the Episcopal Methodist Church of America. The first log Church was burned by rebels during the War of 1812-14.

It is a rural Church and is now the oldest continueing Church in Oxford County.

The Cemetery which is on the same ground as the Church, now owned by the Township of South West Oxford, is a pioneer Cemetery. Many of the original settlers of the district are buried here. A number of these settlers came to the district in the 1790's. The original survey of this Cemetery was lost in a fire in Ingersoll in 1856, no other survey was made. There are no lots for sale.

The publication of this book, has been the result of much research and work on the part of a number of people. The publication has been made possible by a generous contribution from an individual and a loan from the Ladies Organization of the Church. After this loan is paid from the proceeds of this book, the balance will be divided 50-50 between the Church and Cemetery, to help preserve these Historical Sites.

#### TO OUR READERS:

The task of writing this short history of the West Oxford Church, the Mother Church of Methodism in Oxford County, has indeed been a very great challenge. Researching the records of the church itself and its various organizations has been intensely interesting, though a very time-consuming undertaking — noting the various names being mentioned, realizing that death has claimed a devoted life, that marriage has united a young couple who have remained to work in the community or, on the other hand, has taken a young woman to a new environment, that many young people have left the community to seek employment and a new life elsewhere.

Much credit must be given to Mr. Frank Brink, whose idea it was to combine the Church History with that of the Cemetery, and to the members of the church and community, who have patiently pieced together scattered information and history into a fine creditable book.

With regret I must say that in this limited space it has been only possible to touch the highlights of events — to mention only a few names of devoted people, though many more are most deserving. Also I wish to express my gratitude to everyone who has contributed with information, pictures and encouragement. It is my desire to dedicate the writings in this book to the West Oxford Church itself, which I have attended since I was a young girl, and to the West Oxford People whom I have known, worked with, and loved these many years.

Dorothy M. Currie

#### I LOVE MY CHURCH

I love my church, the house of God  
Where I am sure to meet  
My Saviour and my friends who come  
and worship at His feet.

I love her tuneful heritage,  
Her hymns of praise and prayer,  
Her sacred strains that lift my soul  
Above this world of care.



It is with pleasure I take this opportunity of conveying greetings to a wider circle than I am normally able to reach, and doing so, to pay tribute to those who have so painstakingly gathered the material and set it out in this book, that the generations to follow maybe reminded of the courage and devotion that has gone into the history of West Oxford United Church.

This year marks the Fiftieth Anniversary of the uniting of Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregationalists across Canada to form the United Church of Canada, and our pastorate, of which West Oxford United Church is a part, is taking appropriate steps to celebrate it, grateful to be setting out on the next chapter of our history in excellent spirits, looking, as did our predecessors, for direction and encouragement to Him who is the author and finisher of our faith.

What will those who read this story in another 170 years make of it? "Our interpretation of history is the most sovereign decision we can take," wrote Prof. Herbert Butterfield in "Christianity and History". "It is our decision about religion, about our total attitude to things, and about the way we appropriate life." If this little book helps those who read it to make up their minds about such a decision it will have been worth all the love that has gone into the writing of it.

May this book meet with the success it deserves and stimulate its readers into taking a greater interest in the history that has cradled them.

*Laurence S. Squires*

### THE WEST OXFORD UNITED CHURCH

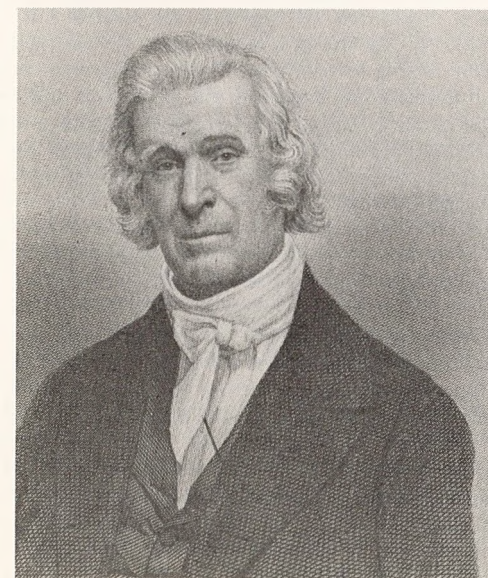
"Open to me the gates of righteousness: I will go unto them, and I will praise the Lord." —Psalm 118:19

It had truly been a very special day in the lives of those early pioneers — one they would always remember. For not only had they been privileged to listen to the preaching of a true minister of the gospel, but they had become organized as a branch of the Episcopal Methodist Church of America.

Rev. Nathan Bangs was the young itinerant preacher who travelled through the wilderness on horseback, thus receiving the title of "Saddlebag Minister". He was one of many dedicated young preachers who endured incredible hardships to carry the gospel to remote settlements in Southern Ontario. The saddlebag ministers were licensed to preach in the doctrine of the Methodist faith and received a stipend of eighty dollars a year if it could be collected. They were not to marry until they had served in this way for four years. Their lives were full of hardships and rigorous disciplines, but so great was their dedication that each new convert was a source of great satisfaction. Nathan Bangs later returned to the United States where he became a renowned preacher, an eminent theologian and an author of religious essays.

Thus, on this memorial day, August 4, 1804, Rev. Nathan Bangs organized an Episcopal Methodist Church for those early settlers of "Oxford on the Thames", settlers brought in by Thomas Ingersoll, some being United Empire Loyalists, and some having immigrated from the Old Country. Many of the names of these early settlers, names often to be found inscribed on the tombstones in the West Oxford Cemetery, may be found on the 1857 map of West Oxford.

Meetings continued to be held whenever possible in the homes along the First and Second Concessions, but soon plans were made to build a "Meeting Place". This was constructed of logs on Lot 7, Broken Front Concession, where a cemetery known as the "Karn Burial Ground" was established. Services continued in this building for a number of years, but alas! troubled times came to the area, and the little church, as well as many of the homes and buildings of the pioneers, were burned by the Westbrook Raiders in the War of 1812-14.



Rev. Nathan Bangs, D.D.

### THE NEW CHAPEL

Undaunted, the settlers now attended services conducted in a log schoolhouse at about the same location as the present West Oxford Church. This church was served by ministers of the Long Point Circuit and grew into a strong religious centre, and is known today as the Mother Church of Methodism. By 1823 there was a strong desire for a church building and for this purpose one acre of land was purchased on November 29, 1823, from John Galloway. The Trustees of the Episcopal Methodist Church of America were Joel Piper, Robert Carsons, Jacob Wood, Isaac Burdick and Thomas Wait. This deed was registered on February 19, 1824 by Thomas Horner, the first registrar of deeds for the Counties of Oxford and Middlesex. The deed to this property was attested by Comfort Sage and Stephen Teeple.

The deed states the purchase price to be Five Pounds of lawful money, and describes the tract of land thus — "composed of part of Lot 15 in the First Concession of the Township of Oxford — commencing on the limit between Lots 14 and 15 at the centre of said line, — then running south 45 degrees, west two chains and fifty links, then north forty-five degrees, west four chains, then north 45 degrees, east two chains and fifty links, then south 45 degrees, east four chains to the place of beginning. (Note: a chain is 66 ft. long, a link is 7.92 inches) This property to be entrusted to the Trustees and their successors in office forever, on the condition that a place of Worship be erected for the use of the members of the Episcopal Methodist Church in America.

Accordingly, that year a large frame church was built. Rev. Alex. G. Harris described it thus, "It was clapboarded on the outside with unplanned lumber and laths and plastered on the inside. It had large windows on each side, the building being about square. In it there was a wide aisle extending from the door on the east side to the pulpit on the west side. The seats were wooden benches with backs, arranged on either side of the aisle. A large box stove stood in the aisle to warm the building. A pulpit of ample size, made of planed pine lumber stood on the west side just opposite the door and had a wooden railing in front of it. The building had no ornaments and was never painted. There was no shed to shelter the teams, often ox teams.

It is unfortunate that no records are available as to the costs of building this chapel. It is known that they were destroyed in the great fire in Ingersoll in 1856. But one can be certain that in their enthusiasm and earnest zeal, much of the labour would be volunteered by these people. Nor can we discover who was the builder of this frame church, but Alex. G. Harris states that his father helped to hew the timbers. The frame church has the distinction of being one of the seven oldest churches in Upper Canada, and its congregation is recognized as being the first organized Protestant church in Oxford County. Thus, West Oxford is considered to be the Mother Church of Methodism in the County.

According to Mr. Byron Jenvey, Ingersoll's historian, the pioneer people walked for many miles from every direction to attend services at the West Oxford Chapel, until churches were built in other communities, closer to their homesteads. They came barefoot until they neared the church, whence they would don their shoes and tidy their apparel before they entered the house of God. At that time, only the Concession roads were passable for vehicles and even when the new West Oxford Chapel was built the road in front was scarcely more than a trail. This road (a given road) was later improved and became known as the Jordan Road, because lumber was teamed from

the Jerusalem Hill, near Peebles' Corners, to the Thames River.

A Sunday School had been organized some years before by Willard Scott and in 1827 it was noted that there were 15 scholars who had memorized a total of 3,069 Bible verses. These names were mentioned: Ruby Janes, Isaac Piper, Lydia Piper, Lucy Janes, Labina Wood, Laura Janes, E. Janes, Esther Piper, William Galloway, Levi Sage, Solomon Wood, Abigail Janes, Nelson Janes and Allen Sage.

In 1832 the Oxford Circuit was formed as a part of the Long Point Circuit with the West Oxford Chapel as head. The whole Oxford Circuit from 1832 to 1842 covered about 20 miles, 10 miles east and 10 miles west with this church as the centre of the circuit. Other preaching points were Beachville, Ingersoll, 12th Con. Zorra, Woodstock, North Oxford, Embro Road, Aylmer, Mt. Elgin, Dereham, Dorchester and Salford. In 1842, West Oxford became part of the Woodstock Circuit with Rev. Henry Byers as pastor. Ingersoll became head of a circuit when Rev. Jos. Shepley was pastor. In 1868 West Oxford was taken from Ingersoll Circuit and attached to the Salford Circuit and remained thus until 1945.

#### MORE CHANGES

During the 1850's the winds of change began to blow. West Oxford Chapel now joined the Wesleyan Methodist Church in connection with the English Conference. There seems to have been a continuing Episcopal group, and with the population increasing in the area, an Episcopal Methodist Church was built on the southeast corner of Lot 13, Con. 1, West Oxford in 1856. This church (1861 Census) seated 200 persons and was valued at \$700. Also in that area a school, S.S. 1, or Piper's Corners School, was erected and immediately south of this school a Baptist Church was also built. This church building held 26 pews and was worth \$800 (1861). A cemetery was established behind the church and school buildings. At this time Piper's Corners was quite a thriving self-contained community.

About this time the Wesleyan Methodist Church sold some 47 square perches (1 sq. perch = 1 sq. rod) of its property to Mr. Seneca Lewis. We can only conjecture that these honest citizens wished to reimburse those Episcopal Methodists who had invested their money in the West Oxford Chapel. Almost immediately 72 square perches (rods) were repurchased from Mr. Lewis. This transaction must have been in the nature of a gift or loan to the church from Mr. Lewis, for the sum paid was five shillings, a token amount, but one which would legalize the transaction. The deed to this property was first drawn up in 1856, but apparently it was not quite legal, for the Wesleyan Conference required that there be seven trustees where formerly there had been only four. Henry Schell had ceased to be a member, so therefore, in February 1858, a new handwritten deed was drawn up, naming the required seven trustees. These were named as follows: Joel Piper, Daniel Harris, Enoch B. Piper, Joseph B. Piper, Warren Harris, Charles Brink Sr. and Robert Nichols. When the Episcopal Methodist Church at Piper's Corners was closed, many of its members returned to West Oxford Chapel. An item in the records states that in 1887 proceeds from the sale of the Piper's Corners Church amounted to \$51.00.

#### THE NEW BRICK CHURCH

During this time of changing church conditions, the old frame building at West Oxford was showing signs of wear, and so in 1854 it was replaced by a new up-to-date brick church, of which the people were justly proud. Bricks were now available

from several brickyards in the county. The Great Western Railway had begun operations through the settlement, contributing to a feeling of prosperity. Fine homes and spacious barns were being built. In 1854 the following industries were located in the West Oxford Church area (mostly in Centreville), - Carrick's Tannery, Ayer's Brickyard, Mossip's Blacksmithy, Bain's Flour Mill, Hopkin's Tannery and Walton's Blacksmithy.

The new church was considerably smaller in size than the old church building, but in contrast to the simplicity of the old church, the new one seemed very beautiful, with its diamond-paned windows, its railings and other ornamental appointments. The new church was indeed a great source of pride to the members of the congregation. At the dedication of the new church, Rev. Wm. Ryerson, the most eloquent of the Ryerson brothers, and one of the most eloquent preachers in Canada at the time, preached his sermon, holding the very large audience spellbound from first to last. He admonished the people, "you now have erected a beautiful clean church for the worship of God. Let the men refrain from spitting tobacco juice on the floor." The next evening there was a tea-meeting, which included a bazaar. Rev. Alex. G. Harris said he remembered a quilt which was sold to George Galloway, which, after paying for it, he returned it to be sold again. With similar generosity on the part of many, when the dedication ceremonies were over the church was almost free of debt.

#### THE SHED IS BUILT

By November, 1860, the church was declared to be completely clear of any indebtedness. Rueben A. Janes was appointed to take up subscriptions, and the building of a shed to shelter the horses and carriages was proposed. The records show that 2500 feet of lumber was purchased from a Mr. McCrae for \$12.00. Mr. John Nichols was paid \$1.00 for rings and staples (no doubt to tie the horses). It appears then that the shed was probably built in 1861, and a new fence erected in 1863 by A. Oliver who was paid \$22.00 for his labour, and in January 1867 cash was paid to Mr. Oliver for the shed to the amount of \$150.00. This shed was open to the east and accommodated the horses and vehicles, with an enclosed stall at the north end for the minister's horse.

In 1867 this committee, Charles Brink Sr., John Nichols, J.B. Piper, J. Myers, George Galloway, R.A. Janes and James Galloway was appointed to improve the church (to include whitewashing) altering the pulpit and altar, preparing seats for the choir, purchasing two stoves, the painting and setting on the front of the church, repairing the chimneys and the east corner of the church. Some carpeting seems to have been laid and the doors were evidently changed. An April 22, 1867, note states that George Galloway was appointed to improve the church windows.

Quoting from the minutes of a meeting in February, 1889, "The Trustee Board at present consists of the following Brethren: John Nichols, Geo. Galloway, Chas. Brink Sr., Edwin Galloway, E.W. Uren, James Galloway, C.A. Brink, Geo. Cook, and W.F. Galloway - Sec. Treas. It was resolved to proceed with the following repairs to the church. The seats to be upholstered, the orchestra to be moved to the southwest corner of the church, the ceiling repaired, the paper washed and pieced under the windows, the floor raised, the windows pointed, seats repainted and other necessary repairs. And NOTE - the expense was not to exceed \$150.00, but carpet was also added and the chimney repaired. In 1888 the choir loft had been moved from the rear of the church to the front, the elevated pulpit lowered and the box type family pews were replaced by the present pews.

#### FUN AND MONEY

The account book shows records of many improvements and repairs to the church as well as many social activities. It records services being held both morning and evening. The church, then, was truly the centre of community activity. But what were the methods used to finance the upkeep and operation of the church? A considerable amount of money was raised by subscription, this being accomplished several times a year. From the records it appears that, on occasion, prominent members would lend the church money to tide it over financial difficulty. But a very popular method of acquiring money seems to have been by sponsoring tea-meetings, socials, concerts, plays and even lectures. When such an event was in the offing, handbills were printed and displayed in conspicuous places, such as stores, schools, mills other churches, etc. In this way everyone in the surrounding area was made aware that a tea-meeting was planned. The printing cost about \$2.00, but the proceeds from these social gatherings would amount to from \$10.00 to \$60.00. One, which netted \$71.00, may have been a bazaar, which were sometimes included in these social events. At times, orchestras or special entertainers were engaged for these occasions for a gratuity of \$8.00. Some of those who hosted these tea-meetings and socials were: E. Lewis, E. Galloway, W.F. Galloway, E.W. Uren, E.B. Piper, R.A. Janes, R.W. Williamson, George Uren, C.A. Brink, J. Myers, George Galloway, John Uren Jr., J. Galloway and John Nichols. These took place between October 12, 1881, and March 4, 1890.

By the 1890's and early 1900's some new names began to appear in the records - Swadling, Ruckle, Millington, Batten and others. In the year 1900, the Trustee Board consisted of the following Brethren: E.W. Uren, C.A. Brink, Geo. Ruckle, E.S. Dodge, Geo. Galloway, Geo. Cook, Edwin Galloway, James Millington, and W.F. Galloway. This appears to be the sole governing board of the church. The Secretary and the Treasurer were at the time each authorized to buy a book to keep the records of the church, and a sexton was appointed for the proper running of the church. Unfortunately, these books have not been located.

#### RE-OPENING SERVICES 1904

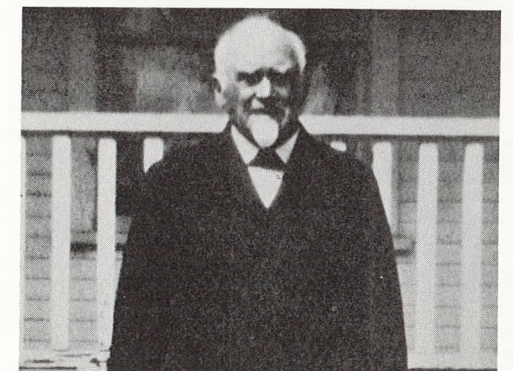
On Sunday, November 6, 1904, re-opening services were held in the West Oxford Methodist Church, following renovations both to the interior and exterior of the chapel. These special services also commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the church, as well as the Jubilee Anniversary of the present structure. Special guest for the occasion was Rev. Alex. G. Harris of Lambeth, in the London Conference, who was present when the church was dedicated in 1854, being then a boy of twelve years of age. In the morning the choir of Beachville Methodist Church led in the service of song, and in the evening the church's own choir, assisted by Miss Reader of Ingersoll led the musical part of the service. The church was filled to overflowing at both services. The cost of renovation was \$235.00 - the Ladies' Aid provided some of the money and with the liberal and cheerful response to Rev. J. McArthur's request, the whole amount was raised.

In the evening the Rev. Alex. G. Harris gave an interesting historical sketch of the church covering the previous 100 years. He described the first church (quoted earlier), and stated that while it was so plain, yet it was often filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and in it a large number of the men and women of this part of the country were converted. He attended the Sunday School where he received impressions that remained with him throughout his life. He mentioned the Camp Meetings

which were held periodically in the area, saying that he was converted at one on September 14, 1859.

Some of the people he remembered as prominent in the church were Thomas Fawcett, Ely Harris, J. Wilkinson, B. Elstone, and Daniel Harris, his own father. Others were Benson Piper, teacher and Sunday School teacher, who had profound influence, John Uren who led a pure and spotless life, Willard Scott who had an influence for God in the community, John Galloway, a quiet but wise man, and Charles Brink Sr., quiet, tender in spirit and a man of God. Rev. Mr. Harris described his father thus - rather short, a little stooped, but his eyes bright and keen, vivacious in his every movement, and a man consecrated to God from the crown of his head to the soles of his feet. Family prayer was observed in their home twice a day.

Rev. Mr. Harris spoke of the church's proximity to Ingersoll as the reason for the congregation remaining small in number - but he emphasized that it had been a very substantial church from the beginning. He urged the congregation to continue in good works - to improve the church and to attend revival meetings.



REV. ALEX. G. HARRIS

West Oxford community may very well be proud of one of her sons, Rev. Alex. G. Harris, son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Harris. The following article is quoted from a 1936 edition of the London Free Press; "Dr. A.G. Harris, Once in Charge of Three Congregations Here is Honoured on 95th Birthday".

Rev. A.G. Harris, a former well-known clergyman of this city and district, celebrated his 95th birthday recently in Winnipeg, where he has resided for the past 15 years with his son, Percy D. Harris, principal of Winnipeg's High School.

As a token of the esteem in which Mr. Harris is held by Young United Church, Winnipeg, the pastor of the church, Rev. W.E. Donnelly invited Mr. Harris to preach the morning service, and at its close, the congregation presented the reverend gentleman with a beautiful picture by Margaret Tarrant.

#### BIRTHDAY MESSAGE

Speaking to the congregation of Young United Church, at the request of its pastor, Rev. Mr. Harris made reference to his life work in the ministry, while residing in Ontario and particularly in the London area.

Rev. Mr. Harris' remarks, in part were as follows: "I was born on October 12, 1841, in the Township of West Oxford, near Ingersoll, Ontario. I have lived 59 years under Queen Victoria, 10 years under King Edward VII, 25 years under King George V, and we are just beginning King Edward VIII's reign.

I was educated at Victoria College when it was at Cobourg. I commenced my ministry in 1864. I am now the oldest living Methodist minister in Canada. I preached 53 years, and in 40 years I never lost a Sunday in my work. In 1917, I retired from the ministry, and lived in London until my wife died 15 years ago, after which I came to Winnipeg.

In concluding his remarks to the congregation, Mr. Harris said, "I have lived 95 years, and I have never known such a day of turmoil and depression as today. What can we do? Where can we look for a solution? Jesus said, "Ye that believe in God, believe also in Me." This way of trust and faith is the only sure way, for God lives and moves and works. Let us all hope and pray, and that we may do His bidding."

#### LUNCHEON TRIBUTE

The pastor of Young United Church, Rev. E.W. Donnelly, at a luncheon tendered to Rev. Alex. G. Harris, paid glowing tribute to the reverend gentleman's 95th birthday. He said, "Since my boyhood days I have been privileged to know Rev. A.G. Harris. He was one of the kindly, patient friends. Today we bring our greetings of affection and extend warm felicitations to Mr. Harris on this birthday occasion. Like John Wesley he can also say in life's happy eventide:

"But this I need not be told,  
'Tis time to live if I grow old".

Rev. Mr. Harris is no stranger to London Conference, where he laboured during all of his ministry, having been stationed at Centennial United Church, Empress Avenue United Church, also at the old Hill Street Methodist Church as well as at Lambeth and other charges.

On November 17, 1936, the London Free Press recorded the death of Rev. A.G. Harris, stating, "With the death of Rev. Alex. G. Harris, D.D. in Winnipeg, the oldest pastor in the Dominion entered into his reward after 72 years of active ministry in the church. Dr. Harris was survived by two sons and two daughters; Percy D., Rev. George Harris, Mrs. (Rev.) Kern, and Mrs. Percy Carter, all living in the Canadian West. A daughter, Mabel died a year ago in Winnipeg."

#### SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

It has been impossible to find records for the church itself between the years 1904 and 1923, although there are some notes in 1913 and 1915 dealing mostly with changes in personnel of the Trustee Board.

But in 1923 Special Anniversary Services were held to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the building of the first West Oxford Chapel. The services were of exceptional interest and were conducted by Rev. Albert C. Crews, D.D., of Toronto, a former pastor, whose father had also served as minister of the little church. Rev. Mr. Crews was at that time editor of all the Methodist publications for Canada. Of special interest was a display of pictures of ministers who had laboured in the interest of the church. Also it must be noted that the combined ages of four persons who attended the Rally Services of the Methodist Sunday School was 372 years. The quartet consisted of Lawrence Johnston of Avon, who in August celebrated his 106th birthday, Mrs. Mary Brown of Folden's Corners who had recently celebrated her 100th birthday, Duncan Mc-Lauchlin, aged 84, and Eben W. Uren, aged 82, both of Ingersoll.

For this auspicious occasion the little church was very tastefully decorated with asters, gladioli and other blooms, pleasingly arranged about the church. One design of particularly striking character rested just below the pulpit. It was an arrange-

ment made of asters of varied colours, bearing the words "100 Years", in contrast to a solid background, also of asters.

The London Morning Advertiser described the setting thus, "The little edifice occupies a commanding position at the top of a hill. From its doors, rugged, but well-cultivated fields stretching to the east may be viewed, the scene being extremely picturesque. At the rear of the church, there is a gradual slope to swamp land, where cedar, pines, and elms predominate, and through which flows a little creek of spring water of sparkling purity. This little church is one of the outstanding links connecting the past with the present." On the Monday evening the services were concluded with an old-fashioned tea-meeting, with the guests dressed in costumes of the olden days.

#### CHURCH UNION

Even at the time of this Anniversary, a movement for Union of several churches was gaining such momentum, that by 1925, Church Union came into effect. This joined the congregations of these churches — Methodists, Congregational and Presbyterian, and became known as the United Church of Canada. At this time the structure of church government was changed, and now featured the Trustee Board, the Session (Elders) and the Stewards, altogether to be known as the Official Board of the Church, with the Minister at the head. The Trustees retained legal duties re: the church property, the Elders officiated at Communion Services and were responsible for the spiritual welfare of the congregation, whereas the Stewards looked after financial matters — the raising of moneys, the minister's salary and the upkeep of the church building.

Henceforth regular Annual Meetings were held and the minutes recorded. In 1926, when Rev. Percy Banes was pastor, the Elders were Albert Batten and Elmer Heeneey. The Stewards were J.W. Millington, Geo. Ruckle, Geo. Uren and Clarence Cuthbert. In 1930, Mrs. Albert Batten became Recording Steward and Clarence Scott was chosen to look after the Communion Service. Wm. Haskett and Elmer Heeneey were appointed in 1931 to look after having hydro installed in the church auditorium. Mrs. Clarence Cuthbert became organist in 1932, a position she held for a number of years, and in that year also, Mrs. Albert Batten became Secretary-Treasurer. In 1933, with Rev. G.I. VanLoon as pastor, Mrs. A.E. Budd was appointed Secretary Protem, a duty she performed for many years. The records show that for this year the receipts for the church expenses amounted to \$242.99, while the missionary givings were \$62.20.

#### DEPRESSION YEARS

But this was the decade of the Great Depression, and by 1934 this was reflected in the finances of the church. At the Annual Meeting the Treasurer reported a deficit of \$60.00, although the Ladies' Aid books showed a balance of \$44.24. The Stewards conducted a quarterly canvas and the envelope system of contributions was introduced. The highlight of this year was the 80th Anniversary of the erection of the present church building.

At the height of the Depression, in 1936, Rev. R.B. Cumming became our minister. Even though the Treasurer's report showed a deficit of \$84.00, there was sufficient interest and optimism that the addition of a basement to the church was discussed. The congregational meeting in 1938, preceded by a dinner, was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Heeneey. The total receipts of the past year were \$320.64, while the expenses amounted to \$314.43 — no longer in the red. At this time, Rev. Mr. Cumming read a letter to the congregation describing the dire need in the West, where not only the depres-

sion, but severe crop failures for several years were making life intolerable for the residents there. The people of West Oxford responded with donations of canned goods, dry staple foods and clothing, etc.

In 1939, Murray Budd and Red Furtney were appointed as assistant ushers to Clarence Scott and Bev. Blancher, and James Heeneey was elected Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. On Wednesday evening, October 4, 1939, the West Oxford Ladies' Aid served about 200 people at their annual fowl supper — held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Heeneey. The proceeds of the supper were to be used to help defray the expenses incurred through the renovations of the church. During the year 1939, Russell Currie, chairman of the Building Fund reported that \$600.30 had so far been raised for this purpose.

The Sentinel-Review in 1939 described a bee held at the West Oxford United Church, in which at least 25 members of the congregation participated. Many had already helped and would continue to do so. Work on the church included rebuilding of the west wall, cornices built over the end walls, the floor raised and a basement excavated and windows set in. The entire church was redecorated inside and outside. Masonry and life work was in charge of William MacKay and son Marshall of Ingersoll.

The article also described an old wood furnace which had been installed many years before in a little cubby hole dug out of the earth under the church. An 1881 record states that John Ayers was paid \$6.00 for doing some excavation, and in 1886 James Sinclair was paid \$15.00 for repairing the furnace. In 1887, J. Sinclair was paid \$47.00 for the furnace. This furnace struggled valiantly, but with little success to heat the building. It was given up as a lost cause, as it was alleged to have produced an abundance of smoke but very little heat. The rear doorway, leading to the recess below, was bricked in when the battle was given up, and the old deck-type furnace left to its fate, sealed in the little cubby-hole beneath the church floor. The doorway has been constructed again, for this time, it will lead to a full-sized basement, where church and community affairs will hold sway as in modern church edifices.

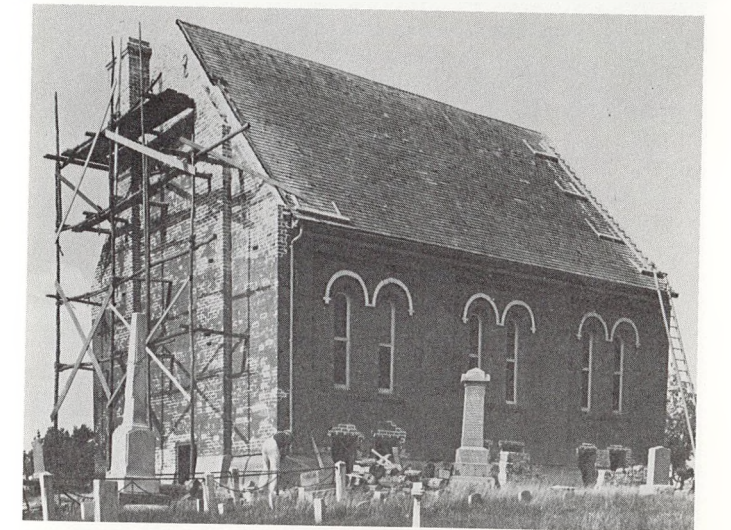
#### REOPENING SERVICES

Special reopening services for the newly renovated West Oxford United Church were held Sunday, May 26, 1940. A column in the Sentinel-Review states, "All those who had expended any labour efforts or any other assistance for some time past (and there were practically none on the church roll who had not) were able to see the fine results of their efforts at the special occasion Sunday, and to rejoice to the full in the beautiful building in its fine new appearance."

Very appropriate addresses were given by Rev. Judson Kelly of London, in the morning, and by Rev. Percy Banes, of South Buxton, in the evening. Rev. Mr. Kelly is a brother of a former minister at West Oxford, Rev. Webster Kelly, and Rev. Mr. Banes had been minister there in 1926 — 30. Rev. R.B. Cumming conducted a very solemn and impressive service of dedication. Special music was rendered by the choirs of Salford & Folden's United Churches and Mrs. Harold Uren of Ingersoll, sang in beautiful voice, "Bless this House". Mrs. Hugh Hughes was pianist for the musical numbers. During the morning service, Russell Currie, Treasurer of the Building Fund, gave his statement, which showed the church to be in debt slightly over \$200.00. In the evening, Miss Mary Bremner accompanied the Beachville United Church choir for two beautiful anthems. Mr. Beth Barrett also rendered a fine solo number.



December 1939

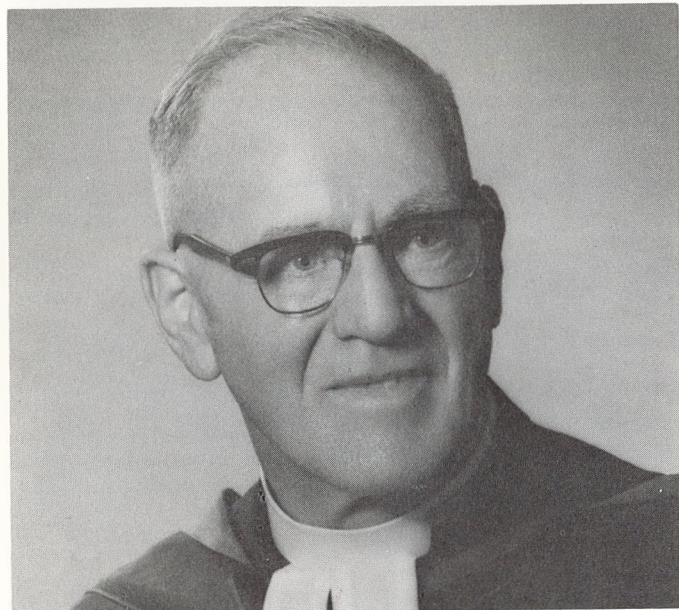


Church Restoration

On the following Tuesday evening the Reopening Services were brought to a fitting conclusion by an interesting social event when the ladies of the community served a bounteous and delicious repast, after which all adjourned to the church auditorium where a fine musical and literary program was enjoyed. An unique feature of the evening was a time of reminiscences given by old-timers, among whom were Beverly Blancher and J.U. Nichols. They told briefly of their early associations in the neighbourhood and of their pioneer traditions. James Cuthbert and Byron Jenvey took the audience back, not only to the past, but along the highways and byways of West Oxford from farm to farm, noting the changes that had taken place and paying worthy tribute to the character of the early settlers, school teachers, ministers and church leaders. This was indeed a rare treat and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who had the opportunity of hearing it. The program ended on the high note that "West Oxford had a new lease on life and everybody is happy."

Annual meetings were held sometimes in the church basement and sometimes in the homes. In 1942 the elders were Elmer Heeneey, Clarence Scott, Harry Ruckle and Wm. Haskett. Harold Haycock was elected to the Board of Stewards. In 1943 receipts for the past year were \$635.19 and expenses amounted to \$581.76. Reta Ruckle assumed the role of asst. organist. Records for 1944 show that Clarence Scott was appointed to

buy shingles for the church roof, and Mrs. Harry Ruckle was convener of a committee to plant trees. Mrs. A. Batten became our organist with Mrs. N. Shuttleworth and Miss Reta Ruckle as assistants. James Heeney was given the responsibility of repairing the pulpit chairs and of purchasing a curtain for the front railing. On February 17, 1945 a pot luck dinner was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ruckle when the Church and Sunday School Annual Meetings were combined. The Elders this year were Elmer Heeney, Clarence Scott, Harry Ruckle and Murray Budd. In 1945, there was another major change in the life of the church, for West Oxford now became part of the Beachville Charge along with Sweaburg, with Rev. E.S. Barton as pastor.



REV. R.B. CUMMING

At this point it seems appropriate that a few lines be dedicated to Rev. R.B. Cumming, who served us the longest of any pastor in the history of our church — nine years in West Oxford (twelve years at Salford and Folden's). He heralded us through the final years of the worst depression our civilization has ever known, and through the terribly distressing years of the Second World War.

We were soon to discover that here was a man with a boundless supply of energy, enthusiasm and talents that were to sustain us through those dark years. Into the fabric of our lives Rev. Cumming wove a length of material bright with hope, gay with the joy of living, beautiful with love and strong with purpose — resembling perhaps the Scottish kilt he sometimes still wears. We recall him as a man of the hour — ever present in our joys and our sorrows — always ready to lend a hand wherever needed.

The church community embarked on numerous projects, including the renovation and installation of the basement, just previously described, as well as many social activities — suppers, socials, garden parties, concerts, etc. These were not just money making ventures, but served to enliven the community and bind it together.

Rev. Cumming's activities extended outwards beyond his own charge. As a member of the Oxford Presbytery Young People's Executive and President for several years, how well I

remember the assistance he gave us in all our endeavours. Among the brightest and happiest of my memories are those of the "Play Parties" which he organized and led. For the whole of Oxford County! There is much more that could be written, had we but more space.

The writer would like to express very deep appreciation for the tremendous amount of assistance which Rev. Cumming has given us in the writing of this book, in searching out of information, supplying of pictures and newspaper clippings. I can simply say, "Thank you, Rev. R.B. Cumming!"

Of the West Oxford Church, Rev. Cumming has this to say;

#### A TRIBUTE TO WEST OXFORD UNITED CHURCH

West Oxford United Church has had a worthy and valuable history of which we may be proud, and which has earned our respect and gratitude. The continuity of the services from 1804 has enriched and enobled the community, standing as it does a landmark and witness of Christian worship and service. The atmosphere and ties of affection and pride in our Christian heritage have been built up and sustained throughout the years. Through generations of our forbears, a trust has been bequeathed to us that should never lose its identity or influence. Hallowed with sacred memories of worship, praise and service to God, our hearts are overflowing in thanksgiving to God for his abundant mercies. Children of succeeding generations were presented at the altar for Christian baptism, and dedicated to a lifetime of service in and through the church.

Sunday Schools were faithfully organized and led by consecrated teachers. Children were brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Superintendents and teachers devoted many years of faithful and purposeful teaching to the glory of God, and the service of Jesus Christ. Pupils were brought to the hour of decision, and encouraged to dedicate their lives to God.

Young people were organized and grew up to form lasting friendships in a Christian atmosphere and influence. Homes were established. The women of the community gathered and organized for mutual friendship and service to the church and its mission. Soldiers in both wars were remembered with welcome parcels of food and delicacies, for which they were thankful.

The men of the church were elected and organized in the Session and Board of Stewards and Trustee Board to care for the property and needs of the church and cemetery.

Organists and choirs have given music to the services and in social and literary events, through the years. The social life of the community was centered in the church. Christmas trees, concerts and other meetings were planned through organization.

Ministers have come and gone, some staying longer than others, but all leaving the influence of their preaching and service for the enrichment of Christian experience.

The loyalty and love of the community of West Oxford has been highly appreciated. Their inspiration has enriched the friendships of all, irrespective of church affiliation. Indelible decisions for service have produced a worthy community which has raised the standard of Canadian Citizenship.

Rev. R.B. Cumming.

#### A NEW ERA

And now began our association with the Beachville Circuit. The anxious years of the War were over and life seemed to be returning to a semblance of normality. At the 1947 Annual Meeting, Rev. E.S. Barton gave the Session report, showing two communion services having been held, three new members, th-

irteen baptisms, and one marriage, there being a total membership of sixty-six. Fred Pettman and Jack Haskett were elected to the Board of Stewards. After 19 faithful years, Mrs. A. Batten resigned as Secretary-Treasurer, and Mrs. Harold Haycock was appointed to take her place. The highlight of this year had been the donation of an Electric Organ to the West Oxford Congregation by Mr. Burton Minshall in memory of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Minshall, (Mrs. Fred Pettman is a daughter), who had lived in this district at one time. New hymnaries had also been purchased for the service of dedication. Mrs. A. Batten and Mrs. C. Cuthbert had been the committee responsible for the Dedication Service.

In 1948 the resignation of Rev. E.S. Barton was regretfully accepted. It was noted that West Oxford was responsible for one-sixth of the circuit expenses. Junior and Senior Choirs had been organized.

During the year 1948, the old shed had been sold by auction to Albert Budd and the money placed in a Building Fund to aid in the purchase of a furnace. In 1949 the insurance had been raised to \$4000 on the church building, \$1000 on the contents and \$1000 on the organ. The chimney had been repaired and a furnace installed at a cost of \$379.06. The Church Officers now were — Elders: Clarence Scott, Elmer Heeney, Harry Ruckle, and Murray Budd; the Stewards were Frank Caffyn, Harold Haycock, Beverly Blancher, Clarence Scott, Fred Pettman, Jack Haskett, Clarence Cuthbert, William Lazenby and James Heeney. Mrs. Batten was allowed \$15.00 to purchase music for the choir and the Young People offered to buy chairs for the church.

The 1951 Annual Meeting was held in the church auditorium with Rev. J.E. Watson officiating. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Rev. Mr. Barton. A discussion was held re. the building of a kitchen at the rear of the church, as well as the addition of a new porch at the front, and redecorating the church interior. A Building Committee was appointed — Harry Ruckle, Elmer Heeney, Clarence Scott, Bev. Blancher, Mrs. Leonard Caffyn, Mrs. C. Cuthbert, Fred Pettman and Cecil Batten. The work proceeded on the kitchen this year and the following year, was completed enough to be dedicated and an opening supper held. During the year 1951, the members of the Young People's Union had redecorated the church basement.

At this time the church was enjoying a time of unprecedented interest and participation. At the 1952 Annual Meeting, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Murray Budd, the Session report showed a membership of 96, with 11 baptisms. Edith Ruckle became assistant organist and two dozen new hymnaries were purchased. During the year 1952 the Junior Choir, led by Miss Ruckle, had sung on 7 Sundays, assisted on Children's Day, and Rally Day and had presented a Candlelight Service.

