

RETROSPECT

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE
INGERSOLL & DISTRICT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



MAITLAND

— THEATRE —

Present-- OLD HOME WEEK

MONDAY AND TUESDAY
AUGUST 11TH AND 12TH.

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY
AUGUST 13TH AND 14TH.



DON'T
FAIL
TO
SEE
THESE
SPECIAL
ATTRAC-
TIONS



Part in Natural Colors.

(Note) - Miss Dorothy Siple appears in this production.

ALSO
"PLASTIGRAMS"
What is it? C'mon See
JUVENILE COMEDY "SCOUT PLUCK"
LARRY SEMON IN
LIGHTING LOVE

Bring the Family and Your Friends -- All Will Enjoy It

MATINEES At 2.30
MON. - TUES. - WED.
Adults, 22c; Children 11c

EVENINGS -- 7.15 and 9.00
Adults, 27c; Children, 16c

COVER DESIGN BY JACK SAVAGE

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OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE
INGERSOLL & DISTRICT
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Vol. 1, No. 1

MARY FRANCIS, editor

April, 1994

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1993 in Review

BY SUSAN MASTERS

The Ingersoll & District Historical Society has just reached the first anniversary of its formation. It has been a busy year organizing the club and getting a start on some exciting projects. Of course, there are many great ideas that we have not yet been able to initiate. However, that only gives us much more to look forward to in the coming years.

Membership has been the focus. We have made an effort to attract the public to our meetings with a wide variety of interesting speakers. We have enjoyed topics ranging from **Local Architectural Heritage** to **Notable Historical Figures**. One of our most enjoyable meetings occurred during the summer when J. C. Herbert conducted an **Historical Pub Tour** of the down town area.

Projects have included an ongoing interest in the preservation of the **C. N. Railway Station** and the formation of a **Military Collection** to be housed in the newly expanded museum in Centennial Park. The **Military Collection** is targeted to open during Heritage Days, June 11 & 12.

Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month, excluding July, August and December, at the Ingersoll Legion, 7:30 pm. We welcome all interested parties. Join us in May for another tour conducted by J. C. Herbert. This will be the first of a series of tours which will eventually cover all the town's churches.

TRIVIA TIDBIT:

In 1912, it was illegal for anyone under the age of fourteen to be on the streets without supervision after 9:00 pm. The Town Bell rang curfew at that time.

1993 IN BRIEF

- JANUARY** . an initial meeting was held to see if people were interested in forming an historical society
. response was favorable
- MARCH** . the first meeting was held
. J. C. Herbert showed slides of Ingersoll
- APRIL** . Show and Tell
- MAY** . Ken Hickey spoke on the topic : "Is Ingersoll's Heritage Worth Saving?"
- JUNE** . several members spoke on : "Interesting People from Ingersoll's Past"
- AUGUST** . Pub Tour of Ingersoll's downtown
. conducted by J. C. Herbert
- SEPTEMBER** . Jack Hedges, of the Oxford Historical Society, presented slides and spoke on : "Historic Building Styles of North Oxford"
- OCTOBER** . slides were presented of Ingersoll's historic homes and buildings
. members and guests spoke about specific homes
- NOVEMBER** . Ruth Holmes gave tips on compiling a family history

TRIVIA

DO YOU KNOW THESE INGERSOLL FIRSTS ?

1. Who was Ingersoll's first mayor?
2. When did royalty first visit Ingersoll ?
3. When was the first visit by a Prime Minister ?
4. When was the first newspaper published in Ingersoll ?
5. When did pizza first come to Ingersoll ?
(see page 11 for answers)

2

UPCOMING EVENTS



SOUTHWESTERN REGION
LACAC SEMINAR

MAY 14, 1994
PETROLIA

INTERESTED ?

SEE KEN HICKEY

PRESERVATION OF THE INGERSOLL RAILWAY STATION

BY JOHN THOMPSON

Ingersoll has received regular passenger train service for 150 years. The present brick station, built for the Grand Trunk Railway Co., was first occupied June 13, 1890. Its use was discontinued in March of 1988 upon the opening of the adjacent stationette by Via Rail.

The CN Station is one of Ingersoll's few remaining and most significant historic buildings. As such, its future is of vital concern to the Ingersoll and District Historical Society. Although designation of the station under the Heritage Protection Act of 1988 does not automatically lead to restoration of the station or to its protection in perpetuity, it is desirable in order to prevent arbitrary destruction of the station because the railway must first apply for a demolition permit from the federal government. Such designation has recently been denied. The criteria upon which this decision was based have yet to be conveyed to the Society.

The Historical Society has entertained the hope of housing our new military museum in the building if it were moved to Centennial Park, adjoining the existing facility. The Town of Ingersoll has expressed an interest in moving the station and incorporating it as part of the Downtown Core Redevelopment plans, potentially as a Tourist Information Centre, a meeting place for non-profit service organizations or as a new home for the Ingersoll Public Library.

Via Rail has shown interest in selling the facility to the town at a nominal fee. However, it is doubtful that the Thames Street bridge would support the weight of the structure during the moving process. A costly structural study is necessary to determine its feasibility. The Historical Society maintains a continuing interest in the fate of the station.



The CNR Station - Ingersoll - built 1893-d

3

PUB TOUR OF DOWNTOWN INGERSOLL with J. C. Herbert



. Photo by Pauline Kerr



- 1. BRADY HOUSE**
 . built in 1861-1862 by O'Grady
 . sold to Bob Reid & renamed
 the **Mansion House**
 . in 1903, moved to Canterbury
 Street

- 2. RICE'S HOTEL**
 . Wm. Douglas was the
 proprietor in 1867, Wm Rice in
 1881
 . also known as the **Lee Hotel**,
Dereham House and **Hotel**
Normandy

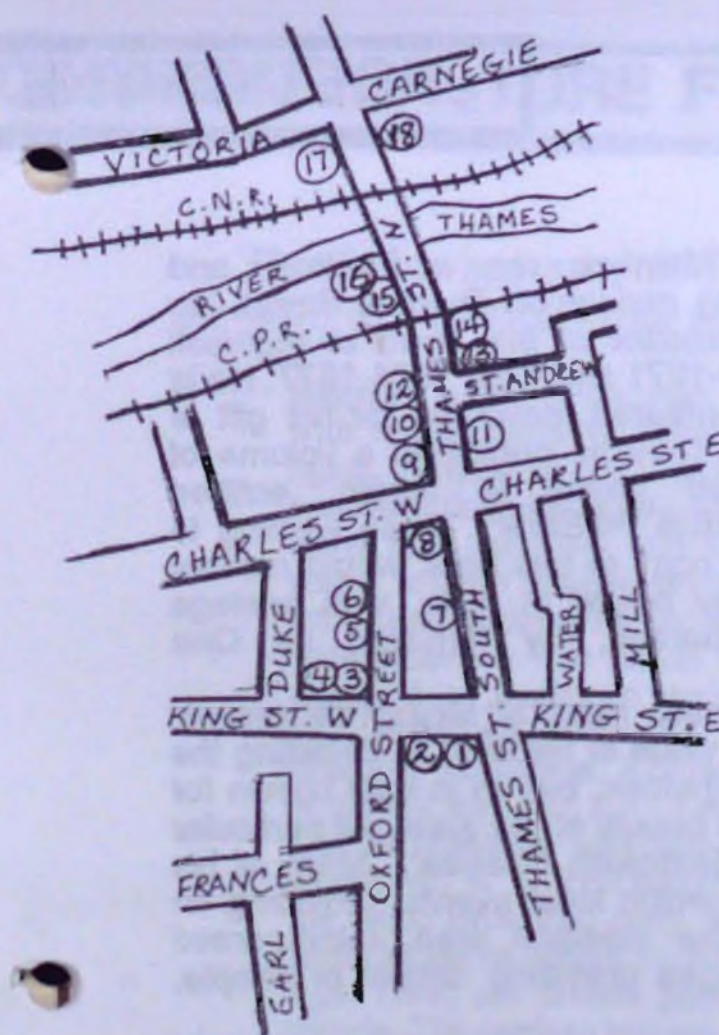
- 3. DALY HOUSE**
 . built in 1838, Absolem Daly,
 proprietor
 . burned in 1855; rebuilt in 1856
 . later renamed **Ingersoll Inn**
 . demolished in April, 1994



- 6. CHAMBER HOTEL**
 . built in 1891-1892
 . later known as **Oxford**
House, then **Kirwin Hotel**
 . torn down in 1987
 . farmer's hotel

- 4. THOMPSON HOUSE**
 . built in 1854
 . between **Daly House** & curling
 rink

- 5. FRIZELLE HOTEL**
 . Wm. Kennedy, proprietor
 in 1867



- 9. McMURRAY HOTEL**
 . built in 1868
 . purchased in 1930 by Gus
 Morello; renamed **St. Charles**
 . demolished in 1971
 . site of present **Dewan Park**

- 10. WALKER HOTEL**
 . circa 1850
 . in 1867 known as **Royal Oak**
 . later moved to **Charles St. E.**
 as a private residence

- 11. ROYAL HOTEL**
 . built in early 1840's
 . very elegant: pool, theatre
 . housed the **Public Library**
 . **Henry Hearn** proprietor

- 12. KEATING HOUSE**
 . built in 1844
 . also known as **Commercial**
Hotel, later as **Red Onion**
 . current location of **Lions' Club**

- 13. LEACH HOTEL**
 . little is known

- 7. PRINCE OF WALES**
 . built in 1825
 . classy hotel
 . operated by **Samuel Smith**
 in 1828
 . operated by **Wm Gallagher**
 in 1872
 . destroyed by fire in 1872

- 14. ATLANTIC HOUSE**
 . built in 1850 by **Mr. Gallagher**
 . originally known as
Gallagher House
 . renamed during 1860's;
C. Kennedy, proprietor
 . demolished in 1920

- 15. QUEEN'S HOTEL**
 . catered to train passengers
 . run by **Bella McDonald**

- 16. BACHELOR HOTEL**
 . originally a store
 . partly over water
 . **Mr. Carnegie** converted it to
 hotel
 . officially **River House**

- 8. ROYAL EXCHANGE HOTEL**
 . opened in 1852 by **John**
Patterson
 . first election for council held
 here
 . destroyed by fire in 1872



- 17. GREAT WESTERN HOTEL**
 . destroyed by fire
 . rebuilt in 1876 as **McCarty**
House

- 18. ADAIR HOTEL**
 . circa 1852
 . badly damaged by fire in
 stables
 . run by **Betty Jane Adair**



James McIntyre.

POET OF THE

CANADIAN PASTURE FIELDS

James McIntyre ran a furniture and undertaking parlour on Thames Street. He was a councillor of the Town of Ingersoll from 1869-1871 and from 1874-1877. He is best remembered, however, for his gift of rhyme. In 1889 he published a volume of poetry 299 pages in length, entitled "McINTYRE'S POEMS". Those wishing to procure a copy of this book would receive "one neatly bound in cloth, with postage prepaid thereon, by remitting us One Dollar."

Although opinion varies as to the poetic merit of McIntyre's verses, there can be no doubt as to the historical value of his work in depicting the era. His poems address a wide range of themes, but he is best known for his "dairy sketches", depicting the pastoral beauty of the area. Of particular interest to Ingersoll is the "Ode on the Mammoth Cheese". Many of his poems were written for presentation at specific local events, providing an invaluable chronicle of the history of the Ingersoll area. Interspersed throughout the book are narrative passages providing details of people, places and events.

One of his contemporaries, American poet Joaquin Miller, dubbed McIntyre "poet of the Canadian pasture fields", hence the title of this column. A regular feature, this column will provide excerpts of both poetry and prose from "McIntyre's Poems".

McIntyre is best known for his poem "Ode on a Mammoth Cheese", commemorating the production of the Big Cheese in 1866 by J. H. Harris. It seems a suitable selection for our first column.

ODE ON THE MAMMOTH CHEESE

Weight over seven thousand pounds,

We have seen thee, queen of cheese,
Lying quietly at your ease,
Gently fanned by evening breeze,
Thy fair form no flies dare seize.

May you not receive a scar as
We have heard that Mr. Harris
Intends to send you off as far as
The great world's fair at Paris.

All gaily dressed soon you'll go
To the great Provincial show,
To be admired by many a beau
In the city of Toronto.

Of the youth beware of these,
For some of them might rudely squeeze
And bite your cheek, then songs or glees
We could not sing, oh! queen of cheese.

Cows numerous as a swarm of bees,
Or as the leaves upon the trees,
It did require to make thee please,
And stand unrivalled, queen of cheese.

We'ret thou suspended from balloon,
You'd cast a shade even at noon,
Folks would think it was the moon
About to fall and crush them soon.

The following excerpt from "McIntyre's Poems" describes the town of Ingersoll circa 1880.

