

CENTENNIAL YEAR 1967

COUNTY OF OXFORD HISTORICAL ITEM NO. 5

A very brief history of the Oxford Home for the Aged

Mr. James Anderson, Reeve of the Township of East Zorra and Warden of Oxford County, announced to County Council on the afternoon of June 6th, 1889, that he had been requested to grant a hearing to a deputation upon the question of a House of Refuge. On motion, the privilege asked for, was granted.

On June 7th, a deputation consisting of Rev. Dr. McMullen of Knox Presbyterian Church, Woodstock; Rev. Mr. Farthing of New St. Pauls Anglican Church, Woodstock and Rev. Mr. Wade of Old St. Pauls Anglican Church, Woodstock, appeared before Council and presented a petition from Mr. John White and upwards to 450 others praying for the establishment of a House of Refuge for the County of Oxford. It was moved, seconded and carried that this petition be referred to a special committee to enquire into the advisability of erecting a House of Refuge, and that said Committee be requested to procure all the information possible relating to Houses of Industry and to report to this Council.

A full report was presented at the December 1889 Session and it recommended the establishment of a House of Refuge and Industrial Farm. The report was not adopted at that time, but held over for further discussion.

The question was finally put to Council on January 30th, 1891, and by a vote of 18 to 17 it was decided to proceed. The Clerk was instructed to advertise for offers of suitable parcels of land in the County, of not less than 45 acres, or more than 100, and located not more than two miles from a railway station.

On June 25th, 1891, the Council, on the 14th ballot, selected from a total of 59 offers of farms, the 100 acre farm of Mr. J. Virtue, located on the east half of Lot 3, Concession 10, Township of East Zorra. The price paid was \$60.00 an acre which included a frame house and barn.

The Council employed Messrs. Cuthbertson and Fowler as Architects and instructed that plans be completed for a Home to accommodate about 100 inmates, to be built of brick, and not more than two stories and basement in height, and to cost not more than \$15,000.00 exclusive of furnishings.

When the plans were completed, the building contract was awarded to Mr. Thos. McClay of the Town of Woodstock. The lowest tenderer at \$11,977.00.

The salary of the Manager and Matron combined was set at \$400.00 per year, Surgeon \$100.00 and Inspector \$100.00; payable quarterly.

There were 21 applications for the position of Manager and Matron. One energetic applicant had a Member of Parliament and a petition containing 422 names recommending him for the job. He did not get it. The first Manager and Matron were Mr. and Mrs. Robert McDonald and their appointment took effect on January 1st, 1893. Mr. McDonald died on January 27th, 1893. He was originally appointed on the 11th ballot of County Council.

For the vacant position there were 27 applications and Mr. and Mrs. Oliver J. Clarke were appointed on the 20th ballot with duties to start March 1st, 1893. The first resident was admitted to the Home on March 13th, 1893.

COUNTY OF OXFORD HISTORICAL ITEM NO. 5

OXFORD HOME FOR AGED - Continued

The Members of the first Management Committee were: Mr. S. J. Cole, Reeve of the Town of Woodstock; Mr. R. J. Henderson, Reeve of the Township of Blandford and Mr. John Sheahan, Deputy Reeve of the Township of North Norwich. Of course, there were a number of building committees appointed in the years of preparation.

The cost of the 100 acre farm was \$6,000.00. The final cost of erection, including drainage, fencing, well, windmill, architecture, farm implements, stock, house furnishings, furniture was \$22,500.00, making a total of \$28,500.00.

The building was ready to accept residents on March 13th, 1893 and on the first day Mr. James Leek of North Norwich Township was admitted.

On December 10th, 1895 Mary McLeod, age 31, of East Zorra Township was admitted and she lived in the Home continuously until her death in 1950.

There is also an interesting story of another family. On August 15th, 1895 a man age 44 was admitted. He died on August 31st of the same year. In 1896 three of his children, ages 8, 10 and 11 were admitted, but taken out the next year by their mother. The older child, a daughter, came back in 1919 at the age of 35 and brought her 20 year old Son with her. The wife of the man who entered the Home in 1895 came into the Home on March 16th, 1928 and died on May 25th, 1928. So we have a family picture of Mother and Father, Daughter and Grandson, all being residents in the Oxford County Home.

* * * * *

The first report of the Inspector was as follows:

March 13th, 1893 to December 31st, 1893

Number admitted during the year	30
Died	3
Absconded	1
Discharged	1
Left by permission	3
In House December 31, 1893	22
Males 15; Females 7; Cost per <u>week</u> per resident	\$ 6.05

For a comparison the 1932 (Depression) report is as follows:

Number in Home January 1, 1932	70
Number admitted during the year	21
Died	7
Number left by permission	12
Number left without permission	1
Number in Home December 31, 1932	71
Males 50; Females 21; Cost per <u>week</u> per resident	\$ 3.59

COUNTY OF OXFORD HISTORICAL ITEM NO. 5

OXFORD HOME FOR AGED - Continued

Number in Home January 1, 1966	26
Number admitted during year	8
Discharged	4
Died in Home	Nil
Number in Home December 31, 1966	30

Males 22; Females 8; Cost per day per resident \$ 5.11

One person, presently in the Home, was admitted February 3rd, 1930.

SUPERINTENDENTS AND MATRONS

Mr. and Mrs. Robert McDonald	appointed January 1, 1893 (Mr. McDonald died on January 27th, 1893)
Mr. and Mrs. Oliver J. Clarke	March 1, 1893 to March 31, 1903
Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Murray	April 1, 1903 to December 31, 1909
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Parker	January 1, 1910 to December 31, 1927
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Forbes	January 1, 1928 to March 31, 1965
Mr. D. F. (Mike) Knott	April 1, 1965 to <i>September 23, 1970</i>
<i>Mr. J. Ernest Wood</i>	<i>September 24, 1970 to</i>

L. K. Coles

COPY OF ADVERTISEMENT

And Conditions under which Tenders are to be Submitted for the Completion of
the Erection of a House of Refuge for the County of Oxford.