At the 1953 Annual Meeting, the 150th Anniversary was discussed, and it was decided to hold this celebration in June, 1954. Russell Currie reported that the building expenses (kitchen etc.) amounted to \$1906.54, which had been covered by donations from various people and organizations. The insurance now amounted to \$17,000, with a premium of \$35.70.

Rev. D.A. Freer became our pastor in 1953, which was a very active one for the West Oxford Congregation. The Sunday School reported a record attendance of 88. Looking forward to the 150th Anniversary, Cecil Batten, Frank Caffyn, Harold Haycock, Mrs. H. Brearley, Mrs. C. Cuthbert, Mrs. T. Gravill and Miss Dorothy Currie were appointed to be the Decorating Committee responsible for refurbishing the church interior. A Historical Committee composed of Mr. B. Blancher, Chairman, Dorothy Currie, Secretary, and Messrs. D. Freer,

F. Caffyn, C. Scott, H. Brearley, and Mrs. A. Batten and Mrs. C. Cuthbert was chosen. This committee with the assistance of Rev. R.B. Cumming and Mr. Byron G. Jenvey was responsible for the publishing of the very creditable, silver book for the 150th Anniversary.

#### 150th ANNIVERSARY

This memorable occasion was celebrated on the Sundays of June 13 and June 20, 1954, with the morning and evening services both days, and the church filled to capacity each time. Special Speaker on June 13 was Rev. H.H. Tuttle M.A. B.D. D.D., whose morning topic was "His Father's Church and Mine" and his evening sermon was entitled "My Church and My Children's". Special music in the morning was provided by the West Oxford Senior Choir with Mrs. Charles Sippel of Drumbo (formerly Effa Cuthbert) as organist and choir leader. Miss Helen Heeney also favoured with a vocal solo. At this service a new communion table and two new collection plates were dedicated in memory of Mrs. Bruce Hutcheson (nee Kathleen Budd).

On behalf of the Y.P.U., the president, Dorothy Currie presented a painting of a Bible and Inscription on the front wall, as well as a pulpit drape. The Y.P.U. was also responsible for the printing of the Orders of Services.

The joint choirs of Beachville and Sweaburg United Churches with Mrs. G. Wiseman (the former Margaret Nichols) as organist, provided music for the evening service. George Thornton rendered a solo "How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings." A signboard for the outside of the church had been made and was presented by Mr. Thomas Gravill.

Rev. R.B. Cumming, a former pastor, was guest minister for the morning service of Sunday, June 20th. Music at this service was provided by the West Oxford Junior Choir, assisted by the Junior Choir of Folden's United Church, and Howard Pye as guest soloist. Miss Edith Ruckle was the capable organist and choir leader. In the evening, Rev. George I. VanLoon was guest speaker and the music was provided by the joint choirs of West Oxford, Folden's and Salford United Churches, the organists being Mrs. A. Batten and Mrs. O. Nancekivell. At these special services the original collection plates were used. These, hand-carved from native wood, are in the shape of small bowls with long handles.

This 150th Anniversary of the West Oxford United Church should be remembered with great pride and nostalgia. The writer recalls the great enthusiasm and dedication of the committees in charge, the intensive amount of work in planning, practising and decorating that these activities entailed, the great cooperation received from the church groups themselves, from those in neighbouring communities and from former members and residents. For a small congregation, the spectacular success of these 150th Anniversary celebrations was indeed a high point in its long history.

#### A VERY ACTIVE CHURCH

During the latter 1950's and the decade of the 1960's the church continued to be very active with large attendances in the Sunday School, a strong Y.P.U., and organized Bible Class which held monthly meetings, C.G.I.T. and Tyro Groups, and of course the Ladies' Aid, now known as the United Church Women. In 1956, it was noted that West Oxford was donating nearly half of the Circuit Missionary givings — \$322.79. In 1957 the Session reported there had been 1 marriage, 7 infant baptisms and a membership of 87 with 8 non-resident members. A pastor's Communion set had been presented by Mrs. Gordon McLeod and Mrs. Francis Skinner in memory of their mother,



Mrs. Elmer Heeney. Stewards for the year 1959 were Merle Harvey, Bruce Hutcheson, Frank Caffyn, James Heeney, Fred Pettman and Cecil Batten.

In 1960, the Session reported having held 4 meetings — there having been 2 deaths, 9 baptisms and 3 marriages. Because our minister, Rev. Bruce Sutor, had been a missionary in Korea, several of the church organizations were sending bales of clothing there. During the past year the Sunday School held a Strawberry Social. The Y.P.U. had organized bees to cut the grass in the cemetery. The Adult Bible Class reported a busy year, for besides 8 regular meetings, the members had sponsored a Skating Party, a St. Patrick's Social, a Weiner Roast, and a Hallowe'en Party. The U.C.W. had provided curtains for the Sunday School room and bought kitchen tables. The Y.P.U. had purchased a clothes' rack for the church and distinguished themselves in baseball by winning the Presbytery Plaque for the third year in a row — for which Rev. Mr. Sutor presented them with an engraved silver tray.

Frank Caffyn was appointed secretary protem in 1961. The Session report showed there had been 38 baptisms, no marriages, 4 deaths, 10 new members and 5 transferred from our roll. The Financial Report showed receipts to have been \$3274 with the expenses amounting to \$3281.64 — in the red again, but not much. But according to precedent, "When money is tight, our outlook is bright!" — and plans were discussed for the erection of a new front porch — the estimated cost to be \$1500. Mr. Tom Gravill, who in previous years, had already given much of his time and talent in many Church and Sunday School projects, offered to do the carpentry work. During the past year the Y.P.U. had painted the church basement, cut the cemetery grass and planted trees around two sides of the cemetery in May. The United Church Women had bought dishes and silverware to aid in their catering services, also tables for the basement to be used both in Sunday School and for banquets, and bright new curtains for the kitchen. The Sunday School reported its highest attendance of 107. For a time during 1961 and 1962 we were without a resident minister, and Rev. C.D. Daniel of Ingersoll — retired but still very active, filled this vacancy for us.

#### THE NEW ENTRANCE



Rev. Daniel and Rev. Miner at opening of new entrance.

In the summer of 1962, Rev. Stewart Miner became our minister. During this spring and summer, work proceeded on the new entrance. Once again many interested people volunteered their work, with special thanks extended to Tom Gravill and Clarence Scott. The U.C.W. not only provided financial assistance, but also the new carpeting down the aisles and on the steps in the entranceway. This new addition to the church was not only more attractive in appearance, but also provided more seating capacity in the church auditorium. The dedication took place at the morning service of the Anniversary on September 16, 1962, with Rev. Stewart Miner officiating and assisted by Rev. C.D. Daniel.

During 1962, the U.C.W. had purchased a new stove for the kitchen and added more cupboards. The Y.P.U. bought a large percolator for the use of the church organizations, had purchased choir gowns, had donated \$100.00 to the Building Fund and had again won the Softball League plaque. The Trustees at this time were: Bev. Blancher, Clarence Scott, Fred Pettman, Harold Haycock, Clarence Cuthbert and Russell Currie. This year, also, Harold Haycock had been elected our new elder.

The 1964 Annual Meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Haycock. The Building Fund report showed an outstanding loan of \$700.00 from the bank, for the porch. Organist was Mrs. M. Batten with Penny Blancher and Doreen Currie as assistants. The Stewards now included Merle Harvey, Bruce Hutcheson, Cecil Riddle, Earl Baskette, Robt. Cowell and Robt. Caffyn. The 160th Anniversary of the founding of the church was celebrated this year, with Rev. W.O. Mather of Dorchester as guest minister in the morning and Rev. C.D. Daniel of Ingersoll, presenting the evening sermon. 1964 proved a busy and profitable year for the U.C.W. with receipts amounting to \$1338.08 — spending \$864.48. A donation was made to the Mrs. G.R. Row Memorial Fund, \$150.00 was donated to the Building Fund and new tables and a refrigerator had been purchased.

In 1966, Rev. Stewart Miner reported there were 78 resident and 39 non-resident members, 2 baptisms, no marriages, 1 funeral, 1 removed by certificate and 4 received by certificate.

#### CENTENNIAL MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Rev. Harley Moore presided for the 1967 Annual Meeting, held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Max Franklin. After having given 19 years of faithful service as church treasurer, Mrs. Harold Haycock resigned the position, and Earl Baskette was appointed to fill this vacancy. Without doubt the highlight of this year was the Anniversary Service, held on Sunday, June 18th at 2:30 p.m., when a Memorial Plaque was presented to the Church by the Oxford Presbytery of the United Church of Canada. Rev. J. Wells Robinson of Thamesford made the presentation and brought greetings on behalf of the Oxford Presbytery. Greetings were also brought by Rev. Grant L. Mills President of the London Conference and by Mr. J. Vernon Cuthbert, Warden of Oxford County. Mr. Clarence Scott, elder from West Oxford and oldest member of the congregation was given the honour of unveiling the plaque. Rev. R.B. Cumming of London was guest speaker, who chose as his subject "Well Begun is Half Done". Rev. Mr. Cumming added colour to the service by riding horseback to the church, reminiscent of the days of the saddlebag ministers of long ago. Rev. H.J. Moore was quoted by the Sentinel-Review as saying, "Every minister is told that this church is closing when he takes over the charge. But this is never true. It is a strong rural congregation, with a strong Young People's group and a strong Sunday School."

Committees in charge of this memorable service were —

Presbytery; Rev. J. Wells Robinson, Mr. Lloyd Thompson, Mrs. Geo. Wallace and Mrs. Harold Mannell, and for West Oxford — Rev. Harley Moore, Mrs. Harold Haycock, Mr. Russell Currie and Mr. Max Franklin. There was a gratifying attendance of 250, and the ladies of the U.C.W. sponsored a social hour following the service.

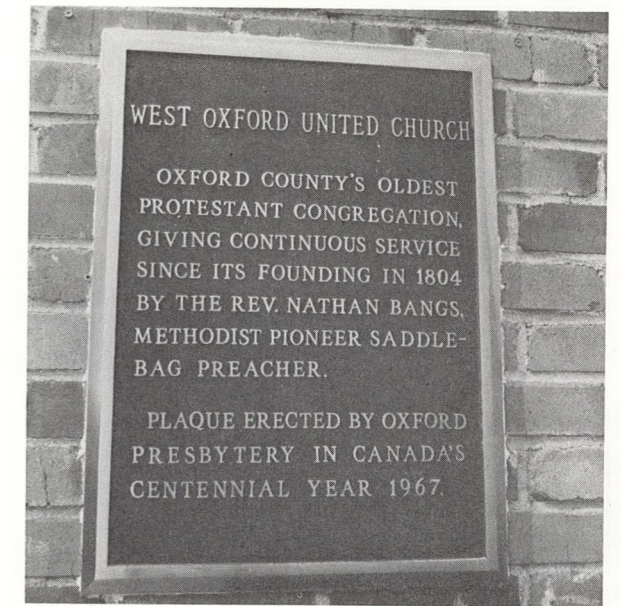


Clarence Scott and Rev. R.B. Cumming unveiling Centennial Plaque presented by the Oxford Presbytery in 1967.



Two cousins — Rev. Lavern Brassard of Vancouver, Washington and J. Russell Currie, elder in the West Oxford Church, look at the Centennial Plaque. Their common ancestor was John Galloway, the first U.E.L. settler to sow grain in this area.

During the year 1968, the community was saddened by the death of Clarence Scott, our oldest member and one who had contributed in many ways to the life of the church. For the year 1969, the following held office in the church — Session: Murray Budd (Clerk), Russell Currie, Harold Haycock, Merle Harvey and Harry Ruckle. The Stewards were Robert Caffyn, Robert Cowell, Bruce Hutcheson, Walter Hoffman, Murray Masson, Max Franklin and Jim Currie from the Y.P.U. Trustees appointed were Harold Haycock, Russell Currie, Earl Baskette and Jack Barker. The Christian Education Committee were



Mrs. Wm. Lazenby and Merle Harvey. Organists at this time were Mrs. M. Batten, Mrs. Robert Cowell and Mrs. Douglas Nash.

In 1970, the West Oxford Church was made the recipient of a fairly large bequest from the estate of Mr. Joseph Blancher. This unexpected windfall not only helped the church with its financial problems, but no doubt prompted the calling of a special congregational meeting in June to discuss the purchase of a new organ. The Minshall Organ had given us good service, but now seemed to require frequent repairs and parts were very difficult to acquire. The committee appointed were Mr. Bruce Hutcheson, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cowell, Mrs. Douglas Nash and Miss Helen Budd. As a result our beautiful new Conn Organ was purchased for \$2400. Mr. Fred Heeney was elected as an Elder during this year.

The winter of 1971 proved especially rigorous for the West Oxford Congregation. Not only were weather conditions extremely severe, making it impossible to hold services on several Sundays, but vandalism and thievery became a much greater problem. The large coffee percolator belonging to the Y.P.U. disappeared first. This was later recovered on the slopes west of the church, and has been safely housed in a church member's home ever since. Later in the winter it was discovered that most of the U.C.W. dishes and cutlery had disappeared, and none of these have ever been recovered. Nothing daunted, the Women now use rented halls in nearby Ingersoll or Folden's Corners to cater to banquets, wedding receptions and their annual Town and Country Luncheon.

During the year, it was necessary to elect two new elders, due to the death of one and the resignation of another. This resulted in the appointment of Mrs. Harold Haycock and Mrs. Russell Currie — West Oxford keeping in stride with the times by allowing women to hold important offices in the church.

At the 1972 Annual Meeting, held at the home of Mrs. Russell Currie with Rev. David Nimmo officiating, Earl Baskette resigned as Secretary-Treasurer, but the responsibility scarcely changed hands, for his conscientious wife, Dorothy, was promptly appointed to fill the vacancy.

But by the late 1960's and early 1970's, the West Oxford Church was experiencing a sort of "recession", as were most churches, both urban and rural. This was due, no doubt, to a

combination of many factors resulting from our "modern age". Smaller attendances were evident at the Church and Sunday School services. West Oxford was no longer a rural community, for few of its present active members were farmers, but found their employment at the quarries, the factories and business places in neighbouring urban centres. However, we find a faithful and dedicated group had continued to carry on in the old tradition and the old West Oxford Church, though gasping, was far from breathing its last.

Into these circumstances our present minister, Rev. Lawrence Squires and his wife Marion arrived. We found him to be an energetic man with a variety of talents and considerable determination. He felt that the West Oxford Church must not only be preserved and kept alive but also improved. Toward this end a number of important changes have been accomplished.

#### A NEW LOOK

At the 1973 Annual Meeting, held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Max Franklin, it was decided to install a new oil furnace at a cost of \$1440. During this year the new red Hymn Books were purchased, chiefly through donations from the Y.P.U. and the U.C.W., and individual members of the congregation. The U.C.W., with financial aid from the Board of Stewards, undertook to replace the pew cushions, which had been in use since the late 1880's, and had been reupholstered only once, in 1919. This project proved complicated and costly, entailing many meetings, many expeditions for selection at the best possible price and much time consumed. The material chosen, brightly figured with gold and red predominating on a black background, was purchased in Woodstock with Mr. M. Westlake of Woodstock doing the upholstering.

Also during the summer of that year, the Y.P.U. redecorated the church auditorium in an off-white colour with red trim. As a final touch the U.C.W. replaced the pulpit cloth and the drape around the altar. The interior of the church presented a bright new look. In 1974, Rev. Mr. Squires, with the help of several interested men, placed dark wood panelling behind the pulpit, with a concealed light and a red drape at the centre. Mrs. Fred Heeney added decorative motives above this in keeping with the season. Of late, church attendance has increased considerably, and once again the clouds are showing a silver lining — indeed we think the sun shines brightly on the future.

1975 is a special year in the annals of United Church history, for this marks the 50th Anniversary of Church Union. We hope this book, recording a little of the history of this pioneer church, the Mother Church of Methodism in Oxford County, will provide a suitable memorial for that great occasion.

"Give thanks to those who in past ages built this place to His glory and for those who, dying that we might live, have preserved for us our heritage."

#### RIGHT UP TO DATE

The year 1975 marks the 50th Anniversary of Church Union, it being observed and celebrated in many ways throughout the whole of Canada. The West Oxford U.C.W. ordered and sold a number of the special silver coffee spoons which featured the United Church crest.

A special church service was held on Sunday, June 8, in Sweaburg, in which all three churches of the Beachville Charge joined and participated. This was originally scheduled to take place in the park, but due to inclement weather it was held in

the church. With Lynda Heeney, from West Oxford, at the organ, appropriate hymns were sung by the congregation. A musical group from Sweaburg, led by Bruce Jakeman and Gary Moore, contributed several numbers and the Beachville Choirs also added their voices to the service of worship.

Scripture lessons were read by Andrew Hastie and Ross Hargreaves, Clerks of Session from Beachville and Sweaburg respectively. The West Oxford Sunday School, under the direction of Mrs. Fred Heeney and Mrs. Merle Harvey, enacted the founding of the West Oxford Church by Rev. Nathan Bangs — and some of the early history — this complete with costumes and horse (?). Certificates were presented to those who had continued membership in the pastorate from 1925. Mrs. Jenny Cuthbert was the only member from West Oxford to receive one.

Rev. Harold Wright, retired minister from Woodstock, reminisced on "the good old days" and our minister, Rev. Lawrence Squires, spoke briefly on the subject, "Saints Alive." Following the service a bountiful buffet dinner (pot luck) was served in the shed and basement of the church. Committees in charge were — Arrangements: Bruce Shipp (B), Fred Heeney (W. O.), and Ken Karn (S); Lunch — Minnie Haycock (W. O.), Sue McCutchen (S), and Donna Sandham (B). The cover of the service leaflet, designed by our minister featured pictures of the three churches and showed both the interior and exterior of the West Oxford Church plus the 50th Anniversary symbol — printed free of charge by our printer, Jon Bowman.

#### IMPROVEMENTS

The men of the church, and some of the women came along too, held several 'bees' to paint the trim on the church, quite an extensive job. One thing leads to another and the U.C.W. decided to paint the floor of the church auditorium. When this was done, the old carpeting presented an even shabbier appearance and so, at the September meeting of the U.C.W., it was decided to install a new red carpet, to be done (hopefully) in time for the Anniversary on September 21.



Newly decorated interior

As one travels the beautiful scenic route on No. 2 Highway along the St. Lawrence River, a picturesque little blue church can be seen near Prescott, Ont. This is surrounded by a pioneer cemetery, at the front of which is an imposing monument to the memory of Barbara Heck — a lady who worked with great endeavour and perseverance to establish Methodism in Upper Canada. Recently our interest was further aroused when we learned that her maiden name was Ruckle and that she was a relative of the Ruckle family which attended and worked so faithfully in the West Oxford Church for many years.

Mrs. W.W. Budd (nee Gladys Uren) was a member of another family whose name appears often in the oldest records of the church. "Aunt" Gladys regularly attended Sunday School, Church and the Epworth League until her marriage to Wilbur (Pete) Budd. All of her life she held the West Oxford Church in high esteem, perhaps considering it her "home" church. In her will she bequeathed the sum of \$500 to the West Oxford Church — to be used for some particular project. We are grateful for both the money and the love that prompted its bestowal.



#### ELDERS OF THE CHURCH

Left to right: Mrs. Dorothy Currie, Harold Haycock, Fred Heeney (Clerk of Session), Merle Harvey, Mrs. Minnie Haycock

#### OFFICERS OF THE WEST OXFORD UNITED CHURCH

1975



#### TRUSTEES

Left to right: Jack Barker, Earl Baskette, Harold Haycock



#### BOARD OF STEWARDS

Left to right: Wm. Lazenby, Max Franklin, Mrs. Mary Franklin, (Secretary), James Currie, Bruce Hutcheson (Chairman) Earl Baskette, Mrs. Dorothy Baskette (Treasurer), Ronald Cartmale, Robert Cowell, Walter Hoffman (absent).

## THE WEST OXFORD SUNDAY SCHOOL

Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." And He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them and blessed them. St. Mark 10: 14, 16.

It seems most natural that the first "offspring" of the pioneer church would be a Sunday School, organized before 1827 with Willard Scott as Superintendent. It is known also that Daniel Harris Jr. served as superintendent for 25 years, followed by John Nichols who also served in this position for 25 years. Mr. Jenvey quotes a Miss Hall, a teacher at Centreville School and who boarded at the Galloway home (where Wm. Lazenby now lives) as saying that on a clear summer day when doors and windows would be open she could hear Mr. Harris praying. An old-time Sunday School teacher was Miss Sarah Reynolds, of the pioneer Reynolds family, who taught for many years, and Mr. Frank Brink recalls that Mrs. Euclid Nichols taught his class for several years before moving to Western Canada.

Since the turn of the century the following have served as superintendent — James Millington, George Uren, George Ruckle, Albert Batten, Victor Reid, Harry Ruckle, Russell Currie, Frank Caffyn, Murray Budd, Cecil Batten, Fred Heeney and Merle Harvey. Some of these men have served several times in this capacity.

As I have researched the records of the various organizations there has appeared a phenomenon which is perhaps peculiar to the West Oxford Church. For one sees that in the Sunday School, Ladies' Aid and Young People's organizations a number of community residents who were members of other churches have given their time and talents to work in the West Oxford Church. Their efforts contributed in many ways to the community's social and spiritual growth, and was perhaps an early example of ecumenism.

Of these, one must mention Mr. James Cuthbert and Miss Sarah Cuthbert who lived in the "big house on the corner", and who attended and taught in the Sunday School for many years. James Cuthbert taught the Adult Bible Class for many years and Miss Cuthbert was in charge of a Boys' Class. Mr. Cuthbert was also president of the Men's Bible Class which was called "The Beavers", their motto being "Aim High". This class met as a midweek group in the homes of the members. Mr. Cuthbert retired from teaching in the West Oxford Sunday School in 1923, and no doubt Miss Cuthbert also gave up her class about the same time. But their influence for good has been felt and remembered in the community for many years.

The Currie family, also Presbyterian, and who lived in the "big house on the hill" on No. 2 highway, faithfully attended the West Oxford Sunday School. This family, whose mother was Nettie Galloway, often walked the distance to attend. Though all the family participated in various ways, it should be noted that Miss Edna Currie taught a class from 1919 until 1945 (sometimes as assistant) and served in other capacities as well.

Mr. James Millington is remembered with pride and reverence. His influence was felt in Piper's Corners' School where he taught, and in the Sunday School where he served as Superintendent, Blackboard Superintendent and class teacher. Other family names prominent in the Sunday School in the early 1900's were Uren, Ruckle, Heeney, Dodge, Batten, Brink, Scott Lazenby, Odell, Williamson, Monroe and Huntley. The attendance at this time averaged about 45 and collections ranged from 40¢ to 80¢.



Miss Edna Currie, a teacher for many years in the West Oxford Sunday School and a long time member of the Ladies' Aid.

## MISSIONS AND RELIEF

The Sunday School was concerned with Missions and Relief, and up to the 1920's, donations were sent to the following — Famine in China (1907), Belgian Relief (1916), Dominion Alliance, Armenian Relief and Syrian Relief (1918), China Inland Mission (1919), Russian Relief (1922) and the Japanese Fund (1924). The Sunday School has always donated well to Missions — for many years setting aside the collections once a month, but in latter years there have been two collections each Sunday, one for Sunday School expenses and one for Missions. A Birthday Box has also helped to swell the fund. Record Mission Givings seems to have been in 1963, when the sum of \$214.27 was donated.

One year, about 1911, two sides were chosen in the Sunday School for benevolent purposes, with Gladys Uren as Captain of the Reds and Clarence Scott as Captain of the winning Blues. Donations were made to the Muskoko Consumptive Hospital at Gravenhurst, the Sick Children's home in Toronto, Foreign Missions and the Deacons' Home in Toronto.

Until 1928, the Sunday School Annual Meetings were held around the end of April. Though the officers, superintendent, secretary etc. were elected, the records frequently state that the Superintendent chose his teachers. For many years Sunday School and Church Services were held in the afternoon, then for a few years, West Oxford and Sweaburg alternated for morning and afternoon services. Of late years all services have been held in the morning, with Sweaburg and West Oxford alternating for 11:00 and 12:00 o'clock services. This is truly a marathon of preaching for the minister and varies the hour of Sunday School from year to year for each of these churches.

While services have occasionally had to be called off because of blocked roads — usually once or twice during the winter, it was noted that in 1920 there was no service on Feb. 15, 22, 29 or March 7. In 1918 the terrible influenza epidemic caused Sunday School to be cancelled on October 13, 20 and 27th. In 1921 Sunday School was cancelled on July 10 because of a severe storm. Cancellations still occur at times, but with modern snow-moving machinery this happens very seldom.

Temperance instruction, with the assistance of the Public School teachers, was given for many years and some Sunday School students achieved outstanding success in the competitions. In 1943 fourteen pupils wrote the tests, with four receiving 100 marks — Edith Ruckle, Madeline Currie, Verna Atkinson and Helen Heeney. By 1946 thirty-five boys and girls wrote the tests. In 1947 Phyllis Harvey received a Provincial prize and in 1953 Dorothy Caffyn won a silver cup in a Temperance oratorical contest.

Missionary and Temperance Superintendents were appointed to give instruction in these areas of concern. To encourage Mission givings a Missionary Banner had been made by Alec Weir — for the class which that month showed the greatest increase in its donations. Mr. Weir, who was married to the former Pearl Wilson, also made a fine lectern for the use of the Superintendent. For a number of years Mr. and Mrs. Weir journeyed from Thamesford to attend the West Oxford Sunday School.

In 1961, at a Sunday School meeting, it was decided to "adopt a child" through the Canadian Save a Child Fund, in place of the usual White Gift Service. This engendered a great deal of interest and has met with a very generous response through the years. The Sunday School still sponsors a child, though the White Gift Sunday is now observed as well. The U.C.W. and the Y.P.U. have also contributed to this project. Two of our "adopted" children have lived in Hong Kong, but the present child is named T. Cocuk Esirgene Kurmu and lives in Istanbul, Turkey.

## ANNUAL PICNIC

A highlight of the Sunday School year was the annual summer picnic, held in various parks in nearby urban centres. Early picnics were sometimes held at Fairmount or Riverside parks — located either side of No. 2 Highway, but which have since disappeared. For many years West Oxford joined with Folden's Sunday School for this picnic, and a wonderful time of fellowship and friendly rivalry was experienced in an excellent programme of races, sports and games, not to mention the very bountiful lunch which was served at noon. When West Oxford became part of the Beachville circuit we continued the picnic on our own, visiting such parks as Southside (Woodstock) Lakeside, Otterville or Tillsonburg. When attendance dropped off the picnic was replaced by a Community Night, held in late summer and featuring a weiner and hamburger roast, and games and a singsong.

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Another Sunday School event which was eagerly anticipated each year was the Christmas Concert. For many years these were cooperatively presented by the teachers of the Centreville and Piper's Corners' schools, with the Young People's Bible Class and sometimes the Adult Bible Class contributing numbers. Mrs. Elmer Heeney frequently trained the young people to perform a fancy drill. The writer's first experience with this concert was a presentation of Dicken's "Christmas Carol", quite a pretentious production. When Piper's Corners' school was closed, the Centerville school continued to contribute numbers for the concert, but finally in more recent years, the concert has been replaced by other forms of Christmas celebration — a Pot Luck Supper, a Candlelight Service, Family Night etc., with the children contributing in various ways. Of course, Santa Clause always concluded this gala evening with his dramatic appearance.

## SPECIAL SUNDAY SCHOOL SERVICES

Special services during the year, Mother's Day (now Family Day), Children's Day, Father's Day, Rally and White Gift Sunday contributed and added to the spiritual growth and interest in the Sunday School. The writer is thinking especially of one Children's Day Service when the front of the church presented the appearance of a lovely garden, including singing birds, small evergreens and banks of flowers — Mrs. Harry Ruckle being responsible for these preparations, with Mrs. Albert Batten in charge of training the children. Numerous other such lovely services highlight my memories of the many years I have attended the West Oxford Sunday School. These Special Services were often combined with the Church service — giving the minister an opportunity to share in them as well. Such services entailed considerable extra effort on the part of teachers and students alike, but were always well-received and well-attended.

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL — A GOING CONCERN

Following the Second World War, the Sunday School attendance grew by leaps and bounds. By 1950, it was necessary to divide the Primary Class and Tom Gravill had made two tables and two benches for the Beginners' Class. In 1955 the Beginners' Class was divided and one more table and three more benches were added for their use. In 1958 Mrs. Alec Weir was named Superintendent of the Nursery Dept. with teachers Mrs. James Heeney, Mrs. Wm. Lazenby, Mrs. Merle Harvey and assistants Carol Riddle, Grace Cowell, Mrs. Red Furtney and Mrs. Fred Heeney. Other classes in the Sunday School increased proportionately. To encourage regular attendance, diplomas and seals were awarded those students who were present the required number of Sundays. Some, beginning at the age of two or three had no difficulty achieving 18 or 20 years of record attendance.

With the larger classes, there was quite naturally much more noise and even problems of discipline. Several times the notes record that at Teachers' meetings there was discussion as to how to control these problems. One measure used was for the pianist to play "soft" music while the classes marched to and from their class periods. Again, in 1951, it was decided that the teacher precede her class. At a meeting on June 9, 1952, further discussion resulted in the motion that the Young People's Bible Class should attempt to stop the tiny children from running up and down stairs during Sunday School (they had a habit of "escaping" from their quarters in the kitchen).

It would be impossible to list the names of all those who have given long years of devoted services to the Sunday School, many people have occupied various positions from their early youth until retirement age. Mr. Bev. Blancher became Sunday School Treasurer in 1936, and with his wife's help, retained this position for 24 years. But Mrs. Mildred Batten must surely break all records for length of service, for her name first appears in 1912 as assistant-secretary (Mildred Heeney) and lastly in 1964 as assistant teacher of the Satellite Boys' Class, occupying many varied positions in the Sunday School, Church and Ladies' Aid during those fifty odd years.

In 1930 Rev. Selby Jefferson approached Mrs. Albert Budd to accept the responsibility of teaching the Adult Bible Class. When she began, there was an attendance of seven or eight, but in the peak years as many as 35 would be present. This was no doubt a contributing factor to the large attendance of children in the other classes. Mrs. Budd was very faithful in her Church and Sunday School attendance, and during her latter years it was a source of keen disappointment when ill-health prevented her from being present at the Sabbath Service. In 1964, after



SARA CUTHBERT'S BOYS CLASS

Front: Sam Titus, Stanley Lazenby, Clarence Archer, Royal Cook, Harry Ruckle, Harry Scott.

Back: Elmer Heeney, Emmerson Scott, Alex Brink, Albert Batten, George Scott Earl Uren.



Mrs. Albert Budd

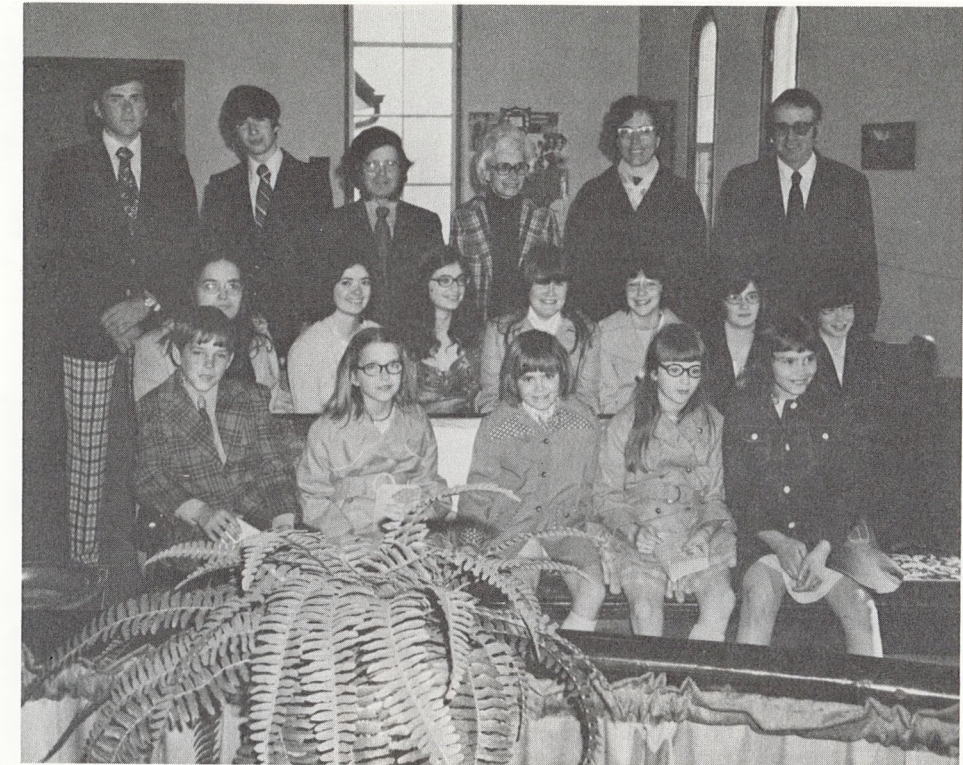


June 1944 – Ella Heeney, Teacher  
Dorothy Caffyn, Bob Caffyn, Marian Currie,  
Carl Haycock and Faber Burnett.

34 years of teaching this same Bible Class, a new Pulpit Bible, in her beloved King James Version, was presented to the Church on her behalf. The fly leaf of the Bible has this inscription, "To the Glory of God and in Tribute to Mrs. Albert E. Budd, for Thirty-four Years of Faithful Teaching Service".

To list all the families who have attended the West Oxford Sunday School would be much too lengthy, nor would it be possible to indicate how much dedicated service has been given during the long years of its history.

But, West Oxford, though seemingly a rural community, must surely be proud of its numbers of well-educated citizens, who are graduates of various High Schools, Universities and Colleges, with careers in the business world – as teachers, nurses and in the agricultural field. Few communities can boast of so many of its young people who have become responsible and interested citizens, whether in West Oxford itself or in new and different environments.



SUNDAY SCHOOL – 1975

Front Row: Eddie Harvey, Louise Harvey, Michelle Cartmale, Phyllis Heeney, Monica Cartmale.

Second Row: Susan Harvey, Mary Heeney, Lynda Heeney, Jeanne Cowell, Mary Caffyn, Kathleen Heeney, George Baskette.

Third Row: Alan Harvey, Richard Harvey, Fred Heeney, Elizabeth Heeney, Grace Harvey, Merle Harvey.



BEGINNER'S CLASS 1975 (meets during Church)

Front: Connie Easton, Brenda Budd, Ian Mason,

Back: Mrs. Howard Budd, Brenda Masson, Philip Haycock, Monica Easton, Steve Easton.

## THE WEST OXFORD UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Though the Silver Book states "that this organization had not changed its name, "Ladies' Aid," since its inception in 1902, it has twice received new designations since that time — the "Women's Association" for a few years, and in 1962 we became a part of the "United Church Women of Canada", one small unit in a large and powerful organization.

Though in early times the women were not organized as a group, I feel quite confident that they nevertheless were quite influential and very active in the life of the West Oxford Chapel. How else could the men of the church have managed all those teas, bazaars, lawn socials, harvest homes etc. — before the turn of the century?

## THE LADIES' AID

Mrs. Edmund Dodge was elected first president in 1902, succeeded after several years by Mrs. Wm. Batten, who remained in this position for fourteen years. Mrs. Herbert Odell was one of the first secretaries and Mrs. Ashton Williamson was the first treasurer. When Mrs. Williamson died in 1909, Mrs. Frank Scott occupied this position for the following eighteen years.

From the year 1902 to the present the following ladies have served as President of the Women's group: Mrs. E. Dodge, Mrs. Wm. Batten, Mrs. Harry Odell, Mrs. E.J. Heeney, Mrs. G. Swadling, Mrs. C. Scott, Mrs. G. German, Mrs. R. Currie (Margaret), Mrs. N. Shuttleworth, Mrs. Wm. Anderson, Mrs. A. Batten, Mrs. H. Ruckle, Mrs. L. Caffyn, Miss E. Currie, Mrs. H. Haycock, Mrs. H. Brearley, Mrs. E.J. Heeney (Lily), Mrs. H. Gordon, Mrs. E. Baskette and Mrs. R. Cowell.

Secretaries: Mrs. Herb Odell, Mrs. Wm. Haskett, Mrs. Geo. Franklin, Mrs. A. Batten, Mrs. L. Caffyn, Mrs. F. Pettman, Mrs. A. Munroe, Mrs. R. Currie (Dorothy), Mrs. C. McIntyre.  
Treasurers: Mrs. Ashton Williamson, Mrs. Frank Scott, Miss Edna Currie, Mrs. Clarence Cuthbert, Mrs. T. Gravill, Mrs. C. Riddle, Mrs. J. Barker.

## SUCH BUSY WOMEN

Usually, the Ladies' Aid meetings were held in the homes, with an occasional one at the church. In 1956 the day of meeting was changed from the third Wednesday of the month to the first. The records reveal that many seasonal socials, teas, bazaars, chicken pie suppers (later called Fowl Suppers, then graduating to Turkey Suppers) were sponsored. These were not just money-making ventures, but provided much wholesome entertainment and enjoyment for the community. During the meetings the women's hands never seemed to have been idle, for the minutes record, "the work of the day was quilting" or "the work of the afternoon was the piecing of quilt blocks." Husbands seemed to believe that tongues were never idle either — for I was astonished when I first attended meetings to be always greeted on arriving home with "What's the gossip?" However I was soon to learn that the farmers' threshing bees and auction sales yielded much more "gossip" than my Ladies' Aid meetings ever did.

However this following note seems a little humorous. For many years the minutes ended thus, "the hostess served a dainty lunch". Yet at least three times through the years I read where the "lunch was to be limited" and one record states that this "limited" lunch consist of not more than one kind of sandwich, with cake and tea or coffee. Pot luck dinners were held occasionally and several quilts would be completed on those days. Of late years, pot luck dinners have been popular during the winter months and a quilting is usually a feature of the day also.



Mrs. Edmund Dodge, the first president of the Ladies' Aid — 1921



Mrs. Wm. Batten, President of the Ladies' Aid for 14 years.

Some years ago three committees would be appointed to visit the Highway, the Old Stage Road, and the Second Concession. Sometimes, the West Oxford Ladies' Aid was invited to visit other groups e.g. Salford, Folden's and St. Paul's Presbyterian, Ingersoll. Usually West Oxford would be asked to provide the programme. In turn, the West Oxford Ladies would invite other groups to attend their meetings and occasionally a joint picnic would be held. In 1933 a Ladies' Aid Reunion was held at the home of Mrs. E. Sage of Folden's and that same year the Folden's and Salford Ladies' Aids were entertained at the home of Mrs. Nichols. In 1934 a large Community Picnic and Lawn Social was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Heeney on July 5, which featured afternoon and evening soft ball games, a programme of local talent, a Mystery booth, a fortune-telling booth and a refreshment booth which sold pie, cake, and fancy ice-cream dishes. Sports Committee for this picnic were Harry Ruckle, Russell Currie, Cecil Riddle and Frank Morris. The evening ball game was a contest between Salford and Folden's, thus drawing interested spectators from those communities as well.

It has been extremely interesting to note the great variety of socials held through the years — Leap Year social (an oyster supper at the home of Wm. Batten), a Box Social at Miss Enda Currie's, a Hallowe'en Masquerade at Mrs. A. Batten's, Valentine and Hardtime Socials, etc. During the summer Lawn Socials and Garden Parties were also popular.