Ingersoll is one of the most pleasant Towns in Canada to live in, with a fine system of water works, stone pavements and electric lights. Perhaps no town with five thousand inhabitants in Canada possesses finer dry goods, grocery, hardware or stove and furniture stores than this town, and its harness and shoe stores are of high grade, and the jewelry stores are very attractive; but we will not attempt to describe the charms of the millinery and gents' clothing establishments. The hotels of the town are well furnished, and managed by gentlemen anxious to make their guests comfortable. The hosts are Kennedy, Hirsch, McCarty, Marsden, Smith, O'Grady, Thompson, Keating, McMurray and O'Connor. The late A. Oliver and also the Christopher Bros. did a large trade in the past as builders, with saw and planing mills attached to their works. Mr. W. C. Bell succeeds Mr. Oliver, Mr. F. Richardson and the Nagle Bros. also carry on similar establishments. The carriage factories are an honour to the town, for they manufacture first-class rigs. There are several good livery stables with stylish turnouts therein. The carriage makers are Messrs. Kerr, Sutherland, Badden, McCrum and Morrison, and the liverymen are Messrs. Skinner, Dryden, Smale and Vanatter. The pork curing establishment of J. L. Grant & Co. is assuming vastly enlarged proportions this summer, and it will be the largest of its kind in the Dominion. It is ably managed by Messrs. Wilson & Podmore. The firm handles an enormous amount of cheese also. Mr. T. D. Millar manufactures his famous Paragon cheese in this cheese centre of Ingersoll. He has received the highest awards at the great exhibition in London, England, as well as in Amsterdam, and at the recent Jamaica Exhibition.

Best flavored cheese in jar of stone
Is Millar's world-famed Paragon



ELISHA HALL

BY DOUG PALMER

One of the prominent early citizens of Ingersoll was Elisha Hall. His father, Ichabod, arrived in Ingersoll in 1794, preceded only by Thomas Ingersoll and a Loyalist by the name of Benjamin Loomis. Ichabod bought land from Loomis on Lot 19 of the first concession, which is now the southeast corner of Ingersoll. Although James Ingersoll is often cited as the first child to have been born in the area, Elisha was one year older if his birth date is correct. It is possible that neither was the first white child born in Oxford County since the Beachville settlement had been in existence for over ten years when both James and Elisha were born.

Ichabod apparently died during the War of 1812, for in 1816 his name on land records is replaced by Eve Hall. There are no Halls recorded in 1824. It seems that Elisha had trouble securing title to the family farm. Stanley Smith, a town historian and very sympathetic to Hall's position, believed that Hall was victimized by members of the "Family Compact". In any event, Hall finally gained title to the family farm in 1833. In 1836 Elisha built the first brick home in Ingersoll. It still stands at 170 King Street East. But Elisha soon found himself in political difficulty which forced him to leave his new home for almost three years.

Perhaps because of difficulties with the authorities over the family farm, or because of his political beliefs, Elisha Hall became the recognized leader of the reform movement in the Ingersoll area. In 1837 William Lyon Mackenzie staged his abortive rebellion in Toronto but, before word arrived of his defeat, many reformers in Oxford County took up arms against the government. Elisha was not at first willing to lead his followers into action. But word came to Ingersoll that Charles Duncombe was leading a force to join Mackenzie. Hall's group prepared to march. At this time, Hall suffered a fall from his horse leaving him with head and back injuries which prevented him from playing an active role in the rebellion.



. Photo by Pauline Kerr

Hall's accident was in the long run a fortunate one. Mackenzie had already been routed at Montgomery's Tavern in Toronto. Duncombe's force was soon dispersed and Duncombe himself was in flight to the United States. Loyalist forces were soon in Ingersoll looking for Elisha Hall, whose name had appeared prominently in Duncombe's papers as a "trusted friend". Hall was arrested and confined in his newly built house. Perhaps because of his injuries, the guard on Elisha Hall was rather slack. Dressed in his wife's clothes, Elisha escaped and after a long trek joined Duncombe and Mackenzie in the United States.

The initial reaction to the rebellion was quite harsh. One Oxford resident, Cornelius Cunningham, died on the gallows. One or two others were transported to Van Diemens land at the other end of the globe. Had Elisha not fallen from his horse it is possible that he would have met a similar fate. The harshness soon gave way to moderation, partly at the request of the British government. Many rebels were released within a few months. Elisha Hall returned to Ingersoll in 1840 and was included in the amnesty of 1843.

County records show Elisha at more peaceful pursuits in later years. In 1847, he was the secretary treasurer of the Ingersoll Agricultural Society and three years later, its president. The one time rebel was later appointed a town magistrate. Hall was an active businessman throughout his life. He built one of the first saw mills in the town. The creek now known as Harris or Ingersoll Creek once bore the family name. The mill pond must have been located in the low ground which is now Centennial Park. In the 1860s and 1870s Elisha became a developer of the Hall Survey in Southeast Ingersoll.

Ingersoll still bears the imprint of the Hall family in its street names. The obvious one, of course, is Hall Street which stretches from King Street East to Canterbury. Canterbury was where Ichabod's wife was born, under the name of Tunis. Just west of Elisha Hall's home there is a narrow pathway named Centre Street, so named because it marked the centre of the Hall property and was the route south to the mill.

Some sources record Elisha's demise in 1878, but the County Directory of Crotty and Dart, written in 1881, lists an Elisha Hall living on the corner of Oxford and Frances Streets and gives as his occupation, "speculator".

1994 EXECUTIVE

HONORARY PRESIDENT	J. C. HERBERT
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SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT	JOHN THOMPSON
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PUBLICITY	SUSAN MASTERS
MEMBERSHIP	PAT NEWMAN
DIRECTORS AT LARGE	MURRAY BORNDahl
	SHIRLEY LOVELL
	YVONNE HUNT

TRIVIA TIDBIT : In 1907, five motor cars were in use in Ingersoll, owned by Dr. Rogers, A.B. Walker, M. T. Buchanan, Dr. Coleridge and Wm. Partlo.



. ADVERTISING ITEMS FROM THE INGERSOLL CREAM CHEESE CO.
courtesy of Bill Hawkins

The editor gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following people:

- . Mrs. Whitwell, who allowed us to use the sketches of her late husband, Harry Whitwell, in our Newsletter
- . Rodney Case, who allowed us to use his sketches in our Newsletter
- . Bill Hawkins, who shared many items from his collection, especially his copy of "McIntyre's Poems"

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

HOWARD RILEY



Like many collectors, Howard Riley stumbled into his hobby by accident. An Ingersoll native, he began raising show ponies in 1969, purchasing his first string of bells to dress up his team for competition. Twenty-five years later, the ponies are gone but the collection remains, filling shelves and display cabinets in the family room of Riley's Tillsonburg home.

Sleigh bells were used originally to alert other travellers to the silent approach of the vehicle. Indeed, the Consolidated By-Laws of the Town of Ingersoll, 1912, specified:

No person shall drive any description of sleigh or other vehicle on runners, on or along any of the streets or thoroughfares within the town without having two or more bells affixed to such vehicle, horse or other animal or animals drawing the same.

Characteristically, simplicity and function gave way to ornamentation as evidenced by the variety of bells in Riley's collection. From the familiar team bells, strings of body bells and sets of shaft chimes to the spectacular Russian saddle chimes, Riley's collection has them all.

Based on years of experience rescuing neglected bells from barns, Riley shares the secret of cleaning severely tarnished brass.



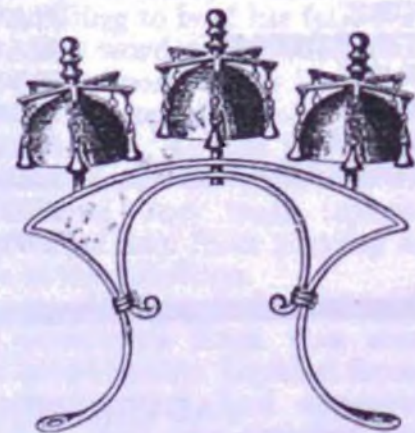
team bells



body bells



shaft chimes



Russian saddle chimes

CLEANING BRASS

1. In a plastic pail, mix: 1/2 a pail of apple cider vinegar and a handful of table salt
2. Submerge the bells in the solution for 2-3 days. A black residue will form.
3. Dry the bells.
4. Rub with fine emery paper. Elbow grease is necessary!
5. Rub with fine steel wool, dipped in Brasso.
6. Finish up with Brasso on a soft cloth.
7. Use Brasso for regular maintenance.

SMALL FARMER'S JOURNAL,
Vol.9, No.4

JOIN US
TUES., MAY 17
CHURCH TOUR

WITH
J. C. HERBERT

VISIT
ST. JAMES ANGLICAN
TRINITY UNITED
ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN

TOUR STARTS AT 6:30 pm

MEET AT ST. JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH

EVERYONE WELCOME



Photo by Pauline Kerr

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Adam Oliver was elected mayor of the newly incorporated Town of Ingersoll in 1865.
2. In 1872, Lord and Lady Dufferin visited Ingersoll.
3. On May 12, 1949 Louis St. Laurent visited Ingersoll.
4. The town's first newspaper, the Ingersoll Chronicle, began publication in 1853.
5. In 1970, Gigis introduced the first pizza to Ingersoll.

OXFORD
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HAPPENINGS

BY SUSAN MASTERS

The Oxford Historical Society is constantly on the go, making heritage a living part of the Woodstock community and surrounding area. They hold monthly meetings the last Wednesday of the month, September through June, and always have a unique and interesting program.

February 24, as part of **Heritage Celebration 1994**, they presented a festive evening at the Woodstock Legion highlighting modes of transportation. Entitled "A Streetcar Called Estelle", the event featured displays, slides and videotapes of trains, balloons and automobiles. Later in the same week, the museum hosted **Queen Alexandra's Country Picnic**.

At present the Oxford group has a number of projects on the drawing board. John Gruska has an extensive collection of old postcards depicting Woodstock the way it was. Many of these have been featured in the Woodstock Sentinel Review in recent months. These cards are going to be used to develop a poster promoting Woodstock and its Heritage.

Jack Hedges is currently working on a follow-up to his Photo Essay of Architecture in North Oxford. This time the topic is Churches. This slide presentation will be presented in November at a joint conference with the Oxford Genealogical Society.

President, Bill Butt, is a prolific writer who has produced several plays based on local historical events. He is about to begin writing a script on the history of the YMCA. This may sound a bit unusual, but the background of this agency is both comical and interesting. We look forward to the finished product sometime this fall.

Oxford County consists of several different communities, all with diverse and unique histories. Long overdue is a quality publication that is complete and representative of all these areas. Hopefully this situation will soon be rectified. The Oxford Historical Society has spearheaded a committee, with representation from all parts of the county, that will oversee the research and publication of such a resource book.

The **June meeting** of the Society will take the form of a **bus trip** that will take in the sights of **Dundurn Castle**, the **Military Museum** and the **Royal Botanical Gardens** in Hamilton. Anyone interested in going is welcome. Bus trips are a yearly event for the Society and always guarantee an enjoyable day.

There is always something happening in the Society and everyone is welcome to take part. For information on any of the upcoming events or on any of the ongoing projects, don't hesitate to contact President Bill Butt, or Secretary Mary Evans in the Local History Department of the Oxford County Library.

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NORMANDY
CAMPAIGN
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. Legion Colour Party



. Ingersoll Pipe Band



OPENING OF MILITARY MUSEUM PAGE 14

OPENING OF THE INGERSOLL MILITARY MUSEUM JUNE 12, 1994.

For members of the Ingersoll & District Historical Society, Heritage Days, 1994, held a special significance as the new Ingersoll Military Museum was opened to the public. Behind the scenes, volunteers had been cataloguing donations, repairing display cabinets, constructing mannequins, lettering identification tags and arranging displays.



. Military Honour Guard

The Military Museum, housed in the Eastern end of the main building, is dedicated to the men and women of Ingersoll who served their country in the Armed Forces. Appropriately, the opening was heralded by a military honour guard comprising members of the Ingersoll Pipe Band, the Ingersoll and Beachville Legion Colour Party, the Norfolk Militia, the Brant Muzzle Loaders, the Michigan Brigade and the Royal Scots.

Historical Society President, Bonnie Mott, spoke of the significance of the museum as a tribute to the Ingersoll residents who unselfishly served their country. Honorary President, J. C. Herbert, aided by museum curator, Shirley Lovell, cut the ribbon officially opening the new addition. He is obviously no stranger to the task -- smiling continuously as he cut and recut the ribbon innumerable times until all photographers had been satisfied, and he, himself, was left with a handful of pieces.



. Honorary President, J.C. Herbert, cuts the ribbon

The Ingersoll Military Museum houses a vast array of memorabilia from both WW I and WW II. Items in the collection are all the more meaningful because they are not anonymous artifacts; each can be traced to an individual from our town. Pay it a visit! Volunteer!

"NATIONAL DREAM" Fading in Ingersoll?