COPY OF ADVERTISEMENT :

TO CONTRACTORS :

Sealed Tenders addressed to the undersigned will be received until the 30th day of October next for the erection of a House of Refuge for the County of Oxford. Plans and specifications can be seen at the office of the County Clerk at Woodstock, and the conditions under which all tenders will be submitted, as also blank Forms of Tender can be obtained from the County Clerk.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
Woodstock, 1st October, 1891.

JAMES WHITE, COUNTY CLERK,
Woodstock, Ont.

CONDITIONS:-

All parties intending to offer for the above work are requested to do so under the following conditions :

1st The Plans and Specifications must remain in the office of the County Clerk, where ample provision for their examination will be made.

2nd. A marked cheque, payable to H. P. Brown, Esq., Treasurer of the County of Oxford, for an amount equal to one per cent. of the tender, must accompany each tender, which will be returned if tender is not accepted, but will be forfeited if tender is accepted and for any reason withdrawn, or if for any cause failure takes place on the part of the party tendering to comply with the terms of the conditions.

3rd. A contract must be entered into within ten days after notice of acceptance of tender has been given by the party or parties whose tender is accepted in accordance with the conditions and specifications, and two good and sufficient sureties for three thousand dollars each, who will join in the contract, must be supplied satisfactorily to the Committee for the due fulfilment of his or their contract.

4th. The time for commencing the work, or any part of the work, shall be as directed by the Architect, and the time for the completion of the work shall be as mutually agreed upon, but must not be later than 1st November, 1892.

5th. Payments at a rate of eighty per cent. for all work as it progresses, and material upon the ground will be made monthly upon the order of the Architect.

6th. The remaining twenty per cent. will be paid three months after the date of full and final completion of the work and after all defects in any parts of the work have been satisfactorily remedied upon the order of the Architect.

7th. The lowest or any tender not necessarily be accepted by the Committee or Council.

8th. Tenders will be received only for the whole work.

9th. Separate offers are to be made for each set of plans and specifications.

10th. The building is to be erected on the farm, lately bought for the purpose by the County Council, East half Lot 3, Con. 10, E. Zorra.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
Woodstock, 1st October, 1891.

JAMES WHITE, COUNTY CLERK,
County of Oxford.

March 1977.

HOUSE OF REFUGE - COUNTY HOME1893 - 1969

Several months ago, the Woodingford Lodge Committee asked me to compile a list of names of former residents of the House of Refuge or County Home, who had passed away and were buried in the cemetery on the farm about half a mile to the west. The County Home building is now occupied by the Agricultural Campus of Fanshawe College in the former Township of East Zorra.

While researching the records, I thought it advisable to record some of the details and history of the Home's operations from 1893 to 1969 with regards to the Residents.

The first person admitted to the Home was Mr. James Leek, farmer, age 80, of the Township of North Norwich: March 13, 1893.

The oldest person admitted that first year was Jessie Douglas of Ingersoll, age 95. She was the oldest person to be admitted at any time. The youngest person admitted in 1893, was a 32 year old woman with her 2 year old son. They resided in the Home for 2 months. In 1893 a total of 30 persons entered the Home.

In 1894 a total of 81 were in residence at one time or another. That year, two little sisters, both aged 2, were admitted on February 19th and signed in by W. Watterworth of Ingersoll. Their Mother never resided in the Home and the girls were discharged on October 10th and November 8th that year. I presume they were twins and were released for adoption.

In 1895 a total of 98 were in residence. One baby aged 3 weeks, and a baby girl of 6 months were admitted. After living in the Home for 5 months, they were discharged.

The largest number in residence and admitted in the 1890's was 111 in 1898.

The largest number in the 1900's was from 1910 to 1918 when over 100 were resident each year. Highest number was 125 in 1916. In the depression years of 1933-1936 inclusive, there were also over 100 in residence each year.

The fewest number in residence was in 1965 when only 27 were living in the Home.

Hannah Stewart, coloured, was the 7th person admitted in 1893 and her age was listed as 90. Five years later in 1898, the age is shown as 102. She passed away March 19, 1906 and was buried in the Farm Cemetery with her age listed as 114, however, if the "90" admission age was correct, she would have been 103 at time of death.

Mary McLeod, age 32, from East Zorra entered the Home on December 10, 1896 and died August 13, 1950, having lived in the County Home for 54 years. She was buried in the Woodstock Presbyterian Cemetery.

HOUSE OF REFUGE - COUNTY HOME - Continued:

Charles Nelson Mundy was admitted February 3, 1930, at age 22, and is presently residing in Woodingford Lodge. He is now 69 and has lived in Home Care for forty-seven years.

George "Washington" Jones, coloured, age 60 or so he said, with an occupation listed as advertising, entered the Home on August 8, 1935 and was allowed to leave in 1936. He entered the Home again, almost blind, on July 10, 1950 and passed away December 8, 1951. With his swallow-tail coat, silk top hat, medals and badges, sandwich board and megaphone, he was a familiar and well-liked character walking up and down Dundas Street, Woodstock advertising hockey games, baseball, and other events; and was commonly known as the "Town Crier". One person stated that with winds in the right direction, his booming voice could be heard in Eastwood. Friends arranged a proper funeral and he was buried in the Woodstock Baptist Cemetery. In 1952, the same friends, spearheaded by the late Percy Canfield, took up a collection and erected a suitable headstone which reads, "George Jones, 1856-1951, Town Crier". Of course, there is a discrepancy of about 20 years in his age, but what does it matter.

The first death in the Home was Jessie McKesaig, age 80, April 14, 1893 and her body was buried in the Woodstock Roman Catholic Cemetery.