## MAKING MONEY

Of later years money-making methods have changed some-



LADIES' AID — 1921

- Front Row: Irene Batten, Viola Franklin, Ruth Currie, Mildred Fitzgerald, Mattie Heeney, Hazel Batten.  
Middle Row: Mrs. F. Heeney, Mrs. Harry Odell, Mrs. Wm. Batten, Mrs. Frank Scott, Edna Currie, Mrs. Ed. Dodge.  
Standing: Mrs. Franklin (Jack), Mrs. Flydell, Mrs. Millington, Mrs. Fred Heeney, Mrs. Clarence Cuthbert, Mrs. Andrew Tunks, Mrs. Art Huntley, Mrs. Herb Odell, Mrs. Wm. Haskett (Jack) and Mrs. George Ruckle.

what. After the basement was installed it was possible to hold suppers in the church, even though there was no water there, and besides the Annual Turkey Supper and Bazaar (which featured a noon dinner) the ladies also catered to Banquets, Wedding Receptions, Teas etc. In 1951 the ladies ran a refreshment booth at the International Plowing Match at the John Hargreaves' farm. Bake sales have often been held in a store in Ingersoll and of late years the West Oxford U.C.W. has sponsored bake booths at the West Oxford Women's Institute Annual Maple Syrup Festival and at Ingersoll's Cheese and Wine Annual Market. In 1963 a rather different venture was discussed — the publishing of a Cookbook. For many months recipes of all kinds were brought to the meetings. The Committee comprised of the Citizenship and Social Action Group with Mrs. Robert Cowell as Convener solicited advertising from many different business establishments to pay for the printing. In 1975 the book was put on sale and was so well received that all 500 copies were sold. Some years, church calendars are sold and this year (1975) the ladies have ordered silver coffee spoons which commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Church Union.

## SPENDING THE MONEY

And what of all this money earned through all these years? One might almost say it has been the "lifeblood" of the church, for whenever the Stewards have planned for improvements on the church or have somehow been financially "embarrassed"

the Ladies Aid has always been ready to give assistance. It has also assumed much of the financial responsibility for the upkeep of the Parsonage and has contributed its allocation to the Presbyterian United Church Women. Let us look at some of the church women's accomplishments: the caretaking of the church for several years, (this includes "bees" to clean the church and hiring someone to do it), painting the church for \$95.00 in 1929, painting the fence and other exterior improvements in 1930, purchasing a piano for the church auditorium in 1932, and fixing the eavestroughs in 1934. Each year donations were made toward the minister's salary and several charitable organizations. The Aid assisted to the extent of over \$1250.00 toward financing the Sunday School Hall in 1940 and the Kitchen in 1952. A considerable amount was spent furnishing the basement with tables, chairs and curtains, and providing stoves, refrigerator, dishes and cutlery for the kitchen. This was done over a period of several years.

Further financial aid was given the Board of Stewards when the new porch was built at the front of the church. More recently has been the furnishing of new pew cushions (with financial assistance from the Stewards), new altar drape and pulpit cloth and panelling at the front of the church. Music was purchased for the choir and decorations have been supplied for special occasions in the Church.

However the U.C.W. (Ladies' Aid) has not confined all its activities within the borders of the Church property, but has performed many community and world outreach services as well. Families which have suffered disasters have been com-



WEST OXFORD UNITED CHURCH WOMEN – 1975

- Kneeling: Mrs. Carl McIntyre, Mrs. Max Franklin.  
 Seated: Mrs. Fred Heeney, Mrs. Jack Barker, Mrs. Russell Currie, Mrs. Lawrence Squires.  
 Standing: Miss Edna Currie, Mrs. Robert Cowell, Mrs. Hilda Barker, Mrs. Archie Munroe, Mrs. Harold Haycock, Mrs. Hugh Gordon, Mrs. Earl Baskette.  
 A number of members were absent.

forted by physical and spiritual assistance – church camps have been subsidized – boxes for soldiers were packed and forwarded regularly during war years, bales of clothing, including layettes, have been sent to Korea, the Saugeen Indians, the Fred Victor Mission in Toronto, Overseas Missions, a mission in Alberta and the Children's Aid Society in Woodstock. Donations have been made to various Memorial Funds. For a number of years the U.C.W. sponsored a Vacation Bible School, held at the church, when not only financial assistance was given, but leadership was provided as well. At special Anniversaries the ladies have provided a light lunch following services, thus providing the opportunity for old friends to renew acquaintances in a leisurely fashion. Since Centennial Year, when the plaque was presented by Oxford Presbytery, this has become an annual occurrence. Flowers and cards are sent to the sick and bereaved and elderly, and special wedding anniversaries are remembered with flowers or a gift and cards.

#### SPIRITUAL COMMITMENT

But the Women have not neglected the spiritual aspect of their commitment, for the records show that the ladies have been in charge of church services a number of times through the years. In 1957 when Mrs. Lily Heeney was president, a lovely Easter pageant was prepared and presented at both Swea-

burg and West Oxford. At each meeting a devotional programme is presented with an occasional guest speaker. The women are divided into three groups with these areas of concern: Stewardship and Recruiting, Citizenship and Social Action, and Missionary and World Outreach. The leaders this year are: Mrs. J. Barker, Mrs. H. Haycock and Mrs. R. Currie. When we are without a president these group leaders also conduct the business, each for three months. Admittedly it is better to have a president, but our U.C.W. seems to function quite well in this manner.

Special speakers add much interest to the programmes and these have included representatives from the Children's Aid Society, the Oxford Regional Health Centre, the Mentally Retarded Assn. etc., and travellogues have been much enjoyed. A recent innovation has been the annual bus trip to places of interest in Southwestern Ontario. This has proved very popular and places visited often tie in with areas of concern in the U.C.W. programme e.g. Fred Victor Mission in Toronto, Saugeen Indian Reserve, Mennonite country, (near Elmira).

#### TIMES HAVE CHANGED

Because the variance in prices charged by the Ladies is very interesting, I would like to take a little space to contrast some of them here. In the 1920's and 1930's quilts were sold for

\$7.00 (5 for \$22.50), \$8.00 in the 1950's but the price has now risen to \$20.00 and \$25.00. For the work of quilting \$1.00 was charged in early days, rising to \$3.50 in the 50's and from \$15.00 to \$25.00 in the 70's. Supper tickets cost 35¢ and 20¢ in 1939, by 1954 the price was 75¢ and \$1.50 – now it is \$2.50 for the Luncheon. Wedding's in the 50's cost \$1.25 and the present price is \$2.75 per plate. For banquets \$4.00 and \$4.50 are charged, depending upon the menu desired. Careful planning and efficient work methods by our capable women, combined with excellent cooking, as well as cooperation from a few other interested ladies, make it possible to do this catering work which would faze many other, larger groups.

To quote the Silver Book, "The Ladies' Aid (now the United Church Women) has been and still is an industrious organization of ladies indispensable to the Church."

#### THE WEST OXFORD YOUNG PEOPLES' UNION

Though Mr. Byron Jenvey recalls an active Epworth League in the years 1905 – 08, when he was president, Mr. Frank Brink remembers attending meetings for a number of years prior to that time and feels that very likely there was a Young Peoples' organization before the turn of the century. Mr. Brink remembers that there were many more girls than boys (an interesting situation), and recalls attending meetings at the homes of Fred Heeney Sr., George Uren, Edwin Dodge and Sandy McIntyre.

Mr. Jenvey vividly remembers the lively Bible Spelling matches which were taken from the different chapters of the Bible each week. This Epworth League continued until about

1920, after which the Sunday School classes of Miss Edna Currie and Mrs. Clarence Cuthbert joined together for socials and other activities.

In 1932, the young people became an organized group again known as the Young Peoples' Union (Y.P.U.), and Leonard Caffyn was elected first president. This large and active group experienced a great time of fun and fellowship together. Indeed, West Oxford Y.P.U. was regarded as one of the strongest unions in Oxford Presbytery. Several members of the group served as officers on the Presbytery Executive in the late 1930's and early 1940's – James and Ella Heeney, and Murray and Dorothy Budd – the latter being president of the Presbytery Y.P.U. for several years. Later, during the ministry of Rev. Bruce Sutor, Carol Riddle was elected Secretary of the Oxford Presbytery Y.P.U., a position she retained for three years. Rev. Sutor was himself a counsellor for this organization at the time and Robert Minler acted as Sports Director during this period.

Executive members of the Presbytery Y.P.U. were often responsible for conducting the Sunday Services at various churches throughout the county – I myself recall giving the address at an Easter morning Sunrise service at Harrington, as well as assisting at many other services. Carol Riddle remembers presenting the Children's story, and Donald Cornish, President of the Presbytery Y.P.U. at the time, was responsible for the sermon at many services during one summer.

The West Oxford Y.P.U. participated in and enjoyed the Presbytery activities and I am sure a number of "middle-aged" West Oxford residents recall with nostalgia the Labour Day Weekend Camps at Thayendenege (Five Oaks), the Play Parties



THE EPWORTH LEAGUE – March 18, 1909

- Front Row: Tessie McIntyre, Florence Dodge, Gertrude Nichols, Nora Uren.  
 Second Row: Ernest Scott, Ralph Folden, John Nichols, Frank Elliott, Byron Todd.  
 Third Row: Clarence Cuthbert, Billy Spence, Clarence Scott, Bernard Pastt, Charles Parsons, Albert Budd, Ben McIntyre.



YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHAMPION BALL TEAM – 1957 - 58 - 59

Front: Carl Haycock, Carol Riddle (Cowell), Robert Caffyn, Joan Cowell (Caffyn), Donald Riddle, Jack Franklin (seated at front).  
Rear: Douglas Franklin, Clark Riddle, Robert Cowell, Grace Cowell (Lemon), Mary Franklin, Allan Cowell, Max Franklin, Gary Haycock.

at College Ave. United Church, Woodstock, the Rallies at various points throughout the county, and the Winter School where courses in Bible Study, etc. were given.

There was a very friendly atmosphere among the Unions, and it was quite common for them to visit back and forth, enjoying social interchange and widening their horizons. (And how else could you account for many of the marriages which followed these exchanges?) During the summer many competitive baseball games were enjoyed with other Unions – indeed, West Oxford won the plaque so often that the latest one hangs on the back wall of the church auditorium, with a first one also being retained. Usually during the summer, the Young People challenged the Adults of the community to a ball game. This created much fun and excitement and sometimes the evening ended with a weiner and hamburger roast when as many as sixty people would participate.

For a time, the Presbytery was divided into North and South Areas, and the Young Peoples' Unions joined together for monthly Fireside meetings with excellent programmes and special speakers.

Some of the Y.P.U. activities are described in the Silver Book so well that they deserve repeating here. The young people took pride in presenting their weekly programmes, and at the last meeting of each month a Young Peoples' Journal, prepared by various members, was given. In 1941, with Murray Budd as President, the Young People held a very successful Box Social with the proceeds going to Lester Burry, the Young Peoples' Missionary on the Labrador Coast, for condensed milk for the children there.

On March 20, 1941, the Y.P.U. held their first banquet with Rev. R.H. Parr of Ingersoll as the speaker. Rev. A.E. Kewley of Central United Church, Woodstock, spoke at the second banquet held on March 17, 1942. The proceeds of this banquet were used to purchase a new piano for the basement of the church. Also, in that year, a very successful garden party was held on the lawn of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Whatley.

From time to time, special Church Services have been held, with socials and parties of various types and annual weiner roasts highlighting the year's activities. Another popular event was the annual summer picnic, held for many years at the Sand Hills and later at other summer resorts. During the War, letters were sent to the community boys who were serving overseas. In 1943, with Mildred Morris as President, a Missionary bale was sent overseas and later another bale was sent to Korea.

When Fred Heenev was President in 1951, the Y.P.U. undertook to paint the basement of the Church. After this was finished, the Union presented a very successful Variety Night to raise money. In 1953, while Edith Ruckle was President, the Young People recovered the pulpit top and chairs and added new curtains around the choir rail. On March 14th, 1954, the Young People again sponsored a very successful Variety Night. This was for the purpose of raising money to assist in the re-decoration of the Church Auditorium – a pulpit drape was added, the pews were revarnished and the Orders of Service for the 150th Anniversary were printed. Dorothy Currie was President at this time.

For a time there was a very good Young Peoples' Choir which sang once a month and on special occasions. Jean Budd

served as organist and choir leader and later Doreen Currie acted in this capacity.

Around 1960, the Y.P.U. accepted the responsibility of cutting the grass on the church and cemetery grounds, receiving a remuneration for their efforts. For a number of years they did a very creditable job, but when membership declined, this became an impossible task for the few who were interested.

The Y.P.U. continued as a very active group through the ministries of Rev. Bruce Suitor, Rev. Stewart Miner and Rev. Harley Moore. On November 12, 1961, Rev. Suitor was invited back from his new pastorate at Kingsville and the church was filled to overflowing.

In latter years, counsellors were appointed to attend the Y.P.U. meetings as advisers to the group. The first of these were Dorothy and Earl Baskette, followed by Dorothy Masson and Joan and Robert Caffyn, then Jim Currie and Mary and Robert Clifford. During this time the Y.P.U. engaged in a number of interesting activities, e.g. several barn dances were held, and novel fund raising activities included spring cleanups and carwashes, etc. By 1974, attendance had declined to the point where it did not seem feasible to continue to hold meetings. But one last big effort on the part of the Y.P.U. will be remembered by the members of the West Oxford Church for many years. In the summer of 1973, the group painted the interior of the church auditorium, an off-white shade with red trim, presenting a much brighter appearance. For a group so young and so few in number this was indeed a herculean effort.

For many West Oxford people, those years spent in participation in Young Peoples' activities will be recalled with happy memories, as well as providing opportunities for the development of leadership skills in church and community involvement.

#### THE ADULT BIBLE CLASS

The Adult Bible Class has always been a very important part of the West Oxford Sunday School. Indeed the records indicate that at one time there was a Men's Bible Class and a Women's Bible Class. The Silver Book states that in 1910 it became an organized Bible Class under the leadership of Mr. James S. Cuthbert, B.A., and later under Mr. J.W. Millington. During this period regular midweek meetings were held in the homes of the members, and the programmes always included the theme song "Trust and Obey". This class provided instruction for parents who brought small children to Sunday School, and to other interested adults. Many Sunday School teachers received their preparation for teaching during the hours spent in Bible Class, though this was reinforced at the Annual Sunday School Conventions and occasional Teacher-training courses.

During the latter 1920's, there seems to have been some difficulty in obtaining teachers for the Bible Class, but in 1930, Mrs. Albert Budd assumed this responsibility, which she retained until 1964 at least. The Sunday School adopted a policy that each teacher and officer should have an assistant who would relieve the teacher or officer once each month. During the years, assistant Bible Class teachers included: Elmer Heenev, Rev. R.B. Cumming, Mrs. F. Lazenby, Mrs. N. Shuttleworth, Russell Currie, Miss Edna Currie, Mrs. Elmer Heenev, Harry Ruckle, Harold Haycock, Mrs. Russell Currie, Horton Brearley, Frank Caffyn, Fred Pettman, Fred Heenev and Merle Harvey. In latter years when Mrs. Budd was unable to attend one of these assistants took this responsibility. For several years Mrs. Russell Currie taught this class.

During our "good years" membership grew until there were well over thirty quite regular members. By 1950, there was again a desire for midweek activities, and the class was reor-

ganized with Harold Haycock as first president. Besides ten regular meetings during the year, the Bible Class sponsored socials, skating and tobogganing parties, weiner roasts etc. One particularly active year is described in the Church History.

The Class assisted the Sunday School and Church in many ways – e.g. buying Christmas decorations and the Christmas tree, supplying and making equipment for the Sunday School purchasing a slide and film projector which was often used as part of the Sunday School services, as well as at Socials and Christmas Concerts. Occasionally the women of the class catered to a wedding or a banquet.

Excellent programmes were prepared for the meetings, some of them included Bible Study conducted by the minister or senior member of the group. Many interesting speakers were also invited, some of these being – Rev. Edgar Gill, Mr. Frank Littell, Miss Shirley Law, Mr. Byron Jenvey, Mr. Wallace Nesbitt M.P., Rev. Charlie Rhee of Korea, Mr. W.R. Marshall, Dr. C.J. Kennedy, and Mrs. (Rev.) L.C. White, their topics being as varied as the speakers' names suggest. Several very interesting travelogues were also enjoyed.

This Adult Class remained active until 1964, when it once more discontinued the monthly meetings. During the period from 1950 to 1964 the presidents of the Class included almost every man who was a member. There continued to be a Bible Class in the West Oxford Sunday School until the Fall of 1974. This is really quite a remarkable record, since in many Sunday Schools, Adult Bible Classes have been non-existent for many years.

#### A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD

"O Come let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms."

Music, both vocal and instrumental, played a most important part in the pioneer church community. Not only was it a significant, integral part of the Sunday worship service, but it provided a perfect outlet for emotional expression after the week's long days of toil. Any person with a reasonably good voice or ability to play a musical instrument became a welcome member of the choir or orchestra. We cannot ascertain when the first organ was purchased or whether in earlier days some other instrument was used. It is known that in the very early days of the church, men with good musical voices and good "ears" would lead the hymns, and that tuning forks were also used to begin the singing. Sometimes a minister would transport a small portable organ to aid in the service of song.

Many concerts, using both local and imported performers were enjoyed right in the church which would be filled to capacity for these occasions. This was recorded in the church history. An 1867 note states that among the improvements to the church was "preparing seats for the choir" and in 1881 a hymn book was purchased for the church for \$1.80, and in 1886, Mr. Ed. Galloway was paid \$2.00 for cleaning the organ. In 1889 the orchestra was moved to the southwest corner of the church. Did West Oxford have a Sunday School orchestra, as did some neighbouring communities, or was this chiefly for their concerts with paid orchestra? We have in our possession some of the piano music printed a century ago and in admiration we feel that those who played it must have been accomplished musicians indeed.

At first the choir was located at the rear of the church facing the minister as the congregation did, but with the organist facing the choir. Later the choir loft was located in the northwest

corner of the church with the organ directly in front of it. When the basement was installed the choir was moved to its present position on a raised platform behind the pulpit and the altar railing. The Minshall Electric organ replaced the old pump organ and we now enjoy the music of our new Conn organ.

The Silver Book states that the first organist on record was Nettie Galloway (Mrs. James Currie) who was succeeded by Miss Edith Nichols (Mrs. Fred Heenev, Sr.) in 1885. Organists since 1891 have been Mrs. Geo. Ruckle, Mrs. Ed. Dodge, Mrs. Gale German (Gertie Nichols), Mrs. J. Fishback, Mrs. E. Bartram, Mrs. M. German, Mrs. Clarence Cuthbert, Mrs. Wm. Haskett, Mrs. Albert Batten, Mrs. N. Shuttleworth, Miss Reta Ruckle (Mrs. Wm. Budd), Miss Edith Ruckle (Mrs. Sam Somers), Miss Jean Budd (Mrs. Walter Manning), Mrs. Robert Cowell (Madeline Currie), Miss Penny Blanche, Doreen Currie (Mrs. Douglas Nash), Helen Budd, Lynda Heenev and Mrs. Lawrence Squires.

Looking back again we must mention Mrs. Ed. Dodge who played the organ for some years, though this must have been an exercise in courage for she did so with one leg amputated. Some names remembered from those early day choirs are Swadling, George Nichols, James Snell, Mr. and Mrs. Millington, Mr. Fred Heenev Sr., Byron and Irene Jenvey and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Galloway.

Later, within my memory, Mrs. Clarence Cuthbert and her daughter Effa gave musical leadership, Mrs. Cuthbert playing for church, Sunday School and the Ladies' Aid. Many members of the Heenev family have helped in choir and musical efforts through the years. Mr. Frank Morris is also remembered for his many fine bass solos.

Musical talent seems to be a family affair. The Ruckle girls, Reta, Ruth and Edith who all helped with the training of the Junior Choir are granddaughters of Mrs. George Ruckle and Mrs. Fred Heenev Sr. Mrs. Albert Batten (Mildred Heenev), who for many years trained both Junior and Senior Choirs at different times is a daughter of Mrs. Heenev. Miss Lynda Heenev, one of our present organists is a great granddaughter. Mrs. Currie's granddaughters are Mrs. Robert Cowell who has given twenty years of service at the organ, sometimes with the Senior and sometimes with the Junior Choirs and Mrs. Douglas Nash played for a period of ten years. Most of the organists also played the piano for other church organizations.

For a time there were three active choirs, Junior, Young People's and Senior. A Junior Choir was organized in January, 1949, with Reta and Ruth Ruckle in charge. The choir assisted in the church service on the first Sunday of each month. Special services were held - a Rose Bowl Service in June and a Candlelighting Service at Christmas. A social evening in June which included a hayride and a weiner roast was eagerly anticipated by the children. In 1952, Edith Ruckle became Junior Choir leader, choosing as her assistants Helen Heenev and Madeline Currie. In later years the Junior Choir was trained sometimes by Mrs. M. Batten and sometimes by Mrs. Robert Cowell. Jean Budd was organist for the Young People's Choir which also provided music once a month. At this time also the Young People presented their very successful variety nights.

The Senior Choir contributed to the service of worship for many years, but as in many small country churches this too has fallen prey to our busy modern times. As in every organization, it has been impossible to give credit to all those who have helped to give encouragement and inspiration in the service of song. Perhaps in the not too distant future choirs may be formed again to "Sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord all the earth."



Nettie Galloway (Mrs. James Currie)  
First organist on record.



Mrs. Robert Cowell (Madeline Currie)

A granddaughter of Nettie Galloway, she has played for over 20 years, working with both the Junior and Senior Choirs.



Mrs. Douglas Nash (Doreen Currie)

A granddaughter of Nettie Galloway, she has played the organ for over 10 years.



Edith Nichols (Mrs. Fred V. Heenev Sr.)  
Organist from 1885 to 1891



Mildred Batten

A daughter of Edith Nichols, played many years for the Junior and Senior Choirs.

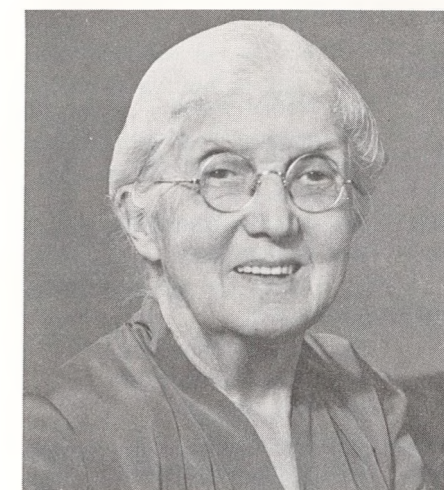


Miss Lynda Heenev

A great granddaughter of Edith Nichols, is our present organist.



Reta Ruckle (Mrs. Wm. Budd), Ruth Ruckle (Mrs. Don Allin), and Edith Ruckle (Mrs. Sam Somers), granddaughters of Edith Nichols, all worked with the Junior Choir, Mrs. George Ruckle a grandmother of the three Ruckle girls was also an early organist.



Mrs. George Ruckle  
An early organist for the Church.



Mrs. Clarence Cuthbert  
Organist and choir leader for many years.





Mrs. Lawrence Squires  
Our minister's wife, presently assists at the organ.

#### MINISTERS IN THE CHURCH

##### Long Point Circuit

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 1802-   | Rev. Nathan Bangs                            |
|         | (No regular appointments named at this time) |
| 1804-   | Church first organized                       |
| 1807-   | Rev. Henry Ryan                              |
| 1808-09 | Rev. Thomas Whitehead                        |
| 1810-   | Rev. Robert Perry                            |

##### Circuit Connected With Ancaster

- |         |                       |
|---------|-----------------------|
| 1811-   | Rev. Geo. W. Dinsmore |
| 1812-   | Rev. Peter Comenhauer |
| 1813-   | Rev. John Rhodes      |
| 1814-   | Rev. David Culp       |
| 1815-   | Rev. Thos. Whitehead  |
| 1816-   | Rev. D. Youmans       |
| 1817-   | Rev. Isaac B. Summer  |
| 1818-   | Rev. D. Youmans       |
| 1819-20 | Rev. J. Jackson       |
| 1821-   | Rev. I. B. Smith      |
| 1822-   | Rev. D. Culp          |
| 1823-24 | Rev. Dan Shepperdson  |
| 1825-26 | Rev. Rowley Heyland   |
| 1827-28 | Rev. Wm. Griffis      |
| 1829-30 | Rev. Joseph Gatchell  |
| 1831-   | Rev. Henry Wilkinson  |

##### West Oxford Head of Circuit

- |         |                     |
|---------|---------------------|
| 1832-   | Rev. John Bailey    |
| 1833-34 | Rev. Richard Phelps |
| 1835-   | Rev. John S. Atwood |
| 1836-37 | Rev. James Norris   |
| 1838-39 | Rev. Thomas Fawcett |
| 1840-   | Rev. Peter Kerr     |
| 1841-   | Rev. Wm. Coleman    |
| 1842-   | Rev. S. C. Philp    |

##### London District Formed—Woodstock Head of Circuit

- |         |                        |
|---------|------------------------|
| 1843-   | Rev. Samuel Philp      |
| 1844-   | Rev. Rowley Heyland    |
| 1845-46 | Matthias Holtby        |
| 1847-   | Rev. T. Fawcett        |
| 1848-50 | Rev. Kennedy Creighton |
| 1851-53 | Rev. Edmund Shepherd   |
| 1854-56 | Rev. Wm. McCullough    |
| 1857-58 | Rev. Ashael Hurlburt   |
| 1859-60 | Rev. John Bredin       |
| 1861-   | Rev. Wm. Stephenson    |
| 1862-64 | Rev. Wm. Lund          |
| 1865-67 | Rev. John Hunt         |

##### Salford Head of Circuit

- |         |                         |
|---------|-------------------------|
| 1868-70 | Rev. Hugh McLean        |
| 1871-73 | Rev. Thomas Crews       |
| 1874-75 | James Kennedy           |
| 1875-   | David A. Moir           |
| 1876-78 | Rev. Chas. Stringfellow |
| 1879-80 | Rev. Wm. Willoughby     |
| 1881-83 | Rev. David Hunt         |
| 1884-86 | Rev. Hugh McLean        |
| 1887-89 | Rev. John E. Hockey     |
| 1890-92 | Rev. Charles Deacon     |
| 1893-95 | Rev. John W. Stewart    |
| 1896-   | Rev. W. W. Sparling     |
| 1897-99 | Rev. Albert Kennedy     |
| 1900-   | Rev. C. Cookman         |
| 1901-03 | Rev. T. Webster Kelley  |
| 1904-06 | Rev. John H. McArthur   |
| 1907-09 | Rev. Thomas Boyd        |
| 1910-13 | Rev. W. J. Ellis        |
| 1914-17 | Rev. John A. Neill      |
| 1918-21 | Rev. F. J. Fidell       |
| 1922-23 | Rev. J. Milton Copeland |
| 1924-25 | Rev. W. B. S. James     |
| 1926-30 | Rev. Percy S. Banas     |
| 1930-   | Rev. Selby Jefferson    |
| 1931-   | Rev. H. G. Bolingbroke  |
| 1932-36 | Rev. G. I. VanLoon      |
| 1936-45 | Rev. R. B. Cumming      |

##### Beachville Head of Circuit

- |         |                       |
|---------|-----------------------|
| 1945-50 | Rev. E. S. Barton     |
| 1950-53 | Rev. J. E. Watson     |
| 1953-57 | Rev. D. E. Freer      |
| 1957-61 | Rev. Bruce Suitor     |
| 1961-   | Rev. J. A. Veldhuis   |
| 1962-66 | Rev. Stewart Miner    |
| 1966-69 | Rev. Harley Moore     |
| 1969-72 | Rev. David Nimmo      |
| 1972-   | Rev. Lawrence Squires |

#### FOR OUR CHURCH:

From time to time, special gifts have been given to the West Oxford Church, which have assisted both in a financial way and in making our time of worship in the church happier and more meaningful.

Bequests of money have been received from the estates of Mr. Roy Odell and Mr. Joseph Blancher.

In 1948, the first Electric Organ for the church was donated by the Minshall Family — dedicated in memory of Jesse Hugh and Mary Jane Minshall.

In July, 1950 a Pulpit Light was donated to the church by Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Heeney.

A Baptismal Font was donated by Mr. Cecil Batten.

On June 13, 1954, a Communion Table and two Collection Plates were dedicated in memory of Mrs. Bruce Hutcheson (nee Kathleen Budd) by husband and Ruth, and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Budd and Family.

In 1956 a Pastor's Communion Set had been presented by Mrs. Gordon McLeod and Mrs. Francis Skinner in memory of their mother, Mrs. Elmer Heeney.

A Wood Table Cross was presented in memory of Clarence Scott - born 1886, died 1968 — from Family and Friends. A new Hymnary for the use of the organist was also presented in memory of Clarence Scott by Mrs. W.O. Nantau (nee Mary Scott).

#### FOR HOME AND COUNTRY

Raymond P. Aquin  
Albert Atkinson  
Frank Atkinson  
C.E. Blancher  
Arthur Budd  
Raymond Connor  
Fred Cuthbert  
Roy H. Franklin  
Lewis J. Harvey  
Jack C. Hunter  
C.J.W. Kimberley  
F. Ralph McKillen  
Gordon C. McLeod  
James J. Miners

A.W. Munroe  
Jean L. Sage  
Dorothy Shuttleworth  
Jack C. Shuttleworth  
Cecil Titus  
Gordon Titus  
Raymond J. Voigt  
John Bone  
Mervyn Connor  
Donald McKillen  
Donald E. Voigt  
Arch L. Wilson  
\*Harold D. Wilson  
\*Supreme Sacrifice



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA SEAL

The Oval Form in which our crest is set is derived from the outline of a fish which was used as a secret symbol by means of which Christians identified one another during the days of persecution in the first century. The letters in the Greek word for fish form the first letters of the words "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour".

The "X" at the center is the Greek letter "X" (Chi) which is the first letter in the Greek word for Christ and the traditional symbol for the person of Christ, who is the living center of our faith and of our Church.

In each quarter of the Cross is an appropriate symbol, three of which are particularly associated with the three Communion, Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian which united to form the United Church of Canada on June 10, 1925.

The Open Bible represents the Congregational Churches with their emphasis upon God's truth that makes men free. From this Communion we have a heritage of liberty in prophesying, love of spiritual freedom, awareness of the continuing creative power of the Holy Spirit and clear witness for civic justice.

The Dove is emblematic of the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:10) whose transforming power has been a distinctive mark of Methodism. From this branch of Church Union our heritage is one of evangelical zeal, concern for human redemption, warmth of Christian fellowship, the testimony of spiritual experience, and the ministry of sacred song.

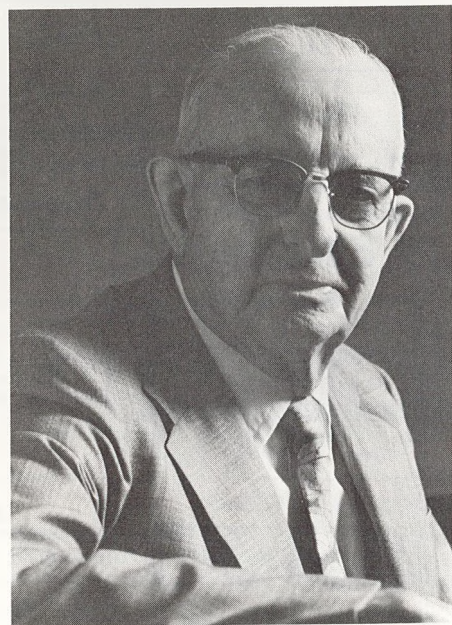
The Burning Bush is the accepted symbol of Presbyterianism. It refers to the sign given to Moses of the bush that burned and was not consumed. (Exodus 3:2) and has come to symbolize the indestructibility of the Church of God. From Presbyterianism we have received a heritage of a high and reverent regard for the Church as the Body of Christ, for the order of Her life, the dignity of Her worship, the education of Her members, and the final authority of the Sacred Scripture as the Word of God.

The intertwined symbols in the lower quarter are the Greek letter Alpha and Omega. These are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet and may be freely translated as the "first and the last". They symbolize the eternal, living God (Revelation 1:8).

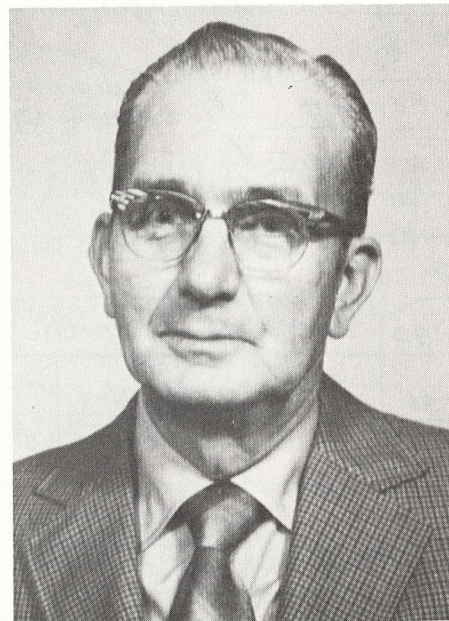
Around the outer rim of the Crest is the name, "The United Church of Canada" and the Latin words "ut omnes unum sint" which means "That all may be one." They are taken from the prayer of our Lord, as recorded in John 17:21 and refer to that unity of spirit which is found between man and man, and man and God in the Church which is the Body of Christ. They are a constant reminder that ours is the "united" and a "uniting" Church.



# West Oxford Church Cemetery History



Frank C. Brink



Percy M. Sage

The above persons originated the idea of obtaining this history. It was through their determination and persevering efforts, assisted very capably by Mrs. Dorothy Currie, that the publication of this history was made possible.

## WEST OXFORD CHURCH CEMETERY HISTORY

Frank Carlyle Brink

### FORWARD

A number of men and women who were prominent in the early days of Oxford, lie unknown in unmarked graves. A number of them were buried on their own lands before there were any established cemeteries. Others in early burial grounds that have been abandoned, their markers destroyed, their records lost. Some of these unknown graves rest in the pioneer West Oxford Church Cemetery.

When the question is asked where a certain person is buried, there is no answer . . .

### ONTARIO CEMETERIES

An article in the London Free Press of June 17, 1974, Mr. J.R. McAllister, Director of the Cemetery Branch in the Ontario Department of Consumers and Commercial Relations, is quoted as saying: "There are about 4800 to 4900 cemeteries in Ontario of which 1100 to 1200 are abandoned. Families have moved, church congregations have left, cemetery boards have run out of money. A lot of cemetery boards are running into difficulties because their attitude seemed to be that they should not make money. Over the years their costs of maintenance have escalated".

### LOCAL BURIAL GROUNDS ABANDONED

Within three miles of the West Oxford Church Cemetery, there are four of these 1100 to 1200 abandoned cemeteries in Ontario.

A brief history of these four follows; Thomas Ingersoll, a pioneer settler from the U.S.A. received from his Excellency John Graves Simcoe Esq. in return for the settlement of forty families, a grant of 64,000 acres of land. This Order in Council was signed in Upper Canada Council Chamber, in Navy Hall, March 23, 1793.

During 1793, Thomas Ingersoll with possibly one or two associates, using Indian Guides, supplied by his friend, Chief Joseph Brant of the Six Nations Reserve, explored the unoccupied land west of the Grand River. Acting on his own judgement and the instigation of the Indian Guides, he made a choice of that section which comprises the three Oxford Townships, East, West and North.

### THOMAS INGERSOLL BURIAL GROUND

In the "Canada Constellation" of September 13, 1799, is an account of the early settlement of Oxford County, and the District Westward to the mouth of the Thames River, which reads: "These settlers, aware of the importance of roads, early set about to open up and extend them, notwithstanding numerous disadvantages and discouragements and the immediate necessities of their families. Thomas Ingersoll and his associates cut and bridged a road from Burford to Oxford-on-the-Thames, a distance of thirty miles".

This road followed the Indian trail and later became the Old Stage Road. Thomas Ingersoll first returned with his wife Sarah (Whiting) and six or seven children, with a few settlers and their families. Ingersoll chose as his farm Lot 20 Concession 1, which is now the Town of Ingersoll.

He established a burial ground on the corner of his farm to accommodate deaths among his settlers. This burial ground was on the corner of what is now King and Harris Streets. It was used by residents of West Oxford for quite a number of

years. It contained approximately 80 monuments, almost all of which were white marble in a plain flat style. One exception was a single brown granite, about a foot square, four feet high and capped with a carved acorn.

Thomas Ingersoll left the district in 1805, and went to Port Credit where he died in 1812. His two sons, Charles and James returned to the district after the War of 1812-14 and continued development of the area. In later years and after the Thomas Ingersoll Burial Ground ceased to be used, a tenant on the farm piled the monuments along the fence on Harris Street, from where they disappeared.

No known records were kept; pioneer history was lost forever.

### KARN BURIAL GROUND

The Karn Burial Ground was established in the very early 1800's. It was located on the south west corner of Lot 7, B.F. Concession, West Oxford. It was on the farm owned by Freeman Karn, and was a Methodist Cemetery. The location was on the north side of the Old Stage Road, less than a mile west of the famous Martin Tavern. A log Methodist Chapel was built on these grounds in 1805 where church services for the entire community were held. This chapel was burned during the War of 1812-14 by the Westbrook Raiders.

Some members of the pioneer families were buried here, we know not who or how many. Unfortunately no records have survived. The last of the flat monuments were put in the stone walls when the barn was built on the farm. Elias Ashfield, who died in 1972 in his 94th year, plowed this burial ground with horses and a walking plow, after the last markers had been removed.

### PIPER'S CORNERS BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY

Simon Mabee of the Baptist faith, in 1808, settled on Lot 13 Concession 2, West Oxford, where he farmed and operated a water-powered, stone-grinding flour and grist mill. About 1827 a log school was erected on the north east corner of this lot. Some of the first Trustees were: John Galloway, Isaac Dygert and Heman Janes Sr. In 1841 a Baptist Church was built, just south of the schoolhouse. The 1861 Census lists this building as having 26 pews and was worth \$800.00. Also in 1841, a Baptist Cemetery was established on this lot, just west of the school. Many of the pioneer Baptists were buried in this Cemetery. It is not known when burials were discontinued. About 1900, the farm changed ownership, the cemetery fence was removed and cattle were allowed to pasture in the cemetery. The white marble grave markers were piled by the roadside fence. Later they disappeared and the story is that they were used for a walk from the house to the barn on the farm. A later owner of the farm, did not wish to walk on these stones and had them buried under the dirt approach to the farm loft. There they remain today. One plot owner planted a cedar hedge around his plot, which has grown to full height. Today it is the only mark left of this pioneer cemetery.

### THE EPISCOPAL METHODIST CHURCH CEMETERY

When the West Oxford Church was first organized in 1804, it was affiliated with the Episcopal Methodist Church in America. At a later date the West Oxford Church became affiliated with the Wesleyan Methodist Church, in connection with the English Conference.

Because many of these early settlers had emigrated from the United States, they did not wish to change their affiliation from

the Episcopal Methodist to the Wesleyan Methodist. Accordingly they built an Episcopal Methodist Church on the north east corner of Lot 12, Concession 1, West Oxford, (year unknown) in the community known as Piper's Corners. This church flourished for a time, but eventually was abandoned. The 1861 Census listed this Church as accomodating 200 people and being worth \$700.00. In 1887 the building was sold for \$51.00, and the proceeds turned over to the West Oxford Methodist Church.

Sometime, the members of the Episcopal Methodist Church of Piper's Corners established a burial ground of their own. It was on the Jordan Road, about half a mile south of the West Oxford Church Cemetery, on the southeast corner of Lot 14, Concession 1, West Oxford. It was one mile west of the Episcopal Methodist Church, on land originally owned by Jacob Wood.

This cemetery was surrounded on the north, east and south by maple trees to which was attached a good wire fence. After the cemetery was abandoned, a new owner removed the fence, cut down the trees into stove wood and piled the white marble monuments along the road fence, where they remained for several years.

Later, a deep furrow was plowed across the cemetery ground and the monuments buried in this furrow. There they remain until this day, except for five or six that were accidently plowed up and then were placed in the West Oxford Church Cemetery, no one knows which ones. It is thought that at least 50 monuments were buried in the furrow. A later owner discovered that this had been a burial ground, and planted evergreen trees on it. These trees are still there, the only remaining mark of a pioneer burial ground.