CN Train Station Update

BY JOHN THOMPSON

In the April issue of Retrospect, it was noted that the 105 year old, CN owned railway station in Ingersoll had failed to receive heritage designation under the terms of the federal Heritage Railway Stations Protection Act. Such designation would have given strong recognition to an important historical landmark in Ingersoll and would have effectively prevented CN Rail from dismantling the station, if it suddenly chose to do so, without a public hearing and national cabinet approval.

The Ingersoll & District Historical Society recently received a Heritage Character Statement from the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada which outlined the reasons for non-designation of the train station. The statement reads:

The Ingersoll station does not meet the established criteria as a heritage railway station. The station is one of several examples of second generation Grand Trunk Railway (GTR) stations erected in southern Ontario, and it is a minor work by chief engineer, Joseph Hobson. Its small size and modest design reflect the financial difficulties experienced by the GTR at the time of construction, as the company faced stiff competition from the Canadian Pacific Railway. The interior has been extensively altered over the years. Associated industrial structures are gone.

While the CN station's inability to meet national heritage standards is disappointing, it does not diminish the significance of the building as a local heritage resource for Ingersoll citizens, nor does it lessen the urgency to find a practical solution for protecting, restoring and utilizing the station. One option is for the Historical Society to pursue provincial heritage status for the train station under the Ontario Heritage Act, while encouraging the transfer of its custody or ownership to municipal, non-profit or private interests dedicated to the building's preservation and use. The Historical Society welcomes constructive suggestions from the community on how best to save, and utilize, Ingersoll's railway station.

Action is needed soon as the station, one of a dwindling number of historic sites in our town and a key symbol of Ingersoll's connection to the rail system once called our "National Dream," continues to sit empty and to deteriorate.

CABOOSE NOTE:

Congratulations to the City of Woodstock upon receipt of Federal Heritage Designation for its CN Train Station earlier this year.

GORDON PAYNE (1890-1983)

Although artist Gordon Payne may hardly be described as an Ingersoll native, having spent a mere 13 years in the town, he had a profound and lasting effect on our artistic heritage.

Born and raised in the Niagara region, he studied art at the Albright Art Gallery, Buffalo and later at the Ontario College of Art, Toronto. He served as a signals officer during WWI and as an instructor with the Commonwealth Air Training Scheme during WWII.

He moved to the Ingersoll area in the early 1920's and married Maud Gibson, daughter of Joseph Gibson, Postmaster. The newly-weds lived in the Gibson house on Wellington St., just south of Noxon. They then constructed a Dutch colonial house on Thames St. S., backing onto Smith's Pond. When the house was later offered for sale, the advertisements rather presumptuously boasted a "yacht mooring."

In the late 1920's, Payne headed the furniture decoration department at the Coronation Furniture Factory on Thames Street.

While living in Ingersoll, Payne founded the Ingersoll Art Gallery Association, the only one of its kind in Canada serving smaller cities and towns. The Art Association held meetings, featuring lectures and visiting artists, in the basement of the Library. Here he also conducted children's classes and adult education classes. This Association was the forerunner of the present Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre.



. courtesy of Bill Hawkins

Payne left Ingersoll in the 1930's. The ensuing years led him to London; Liverpool, N.S.; the Doon School of Fine Arts (1946-50) and Toronto, where he founded The Payne School of Fine Art (1946-58), Toronto's largest private school of art. He retired to Hunt's Point, Nova Scotia, with his second wife, Emma Solvason Payne, an artist in her own right.

A member of several professional associations, Payne worked in watercolours, oils and etchings. His work was exhibited widely in group and solo shows, and is represented in both public and private collections in Southern Ontario and in the Maritimes.



. courtesy of Bill Hawkins

The editor gratefully acknowledges the generosity of :

- . Betty Crawford, who shared her personal reminiscences of Gordon Payne
- . Bill Hawkins, who shared his art collection with us

SUMMER ON KEEWAYDIN ISLAND

Ingersoll's history is irrevocably intertwined with that of a small island in Lake Muskoka, whose existence is unknown to the majority of Ingersoll inhabitants. A mere mile in circumference, Keewaydin Island was the summer playground of prominent Ingersoll families at the turn of the century.

Ingersoll's close connection to this island traces back to the Reverend William Wilson Ross of Hamilton who purchased the Island of Keewaydin from the Crown in 1880 and there built a summer cottage. In 1882, Reverend Ross moved with his family to Ingersoll as pastor of the King St. Methodist Church. During the summers they shared their cottage with friends from Ingersoll.

Following Reverend Ross' death in 1884, Mrs. Ross built a second cottage next door to accommodate guests. In 1888, she was forced to sell all but a small portion of the island. In succeeding years the island was subdivided and other cottages sprung up. Of the 19 cottages that eventually dotted the island, the Ingersoll contingent predominated. Local news tidbits in the Ingersoll Chronicle throughout the summer months traced the comings and goings of cottage owners and visitors to Keewaydin Island.

Edgar Hugill, photographer, was one of the earliest Ingersoll residents of Keewaydin Island. His first wife, Ida Robinson, died in 1886, only 3 years after their marriage by Rev. Ross. In 1890, Edgar married Minnie Stevens, daughter of businessman, James Stevens. Minnie's sister, May, married F. G. Walley. The Walleys and Robinsons built a cottage on Keewaydin Island. When Mrs. Ross' second cottage came on the market in 1891, it was purchased by James Stevens. Following his death, in 1917, Edgar and Minnie became sole owners of this cottage. Minnie died in 1918. In the 1930's Edgar sold the cottage to E. A. Wilson of Ingersoll, retaining life-long occupancy of the boat-house.

Each summer for 51 years, from 1903-1954, Edgar Hugill assumed the role of Postmaster of the Island of Keewaydin. Mail was brought to the island each afternoon by the steamship "Segwun." A mere 10 feet square, the tiny Post Office formed the social hub of island life.



The building on the left is the tiny Post Office run by Edgar Hugill. The building on the right is the boathouse in which Hugill summured after selling his cottage in the 1930's.

Edgar Hugill died in 1955, at the age of 95. His many photographs document the history of the Island of Keewaydin and the prominent Ingersoll residents who summured there." *The Hugill Chronicles: A Mosaic*, written by David L. Gibson and published in 1990, is well-illustrated with Edgar Hugill's photographs of both the cottages and the cottagers.



Postcard sent to Minnie Hugill by Ross Cotter in 1906. Postmarked both at point of departure and of receipt. Only one day in transit! We assume that "little Sambo" was the Hugill family dog.

Seven mayors of Ingersoll rented or purchased cottages on Keewaydin over the years:

1. **Joseph Gibson** - purchased a cottage in 1891
2. **W. H. Jones** - bought a lot in 1899 & built a cottage in 1900
3. **Justus Miller** - his wife Sophrina Elliot Miller & her sister, Adeline Elliot Freeman, purchased a cottage in 1916 from Wm. **Briden**, principal of Ingersoll Collegiate Institute, who had built it in 1891
- later owners included Rev. Fred C. **Elliot** who also acquired the Miller house at Oxford & Ann Streets
4. **Thomas Seldon** - purchased lot in 1901
- cottage was sold in 1912 to Josuah R. **Johnston**

5. **James Stevens** - purchased Mrs. Ross' second cottage in 1891
 - inherited by Edgar & Minnie Hugill in 1917
 - sold to E. A. Wilson in 1930's



Postcard written to James Stevens by his grand-daughter, Stella Walley, in 1905.

6. **W. J. Hogarth** - 1898-1926
 - sold to Harry Morrow, son of John Morrow
7. **J. Anderson Coulter**- John Morrow's nephew; named president of Morrow Nut Co. following death of John Morrow
 - had rented the Hogarth cottage

Eighteen other Ingersoll families also resided on the island over a 50 year period.



JOHN CARROLL: OXFORD COUNTY'S EARLIEST SETTLER

BY DOUG PALMER

When Thomas Ingersoll and Thomas Hornor accepted land grants from Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe in 1793 to begin the settlement of Oxford County, Beachville was already a recognized stop on the official post route between Quebec and Sandwich. Of the early Beachville inhabitants, John Carroll is reputed to be the earliest arrival.

According to John Carroll himself, he travelled from New Jersey to the Beachville area in 1784, at the age of 32. If Carroll's account is accurate, he may have been one of the Loyalist refugees who made their way to Canada in that year. Carroll claims that he purchased land from the Indians and built his first cabin on what are now lots 23 and 24 of the first concession in North Oxford. But it was not until 1789 that Carroll brought his wife, Mariah, and his eleven children to Upper Canada. Since the birth dates of some of the two girls and nine boys fall between the period 1784-1789 we must assume that he did not spend the entire five years alone in his cabin in Beachville. When he and his family arrived in Beachville there was already a number of settlers about whom we know very little.

Carroll's descendants maintain that Mariah Carroll exacted an unusual pledge from her numerous offspring. All eleven promised not to marry. The reason for this extraordinary vow is not known. There is speculation that it was the harshness of pioneer life that led Mariah to make her odd request. Whatever the reason, her children failed to keep their commitment. Both daughters married, Nancy to James Fuller and Gertrude to the younger Thomas Ingersoll. At least four sons also married young ladies from the Fuller, Hall, Ingersoll and Weir families.

When war broke out between Britain and the United States in 1812, catching Canada in the middle, the Carrolls, unlike many of their neighbours, sided with the British. The Carrolls paid a heavy price for their loyalty. John Jr., a captain in the militia, was captured by a band of pro-American marauders led by former Beachville neighbour, Andrew Westbrook. Young Carroll was ordered to ride Westbrook's horse, whose distinctive markings were well known in the area. The ruse worked. John Jr. was shot in error by his own friends. Captain John Carroll was subsequently buried in the cemetery of West Oxford Church. According to tradition the Carrolls lost another son, Henry, at the battle of Stoney Creek. However, the burial records of West Oxford show a Henry Carroll buried there in 1850. Land records and militia documents also show a Henry Carroll alive and well long after the conclusion of the war.

In spite of the harshness of pioneer life, John Carroll lived to the ripe old age of 102. He lived long enough to see the arrival of the first railway train in Beachville. He also lived long enough to see the earliest settlement of this region eclipsed by the growth of other municipalities in Oxford County and in southwestern Ontario. We must also bear in mind that he lived long enough to be able to tell his own version of history without too much fear of contradiction.

MY FAVOURITE WINDOWS

A WALKING TOUR

Put on a pair of comfortable shoes and take a tour around the downtown area. Within easy walking distance are some of Ingersoll's oldest buildings, both commercial and residential. Come along with me and sample some of my favourite Ingersoll windows.



261 Oxford St.



285 Oxford St.



291, 293 Oxford St.



319 Oxford St.



310 Oxford St.



276 Oxford St.



298 Oxford St.



270 Oxford St.



244 Oxford St.



145 Ann St.



109 Francis St.



168 King St. W.



130 King St. W.



55 King St. W.



120 Wonham St.



125 Duke St.



180 Thames St. S.



160 Thames St. S.
. not old, but I like it !



This house on Catherine St. is a little further afield, but well-worth hopping in the car !

While you may not agree with my favourites, you cannot deny the wealth of architectural detail present in Ingersoll's windows. Jot down some of your personal favourites.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

THE END OF AN ERA

The Daly House, built in 1838 at the corner of King Street West and Oxford Street, was one of the oldest establishments in Ingersoll. Owned by Absolom Daly, it was a one-storey log building originally serving as an Indian trading post and stopover on the Old Stage Road.. A second storey was added to house travellers.

The building was destroyed by fire in 1855. In 1856, a two-storey yellow brick building known as the Ingersoll Inn was constructed. Because of its proximity to the Town Hall, the Inn attracted many visiting dignitaries and performers.

The Inn is reputed to have served as a stop on the Underground Railway, joined by a tunnel to the Wesleyan Methodist Church on Oxford Street, a refuge for slaves coming to Canada. At the turn of the century, the Inn also served as a stopping place for the Woodstock-Ingersoll Trolley, the Estelle.

Having been sadly neglected in recent years, the Inn had deteriorated beyond any hope of salvage. It was purchased by the Town of Ingersoll in the Spring of this year, 1994, and demolished. More than a century and a half of political intrigue, controversy and notoriety has been reduced to newspaper clippings, old snapshots and memories.



. photo by Pauline Kerr

during



. photo by Ernie Hunt



after

INGERSOLL IN NORMANDY: THE BATTLE OF BURON

BY JOHN THOMPSON

Fifty summers ago, scores of young Ingersoll men, many barely out of their teens, found themselves a part of the 1st Canadian Army's dangerous advance across the wheatfields and woodlands of German-occupied Normandy. These youthful soldiers were dispersed throughout many of the 65 regiments from Canada involved in the desperate struggle against Hitler's forces in Western France. One such regiment was the Highland Light Infantry (HLI).