Robert Stewart, age 96, died August 27, 1895 and was buried in the Farm Cemetery. His wife Martha, also a Home resident, died on April 10, 1900. The husband's body was removed from the Farm Cemetery and then they were buried side by side in the Woodstock Methodist Cemetery.

First burial on the Farm was July 19, 1895 -- Last burial March 19, 1956.

Youngest burial -- a stillborn baby; Oldest burial - 103(114).

At the House of Refuge committee meeting on October 2, 1895, the following resolution was passed:

"That a quarter of an acre on the western boundary of the farm at the centre of the lot be set apart and fenced for the purpose of a cemetery lot and the Manager be authorized to have the same fenced off and to have the bodies now interred on the farm, removed thereto". The Cemetery was established late in 1895 and two bodies transferred.

During the period June 1, 1894 to November 28, 1928, a total of eight bodies were forwarded to the School of Anatomy or Inspector of Anatomy, London, Ontario.

Total number of admissions from March 13, 1893 to June 30, 1967 was 1,392. Total number of deaths while officially residents of the Home was 683. The deaths occurred in the Home, Hospital or elsewhere.

1 male resident, age 77, killed by a train, May 28, 1905, near Eastwood.
1 male resident, age 79, killed by a train on C.P.R. crossing, Dundas Street West, Woodstock - August 14, 1917. 1 resident froze to death - having wandered from the Home - December 31, 1917. There was 1 suicide in the Home - by hanging - July 30, 1953.

A man, age 54, died on January 24, 1906, and the body was embalmed by a Mr. Camp, Funeral Director, of Woodstock, who kept the body in the Funeral Parlour until June 16th of that year. The House of Refuge records state, "that the body was in as good a state of preservation as when embalmed". He was buried in the Farm Cemetery.

The only notes concerning burials in the Minutes of 1906 are for the payment of accounts, as follows:

February 3, 1906	W. W. Camp	- coffins for inmates	\$26.75
March 24, 1906	W. W. Camp	- coffin	5.00
October 1, 1906	W. W. Camp	- coffins	10.00

HOUSE OF REFUGE - COUNTY HOME - Continued:

Each cause of death was recorded in the "Register of Burials" and here are a few of the many that are listed: Dropsy, Apoplexy, Locomotor Ataxia, Dementia, Softening of the brain and general debility, Brights Disease, La Grippe, and Old Age.

Admissions of many persons to the Home were made by The House of Refuge Committee, County Council and by the Inspector. However, Municipalities are recorded for 155 of the persons buried in the Farm Cemetery, which are as follows:

Blandford	3	Tillsonburg	9
Blenheim	16	Embro	4
Dereham	14	Norwich	2
East Nissouri	5	Tavistock	1
North Norwich	2	Division 1	3
South Norwich	12	Division 2	4
East Oxford	7	Division 3	3
North Oxford	6	Division 4	5
East Zorra	5	Division 5	7
West Zorra	10	Division 6	1
Woodstock	23	Division 7	1
Ingersoll	12		

After July 1, 1901 when Woodstock became a separated City, Division 2 became Division 1, Division 3 became Division 2, etc.

Upon admission to the Home, residents are required to record their religion and they are as follows:

Baptist, Roman Catholic, None, Presbyterian, Church of England, Quaker, Lutheran, Methodist, Follower of Christ, Universalist, Salvationist, Friends, United Brethern, English Church, Congregational, Anglican, Evangelical, Mennonite, Episcopalian, Christian Science, Buddhist, United Church, Gospel Tabernacle, Nazarene, Protestant, BME, Jewish, Gospel Hall, Pentecostal and Greek Roman Catholic.

The most burials in the Farm Cemetery in any one year was eight in 1906 and again in 1936.

From the year 1893 to 1956, there were only seven years in which no one was buried in the Farm Cemetery.

The average age of those buried in the Farm Cemetery was 76.

For the period 1894 to 1916, there were fifteen babies born in the Home, and there are many recordings of single mothers entering the County Home with their recently arrived babies.

The Children's Aid Society of Woodstock, with jurisdiction over the entire County of Oxford, was incorporated January 30, 1895 by Order-in-Council, with George R. Pattullo, Registrar of Deeds, as its first President. The problems of the day were handled by the Directors and a local Agent, with headquarters being in the office of the President. The Board met monthly in the Woodstock Y.M.C.A.. Therefore, the first office of the C.A.S. was in the former Registry Office, now Health Unit Headquarters.

At its meeting on March 4, 1895, "The President was requested to communicate with the Chairman of the House of Refuge to ascertain if arrangements could not be made for the temporary lodgement of children in that institution until homes could be found for them". There is no record in the House of Refuge minutes of 1895 and 1896 to indicate that the arrangement was agreed upon, but it must have been approved.

Finally in 1914, the C.A.S. purchased a building in Woodstock for use as an office and a Children's Shelter which was capable of accommodating up to twenty-four children.

HOUSE OF REFUGE - COUNTY HOME - Continued:

From 1894 (five children admitted) to as late as 1947 the records show that 43 children from ages of 3 days to 14 years were admitted to the County Home. Many returned to their own homes after several weeks in residence - some stayed on for years - some were adopted - some were transferred to the Shelter, and one youngster died in the Home after living there for nineteen years.

In 1909, one group of 4 brothers and sisters from Blenheim Township were admitted and stayed for two months and then returned to their own home.

The new Oxford House of Refuge building created quite a bit of interest as Mr. O. J. Clarke, Manager, reported to County Council in December 1895, "By the 1st of January next we will have shown through the building about 2,000 visitors for the year, no small task for one person"; And in December 1896, "1,200 visitors have been shown through our building this year. They are from all parts of the County, and nearly all parts of the world".