#### RESTORATION OF THE WEST OXFORD CEMETERY

Frank C. Brink

Some of the reasons why I was interested in the West Oxford Cemetery and its restoration, rests with the tradition of the Brink family. Four generations of the Brink family have attended the West Oxford Church. These consisted of Nicholas, Charles Sr., Royal Wilson and Frank Carlyle Brink.

The Brink family emigrated to America from the Netherlands in 1659 and to Oxford County, Upper Canada, in 1797.

I was born and lived in the community until 1908, when I moved to Alberta. I attended the West Oxford Methodist Church, was a member, attended Sunday School and belonged to the Young People's Society. My great grandparents, Nicholas and Elizabeth Brink, are buried in the cemetery, also a number of other relatives and many of my early day friends and associates.

After having resided in Western Canada for nearly 60 years, on my return to Ontario and Oxford County, I found that the West Oxford Cemetery had fallen into disrepair. This quaint little church and cemetery are situated about two and one-half miles east of Ingersoll, and about one mile south of Centerville on the Jordan Road. It is more or less isolated, being about half a mile from any other buildings. It is well protected on the north and west by a cedar hedge and on the south and east by hard maple trees.

Vandals and irresponsible people in later years had decimated many of the precious gravestones, which mark the last resting place of many pioneers of the area. There were broken stones in the cemetery, some had disappeared entirely — vandalism was still rampant. The grounds were generally uncared for and weeds grew in many areas.

The Cemetery Board had few funds available for maintenance. Any available money had been spent on the upkeep of the cemetery, cutting the weeds, mowing the grass and endeavouring to repair the damage done to the gravestones. The Young People had come to the rescue and had organized bees to cut the grass and do whatever they could to keep the cemetery in repair. An amount of \$100.00 had been available from bequests and private support. It required a major operation to overcome the damage done and the need for a complete overhaul of the grounds.

Many pioneers and pioneer families of the West Oxford District are buried in this little churchyard. Those worthy men and women who introduced civilization into the district, left many to perpetuate their names and emulate their virtues. They have earned and deserve the recognition and respect of rising generations to commemorate their honest efforts, in the very difficult years of settling the area. With meagre capital funds to work on, it was only by their years of toil and sacrifice were they able to exist, let alone begin to enjoy luxuries and freedom which the present generation now takes for granted — not appreciating the foundations laid through long years of honest sweat and toil.

When these pioneers first came to the district, it was almost solid woods and wilderness. We will never know who planted those beautiful trees, but we do know who cut them down. The first pioneer settlers lived under very primitive conditions. They had no television, radios, electricity, no washing machines — positively no modern machinery. They cut their crops with a scythe and cradle and threshed their grain with a flail. There were no stores for miles around, and very few roads, which were mostly Indian trails through swamp and muskeg, following the blazed trees, which was difficult after dark, or when they were changed on account of impossible ditches. Men walked or rode horseback to Hamilton for supplies or to the nearest grist mill, often many miles away, to have their wheat ground into flour.

They lighted their homes with candles which they made themselves. The women spun yarn and made clothing for the family. They grew most of the food which they ate, preserved wild fruits they picked in the bush, which swarmed with mosquitoes. They depended on deer and other wild animals, wild turkeys and ducks for their meat supply.

There were no hospitals and very little medical aid. Doctors were few and far between. Whole families were sometimes wiped out by epidemics of typhoid, cholera, small pox and so forth, for which there were no known vaccines or preventatives. Many young children and mothers died prematurely from lack of medical attention or knowledge at that time.

Later, water-powered, stone-grinding flour and grist mills were built and sawmills were also erected so that the settlers could have lumber instead of logs to build their homes and other buildings.

These pioneer men and women with growing families and being long distances from schools and churches, gradually and laboriously laid the foundations to make it possible for the modern high standards of living which we enjoy today.

#### RESTORATION PROCEDURE

When anything becomes rundown or in disrepair, it is usually a problem to know where to start and what to do to make improvements, especially when one does not have much precedent to go by. After visiting a number of cemeteries, I found that many of them were somewhat neglected, mainly from lack of funds and from lack of knowledge of just what

should be done and how to accomplish the desired result.

My Cuthbert grandparents are buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery in Woodstock, Ontario. My Brink grandparents are buried in the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery in Ingersoll, Ontario. My parents are buried in the Hillview Cemetery in Woodstock, Ontario.

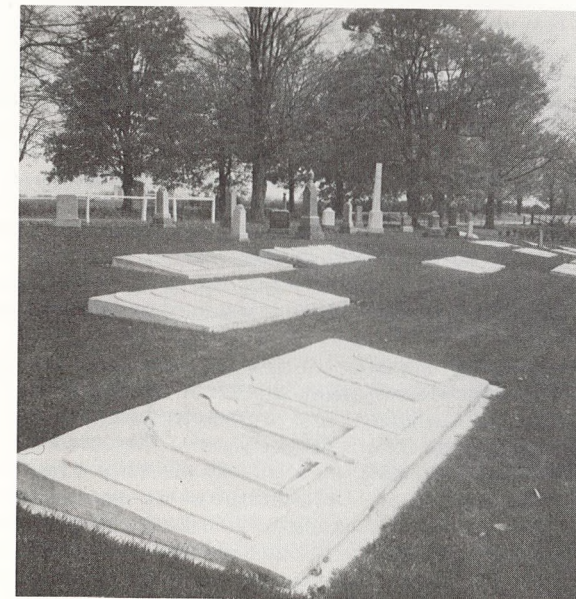
We called a meeting of relatives of people buried in the West Oxford Church Cemetery and they organized a committee, which rendered valuable assistance to me. We heard of two pioneer cemeteries, north of Port Burwell, where restoration had taken place. One of these was the Edison Cemetery at Vienna. Mrs. Gordon Wiseman, Mrs. Grant Cuthbert, Mrs. Nora Hagerman and myself visited these cemeteries. We decided that the way of placing flat monuments or tablets in concrete bases would be a good system to use in the West Oxford Church Cemetery. It should preserve them from being broken and give more protection from vandalism.

We engaged John I. Pettit of the Ingersoll Memorials, to do the restoration work on the monuments. The larger monuments were straightened and protected by a concrete margin being put around them. Only a few of the more recently placed of these larger monuments have a proper concrete base under them, the others are just sitting on stones and gravel so that future settlement could be expected. We hauled in 138 yards of top soil to level the grounds. Art Haight, landscaper, of Woodstock, did the leveling and seeding of the grass. The restoration work started in the Fall of 1970, continued in 1971 and was finished in 1972.

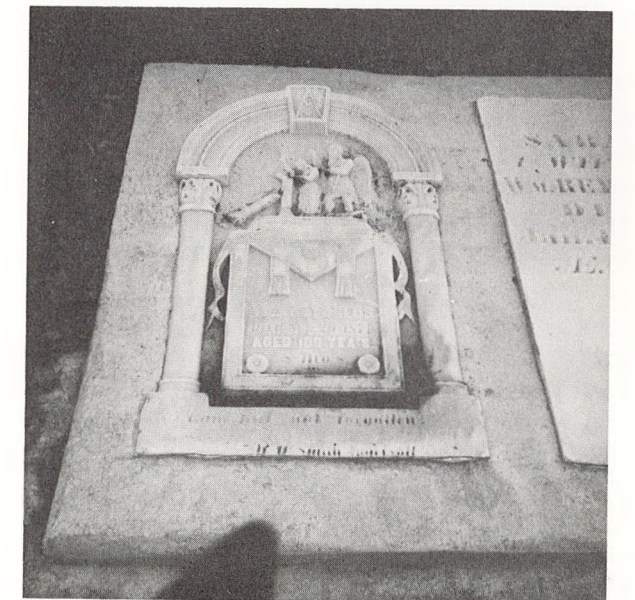
The words of Pliny the Younger, in about the year 100 A.D. "I hold it a noble task to rescue from oblivion those who deserve to be eternally remembered." I am happy in the thought that through the efforts of many, I have been able to do just that.



View of Cemetery showing the West Oxford United Church in the background.



After reconstruction, looking south from Church.



Preservation of Tablets

## WEST OXFORD CHURCH CEMETERY HISTORY

### MISSING RECORDS

Official records of the West Oxford Church and Cemetery including the Cemetery Survey Map, were burned in a fire in Ingersoll in 1856. Very sketchy records are available up to that time.

Land purchases and sales of the Church Property are recorded in the Woodstock registration office.

Cemetery records since 1856 are also very sketchy, with many years missing.

We are grateful to Russell B. Piper, for locating a book, marked "TRUSTEE BOOK, 1831 to 1915", also marked on the inside; "TRUSTEES of the OLD BURYING GROUND". This book evidently had been packed in a box, with some of Clarence Scott's records.

This book was written by one person, using excellent penmanship, but not signed by the writer. It was written after 1915 and must have been copied from original records. Where are those original records?

Valuable information is in this book, sketchy as it is.

### SOME SPECIALLY INTERESTING RECORDS

1858 — September 29; That we charge a fee of One Dollar for a single plot to all parties able to pay. Passed unanimously. Joseph B. Piper, Secretary.

1861 — Received from a stranger for the privilege of burying his wife \$1.00

1872 — Received from Frank Cook for the privilege of burying his mother \$1.00

1905 — A resolution was passed that the Cemetery Board charge a fee of \$1.00 per burial plot per year for upkeep of the cemetery, or a single fee of \$25.00 for permanent upkeep. "This policy was only partially successful but was carried on by some plot holders until 1929".

1935 — The above policy was again adopted, with very little success and was completely abandoned, September 15, 1936.

SPECIAL DONATIONS TO THE CEMETERY

1958 — June 11, James Ernest Sandick Estate — \$1,000.00

1963 — July 15, Louis Sandick Estate — \$200.00

1968 — October 8, Clarence Scott Estate — \$200.00

1944 — April 17, Township of West Oxford — \$200.00

1966-67-68-69-70 — Township of West Oxford \$250.00 (\$50.00 per year)

### THE NEW HORIZON

For 150 years, from 1823 the Trustees of the West Oxford Church cemetery, continued year after year, making noble efforts to collect sufficient funds to maintain the cemetery.

They used various ways and means to raise funds; by the sale of plots, "most of which were sold at a very low price", they held tea parties in homes, took up collections, made personal canvasses, made direct assessments on burial plots and received several substantial private donations.

Never at any time did they quite meet their requirements or objectives. The settling of graves, the growing grass and weeds the ravages of vandalism and the escalating costs seemed impossible to control.

In 1937, a letter was sent to the plot holders, with the object of collecting money for a Trust Fund, I quote the last par-

agraph; "The Cemetery Board are seeking the hearty response and co-operation from the public concerned, and wish to assure them of their desire to make West Oxford Cemetery as beautiful a memorial park as any such place in the country".

In 1942, the first successful effort to establish a small Trust Fund was accomplished. After that very little effort was made to augment this fund.

The struggle for funds continued without much success and the cemetery was in shambles. It had almost reached the point of no return.

At a Trustee meeting on July 17, 1952, there seemed to have been a memo of despair as follows; "It is agreed that the slabs, broken or in disrepair and that have been erected over 75 years, be laid flat, by order of the Board".

The "Tide Has Turned", now the cemetery has been restored to a reasonably good condition. Money is being provided for maintenance, a Trust fund is being set up for future maintenance.

There are still some improvements necessary in the unused south part of the cemetery. Thanks to Arlington Robinson and Percy Sage, for their efforts in getting evergreen trees planted in this area. In years to come these trees should add much to the beautification of the cemetery grounds.

A new Municipal Unit has been formed to replace the Township of West Oxford. If it is the policy or duty of the governing body of this new unit to appoint a Cemetery Board to administer the cemeteries, let us hope, that they will appoint men and women of action and wisdom, who will not permit this quaint pioneer cemetery to deteriorate or decay, rather to: "Make it as beautiful a Memorial Park as any such place in the Country".

### PERSONAL GLIMPSES — Frank C. Brink

My wife, Marie, and I settled on Native Prairie land in Alberta, that had no buildings or cultivation. We lived in a tent for several months until we had our house built.

Very few road allowances were open, trails were used, veering around sloughs and other obstructions, going the shortest distance from one point to another. As the land became cultivated and fenced, road allowances had to be opened and roads constructed. For many years we used dirt roads only, gravel was not plentiful, money was not available to use it either.

We had no electricity or telephones for a number of years. Schools, Churches and Hospitals had to be built, it was a pleasure to have been able to assist in these developments and to serve as an Official in many capacities.

My wife Marie, died suddenly in July 1912. Hope rests eternal, but there were times when it was hard to believe in the future.

Later during the management of a large tract of land, I supervised the conversion of many thousands of acres of native Prairie lands into productive and prosperous farms, we raised two blades of grass where one formerly grew. There were many hazards to prairie farming, especially in the early days, wet years and many dry ones. Devastating hail storms, covering a wide area, would wipe out crops in minutes, grasshopper and other insect plagues, early frosts that reduced yields and damaged quality, some early snow storms would delay harvesting crops until the next Spring. Some of these hazards have been almost eliminated by various means. The Western Prairies are fast becoming an important Breadbasket, to assist in feeding a hungry World. Western Canadian winters are mostly long and cold, Alberta is fortunate to have an abundance of coal. It is extremely fortunate for all of Canada, at this particular time,

that Alberta has such a good supply of natural gas and oil.

My wife Rowena, and I enjoyed the frontier life, the Alberta sunshine, the wide open spaces, unpolluted air and the friendliness of the Western people. Without the help of my wife I could not have accomplished what I did. I look back with many happy memories and satisfaction of our contribution to progress. Rowena died November 8th, 1967.

Writing history is not my line. My typewriter does not spell well, my punctuation and paragraphing is poor and my grammar would drive a 6th grade class right up the wall. My vocabulary is very little better than that of Jerry Potts the noted "half breed" Guide who was with the early North West Mounted Police for 22 years. There were no maps, it was said that he had a map in his head and when he was asked a question, about all he would say was "Yup" or "Nope" and when he was asked what was on the other side of a hill he would say "Nudder Hill".

My school days ended when I was 17, after that I remained home to work on the farm, until I went to Alberta in 1908. I obtained my education after I left school, it was not literary. I have been a Student of the "University of Life", that University has no graduation date.

### The Crash of 1929 and the Dry 1930's

In October, 1929, our whole fiscal system seemed to crash, years of drought coincided with the collapse of our money system. What was it like? Crop failure after crop failure in areas, due to drought and wind, there was something awesome about the doomed hopes of many Homesteaders. Unable to pay their taxes, year after year, these people lost their lands and were forced to move to other areas or back where they came from, which many did.

The desolation of those areas was appalling and it was terrifyingly real. The dry weather and dust storms had been at work for several years and they had left an incipient desert. Here and there the whitening bones of abandoned buildings remained, to mark the hopes of many Homesteaders. The wind burnished wood of engulfed fences protruded from drifts of soil, that was overwhelming the work of man. Numerous little hamlets, appeared to be in the last stages of dry rot, as one drove through the burning expanse of drought fields.

### The Winds

So ably described by Ken Lindell of the Calgary Herald. "There would be with us to-day, a generation and even better, who would have no knowledge of it except hearsay. But to those who do remember it, the memory is not so much the sight of the land, but the symphony of the wind, an orchestration that cursed day after day for weeks on end".

It would die, occasionally, toward sundown to make night a blessed relief from the agonizing moans of some unseen and powerful monster that literally tore the guts out of the land and the people, an enemy which man could neither trap or tame.

"You couldn't breath without choking, you couldn't see without blinking to protect your eyes from the pellets of dust. Humans took to wearing goggles. They could do nothing but to listen to the weird, mind-numbing song of the wind, a sound that never could be duplicated nor forgotten, once heard".

### Depression Prices

Ads in the Calgary Herald, December 1933, listed, dressed turkeys at 11 cents per lb., shoulder roasts of beef at 4 cents per lb., sirloin and T-bone roasts of beef at 6 cents per lb. Full course meals at a good restaurant, 35 cents. Women looking for Christmas gifts for their husbands, could buy a good tie, in

a box, for 25 cents, or if they wanted to be a big spender, they could invest \$13.00 in a suit of clothes.

Want ads listed apartments for \$25.00 to \$35.00 per month. If you were traveling, a good room in a Tourist Home for two, was \$1.00, Good Hotel rooms were up to \$2.00, this was before the days of Motels.

Wheat sold as low as 25 cents per bushel. Livestock would not sell for enough to pay the freight to market, a sheep rancher in Alberta, shipped a carlot of sheep to Winnipeg, but they did not sell for enough to pay the freight. The Commission Brokers sent him a bill for the balance of the freight, he wrote back, that he had no money, but could send them more sheep.

The Government provided a cash relief program of "three dollars and eighty-five cents" (\$3.85) per week to almost destitute families.



Frank and Rowena

### INTRODUCTION TO HISTORIES

The history of this quaint pioneer cemetery was started 50 years too late. There are too many forgotten people buried here.

We sincerely regret, even after considerable effort and research, that we have not been able to obtain adequate and worthy histories of a number of prominent families and individuals. The last of these families have either died or moved from the district.

Trustee books, record a number of people who bought plots and were buried in the cemetery, but have no markers. We do not know when these people were buried or where.

There are a number of small children, including two sets of twins, nearly all with familiar area family names, but no identity as to who their parents were. Some were young mothers with an infant child, but with no identity as to their maiden names. — This all adds up to an incomplete history.

There are 146 flat tablets in the concrete bases, and one still standing (Monte Nichols) by request, and 53 larger more modern monuments, two good field stones used as monuments and 7 graves marked with head stones only.

We apologize for any errors or omissions that we may have made in any of the written histories.

#### EPITAPHS

The Egyptians were the first to put a man to perpetual rest with his personal history. The ancient Greeks and Romans did the same thing.

For centuries an Epitaph was considered a necessary part of a burial, a few lines of thought that a person would carry with him to eternity.

The Epitaphs and some of the symbolic hand carvings on many of the flat tablets, in the West Oxford cemetery, focussed our attention. These Epitaphs were beautifully handcarved, one letter at a time with a chisel and mallet. Some in very small letters, now partly weather worn and difficult to read. Sorry to say that there are some that we could not read.

It is interesting to note the wide variety of these Epitaphs. There are some repetitions, but it would almost seem that the stonemason had prided himself with creating a distinctive memorial for each person.

We found Epitaphs on a few of the older more modern monuments.

The use of Epitaphs, has been almost discontinued for many years. Other than the cold facts of a person's name, age, date of death, gravestones to-day might carry a simple inscription, such as; "Rest in Peace" or "Just Sleeping".

Chisel and mallet stone cutting is almost a lost art. Now a rubber stencil is adhered to the surface of the material to be engraved. A floral carving and the lettering is first laid out on the rubber stencil with a pencil, and then cut out with a stencil knife. This is taken to a room where the stone is sandblasted, the sand will bounce off the rubber, but will cut the stone that is uncovered which is the lettering and design work.

The Epitaphs that we have been able to read have been recorded with the written histories.

Those assisting in reading these Epitaphs were: Dorothy and Barbara Currie, Mrs. Nora Hagerman, Miss Evelyn Downing and Rev. R.B. Cumming.

#### APPRECIATION OF RESTORATION OF WEST OXFORD CHURCH CEMETERY

Dear Friends of West Oxford:

Having spent some nine years as your pastor in West Oxford Community, and having had some responsibility and opportunity to preserve the memory of the pioneers buried there, may I say how much I admire and appreciate the monumental effort that has been achieved in the restoration and permanent upkeep of the cemetery now. As representing the many loyal friends who have given interest and service to the work of restoration and the compilation of the obituaries of the families resting here, may I be permitted to name Frank C. Brink and Mr. Percy Sage on your behalf for the leadership you have given and the service you have rendered in this labour of love.

The creation, sustenance, and termination of life is under the control of our loving Heavenly Father, in whose image we are created and for whose purpose we live. For some people the life span is short and precious, for others life is difficult and beset with hardships, but for all of us, whether our life is short or long, we are working out God's purpose in time, as well as in preparation for the eternity of life beyond. There is a divinity that shapes our ends, though they seem rough hewn at the time. Time may seem to separate and distance divide us from each other, but nothing can break the bond of love that unites us all to each other, and binds us eternally to God.

Memory is a precious and powerful influence which becomes more precious as the years are told. We honour the influence of those we commemorate in this last resting place. They lived their life span and made their contribution to the growth of character and the building of a better and more peaceful world. Nothing good is ever lost, but lives on in succeeding generations. It is our privilege to perpetuate their memory, and to dedicate ourselves to continue, if not improve on, the service and sacrifice of pioneers.

May the blessing of our loving Heavenly Father continue to inspire and preserve us all to the glory of His name, and the honour of His cause.

Rev. R.B. Cumming

They shall not grow old,  
As we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them,  
Or time decay:  
At the going down of the sun,  
And in the morning,  
We shall remember them. — Lawrence Binyon

AYERS, Mary Gardner — died 1879, age 72 years.

Mary Ayers was the wife of John L. Ayers, she was a native of Felton, Northumberland, England. For a time John L. Ayers, operated a brick yard at or near Centerville Ontario. It was operating in 1856, when the present West Oxford church was built. Very likely the bricks came from the Ayers brick kiln.

In the later years a Mr. Ayers, possibly a son of John and Mary, with one horse and a small wagon, peddled kitchenware throughout the countryside. At a farm home where he would get his dinner and his horse fed, he would give the lady of the house a tin dipper or something similar.

Also, Mrs. Nora Hagerman recalls a Mr. Ayers being janitor of the Centerville school, what connection, we know not.

Epitaph to Mary —

A faithful Friend, a Mother dear,  
A tender Parent lieth here,  
Great is the loss we here sustain,  
But hope in Heaven to meet again.

ASHELBY, James — no marker.

James Ashelby was listed in the 1861 census as a shoemaker. There was a tannery in Centerville, and some people tanned their own leather — the Indians taught them how to do this. Many people wore homemade shoes. The shoemaker even went around the country measuring feet, before the shoes were made.

BLANCHER, John — died June 28, 1960, age 92 years

his daughter, Ena, infant.  
his wife, Margaret, died and is buried at Nanton,  
Alberta.

John Blancher and his infant daughter, Ena, are buried in the Blancher plot, but have no inscription on the monument. There are several infant grandchildren buried there without any inscriptions.

John was a son of Martin Blancher who emigrated from Germany to Canada, date unknown. We have no record of his wife or where either is buried.

Martin was a farm labourer, also worked on the construction of the Woodstock, St. Thomas, Canadian Pacific Railway Branch Line. He finally settled in Centerville.

John was also a farm labourer, he dug a number of hand dug wells, lining them with stones, and worked for a time in a saw-mill.

John and Margaret had fourteen children as follows: Beverly, Joseph, Phebe (Mrs. Morris Boyse), Charles (Sandy), Nora (Mrs. Nora Couch), Ena (died in infancy), Ashton (his wife, Edna May Eaton), Gertrude (Mrs. Mervin Ellis), John, Daisy (Mrs. George Thompson), Ruby (Mrs. Manuel Gardner), Madeline (Mrs. Harry Carter), Minnetta (Mrs. Elmer Jorstad) and Harrison.

This history is compiled from information supplied by Ashton Blancher and his wife, Edna May.

BLANCHER, Joseph — born 1892, died 1969, age 77 years.

Joseph was the second son of John and Margaret Blancher and was born in the Township of West Oxford. He worked as a farm labourer. About 1920, he moved to Alberta and worked as a farm labourer around High River and Blackie. From Alberta he moved to California where he worked on some large citrus fruit groves. In 1931, he returned to Ontario, driving a 1931 Chev. coupe, which is still owned (1973) by one of his relatives. He settled at Crampton, Ontario, later moved to Centerville, where he lived with Ashton Blancher and his wife Edna for seven years.

His last five years were spent in the Sanitorium, in London, Ontario, where he died.

In his will he donated a substantial sum to the West Oxford Church.

Compiled from information received from Ashton and Edna May Blancher.

BERRY, Ester — died 1875, age 28 years.

Ester Berry was the wife of Walter J. Berry. No other history is known. The following Epitaph is on her Tablet.

Faithful friend and companion dear,  
Another Mother lieth here,  
Great is the loss we here sustain,  
And hope in Heaven to meet again.

BLOOMFIELD, James — died 1897, age 21 years.

He emigrated to West Oxford from England and was a farm labourer for Edmond Dodge, Lot 15, Concession 2, West Oxford. He died of injuries from a kick from a horse.

BOWMAN Keith Paul died 1968 age 58 years

Keith Paul Bowman was born in the village of Norwich, Ontario in 1910, the second son of John A. and Ethel Bowman.

They moved to Ingersoll when Paul was 12 years old, where he attended Victory Memorial Public School and the Ingersoll Collegiate.

After leaving school he worked for several years with the Bank of Montreal.

He married Helen Nichols in 1937 and had two sons, Jon and Peter.

He was a member of Samaritan Lodge, I.O.O.F. Ingersoll,

and was appointed Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of Ontario in 1964.

Paul farmed for a number of years at Lot 17, B.F. Con. West Oxford, and at the time of his death in 1968, was employed by Canadian Industries Ltd.

Information received from Mrs. Helen Bowman.

BRINK, Nicholas	died 1834	age 63 years
his wife		
Elizabeth (Moger)	" 1844	" 70 "
Catherine	" 1825	" 21 "
George	" 1850	" 1 "
Emma	" 1854	" 10 months
Eunice (Sage)	" 1841	" 18 years
wife of David Brink		
Snelgrove, Elizabeth Ann	" 1842	" 2 "

Two Brink families emigrated to America from the Netherlands, in 1659. They came from Golderland, Holland at Dolderbrink, meaning "Valley Brink". They sailed on the ship Gelove, (Faith). One of these families was Lambert Hugbertsen Brink, with his wife, Hendrickje Cornelissa and their 2 children. A third child, Cornelius was born at sea.

They first settled on a farm at Hurley, New Jersey. In 1662 —63 Lambert and his family were in Esopus, now Kingston, New York. He was one of the leaders there, his wife and 3 children, along with other women and children, were held 3 months by the Mohawk Indians, to force the leader at Kingston to meet their demands.

Lambert served in the British Army in 1670, under Captain Henry Rawling's Company.

A son of Lambert and Hendrickje Brink, Huybert Brink, married Hendrickie Swartout, of Albany, at Kingston, New York, in 1679.

Their son Thomas Brink, born December 6, 1685, married a Miss Schoonover. Thomas moved to Minisink Valley, New Jersey, in 1739. His old home still stands on the old Mine Road, 39.8 miles from Newton, New Jersey.

Nicholas Brink, second, a son of Thomas Brink, was born at Walpack, New Jersey, where he was baptized October 20, 1728. His first wife was Catharine Decker. They had 3 children. His second wife was Hester Van Garden. Nicholas Brink 3rd was one of their children. Nicholas 2nd with his family moved from New Jersey to Wyoming Valley, New York State. After escaping an Indian massacre, they moved to Bradford County, Pennsylvania.

Nicholas Brink 3rd married Elizabeth Moger, who was born, June 18, 1770 at Bradford, Pennsylvania. Nicholas came to Canada in 1797 to locate land. He located on Lot 10, Concession 1, Oxford on the Thames, (later West Oxford). In 1799, he brought his wife and one child, Phebe, to settle on the farm. Their first child was stillborn. Their son Joshua, was born October 5th, 1799, said to be the first or second white child born in Oxford County.

Most of the early Brink families were quite large. They multiplied fast. As far as we know, Nicholas Brink 3rd was the only Brink family to emigrate to Canada. Many of the other families who did not stay in the Eastern States, migrated to the Central and Midwestern States.

Nicholas Brink was a farmer. He and his wife brought apple seeds from Pennsylvania, from which they grew one of the first apple orchards in Oxford County. Apple seeds do not grow true to variety, so this orchard contained many nondescript varieties of apples. Especially in the early days they all made apple sauce, apple juice or cider.

The Township of West Oxford census of 1812, listed Nicholas Brink as owning 500 acres, of which 20 acres was cultivated. He had 2 horses and 5 cows. After living there 14 years, with hard work, he and his family had only been able to clear and cultivate 20 acres from the solid bush land.

My grandfather Charles Brink, the 10th child of Nicholas and Elizabeth Brink, was born January 10th, 1813. He died at the age of 84 years. He married Elizabeth Wilson, who had emigrated from Nottingham, England. She was born March 4th, 1819, and died at the age of 86 years. Charles lived and farmed all his life on the home farm, Lot 10, Concession 1, Township of West Oxford, on the Old Stage road. They are buried in the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.

My Father, Royal Wilson Brink, a son of Charles and Elizabeth, was born in 1855 and died in his 91st year. My Mother, a daughter of Alexander and Jane Cuthbert, was born in 1855 and died age 55. They are buried in the Brink plot in the Hillview Cemetery, Woodstock, Ontario.

Catharine Brink who died age 21, was the 5th child of Nicholas and Elizabeth Brink.

Eunice (Sage) Brink, was a daughter of Willard and Elizabeth Sage. Her husband was David Brink, the 11th child of Nicholas and Elizabeth Brink. After the death of his wife Eunice, David moved to Pasacola, Michigan, married the second time and died there in 1887, age 72.

George and Emma Brink were children of Charles and Elizabeth Brink, brother and sister of my father.

Elizabeth Ann Snelgrove, a daughter of Abraham and Amanda (Brink) Snelgrove, died from burns when her clothes caught fire. The Snelgroves lived in Ingersoll, Ontario.

Epitaph to Elizabeth Snelgrove:  
This lovely bird so young and fair,  
Called home to early doom,  
Just came to show how sweet a flower,  
In Paradise may bloom.

BROWN, Calvin James — died September 28, 1884.

Calvin James Brown was a son of Varnum and Amanda (Hopkins) Brown. He died at Centerville, Ontario and was buried in the West Oxford Cemetery.

Several people, now living, remember seeing his monument in the cemetery, but it has completely disappeared, with no mark left.

His wife, Lucinda (Sage) Brown died November 20, 1904 at Merrill, Michigan and is buried in the Lakefield Cemetery. She was a daughter of Comfort and Susannah Sage. Lucinda's first husband was James Nichols Jr. He died in 1848, age 25 years and is buried in the Nichols plot in the West Oxford Cemetery. James and Lucinda Nichols had one daughter, who married John Jefferson.

Calvin James and Lucinda Brown had two children: James Emmerson, born September 6, 1854 and Cora May, born August 3, 1878.

James Emmerson Brown married Sarah Ann Nunn, March 21, 1879. Sarah Ann was a daughter of Jonathan and Charlotte (Taylor) Nunn.

Cora May Brown married Alfred Horner Beach. He was a son of Middleton Sumner and Elnora Cynthia (Smith) Beach. They were married at Lankin, Kansas, December 6, 1906.

Early in 1907 they moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming, U.S.A., where Alfred Beach opened a Law Office. He was a graduate in 1903 of the University of Michigan Law Department. His wife, Cora May, accepted the position of Superintendent of the Cheyenne Private Nursing Hospital. She was a graduate of St.

Mary's Hospital Training School for nurses in the class of 1900.

Their children were: Alfred Holmes, Ann Harriet, Stewart Middletown, John Elwood, Mary Elizabeth and James Hattan, all born in Wyoming, U.S.A.

Compiled from information received from Miss Louise Hill, Woodstock, and Mrs. Grant Cuthbert.

BURDICK, Mary (Perry)	died 1843	age 23 years
her infant son	"	"
Albert	" 1843	" 4 months

Mary Burdick was a daughter of Doctor Levi Hoyt and Ester Burtch Perry and was born August 6, 1820.

Doctor Levi Hoyt Perry was the first doctor and the first school teacher in Woodstock, Ontario.

Ester Burtch Perry was a younger sister of Elizabeth Burtch Sage, wife of Willard Sage, who was a brother of Comfort Sage.

Mary Perry married Albert Burdick and died a year or so after their marriage. Their son, Albert, apparently lived a few months after his mother died. The monument has been broken by vandals, so that some of the dates are not legible.

We have no history of Albert Burdick, he probably left the district after the death of his wife.

Albert was likely a descendant of Isaac Burdick, one of the original settlers in the district, and who built the first flour mill on Lot 16, Concession 1, Township of West Oxford. This mill, was burned by the Westbrook Raiders during the War of 1812-14.

Information from Miss Louise Hill, Woodstock, Ontario.

BURDICK, Willard	died 1868	age 61 years
Elizabeth	" 1853	" 12 "

Isaac Burdick, a very early settler of the district, was a member of the West Oxford Church and Cemetery Trustee Board, when the present site was purchased from John Galloway in 1823. He remained a member until his death in 1850. We have no record of where Isaac is buried. We have no positive history but Willard could have been a son of Isaac, and Elizabeth could have been a daughter of Willard.

Epitaph to Willard:

We miss his welcome footsteps,  
His eye of love so light,  
and his smile of warm affection,  
hath faded from our sight.

CUTHBERT, Peter	died 1932	age 83 years
his wife	"	"
Margaret	" 1907	" - - -
Clarence	" 1968	" 77 "

Eight Cuthbert brothers and one sister emigrated to Canada from Banffshire, Scotland. Two brothers came in 1835 and the others in 1836. Their names were: Alexander, John, Peter Charles, James, Robert, William, George and Elizabeth.

The only sister married James Coventry. The brothers, all farmers, settled in the Townships of West and East Oxford, in the County of Oxford.

John Cuthbert married Catharine Cunningham. They lived and farmed on Lot 5, Concession 6, Township of West Oxford. Peter 2nd was one of their sons. Peter had seven brothers and four sisters. His brothers were: John, James, Charles, Andrew, George, Seymour and Robert Dudley. His sisters were: Candice, who married David Rice, and lived east of Sweaburg; Jane, who married Mr. Eddy, and lived at Sault Ste Marie;

Annie, who married Mr. Owen, and lived in Virginia, U.S.A.; Nettie, married Mr. Humphrey, and lived in Niagara Falls, New York.

Peter 2nd married Margaret Joss. They lived and farmed all their married lives on Lot 14, Broken Front, Township of West Oxford. They had no children but raised a nephew, Clarence Cuthbert.

Margaret Joss emigrated to Canada with her parents from Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Margaret's parents are buried in the cemetery at Sweaburg, Ontario. She had one sister Barbara, who married James H. Snell. The Snells are buried in the West Oxford Cemetery.

Clarence Cuthbert was a son of Seymour and Martha (Buckborough) Cuthbert, who farmed on Lot 5, Concession 5, Township of West Oxford. Clarence was born there, but his mother died when he was eight months old. His Uncle and Aunt, Peter and Margaret, took him and raised him. Clarence had one older brother, Cecil.

Clarence married Jennie Heeneey and they farmed the Peter Cuthbert farm Lot 14, Broken Front, Township of West Oxford.

Jennie (Heeneey) Cuthbert was a daughter of Francis and Prudence Martha (Jones) Heeneey. Francis Heeneey was a son of Thomas and Sarah Ann (Cobb) Heeneey, and a brother of Fred Heeneey Sr. who is one of the Centenarians buried in the West Oxford Cemetery.

Francis Heeneey moved with his parents to a farm in Luther Township, County of Wellington, near Arthur, Ontario. When his father died he took charge of the farm. Later he married Prudence Martha Jones and they moved to Lot 20, Concession 3, West Oxford, south of Ingersoll, Ontario. Jennie Heeneey was born there.

Jennie had two brothers; Francis Jr. and Thomas. Francis served in the first World War and was decorated for bravery by the King.

Clarence and Jennie Cuthbert had two children, Melbourne and Effa. Melbourne, who married Clara Wade, farmed for some years near Zenda, Ontario. They have two sons, Peter who is a schoolteacher, and Robert, who is a chemical engineer. Effa married Charles Sipple of Drumbo, Ontario. Their son, John, is still in school.

COOK, Solon	died 1902	age 67 years
his wife	"	"
Henrietta (Reynolds)	" 1916	" 77 "

Solon Martin Cook — Born 1835 — Died 1902, was a son of Joseph and Clarissa (White) Cook. His wife, Henrietta (Reynolds) Cook was born 1839 and died 1916 and was a daughter of David Smith Reynolds and his wife, Lois (Janes) Reynolds. They were married in Brantford on November 4, 1862. They lived on Lot 9, Concession 2, West Oxford and later on Lot 16 Broken Front (Centerville). Solon Martin Cook was a blacksmith at both locations.

Clarissa (White) Cook was a daughter of Captain Marvel White, a British Army Officer. Her second husband was Joseph Dygert who was the first school teacher in Burford.

Solon Martin Cook's grandparents, Munson and Mary (Whipple) Cook were United Empire Loyalists and emigrated from Vermont. They forded the river at Brantford in a covered wagon and settled on Lot 5, Broken Front, West Oxford.

According to an 1824 Census, Munson Cook had 59 acres of uncultivated land and 8 acres of cultivated land.

Munson Cook and his wife were buried in the Karn Burial Ground on Lot 7, Broken Front, West Oxford. There seems to

no other known record of this burial ground available.

Clarissa Lois Cook, a daughter of Solon and Henrietta Cook married Joseph Monroe of Ingersoll and for some years lived in Detroit, Michigan, later living on Lot 16, Broken Front, West Oxford. They are buried in the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery. Their children — Mildred (Mrs. Joseph Fitzgerald)

Muriel (Mrs. George Radke)	Died 1941
Joseph (United States Marine Corps)	Died as a result of wounds received while in discharge of his duties at Camaguey, Cuba, June 1st, 1920.

Archie and his wife (Charlotte Mitchell Munroe) daughter of Catherine M. and William B. Mitchell of Otterville, Ontario live on Lot 16, Broken Front, West Oxford.

Archie Munroe very willingly assisted with the restoration of the West Oxford Cemetery.

Written by Mrs. Mildred Fitzgerald.

CONNOR, Harry	died 1960	age 69 years
Violet Aletta (McCready) his wife	" 1939	" 45 "
G. Norman	" 1920	" 3 "
Stanley	" 1922	" 8 "

Harry Connor was born in the Township of North Oxford. He was a son of Frank and Elizabeth (Fenton) Connor. He had 2 sisters and 2 brothers.

In 1913, he married Violet Aletta (McCready), daughter of Charles Edwin and Janet (Lossing), McCready of Putnam. She had three sisters and a brother. Charles McCready operated a harness shop in Putnam, Ontario, where the garage is now.

Harry and Violet lived on King Street West, Ingersoll, Ontario, the first few years of their married life. Three children were born there — Stanley, Norman and Clarence. They moved to Centerville, where eleven more children were born to them. Norman died from diphtheria and Stanley died from pneumonia.

Harry was a labourer all his life, having had little schooling. He was employed at the Chemical Lime Company in Centerville for a number of years. He also did white washing of barns, until he retired.

Violet was very busy with all the cooking, cleaning, washing, mending etc., involved in raising a large family. Money was not plentiful and therefore most of the clothing was made over and handed down. The baking of bread was almost a daily task.

Friends and neighbours remembered Violet as a good mother and anyone who visited the home was always made welcome. She apparently was not a very strong person and in her early forties, she developed cancer. After a painful illness, she died in 1939.

Harry Connor never re-married and with housekeeping help from his older daughters, managed to retain the family home and keep the family together.

One aspect of the togetherness of the family was that for many years, seven Connor brothers played hockey for the Centerville team. They also played challenge hockey games around Ontario, as a family, and won considerable reputation as a unique family hockey team.

Harry Connor, having only one given name, lived alone after his family were all married. However, his daughters kept him well cared for. He suffered a sudden heart seizure in January, of 1960 and died on January 13th.

Written by Rev. R.B. Cumming.  
Compiled from information supplied by the Connor family.

CHENOWETH, Eliza died 1861 age 6 months  
Thomas " 1866 " 3 "

The Chenoweth family emigrated from Wales. Eliza and Thomas were children of Richard and Louisa Chenoweth, who at the time lived on Lot 11, Concession 1, Township of West Oxford. Later they moved to Guelph, Ontario. Richard and Louisa are buried in a pioneer cemetery in Guelph, Ontario.