Based in Galt and one of eighteen "Scottish" battalions in the Canadian army, the HLI was a strong magnet for adventurous recruits from Ingersoll. At least eleven, and perhaps more, men with local family ties passed through the HLI during the course of the Second World War'. It is known that a half dozen of these men went ashore with the regiment on D-Day (June 6, 1944) at Bernières-Sur-Mer to help begin the Allied assault on Nazi Europe. It is also known that all but one of those six had become a casualty by the time the regiment had fought its way inland past the village of Buron a short month later.

Tiny Buron was just one of several fortified Norman towns ringing the ancient city of Caen, medieval home to William the Conqueror and the prime objective of Canadian and British troops during the first half of the D-Day campaign. Denied Caen's capture early on by fierce German resistance north of the city, British General Bernard Montgomery, in command of the Allied armies in Normandy, ordered a frontal assault by Canadian battalions in early July to break the Nazi defences around Caen. As part of this planned attack, the HLI was handed the task of securing Buron.

The ensuing fight on July 8, 1944 was savage. Buron was heavily defended by elements of the 12th SS Panzer (Hitler Youth) Division, the bulk of which was comprised of fanatical German soldiers 18 years or younger, as well as hardened veterans of the Russian Front. At the end of the daylong battle, the HLI succeeded in overrunning Buron, but the cost to the regiment was appalling: over 260 casualties, including 62 dead Highlanders.

One of the first HLI soldiers to fall at Buron was Private Don Sivyier of Ingersoll. A 21-year-old, ex-town pipe band drummer, Sivyier had originally been drawn to the HLI because of the regiment's own pipe band and because he knew

' These eleven men include Art Presswell, Reg Steinhoff, Don Sivyier, Dave McCutcheon, Ken Haines, Bill Houston, Clare Cole, Eugene Steinhoff, Sandy Pearson, Pete McSherry and Charles Lewis. The HLI would be joined by Cole after the battle of Buron and by Eugene Steinhoff, toward the end of the war. Pearson would eventually be attached to the South Saskatchewan Regiment, while McSherry and Lewis would be posted to the Royal Canadian Regiment in 1943 to fight, and in Lewis' case die, in Italy.

that other former Ingersoll bandsmen like Art Presswell¹ and Dave McCutcheon had already enlisted with the unit. Trained as a signaller, he happened to be on guard duty early on the morning of July 8, before the HLI attack on Buron commenced.

"About 3 or 4 o'clock, when my shift was over, I had trouble finding the man who was supposed to relieve me," Sivyer recalls. "I woke up the wrong man, who happened to be the intelligence officer. He wasn't happy."

In fact, his mistake likely saved the officer's life. Not long afterwards, Sivyer, not able to sleep himself with H-Hour for the Buron assault rapidly approaching, was standing beside a Bren gun carrier with three other members of his signals platoon, when a German 88 mm shell suddenly crashed into a nearby tree and exploded. Shrapnel sprayed downward, piercing the officer's vacant bedroll and hitting Sivyer in the right leg. Sivyer said that the explosion left him badly shaken.

"I was in shell shock. I tried to talk, but there were no words."

Unable to be evacuated until later in the day, a dazed Sivyer lay wounded under a tree, on a hill overlooking Buron, and watched the battle for the village slowly unfold. He remembers that in the beginning things did not look good for the HLI.

"It was a scary feeling," he said. "A shell would come and our men would duck and after a time they'd get up, but maybe everybody wouldn't get up, so you surmised the worst. And you wondered, are we going that way or are the Germans coming this way?"

Throughout the fight, details of his regiment's mounting casualties filtered back to the hillside, deeply affecting Sivyer as well.

"In my mind, they were rhymin' out the names of some of those killed and that's when it really started shaking me up," he said. "I guess the only thing that saved me was that my name was spelled wrong on that 88 shell."

¹ Presswell would not be at the Battle of Buron on July 8, having been wounded at Les-Buissons a week after D-Day when a petrol can blew up, burning his arms and body. Another Ingersoll man in the HLI, Reg Steinhoff, would also be wounded in Normandy before Buron, this time on June 22--the eve of Steinhoff's twenty-second birthday--when a shell exploded over his slit trench, showering him with shrapnel in the back and leg. Steinhoff would recover and return to the HLI after Buron, only to be wounded again in September by machine gun fire.



Private Donald S. Sivyer

What Sivyer was experiencing from afar that day, Dave McCutcheon was witnessing up close. Nicknamed "Cutch," a handle he carried before and throughout the war, the Irish-born, Ingersoll-raised McCutcheon had too been lured into the HLI by the opportunity to play in the regimental pipe band. He joined the battalion in July of 1940.

Attached to "D" Company as a stretcher bearer, a position for which he had volunteered, the 29-year-old McCutcheon was part of the lead assault wave into Buron. To reach the village, he and his company had to advance about a mile across a waist-high wheatfield, perfect cover for snipers and land mines. Compounding the danger, "D" Company's path also intersected a 15-foot deep anti-tank ditch bristling with young Nazi grenadiers.

The HLI attack began about 7:30 a.m., in the wake of a creeping Canadian artillery barrage. Nearing the ditch, McCutcheon's company came under intense machine gun fire and was forced to clear the trench through bitter, close-in combat. At this stage, German counter-artillery and mortar fire began to rain down on "D" Company, whose survivors had to make a headlong dash for a wall that ran along the northern edge of Buron.

Though he had been trained as a stretcher bearer, nothing could have prepared McCutcheon for the carnage occurring around him.



Private David McCutcheon
(Also visible in photo is Clare Cole)

"I had been taught first aid and how to put on a tourniquet, and by God I put on a lot of tourniquets that day," McCutcheon painfully recalls, his Irish accent cracking. "I remember a man called to me, 'Cutch, can you help me?' I looked and saw him crawling on his hands. But he wasn't crawling; he had no legs. Where do you put a tourniquet on a man like that?"

McCutcheon's role, continually scrambling to patch up the wounded and sometimes reassure the dying, was a courageous one, but also extremely hazardous. Unlike company riflemen, stretcher bearers carried no weapon, only a first aid bag and a red cross armband, which, as McCutcheon learned, offered no protection at Buron.

"The cross was a target," he said, "and the place was lousy with snipers. We lost three stretcher bearers that day. They were shot in the head."

A half-century later, the memories of Buron still haunt McCutcheon. Memories not only of the dead and wounded, but also of the emotional casualties, like the distressed soldier he saw, shortly after the battle's climax, running around in circles before bursting through a thick hedge. When McCutcheon tried to follow the man, he found the hedge to be impenetrable.

After seeing such things, how did he manage to keep his own head? McCutcheon doesn't know.

"I've often wondered about it," he said. "All these years, I've just tried to put the action out of my mind."

Despite what McCutcheon had been through at Buron, he had survived. Other HLI soldiers with an attachment to Ingersoll would not be so lucky.

Like Ken Haines.

Having spent a portion of his childhood in Ingersoll, where he attended the Memorial Public School, Haines was living with his mother in Windsor when he enlisted with the HLI in 1940. A confident, 22-year-old corporal in "C" Company, he was well-liked by the other men in his platoon section, according to two members of the section who are still alive, Jim Reid of Hespeler and Frank Jull of Simcoe.

During the attack on Buron, it was Haines' job to lead his section of ten men into the village as part of "C" Company's follow-up advance and clearing operations. Reid, a private at the time, remembers how that fateful day began.

"Kenny came along and said, 'It's time, we're moving out to the start line.' We didn't have to wait long and then we started up through the field."

Moving across the wheat field, just as McCutcheon's "D" Company had, Haines and his men soon came upon an ominous sight, a one-man slit trench with a dead German officer in it.

"He was still leaning on his elbows, standing upright," said Reid. "Kenny went over and took off these long binoculars from around his neck and he put them on his own neck. Then we went up to Buron."

Reid himself never made it to the village. Walking amid the din of "machine gun fire, rifle fire, any fire you could think of," the section began to bunch up.

"Just as I opened my mouth and said, 'For Christ's sake, spread out,' I got hit, and that's the last I saw of Kenny and the boys," Reid said.

Reid had collapsed, shot through the leg by a sniper. Haines and the section continued into Buron.

At this point Jull, the section lance-corporal, picks up the story.



Corporal Kenneth A. Haines

"We got right into the village," Jull said. "There was Ken and me and another man on the side of a street trying to take cover because the Germans were shelling us from the other side of town. After about twenty minutes, one of our flail tanks started comin' down the street."

The tank was heading for a Highlander who was lying face down in the road. Jull said that it wasn't hard for Haines and the others to decide what to do.

"We all just said, 'Let's go get him, so the flails don't chew him up.' So the three of us ran out to pick the man up, but he'd been booby-trapped by the Germans -- A damned finger mine. When we moved him, Ken caught the full force of the blast. Me and the other guy were badly wounded."

As suddenly as that, Haines was dead. He is now listed on the cenotaph in Ingersoll's Memorial Park. As is another man who was in the Buron crucible, Bill Houston.

Houston's photo shows a boyish handsomeness about him; his sister, Jean, still living in Ingersoll, has remarked that he also was "a little wild." Despite having tried unsuccessfully to join the army at the tender age of 17, Houston persisted and finally caught on with the HLI, with which he went overseas in 1942. Although he had never really lived in Ingersoll, Houston did have strong Ingersoll ties, coming regularly to town to visit his sisters and his parents, who had moved there in the early 1940's.



Private William G. Houston

Little is known about Houston, the HLI rifleman, in Normandy, summer of 1944. Most of what is known is revealed in his letters home, in which he expressed a wish to return to Ingersoll after the war, so he could play his beloved billiards and otherwise resume the enjoyment of life. In one letter written to his sister on June 23, his twenty-first birthday, Houston described some of his thoughts about being in a battle zone:

"The first couple of days after we landed (on D-Day) we were all pretty scared. But the Germans were just as bad, if not worse. The ones we were fighting, some of them were not anymore than 15 or 16 years old... I think this will be pretty well over by Christmas."

"Today is the 23rd and I am getting pretty old now -- 21 and going strong to see 22. Love, Bill."

Two weeks later, Bill Houston would be dead, killed by a sniper at the tiny French village called Buron.

* A flail tank was a specially designed Allied tank with rapidly revolving chains on the front used to strike the ground and safely explode mines.

REMEMBERING WORLD WAR II: CASUALTIES OF WAR

COMPILED BY JOHN THOMPSON

During the Normandy Campaign of 1944, which extended from June 6 to the end of August, Canadian military casualties totalled over 18,000 men, 5,000 of whom were killed. Ingersoll shared heavily in those losses as the following casualty list, made up of individuals whose backgrounds were in some way tied to the town, clearly shows. On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Allied Invasion of Normandy, special homage is paid to these men for their bravery and sacrifice.

ARTHUR W. PRESSWELL; Private; Highland Light Infantry of Canada Regiment; wounded June 13, 1944 at Les-Buissons; age 23.

REGINALD T. STEINHOFF; Private; Highland Light Infantry of Canada Regiment; wounded June 22, 1944 near Les-Buissons; age 21.

ROBERT R. CLARKE; Gunner; Royal Canadian Artillery; killed July 4, 1944; age 25.

DONALD S. SIVYER; Private; Highland Light Infantry of Canada Regiment; wounded July 8, 1944 near Buron; age 21.

KENNETH A. HAINES; Corporal; Highland Light Infantry of Canada Regiment; killed July 8, 1944 at Buron; age 22.

WILLIAM G. HOUSTON; Private; Highland Light Infantry of Canada Regiment; killed July 8, 1944 at Buron; age 21.

WILLIAM NICHOLSON; Private; Canadian Scottish Regiment; wounded July 8, 1944 near Caen; age 21. Later killed at the Leopold Canal, Belgium, October 6, 1944.

DONALD L. KIPP; Private; Essex Scottish Regiment; wounded July 14, 1944 near Caen; age 23.



Private Reginald Steinhoff

GEORGE H. MOLE; Signaller; Royal Canadian Corps of Signals; killed July 15, 1944 near Caen; age 28.

ARTHUR L. HIBBERT; Private; Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa Regiment; wounded July 16, 1944; age 24.

W. CURRIE WILSON; Lieutenant; Essex Scottish Regiment; captured July 21, 1944 near Ifs; age 31.

DONALD C. TURK; Trooper; 6th Armoured Regiment (1st Hussars); wounded July 22, 1944 near Ifs; age 25.

LEO B. MacMILLAN; Trooper; 6th Armoured Regiment (1st Hussars); wounded July 25, 1944 near Ifs; age 25.

G. ROSS BORTHWICK; Private; Essex Scottish Regiment; killed July 29, 1944; age 21.

THOMAS GRANGER; Private; Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders Regiment; wounded early August, 1944; age 26.

GORDON W. ALLSOP; Gunner; Royal Canadian Artillery; wounded early August, 1944; age 24.

DONALD C. SHELTON; Private; Lincoln and Welland Regiment; wounded August 10, 1944 near Bourguebus; age 20.

HERRICK R. ADAIR; Private; Lincoln and Welland Regiment; killed August 11, 1944 at Hill 195; age 21.