County Council had complete jurisdiction over the operation of "The Industrial Farm and House of Refuge" and passed its By-law No. 367 on January 28, 1893. Very briefly, here are a few of the regulations as outlined in the By-law.

Three members of Council to be the Committee to direct and oversee the management of the Farm and House of Refuge. To meet quarterly.

Each of the local Municipalities will be held responsible and must pay for the maintenance and keep of inmates signed in by their representatives at the rate of the annual cost for maintenance - not to exceed \$1.50 per week for each inmate so sent.

Duties of the Manager:

To examine all persons received, cause them to be thoroughly cleansed, and suitably located as to age, sex and character; treating with considerate care and kindness all children, sick and infirm inmates. To see that provisions are good, properly cooked, and sufficient, and that no waste, thereof, is at any time permitted. To visit each night at the hour fixed for retiring, every occupied room and see that the inmates have all retired, and that lights are out and everything safe and secure. To inflict suitable punishment at his discretion for disobedience or bad conduct by any of the inmates, but no improper means are to be employed, and not more than twenty-four hours confinement to be inflicted unless by direction of the Inspector.

Duties of the Matron:

To detail all inmates, under her charge, to do such work as in her judgement they are best fitted to perform. To see that at proper seasonable times the clothing of all inmates and all bed clothes are kept in a state of good repair. To prevent and prohibit all waste.

Duties of the Surgeon:

To visit the House of Refuge at least once a week. To supply and prepare medicines. To have charge of the health of all inmates, including the Manager and Matron and Servants of the Institution. To report all deaths and causes. To report all births within the House of Refuge.

That sufficient ground in some suitable part of the farm shall be set apart for a burial ground, to be fenced in neatly and planted with trees and otherwise beautified, properly laid out in tiers, or rows and the graves plainly numbered. A plan of the ground shall also be made and kept together with a proper register of the burials, in the office of the Inspector.

HOUSE OF REFUGE - COUNTY HOME - Continued:

That any child from the House of Refuge may be bound out as an apprentice to any lawful trade, calling, profession or employment. That provision is made for the proper education of the child. That at the expiration of the apprenticeship he or she shall at least be furnished with an outfit of good and comfortable clothing.

Rules governing Inmates:

Every person admitted must be thoroughly cleansed by bath, his hair cut short and properly clothed. All inmates who are able, shall rise at 6 A.M. during April to September and at 7 A.M. during the remainder of the year. All inmates who are able, shall work at whatever work is assigned to them by the Manager or Matron. Inmates are to be allowed to attend their several places of worship on Sunday, but they shall return immediately after the service unless permission for a longer absence has been given by the Manager. All inmates shall take the place assigned to them at the table for meals, shall always present themselves with clean faces and hands, and hair properly combed. No profane, obscene, or improper language shall be permitted on the premises. No spirituous or malt liquors shall be allowed on the premises. All inmates shall be within the building at 7 P.M., and shall retire not later than 9 P.M. during the summer months and 8:30 P.M. during the winter months. Any inmate guilty of drunkenness, disobedience, immorality, obscenity, profane language, theft, waste, defacing any part of the building or furniture, shall be punished as the case may seem to demand. No conversation, except as directed by the Inspector or Manager shall be held with inmates in confinement and the food of such shall consist of bread and water only, unless otherwise ordered by the Inspector or Surgeon. The Sabbath Day shall be strictly observed and no irreligious diversion or unnecessary labour indulged in, and during any religious service, which may be held in the House, no noise or disturbance shall be made in any part of the buildings or ground.

"AMEN"

The Board of Management of Woodingford Lodge, in November 1976, authorized me to procure a bronze tablet, inscribed with the names of all persons buried in the Farm Cemetery, and have it attached to the monument located in the centre of the Cemetery.

L. K. COLES

COUNTY OF OXFORD HISTORICAL ITEM NO. 27

MAY 1981

THE HOUSE OF REFUGE

Fortunately, all the hand-written Minute Books of the Management Committee of the Oxford County House of Refuge have been preserved, and in this article I would like to record some of the highlights through the 1890's.

These Minute Books are safely stored at Woodingford Lodge.

March 2nd, 1893. Committee met this day at 11 a.m. Members all present, and also D. R. Calder, Warden, and James White, County Clerk.

- Three Members: - John Sheahan North Norwich, Chairman
Deputy Reeve 1882, 83, 90, 91, 92, 93.
- S. J. Cole Woodstock
4th Deputy Reeve 1891, 92; Reeve 1893, 94;
Division "One" representative in 1897, 98, 99;
Warden first half of 1900. On July 1st, 1901
Woodstock was incorporated as a city.
- R. J. Henderson Blandford
Reeve 1891, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96.
- James Anderson East Zorra, Secretary and Inspector
Deputy Reeve 1881; Reeve 1883, 84, 85, 86, 87,
88; Warden 1889; Reeve 1890, 91, 92.

It was found that Mr. and Mrs. Oliver J. Clarke, Manager and Matron, had moved into the building and in a few days would be ready for business.

The larger part of the furnishings were also found to be on hand and ready for setting up.

It was resolved that the House be opened on Monday, March 13th, 1893 for the reception of Inmates.

Resolved that the Inspector be authorized to advertise for tenders for all supplies as per schedule for the current year.

Mr. Cole was authorized to procure sixty bed ticks of good material, from the Contractor, for other bed furnishings.