Information from Mrs. H.E. Chenoweth, Embro, Ontario.

CARROLL, John died 1813 age 22 years.

John Carroll, who was a Captain in the Oxford Militia, was captured by the American raiders led by Andrew Westbrook in the war of 1812-14. He was made to ride Westbrook's Pinto horse at the head of the raiders. A rescue party followed and one of John Carroll's best friends shot him - thinking it was Westbrook. Later these raiders met the British Army and were almost annihilated. Westbrook was captured, but escaped to Ohio.

John Carroll was probably buried in the Karn burial ground and his name placed on his sister's (Nancy Fuller) monument, in the West Oxford Cemetery.

His brother, Henry, was killed in 1813 at the Battle of Stoney Creek and is buried in the Military Cemetery there.

His father, John Carroll Sr., came to Oxford in 1784. He was 32 years old. He returned to the U.S.A. for some time and returned to Oxford with his wife Mariah and family later (year not known). They settled on Lots 23 and 24, Concession 1, Township of North Oxford, north of Beachville and had 8 sons and one daughter. His wife Mariah died in December 1837. He died in 1854, aged 102 years. They are buried in a plot on their farm.

Captain John Carroll died without a will; the following is an Inventory of his assets at the time of his death, filed with the Surrogate Court, District of London, 1815.

Amounts of money is expressed in Pounds, Shillings and Pence:

His wearing apparel	40	-	0	-	0
House, Lot and Furniture	40	-	0	-	0
Money	188	-	0	-	0
Two Horses	41	-	0	-	0
Horn Cattle	21	-	0	-	0
Sheep	8	-	8	-	0
Slay and Harness	8	-	0	-	0
Leather	12	-	16	-	0
Plowshare and dragteeth	3	-	0	-	0
Two Calves	2	-	16	-	0
Three Swine	4	-	16	-	0
Wheat	6	-	0	-	0
TOTAL	378	-	16	-	0

Agreeable to a warrant to us directed by James Mitchell Esq. Surrogate of District of London. We have appraised the above articles this twentieth day of May in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Eighteen Hundred and Fifteen.

John Young  
Christopher Martough.

Compiled from information received from Byron G. Jenvey.

CARROLL, George died 1851 age 3 years  
Jonas " 1864 " 18 "  
Norman " 1864 " 10 "  
Harry G. " 1872 " 64 "

Harry G. Carroll was probably a son of John and Mariah Carroll. He was born in 1808. Also it is likely he was the father of George, Jonas and Norman. No more history available.

Epitaph to George Carroll

I like this little lamb said he,  
And lay him on my breast,  
Protection it shall find in me,  
And be forever blest.

Epitaph to Norman and Jonas

Weep not for me, oh Parents dear  
I am not dead but sleeping here,  
I was not yours but God's alone,  
He loved me so, He took me home.

CARROLL, Henry died 1850 age 63 years  
Sarah (his wife) " 1839 " 50 "  
Amy " 1876 " 26 "  
(wife of D.H. Carroll)  
Harry E. " 1876 " 5 "  
Curtis, M.A. " 1894 " 78 "

Henry Carroll was a son of John and Mariah Carroll, was probably born in the U.S.A. and emigrated to Canada in the early 1800's with his parents. No record of who his wife was.

They farmed on Lot 12, Broken Front, Township of West Oxford. Their daughter, Appy, married William Galloway.

D.H. Carroll would be a son of Henry and Sarah Carroll. No record of D.H.; he likely left the district after his wife Amy and their son, Harry died in 1876.

No record of M.A. Curtis, could be mother or father of Amy Carroll.

Epitaph to Henry Carroll

Farewell dear Wife and children dear,  
I am not dead but sleeping here,  
I was not yours but God's alone,  
He loved me best and took me home.

CURTIS, Hull died 1858 age (broken)  
Phebe (his wife) " 1842 " 36 years  
Phebe " 1830 " 12 "  
Phebe J.C. " 1837 " 10 "  
Charles P. twins " 1811 " 1 "  
Catharine " 1811 " 1 "  
Sarah Jane " 1853 " 26 "  
and her infant son

One Curtis family lived on Lot 12, Concession 1, Township of West Oxford on the Old Stage Road. They came there some time prior to 1812.

A Warren Curtis joined the British Army in the War of 1812. No other records are available.

CODY, Elijah died 1828 age 52 years  
his wife  
Phila Staples " 1872 " 83 "

Philip Cody and his wife Martha emigrated to Beverly, Mass. from the Jersey Islands in 1668.

Elijah Cody was born December 27, 1775 at Millford, Mass., later moved to Marcellus, New York, where he became a millwright, innkeeper, farmer and carpenter. He served in the War of 1812-14, a captain of the Onondago Militia.

By his first wife, Sarah Chapman (no record) and his second

wife, Phila Staples, they had 17 children.

In 1819, they emigrated to Upper Canada and bought the noted Martin Tavern and stopping place on the North-west corner of Lot 6, Concession 1, Township of West Oxford, on the Old Stage Road.

In 1824 he moved to Cody's Corners, farmed and did carpenter work, built many barns, some of which still stand. The Cody family became one of the leading families of Oxford County. Canon Cody, who was Minister of Anglican Churches in Toronto and later Chancellor of the University of Toronto, was a descendant.

Wm. F. (Buffalo Bill) Cody, the last of the great scouts of the Western United States was a decendent of Philip and Martha Cody. He was a great nephew of Elijah Cody.

In September, 1828, Elijah rode horseback to Hamilton; on his way home he became ill and got as far as the Tavern on the Old Stage Road that he formerly owned and died there.

Compiled from information supplied by Mr. Andrew Cody of Cody's Corners.

DAKE, Lumon died 1883 age 72 years

Lumon Dake was a blacksmith and a hotel keeper and lived in Centerville. No other information is available.

Epitaph

The winter of trouble is passed,  
The storm of affliction is over,  
His Struggles are ended at last,  
And sorrow and death are no more.

DEUEL, Wm. G. died 1885 age 62 years

his wife  
Elizabeth " 1883 " 53 "  
Alberta " 1858 " 6 months  
Charles R. " 1863 " 2 years  
Edith E. " 1863 " 4 "  
Elsy " 1865 " 39 "

Records show that Wm. S. Deuel was a hotel keeper. It is assumed that he owned and operated a hotel in Centerville at the corner of Mill Street and Highway No. 2.

No other records of the family are available.

Epitaph to Elizabeth

A faithful friend, a Mother dear,  
A tender parent lieth here;  
Great is the loss we here sustain,  
But hope in Heaven to meet again.

Epitaph to Elsey

Precious in the sight of the Lord,  
Is the death of His Saint.

Epitaph to Alberta, Charles and Edith

Suffer little children to come unto me,  
For such is the Kingdom of Heaven.

DODGE, Edmond Stanley died 1938 age 77 years

his wife  
Elizabeth Clarkson " 1931 " 72 "  
Harry " 1889 " 3 months

Edmond Stanley Dodge was a son of John and Matilda (Williams) Dodge. He was born on Lot 4, Concession 1, Township of West Oxford.

His wife, Elizabeth (Clarkson) Dodge was the daughter of

John and Ann (Carr) Clarkson. She was born on Lot 3, Concession 1, West Oxford.

They farmed on Lot 15, Concession 2 of West Oxford until they moved to Ingersoll in 1914, where Edmond worked as a carpenter.

Mrs. Dodge had one leg amputated in 1889 and had to use crutches the rest of her life. In spite of this handicap, she very capably played the organ in the West Oxford Church for many years, until they moved to Ingersoll in 1914.

One daughter, Florence, was born in 1887. After leaving school she worked in Stan Galpin's Meat Market, then in Fred Bowman's music store. Later she was receptionist in Doctor Roger's office. Above all she lived at home and helped her mother, and cared for her father after her mother died.

A son, Harry, was born in 1889 and died at the age of 3 months.

John Dodge emigrated to Oxford as a United Empire Loyalist from Pennsylvania.

John Clarkson emigrated from Yorkshire, England to near Brampton, where he obtained one horse and a cow. He walked from Brampton to Oxford with the horse and cow. He bought 100 acres, at Lot 3, Concession 1, West Oxford, for \$100.00 in 1841.

He married Ann Carr in 1841. John and Ann Clarkson are buried in the Hill View Cemetery in Woodstock, Ontario.

Information from Miss Florence Dodge and Miss Irene Pearce.

DYGERT, Sylvenis died 1849 age 83 years

his wife  
Eleanor (Herkimer) " 1846 " 77 "  
their son  
Joseph " 1887 " 88 "  
his wife  
Clarissa (Cook:White) " 1898 " 82 "

Slyvenis and his wife Eleanor (Herkimer) Dygert emigrated to Canada from Herkimer County, New York State either in the late 1700's or early 1800's. We have had difficulty in getting history of the Dygert families.

They settled on the east half of Lot 9, Concession 2, Township of West Oxford. They built the one story brick house that is on that lot now. There was a brick yard on Lot 7, Broken Front Concession, in the early days.

Eleanor Dygert's maiden name was Herkimer. The Herkimer's were evidently very prominent people in that area of New York State. Herkimer County and the town of Herkimer were named after this family.

As far as we know, Sylvenis and Eleanor had three sons, Joseph born 1799, Isaac born 1807, and Herkimer born 1812.

Joseph Dygert, the eldest son, was the first school teacher at Burford. Later, he married Clarissa Cook, widow of Joseph Cook, who were parents of Solon Cook. Clarissa was a daughter of Captain and Mrs. Marvel White. In the 1861 Census Joseph and Clarissa Dygert were listed as living on his parents farm, Lot 9, Concession 2, Township of West Oxford. He may have taught school at Piper's Corners also.

Epitaph to Sylvenis

A faithful friend, a husband dear,  
A tender Father lieth here.  
Great is the loss we here sustain,  
But hope in Heaven to meet again.

Epitaph to Eleanor (only two lines readable)

I thank for the precious love.  
Afforded me so long.



Epitaph to Clarissa

Jesus has called this Mother home,  
Her flesh lies moldering in the tomb,  
God grant her offspring may be blest,  
and meet her in eternal rest.

Epitaph to Joseph

Sad thoughts which find imperfect bent  
in words, while the past recall,  
Raise thee this simple monument,  
Our Friendship's last memorial.

Compiled from information received from Mrs. Mildred Fitzgerald, Mrs. Marion Guthrie and the 1861 Census of West Oxford Township.



DYGERT, Herkimer	died 1889	age 77 years
Ruby (his wife)	" 1882	" 67 "
Their daughters		
Rose E.	" 1870	" 30 "
Catharine	" 1882	" 18 "

Herkimer Dygert was a son of Sylvanis and Eleanor Dygert and was likely born on Lot 9, Concession 2, Township of West Oxford. We have no history of who Ruby, his wife, was.

After their marriage they lived and farmed on Lot 15, Concession 3, West Oxford. Two of their daughters are buried in the West Oxford Cemetery. Martha Dygert, a daughter of Sylvanis and Eleanor, married Franklin Folden Sr. .

Epitaph to Ruby

Mother thou art gone to rest,  
We will not weep for thee,  
For thou art now where all on earth, a,  
Thy Spirit longeth to be.

Epitaph to Rose E.

Not lost but gone to rest.

What little information we have of this family was supplied by Mrs. Marion Guthrie and Percy Sage.

DYGERT, Isaac	died 1879	age 73 years
his wife		
Abigal (Janes)	" 1851	" 65 "
their children		
Joseph	" 1836	" 3 months
Warner twins	" 1845	" 9 years
Nancy	" 1851	" 10 "
Ellen	" 1851	" 5 "
Emerson	" 1851	" 1 "
Laura	" 1851	" 7 months
by second wife		
William	" 1863	" 9 years

Mrs. Gordon Cook Sr. was a daughter of Isaac Dygert. Isaac Dygert lived on the south part of Lot 9, Concession 1, Township of West Oxford. He built the brick house that is now on the farm. Evidently there was an epidemic in 1851 when Isaac's wife Abigal and four of their children died. He must have married again because William was born in 1854.

Some records of 1839 show that Isaac Dygert, John Galloway and Heman Janes were School Trustees (likely Piper's Corner's School). The school teacher was William Kingston.

The side road between Lot 9 and 10, Concession 1, West Oxford, for many years was known as the Dygert side road.

FAIRBANKS, Thomas	died 1962	age 53 years
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Thomas Fairbanks was a son of Samuel and Sarah (Merrill) Fairbanks and was born in Beachville, Ontario.

He worked in the Limestone Quarry in the Thames Valley all his life. Thomas died of a heart attack in his home in Ingersoll in 1962, leaving his wife the former Edith Sage and two daughters Janet and June.

He is buried in a plot he and his wife picked out just months before his death.

Information from Edith Fairbanks.

FRASER, John L.	died 1950	age 53 years
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John L. Frazer emigrated to West Oxford from the State of Michigan with his wife, daughter and one son.

He bought and farmed Lot 13, Concession 2, West Oxford which was the Old Mabee Farm.

Mrs. Fraser belonged to the West Oxford Church Women's Group. They did not live on this farm very many years before John died.

After his death Mrs. Fraser and her children moved back to Michigan.

Information from Mrs. Archie Munroe and Murray Budd.

FOLDEN, Franklin Sr.	born 1829	died 1898
his wife		
Martha (Dygert)	" 1836	" 1905

Children; Frank Jr. and an adopted daughter, Ellen, who married a Mr. Lawson and they moved to the U.S.A.

Franklin was born in Ireland and with a brother, they came to Canada with their widowed mother. Their mother died on the way. The two boys were separated and never got together again.

He came to West Oxford in 1856, at which time he would be 27 years of age. He obtained a lifetime lease on Lot 13, Concession 4, West Oxford from Benjamin Thornton. He farmed this land until 1886, when, with his son Frank Jr., they acquired the deed to the farm, soon sold it and moved to Lot

15, Concession 3, West Oxford, where Franklin died in 1898. The Village of Foldens Corners was named for him. He was one of the Trustees of the Folden's Methodist Church when it was built on land donated by him.

At one time he held the position of Sheriff. His wife Martha Dygert, was a daughter of Herkimer and Rose Dygert. She lived with her parents on Lot 9, Concession 2, West Oxford before her marriage. She died at the home of her son Frank Jr. in 1905. Both are buried in the West Oxford Cemetery.

Written by Percy Sage, information from Marion Guthrie.

FOLDEN, Frank Jr.	born 1860	died 1928
his wife		
Lavangha (Horner)	" 1868	" 1945

Their children; Ralph, Reginald (died 1950), Marion, married James Guthrie.

Frank Jr. was the son of Franklin and Martha Folden and was born at Lot 13, Concession 4, West Oxford. In 1886, he moved with his parents, to Lot 15, Concession 3, where he farmed until 1906. That year he bought back Lot 13, Concession 4 and moved back to his birth place. At one time he owned the Folden's Corner Store and sold it to his son-in-law, James Guthrie.

Frank was a trustee of the Folden's Church and was Chairman of the School Board.

At one time, he had a contract with the Canadian Army to supply them with horses. During this time he bought hundreds of horses, assembling them at his farm and when an order came, driving them to London with the help of his sons; one horse tied to the tail of the horse ahead. He also was a pretty sharp horse trader. He knew his horses.

He died on the farm now owned by his son, Ralph.

Frank's wife, Lavangha Horner, was born in Hamilton and after the death of her father there, came to Ingersoll with her mother. She was organist of the Folden's Church for over 30 years and at times, choir leader. She died in 1945 at the home of her son, Ralph.

Written by Percy Sage, information from Marion Guthrie.

FORDON, Anna Marie	died 1874	age 15 years
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Anna Marie was the daughter of Henry and Roxy (Thornton) Fordon Sr. She was born in 1859 on Lot 11, Concession 1, West Oxford. She had one sister, Sophia, who was born in 1854 and two brothers, Henry Jr., Born in 1856 and James born in 1858.

Roxy Thornton, wife of Henry Fordon Sr., was a daughter of Benjamin Thornton.

Annie Fordon, who married William Mann of Innerkip, Ontario and Newell Fordon who lived most of his life in Beachville were the children of Henry Fordon Jr.

We have no record of where the senior Fordon family came from.

Epitaph

Affection's tribute we raise,  
Tis all that we can do,  
Till death shall close our earthly day,  
Our Friendship to renew.

Information supplied by Mrs. Eugene Calbert, Thorndale, Ontario.

FOWLER, Grace — tablet broken		
John (her son)	died 1857	age 6 years

Only about half of Grace Fowler's tablet is left, but it does show that she was the wife of John Fowler. A separate small tablet for son John, states that he was the son of John and Grace Fowler.

Epitaph to son John

A Mother's hope and Father's joy,  
Death's hand hath here laid low,  
God gave and took our darling Boy,  
To His command we bow.

FULLER, Uriah	died 1860	age 66 years
Nancy (Carroll)	" 1868	" 80 "

Nancy Fuller was the only daughter of John and Mariah Carroll, and a sister of Captain John Carroll.

Nancy Fuller's husband was James Fuller and he was a blacksmith in Beachville. After his death, Nancy lived with her father until his death in 1855. We have no record of when James Fuller died or where he is buried.

Uriah Fuller was probably a brother of James.

Compiled from information received from Byron Jenvey and Marjorie Cropp.

GALLOWAY, John	died 1868	age 87 years
his wife		
Ester (Cook)	" 1866	" 75 "
Bernice	" 1830	" 16 "
Ebenezer	" 1852	" 33 "

John Galloway was born in the U.S.A. in 1780. His father had emigrated to Vermont from Scotland. He was a sergeant in the British Army in the Revolutionary War in the U.S.A. and was an United Empire Loyalist. We have no record of his mother. John emigrated, with his parents, to Ottawa, Ontario from the U.S.A. (year not known). He had \$2.00 cash and an axe, and was employed in cutting a road through the timber, from York (Toronto) to Kingston. From Kingston, he went to Dorchester, Ontario and worked in a sawmill for William Reynolds. From Dorchester, he moved to the Township of West Oxford and bought part of Lot 15, Concession 1.

In 1806 he married Esther Cook thought to have been the daughter of William Cook, there is no record of the William Cook family.

Soon after their marriage, while John was away from home, a band of Indians came and drove all his cows off except the one his wife was milking. They took them to their camp near the Thames River. When John went after the cows, he had to fight the Indians with a club. One Indian pushed a gun against him, but it missfired as flint locks often did. He grabbed the gun and broke it on the Indian, almost killing him. He drove the cows home; the Indians came the next day and said that they were sorry and that they had been drinking.

Soon after this they moved to Otterville, Ontario and built the first Grist Mill there. The settlers of West Oxford used to send their boys to the mill on horse back, with a sack of wheat to be ground. He would grind the wheat at night and send the boys home in the morning. They (the boys) had to sleep on the floor in the kitchen.

In 1814 they moved back to West Oxford and settled on Lot 14, Concession 2.

In 1823, John Galloway sold to the Methodist Church the site where the present Church and Cemetery are, for a sum of 5 pounds.

John's and Ester's family were James, George, Laura, Mary, William, Bernice and Ebenezer.

GALLOWAY, George died 1914 age 87 years  
 his wife  
 Almira (Schell) " 1914 " 48 "  
 J.B. " 1892 " 35 "  
 Sarah " 1937 " 72 "  
 (Coverdale, his wife)

George Galloway was a son of John and Ester Galloway. His wife, Almira, was a daughter of Solomon and Artemissa Schell.

George and Almira lived on Lot 14, Concession 2, West Oxford, where he farmed. They lived in a stone house, which was lost by fire, year not known. Another house was built.

In 1865, George built a cheese factory on his farm. He operated this factory until 1904, when the factory was moved to Folden's Corners.

Later George went to live with his son Fred, in Rollo, North Dakota, where he died. His remains were brought back for burial in the West Oxford Church Cemetery.

J.B. Galloway was a son of George and Almira Galloway. His wife, Sarah (Coverdale), was a sister of Mrs. George Cook. J.B. farmed on Lot 14, Concession 2, West Oxford. They had 2 children, Jennie of Los Angeles, and Byron of Brownsville, Ontario.

GALLOWAY, William died 1852 age 36 years  
 his wife  
 Appy (Carroll) " 1884 " 55 "

William Galloway was a son of John and Ester Galloway. His wife, Appy Carroll, was a daughter of Henry and Sarah Carroll.

They lived and farmed on Lot 12, Broken Front, West Oxford.

They had three children: William, Andrew and Mary.

#### Epitaph to Appy

Farewell my friends and children dear,  
 On earth we meet no more,  
 Till we are raised with Christ to dwell,  
 On Zions happy shore.

GALLOWAY, James died 1900 age 91 years  
 his wife  
 Lavina " 1902 " 89 "  
 Bradford " 1852 " 19 "  
 Emma (a twin) " 1854 " 4 weeks  
 James H. " 1867 " 21 years

James Galloway was a son of John and Ester Galloway. No record of who his wife, Lavina was. They had 9 children: Edwin and Emma who were twins, William F., Ellen, Laura, James H., Isabel, John and Sarah. Emma, one twin died age 4 weeks. James H. died age 21 years when he was attending Toronto University.

James Galloway was a farmer and lived on Lot 15, Concession 2, West Oxford.

GALLOWAY, Edwin died 1902 age 48 years  
 his wife  
 Clara (Brink) " 1935 " 87 "  
 George " 1952 " 76 "

Edwin Galloway, born February 23, 1854, was the son of James and Lavina Galloway. He died October 25, 1902. He had a twin sister who died at the age of 4 weeks.

Clara (Brink) Galloway was a daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Brink and was born February 3, 1848 and died December 1935.

They lived their married life on Lot 15, Concession 1, West Oxford. Besides farming, Edwin operated a Seed and Feed store in Ingersoll.

For many years Edwin was Superintendent of the West Oxford Church Sunday School and both he and his wife sang in the church choir.

They had two sons, George Ernest, born March 24, 1876, and died October 4, 1952. He was a bookkeeper and was employed by the Noxon Farm Machinery Manufacturing Company. Later in life he moved to Calgary, Alberta and was employed by the Revelstoke Lumber Company. He died in Calgary.

Albert Edwin was born April 25, 1878 and died October 1968. He moved to Alberta about 1910 and farmed there for 10 years. In 1921 he returned to Ontario, working in Linwood and Woodstock as a car salesman. His wife, Lilian Edna (Barlette) was born August 9, 1877 and died April 13, 1934. They are buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery in Woodstock.

Albert and Lilian's children are Gladys Viola, born January 31, 1908 and Edwin Barlett, born January 22, 1910.

GROVES, Alfred J. died 1862 age 4 years  
 Mary J. " 1870 " 2 "  
 Charles " 1880 broken

The 1861 Census shows Charles as 4 years old, so that he would be 23 years old at the time of his death.

The parents of these children were John and Pamella Groves, John Groves was born in 1832 at Shelton, Polden, Somerset, England. He was the youngest son of James and Prescilla Groves.

John Groves' brothers and sisters were: Edith, born 1816; Charles, born 1820, a farmer who remained in England; Harriett, born 1822, married George Clark, both died in Somerset, England, but their family emigrated to Oxford County, Ontario, (Lewis Clark of Salford is a descendant); Amelia, born 1824 died in infancy; Eliza, born 1825, married Richard Batten, who emigrated to Canada after 1886. Their daughter Nellie Batten married Charles Emery, Doctor Emery of Ingersoll is a descendant. Joseph, born 1828, emigrated to Australia.

John Groves emigrated to Canada sometime in the mid 18-50's. He worked as a farm labourer in West Oxford. About 1856 he married Pamella Gay, who was born in England, probably Somerset County. She emigrated to Oxford County, Ontario, and worked as a domestic servant until her marriage to John Groves.

After their marriage it is thought that they lived on Lot 13, Concession 1, West Oxford. They probably rented this farm and according to the 1861 Census, lived in a two story frame house. This house, we think, was located near the northeast corner of this lot, part of a foundation is all that is left of this house.

About 1870, John and Pamella Groves and family moved to Dereham Township, Concession 1 and bought a farm.

Besides the three children buried in the West Oxford Church Cemetery, the children of John and Pamella Groves were; Joseph born 1860, Frank born 1861, Prescilla born 1862 (she married Frank Clark, son of George Clark, Somerset, England).

Albert born 1865, James born 1867, Jack born 1871 (he was born in Dereham Township), George born 1874, Walter born 1877, Alfred 2nd born 1880 and Edith born 1884. There were 13 children in all.

The family attended the Salford Methodist Church and it is assumed that they attended the West Oxford Church when they lived in West Oxford.

John and Pamella Groves are buried in the Harris Street Cemetery.

#### Epitaph

Beautiful, lovely, they were but given,  
 Fair Buds to earth, to blossom in Heaven.

Information supplied by Mrs. Lorne Groves, London, Ont.

GREY, Michael died 1830 age 6 years  
 Infant child — no dates

Michael Gray, who was probably the father of these children, lived on Lot 16, Concession 2, West Oxford. In 1831 he was appointed a member of the Church and Cemetery Trustees of the West Oxford Church, to replace Jacob Wood, who had resigned. He ceased to be a member of the Trustees in 1837, and was replaced by Daniel Harris Jr.

HASKIN, Luther died 1857 age 79 years  
 his wife  
 Dolly (Stevens) " 1870 " 81 "  
 their children  
 Mary Ann (Currie) " 1891 " 72 "  
 Jane " 1881 " 70 "  
 Calvin " 1861 " 53 "  
 Harriett " 1862 " 15 "  
 (daughter of Calvin)

Luther Haskin was one of the very early settlers in the wilds of Upper Canada. He was an United Empire Loyalist from the state of Pennsylvania and came as part of a surveyor's team.

Later, he returned to the States and brought his parents back with him. In order that Thomas Ingersoll could receive a township of land from Governor Simcoe, he brought forty-five settlers to Canada and received the township of 64,000 acres, (East, West and North Oxford). Luther Haskin was one of these first settlers, arriving in the summer of 1793. The trip was made through unbroken bush on pack horse and covered wagon and in fear of Indians and wild beasts. They followed Indian trails. Luther Haskin carried one of the surveyor's chain when the township was first surveyed. A surveyor's chain was a hundred link chain measuring 66ft. and could be folded into a neat bundle. Each link was a piece of heavy wire with a loop at each end, exactly 7.92 inches long.

The important tool was a modified compass called a circumferenter. By these, straight lines could be marked out in the woods. The surveyor's party consisted of men to cut down the trees, chainman to carry the surveyor's rod and picket men to cut and drive stakes, probably eight men. These men cut a road from Burford, by Canfield's farm (Oxford Centre) to the Haskin farm on the first concession of West Oxford.

On December 31, 1798, Luther Haskin received his grant of land on the first concession, lot seven — 400 acres of land. The second lot registered in the county was sold by the government to him on December 22, 1800 — namely lot 2 on the second concession. He chose these lots because of the many springs of clear running water.

The settlers who started clearing the bush worked very hard and were successful for the Upper Canada Gazette published at Niagara-on-the-Lake, in 1799, said that Oxford had a thousand bushels of grain more than needed for their consumption.

By 1824, Luther Haskin had 80 cultivated acres and 324 uncultivated acres, 2 horses and 3 cows. Luther's house, made

of square logs, was the first taxable house and the ten cents bought the Record Book for the council. This was destroyed when the Registry Office in Ingersoll burned in 1856.

The American war came through the settlement in 1812—1814 but with grim determination these settlers never gave up. The army hewed a wider road as they went along and it was called "The Old Stage Road". The American Raiders, led by Leonard Westbrook, stole horses, burned and plundered as they went along. The grist mill at Centerville and the settlers' cabins went up in smoke. Some livestock was hidden in the dense forests. The Haskins lost their buildings so they rebuilt west of the creek. They erected a Half-Way House with a stable for horses. This was for travellers stopping over between Niagara and Detroit; because the stage coaches followed the Stage Road, a home was also built later on Lot 7.

Luther Haskin married Dolly Stevens. They had nine children: Mary Ann, Caroline, Maria, Jane, Susan, Charlotte, Harriet, Delight and Calvin. Two daughters, Caroline and Mary Ann married American soldiers stationed in the area during the war. Calvin, their only son, married Sophia Janes and they had eight children: Harriet, Louisa, Almira, Ellen, Lydia, Eva, Annie and one son, Adam.

Adam lived on the homestead and he married Isabella Dyer of London Township. They had five children, the two boys died in infancy. The daughters were Natalie, Myrtle and Jennie. Adam had a fine brick house on his farm as well as barns. In 1891, when the Beachville Methodist Church was erected, Adam was one of the members of the Board of Trustees. Adam's daughter, Jennie, married Fred Lowes. Myrtle never married and Natalie married Byron Downing.

Natalie had three daughters: Evelyn, Grace, (Mrs. D.A. Watson) and Kathleen (Mrs. W. Moggach).

Sources — Byron Jenvey

Written by the great, great granddaughter—Evelyn Downing.

HEENEY, Fred Vanlip died 1961 age 101 years  
 Edith E. (Nichols) " 1959 " 93 "

Fred Vanlip Heeney was one of three Centenarians buried in the West Oxford Cemetery. The other two are, Lucy (Sage) Scott and William Reynolds. He was born at Burford, Ontario and was a son of Thomas and Sarah Ann (Cobb) Heeney.

In 1812, the Heeney family lived in the northern part of Ireland in County Tyrone or County Cavan. They were Protestants.

In 1812, Thomas Heeney's older brother planned to come to America. Thomas, who was only 11 years old, begged to come with him and he was taken along. They landed in New York City; strangers with no work.

One Sunday they went for a walk on the Hudson River Bridge where a notable family was. Their little boy fell off the bridge into the water. Thomas's older brother, being a good swimmer, jumped into the river and saved the boy. He would not accept a reward, so he was offered a job, which he accepted, as turnkey at the Albany State Prison. Years later he became a large real estate agent in Buffalo, New York, where he died.

Thomas Heeney became a carriage maker and had a business in Brantford, Ontario, known as Heeney and Tupper.

Thomas Heeney boarded at a hotel in Brantford, which was owned by a Mr. Vanlip. Mrs. Vanlip's sister, Sarah Ann Cobb, came from the U.S.A. to visit her sister Mrs. Vanlip. Sarah Ann met Thomas Heeney and later they were married. This is how Fred Heeney got his second name.

Thomas and Sarah Ann had a family of 5 boys and 3 girls. In 1859, Thomas and his wife moved to a small farm at Burford, Ontario. In 1860 prosperity was nil, they lost their home and moved to West Oxford. They rented the north part of Lot 13, Concession 1. Fred started to Centerville school, while they lived there. Later the family moved to near Arthur, Ontario, in Wellington County, where they chopped a farm from the woods.

Thomas Heeneey died in 1880, in West Luther Township, Wellington County and is buried in the cemetery at Arthur. The oldest son, Francis ran the farm. Sarah Ann (Cobb) born 1819 died 1890 in West Luther Township, Wellington County and is buried in the cemetery at Arthur, Ontario.

Fred Vanlip Heeneey went to St. Catharines, Ontario, and learned a trade as a carriage blacksmith. He was working in Rochester, New York, when he and Edith E. Nichols were married, March 24, 1891. (They had met when Fred had attended Centerville School).

They returned to West Oxford in 1894, to the farm that Edith had inherited from her parents, Lot 16, Concession 1, West Oxford.

Edith E. Nichols was born in West Oxford, a daughter of James and Susanna (McKenzie) Nichols. Her mother died when she was 15 years old and her father died when she was 17 years old. She had one brother Euclid Nichols and a sister, Effie May, who died in 1872, age 5 months.

Fred and Edith Heeneey had five children: Elmer, Nora, Mildred, Carl and Prudence.

They lived on the farm until their son, Carl, took over, then they moved to the town line in North Oxford Township where they lived the remainder of their lives.

Fred and Edith were ardent workers in the West Oxford Church.

Written from information supplied by Fred Heeneey Jr.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Heeneey

HEENEY, Elmer Jackson	died 1973	age 79 years
his wife		
Mattie (McBeth)	" 1950	" 48 "
Edith Louise	" 1925	" 3 months
John	" 1927	-----
Anna Isabelle	" 1935	" 5 years
Lilly (Tooke)	" 1968	" 72 "
(Elmer's 2nd wife)		

Elmer Heeneey was a son of Fred Sr. and Edith (Nichols) Heeneey. He was born in Rochester, New York, in 1893 and came to West Oxford with his parents in 1894.

His wife, Martha (Mattie) Merryfield McBeth was a daughter of Thomas J. and Ella McBeth. They farmed in Dereham Township, 2nd Concession.

Besides the above children, others are: Ella, Mrs. Gordon McLeod, now living in Victoria, B.C., Helen, Mrs. Frank Skinner, now living in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Fred Jr., living on the south east part of Lot 15, Concession 1, West Oxford, and James, who was killed by lightning in 1960. He lived on the north west part of Lot 14, Concession 2, West Oxford. James was Secretary-Treasurer of the West Oxford Cemetery Board for 9 years.

Elmer Heeneey's second wife, Lilly Tooke, whom he married in 1952, was born in England. Elmer and his family lived on the farm formerly owned by Euclid Nichols, the south east part of Lot 15, Concession 1, West Oxford.

He and his family were active in the work of the West Oxford Church.

#### A Bravery Citation

Elmer Jackson Heeneey was awarded the Bronze Medal of the Royal Canadian Humane Society, for exceptional bravery in rescuing a three year old child who had fallen into a 40 foot well.

A plain, yet very vivid description of the rescue effected by Mr. Heeneey was given by James Cuthbert of West Oxford, who reviewed at length the circumstances in connection with the accident.

On the morning of September 25, 1930, Mr. Heeneey was driving west on Victoria Street, Ingersoll, at about 8:00 a.m.; suddenly his attention was attracted by the scream of a woman who asked him to stop. At the same time saying "My boy is in the well".

With all possible haste Mr. Heeneey responding to the mother's appeal, reached the well. Looking into the well, he saw water at the bottom and could see the child's feet kicking.

The side of the well was bricked and there were wooden steps. He immediately started down the well, grasping the pump log as he did, every time his foot came in contact with one of the steps it gave away. He virtually slid down the pump log to an extra brick curbing near the bottom of the well where he managed to get a foot hold.

The child was still floundering in the water and it was evident there was not a second to lose. Not knowing the depth of the water or the condition at the bottom of the well, but actuated only by the thought of saving the child, he leaped in.

He grasped the child who was covered with slime and mud and placed him on top of the brick curbing from which he had jumped. By this time, others had gathered at the well, including Mr. Wright of the Ingersoll Packing Company and Mr. Heeneey shouted up word to get a doctor as quickly as possible. Dr. J.M. Rogers quickly responded.

Brushing the mud and dirt from the child's face, he then gave thought to getting the lad out of the well. The mother at the top of the well had a chain which was not of sufficient length. Mr. Wright had a rope and by the chain and rope together, the child was eventually hauled to the top.

By this time the boy's father, Mr. Collins, and fellow employees had arrived.

Following the lifting of the child out of the well, the next task was to get Mr. Heeneey out. His ordeal had been a trying one and when he finally was hauled to the top, he was unable to stand — due to the combined effects of the exertion and a

heart condition from which he had been suffering.

It was further explained that when Mrs. Collins appealed to Mr. Heeneey to stop, that he was on his way to the west end of town for a maid, owing to the fact that there was serious illness in his own family.

Dr. J.M. Rogers congratulated the County of Oxford on having such a worthy citizen who would risk his life to save that of a child, not his own child, not the child of a friend, but a child he did not know. He considered this one of the finest act imaginable.

Compiled from information received from Fred Heeneey Jr. and the 1930 issue of the Sentinel-Review.

HARRIS	Daniel Jr.	died 1875	age 70 years
	his wife		
	Marietta (Hyde)	" 1883	" 76 "
	their children		
	Orris	" 1849	" 11 "
	Demmis	" 1854	" 18 "
	Eunice M.	" 1864	" 18 "
	Gustavus	" 1924	" 76 "
	his wife		
	Bella (Galloway)	" 1922	" 72 "
	their children		
	Emma Maud	" 1883	" 1 "
	Florence Evelyn	" 1887	" 4 "

The Harris family emigrated to the United States from Wales. Ely Harris and his wife, Laeretta Abigal (Ransom) emigrated to Canada from Cooperstown, New York about 1805. They lived on Lot 14, Concession 2, West Oxford. Ely Harris was born in 1754 and died in 1836, age 82 years. They had 11 children.

Daniel Harris Sr., was a son of Ely and Laeretta Harris. His wife was Phebe (Holt). They lived and farmed on Lot 18, Concession 2, West Oxford. Daniel Sr. died in 1865 at the age of 90 years. His wife died in 1860 at the age of 78 years.

Daniel Harris Jr., son of Daniel Sr., married Marietta (Hyde). They lived and farmed on Lot 17, Concession 2, West Oxford. Their children, Orris, Demmis and Eunice M. are buried with their parents in the West Oxford Cemetery. Their other children were; Wellington, Alex G., Gustavus, Louise Emilia, Phebe, and Lauvange.

Daniel Harris Jr. was Superintendent of the West Oxford Church Sabbath School for 25 years. He was succeeded by John Nichols as Superintendent.

During the cyclone of 1866, Daniel Harris was blown in the air, nearly as high as the trees, and survived. This storm blew down all the large trees, except three on his farm. It did extensive damage in West Oxford.

We have no record of Marietta Hyde's family. Gustavus E. Harris was the son of Daniel Harris Jr. and his wife Bella (Galloway) was a daughter of George and Elimira Galloway. They farmed and lived on Lot 17, Concession 2, West Oxford. They, along with their daughters Emma Maud and Florence Evelyn are buried in the West Oxford Church Cemetery.

Another son of Daniel and Marietta Harris, Rev. Alex G. Harris, was born in 1841. On November 5, 1904 he preached the Jubilee Services of the present Church building and the 100th Anniversary Services of the organization of the Church by the saddle bag preacher Nathan Banks in 1804. Rev. Alex G. Harris later preached in Winnipeg, Manitoba and in 1924

wrote a history of the West Oxford Church. His wife was Sarah (Williams). Their children were; Rev. G. Harris, Ada (married S.D. Ken and was a missionary in China), Percy, Mable and Winnie.

A brother of Daniel Harris Sr., Rev. John Harris, had a son John, who in 1846 commenced making farm implements on his farm a few miles south of Brantford. He was assisted by his son Alanson, who was born near Ingersoll, April 1, 1816. Alanson Harris purchased a foundry in Beamsville in 1857, where he developed his great inventive ability. In 1872 he moved to Brantford having admitted his son John and J.K. Osborne into the business. It became known as the A. Harris, Son and Company, Brantford, Ontario.

In 1891, the Harris Companies amalgamated with the Massey Company which had moved from Newcastle, Ontario to Toronto. It was founded by David Massey, a decendent of a Windsor, Vermont family in 1847. Thus the great farm Machinery company known as The Massey-Harris Company.

Compiled from information obtained from Miss Louise Hill, Woodstock, Ontario and Byron Jenvey, Ingersoll.

HENDERSON, William	died 1886	age 80 years
his wife		
Francis	" 1862	" 55 "

No history available — two forgotten people.

#### Verse on tablet

Our parents here lie underground,  
The dearest Friends we ever had,  
And through the Lord's unbounded love,  
We hope to meet in Heaven above.

HERRINGTON, William	no marker
William Herrington is listed in the West Oxford census of 1861, as a carpenter.	

HOGAN, Seymour	died 1862	age 32 years
Addie	" 1861	" 3 "

It is thought that Seymour Hogan was a laborer. His wife was Isabella, Daughter of Solomon and Artemissa Schell and was a sister of Mrs. George Galloway.

After Seymour's death, Isabella moved to California. She died in 1924 and is buried in Inglewood Park Cemetery in Los Angeles.

Compiled from information supplied by Edna Currie and Jean Galloway, Los Angeles, California.