JACK HUMPHREY; Private; Essex Scottish Regiment; wounded August 26, 1944; age 35.

ALEXANDER M. (SANDY) PEARSON; Lieutenant; South Saskatchewan Regiment; wounded August 27, 1944 near Forêt-de-la-Londe; age 26.



Private Arthur Presswell
(also shown on page 13)

POET OF THE CANADIAN PASTURE FIELDS



James McIntyre

This issue seems to have a rather serious theme, dealing as it does with the Fiftieth anniversary of the Normandy Campaign and the role played by Ingersoll inhabitants. To leave you on a lighter note, I have selected one of my favourite poems written by our *“Poet of the Canadian Pasture Fields.”* James McIntyre. It does nothing for his reputation as a poet, but will charm, or disgust, you with its silliness.

LINES ADDRESSED TO AN OLD BACHELOR

In summer time we roam o'er dingle,
 But winter draws us round the ingle,
 Why do you remain thus single,
 When love would make two hearts tingle,
 Pray, tell me why my dearest wingle,
 With the fair you do not mingle,
 Better with love 'neath cot of shingle,
 Than all your yellow gold to jingle.

For married life you would enjoy,
 And soon a little girl and boy,
 They would your leisure hours employ,
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 And fill their little hearts with joy,
 For their amusements never cloy,
 Business cares do men annoy,
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RETROSPECT

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE
INGERSOLL & DISTRICT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 1, No. 3

MARY FRANCIS, editor

November, 1994

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THE PORCHES OF INGERSOLL

BY SUSAN MASTERS

One of the most eye-catching and interesting features of our domestic architecture is the porch. Early architectural styles in Canada closely reflected European models, which were minus the sheltered areas which we have come to refer to as porches or verandahs. Not until the mid 19th century did the porch come into common use. Following the War of 1812, when much rebuilding was being done, the attitude toward architectural design became more mature. Gone were the days of primitive log cabins and basic Georgian design, as individuals started to seek aesthetic details to embellish their homes.

What better way to demonstrate a conquering of the wilderness than in the construction of civilized homes and gardens? The detailed architectural features that appointed the interiors of homes naturally extended to the exteriors and can be seen most clearly in the porches that were incorporated into the various styles of home construction. As the Neoclassical, Italianate and Victorian periods progressed, the porch developed in the same fashion, becoming more and more elaborate until the turn of the century when, in the Edwardian era, the detail of design retreated somewhat, becoming more subdued in the Arts and Crafts period.

Upon touring Ingersoll, it is easy to spot fine examples of the various porch styles. What began as a simple project, rooted in nostalgia, soon became a rather extensive exploration of domestic architectural styles. The first thing that becomes evident when studying porches is that they cannot be viewed in isolation from the architectural style of which they are a part. However, with this in mind, it is also important to note that porches can be deceiving. Not only can porches represent an alternative architectural style to the main structure, but they have typically been altered and adapted over the years. Thus, one cannot reliably date a house based solely upon the porch. With the climate we live in and the resultant rapid deterioration of wooden structures, as well as the tendency to embellish an earlier basic design with a more elaborate design of a later era, as was common during the Victorian era, it sometimes takes a little detective work to sort out origins. In addition, the porch is a structure that readily lends itself to the imaginative whims of the homeowner. "Anything goes" has often been the guiding principle in the construction of porches. Consequently, one can readily spot interpretations of various styles, from various periods, combined together in a folksy manner.

It was difficult to choose from the multitude of porches in Ingersoll for this article. An attempt has been made to use the limited space available to represent an overview of both pure examples of a particular style, as well as examples combining various influences in the porch structure.

All in all, the porch is much more than just a spot to sweep the snow off your boots in the winter, or a refuge from rain in the summer. The next time that you decorate your porch for the Christmas season, or relax on a hot summer's night with a cool lemonade, perhaps you will give some thought to the origins of your porch.

CLASSICAL REVIVAL - Albert St.

This beautiful example of Classical architectural influences boasts a porch with Ionic columns supporting a Greek style temple front. Square brackets are a forerunner of the more shapely Italianate type typical of a later era. Square posts and spindles on the second level suggest an Italianate influence.



NORSWORTHY HOUSE - King St. E.

An example of the High Victorian era, the Norsworthy house features embellishments of various styles. A Georgian Revival house, Greek Revival features may be noted in the full height entry porch. Tuscan columns and a wide cornice trimmed with dentils and Italianate brackets are features of this style. Also incorporated on the west end is a band-shell porch, more typical of the Queen Anne and Edwardian periods.

ITALIANATE - King St. E.

A fine example of the simple hipped roof Italianate house, the L-shaped porch with its decorative Victorian features places the date of the structure in the later part of the Italianate era. Square posts with bevelled corners are typical porch supports of this style, as are the decorative brackets. The arch of the verge board with its pendent accents compliments the gentle curve of the windows, indicative of an Italianate house.



ITALIANATE - Wellington St.

The enclosed porches on this asymmetrical Italianate house beautifully demonstrate the identifying details of the style. Decorative brackets, square-bevelled posts, curved windows and large-pane glazing in the doors and windows are all features of the Italianate house.



ONTARIO HOUSE - William St.

The beauty of the Ontario House is in the simple design which is accented by porch and spindlework detailing. This example utilizes Italianate features in the balusters, brackets and square-bevelled posts. Detail over the entrance is of the Eastlake influence.



QUEEN ANNE - Oxford St.

Extensive one storey porches are commonly used in the Queen Anne style to promote the decorative elements of the house. Avoiding plain flat walls is accomplished by the use of features such as bay windows and porches, as evident in this example. The wrap-around porch exhibits the Moorish influence popular in the 1890's, as seen in the rounded design of the porch entrance. The decorative frieze along the roofline of the porch is probably a variation on the original.



EDWARDIAN - Victoria St.

The Edwardian Period marked a reaction against the exuberance of the High Victorian era. Simpler lines and fewer embellishments were the trend. Mass production of architectural appointments and their availability through order catalogues brought design ideas to the general population for the first time. This house on Victoria Street is a good example, if not a typical one, of the Edwardian design. The porch employs materials that were factory produced and assembled in an interesting composition. The heavy, dominating features of the columns and balustrade hint at a Greek influence.



PRAIRIE HOUSE - Francis St.

A product of the Arts and Crafts movement, the Prairie style was a reaction against the mass production of the Edwardian period. Returning to natural materials and craftsmanship, the porch on this example utilizes stone masonry in its supports, which extend beyond the porch floor to the ground. These are in two sections with tapered, square wooden columns completing the top half. The use of three tapered columns on the corners and two in the centre section of the porch add to the interest of the composition. The porch railing consists of straight, simple lines, typical of the style, with the balusters closely set.



ONTARIO COTTAGE - Hall St.

The porch on this cottage was originally an open structure composed of a number of interesting features. Ionic columns mounted on cement block bases combine features of Greek and Prairie influence. The closely set balusters on the porch rail are also suggestive of the Prairie style. Brackets along the eave add a further decorative touch. This porch is a good example of how individual home owners combined different architectural aspects in a design of their own making.



VERNACULAR - Merritt St.

This simple vernacular house has been accented by a number of decorative features to produce a pleasing picture. The porch, in particular, with its finial tipped band-shell end, dentil trim, Tuscan columns and Italianate balusters combines a number of styles in an effective manner.



EDWARDIAN - Victoria St.

This Edwardian duplex sports a fine example of a High Edwardian style porch of Eastlake influence.

GEORGIAN - King St. W.

One of the oldest dwellings in Ingersoll, the porch on this Georgian style house was probably a later addition, around the turn of the century. A Classical Revival influence can be noted in the Doric fluted columns. The enclosure to the porch is possibly an even later addition, perhaps in the 20s, which accounts for the small-pane window glazing in the walls and the door.



References

McAlester, V., & McAlester, L. (1984). A Field guide to American houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf Inc.

McCrae, M. (1963). The Ancestral roof. Toronto, ON: Clarke, Irwin & Company Ltd.

The author also wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Jack Hedges, of the Oxford Historical Society.

POET OF THE CANADIAN PASTURE FIELDS



James McIntyre

In McIntyre's time, the town of Ingersoll boasted several mills. This selection by our *Poet of the Canadian Pasture Fields* chronicles a near tragedy, as two small children fall into the mill race at Partlo's mill in mid-winter.

PROVIDENTIAL ESCAPE

Providential escape of Ruby and Neil McLeod, children of Angus McCleod of this town. Little Neil McKay McCleod, a child of three years of age, was carried under a covered raceway, upwards of one hundred yards, the whole distance being either covered o'er with roadway, buildings or ice.

A wondrous tale we now do trace
Of little children fell in race,
The youngest of these little dears,
The boy's age is but three years.

Had he found there a watery grave,
Or borne along on crest of wave,
Think of the mother's agony wild,
Gazing through dark tunnel for her child.

While coasting o'er the treacherous ice
These precious pearls of great price,
The elder Ruby, the daughter,
Was rescued from the ice cold water.

But soon as Partlo started mill,
Through crowd there ran a joyous thrill,
When he was quickly borne along,
The little hero of our song.

But horrid death each one did feel,
Had sure befallen little Neil,
Consternation all did fill,
And they cried shut down the mill.

Alas ! of life there is no trace,
And he is black all over face,
Though he then seemed as if in death,
Yet quickly they restored his breath.

But still no person they could tell
What had the poor child befallen,
The covered race, so long and dark,
Of hopes there scarcely seemed a spark.

Think now how mother* she adored
her sweet dear child to her restored,
And her boundless gratitude
Unto the author of all good.

Was he held fast as if in vice,
Wedge'd 'mong the timbers and the ice,
Or was there for him ample room
For to float down the narrow flume.

*Mrs. Mary McKay, the author of some fine poems on Scottish and Canadian subjects.

DANIEL CARROLL

BY DOUG PALMER

The Carroll family has played a very significant part in the early history of Oxford County. John Sr. is reputed to be the earliest known settler in the county, arriving with his considerable family in 1789. Two sons fought for the British side in the War of 1812. John Jr. died defending the County from American marauders in 1813. Other Carrolls with their spouses participated in the development of Lakeview, London, St. Marys and Ingersoll.

Following the War of 1812, John Carroll acquired land in Ingersoll on behalf of two of his younger sons, Daniel and James. There is no record of James Carroll in Ingersoll but, in later years, he did become the first sheriff of Oxford County and one of the leading citizens of Woodstock. Daniel, however, settled in the village and deserves to be considered one of the community's founding members.

The land held by Daniel Carroll extended from Carroll St. in the West to Harris Street in the East and was bounded by King Street to the South and the river to the North. Apparently the river was not as clear a boundary in the early days as it has been since the channel was dug in the 1930's. A dispute developed between Daniel Carroll and John Carnegie which was eventually settled by a mutual agreement that gave Carnegie the western portion of the disputed territory and Carroll the Eastern part. The boundary line was henceforth known as Mutual Street. Daniel and Carroll Streets remind us of the early presence of Daniel Carroll.

Daniel Carroll was not only one of the major land owners in the early history of the town, he was also one of its early businessmen. He built one of the first mills in the town, at the foot of Carroll Street. The mill pond stretched back along the Thames River in the area where Canadian Tire and Zehr's now stand. In Shenton's Gazetteer of Oxford County, it is as miller that Daniel Carroll describes his occupation.

In 1834, an early record notes the marriage of Daniel Carroll to Elisha Hall's sister, Elizabeth, by Peter Teeple, one of the County's first justices of the peace. The event is testimony to the absence of qualified religious leaders at this date. About the time of his marriage, Daniel built a house on the hill above King Street, just East of Carroll Street. This colonial style house would be the home of the Ingersoll Carrolls into the twentieth century although, in more recent times, it has become known as the Patterson house.

The Carroll home was an early centre for pioneer society. It is recorded that one Governor-General stayed there and that a ball was held in his honour. It is unfortunate that the house was allowed to deteriorate in recent years and was finally demolished toward the end of last year.

Apparently, Daniel was content to pursue his own business. There is no record of his participation in municipal affairs or in provincial politics. His brother-in-law, Elisha Hall, was a leader of the Reform Party in this part of the country. He was listed as a staunch ally of Charles Duncombe and was consequently implicated in the Rebellion of 1837. At least one of Daniel's relatives, Peter Carroll, was involved in the Rebellion on the government side. Daniel, however, seems to have maintained a careful neutrality. In the later municipal disputes between Galliford and Oliver, his name does not appear as a supporter of either. Unlike his brothers, Daniel was not militarily inclined, for his name is absent from the roles of the militia where his status as land owner and miller would have earned him commissioned rank.

Daniel was not as long-lived as his father, but he lived a lengthy life for the times. His stone in the Rural Cemetery records his death in 1878, one year after the death of his wife, Elizabeth. This was not the end of the Carroll family's role in the town's history, for a son of Daniel's, Dr. Daniel Welcome Carroll, became one of Ingersoll's leading citizens in his own time.