HISTORICAL ITEM NO. 27 - continued

The Manager was instructed to keep any accounts and records on sheets of paper, until the proper books were furnished. Blanks were agreed upon for admission of Inmates and the Inspector ordered to have three hundred copies printed and also one hundred copies of schedule for tenders for supplies. A printed schedule for supplies was pasted into the minute book. It follows:

Beef, per lb., by fore-quarter	Coffee, green, per lb.
Beef for roasting (naming part), per lb.	Sugar, granulated, by bbl., per lb.
Beef for boiling (naming part), per lb.	Sugar, light yellow, by bbl., per lb.
Bread, per 100 lbs. in 4 lb. loaves	Pepper, unground, per lb.
*Oatmeal, per 100 lbs., (rolled)	*Syrup, per gal.
*Cornmeal, per 100 lbs.	Salt, per bbl., (Canadian)
Pot Barley, per 100 lbs.	Salt, per lb. sack, Ashtons
Rice, per 100 lbs.	Mustard in 4 lb. jars, per lb.
Beans, white hand picked, per 100 lbs.	*Soap, bar per lb.
Potatoes, per bag, 90 lbs.	*Tea, green, per lb.
	*Tea, black, per lb.

Samples required of all articles marked *

March 13th, 1893. Awarded tenders. The only item with a price recorded was for bread at \$1.75 per cwt.

March 29th. Mr. Cole reported having purchased a cow on Saturday for \$39.00. Two cows, at \$40.00 each, were purchased from Mr. McDonald, along with four tons of hay, at \$8.00 per ton, and two plows, at \$14.00 each. One horse was purchased from John Cullen for \$90.00, one from A. Harwood for \$90.00 and six pigs from Robert Wilson for \$14.00.

April 20th. The Chairman and Mr. Cole were directed to meet the Standing Committee, on the New Court House Building, and request the privilege of removing the brick and other material now on the Court House grounds to the industrial farm for the use of the Committee. Mr. Cole was authorized to hire a man to work on the farm for a period not exceeding six months.

June 7th. The Manager was directed to receive for pasturage, at \$2.00 per month for horses and \$1.00 to \$1.50 per month for cattle, such animals as the pasture would carry.

June 14th. W. M. Davis, Engineer, was instructed to proceed with the work of laying out a roadway and lawn in front of the house, and level all around the building. (Later, the tender of James Clark to complete same for \$776.00 was accepted. Davis' fee was 8%).

The Chairman issued an order on the County Treasurer for \$3.50 to Alfred Dalton for making shirts and overalls for Inmates.

Purchased a "Toronto" mower for \$40.00 and a "Tiger" rake for \$19.00.

August 9th. The final total account of Patrick & Powell for electric wiring and fixtures of \$1,073.83 was approved. Benjamin Harper farm was paid \$25.00 for one month's wages.

HISTORICAL ITEM NO. 27 - continued

September 2nd, 1893. Coal shed tender was accepted at \$425.00.

The Matron was authorized to engage a female servant at a rate not exceeding \$6.00 per month.

Tenders for coal were accepted; furnace coal \$6.25 per ton, stove coal \$6.50 per ton.

November 27th. Mary Derry, servant; pay increased to \$7.00 per month.

1894

The Committee considered the matter of entertainment at the House of Refuge and instructed the Manager in future to dispense with such as it was a County expense.

Meetings of the Committee were to be held monthly in the future.

Mr. Cole was authorized to procure one hundred feet of hose for use in the house and to have the proper connections made with the water pipes.

It was resolved to purchase a suitable horse, harness and democrat wagon.

Purchased one hundred posts at ten cents each.

The offer of Edwin Hersee for trees, plants and shrubs, as per list made out by the Manager, was accepted at a price of \$22.77.

The Manager was authorized to get what plank was required for sidewalks around the house, also what chairs were required of the various styles necessary.

Mr. Cole was authorized to purchase a carload of tile of the required sizes.

Mr. Cole reported having sold three fat cattle for \$105.00.

A communication was read from Mrs. Hazen offering to adopt one of the children at present in the House.

The Manager was instructed to hold the wheat on hand, except what was wanted for use for feed and seed, and to exchange wheat straw for manure.

On December 26th the Committee authorized an account for \$5.07 for crockery, from The Empire Tea Co. (that was my Father's store - E. J. Coles).

1895

The Manager was instructed to purchase a suitable bedroom suite for the servant girl's room, four double iron bedsteads for aged couples, a baby cradle, two rubber sheets for the hospital and five spectacles.

HISTORICAL ITEM NO. 27 - continued

Tenders were accepted for: Oatmeal, \$1.73 per 90 lbs.; Rice, 3½¢ per lb.; Tea, 20¢ per lb.; Coffee, 22¢ per lb.; Sugar, Granulated, 3½¢ per lb.; Beans, 2½¢ per lb.; Soap, 5¢ per lb.; Chewing Tobacco, 48¢ per lb.; Smoking Tobacco, 47¢ per lb.; Codfish, 5 3/4¢ per lb.; Soda Biscuits, 5½¢ per lb.; Raisins and Currants, 5¢ per lb.; Brooms \$1.50 to \$2.00 per dozen; Cheese, 7½¢ per lb.

The Manager was instructed to advertise for a general servant and offer liberal wages, such as would induce a really good one to stay. (Mary Jackson hired at \$10.00 per month)

The Manager was instructed to have made and kept on hand a few coffins for Inmates who may die at the Refuge and whose friends do not claim them.

1896

Approved plans and specifications of a building for an ice house and shed for visitors' horses. (later accepted lowest of seven tenders for \$139.00)

Asked for offers from livery men for conveying Jurors and Councillors to and from the House of Refuge. Lowest quotation accepted; \$1.95 per trip.

The Manager was instructed to furnish coffins for any Inmates in the future who die in the Refuge, even if interred by their friends at former residence.

Built a refrigerator in basement of building for \$83.50.

Year's subscription to "Sentinel Review" and "Times"; each \$1.00 per year.

Accepted commitment of three children of Mrs. Sloan, North Norwich, and also to offer to Mrs. Sloan a sum not to exceed \$5.00 per month as servant in the house in addition to keep of her children.