JANES, Heman Sr.	died 1839	age 74 years
Mary	" 1837	" 40 "
Caroline	" 1836	" 5 "
Abigal	" 1835	" 2 "
David	" 1884	" 84 "
Lavona (his wife)	" 1886	" 81 "

Heman Janes Sr. was a son of Elijah and Ann (Hawkins) Janes and was born the 9th of June 1765 at Pittsfield, Vermont, they were of English descent.

He married Abigal Burdick at Bloomfield, New York. They had 4 children; Heman Jr., born 1789, Laura, born 1791, Elijah born 1793 and James, born 1798. Abigal evidently died in the U.S.A., there is no record of where or when she was buried.

Heman Janes Sr. married a second time, probably was Mary, there is no record of who she was.

Caroline and Abigail may have been children of Heman Sr. and Mary Janes. Heman must have emigrated to Canada in the early 1800's. He is listed as the Tax Collector for West Oxford in 1825 & 26.

David Janes and his wife Lavona lived on Lot 13, Concession 3, West Oxford. No record of David's wife Lavona was found. David was a teamster and probably hauled logs from the area of Jerusalem Hill, down the Jordan Road to the sawmill. The Jordan Road is the one by the West Oxford Church.

David also likely hauled cordwood to the Lime Kilns in the Thames Valley. These Kilns used wood for many years, to burn the limestone into lime.

#### Epitaph to Lavona

God has called the Mother home,  
The flesh lies moldering in the tomb;  
God grant her offspring may be blest,  
And meet her in eternal rest.

#### Epitaph to David

A faithful friend, a Father dear,  
A tender Parent lieth here,  
Great is the loss we here sustain,  
But hope to meet in Heaven again.

Compiled from information received from F.W.T. Reynolds.

JANES,	Heman Jr.	died 1867	age 78 years
	his wife		
	Olive (Piper)	" 1833	" 40 "
	his 2nd wife		
	Mary (Folman)	" 1869	" 73 "
	Jimmie	" 1872	" 4 "

Heman Janes Jr. was born in New York State; was a son of Heman Sr. and Abigail (Burdick) Janes. He emigrated to Canada with his father. We have no record of his stepmother.

Heman Jr. married Olive Piper in Ingersoll. They had 5 children; Lois born 1810, married David Reynolds; Abigail born 1812, married Isaac Dygert, they are both buried with their husbands in the West Oxford Church Cemetery; Lucy born 1816 and Laura born 1819. Olive died February 16, 1833.

In 1834, Heman married Mrs. Mary Folman. They had 3 children; Sarah born 1835; Ruben born 1837 and Simeon born 1843. Ruben married Sarah Galloway and they moved to Calgary, Alberta. We have no record of Jimmie Janes.

Compiled from information from F.W.T. Reynolds.

LAWRENCE,	Bennajah	died 1868	age 63 years
	Sabrina R.	" 1870	" 77 "

Bennajah Lawrence was a son of Levi and Abigail (Burdick) Lawrence.

Levi Lawrence was born about 1766 at Alhol, Mass. He enlisted in the army, August 1, 1781, being not quite 15 years old and was in the service until December 1, 1782. He was a private in the Company of Captain William Hutchens, Colonel Samuel Fletcher's Regiment, Vermont. He lived in Casetown, Vermont, when he enlisted.

Levi's father, Joseph, was a sergeant in the Fletcher Regiment in 1781.

It is not known what year Levi Lawrence moved to the Burford District, but he received a Crown Grant of 200 acres, Lot 12, Concession 4, Burford Township, April 24, 1905.

Levi was appointed Constable of Burford and Blenheim in

1806. The road between Concession 4 and 5 of Burford Township, just north of Cathcart is called Lawrence Road.

The following information from Merton M. Scott, descendant of Bennajah Lawrence is taken from a Family Bible kept by Bennajah.

Levi Lawrence	Born August 9, 1766; died December 10, 1838, age 71, in Burford, Canada.
Abigail Burdick	Born January 2, 1767; died April 18, 1813

#### Children:

Susannah	Born January 20, 1795, died August 2, 1868 Married Comfort Sage.
Lucinda	Born September 1, 1797, died April 18, 1813.
Abigail	Born April 8, 1799, married Daniel Burtch.
Joseph	Born October 21, 1801, died October 19, 1841.
Levi	Born November 6, 1803.
Bennajah	Born April 7, 1805, died August 14, 1868. Married Sabrina — — —
Samuel	Born June 21, 1806, died October 12, 1841. Married Susannah Kipp. This made the Lawrence connection with the Kipp family, Princeton, Ont.

Bennajah Lawrence's wife Sabrina: There seems to be no record of the Sabrina Lawrence family or her maiden name. Another instance of neglect of keeping history of women.

Compiled from information from Miss Louise Hill and Mr. & Mrs. Edward B. Kipp.

LILLYWHITE,	Fanny	died 1877	age 39 years
	Maria	" 1881	" 36 "

The Lillywhite family originally came from England, and first settled in the north part of East Nissouri Township. The West Oxford Township census of 1871, listed George and Fanny Lillywhite as having 6 children; James, 13, Doreh, 11, Henry, 9, Susan, 7, Charles, (no age), and Ellen, born May 4, 1870. Some of the children would be quite young when their mother died.

#### Epitaph to Fanny

A faithful friend, a Mother dear,  
A tender Parent Lieth here,  
Great is the loss we sustain,  
But hope in Heaven to meet again.

Maria was the second wife of George Lillywhite. We have no other records of George, his wives or the family.

We could only read two lines of a four line Epitaph to Maria as follows;

#### Epitaph to Maria

We have no Mother now,  
There is no joy at Home.

LEID,	Robert	died 1872	age 80 years
	his wife		
	Elizabeth	" 1878	" 64 "
	their daughter		
	Christina	" 1864	" 19 "

Robert Leid emigrated to Canada from Scotland (date unknown). He was a stone mason. There is no record of who Elizabeth was.

They had four daughters; Ann, Margaret, Elizabeth and Christina and one son, Robert. There is no other information of the three daughters or the son.

Compiled from the West Oxford Township census, 1861.

LEWIS,	Seneca	died 1863	age 53 years
	his wife		
	Elizabeth	" 1875	" 65 "
	Alfred H.	" 1872	" 4 "
	(son of Nelson and Hannah Lewis)		

A number of Lewis families lived in the area in the early days. There seems to be no relatives left in the district.

A number of years ago a lady from Indiana, U.S.A., visited the cemetery and engaged Russell Currie to repair the broken monuments, which he did. A letter to this lady now, gets no answer.

Byron Jenvey informs us that Seneca Lewis was kidnapped by the Seneca Indians when he was a small child, hence his given name, Seneca.

Seneca and his wife lived on the north east part of Lot 15, Concession 1, West Oxford; the land where the Church and Cemetery are.

In the 1851 West Oxford Census, Seneca Lewis is listed as an Inn-Keeper.

Alfred H. Lewis, son of Nelson and Hannah Lewis would be a grandson of Seneca and Elizabeth.

#### Epitaph to Alfred

I like this little lamb, said he,  
And lay him on my breast.  
Protection it shall find in me,  
And be forever blest.

LICK,	Maria	died 1852	age 26 years
	her son		
	David F.	" 1854	" 2 "

Unfortunately, the same as with a number of other women there is no record of Maria Lick's maiden name, so that we have no history of her family before she was married.

She was the wife of Adam Lick, who was an older brother of John Lick, a longtime resident of West Oxford and who lived on the Old Stage Road about half a mile south and east of the famous Martin Tavern, on Lot 7, Concession 1, West Oxford.

David F. Lick, son of Adam and Maria Lick, lived 2 years after the death of his mother. Adam Lick left the district some time after this.

Adam Lick, born August 23, 1825, was a son of Daniel and Mary (Daily) Lick.

Daniel, born March 21, 1783 was a son of Adam Sr. and his wife, a former Miss Schwadkhammer.

Adam Sr. was born March 26, 1735 at Hockenburg Germany, was a son of John Henry and Magdalena (Alburgerin) Luck, who were married February 21, 1731.

John Henry Luck, born February 21, 1697 was a son of Johannes Luck. The name was later changed from Luck to Lick.

#### Epitaph

Dear Friends while on my tomb you gaze,  
In Jesus' arms I sleep,

Till the last trump shall bid us rise,  
Prepare me there to meet,  
When all the dead shall wake and rise,  
To hail each other in the skies,  
Forever there to reign.

Information from Elmer Lick, Toronto, Ontario.

LOWES, Joseph	died 1867	age 80 years
his wife		
Sarah (Shields)	" 1871	" 62 "
their son		
Joseph Heatherington	" 1916	" 87 "
his wife		
Grace (Uren)	" 1898	" 65 "
their children		
Joseph F.	" 1860	" 1 month
Mary L.	" 1864	" 8 years
Agnes F.	" 1873	" 9 months
Sarah H.	" 1887	" 19 years

William Lowes was born in Alston Moor, Cumberland, England, married a Miss Heatherington and emigrated to Canada in 1798. They settled in Durham County, north of Port Hope, Ontario. They had five children.

Their eldest son Joseph, born in 1799, married Sarah Shields. They lived in a log cabin in the Township of North Oxford. They had six children.

Their eldest son, Joseph Heatherington Lowes, married Grace Uren, who was a daughter of John Uren II and a sister of Eben Uren. They settled west of Rayside on the Governor's Road in North Oxford. They had ten children, four died in their youth. Sarah H. was accidentally struck on the head with a baseball bat and died at 19 years.

The other six children were: Frank, Albert, Charles, Clara, Agnes and Austin. It seemed customary those days to name another baby after a departed one.

Frank Lowes married Annie Marshall, lived in North Oxford later moved to West Oxford on the Old Stage Road, south of Beachville. They had three sons and a daughter, Fred, Ethel, Ernest and Wilford.

Written by Mrs. Nora (Uren) Hagerman of Los Angeles, California and Velma Lowes Brown.

MANZER, James L.	died 1952	age 87 years
his second wife		
Laura E. (McNames)	1948	" 77 "
Garnet	" 1915	" 11 "
Ruby and her infant	1921	" 19 "
Carl Henry	" 1949	" 39 "

James Manzer's wife was Mary Briggs. They lived in Sweaburg, and had one daughter Clemma, who married Byron Todd. There is no record of Mary's death or where she was buried.

His second wife was Laura E. McNames, daughter of Peter and Anna Margaret McNames. Their family of 8 children were: Ruby (married Archie Cucksey), Garnet died at 11 years of age, Carl Henry never married. Peter died at Sebring, Florida, Fenton died in Frankfort, Indiana, Pearl (Mrs. Ed. Wilson) lives in Port Hope, Ontario, Coza (Mrs. Ronald Goodeve) lives in Kingston, Ontario, Gordon died in Woodstock and was buried in the Anglican Cemetery, Woodstock.

In the early days James Manzer hauled milk with horses on the Second Concession of West Oxford, first to the Galloway

Cheese factory, and later to the Neilson plant in Beachville. For a time he worked in a cheese factory, and farmed on Lot 17, Concession 1, West Oxford. He also farmed for a time at Huntsville, Ontario, later he moved to Ingersoll and lived on Whiting Street.

He joined the army in World War 1 and got to Camp Borden where they discovered that he was over age and was given an honorable discharge. He moved to Woodstock, living on Hunter Street, then on Norwich Ave. James and his son Carl Henry operated two ice cream wagons for a number of years.

After his wife died, James went to live with his son, Fenton, in Detroit, he died there.

Ruby married a Mr. Cucksey, and lived on a farm near Swenburg, until her death in 1921, she and her infant son were buried in the Manzer Plot.

Compiled from information supplied by Mrs. Gordon Manzer.

McKENZIE Susan (Nichols) died 1871 age 30 years  
also infant daughter

Susan McKenzie was a daughter of John and Mary Nichols. On September 9, 1863, she married Edward McKenzie, they were married by Rev. Thomas Cleghorn of Ingersoll. They had one son, Archie.

#### Epitaph

Mourn not for me, my life is past,  
My life with you, not long did last,  
God mercy show and pity take,  
And love my children for my sake.

McNAMES Peter died 1918 age 70 years  
his wife  
Anna M. (Smith) " 1932 " 81 "  
Howard " 1879 " 1 "  
Harwood " 1913 " 33 "

Peter McNames married Anna Margaret Smith, a sister of William Smith, the Town Clerk of Ingersoll for a number of years.

Peter was a machinist and worked at the Ingersoll Machine and Tool Company. They first lived in Centerville, later moving to King Street West, Ingersoll.

They had 4 children: Howard, Ernest, Laura and Harwood. Howard was drowned in Centerville, Ernest lived in Brantford. Laura married James Manzer, their son Gordon, married Laura Kaitting, who lives at 8 Ann Street, Ingersoll.

Harwood joined the U.S. Army and was killed during a tornado at the Army Camp in Texas City, Texas on October 22, 1913. When his body was found it was too badly decomposed to bring back to Canada. His name is inscribed on the McNames' monument.

Compiled from information from Mrs. Gordon (Laura) Manzer.

MERRILL Harvey died 1918 infant  
Russell " 1923 "

They both were infant sons of Charles and Alice (Sage) Merrill, who lived and farmed on Lot 14, Concession 3, West Oxford.

Alice Sage was a daughter of Everett and Nellie Sage. Both children are buried in the Allen Sage plot, with no markers.

Names are on the family plot in the Harris Street Cemetery. Information supplied by Percy Sage.

MILLARD George died 1911 age 50 years  
his wife  
Elsie (Rivers) " 1925 " 61 "  
their son  
Robert William " 1963 " 70 "

George Millard, son of Robert and Martha (Hersee) was born at Princeton, Ontario. He died at the Woodstock Hospital May 7, 1911.

His wife, Elsie was born on Lot 9, Concession 5, West Oxford and was the daughter of William and Mary (Scott) Rivers.

She died at Vantage, Saskatchewan, while visiting her daughter, on November 11, 1925.

Robert Millard, father of George, emigrated to Canada from England, and was a tailor. He worked for a time for the John White Clothing Store, Woodstock, Ontario. Later he bought the farm on Lot 6, Concession 5, West Oxford, later he sold this farm to Job Thompson. Robert's wife was Martha (Hersee).

Elsie (Rivers) was a daughter of William and Mary (Scott) Rivers, and a sister of Walbura: Rivers. Robert and Elsie had 2 daughters and 3 sons. Lettie (Mrs. Harrison), Gertie (Mrs. Bert Thompson), Fred, Earl and William. They farmed on Lot 7, Concession 4, West Oxford, first on 50 acres and later purchasing an adjoining 50 acres. They cleared this bushland and built their first house of logs.

Robert William Rivers lived at home and never married, he died in Woodstock in 1963.

Earl Millard was appointed to the Cemetery Trustee Board in 1931 and remained a member until the Cemetery was taken over by the Township of West Oxford.

Compiled from information from Earl Millard and Mrs. Lettie Harrison.

MISNER Ermenie (Swartz) died 1941 age 61 years

Mrs. Misner was a daughter of Neil and Lucinda (Dodge) and a great granddaughter of Luther and Dolly Haskin.

She was the second wife of Wesley Misner. They had two children: Erma (Mrs. Cecil Breen) of Oshawa, she was born at Kearney, Parry Sound, March 21, 1905. Clarence, also born at Kearney, on March 2, 1907, worked as a tool maker for the International Nickel Company at Port Colborne, he died at work in 1963. Both children attended Public and High School in Ingersoll.

Wesley Misner operated a Box Factory at Springfield Ontario, later moving to Kearney, Parry Sound, where he operated several sawmills. After he was injured in a sawmill accident, they moved to Ingersoll. Wesley died about 1912 and was buried at Springfield, where his first wife was buried.

Ermenie's brothers and sisters were: Simon, Frank, William, Charles (who died young), Albert, Alice, Cordelia, and Lucinda who died when she was 6, from eating toadstools.

Ermenie's mother and father are buried in the Hill View Cemetery in Woodstock.

Compiled from information received from Albert Swartz, Calgary, Alberta, and Mr. Cecil R. Breen, Oshawa, Ontario.

MILLINGTON James W. died 1948 age 86 years  
his wife  
Alfaretta " 1931 " 72 "  
(Gammon)

After emigrating from England in 1898 with his wife Alfaretta (Gammon), he bought a 50 acre farm on Lot 12, Concession

1, West Oxford. Besides farming he taught school for a number of years at Piper's Corners, and later at Folden's Corners.

Before James W. came to teach at Piper's, the larger boys had gained control of the school. The first day he was there, the boys decided to play tricks on the new Schoolmaster. Florence Dodge remembers that James W. called all those boys up front and strapped them all; he had no trouble with discipline after that.

James Millington was Superintendent of the West Oxford Church Sunday School for a number of years. They were both great Church workers. Mrs. Millington was very hard of hearing and when Mrs. Dodge was playing the prelude of the hymn, she would start singing and have a line or so sang before the others started to sing.

About 1927, they sold the farm and moved to Ingersoll, and lived at 269 Tunis Street. She died in 1931, age 72 years, and he died in 1948, age 86 years.

Information from Mrs. Florence Dodge and Byron Jenvey.

MORRIS William died 1925 age 17 months

William Morris was a son of Francis (Frank) and Jessie (Hutchison) Morris.

Frank Morris emigrated to Canada from Bedfordshire, England, in 1912, and worked at the Cyanamid of Canada Ltd. in Beachville. For a time during the depression of the 1930's he worked on the farm for J. Russell Currie.

William's mother (Jessie M. Hutchison) was born September 13, 1894, emigrated to Canada from Bankhead, Alloa, Scotland in 1905. There were two other children, John and Kathleen.

The Morris family took an active part in the community—Frank sang in the West Oxford Church Choir, and often sang solos at various church and community affairs. The children, too, were musical.

Frank, Jessie and John are buried in the Beachville cemetery.

Information from Mrs. Harold Morris and Mrs. Fred Boniface of Ingersoll.

NICHOLS James died 1884 age 46 years  
his wife  
Susanna(McKenzie) 1882 " 41 "  
Effie M. " 1872 " 2 months

James Nichols was a son of John and Mary (Sage) Nichols. His brothers and sisters were: Tammy, Eunice, Elizabeth, George and John Wesley.

He married Susanna McKenzie, daughter of John McKenzie, on February 6, 1861, they were married by Rev. Joseph Shepley the minister at the West Oxford Church at the time.

James and Susanna Nichols lived and farmed on Lot 17, Concession 1, West Oxford.

They had 3 children: Effie who died at 2 months of age, Edith Eve, who married Fred Heeney Sr. Edith inherited her parents' farm and they lived there.

Their son, Euclid, married Josephine Hearn and they lived on the south part of Lot 15, Concession 1, West Oxford. Their buildings were on the Jordan Road, later they moved to Daysland, Alberta. Mrs. Euclid Nichols was a great worker in the Church and Sunday School.

Information from Mrs. Grant (Nichols) Cuthbert.

NICHOLS George Comfort died 1851 age 75-years  
his wife  
Elizabeth Marks " 1873 " 87 "

their children  
Caroline " 1885 " 80 "  
(married Rev. Stonehouse)  
John Underwood " 1899 " 87 "  
(married Mary Sage)  
James S. " 1848 " 25 "  
(married Lucinda Sage)  
Mary Sage " 1906 " 84 "  
(wife of John Nichols)

#### Their children

James — 1837 to 1884, married Susan McKenzie  
Elizabeth — 1844 to 1891, married Thomas Sandick  
Eunice — 1845 to 1926, married William Sandick  
Mary Tamson — 1847 to 1874, age 26 years  
John Wesley — 1855 to 1859, age 4 years  
George Comfort — 1857 to 1928, age 71 years  
(married Ida May Brown)

Martha — daughter of James and Lucinda Nichols, married Geo. Jefferson, died 1872, age 26 years.

Montie Nichols — daughter of James Euclid Nichols and Josephine Hearn, died age 2 years.

#### Their children

Mary Tamson Gertrude Nichols — died 1952, age 71  
married Sydney Gail German, no children.  
John Underwood Nichols — died 1942, age 55  
married Edith York Elliott.

#### Their children

Margaret - married Gordon Wiseman  
Helen - married Paul Bowman  
Rita - married Grant Cuthbert

Infant sons of Eunice and Will Sandick died in 1881 and 1882, grandsons of John and Mary Nichols.

#### NICHOLS' HISTORY

The Nichols family were United Empire Loyalists of English descent, who came from Pennsylvania to St. John, New Brunswick.

The first George Nichols came to Ontario in 1797, where he settled on what is now Lots 15 and 16, Concession 1, West Oxford in Oxford County.

He stayed here until 1800, then returned to New Brunswick. He was accompanied by a B.B. Crawford, a diary kept by the two men recorded the distance walked each day along the Indian trails. Crawford stayed in Schenectady, while George went on to New Brunswick, where he married Elizabeth Marks.

George and Elizabeth returned to Oxford in 1805 and planted three black walnut trees where they settled.

During the war of 1812-14, George became a scout for the British Army. Following the defeat of the British forces at Chatham, raiding parties of Americans, under Westbrook, ranged up the Old Stage Road, burning mills and homes. One such party, searching for George, stayed several days at the Nichols' farm in 1813, when the raiders left they burned the cabin and grist mill, this was the only mill in Oxford at that time. This fire killed two of the walnut trees, but a third, 14 feet in circumference, still stands. Elizabeth Nichols was allowed to take only her spinning wheel from the burning cabin.

The home and mill were rebuilt, but the mill was burned again in the rebellion of 1837.

George was given a Crown Grant of 200 acres on Lots 15 and 16, Concession 1, West Oxford, for his part in the war of 1812.

He had two sons, John and James and a daughter, Caroline.

John married Mary Sage, and acquired 1200 acres of land in the County, some of which was divided among his six children. He was the superintendent of the West Oxford Sabbath School for many years.

John's son, George Comfort Nichols, stayed on the home place. He married Ida May Brown, daughter of Mary A. Burtch (from Burtch's Landing near Brantford) and Charles H. Brown. They had two children — Mary Tamson Gertrude Nichols and John Underwood Nichols.

Gertrude married Sydney Gail German from St. George.

John married Edith York Elliott from Culloden and Brownsville. They had three daughters; Mrs. Gordon (Margaret) Wiseman, Mrs. Paul (Helen) Bowman, and Mrs. Grant (Rita) Cuthbert.

**NICHOLS' FARM** — The millpond and mill were rebuilt following the war of 1812, however the mill was burned again in the 1837 rebellion. The mill pond was used in later years by John Nichols, to generate electricity for the farm buildings. They were there until 1944, when the north half of the farm was sold, then they were allowed to fall into disrepair after 150 years of use.

The north end of the large cattle barn was built between 1830 and 1840 from lumber made in the mill on the property. The barn and siding are still held together with the original wooden pegs.

The south half of the farm is still owned by the Nichols family, who have the original deed for the Crown Grant on Lots 15 and 16, Concession 1, West Oxford, as well as a deed for land consisting of 200 acres in the centre of St. Johns, New Brunswick.

Material by Rita Cuthbert.

NICHOLS Montie died 1887 age 2 years

Monte was a daughter of Euclid and Josephine, they lived on the south east part of Lot 15, Concession 1, West Oxford. She had a sister, Ruth, and two brothers, Charles and James.

Their first home on the side road, half a mile south of the West Oxford Church was burned, the date is not known. They then built a home on the north side of the road on Lot 15, Concession 2. Later they moved to Daysland, Alberta where they farmed.

Information received from Mrs. Irene (Sandick) Hall and Fred Heeny Jr.

NICHOLS Elam died 1891 age 53 years  
his wife  
Agusta (Seeley) " 1912 " 75 "

Elam Nichols and his wife Agusta, farmed and lived on Lot 16, Concession 1 and 2, North Oxford. They had three children as follows; James Stuart, born 1860, Emerson, born 1862, and Dora, born 1872.

John Stuart Nichols married Harriet Mundy and their children were as follows; Mable, born 1884, married J.B. McCall, moved to Ohio, and died there.

James Arthur, born 1891, married Dorothy Cummings. He was an electrical engineer in Windsor and died there.

Oscar W., born in 1896, with his wife Inez lived in Ohio, where he operated a farm and was a licensed air pilot. He had two planes and operated out of Columbus Air Base. Both are buried in Ohio.

Leslie D'Arcy, born 1902, married Evelyn Gibson. He was a mechanic and for a time worked for the Massey-Harris Company in Woodstock, later they moved to Ingersoll, and died there.

Emerson Nichols married Eliza Georgina Crawford and their family was as follows;

George, born 1892, married Jessie Wilson. He was a Stationary Engineer and worked at the Lime Plants. He died in 1951, and is buried in the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.

Frank, born 1894, was a mechanic, and worked in Windsor and Amherstberg, Ontario, also in the coal mines in Blairmore, Alberta. Later he returned to North Oxford and farmed Lots 17 and 18, Concession 2.

Charles Seeley, born 1897, married Jeanette Knott, and farmed in East Nissouri. One daughter is living in Florida, one in Woodstock, Mrs. William (Ruth) Ellis, and one son, Lloyd Charles, lives in London.

Marjorie Edna Nichols, born 1898, married Douglas Hunter, a cheesemaker, he made cheese in a number of factories in Ontario, finally at Uniondale. He died in 1969 and is buried in the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.

Helen Beatrice Nichols, born 1901, never married, died in 1930, age 29 years, buried in the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.

Winston, born 1908, farmed in North Oxford, was a member of the Township Council, Reeve and Warden of Oxford County. He also worked as a Steam Engineer and Hotel Manager.

Dora Nichols married Bert L. Scott, who operated a feed store in Ingersoll. They had no children, both are buried in the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.

Compiled and written by Frank Nichols, Mrs. Douglas (Nichols) Hunter and Winston Nichols.

PIPER Joel died 1858 age 82 years  
his wife  
Hulda (Burdick) " 1839 " 65 "

In 1653, Nathaniel Piper and his wife Sarah (Edwards), emigrated to Ipswich, Mass. from England.

Their son, Johnathan was born in Ipswich, in 1672. He married twice; a son John was born to the second wife, Alice (Darby) Piper on July 13, 1776.

John Piper married Ruth Clark. They had seven children, one of whom was Caleb Piper, who was the father of Joel.

Joel emigrated to Canada in 1793 from the United States. He was one of Thomas Ingersoll's original settlers. He settled on Lot 12, Concession 2, West Oxford. Piper's Corners was named after Joel Piper.

On January 31, 1802, Joel married Hulda Burdick. Hulda Burdick was born June 6, 1774 at Landsborough, Berkshire, Massachusetts. They had 6 children: Ester, born April 3, 1808, Isaac, born 1809, Enoch, born 1810, Joseph B., born 1826, Casinda and Lucinda.

Joel Piper was present at a Masonic meeting in 1803 at the home of Robert Sweet. Later he became a charter member of King Hiram Lodge in Ingersoll on June 24, 1803. He was a member of the West Oxford Church and during the war of 1812-14, he was an Ensign in the Army.

To date there have been three generations of Pipers, active Masons, Joel Jr. was the Worshipful Master of King Hiram Lodge No. 37, in 1972, Russell B. Piper was Junior Warden in 1974.

Compiled from information from the Piper Family.

PIPER Isaac died 1872 age 63 years  
his wife  
Sarah (Bull) " 1917 " 98 "

Isaac Piper was a son of Joel. There is no marker for Isaac, undoubtedly destroyed. Isaac lived in Dereham Township most of his life. He was elected a trustee of the West Oxford Church and Cemetery Board on September 29, 1858, succeeding his father, Joel, deceased.

Sarah Bull was born in Ohio; Isaac and Sarah had 6 children. Henry Bull, an ancestor of Sarah, was born in South Wales in 1610, came to Boston in 1635, settled in Rhode Island at Newport. He joined the Friends (Quakers) and was the Second Governor of the Colony. Two of his children were Josiah and Jeremiah. (No record of Henry Bull's wife).

The Bull family first settled in America, as did many of the early families who came to "Oxford on the Thames", and as are most pioneers, related for generations along the line.

These families, coming together by successive stages to the Finger Lake Dutches County and Western New York and Ohio, did not see eye to eye with the hotheaded Yankee younger generation. As the situation worsened, they were driven into the dense forests of Upper Canada, after which their historians, seeing the aftermath, declared that the "Cream rose to the top — of the Continent".

Josiah Bull married Mary Christy, a daughter of William and Ruth Christy, first settled in Prince Edward County, Ontario. He was also a member of the Society of Friends (Quakers).

After Josiah's death, his widow and three children were brought to Oxford by William and Ruth Christy in a covered lumber wagon in 1817.

Some of the Bull family connections are as follows:  
Ezekiel Bull married Elizabeth Sage.

Amos Bull, born 1768, married Martha Cunningham.  
Martina Bull married Thomas Bowesman, who brought her to Canada in 1792.

Ida Agusta Bull, 1868, married Thomas Noxon of Noxon Bro., Ingersoll, manufacturers of farm machinery.

Sarah Brewer came to Canada when she married Josiah Bull the Second.

Amos Bull married Sarah Haight of the Haight family of Norwich.

Phoebe Bull married Cornelius Noxon, March 23, 1853, son of Samuel and Rhoda (White) Noxon.

Matura Bull married Samuel Noxon II, brother of Cornelius, and late President of the firm of Noxon Bros. of Ingersoll.

Their children were Herbert and Olive.

Information from records of Dr. A.C. Bowerman, Bloomfield, Ontario and submitted by Miss Louise Hill, Woodstock.

PIPER Enoch died 1856 age 3 days  
Mary Ester " 1848 " 5 years

There are no markers for these children in the cemetery. They were buried in the Piper plot, and were the children of Enoch and Mary Ann (Carl) Piper. Enoch was a son of Joel. Epitaph

Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.

REYNOLDS William Jr. died 1872 age 100 yrs., 8 mo.  
Sarah (1st wife) " 1833 age 52 years  
Sarah (2nd wife) " 1836 " 52 "  
Mary (3rd wife) " 1852 " 53 "

One of the early settlers of the Burford, Dorchester, Inger-

soll area was William Reynolds Sr. and his descendants. This family numbered ten settlers in all and each was awarded two hundred acres of land granted to them "In Council" at Newark (Niagara) in 1794.

A word about this family is in order at this time: The original settler from Cheshire or Ipswich in Britain was John, born in England before 1650 and died at Wethersfield Connecticut, 1682. He was a freeholder and married Naomi Latimer; they had a son also named John, born in 1674, who married Hannah Dix; they had a son also named John, born in 1699, who married Rebecca Mann of Boston, and they had children — one of whom was William Reynolds (known to me as William Sr.) was born in Wethersfield, Conn. in 1735, and who went to the area of Albany, New York and married Elizabeth Mudge, they settled at Kinderhook in 1769.

William Sr. and his wife Elizabeth had eight children in this place. This family appeared in the Census of 1790, taken at Hudson, County Seat, and in 1793, William Sr. and his eldest son, William Jr. went to Upper Canada and after looking around decided to take up land in the area along the River Thames, west of what is today Ingersoll.

While in Canada, William Jr. married Sarah Stevens and took up land in Burford, while William Sr. returned to New York and gathered together the settlers he was to take into Upper Canada. This group left New York and departed for their new homes in Canada in 1796. Elizabeth (Mudge) Reynolds took up her two hundred acres in Burford, Concession 6, Lot 1, and the family resided there until 1799, at which time the group went to the Dorchester area and built saw mills. I have copies of two letters written from Burford in 1798 and 1799, which show that work was being done on the land at Dorchester.

William Sr. died at Dorchester in January, 1810 and as he died intestate, considerable legal work was necessary before title to the various pieces of property were cleared up and disposed of. The last piece of Dorchester land was sold to Thomas Inger-

William Sr. died at Dorchester in January, 1810 and as he died intestate, considerable legal work was necessary before title to the various pieces of property were cleared up and disposed of. The last piece of Dorchester land was sold to Thomas Ingersoll in 1850.

The children of William Sr. and his wife Elizabeth, were all born in New York and were named: William Jr., George, Lucy, Henry W., John, Richard, Nathaniel and Sarah and each of these received 200 acres, while William Sr. received 1250 acres for his part in taking a total of 40 settlers into Upper Canada.

After the death of her husband in 1810, the widow Elizabeth removed to West Oxford and resided with her eldest son William Jr. and passed away there in December, 1810.

William Reynolds Jr., one of the three centenarians buried in West Oxford, was born in New York near Albany in 1771. He was the son of William Sr. and Elizabeth (Mudge), and in 1793 with his father, went to Upper Canada and after looking over the various lands open for settlement, decided on the area along the River Thames or LaTranche or Chipawa as it was then known. This took several years and in 1794, William Jr. and Sarah Stevens were married. She was the daughter of Justus and Jane Stevens of Ancaster and Burford, (they are buried in the Burford Pioneer Cemetery).

William Jr. took up land in Burford Concession 4, Lot 1, and after the necessary improvements, was declared owner in 1805 and sold out to John Evers in 1807. With his parents, and others of the family living on property at Dorchester, William Jr. and his family moved to that place (Dorchester) and was there for a short time before going to West Oxford.

William Jr. appears to have been a trader (buyer and seller of land) as many entries are to be found in the Oxford County records. He had land in Lot 14, Concession 2, West Oxford, and in 1825 records show that he purchased the south east part of Lot 15, Concession 1, in West Oxford Township.

William Jr. is supposed to have had a sawmill in West Oxford as these people were "saw mill people" but records were dim in those days.

William Jr. was married three times, and he and his three wives are buried in the West Oxford Cemetery.

Wife number one was Sarah Stevens, she was born in Vermont in 1780 and died in West Oxford in 1833.

Wife number two was Sarah, a widow Eplelin of St. Thomas she died in 1836.

Wife number three was Mary Burns, a widow of the London District, she died in 1852.

Children of William Jr. and Sara (Stevens)

David Smith Reynolds, born Dorchester 1799, died Strathroy, 1895, and buried in West Oxford Cemetery with his wife Lois Janes, 1810 - 1855 and two daughters, Sarah and Susan.

Eliza, born at Dorchester 1804 and died in West Oxford, 1870 - never married.

Justus Stevens Reynolds, born in West Oxford, 1814, died 1899.

Hanna, married Moses Tripp of Ingersoll, she was born in West Oxford in 1805 and died in 1888.

Minerva, married Jonathon Simmons of Lobo and moved to Missouri, U.S.A.

Caroline Reynolds, 1808 - 1887, born in Dorchester and married W.T. Cartwright, of Dorchester, she died there.

All of the children were from the first marriage.

In later years almost all of the former Reynolds' lands at Dorchester were owned by William Tryon Cartwright, who had married Caroline Reynolds.

I can remember my grandfather telling me about the great number of deer and bears around the farm in West Oxford and the great flights of the now extinct passenger-pigeons which flew over in such numbers they darkened the sunlight. Plenty of rabbits and squirrels also, which made for much "good eating".

As for Indian stories; William Sr. knew Joseph Brant in New York and renewed that friendship after he went to Upper Canada in 1793.

William Jr. was invited to many of the Indian feasts and was friendly with them, although he wasn't above taking violent action when something of his was stolen.

Stories of my grandfather (1836-1909) spoke of the Indians with their blankets and weapons, sitting on the doorsteps of the Reynolds farm in West Oxford - not saying a word - but after they were given something to eat, they would leave without a word, but within a day a deer or fowl of some sort would be left on the doorstep as payment.

Written by F.W.T. Reynolds, 15519 Manor Ave., Detroit, Michigan, 48238.

REYNOLDS	David Smith	died 1895	age 96 years
	his wife		
	Lois (Janes)	stone broken - no dates	
	daughters		
	Susan	" 1844	" 1 year
	Sarah	" 1852	" 7 years

David Reynolds was a son of William Jr. and Sarah (Stevens) and was born at Dorchester, Ontario. He was the first white child born in the Dorchester district, and probably in what is

now Middlesex County.

David died at the home of his son, William E., at Strathroy, Ontario. His body was brought to the West Oxford Cemetery for burial. His monument has been totally destroyed.

Lois Janes was a daughter of Heman and Olive (Piper) Janes and a cousin of Laura Janes who married Justus Reynolds, a brother of David. David and Lois' children were as follows: Oliver - died young.

William Eugene - born in West Oxford in 1836, died in Detroit, Michigan in 1909.

Henrietta - born in 1839, married Solon M. Cook, died in 1916 and is buried in the West Oxford Cemetery.

Susan and Sarah - mentioned above.

Norman - born in 1848, died in 1917 in Detroit, Michigan.

Charles H. - a dentist, born in West Oxford 1851, died in New York State about 1930.

From information received from F.W.T. Reynolds.

REYNOLDS	Justus Stevens	died 1899	age 85 years
	his wife		
	Laura (Janes)	" 1899	" 79 "

Justus Reynolds was a son of William Jr. and Sarah (Stevens) and was born either in Dorchester or West Oxford.

His wife Laura, was a daughter of Elijah and Mary Clark Janes, who lived in Vermont. Mary Clark Janes was a cousin of Lois Janes, who married David Reynolds. Elijah Janes was a brother of Heman Janes.

Their children were:

- Mary Jane - born in 1842
  - John and Eliza - born 1844, in Vermont.
  - Frank - born 1850
  - Sarah - born 1854
  - William - born 1857
  - Hugh - born 1859
- all were born in Canada except John and Eliza.  
Justus Reynolds farmed all his life in West Oxford.

REYNOLDS	Harry McIntosh	died 1934	age 71 years
	his wife		
	Bessie McLean B.	" 1960	" 92 "

Harry Reynolds was a son of William E. and a grandson of David Reynolds. He was a banker in Toronto, later an executive for a Life Insurance Company in Toronto.

His wife, Bessie McLean Reynolds, was born in the London, Ontario area. After Harry's death, she moved to California, where she died and is buried there. Her name is on a stone in the West Oxford Cemetery. Harry and Bessie had one daughter who lives in Long Beach, California.

Information from F.W.T. Reynolds, Detroit, Michigan.

RIVERS	William	died 1891	age 59 years
	his wife		
	Mary (Scott)	" 1903	" 69 "
	their children		
	Ella Philena	" 1861	" 3 "
	Malissa	" 1861	infant
	Eunice A.	" 1863	" 6 "
	Mahlon	" 1863	" 1 "
	Mary Lettie	" 1881	" 6 "

William Rivers was a son of Richard and Mary, who were married at Langham, in the county of Rutland, England in 1823. They had 9 children, Richard, born 1824 at Newbray,

Leicestershire; Henry, born 1826; Mary, born 1828; Elizabeth, born 1829, died same year; Samuel, born 1830; William, born 1831; Joseph, born 1833 at Chesley, Berkshire; Sarah, born 1836 at Woodstock, Ontario, she died in 1851 and is buried at Princeton; Ester, born 1838, at Woodstock, died 1894, and is buried at Walkerton, Ontario.

Richard and Mary, with their 6 children sailed from the Port of London, England in the Brig, Gratitude, and arrived in New York City on June 4, 1834. They came directly to Canada by way of Oswego, New York, on the Mohawk Trail.

They lived in Woodstock and probably in Princeton for a time. Richard had the first bakery in Woodstock, also helped survey the Town of Woodstock.

William and Mary (Scott) Rivers farmed on Lot 9, Concession 5, West Oxford.

In those days before they had blasting powder, it was the custom to lower large boulders below plow level by digging a hole under them. While William was digging under one of these large boulders, it fell, and killed him instantly.

William and Mary had 2 children besides the ones buried in the West Oxford Cemetery, Elsie and Walburn. Elsie married George Millard, and were the parents of Mary Lettie Harrison.

Epitaph to William

A faithful Friend, a Husband dear,  
A tender Parent lieth here,  
Great is the loss we here sustain,  
But hope in Heaven to meet again.

ROBERTS, John - buried in the West Oxford Cemetery with no marker. He lived in Centerville and worked as a laborer in one of the Limestone Quarries.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE SAGE FAMILY

In 1652, David Sage came to America from Wales and settled in Middletown, Connecticut.

Four generations later, the first Sage to settle in these parts was Allen Sage Jr., born 1751 in New York State. Early in life he moved into Canada, to Brant County, living with the Mohawk Indians.