The above photo, from the files of the Ingersoll Times, shows the Carroll home in 1978. The following is an excerpt from the accompanying article in the series *Echoes of the Past*, by Helen W. Foster.

From the use of square nails and the panelling of the interior doors, a type discontinued after 1830, construction is believed to have taken place prior to that date. The windows are particularly noteworthy as the use of the 12 pane panel is both a mark of extreme age and high quality workmanship.

Originally there was just the central portion, a particularly plain, no nonsense design. The wings were added at the turn of the century in the English manner of paried out-buildings flanking the house rather than the American addition at the rear, hidden from view. The dormers are a later addition as well, but the full front porch has been cut back to its present size.

Library files record coins found in the orchard dating back to 1837 when militia soldiers sheltered their horses there.

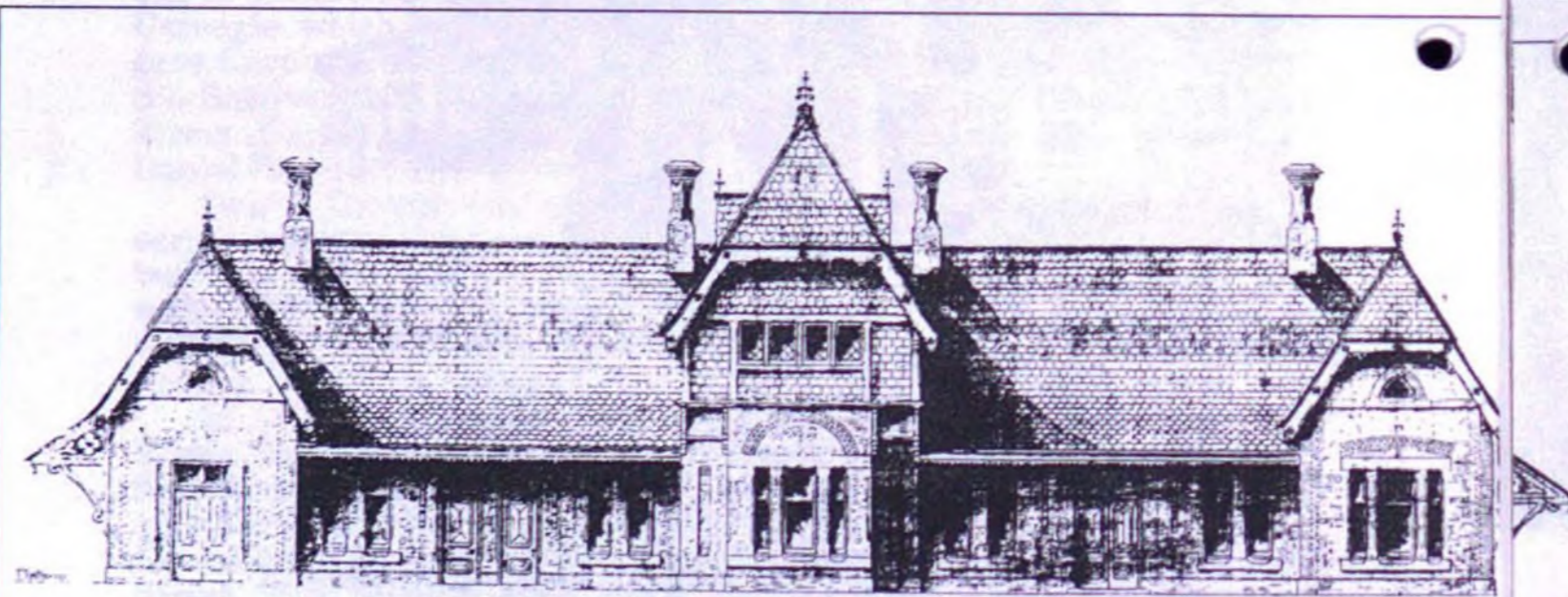
The cemetery in the southeast corner exists no more, long since overrun by grazing cattle. The stones were removed and according to Byron Jenvey, who used to walk past the old graveyard on his way to school, they were rumoured to have been used as flooring for a basement in a nearby home as well as for several walkways.

OUR RAILWAY STATION: THE ARCHITECT'S VISION

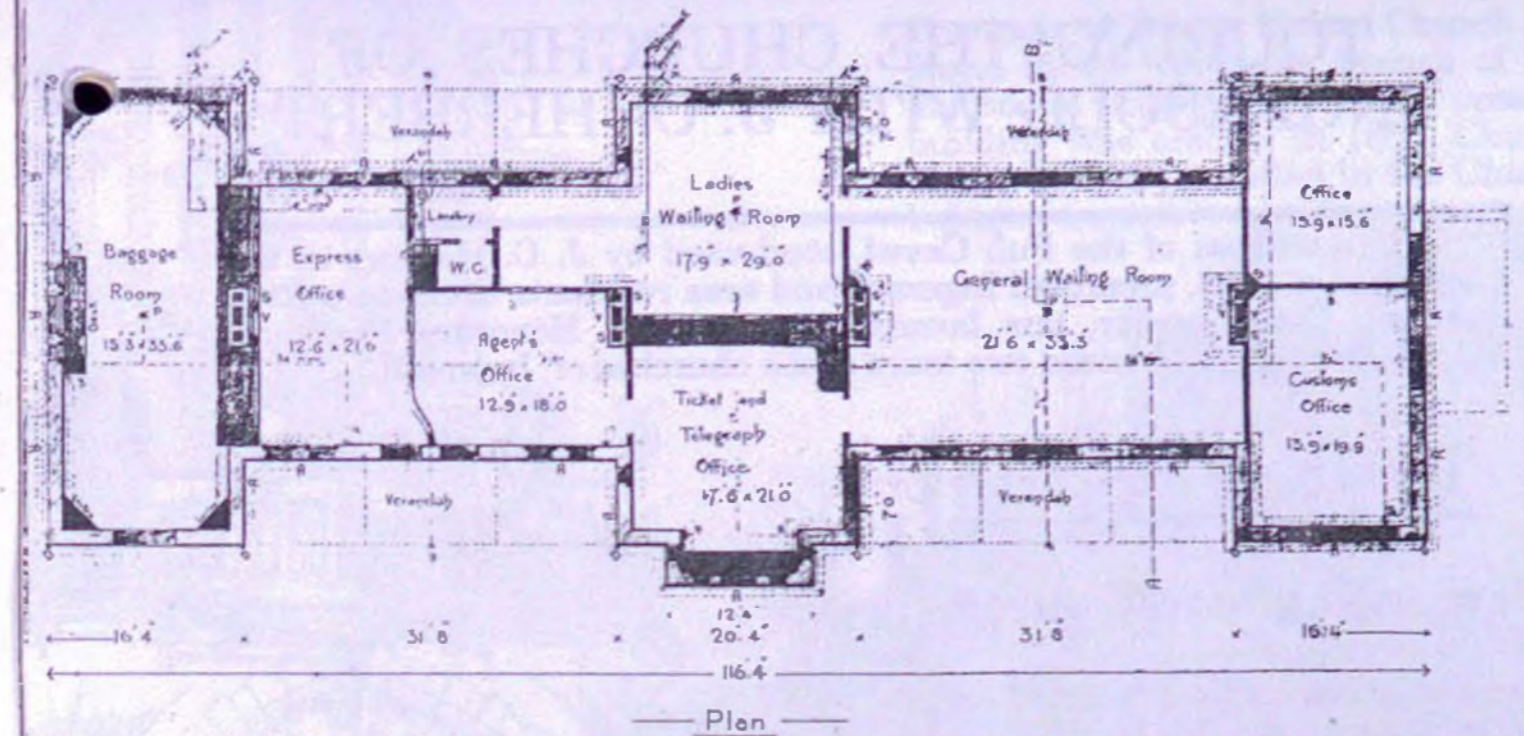
Earlier this year the CN railway station in Ingersoll was denied designation by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Of the various reasons cited in the Heritage Character Statement "its small size and modest design" seem to have condemned it.

The original architect's renderings of the proposed station, reprinted from Elizabeth A. Willmot's recent tribute to the railway stations of Southern Ontario, When Any Time Was Train Time, were anything but "modest" in design.

This architect's rendering of the proposed Grand Trunk station at Ingersoll was done by R. Armour for chief engineer John Hobson and dated November 30, 1885.



— Front Elevation —



Plan views of architect's drawing for proposed Grand Trunk station at Ingersoll.

Had the finances of the Grand Trunk Railway allowed for the erection of the original architect's conception of the Ingersoll station, it is unlikely that the Historical Society would now have cause for concern. If our railway station is to be condemned for "its small size and modest design", consider its replacement.

History will not treat us kindly if we allow the demolition of yet another historic building, however "modest".

The editor would like to acknowledge the generosity of Elizabeth A. Willmot, who allowed us to reproduce the architect's renderings of the proposed Ingersoll station.

Willmot, E. A. (1992). When any time was train time. Erin, ON: Boston Mills Press.

TOURING THE CHURCHES OF INGERSOLL WITH J. C. HERBERT

The success of the Pub Crawl, conducted by J. C. Herbert in the summer of 1993, prompted Ingersoll and area residents to clamour for a sequel. Consequently, our favorite tour guide, Honorary President J. C. Herbert, organized two tours of the churches of Ingersoll.

TOUR 1, MAY 17

St. James Anglican Church

The Anglican parish was started in 1834 by Rector John Rothwell. Its roots are closely tied to the Charles Ingersoll family. The present building was erected in 1864, at a cost of \$9,000.



photo by Pauline Kerr

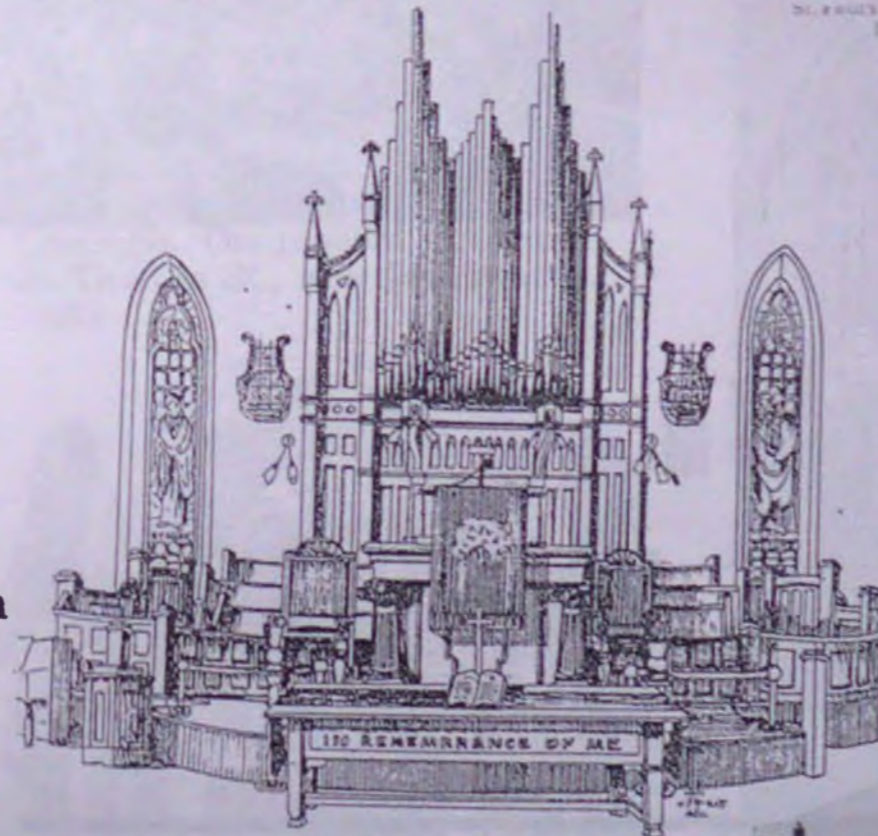
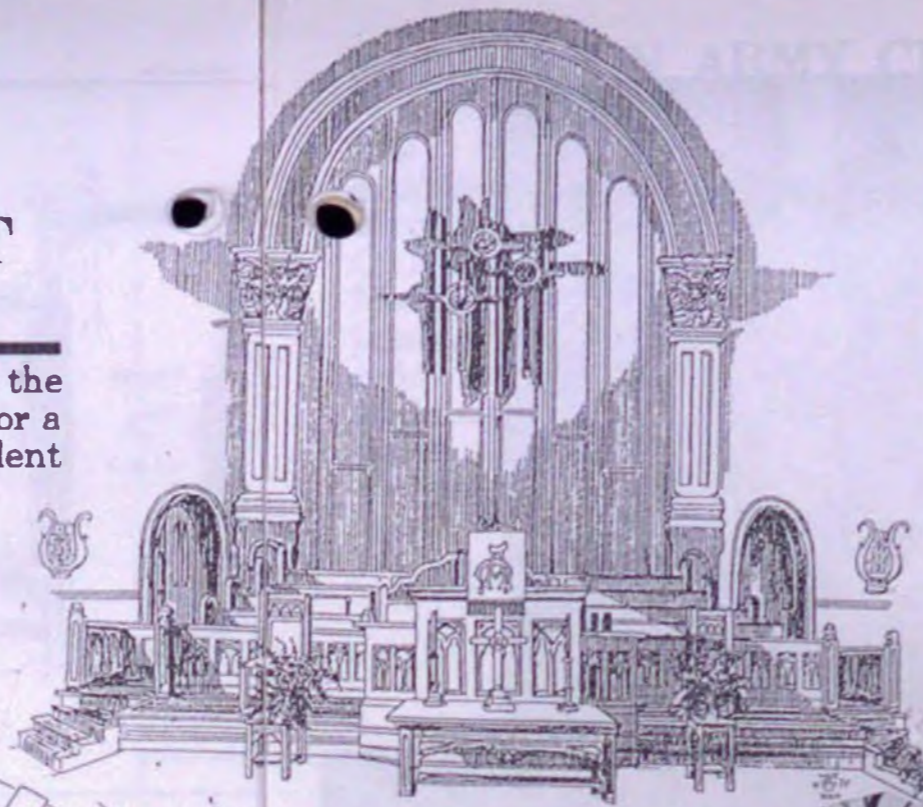