1897

Insured contents of the barn for \$800.00 and the contents of the driving house and pig pen for \$400.00 with the Oxford Farmers Mutual Insurance Co.

Purchased a No. 30 Wilkinson plough for \$13.00.

Accepted the offer of the Peter Hamilton Co. of Peterborough for a 5½ foot cut binder, for the sum of \$90.00, set in working order and kept in thorough repair for one year.

Authorized a payment of \$25.00 to David Dundas for 10 pigs.

E. Grant, well digger, made an offer to deepen the well, fix the pump and lay a one inch iron pipe with all connections to a trough at the barn (some 500 feet) for the sum of \$45.00.

The September and October meetings of the Committee were held at the North American Hotel, Woodstock.

A smoke house was erected at a cost of \$61.00.

HISTORICAL ITEM NO. 27 - continued

1898

The Matron was authorized to hire an extra servant during the Spring to assist in sewing and providing clothing for the Inmates.

Compared with 1895, prices were up slightly; Bread, \$2.00 per cwt.; Cornmeal, \$1.50 per cwt.; Oatmeal, \$2.10 per 90 lbs.; Rice, 4¢ per lb.; Tea, 25¢ per lb.; Sugar, 5 1/8¢ per lb.; Pepper, 15¢ per lb., Chewing Tobacco, 68¢ per lb.; Smoking Tobacco, 67¢ per lb.; Split Peas, 2¢ per lb.; Raisins and Currants, 7¢ per lb., White Wine Vinegar, 25¢ per gal.; etc.

Authorized payment of \$14.00 to George Kirk for 1,000 lbs. of oil cake meal, \$9.23 to Spring Creek Cheese Co. for cheese and \$10.00 to Wm. Parsons for 100 cedar posts.

The supplier of meat requested payment monthly instead of quarterly and this was granted.

An offer of \$46.00 per head, for the fat cattle on hand, was accepted.

A new cesspool was built and new concrete floors in the basement of the Refuge at a cost of \$246.00.

1899

The Manager was instructed to sell five or six tons of hay at as fair a price as could be obtained (say \$7.00 or \$8.00 per ton).

Purchased a pleasure sleigh at a cost of \$35.00.

Sold 435 bushels of oats at 30¢ per bushel.

Purchased twelve beds from Bursar Central Prison at a cost of \$72.00.

The Inspector was directed to acknowledge the receipt of Easter flowers from the teachers of the Central Public School, Woodstock.

The Manager was authorized to have the plaster removed in several places through the house, where the same was falling off and also to procure one dozen additional hymn books for use of the Inmates.

In the 1890's, Committee Members were paid \$3.00 per meeting and 10¢ a mile. (Horse and Buggy, of course)

In the future, I hope to continue this series.

L. K. Coles

OCTOBER 1981

THE HOUSE OF REFUGE
1900 TO 1909 INCLUSIVE

A Continuation of Historical Item No. 27, dated May, 1981

1900

The Manager was instructed to purchase a boiler, for the laundry, for the purpose of boiling Inmates clothing. The cost was \$20.00.

Authorized to purchase a wagon, with not less than three inch tires, and if necessary a rack for the same.

Mr. Cole, Committee Member, as authorized, reported having sold four steers for \$132.00.

The contents of the barn were insured for \$1,400.00.

A disc harrow and lumber wagon were purchased for \$83.00.

A used barber chair was purchased for \$5.00. This barber chair was still in service in 1969 when the residents were transferred to Woodingford Lodge.

The matter of keeping Inmates free from vermin was discussed and the opinion of Dr. McLay, who was present, was heard, when it was resolved to further instruct the Manager to see that all Inmates were bathed and their clothing changed weekly until the house was free from vermin, and also to burn all suspicious clothing.

1901

A few prices of tendered articles:

Beef 5¢ lb.	Salmon 12 cans \$1.50
Granulated Sugar 4 3/4¢ lb.	Split Peas 2¢ lb.
Ground Pepper 10¢ lb.	Starch 4¢ lb.
Boneless Codfish 5¢ lb.	Coal Oil per gal. 15¢

The Manager reported that the line fence, on the northern boundary of the farm, had been built of Page fence at a cost of \$37.05 for 1/2 the distance across 100 acres. (67 rods)

Repairs to boiler - contract price. - \$415.00

New hen house - frame 12' x 20' - concrete foundation -\$86.05

1902

The Manager was instructed to plant the north side of the lawn with sufficient trees to form a windbreak on that side.

HISTORICAL ITEM NO. 29 - continued

The Chairman was authorized to enter into a new contract with the Bell Telephone Co., for three years, on their furnishing a metallic circuit and a guarantee that the instrument would work satisfactorily. Contract \$50.00 per annum for three years.

James T. Bain - Casket linings - \$3.75
Sentinel-Review - Advertising - 50¢
John Walton - Threshing 1½ days - \$18.00
Rent of Post Office Box - \$1.50
Electric Light Co. - Light for 3 months - \$8.40

1903

January

A communication from the Manager and Matron in reference to a grant of money, in the event of their retirement, was read and considered, but no action was taken in reference thereto, in view of the fact that arrangements may be made for the continuance of their management for another year at least. In the meantime, the Inspector was instructed to prepare a synopsis of their request for the use of the members of the County Council at their January Session.

April 1st

The matter of procuring furniture for the incoming Manager was discussed and the Committee decided to meet the Chairman of the County Buildings Committee with a view of purchasing what was necessary.

It was decided to leave the sale of the cattle to the new Manager, Mr. D. G. Murray, appointed April 1st.

The former Manager, Mr. Clarke, reported having sold the wheat of the previous year for \$218.25.