His first wife, a daughter of Chief Brant, there is no record of her name or date of her death. However, there are records of their children: Abigail, married Isaac Burdick, Elizabeth, married Ezra Scott, three sons, Samuel, Willard and Comfort, all of whom later moved to West Oxford with their father.

Allen's first wife died soon after the birth of Comfort, in 1779 and in 1802, he married Elizabeth Beacroft, a widow born Westbrook. Only one of the second family remained in Oxford, Eli, who settled in the Township of East Oxford.

Elizabeth died prior to the opening of the West Oxford Cemetery, and was buried in the Episcopal Methodist burying ground in the south part of Lot 14, Concession 1, West Oxford.

A list of Crown Deeds of West Oxford shows that Allen Sage was deeded Lot 12, Broken Front Concession, on March 30, 1799.

In the records of Brant County, it is shown that in 1802, Allen Sage received a grant of land from the Indian Chief Brant. This land was on the Grand River and was granted for a period of 999 years, with a clause, "Shall pay one dung hill fowl, per year if demanded." As Chief Brant was inclined to grant Indian land to his several friends and relatives, in this case it was his son-in-law.

Allen Sage died in the late 1820's and was buried in the

Carroll burying ground in Ingersoll.

From the Sage book, and as told to me by my father.  
Percy Sage.

SAGE	Comfort	died 1887	age 90 years
	his wife		
	Susannah (Lawrence)	" 1868	" 73 "

Their children:

Lucinda - married James Nichols Jr. After his death in 1848, she married Calvin Brown.

Mary - married John Nichols (buried here).

Levi - married Mirian Sweezy, inherited part of the homestead, later sold and moved to Iowa.

Allen - married Betsy Armstrong, lived and died on his inherited part of the homestead, both are buried in the Cemetery.

Enoch - married Martha Wilson. Both buried here.

Lucy - married Silas Scott. Both buried here.

Sally - never married. Buried here, base 8.

Comfort - born in New York State, June 9, 1797, son of Allen Sage Jr. and his Indian mother, spent his early life there and along the banks of the Grand River in Brant County, with the Mohawk Indians.

He served with the Canadian Army in the war of 1812-14, at Stoney Creek and Lundy's Lane. He later received a pension of \$25.00 a year for this.

In 1816, he married Susannah Lawrence, a daughter of Levi and Abigail (Burdick) Lawrence of Burford. The Lawrence family was one of the three white families living in the Burford area at the time. From there they joined his father and brothers Samuel and Willard, who had moved to the West Oxford District some time before.

They first settled on Lot 14, Concession 1, West Oxford; the assessment roll of 1824 shows he had 30 acres of uncultivated, and 20 acres of cultivated land. Here he built the present frame house from lumber from the Nichols' saw mill, and square, hand made nails, which he carried on his back from Brantford.

In 1832, he purchased 200 acres in Lots 11 and 12 in the third concession of West Oxford, for 350 pounds. He had homesteaded on this land years before, but had moved back to the first concession when the promised survey failed to come. This time he had to buy it. He never forgave the government for this, or for failing, until years later, to give him the land grant which he was entitled to as a war veteran. When he did receive it, he turned it down and took in its place the \$25.00 a year pension.

The first log buildings were 1/4 mile north of the concession road on the banks of the creek. Here he lived, cleared the land and raised his family. As his sons grew up and married, he gave them parts of the homestead.

He joined the Methodist Church at Foldens when he was past 70 years.

His favorite pastime was hunting, and when he grew older was to gather his grandsons around him and tell them tales of his life with the Indians and of his hunting experiences.

He died in the stone house, he had helped his son Enoch build; on April 5, 1887, age 91 he died and is buried in the cemetery with his wife Susannah and most of their children.

Sage Book -

SAGE	Allen - son of Comfort and Susannah Sage.
	his wife, Elizabeth (Betsy) Armstrong.

Their children:

Eunice	married	James Dawson
Elsie	"	Albert Fierheller
Maggie	"	George Uren
Alice	"	James Dundas
Everett	"	Nellie Marshall
William	"	Annie Bailey

Also listed on the monument are 4 children who, by the dates could also be their children.

Lucy A.	October 1852	age 2 years
Ida E.	March 1858	" 10 months
James A.	January 1869	" 2 "
Raymond	January 1871	" 5 "

Allen Sage was born on Lot 14, Concession 1, West Oxford. He moved to the homestead, Lot 11, Concession 4, with his parents; grew up there and when he married, was given a part of the homestead — the north half of Lot 11, 100 acres.

This part of the homestead was still forest and their first home was built of logs. Later they built a 1½ storey frame house.

He later acquired part of the north half of Lot 12, from his sisters who had inherited it from their father. Allen and Betsy lived here all their lives and when Allen died in 1904, age 87, their son, Everett, returned to the farm and cared for his mother, Betsy, until her death in 1911.

Both are buried in the cemetery, north of the Church.

Alice Merrill

SAGE	Enoch	died 1876	age 46 years
	his wife		
	Martha (Wilson)	" 1898	" 62 "
	their children		
	Lois Mary	married	Charles Budd
	Willis Bradford	"	Clarissa Deane
	John Benson	"	Annie Barnett
	Albert Edward	"	Flossie Lapp
	Emmerson Wilson	"	Mary Budd
	Enoch L.	— died age 7 months in 1876, buried here.	

Enoch Sage born at Lot 14, Concession 1, West Oxford, son of Comfort and Susannah Sage, farmed with his father on the Homestead, Lot 11, Concession 3, West Oxford. He had one of the first cheese making operations in the community; hiring a woman to make the cheese which was sold in Ingersoll and, at one time, milking up to 40 cows and having to hire help with the milking.

The cows were pastured on the cut off pine slash south of the farm and it was his small sons' task to gather them at milking time.

In the late 1850's, he built the present stone house on Lot 11 and about the same time married Martha Wilson and they moved into the new house.

Enoch was a member of the first trustee board when the Folden's Methodist Church was built in 1867 and remained an active member until his death.

In the winter of 1875, he contacted consumption and died in the summer of 1876, leaving his wife and young family in the care of his father, Comfort, who lived with them until his death in 1887.

Enoch, with his wife Martha who died in 1898, are both buried in the West Oxford Cemetery, along with their son Enoch L. Jr.

Percy Sage as told to me by father, J. Benson.

Epitaph to Enoch L.

Nip't in the Bud to blossom in Heaven.

Epitaph to Martha

Sleep mother dear, and take your rest,  
God called you home, he thought it best.

Epitaph to Enoch

Blessed are the dead, which are in the Lord.

SAGE Elizabeth died 1842 age 58 years

Elizabeth, wife of Willard Sage. They lived at Lot 13, Concession 1, West Oxford at one time.

Their children were: Sylvester, Seymour, Eli, Zachariah, Enoch and Eunice (married David Brink).

Soon after the death of Elizabeth, Willard moved to East Oxford, but could be buried here with no marker.

SAGE BOOK

Zachariah Sage born 1815 died 1893  
his wife  
Sarah (Hugill) Sage " " 1926

Zachariah was a son of Willard and Elizabeth, born Lot 13, Concession 1, West Oxford and lived in the district all his life. They had two daughters and a son Willard who lived in East Oxford.

Sally Sage died 1854 age 29

Sally was a daughter of Comfort and Susannah. Lived at home, never married.

Lucy Ann Sage died 1851 age 2

Lucy Ann was a daughter of Allen and Elizabeth (Armstrong) Sage. Also recorded on Allen Sage monument.

Annie Sage — Infant daughter of Benson and Annie (Barnett) Sage. Buried in Enoch Sage plot. (Marker gone)

Epitaph to Sally

A lovely Friend lies buried here,  
In love she lived, in peace she died,  
Her life was ask'd, but God denied.

SAGE Everett A. died 1937 age 73 years

his wife  
Elane (Nellie) Marshall " 1938 " 72 "  
Infant child of Russell and Velma Sage, died 1921.

children of Everett and Elane Sage:

Russell married Velma Hughes  
Alice " Charles Merrill

Everett A. Sage was a son of Allen and Elizabeth Sage. He was born on Lot 11, Concession 3, West Oxford, grew up here and helped his father finish clearing and breaking the farm.

In 1888, he married Elane Marshall, of West Zorra and farmed, first at Lot 8, Concession 1, West Oxford.

After the death of his father, Allen, in 1904, he returned to the home farm, rebuilt the barns and in 1912 built the present brick dwelling.

When his son, Russell, married in 1916, he retired to Lot 13 Concession 3, West Oxford, where he built the present frame house and lived here until his death in 1937.

While living here Everett and Nellie were host to the Sage reunion several times, as many of the family will remember the gathering of the Sages, Scotts, Nichols, Sandicks, Uren, Peers, Browns, Wilsons and Dawsons; all decedents of the first Allen Sage who came to the district 100 years ago.

Alice Merrill

SANDICK	Thomas	died 1923	age 80 years
	his wife		
	Elizabeth (Nichols)	" 1891	" 47 "
	their son		
	Louis	" 1962	" 89 "
	his wife		
	Elizabeth (Cobbon)	" 1945	" 72 "

Thomas Sandick was a son of Joseph and Elizabeth Sandick. Joseph died 1868, age 70 years. Elizabeth died 1903, age 102 years. They are buried in the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.

Joseph Sandick, with his first wife Sarah (either Janes or James) with their two children, March, born September 13, 18-30 and Fredrick, born February 9, 1832, emigrated to Canada from England, in either 1832 or 1833. They were on a sail boat 13 weeks before arriving in America.

Joseph and his family came to Woodstock, Ontario, after arriving in America. His wife was ill with cholera and died on the street in Woodstock and was buried at once; cholera was much feared by all citizens. (This probably accounts for human bones being found in several excavations in Woodstock.)

After the death of his wife, Sarah, Joseph went back to England with his two children. Some time later, he married Elizabeth, a sister of Sarah. He returned to Canada with his wife and the two children in either 1834 or 1835. They brought with them 70 pounds in English money. They first settled in a log cabin on Thames Street South, in Ingersoll. Disaster struck, fire destroyed the log cabin along with their belongings and the money.

Some time later they moved to the Township of North Oxford. They had 11 children by the second marriage. Joseph died of lockjaw.

Thomas Sandick and his wife Elizabeth (Nichols) farmed on Lot 15, Concession 1, North Oxford. His wife Elizabeth, was a daughter of John Underwood and Mary (Sage) Nichols, sister of George Jr.

They had four children; Ernest, Louis, Mary (Mrs. George Wilson) and Martha (Mrs. Channing).

Louis Sandick and his wife Elizabeth (Cobbon) also farmed on Lot 15, Concession 1, North Oxford. They had no children.

Information from Mrs. Irene (Sandick) Hall.

SCOTT	Willard Sr.	died 1863	age 62 years
	his wife		
	Elizabeth	" 1872	" 64 "
	their children		
	Eleazer	" 1826	" 6 months
	Elizabeth A.	" 1870	" 39 years
	Justus Warden	" 1849	" 21 "

The Scott family emigrated to the State of Connecticut, in the early 1600's from England. Elgin Scott came to "Oxford-on-the-Thames" with the Thomas Ingersoll Group of settlers, and settled on Lot 18, Concession 3, and received his patent in 1798. Early assessments also list Eleazer and William Scott. Relatives are not sure who Willard's father was, but he probably was Elgin. Nor do they know the maiden name of his wife, Elizabeth.

Willard Sr. and his wife, Elizabeth, lived on the north half of Lot 12, Concession 1, West Oxford. In 1849, they purchased 50 acres, the east half of the south half of Lot 13, Concession 1, West Oxford.

Other children besides the two above were: Charles, Wesley, and Silas.

Willard Scott Sr. organized the first Sabbath school in the area in 1827. It was in connection with the Methodist Church. In September 1827, he reported that he had 15 scholars, among the family names were: Piper, Janes, Wood, Galloway and Sage.

Willard Scott Sr. was Assessor and Tax Collector for the Township of West Oxford from 1840 to 1843.

The Scott families were prominent in the community life of the district right from the early days.

In base 18, there is a tablet for Justus Warden Scott, it is broken, but shows that he was a son of Willard and Elizabeth Scott.

SCOTT	Silas	died 1876	age 39 years
	his wife		
	Lucy (Sage)	" 1939	" 101 "

Silas Scott was a son of Willard Sr. and Elizabeth Scott. His wife was Lucy (Sage) and they had 4 children: Ida, Willard III, Victoria and Frank. Silas died young at the age of 39.

Lucy (Sage) Scott was a daughter of Comfort and Susannah Sage and was born near Folden's Corners, in West Oxford.

She is one of the three centenarians buried in the West Oxford Church Cemetery. The three are; Lucy (Sage) Scott, Fred Heeney Sr., both in their 102nd year and William Reynolds Sr. in his 101st year. She was familiar with the vicissitudes, the obstacles and the triumphs of pioneer life. Her indomitable will, her energy, her determination to face situations, was the heritage of those days.

She knew the district when wild animals roamed almost at will. She remembered the howling of the wolves about her girlhood home and the coming of the wild turkeys to her father's farm, where they were freely shot.

In those pioneer days, when bush hemmed in the scattered homesteaders on all sides and when strenuous work of clearing the forest was a foremost occupation, progress was the inspiring word with all.

Lucy Scott was especially noted for her retentive memory and for many years she discussed clearly circumstances and events associated with the early and subsequent development of the district. She readily recalled names and dates and she was an interesting and pleasing conversationalist. To not a few of her friends she was "Aunt Lucy". On May 18, 1939, Lucy was 101 years old.

Even up to the time she reached the century mark, Lucy employed much of her time in making rugs, at which she was generally regarded as an expert. In this work she found the time passed more easily and her creations were admired by everyone.

On occasions her rugs, which were masterpieces in pattern and workmanship, had been on exhibition at the Ingersoll Fair and the red ribbons, which they were awarded, brought her great joy.

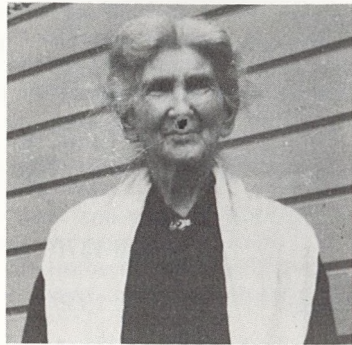
With the gathering shadows and the deepening silence of Monday night, August 21, 1939 and the fullness of years, that it is the privilege of but comparatively few persons to reach, her life went out at the home of her grandson, George Scott, in her native West Oxford. It seemed fitting that she should be amid the scenes she loved so well.

At her side when her life ebbed away, were her son Frank of



Ingersoll, and her daughter, Victoria, (Mrs. Charles Stevens) of Urbana, Illinois.

Her funeral was held August 24, 1939 at the residence of George and Violet Scott. A solo "Resurrection Life" was sung by Miss Helen Smith of Beachville, and Mrs. Clarence Cuthbert playing the accompaniment. The bearers were Charles Harrison, Emerson Sage, John Nichols, Fred Heeney Sr., B.L. Scott and James Cuthbert.



Mrs. Lucy Scott

SCOTT Willard II	died 1872	age 39 years
his wife		
Sabrina (Roelfson)	" 1911	" 77 "
their daughter		
Mary E.	" 1931	" 74 "

Willard Scott II was a son of Willard Sr. and Elizabeth Scott. No history of who his wife was, except that her maiden name was Roelfson.

They lived and farmed on a 50 acre farm on the south part of Lot 8, Concession 1, Dereham Township. Willard died young. After his death, his wife and daughter carried on farming with the help of neighbours, until the death of Sabrina.

Mary E. then moved to Ingersoll where she lived until her death. She never married, so that was the end of that family.

Epitaph

Long are the days and the hours,  
Since thy Meek Spirit's gone,  
But oh, a brighter home than ours,  
In Heaven is now thine own.

Compiled from information from Mrs. George Nagle, Salford.

SCOTT Charles Wesley	died 1899	age 69 years
his wife		
Hulda	" 1900	" 69 "
their daughter		
Florence	" 1895	" 19 "

Charles Wesley Scott was a son of Willard Sr. and Elizabeth. We have no record of his wife's maiden name.

In March 1854, Charles bought the south part of Lot 13, Concession 1, West Oxford, from his father.

He and his wife lived and farmed on this land until the death of Charles.

Records show that Sabrina Scott had a mortgage on this land in 1872.

After the death of her husband, Hulda sold this farm to a daughter-in-law, Mrs. Bert (Fadora) Scott, who later sold it to Herbert Wood.

Charles Wesley Scott also owned the northeast quarter of Lot 12, Concession 1, which he sold to Alec (Sandy) McIntyre in 1893.

Florence died at the age of 19 of TB. Other children of Charles and Hulda were: Bert L., Merton E., Willis E., Fred L., Adelia, Edwin E., and Elbert.

Charles and Hulda were both active workers in the West Oxford Church.

SCOTT Willard III	died 1949	age 86 years
his wife		
Eliza E. (Fairbanks)	" 1949	" 84 "
their children		
William Ernest	" 1913	" 24 "
Harry Willard	" 1929	" 32 "
Fred	" 1968	" 68 "
Clarence	" 1968	" 82 "
his wife		
Carrie J. (Fishback)	" 1952	" 56 "

Willard Scott III was a son of Silas and Lucy (Sage) Scott. He was a working member of the West Oxford Church. He cared for the Church and Cemetery for many years and was highly respected by all who knew him.

His wife Eliza E. (Fairbanks) was born in England and emigrated to Canada when she was 12 or 13 years of age. She was a close relative of the Fairbanks who founded the Fairbanks-Morse Corporation.

They lived and farmed on the 50 acres part of Lot 12, Concession 1, West Oxford, which Willard III inherited from his mother in 1877. In 1917, they sold this land to their son Clarence and moved to 249 King St. East, in Ingersoll, where they lived until their deaths.

The children of Willard III and Eliza were: Clarence, Emerson, Harry, May, Fred, Ida and Gordon.

Clarence Scott married Carrie J. Fishback. They took over the 50 acre farm from his parents in 1917 and they lived there until after the death of Carrie. In 1953, Clarence sold the farm and moved to Highway 2, east of Beachville. He lived there four years before moving to Ingersoll where he died.

Like his father before him, Clarence was a faithful worker for the West Oxford Church and until his death, did most of the maintenance work in the cemetery, also dug the graves. He continued this work long after many others had lost all interest in the cemetery.

Some of his records are contained in both the Cemetery and Church History.

Carrie J. Fishback was a daughter of John Fishback. She was born in the community and died on the farm. She assisted her husband in maintaining the Cemetery. They had no children.

William Ernest Scott — worked in Beachville and for Frank Elliott, drainage contractor. He never married and died of spinal meningitis at the age of 24.

Harry Willard Scott — operated a dairy in Windsor and Chatham. He married Hazel Roddy and had a daughter, Mary. In 1919, Harry moved to Windsor where he died in 1929.

Fred Lloyd Scott — was a carpenter and a mechanic. He married Dorothy Ingram and had two sons, Kenneth and Ronald. They lived at Wheatly, Ontario, where Fred died.

Emmerson Silas Scott — served in World War 1. After the war, he returned home for one year, then returned to England and married Louise Batterham. They lived at Pinchbrek, near Spalding, Lincolnshire, where he died in 1968. They had 3 children, a daughter is now living at Avon, Ontario.

May (Scott) Fishback — married James Fishback. They farmed in Dereham Township. Both are buried in the Harris Street Cemetery. They had 3 children: Harold, Viola and Flora.

Ida (Scott) Pollard — married Stanley McKibbin. Lived and farmed in Dereham Township. They had 3 children: Lloyd, Ruth and Norman. After the death of Stanley, Ida married John Pollard who also farmed in Dereham. After the death of John, Ida moved to Ingersoll where she is still living.

Gordon Scott — worked as an electrician in Ingersoll. He married Elsie Moulton. They have 3 children: David, Catherine and Margaret. Gordon (now retired) with his wife are living in Ingersoll.

All the Scott histories were compiled by Percy Sage from information received from Gordon Scott and Mrs. Ida (Scott) Pollard, both of Ingersoll

SHELL Henry	died 1859	age 89 years
his wife		
Mary (Moyer)	" 1860	" 85 "
Solomon	" 1888	" 79 "
his wife		
Artimissa	" 1895	" 84 "

John Christian and John Schell emigrated to The United States from Baden-Baden, Germany in the beginning of the eighteenth century.

These brothers bought land and settled in the German Flats, in Mohawk Valley, New York State.

The Mohawk Valley was occupied from time immemorial by the Mohawk Indians, who were the fiercest of the Five Nations or the Iroquois Indians.

John Christian Schell married Maria . . . and John married Barbara . . . They both had rather large families, many of whom moved to Canada, Michigan, Illinois, California, Australia and New Zealand.

During the War of Independence in the United States, the Schells were on the side of Independence.

During the War, John Christian Schell, being of an independent character and having ample means, built a fort on his farm for the protection of his family. During one Indian raid, all the family got back to the fort, except their twin boys Henry and Mark, who were 11 years old. They were captured and taken away by the Indians.

Henry and Mark Schell were taken to Eastern Canada by the Indians. The boys and the Indians got along well together and became quite attached to each other. The lads learned the English language. They continued their friendship with the Indians during the rest of their lives.

The twins showed themselves bright young men. They attracted the attention of Captain Laws, an officer in the British Army. By some negotiations, he got them away from the Indians and kept them under his care.

He tried to have the twins stay with him, but having been away from their parents and family for 8 years, they decided to go back to the German Flats in the Mohawk Valley and to their family. They travelled by foot. They received a great welcome home. Their father had died from wounds received from the Indians. Their mother had grown older. Denis was dead, having been killed by the Indians. Fred was lame and Eve deformed, having been partly scalped by the Indians. Their homestead lay in ashes. A few years later their mother died.

Henry married Mary Moyer in 1794. Mary, whose mother died when she was 2 years old, had been raised by John and

Barbara Schell. Henry and Mary, after his mother's death, retained the homestead and lived there until 1798, when they sold it and followed his brothers to Canada. They first settled on land where Grimsby, Ontario is today. A year or two later, they moved to Markham, Ontario in York County, near the farm of Mark. The twins always sought each other's company. Later, Henry and his family moved to Ingersoll.

Mark, who had married Delila Casler, at Mohawk Valley, had moved and settled at Markham. Later, after the death of his wife, he moved to Sanilac County, Michigan. While he was crossing a stream, carrying a washboard, he was stepping from stone to stone, slipped and fell on the washboard, which punctured his lung — from which he died.

Henry, who at the time was living with his son Daniel, in Ingersoll, walked from Ingersoll to Sanilac County to see his ill twin brother. Henry was 75 years of age at the time. Henry died in Ingersoll, April 12, 1859, his wife Mary, died September 26, 1860.

Henry and Mary Schell had 7 children: Jacob, Abraham, Solomon, Daniel, Henry, Fannie and Susan. Fannie married a Mr. Borland.

Jacob's first wife was Elizabeth Eyer. They had 5 children: John, Isreal, Henry, Mary Ann and Susan.

John married Elizabeth Barber. Their daughter Jean, married Bernard Porter. The Porters live at Eastwood, Ontario. They have one son, James.

Solomon Schell, a son of Henry and Mary, married Artimissa Hopkins. They farmed and lived on Lot 12, Concession 2, West Oxford. Their family were: Hiram, Robert, Warren, Bradford, Amanda, Almira, Esabella, Eliza and Mary Melissa.

Warren married Catherine Mabee in 1873  
Amanda married M. Rivers  
Almira married George Galloway  
Isabella married Seymour Hogan  
Mary Melissa married M. McMillan  
Eliza Jane married Mr. Fierheller  
Malcom Schell, a former Federal Member for South Oxford and Walter Schell a prominent farmer, who lived in East Oxford on the Old Stage Road, were sons of Jacob Schell and his second wife (Smith).

Compiled entirely from information received from Mrs. Jean Porter, who is a great, great grand daughter of Henry Sr. and Mary Schell.

SMITH, Orange	died 1898	age 80 years
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Orange Smith was a labourer and lived on Lot 16, Broken Front (Centerville), West Oxford.  
No other history available.

SWADLING, Robert S.	died 1918	age 58 years
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his wife		
Caroline	" 1910	" 62 "
their children		
Angus	" 1886	" 7 "
Laura M. (Plesch)	" 1930	" 49 "
George	" 1954	" 85 "
his wife		
Mamie (Woolcox)	" 1959	" 82 "

Robert Swadling was a carpenter. His wife, Caroline, did maid work in the district. For a time they lived near Salford, later moving to Centerville, where they died.

A daughter, Laura, was a school teacher. She taught in Tavistock.

George Swadling was born near Salford, moving to Centerville with his parents. He was a labourer. His wife, Mamie, who had four thumbs, was born in East Nissouri Township. George was a janitor of the West Oxford Church.

They are buried in the West Oxford Cemetery, but have no markers.

Compiled from information from Edna Currie and Archie Monroe.

SNELL, James H. his wife Barbara their children Maggie F. Ethel M	died 1907 age 50 years " 1898 " 45 " " 1884 " 5 " " 1884 " 2 "
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James H. Snell's grandparents emigrated to Dereham Township, Oxford County, from Dutchess County, New York State in the early 1820's. They brought with them 2 sons, Peter and James.

They settled on the 5th concession of Dereham Township. James Snell Sr. and his first wife, whose maiden name was Cornfoot, were the parents of James H. Snell. James Sr. married four times and raised a large family, many of whom moved to Michigan. James Sr. farmed most of his life just east of Mt. Elgin, Ontario.

It is understood that James Snell Sr. and his 4 wives are buried in the Newark Cemetery, which is located between Holbrook and Springford, Ontario. A few years ago, the monuments, large and small were torn up with a bulldozer and all buried in a big hole. A large Cairn was erected and most of the names of the people buried in the cemetery were inscribed on this Cairn. The names of James Snell and his 4 wives were not put on this Cairn.

James H. married Barbara Joss, who was a sister of Margaret, Mrs. Peter Cuthbert. She emigrated to Canada from Aberdeenshire, Scotland with her parents. Barbara's parents are buried in the Sweaburg Cemetery.

James and his wife Barbara, lived and farmed on the Edith Nichols farm, part of Lot 17 Concession 1, West Oxford, until Edith Nichols married Fred Heeney Sr. Cedric and two brothers were born while they lived on the Nichols farm.

While on that farm, the family attended the West Oxford Church. James was choir leader for a number of years. He was also a violinist and a good entertainer. He was a good living man and never known to swear.

When they left the Nichols farm, they moved to West Zorra Township and leased the James Elliott Sr. farm. Their daughter Edith was born there. Six years later, Barbara died with a tumor.

James H. and his family moved to East Oxford, Lot 5, Concession 6. In 1909, James H. was killed in a very unfortunate farm accident.

Cedric Snell was 16 years old when his father died. Later, Cedric married Ednah C. Palmer, who was a daughter of Edgar and Anna (McDowell) Palmer. Edgar's parents were: Albert and Elizabeth (Cornwell) Palmer; Albert Palmer's parents were John and Miranda (Stover) Palmer, who emigrated to Oxford County from New York State, with a settlement of "Friends" (Quakers).

Cedric and Ednah Snell farmed near the Norwich Gore until 1963 when they retired to Burford. In June, 1974, they celebrated their 59th Wedding Anniversary.

They have 2 sons — Paul, who married Hazel Rex of Winnipeg, works in the head office of the Nabisco Company in

New Jersey. They have one son, Peter.

Douglas, who married Ruth Brett of Galt, is a United Church Minister in one of the largest churches in Winnipeg. They have 3 children: David, Catherine and Caroline.

Compiled from information supplied by Cedric and Edna Snell, Burford, Ontario

STEPHENSON, Joseph his wife Mary	died 1883 age 77 years " 1893 " 84 "
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The Stephenson's emigrated to Canada, from Moltley, Lincolnshire, England, the year not known. Nor is it known where they first lived when they came to Canada. After the death of Joseph, his wife Mary lived with her nephew, Joseph Stephenson on Canterbury Street, Ingersoll, where she died.

Epitaph to Joseph  
In hope of a blessed immortality.

Epitaph to Mary  
His the hope, the blessed hope,  
Which bounded Grace hath given,  
The hope when time shall be no more,  
We all shall meet in Heaven.

Information from Olive Stephenson and Florence (Stephenson) Dickout. (Grand Nieces)

TITUS, Elijah his wife Martha (Pattent) their children Coza Goldie Mrs. Emmerson	died 1935 age --- " 1920 --- " 4 years " 6 months " 1916
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The Titus family were United Empire Loyalists and emigrated to Princeton, Ontario from the United States, after the War of 1812-14. They were of Pennsylvania Dutch descent. Later, the family moved to Centerville.

Elijah Titus was a labourer and worked at the Noxon Farm Machinery Manufacturing Company in Ingersoll.

His wife, Martha Pattent, was born in Ireland and came to Canada when she was 13 years old. She came to Centerville from Vershoyle and married Elijah Titus. They had four sons and two daughters. Emmerson and Arthur, deceased, Samuel and Charles living in Ingersoll.

We have no history of who Mrs. Emmerson Titus was before her marriage. Emmerson died in 1947 and is buried in the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.

There have never been any markers on the Titus plot. It is just west of the Connor plot in the north section of the Cemetery.

Compiled from information from Samuel Titus, by Percy Sage.

TRAUT, Phebe Caroline	died 1882 age 39 years
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Phebe Caroline Traut was born April 12, 1843, at Bakabek, New Brunswick and was the daughter of James and Julia Turner.

James and Julia moved to West Oxford from New Brunswick. James was a blacksmith by trade and it is thought that he had a blacksmith shop on Lot 12, Concession 1, West Oxford and also that the family later moved to Burgessville.

The West Oxford Census of 1861, lists the Turner family

as follows: James, age 41 years, Julia, age 36 years, Phebe, age 16, Levina age 14, Charlotte, age 12, Henry age 10, Emma, age 8 and James, age 5.

On March 5, 1871, Phebe married Charles Fredrick Traut, at Sharpburg, Pennsylvania, where they lived until Phebe's death in 1882. They had five children.

After her death, Charles brought her back to West Oxford for burial. He also brought the 5 motherless children back to be with their grandparents. The next year Charles moved to Woodstock and married Emma Turner, who had been helping care for his motherless children. Charles was employed with the D.W. Karn Organ Company. He and his wife Emma are buried in the Hillview Cemetery, Woodstock, Ontario.

Epitaph  
Though slumbering here, the body lies,  
We hope to meet her in the skies.

Compiled from information from Miss Ardis M. Traut, Orlando, Florida and from the 1861 West Oxford Census.

TANNER, Martin his wife Mary Ann Susan J. George Z. Pascoe, Zachariah	died 1881 age 57 years " 1882 " 54 " " 1858 " 7 " " 1872 " 1 " " 1883 " 78 "
--	--

Another forgotten family. A Tanner family did live in Centerville years ago and that is about all that is remembered about them.

Zachariah Pascoe was probably the father of Mrs. Martin Tanner.

THOMPSON, Les	died 1950 age 63 years (headstone only)
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Les Thompson was a farm labourer and for several years operated the road grader for North Oxford Township. He was married and had a daughter. When he operated the road grader he lived in part of a house owned by Winston Nichols. He died of heart failure at home. We have no record of his wife and daughter.

He also worked on farms for Harry Ruckle and Carl Heeney.

Compiled from information from Winston Nichols.

TUNKS, Andrew his wife Isabella (McCrae) their son George	died 1942 age 76 years " 1945 " 73 " " 1960 " 58 "
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Andrew Tunks was a son of George E. and Eliza Ann (Elson) Tunks. They are of English descent. George E. and Eliza Ann were married in Pennsylvania. They had 5 children born in the U.S.A.; 3 of them died there at an early age.

George fought in The Civil War. With his wife and 2 children, they emigrated to Canada in 1865. They were United Empire Loyalists and first settled at Lambeth, Ontario. Five years later they moved to Centerville where he owned and operated a lime kiln and stone quarry. George E. was killed in an accident in the quarry. In Canada, they had 4 children; Andrew, born 1866; Charles, Harriett and Eliza. George E. died May 10, 1905. George E. and his wife Eliza Ann are buried in the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery. Isabella died in 1924, age 92.

Andrew married Isabella (McCrae) who was a daughter of William and Margaret McCrae. They came from Scotland and lived in Ingersoll. William worked on construction of the Grand Trunk Railway, and was a section foreman for many years. He was killed by a freight train. As a young man, Andrew worked on boats on the Great Lakes.

Andrew and his wife, Isabella, went to British Columbia after their marriage, where they lived at New Denver. They had 3 children, all born in B.C.; George, Florence (Mrs. Hanley) and Margaret (Mrs. C. Belore). In 1897 Andrew went to the Klondyke, Yukon. After being there 1 year, he walked home by the Dalton Trail to New Denver, B.C.; a distance of 500 miles in 12 days.

They moved back to Centerville, September 10, 1905 after which he worked in the lime industry.

George never married. For a time he worked in the lime industry. Later he was caretaker at the London Sanitorium. He died suddenly with a heart attack.

Compiled from information received from Mrs. Florence Hanley and Mrs. Frances Overholt.

TAYLOR, Mary her son Randolph	died 1833 age 80 years " 1832 " 48 "
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Two forgotten people.

Epitaph (how true)  
How calm and silent is the grave,  
Where life's vain tumult's passed,  
The appointed home by Heaven's decree,  
Receives us all at last.

UREN, John Jr. his wife Mary A. Withers Their children Richard Mary J. Sarah Mary A.	died 1891 age 92 years " 1867 " 62 " " 1841 --- " 1848 " 4 " " 1852 " 6 " " 1853 " 3 "
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Ebenezer and Mary's children Johnny Frances	" 1872 " 8 " " 1872 " 6 "
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John III his wife Isabella Lowes son Charles died in infancy George his wife Maggie Sage their child Jean	" 1867 " 36 " " 1902 " 70 " " 1927 " 71 " " 1950 " 84 " " 1900 " 2 months
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John Uren Sr. — Born in Parish Madron, Penzance, Cornwall County, England in 1773. Married Grace Kemp and came to America with their 7 children in 1815, after a 63 day rough sailing voyage. He bought a farm in New York State which did not work out. One son, Richard, developed a bad knee and he took him back to his physician in England, where Richard remained.

In 1820, the British Consul in New York, suggested John go to Canada, which he did, with his family except John Jr. He received Location tickets for Lot 28, Concession 4, West Nis-

souri, consisting of 200 acres. Paid first installment fee of 2.18s. 8d.

The family came from Hamilton in wagons. Two daughters were taken ill enroute and Grace, 15 years old, died and was buried in Putnam Cemetery and Christianna, 15, died shortly after arrival. William and Thomas helped their father clear land and build a log cabin on the farm.

John Jr. II was born in Parish Madron, Penzance, Cornwall County, England in 1799. Came to Canada with the family at 16 years in 1815. Apprenticed with saddlers and harness makers in New York and Carolina, remaining there until 1824 when he also came to Canada. His luggage consisted of 2 boxes of clothing, 2 barrels of salt and a rifle for his brother, Thomas.

He arrived at Fort George and took 3 days by wagon to Nissouri. In 1827, he took his mother to England to settle the business about property there, and to see Richard. While they were there, the father, John Sr. died (1827) in Nissouri.

On returning to Canada, John Jr. bought a farm on the Old Stage Road, Lot 13, Concession 1, West Oxford. The first man he spoke to on arrival at Oxford, now Ingersoll, was a young man about his age, James Ingersoll, and they became friends.

He later had a general store in Ingersoll, lived on the farm, married Mary Withers in Niagara. They had four sons and five daughters. The first four children died in childhood and were buried in West Oxford Cemetery.

Ebenezer married Mary Henderson and lived on said farm, had six children; two, a son and a daughter died in childhood and were buried in West Oxford Cemetery. Alfred, was a professor at the University of Toronto, died 1967, had two sons, John and Dr. David of Toronto. Russell, a jeweler, died in Calgary, Alberta, had two sons, Donald, Calgary and William, Montana. Sadie did not marry, died in Ingersoll, 88 years. Mabel Bradley still living in a Nursing home in Ingersoll, 1973. All attended West Oxford Church.

Ebenezer's wife, Mary, died at 45 years of age. He sold the farm to Mr. McClellan and moved to Ingersoll, where he was as active in the Charles St. Methodist Church as he had been in the West Oxford Church. He married Grace Hamlyn who died in 1923, 76 years. Ebenezer died in 1934, 93 years.

Richard, a photographer, married Agnes Halliday, had three daughters, none married, and all died in Ingersoll.

John III married Isabelle Lowes, bought 100 acres across the River Thames in North Oxford, died in 1867 at 36 years, leaving 3 small sons, Charles died in youth, John IV did not marry, died in Alabama in 1952. George lived on the farm, married Maggie Sage, had 2 sons and 5 daughters. He was active in the West Oxford Church and was Sunday School Superintendent for a time. He died in 1927, age 71, and is buried in the West Oxford Cemetery.

Family: Vera McKay, Nora Hagerman, Gladys Budd, Earl, (veteran of World War 1) died in 1962, Jean died in infancy, Margery Tate, and Harold, all attended West Oxford Church and Sunday School with their parents during their youth.

Harold F. has one daughter, Doreen Simmons who has three children and one son, David, who has a son John, born in 1972.

Written by Mrs. Nora (Uren) Hagerman, 500 South Westmoreland Ave., Los Angeles.

#### Epitaph to John Sr.

Asleep dear Father, gone to rest,  
So free from toil and cares,  
Your Spirit rests among the blest,  
No pain nor sorrow there.

#### Epitaph to John Jr.

A precious one for us is gone, a voice we loved is stilled,  
A place is vacant in our Home, which never can be filled,  
God in his wisdom has recalled, the doom his love has given,  
And though the body slumbers here, the Soul is safe in Heaven.

WALTON, Bridget (Lowes) died 1853 age 29 years  
her son  
John Wesley " 1853 " 2 weeks

Bridget Lowes Walton would be a decendent of Joseph and Sarah Lowes. Her husband was Robert Walton, who was a blacksmith in Centerville.

#### Epitaph

A Child beloved, a Wife most dear,  
A Friend esteemed, reposes here,  
Yet hope to descibes beyond the tomb,  
A brighter world, a sweeter home,  
Where pain and death can never come.

WARING, Ida (Scott) died 1930 age 71 years  
Emma " 1863 " 2 "

Ida Scott Waring was a daughter of Silas and Lucy (Sage) Scott.

She was the second wife of John Waring. They farmed on the Governor's Road, north of Beachville. Later they moved to Beachville where he worked for several years. He died there and is buried in Ingersoll, where his first wife was buried.

After the death of her husband, Ida continued living in Beachville with her mother, later they moved to Ingersoll.

Emma, who is also buried in the cemetery must have been a daughter of John and his first wife.

Compiled by Percy Sage.

WHATLEY, Ernest John died 1965 age 77 years  
his wife  
Rose M.(Hallaway) 1960 " 73 "  
Robert Maurice " 1930 " 3 "

Ernest John Whatley was born in Hegesbury, England on June 8, 1888. He worked as a farm hand in England. In the spring of 1910, he emigrated to Canada, coming to the Sweaburg, Ontario area, working for James Pullin.

He returned to England early in 1913. On February 22, 1913, he married Rose Mabel Hallaway, who was born April 28, 1887 at Salisbury, England. They returned to Canada to the Pullin farm, worked there for a few years, then rented the Wesley Dodge farm on shares, until the spring of 1920.

Four of their children; Grace (Mrs. Samuel Morrison) of Ingersoll, born 1914, Roy, R.R. 1, Beachville, born 1915, Herbert born 1917, home farm and Dorothy born 1918, home farm, all were born in the Sweaburg area.

Ernest and Rose purchased part of Lot 12, Concession 1, West Oxford and took up residence March 1, 1920, living there until their death. Four more children were born; Jean (Mrs. Charles Blancher) of Ingersoll, born 1921, William of Ingersoll, born 1925, Robert Maurice born 1927, died 1930 and Kenneth born 1934, of Ingersoll.