photo by Pauline Kerr



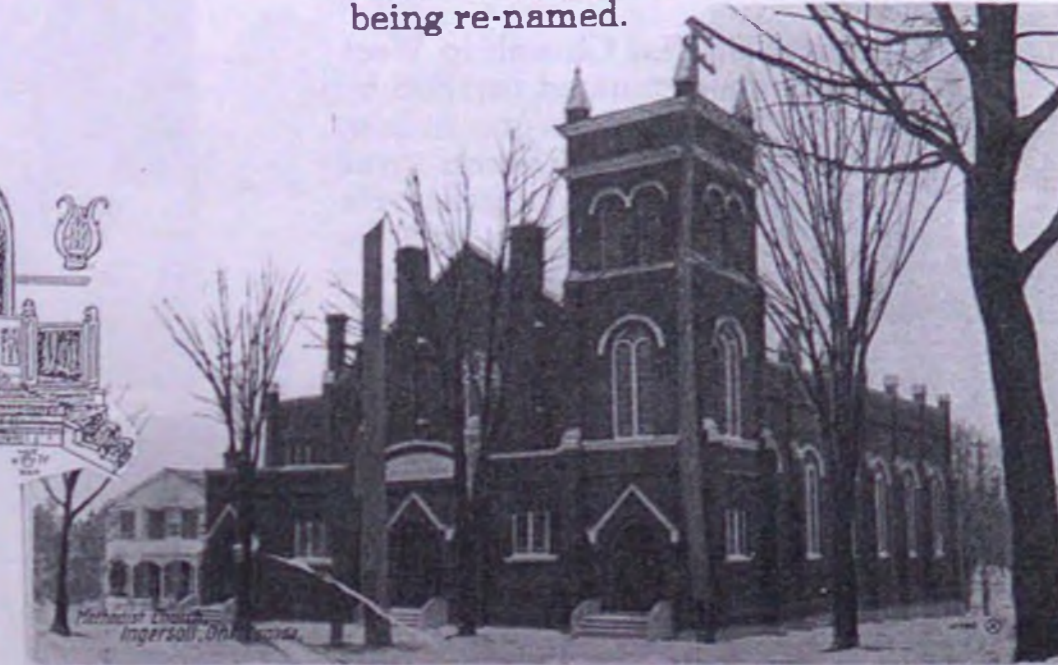
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

Itinerant Presbyterian ministers visited Ingersoll as early as 1830. St. Paul's is the result of the union of two branches of the Presbyterian Church - the Free Church and the United Presbyterian Church. The present structure was erected in 1889.



Trinity United Church

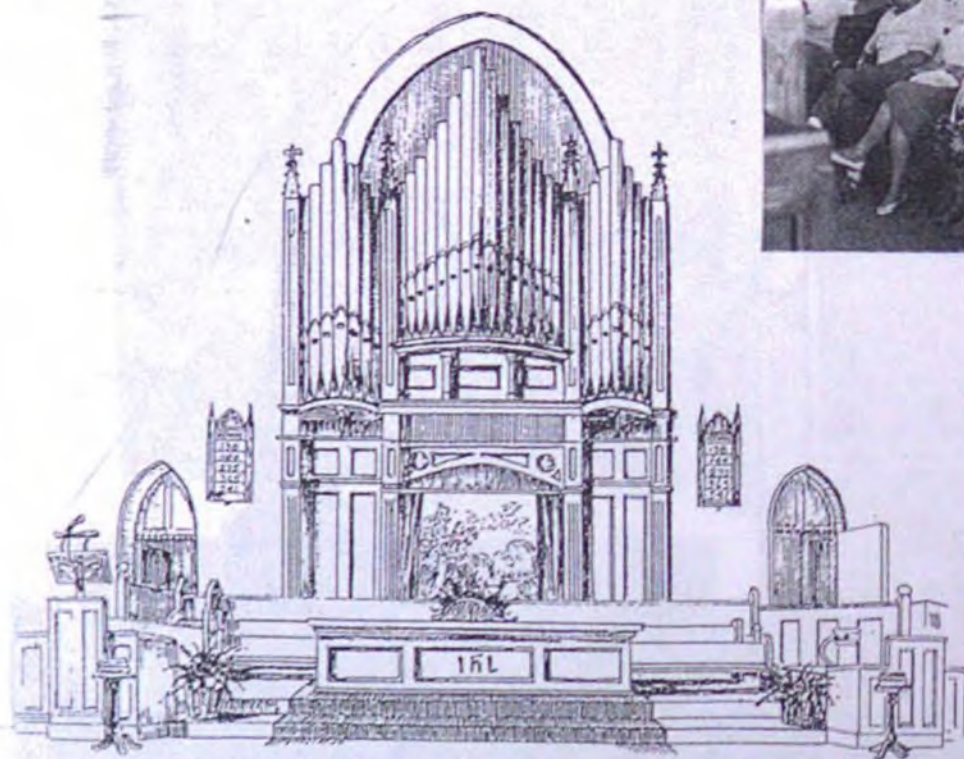
The roots of Trinity United Church are found in the Wesleyan branch of the Methodist movement. The present building was erected in 1865. Church union, in 1925, resulted in the Church being re-named.



TOUR 2, JUNE 21

First Baptist Church

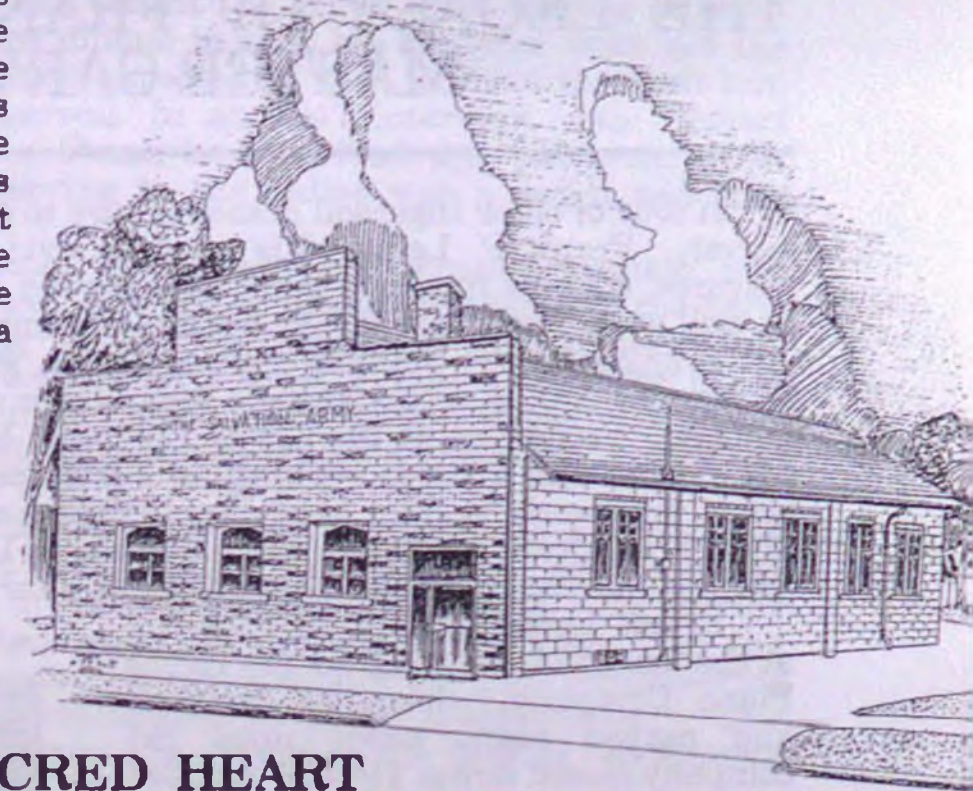
The first Baptist Church in West Oxford was organized in 1808 by Simon Mabee and his son-in-law, Peter Teeple. A church was constructed on the present site in 1864, but replaced in 1890 by a larger structure which was heavily damaged by fire in 1898. The church was rebuilt in the following year.



The editor gratefully acknowledges the generosity of:
. Mrs. Whitwell, who allowed us to use the sketches of her late husband, Harry Whitwell, in our Newsletter

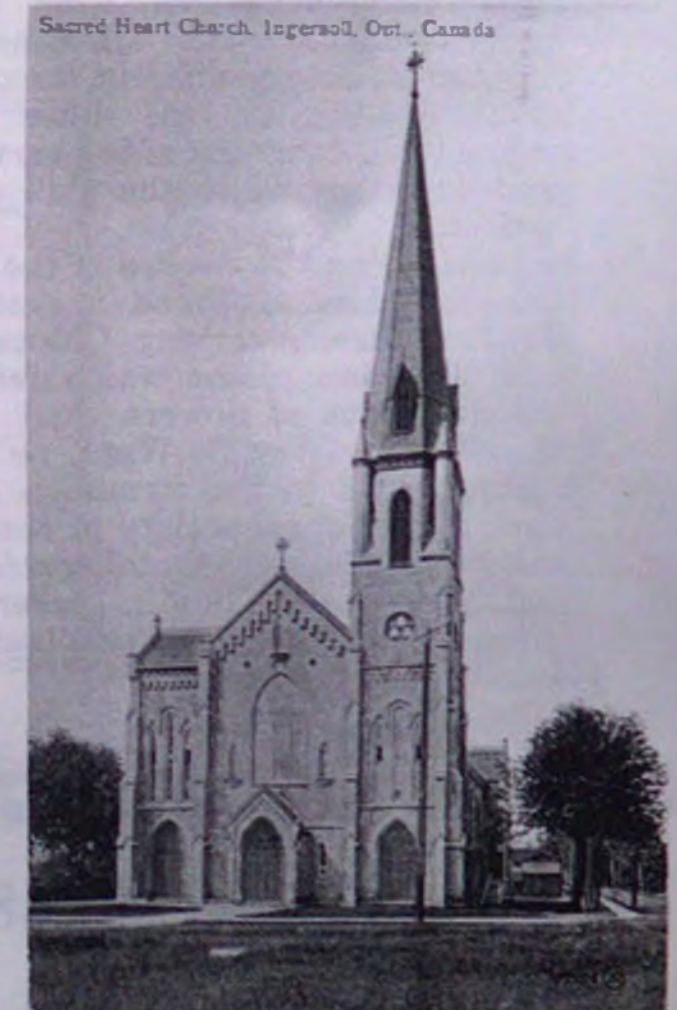
SALVATION ARMY CITADEL

The Salvation Army was established in Ingersoll by three women - Captain Annie O'Leary, and Lieutenants Mattie Calhoun and Mercie Little. The first meeting was held in 1883 and the present building constructed later the same year. Evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson was a member of the Corps as a child.



SACRED HEART ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

The first mass in the area was held in 1835 in Beachville. The first Catholic church in Ingersoll, located on John St., was built in 1847, on land donated by John Carnegie. The present structure, on Thames St., was dedicated in 1880.



THE LEGACY OF FRANK P. LEAKE, MASTER CARVER

A tour of older Ingersoll homes is sure to reveal the legacy of master carver, Frank P. Leake. His work is evident both in architectural features, such as fireplace mantles, stairway banisters and newel posts, as well as in finely-carved Victorian mahogany and walnut furniture.

Frank's father, Stephen Palmer Leake, emigrated from England in the mid 1800's, establishing a furniture making business in London, Ontario. Fatherless at the age of 12, Frank became the sole support of his mother and sisters, working as a fruit pedlar. Having learned the art of woodworking from his father, Frank had a bench of his own in a London furniture factory by the time he was 15. Carving dominated his life until his death, at age 87, two weeks after he stopped working.