Number of Inmates		Died during year	11
January 1, 1903	61	Left by permission	6
Admitted during year	14	Absconded	3
Re-admitted	8	In House	
Born in House	0	January 1, 1904	63
	<u>83</u>		<u>83</u>

Males - 37
Females - 26
Average Number during year - 54

Cost per Inmate per week was \$1.31

W. J. Lindsay - Furniture for Manager - \$95.00

Resolved to purchase a tank for watering cattle to be of the cost of not more than \$8.00. The Manager was instructed to procure the necessary repairs to the windmill to make it perform the necessary work. The cost was \$5.00.

Woodstock Wind Motor Co. - Wooden tank - \$6.80

The December meeting was held at the Royal Hotel, Woodstock.

HISTORICAL ITEM NO. 29 - continued

A new range for the kitchen was purchased from the Gurney Foundry Co., Toronto, for \$170.00 cash and three old ranges. The Company to guarantee workmanship and material for one year and the range was to be set up and connected at the House of Refuge.

The Committee decided to improve the furnishings of the laundry, to procure a new hose for fire protection and to purchase at least four fire extinguishers.

1904

The Committee authorized to have the windmill tower raised ten feet higher than at present, at a cost not to exceed \$20.00.

The Manager was authorized to purchase and build a wire fence around the old orchard at a cost not to exceed \$30.00; to have the hedge in front of the Refuge property trimmed to a height not to exceed three feet; to call for tenders for four closets at the House of Refuge and also for cesspool and tile drain to connect to the same.

1905

Tender of Poole & Co. for groceries and bread for one year was accepted.

September Meeting

It was resolved that the Manager be granted a holiday, not to exceed 15 days, at any time before December 1st.

Poole & Co. - Groceries and supplies for three months - \$248.12

The November Meeting was held at the County Clerk's Office, Court House, due to the fact that one of the Manager's family was ill with diptheria.

Accounts: W. W. Camp - Burial of S. Parker - \$11.00
W. W. Camp - Coffin for Mrs. Huffman - \$5.00
John Driver - Wages for October and November - \$40.00
John Wilson - Meat for three months - \$101.80
Canadian Baptist - 1 year subscription - \$1.00

1906

The Manager reported the sale of three steers for \$100.00, one calf for \$1.50 and nine pigs at \$4.00 each.

The matter of rebuilding the wall under the barn and cementing the stable floors be left in the hands of the Chairman. (Mr. Geo. Partlo - Dereham Township).

The tender of Whitney Bros. for four closets, complete for the sum of \$127.00, be accepted. The Manager was to procure four doors and cases and matched lumber to make rooms for the closets, the same to be made by Mr. Goble, an Inmate.

HISTORICAL ITEM NO. 29 - continued

The Secretary reported having sent plans and specifications of proposed sewage tanks to the Provincial Board of Health. Later a contract was signed for the septic tank at a cost of \$365.00 .

1907

The Committee advertised for a married man as farm hand for the Industrial Farm in connection with the House of Refuge. The application of Mr. Johnson Irving was accepted at the salary of \$325.00 per year to be paid as follows: \$30.00 per month for seven months from April 15th, 1907 and \$23.00 per month for the remaining five months. The applicant was to have a free house, lot and garden in connection therewith and two quarts of milk per day if required. The Manager was authorized to repair the house occupied by the farm hand as directed by the Committee.

Resolved that the Manager of the House of Refuge be instructed to not give the Inmates who use tobacco more than one plug per week.

The Manager reported the sale of two veal calves for \$13.37.

Resolved, on the recommendation of Dr. Park, that Fred Shafer be sent to the Woodstock Hospital for an operation, the Doctor agreeing to perform said operation free of charge to the County.

1908

The Manager was authorized to purchase a stand for use of Ministers, also one dozen additional Hymn Books and a dozen chairs for the Men's Dining Room.

The Committee recommended to County Council that the salary of the Matron of the House of Refuge be increased \$100.00 per annum. She was to furnish any additional help required.

The outbuildings and contents were insured with the Western Farmers Wind and Weather Insurance Co. for the sum of \$1,000.00.

A special meeting was called to consider the question of water supply for the House of Refuge and Farm as per instructions of Government Inspector.

The Chairman and Inspector were appointed a Committee to ask for tenders for drilling a well at the House of Refuge.

1909

Major item for the year was the new well, pump house, motor, etc.

L. K. Coles

COUNTY OF OXFORD HISTORICAL ITEM NO. 31

NOVEMBER 1981

THE HOUSE OF REFUGE

1910 TO 1919

A Continuation of Historical Items No. 27 and 29

1910

July 6th

The Manager reported sales of cattle and produce since January 1st, 1910 to the amount of \$331.00.

July 9th

The Committee met to consider plans for building a house on the Industrial Farm for the hired man. Mr. McNichol was present and submitted plans to the Committee. After a lengthy discussion, the Committee decided to adopt the square plan as submitted, size 26' x 31'. Mr. McNichol was engaged as architect to prepare plans and specifications for the erection and completion of the building. The said building was to be completed not later than the first of November, 1910, the architect was to advertise the same in both City papers, and the tenders were to be received so as to be presented to the Committee on the 6th day of August, 1910.

August 6th

Committee met to receive tenders. The following were accepted:

W. J. Taylor - Mason Work	\$1,034.00
A. J. McKinney - Carpenter Work	975.00
F. Bottoms - Painting	75.00
Gardner & Co. - Galvanized Iron Work	<u>52.00</u>
Total	\$2,136.00

December 28th

Resolved that Chairman, J. A. Kneal, be allowed the sum of \$8.00 for two days and mileage for inspection of construction of house for Farmer on Industrial Farm.

1911

That Miss J. Parker be allowed the sum of \$16.00 per month wages as assistant, to be computed from January 1st, 1911, and that Miss J. Forbes be paid the sum of \$18.00 per month wages from the time of commencing work.

The Manager was authorized to purchase a wagon box and cultivator.

Tenders were to be received for a binder for use of the farm.