Rose Mabel passed away February 18, 1960 and Ernest John died July 2, 1965. At the time of their death, there were 20 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Written by Mrs. Charles Blancher (Jean Whatley).

WHITE, Captain Marvel died 1882 age 85 years

Captain Marvel White was a retired British Army Captain. He was the Assessor of Oxford-on-the-Thames in 1819. His wife was Dora (Brown) White. No record of her death or burial.

Their daughter, Clarissa married Joseph Cook.

The following Verse is on his tablet—

How blest the righteous when he dies,  
When sinks a weary soul to rest,  
How mildly beam the closing eyes,  
How gently heaves the expiring breast.

WILSON, Paul died 1859 age 58 years  
his wife  
Hannah " 1889 " 88 "  
James " 1862 " 21 "

There is nothing certain about the history of this family. It is thought that Paul Wilson was a relative of Hezekiah Wilson who lived west of Foldens Corners.

Paul and Hanna may have had only one child, James, if so, the family ended with the death of Hannah. It is not known where the Paul Wilson's lived.

WILSON, Richard died 1861 age 77 years  
his wife  
Sarah (Foster) " 1859 " 72 "

Richard Wilson emigrated to Canada from York, Yorkshire England, in 1830 to locate a home for his wife and family. After about 5 weeks on a sailboat he landed in New York. He worked his way on a canal boat up the Erie Canal to Buffalo. From there he went to Niagara Falls, Ontario, where he contacted the Colonial Land Company to get an allotment of land promised all settlers by the British Crown. This did not materialize. He was then offered land by Colonel Ball, a former British Army officer, for \$2.00 an acre. He bought Lot 23, Concession 1, Dereham Township. The first year and early the next spring, he cleared some land and built a log house in preparation for the coming of his wife and family.

His wife, Sarah (Foster) of York, England was the daughter of a publisher and owner of the York Gazette.

In June 1831, Sarah, with her five children, Charles 15, William 13, Leonard 12, Robert 5, and baby Richard, sailed for America. After a rough trip of 7 weeks, they landed in New York, came to Niagara and then to Oxford County.

Mrs. Wilson had never known any hardships but readily accustomed herself to pioneer life. She wove her own cloth, made clothing for the family and for a time did the washing in a creek on the Hislop farm and raised her family. She and her husband learned many things from the Indian Chief, which helped them survive in the new land. They lived on the same farm the rest of their lives.

Written by Mrs. Wilbur (Mabel) Cuthbert.

#### Epitaph

When you unto my grave do go,  
The gloomy place to see,  
I say to you who stand and view,  
Prepare to follow me.

WILSON, Leonard died 1889 age 70 years  
his wife  
Elizabeth " 1866 " 35 "

Leonard Wilson was born on March 25, 1819, the third son in a family of five sons of Richard and Sarah Wilson. They lived in or near York, the cathedral city of Yorkshire, England.

He was 12 years old when, in 1831, his mother Sarah, himself and his four brothers, Charles, William, Robert and Richard, came to Canada to join their father, Richard, who had emigrated in 1830. He had bought a 200 acre farm at Lot 23, Concession 1, Dereham Township in Oxford County.

It was on this farm that the family was raised and from which the five boys got a start to make their own way in the world.

Leonard (he always signed his name Lenard) bought his first land on January 22, 1851, when he paid 125 pounds to Abraham Browett, for 50 acres of the south west part of Lot 22, Concession 1, Dereham.

On March 2, 1853, Leonard bought 50 acres off the south end of Lot 23 from his parents. Then he bought the south 25 acres along the Culloden Road from them in 1854, and he inherited the north 25 acres along the Culloden Road from his father at his death in 1861. He also bought 50 acres across the concession road, which brought his holdings to a total of 200 acres.

Leonard married Elizabeth Ann Thorne, born December 27, 1830, who came from New York State and was of French descent. Her family has never been traced.

During the early years of their marriage, they lived in a log house just west of the present house. It was in this log house that their family of 4 girls and 2 boys were born. Their names in order of age were: Lucy, William, Francis, Sarah, Mary and Estella.

The family outgrew their small log house, so Leonard began to plan for a new and larger home, and in 1865, construction began of a white brick house, the present home of Walter Wilson and family, Walter being the great-grandson of Leonard. The central part of the house is a full two stories, nearly square and there is a back wing for kitchen, pantry and other utilities.

Leonard, Elizabeth and their family moved into the new house in the fall of 1865, but tragically, Elizabeth died the next spring on March 14, 1866, at the age of 35. Leonard never remarried, and managed to raise his young family with the aid of housekeepers.

Leonard never involved himself in many community activities, but he was a prosperous farmer, and milked a large number of cows.

A group of dairy farmers of the area formed a company called "The Dereham and West Oxford Independent Butter and Cheese Manufacturing Company Limited", and Leonard agreed to lease a part of his farm on which a factory was built. This factory operated until 1918 when it was sold by public auction. A stand of lilac bushes still grows along the Culloden Road, marking the site of the factory.

Leonard remained on his farm all his life, and there he died on July 17, 1889. He was buried in the Wilson plot in the West Oxford Cemetery, where his parents were buried, and his wife, Elizabeth, had been laid to rest 23 years earlier.

He left 100 acres of the home farm to his eldest son William, and the easterly 100 acres to his son Francis (Frank). Frank sold out to William and William farmed there until 1921. He then sold out to his son Walter, who farmed the land all his life and raised 5 sons, one of whom he named Walter Leonard.

Today this farm, named "Wilsmer", is owned and operated by Walter L. Wilson with his two sons Ross and Russell. Dairying continues to be the main enterprise on the gently rolling land of the portions of Lots 22 and 23 which Leonard Wilson had assembled in the 1850's.

Written by Everett Wilson, Salford, Ontario.

During 1973, when we were collecting cemetery histories,

Walter Wilson showed us the marble tablet of Leonard Wilson, which was very badly smashed by vandals (several pieces missing) which he had taken and stored in his garage. Although, we had finished the restoration of the monuments in the cemetery, we persuaded Mr. Wilson to bring the broken tablet back to the cemetery and we had it imbedded in a concrete base on the Wilson plot.

WILSON, Robert O.	died 1912	age 86 years
his wife		
Elizabeth (Nancekivell)	1891	" 62 "
their children		
Rachael	" 1861	9 "
William	" 1865	" 6 months
Rachael (2nd)	no date	" 2 "
Nancy	no date	Infant

Robert O. Wilson was the son of Richard and Sarah Foster Wilson and came to Canada when he was five years of age. He received his early education from Mrs. Ranney at Manchester, later renamed Salford in 1855. They were taught in a little log school house and his tuition was paid for by produce and farm chores, as he stayed at the Ranney home from Monday to Friday.

When Robert O. became a young man he met and married Elizabeth Ann Nancekivell who came from Devonshire, England. She was the daughter of William Nancekivell Sr. and Elizabeth Ford. When Robert and Elizabeth were married, they settled at Lot 23, Concession 2, West Oxford. They had 9 children; Richard, Sarah, Robert A., Miria and Charles who all farmed in Oxford County. Rachael, William, Nancy and Rachael II all died when young children. The children received their education at the white school house a mile south of their home on the Culloden Road. It was built in 1840. They attended only in the winter months as their help was needed on the farm for planting and harvesting. Across from their home on the corner was a toll gate operated by a Mrs. Hansford and she charged 5 ¢ for one horse and 10 ¢ for a team. The gravel from Robert's farm was used for upkeep on this road and others in the district.

Richard and his bride, Charlotte Martin, the daughter of William Martin, farmed one mile west and a mile south of Folden's Corners. They had 2 children, Clarissa, who died when she was 23, and Edith. Charlotte died in her 34th year. Later he married Margaret Ann Arthur. They had a son Lorne, who operated the general store at Folden's Corners, and a daughter Mildred, who married Ralph Folden. It was from the Folden family the village got its name. Richard retired early from active farming and built a house in the village and operated the blacksmith shop. He was a man extremely fond of honey. He has twin great-grandsons. Sarah Berdina was an accomplished pianist. She married Roland Smith and they had 4 children; Mabel, Charles, Harold and Robert. It was Mabel Smith Cronk who was instrumental in arranging the Wilson Centennial in 1931 at the original Wilson Homestead. Mabel was a school teacher and composed the Centennial Song for the occasion. She also spent many, many hours on compiling a family tree.

Robert Alfred chose to be a farmer also, and when he was contemplating marriage to Mary Phillips Arthur, a sister to Richard's second wife, his father gave him the farm across the road known as Lot 21, Concession 1, Dereham and they built a white brick house; the brick being drawn from St. Thomas by horse and wagon. They were married in the Ranny house at Salford. They had 3 sons; Arthur, Basil and Robert Wallace.

His pet name for his bride was Polly. He has twin grandsons and twin great-grandchildren—a boy and a girl.

Miria Ella married Jacob Christopher Karn and they lived south of Woodstock on a farm in the district known as Bower Hill. They had 6 children; twin daughters, Myrtle and Muriel, Lloyd, Violet, Elmer and Marjorie. Miria was very interested in her family, home and church. She was one of the original members of the United Farm Women's Club of the area, which later joined with the Federated Women's Institute. She has twin grandsons and twin granddaughters.

Charles, the youngest son, affectionately known as the Lawyer, remained a bachelor and stayed at home and farmed the family farm with his sister Sarah and her family. He was a very good and prosperous farmer. In their retirement years they acquired the Curry property at Clarks Corners.

These fine ambitious people have left a long line of descendants who are very proud of their ancestors.

Written by Mrs. P.E. (Laetta) Johnson Sr.

WOOD, Marion (Dygart)	died 1930	age 90 years
Herbert	" 1929	" 66 "
his wife		
Anna (Dodge)	" 1939	" 72 "
James Gustin Jr.	" 1931	" 38 "
Edith	" 1951	" 54 "

Jacob Wood emigrated to West Oxford from the United States. His first purchase of land was 44 acres, the south west part of Lot 13, Concession 1, West Oxford. It was on this parcel of land on the knoll north of the corner on the Jordan Road, that the Episcopal Methodist Cemetery was located.

We have no record of who his wife was before their marriage except that her name was Sophia. The 1861 census lists Jacob Wood as being an Episcopal Methodist. It also lists him as 79 years of age and his wife as 75 years old.

Jacob was a member of the Board of Trustees of the West Oxford Church and Cemetery in 1823, when the present site of the Church and Cemetery was purchased from John Galloway. Jacob withdrew from the Board in 1831 and Michael Gray was appointed in his place.

Both Jacob and Sophia were presumably buried in the abandoned Episcopal Methodist Cemetery.

Their son, James G. Wood Sr., who married Marion Dygart, daughter of Isaac and Abigail (Janes) Dygart, is also undoubtedly buried in the abandoned Episcopal Methodist Cemetery. His wife, Marion, who lived until 1930, age 90, which was long after the E.M. Cemetery was abandoned, was buried in her parents' plot in the West Oxford Cemetery. Her monument is in concrete base 19, with Isaac and Abigail.

Herbert Wood was born on Lot 13, Concession 1, West Oxford. He was a son of James G. Sr. and Marion (Dygart) Wood. His wife, Anna Elizabeth (Dodge) was a daughter of John and Matilda Dodge and was born on Lot 4, Concession 1, West Oxford.

They were married February 1, 1893. After their marriage, they moved to the United States, returning to West Oxford in 1899.

They lived and farmed on Lot 13, Concession 1, West Oxford. Herbert did a lot of Veterinary work in the district.

Children of Herbert and Anna were; James Gustin Jr. and Edith. Neither married.

James Gustin Jr. opened a gravel pit on the farm and made concrete tile, using gasoline power. When the natural gas pipeline came through from the Brownsville Gas Field, he converted to gas power. James Gustin Jr. was also a baseball player, playing on the Folden's Corners team.

Compiled from information from Florence Dodge, Percy Sage and the 1851 Census.

WOOLCOX, Benjamin — buried in the cemetery with no marker, could be a brother of Mrs. George (Woolcox) Swadling.

WOOTEN, Eva	died 1880	age 62 years
Stanton, Sarah Ann	" 1884	" 1 "

Sometime during the 1870's Laura Wooten married John Stanton, at Brackley Bucks, England. About 2 years later, they emigrated to Canada, with their 2 year old daughter Mary, who was the mother of Mrs. Thomas Wilson. Laura's mother Mrs. Eva Wooten, also came to Canada with them, but died a few years later.

John and Laura first lived in a frame house on Lot 13, Con. 2, West Oxford, on the old Simon Mabee farm. This house is not there now, it was near the Mabee stone house. Next they moved to a house south of Piper's Corners and by 1890 they had moved to Sweaburg, Ontario.

Sarah Ann Stanton who was born in 1883, was buried beside her grandmother, Eva Wooten.

Epitaph to Sarah Ann

Sleep on sweet babe, and take thy rest.  
God called thee home, He thought it best.

Information from Mrs. Thomas Wilson, Ingersoll.

#### WEST OXFORD CEMETERY BOARD

Some of the records found in a book marked: Trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist Burying Ground, called the Old Burying Ground.

The deed was first given on the 29th day of November, 1823. The Trustees appointed by the Quarterly Board were: Joel Piper, Rev. Robert Corson, Jacob Wood, Isaac Burdick and Thomas Waite.

1831 Jacob Wood and Thomas Waite withdrew from the Church, and Michael Gray was appointed in the place of Jacob Wood. Willard Scott was appointed Trustee in the place of Thomas Waite.

1839 Michael Gray ceased to be a member of the Church, and Daniel Harris Jr. was appointed in his place.

1850 Isaac Burdick died and Enoch B. Piper was appointed Trustee in his place. Rev. Robert Corson, having removed from the District, Henry Schell was appointed in his place.

1851 Willard Scott ceased to be a member of the Church and Joseph B. Piper was appointed in his place. On May 3, 1851 Joseph B. Piper was elected Secretary of the Trustee Board.

1854 The Trustees of the West Oxford Wesleyan Methodist Brick Church, Old Burying Ground, were unanimously appointed Trustees of the new Church and the Church Property by the Quarterly Board held November 1854: Joel Piper, Henry Schell, Daniel Harris, Enoch B. Piper and Joseph B. Piper, Secretary.

1857 The Quarterly Meeting held October 31, 1857 according to the Model Deed requiring seven Trustees added to the above Trustees: Warren Harris, Charles Brink, both of West Oxford.

1857 A meeting of the Trustees Board was held in the Church on December 23, 1857, Rev. Geo. Kennedy in the Chair. Members present were Enoch B. Piper, Joseph B. Piper, Warren Harris, Daniel Harris Jr. and Charles Brink. John Nichols was appointed Trustee in the place of Henry Schell, who had ceased to be a member of the Church.

1858 Isaac Piper, on September 29th, was appointed Trustee in the place of Joel Piper, deceased. The following resolution was unanimously adopted: That we charge the fee of One Dollar for a single plot, to all parties able to pay. Joseph B. Piper, Secretary.

1861 At a Trustee Meeting June 4th in the Chapel at 2:00 p.m. the members present were: Warren Harris, Daniel Harris, Joseph B. Piper, John Nichols, and Enoch B. Piper. Rev. Joseph Shepley was in the chair. It was moved by Joseph B. Piper that the church having been declared free from debt, that all monies arising from the sale of burying plots shall be applied to keeping up and repairing the fence around the burial ground.

1867 The following brethren were added to the Trustee Board: Reuben A. Janes, George Galloway and J. Myers.

1868 A meeting of the Trustee Board was held in the church in the evening of November 20th. Members present were: Charles Brink, James Galloway, George Galloway, R.A. Janes, J.B. Piper and J. Myers. J. Myers occupied the chair, J.B. Piper was appointed Secretary. R.A. Janes and G. Galloway were appointed a committee to raise means by subscription, for building a fence on the rear and the north west side of the burying ground and to build it. George Galloway was appointed to take charge of the burial plots.

1872 It was moved and carried that R.A. Janes be dropped from the Trustee Board having removed from the neighbourhood. Moved, seconded and resolved that the following brethren be appointed members of the Trustee Board: Edwin Galloway, Charles Brink Jr. and George Cook. The Trustee Board at the present time consists of the following brethren: John Nichols, George Galloway, Charles Brink Sr., Edwin Galloway, E.W. Uren, James Galloway, Charles Brink Jr. and George Cook.

1895 On June 17th a meeting of the Trustee Board was duly called by the chairman, Rev. John Stewart. It was moved by Edwin Galloway, seconded by W.F. Galloway and resolved that the funds from the sale of burial plots or other things connected therewith be kept as a separate account from the general fund of the church. Moved by C.A. Brink, seconded by E.W. Uren and resolved that Edwin Galloway be the Treasurer of the Cemetery Funds.

Moved by W.F. Galloway, seconded by Edwin Galloway and resolved: That C.A. Brink, R.W. Brink, E.W. Uren, Edwin Galloway, W.F. Francis, George Nichols and W.F. Galloway be and are hereby appointed a committee to make such improvements in the cemetery as the funds at their disposal will warrant.

1895 A Committee meeting was held. Moved by C.A. Brink, seconded by George Nichols that W.F. Galloway be the Chairman. Moved by Edwin Galloway, seconded by R.W. Brink, that W.G. Francis be Secretary of the Committee. Moved by Edwin Galloway, seconded by Charles Brink Jr. and resolved: That W.F. Galloway, J.G. Reynolds, R.W. Brink and E.W. Uren be a sub-committee to ex-

ecute subscriptions for the Improvement of the Cemetery grounds.

1900 On February 15th, a meeting was held at the residence of Edwin Galloway. Members present were: E.W. Uren, George Galloway, James Galloway and W.F. Galloway. Rev. A Kennedy was in the chair.

Mr. George Ruckle was elected to succeed Charles Brink Sr. deceased. E.S. Dodge was elected Trustee to succeed John Nichols, deceased. James Galloway tendered his resignation to the Board. Mr. James Millington was elected Trustee to succeed James Galloway, resigned.

Moved by W.F. Galloway, seconded by E.W. Uren that E.S. Dodge be appointed Secretary. Carried. The Trustee Board at the present time consists of E.W. Uren, C.A. Brink, George Ruckle, E.S. Dodge, George Galloway, George Cook, Edwin Galloway, J.M. Millington and W.F. Galloway.

1913 On January 13th, a meeting of the Trustees of the West Oxford Church was held at George Ruckle's home.

Members present were: W.F. Galloway, George Cook, J.W. Millington, George Uren, R.W. Brink Rev. W.J. Ellis, George Ruckle and E.S. Dodge. E.W. Uren tendered his resignation.

Moved by George Ruckle, seconded by W.F. Galloway, carried: That William Batten be appointed Trustee to fill the vacancy of E.W. Uren, resigned.

Moved by W.F. Galloway, seconded by George Cook: Whereas George Galloway has moved to the United States, that his name be removed from the Board of Trustees, and that R.W. Brink fill the vacancy. Carried.

Moved by J.W. Millington, seconded by George Cook: That George Uren fill the vacancy caused by the death of Edwin Galloway. Carried.

Rev. W.J. Ellis, Chairman.

1915 Members present: Rev. John A. Neil, Chairman, George Cook, J.W. Millington, George Uren, George Ruckle and E.S. Dodge.

Moved by J.W. Millington, seconded by George Cook, that E.S. Dodge, W.F. Galloway, R.W. Brink, C.A. Brink owing to removal from the district, be dropped from the Trustee Board. Carried.

Moved by George Ruckle, seconded by J.W. Millington: That George Uren be appointed Secretary-Treasurer of the West Oxford Trustee Board of the Methodist Church. Carried.

Rev. John A. Neil, Chairman

1929 June 13th. Report of Cemetery Board meeting, as a Public Meeting. Those present: George Swadling, Clarence Cuthbert, Clarence Scott, George Ruckle, Albert Batten, Elmer Heeney and Rev. Percy Baner.

Moved by George Ruckle, seconded by George Swadling that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr. Willard Scott, for his long and faithful services as caretaker of the cemetery and the efficient manner in which it was done, our sympathy in his illness.

Moved by George Ruckle, seconded by Geo. Swadling: That a bee be made on June 18th to mow the cemetery and an announcement to be made from the pulpits in the three points, that a meeting of all plot holders to be held at the Church on June 25th. Carried. The grass cutting bee on June 18th was a great success.

1929 June 25th. Public Meeting for the Cemetery was called to order by Rev. Percy Baner, others present; Bev. Blan-

cher, George Ruckle, Harry Ruckle, Fred Heeney Sr., Elmer Heeney, Ben Sage, M.E. Scott, George Swadling and Clarence Scott.

Moved by M.E. Scott, seconded by Clarence Scott: That George Ruckle and Fred Heeney Sr. be appointed to estimate the cost of leveling the cemetery. Carried.

Moved by Harry Ruckle, seconded by Clarence Scott: That in the judgement of this meeting, an effort be made to provide permanent upkeep for the West Oxford Cemetery. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Ruckle, seconded by Mr. Swadling: That a canvassing committee be appointed: Clarence Scott, J.U. Nichols, Fred Heeney Sr., Louis Sandick, Elmer Heeney and Ben Sage. Carried. Meeting adjourned.

1930 May 10th. Moved by Clarence Scott, seconded by George Swadling: That money from the sale of plots be used for present upkeep. Carried.

1931 April 7th. Trustee Board meeting met at Elmer Heeney's Rev. Selby Jefferson in the chair, present: Louis Sandick Clarence Scott, Fred Heeney Sr. and Elmer Heeney.

Earl Millard was appointed to the Board in the place of Ben Sage, deceased.

It was decided to have a bee, the first part of May to fix up the cemetery.

1931 December 10th. The permanent upkeep fund was \$245.

1935 June 22nd. A meeting of the Trustee Board.

Moved by Clarence Scott, seconded by Mr. Haskett: That Harry Ruckle act as Secretary. Carried.

Moved by Harry Ruckle, seconded by W.B. Blancher: That Elmer Heeney and Albert Batten be added to the Trustee Board. Carried.

Moved by Clarence Scott, seconded by Mr. Crawford: That we have a bee to cut the grass on Monday, June 24th. Carried. That Clarence Scott act as foreman.

1935 July 5th. Meeting opened with Rev. G.I. VanLoon in the chair. Elmer Heeney was appointed Treasurer of the Trustee Board. The problem of permanent upkeep was discussed. It was moved by E.J. Heeney, seconded by Clarence Scott: that the following plan be adopted, that a charge of \$25.00 per plot be levied for permanent upkeep. Those who do not desire to avail themselves of this plan shall be charged \$1.00 per plot per year.

Carried. The following were appointed to draft a letter to be sent to those interested; Louis Sandick, Clarence Scott and Harry Ruckle.

Moved by Harry Ruckle: That Rev. G.I. VanLoon, Clarence Scott and Elmer Heeney be a committee to draft a map of the cemetery. Carried.

Comment: "This plan of making an assessment against the cemetery plots, for permanent upkeep, evidently did not obtain the desired results. There seem to be no available records to show what monies were collected or any names of donors. Evidently considerable dissatisfaction developed, according to the following meeting."

1936 May 15th. A meeting of the Cemetery Board was held at Elmer Heeney's. A general discussion was held. It was moved by E.J. Heeney, seconded by J.U. Nichols: That this business be closed up by September 15th and give the money back to anyone who desires it. Meeting adjourned.

1936 June 26th. Cemetery Board met in the Church. Members present: Louis Sandick, Clarence Scott, Harry Ruckle and Elmer Heeney.

Moved by Harry Ruckle, seconded by Elmer Heeney: That Louis Sandick and Clarence Scott interview Mr. Roth concerning Cemetery and Municipal Laws and make a report. Meeting adjourned.

1937 May 10th. The West Oxford Cemetery Board met in the Church with Rev. R.B. Cumming in the chair. Members present: Elmer J. Heeney, Harry Ruckle, J.U. Nichols and Clarence Scott.

Moved by Clarence Scott, seconded by J.U. Nichols: That the Cemetery Board, determine to go forward with plans for the upkeep of the cemetery. Carried.

Elmer Heeney reported that the amount to the credit of the Cemetery Board in the Imperial Bank was \$282.24.

Moved by J.U. Nichols, seconded by Clarence Scott: That we hold a Memorial Service sometime in June.

1937 June 27th. A successful Memorial Day Service was held in the cemetery on Sunday June 27th. An appeal was made to the plot holders to raise funds to cover the annual upkeep of the cemetery.

The following letter had been sent to all interested and was published in the Sentinel-Review of June 24th.

"The West Oxford Cemetery Board met recently and discussed the present situation of the cemetery. The Board were of the opinion that some definite action ought to be taken with respect to the cemetery in order to put it in a satisfactory condition, and that plans be made for its future attention.

Consequently a man was hired by the hour to cut the grass. As soon as seeding operations are over, a Community Bee will be called to level the ground and do whatever work is needed. The Board felt that the plot holders and those interested would stand behind them in their action.

The yearly cost of caring for a plot is \$1.50 which should be paid before the end of September. The cost of permanent upkeep is \$25.00. A few subscribe to this plan now, and a Trust Fund has been established. It is not large enough to care for the needs of the cemetery. The Board therefore is making an earnest appeal to all plot holders, and to those interested in plots, to subscribe to this fund, as soon as possible, so that the fund may be built up to the amount required to keep the cemetery in respectable condition. This means that every family concerned must feel some responsibility for its definite share.

The annual meeting of the Cemetery Board will be held at the earliest possible and convenient date, at which time reports will be presented and organization effected for the future.

The Cemetery Board are seeking the hearty response and cooperation from the public concerned and wish to assure them of their earnest desire to make the West Oxford Cemetery as beautiful a Memorial Park as any place in the country. Your sympathy and suggestions will be most gratefully received."

1942 November 2nd. A special meeting was held at the home of Elmer Heeney to consider the investment of funds. Members present: Rev. R.B. Cumming, Chairman, Elmer Heeney and Clarence Scott.

Moved by Elmer Heeney, seconded by Clarence Scott: That we invest \$700.00 in Victory Bonds. Carried. The Bonds were made out by Basil Wilson and signed by Clarence Scott.

Note: This Trust Fund was later increased to \$1000.00 which is now invested in a Dominion Government Bond at 4¼%. Bond due in 1983.

1946 May 20th. A special meeting of the Cemetery Board was held in the West Oxford United Church, Rev. R.B. Cumming acting as Chairman. Present were: Rev. E.S. Barton Louis Sandick, Clarence Scott, Ralph Folden, Harry Ruckle, Earl Millard and Clarence Cuthbert.

Moved by Elmer Heeney, seconded by Louis Sandick: That we send out reports of the cemetery. Carried.

Moved by Clarence Scott: That Ralph Folden become a member of the Cemetery Board in the place of J.U. Nichols. Carried.

Moved by Earl Millard, seconded by Clarence Cuthbert: That we charge \$40.00 for plots in the cemetery. Carried.

1948 June 27th. Present: Rev. E.S. Barton, Earl Millard, Ralph Folden and Clarence Scott.

Moved by Ralph Folden, seconded by Earl Millard: That Clarence Scott be paid for cutting grass of last year, the sum of \$20.00. Carried.

1952 March 13th. Rev. J.E. Watson in the chair. Members present: Clarence Scott, Elmer Heeney, Ralph Folden and Earl Millard.

The resignation of Clarence Scott as Secretary-Treasurer was accepted with regret on the motion of Ralph Folden and Earl Millard.

In accepting the resignation of Clarence Scott, attention was drawn to the long, faithful, and untiring services of Clarence in the interests of the Cemetery. James Heeney was appointed Secretary-Treasurer.

1952 July 17th. A meeting of the West Oxford Cemetery Board was held at the home of Clarence Scott. Present were: Rev. J.E. Watson, Chairman, Louis Sandick, James Heeney, and Clarence Scott.

It was agreed that in cases where no perpetual care has been paid, that the cost of opening the grave shall be increased to include perpetual care on the entire plot.

It was agreed that slabs, broken or in disrepair and that have been erected over 75 years, be laid flat by order of the Board, and that no foot or corner stones be allowed above the surface of the ground.

James Heeney, Secretary

1955 April 28th. It was moved by Ralph Folden: "That we appoint a Committee of Rev. D.E. Freer and James Heeney to look after the affairs of getting the Cemetery in Government care.

1957 April 30th. A meeting of the West Oxford Cemetery Board was held in the Church. Members present were: Rev. D.E. Freer, Chairman, Louis Sandick, Ralph Folden, Fred Pettman, Elmer Heeney, James Heeney and F. Oliver. It was agreed by all members present, if considered necessary by the Secretary and Chairman in the Fall that the Secretary and Chairman be authorized to cash a Bond to meet expenses.

1958 April 14th. A meeting of the Cemetery Board was held in the Church. Members present were: Rev. D. Bruce Sutor, Chairman, Louis Sandick, Earl Millard, Elmer Heeney and James Heeney. Problems of grass cutting and caretaking were discussed at length.

"It will be recommended to the West Oxford Young People's Union that the responsibility of grass cutting of the Cemetery lawns be taken over by them, and that the Y.P.U. receive monies for such work."

Correspondence Read: "That according to the will of the Late James Ernest Sandick, read, enclosed herewith. The Trustees of the

West Oxford Church met, and turned over such monies to the West Oxford Cemetery Board on condition that they dispose of the money, according to the terms of the legacy."

We, as members of the Board accept with gratitude the Legacy and interpret it to mean that the money should be spent on the Cemetery property in order to comply with the said will. We therefore request the Treasurer of this Church to transfer the money to the Treasurer of the Cemetery Board.

(No mention was made in the minutes of the amount of money involved, but the yearly financial statement shows that it was \$1000.00).

The Cemetery Board went to work on the following items this year:

First - Money should be spent on filling and leveling of the graves.

Second - The securing and leveling of sunken stones.

Third - Cleaning up the brush. Chairman: Rev. D. Bruce Suitor, Sec.-Treas: James E. Heeney.

1960 April 19th. The West Oxford Cemetery Board met at 2:30 p.m. The members present were: Rev. D. Bruce Suitor, Chairman, Clarence Cuthbert, Clarence Scott, Robert Caffyn, James Heeney and Earl Millard.

It was moved by Clarence Cuthbert, seconded by Clarence Scott: That the Young People be asked to continue cutting the grass at the same rate as last year. (\$100.00) That a note of thanks be sent to the Young People for the good services rendered last year. Carried.

James Heeney, Secretary  
James Heeney, Secretary-Treasurer.

About this time, James E. Heeney was struck and killed by lightning on his way to the barn during a lightning storm. He had been Secretary-Treasurer for 9 years. It would appear that the last Cemetery Board meeting that James Heeney attended as Secretary-Treasurer was April 19, 1960.

1963 June 13th. Members present were: Rev. W. Stewart Miner, Chairman, Clarence Scott, Ralph Folden, Clarence Cuthbert, E.J. Whatley, Mrs. Harold Haycock and Frank Caffyn.

The financial report showed \$253.89 in the bank, \$1000 in bonds and a bequest of \$200.00 from the estate of the late Louis Sandick.

The name of Earl Baskette was put forward to be considered by the congregation as a replacement for the late Louis Sandick, on a motion of Ralph Folden and Clarence Scott. The minutes were signed by Rev. W. Stewart Miner, Chairman.

1966 January 7th. A meeting of the West Oxford Cemetery Board was held in the Church. Members present were: Rev. W. Stewart Miner, Chairman, Earl Baskette, Max Franklin and Frank Caffyn.

The names of Bert Whatley and Fred Heeney are to be placed before the Congregational Meeting. Max Franklin agreed to contact the Council of West Oxford Township to request some financial assistance.

The Young People's Union are to be paid for their past grass cutting and asked to continue, on motion of Earl Baskette and Max Franklin.

Frank Caffyn, Sec.-Treas.

1967 February 23rd. A meeting of the West Oxford Church Cemetery Board was held in the Church. Present were:

Rev. Harley Moore, Chairman, Earl Baskette, Bert Whatley, Fred Heeney, Clarence Scott, Max Franklin and Frank Caffyn.

It was moved by Bert Whatley and Earl Baskette that the Y.P.U. be paid \$100.00 for cutting grass and asked to repeat it for 1967.

Fred Heeney was named to plan a bee for reconditioning the cemetery grounds and stones.

1969 May 7th. A meeting of the West Oxford Church Cemetery Board was held in the Church. Present were: Rev. Harley Moore, Chairman, Bert Whatley, Earl Baskette, Max Franklin, Fred Heeney, William Lazenby, James Currie, Frank Brink, and Frank Caffyn, Secretary.

The financial statement showed a balance of \$548.97 on hand.

It was moved by Fred Heeney, seconded by Earl Baskette that the Y.P.U. be paid \$100.00 for cutting the grass for 1968 and asked to repeat it for 1969.

Rev. Harley Moore reported on the difficulties encountered in attempting to plot a map of the Cemetery. It was decided to contact Surveyors regarding a new survey of the Cemetery.

Note: The final result of this investigation, re: a new survey was, that owing to so many burials being out of place which were made after the original survey had been burned in the fire of 1856, that it would be better to just map the Cemetery as is. The original survey had been made north and south with the compass, which is on an angle to the road.

"This meeting was my first direct contact with the Cemetery Board, and I received wholehearted cooperation from them."

1970 May 20th. A joint meeting of the Trustees of the West Oxford United Church and Cemetery Board was held in the Church. Rev. David M. Nimmo was in the chair.

"At this meeting I made certain proposals re: the reconstruction of the Cemetery and its future upkeep and maintenance. One of my suggestions and requests was that the Cemetery be transferred from the ownership of The United Church of Canada to the Township of West Oxford."

1970 June 9th. A joint meeting of the Trustees of the West Oxford Church and the Cemetery Board was held in the Church, Rev. David M. Nimmo was Chairman.

It was pointed out that in order to transfer ownership of the Cemetery to the Township of West Oxford, the first step was to get the consent of the Oxford Presbytery of The United Church of Canada. Rev. Stanley Brenton, Pastor of the College Avenue United Church, was Chairman of the Property Committee of the Presbytery.

"Earl Baskette arranged a meeting with Rev. Brenton, which Earl and myself attended. Rev. Brenton was very cooperative, and with no hesitation, gave his approval to the transfer of the Cemetery on behalf of the Oxford Presbytery."

The Church Board and the Church Congregation had to agree to the transfer, which they all did. The Officials of the West Oxford United Church at this time were:

Stewards: Robert Cowell, Robert Caffyn, Bruce Hutcherson, Walter Hoffman, Murray Masson and Max Franklin.

Trustees: Harold Haycock, Russell Currie, Earl Baskette, John Barker.

Elders: Russell Currie, Harold Haycock, Harry Ruckle, Murray Budd, Merle Harvey.

Cemetery Board: Max Franklin, Bert Whatley, William Lazenby, Fred Heeney, Ralph Folden, Earl Millard and Frank Caffyn.

"I, Frank C. Brink, attended a meeting of the Township of West Oxford Council."

The Council Members were: Archie Longworth, Reeve, Max Franklin, Deputy Reeve, George Jakeman, Cecil Wilson and Leonard Reeves, Councillors: Leslie B. Curry Clerk-Treasurer.

The Council agreed to accept ownership of the Cemetery Grounds of the West Oxford Church.

Attorney R.G. Start of Ingersoll, very capably attended to the legal papers connected with the transfer of the Cemetery from the United Church of Canada, to the Township of West Oxford. Mr. Start also made arrangements to satisfy the Cemeteries Branch of the Ontario Department of Consumers and Commercial Relations, regarding perpetual care funds.

From 1823 when the Cemetery grounds were purchased from James Galloway until 1971, the Cemetery had been owned and operated by the West Oxford Methodist Church. Now the Cemetery was entering into a new phase in history, being deeded to the Township of West Oxford. The Harris Street Cemetery, south of Ingersoll, was already owned by the Township of West Oxford.

The members of the West Oxford Cemetery Board who were appointed by the West Oxford Township Council were: Currie Way, Chairman, Archie Longworth, Cecil Wilson, George Jakeman, Glen Mayberry and Arlington Robinson, Percy Sage and Fred Heeney were added later. Charles E. Wheeler was Secretary-Treasurer.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is with grateful thanks that I hereby acknowledge the invaluable assistance of many people, without which these memorial histories could not have been written. Very few public records were available. Personal contact was necessary with people, who willingly shared their private records and memories. We trust that this will assist in preserving our heritage for future generations.

Besides the histories received locally, many were received by correspondence, from other parts of Canada and the United States.

Some Special Thanks -

Special Thanks should be expressed to W.W. (Pete) Budd and J. Russell Currie, who were called home, before the completion of the restoration. Their faithful support, suggestions assistance and loyalty, during the formation period was of great value and will long be remembered.

To Percy Sage, who has many relatives buried in the cemetery, for his faithfulness during the reconstruction and his valuable contribution in obtaining histories. Also as a member of the Municipal Cemetery Board, he has served creditably and with distinction.

Since moving to the Central Park Lodge, London, in November 1973, and confined more or less to a wheelchair, I have been more dependent on others. A busy man of 87 years, a bundle of energy, one who seldom refuses help to anyone or any good cause, very willingly assisted in several ways. The Rev. R.B. Cumming, who was the Minister at the West Oxford

Church for 9 years during the late 1930's and 40's. Words cannot express my appreciation for his encouragement and assistance.

To Dorothy Currie, who has been a tower of strength with research and other work with the Cemetery History, and who has so capably written the Church History.

To Miss Louise Hill of Woodstock, Mrs. Joyce Groves of London and Byron G. Jenvey of Ingersoll, all of whom have shared their historical records and knowledge.

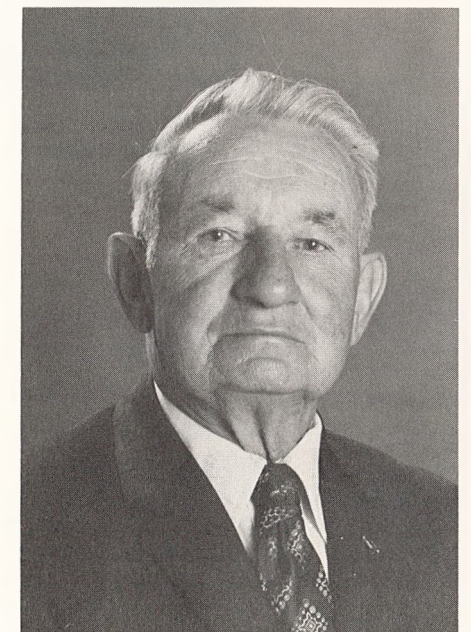
To my friend and faithful helper all during the restoration process, Mr. Archie Munroe, of Centerville, Ontario.

Thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Ashton Blancher who so capably attended the flower beds in the cemetery.

Many favorable comments have been received, on the good condition of the cemetery grounds this year. Thanks to Ted Durston who has been in charge of the caretaking.

Last but not least, to John I. Pettit of the Ingersoll Monuments, and his helpers, who did the reconstruction on the monuments. Many times working under difficulties, some times by trial and error, mostly hard hand work, everything had to be hauled in, including water. John tried to do a good job and I think he did.

Thank you all,  
Frank C. Brink.



Archie Monroe

There are things you can't do individually,  
that you can do collectively.



Frank C. Brink, Archie Munroe and Percy Sage at the West Oxford Cemetery during reconstructing.

An Article written June 23, 1937.

To Beautify an Old Burying Ground.

An effort to bring back the former serenity and hillside beauty of the West Oxford Cemetery is to be made. As one factor in that plan, a Memorial Service is to be held there at three o'clock Sunday afternoon. This, it is expected, will be largely attended, as this historic spot is of interest throughout the entire county.

The Cemetery, lying on a quiet hillside, overlooking a beautiful evergreen valley and surrounded by the Oxford hills, is one that commands attention, even by the ordinary passer-by who knows nothing of its history or background.

Announcement that a determined effort is to be made to bring back the restful, hillside beauty which once marked historic West Oxford Cemetery will be received with acclaim by many in Oxford County who have maintained a deep interest in this historic spot where the remains of many pioneers are resting to-day.

The Church occupies a commanding position at the north-east corner of the property.