A silo was to be erected.

The Manager was authorized to install a system of water basins in stables for use of cows.

November 18th

That Mr. Archibald, Manager of the Woodstock Public Utility Commission, be authorized to sell the electric motor in use at the House of Refuge and install a new one suitable for Hydro Electric Power.

An account approved - J. D. McKenzie - Liquor ordered by Doctor - 50¢

Mr. and Mrs. Parker, Manager and Matron, were congratulated by the Committee for their excellent work in the Home.

1912

A fairly routine year.

The building was to be painted. A doorway was constructed in the basement stairway. An inspirator and injector were installed in the boiler. A new motor for the water system was installed.

The Manager was authorized to purchase white oil cloth table cloths for the ladies dining room.

A male resident was reprimanded for improper conduct and if he persisted in disobeying the rules he was to be discharged.

Other problems were handled such as estates, payment for maintenance, etc.

A new regulation came into effect July 1st. The Warden became a member of the Committee for the first time. It was still a three man Committee with two members from the County and one from Woodstock.

1913

No tenders for painting the House were received, so Fred Fowler was hired to do the work at \$3.00 per day. The Paint was tendered.

The Barn was to be re-roofed with corrugated iron roofing.

A tender for \$140.00 was accepted to install a furnace in the farmer's house.

Those of us who have lived in Woodstock and District will enjoy reading the names of some of the suppliers of merchandise:

Joseph Blackburn
T. W. Gray & Son
Grafton & Co.
Frank Hyde
Gardner & Co.
W. D. Hobson
A. J. McKinney
John Agnew - Shoes
Wm. Baird
Fury and Thompson

Fred W. Karn
J & J Sutherland
E. J. Coles Co.
John White Co.
Fred Millman
E. S. Coppins
City Coal Co.
Whitney Bros.
Johnson Baking Co.
Alex Gibson

Grant Andison
Poole & Co.
E. J. Canfield
James Holmes
James Cullen
George Kirk
T. H. Dent
Dr. Brind
Woodstock Electric
Light Co.

Canadian Oat Flakes Co.
Hospital for Epileptics - ice
Karn Morris Piano Co. - repair and tune organ
Tillsonburg Liberal - advertising
and others

With Ingersoll becoming an incorporated town, the Committee was composed of the Mayors of Woodstock and Ingersoll and two appointed by the County.

1914

(WAR)

The first meeting was held on April 1st.

The Committee recommended to County Council that the salary of the Secretary of the Board be fixed at \$25.00 per annum.

A Resolution was passed that Mack Paul be given the burials at the House of Refuge at eight dollars per burial.

The next meeting was held on July 2nd.

Wm. Stone & Son - Fertilizer - \$28.00
F. W. Burgess - Sewing Machine - \$35.00
Standard Tube and Fence Co. - Fence - \$55.02

October 1st

Authorized purchase of a hay loader - \$75.50

Additional Home help - \$14.00 per month

Throughout the early years the name of the Secretary was not recorded. The handwriting of the Minutes is very different from year to year, and sometimes the spelling is a bit off.

1915

Four regular meetings and one special meeting were held to consider the Boiler Inspector's Report. A Resolution was passed that the matter be left in the hands of the Chairman to get the boiler repaired and if he finds it necessary to install a new boiler.

1916

That Fred Losee be engaged as farmer at the rate of \$400.00 per annum, and that the agreement may be terminated by either party by giving one month's written notice.

Tenders were awarded to Fred Millman for groceries and bread; E. J. Canfield for fish and E. H. Ellis for meat (11¢ per lb.).

HISTORICAL ITEM NO. 31 - continued

A Resolution was passed that a resident, with sufficient means, be asked to sign an agreement with the Committee agreeing to pay \$2.00 per week for his keep.

The Manager be instructed to have plans and specifications drawn for a porch at the front door of the Refuge similar to porches shown on Royal Victoria Hospital, Barrie and Ross Memorial Hospital, Lindsay, as well as estimated cost.

A Resolution was passed that B. McNichol, architect, be authorized to ask for tenders for the erection of a porch on the front of the Refuge as per plan, with pressed brick pillars.

Tenders:

George Adams - Mason and Brick Work - \$359.00
W. J. Bond - Mason and Brick Work - \$339.00
Clark and Manning - Carpenter Work - \$244.00
McKinney Lumber - Verandah Complete - \$470.00

McKinney Lumber tender was accepted, the work to be completed by September 1st.

That the Manager be instructed and authorized to purchase for Angus McIntyre yearly, the first of May, wearing apparel to the value of \$15.00.

1917

Fred Losee, farm hand, salary was raised to \$500.00 per year.

Bread 4¼¢ per lb. - Meat 13¢ per lb.

Authorized putting eavestroughs on House of Refuge and barn (Account was \$66.77); to paper parlour, hall and dining room of farmer's house, paper not to exceed 25¢ per roll. The Committee was given authority to purchase a new buggy for the Manager, if it was found necessary.

April 9th Minutes

"As there was no chorum the Board adjourned."

Later meetings dealt with Inmate problems.

1918

Mr. Losee, farm hand, resigned. Sixteen applied for the job. Elmer Zinn of Woodstock was hired at \$500.00 per year. A farm team was purchased for \$425.00.

Tenders were called for renovations re bath tubs, basins, toilets, ventilation, screens.

Lightning rods were put on the farmer's house and those on the barn were repaired.

The old cistern was to be filled up, the old board walk and railing removed and the north steps rebuilt.

The Board members were still paid \$3.00 for each meeting attended.

1919

County Council recommended better fire protection at the House.

Application of the farm hand for an increase in salary was not entertained.

Servant girls' salaries were increased two dollars per month each.

Purchased one combined rake and tedder for \$118.00.

Decided to install electric lights in the farm house and barn.

L. K. Coles