Frank Leake arrived in Ingersoll at the age of 21, working for the Evans Piano Company, where he designed and carved piano cases until the company closed down. He also fulfilled private commissions, such as the four fireplace mantles gracing the Norsworthy house on King Street East. Each of these fireplaces is unique, evoking a different theme and motif. Although two have been painted, the intricacy of the carving is evident, attesting to the skill of the artisan.

Following the demise of the piano company, Leake opened a studio on Thames Street, carving Chippendale and Victorian pieces which reflected his deep love of flowers. Just before the First World War he was instrumental in the formation of the first horticultural society in the area, starting an experimental garden on Thames Street South, where he planted rare and imported plants and shrubs.

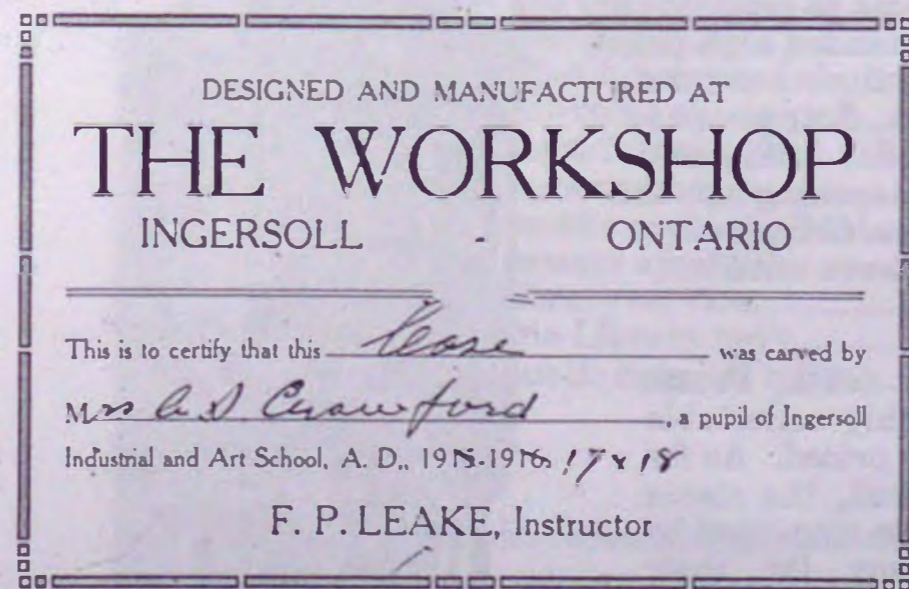


This newspaper photo shows Frank Leake at age 73.

For some 20 years Leake taught the art of wood carving at night school. These classes were unique in that his students were not the men of the area, who might be expected to wish to learn the craft but, rather, the women of Ingersoll. In an 1947 interview with Stewart Watson of the London Free Press, he described this phenomenon as follows, "Teaching wood carving to the ladies was a social necessity here".

Jean Sutherland, a former teacher at the Ingersoll Collegiate, who resides northwest of Ingersoll, was one of Leake's students in the early 1930's. She recalls driving to his "old worldish" shop opposite the Presbyterian Church once a week for lessons. Patterns on brown paper were traced onto the unfinished wood using carbon paper and pencil. The wood was then carefully carved away with a sharp knife until the design emerged.

It was not unusual for Leake to step in and help a struggling student by completing part of the design himself. Thus, even a rather mediocre student was able to produce an attractive design. The carving complete, Leake would then assemble the individual parts into the finished product. Participants received a small certificate documenting the completed project, a testament to their achievement. This certificate was gummed and could be affixed to the back or the interior of the larger pieces.



This certificate, issued to Claribel Crawford in 1918, attests to the completion of one of her carving projects. Can anyone decipher the name of the item carved?



This lamp and small stand are shown in their original position in the Crawford house on Thames St. S.



This small box was typical of those produced by Ingersoll's "lady carvers".

Students would usually begin with a simple project, such as bookends, progressing to more complex items if their interest and abilities allowed. Jean does not recall being a very prolific carver, her efforts extending only to the creation of a pair of bookends and box bearing the crest of the University of Toronto, her alma mater.

Most of the women carved only for the duration of the classes, but a few continued long after the classes ended. One of these was Betty Crawford's mother, Claribel Leman Crawford. With a true artist's love of beauty, she filled her home with carved lamps, boxes and chests. Several of her pieces remained in their Thames Street South home when it was later sold, a fitting setting for the elegant pieces.



A photo does not do justice to this chest carved by Claribel Crawford.

Frank Leake gained a reputation for the quality of his hand carved furniture. He worked only in mahogany and walnut, carving each piece himself, in traditional styles. As his popularity increased, he came to produce only custom orders, which commanded high prices for the time: \$1500 for a dining room suite, \$600 for a grandfather clock, floor lamps at \$150 apiece. At the age of 81, Leake sold his business to Cecil Vyse, teaching him the trade over the next six years. Crippled by arthritis, he continued to carve until his death six years later.

Forty years after his death, Frank Leake's work remains highly collectable and correspondingly highly priced. As for the "lady carvers" of Ingersoll, the pieces produced by their hands are treasured by their families, a legacy for their descendents.



This cupboard remained in the Crawford house on Thames St. S. when it was sold.



Detail of the chest pictured above.

The editor gratefully acknowledges the generosity of:

- . Jean Sutherland, who shared her memories.
- . Betty Crawford, whose mother's elaborately carved chest inspired the article, and who provided news clippings and photos.
- . Ken Hickey, who willingly allowed the editor to photograph his fireplaces. Unfortunately, the ineptitude of this amateur photographer relegated his fireplaces to mere prose.

THE EVOLUTION OF INGERSOLL

Incorporation as a village.....	1852
Incorporation as a town.....	1861
First weekly newspaper.....	1853
First daily newspaper.....	1879
Board of Trade established.....	1874
First railway service (GWR).....	1853
Second railway (CVR).....	1879
Third railway (CPR).....	1903
First gas supply.....	1896
First electricity.....	1900
Municipal takeover of electricity	1910
Ontario Hydro connection.....	1911
First electric interurban railway	1901
First waterworks.....	1891
Waterworks municipalized.....	1913
First sewage system.....	1948
First library service.....	1872
Carnegie Library built.....	1910
First public hospital built.....	1909

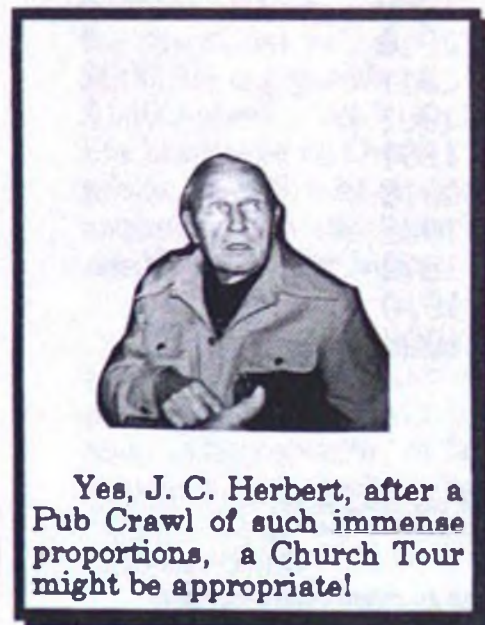
Of 388 municipalities in Ontario, Ingersoll ranked as follows chronologically:

- . 31st to be incorporated
- . 50th to receive weekly newspaper service
- . received railway service in 1st year of availability
- . 168th to receive electricity
- . 92nd to receive library service
- . 30th in population in 1901
- . 74th in population in 1961

POPULATION GROWTH

1851	1,190
1861	2,577
1871	4,022
1881	4,318
1891	4,191
1901	4,573
1911	4,763
1921	5,150
1931	5,233
1941	5,782
1951	6,524
1961	6,874
1971	7,783
1981	8,494

Source: Bloomfield, E., Bloomfield, G., & McCaskell, P. (1983). Urban growth and local services: The Development of Ontario municipalities to 1981. Guelph, ON: University of Guelph.



Yes, J. C. Herbert, after a Pub Crawl of such immense proportions, a Church Tour might be appropriate!

REMEMBER
 1995 memberships are now due
 \$ 10.00 single
 \$ 15.00 family
 The perfect Christmas gift!

THEN and NOW: KING ST. W.



1907



1918



1994

The Heritage Watch Continues: The Ingersoll Carnegie Library

BY JOHN THOMPSON

The recent announcement that Ingersoll will be getting a new library/administration complex comes as welcome tidings to those who have yearned for more spacious library quarters. The announcement, however, also raises serious questions about the fate of our town's historic Carnegie building, now in its 85th year of existence, and about the fate of heritage buildings in Ingersoll, generally.

The Carnegie library was the product of a \$10,000 grant from Andrew Carnegie, the fabulously wealthy American steel baron who, in a multi-million dollar binge of philanthropy beginning in the late 1800s, sponsored the building of over 2500 libraries worldwide, including 125 in Canada. 111 of these libraries were erected in Ontario between 1901 and 1917, with Ingersoll's opening to the public in July, 1910. Eight decades later, the classically-designed, red brick structure still stands as an impressive downtown landmark in Ingersoll. Unfortunately, despite the building's architectural charm, its walls have been outgrown by the needs of the reading public that it has long served so well.

In anticipation of funding approval for a new library facility, a delegation of directors from the Ingersoll and District Historical Society went before Town Council in early September of this year to express its support for the preservation of the Carnegie building. Pointing out that other Ontario municipalities had successfully converted former Carnegie libraries to productive community uses, the group encouraged Council to consider similar action. To highlight the building's historical value, Town Council was also urged to designate the Carnegie library as a local heritage building under the Ontario Heritage Act. Finally, it was proposed that, in the event of a private sale of the Town-owned building, Council insert a "heritage easement" into any agreement with a purchaser to guarantee that the significant exterior architectural features of the building would not be altered or destroyed.

Although Town Council was receptive to the concerns of the Historical Society, it resolved to do nothing in the face of an impending municipal election. With the election now over and the go-ahead for a new library confirmed, important decisions await the Carnegie building.

It is up to the Historical Society, as an organization of people who care about our town's heritage, to see that the incoming Council has the information and the impetus to properly make those decisions. Council should again be encouraged to officially declare the Carnegie library a historic building. This is not a complicated process, only requiring the completion of a report outlining the reasons for designation, followed by the passage of a heritage designation by-law. Designation would publicize the Carnegie building as a heritage asset, as well as make it eligible for possible restoration grants from the provincial government. Interested members of the Historical Society could assist Town staff with the preparation of the necessary background report.

If, after the new library is finished, Town Council cannot find a viable public use for the Carnegie building, the Historical Society should encourage Council to circulate a "request for proposals" in an effort to find a buyer who will be sympathetic to the building's heritage form. Further, it should ask for Council's clear assurance that a heritage easement will be included in any sale agreement. Such an easement would not affect the private enjoyment of the building nor the ability of the owner to sell, lease or otherwise deal with the structure; it would simply require that its heritage features remain intact. The heritage easement would also oblige the owner to undertake reasonable maintenance of the building to prevent its deterioration. In return for entering into and respecting the easement agreement, the owner could be offered property tax or zoning incentives by the Town.

It is interesting to note that the 1991 study of the Ingersoll Downtown Revitalization Committee was permeated with references to "heritage" and "history." The study, in effect, recognized the connection between healthy retail and tourist activity in Ingersoll and an architecturally pleasing, historically vibrant core.

The former Post Office. The former CPR station. The former Town Hall. These buildings were once key elements of Ingersoll's core. Now we speak of them in the past tense. Does it matter?

Yes.

It matters because a sense of place, a feeling of being at home, matters. And heritage buildings give us that. They are like familiar friends who we choose to think will always be around. They provide us with a gateway to our past, inspiration for our future, and a positive image both within and outside our community. In short, they help to make the town we live in special.

Heritage cannot be manufactured. It is irreplaceable. Once lost or altered, it's gone. And fake facades and historical gimmicks won't bring it back. That is why it's essential to be vigilant in protecting what we still have left of Ingersoll's significant historic buildings, starting with the Carnegie library. If the Carnegie building were to ever fall, like a domino the majestic Merchant's bank next door would surely fall too. Not far behind would be the CN railway station. And one day Ingersoll would be left without anything distinctive to set it apart from any other town in Ontario (or most of North America for that matter). The Carnegie building is thus a heritage bellwether. Its fate will signal whether the trend toward demolition that so often characterized the past 30 years in Ingersoll is to be continued or halted. Its future represents an opportunity for Town Council to show leadership in committing to the preservation of Ingersoll's heritage resources. The responsibility of the Historical Society is to work alongside of Council to that end.

Although our library may be moving, it would be wrong to close the book on the Carnegie building.



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RETROSPECT

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE
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MONDAY AND TUESDAY
AUGUST 11TH AND 12TH.

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY
AUGUST 13TH AND 14TH.

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NOAM BERRY
LLOYD HUGHES

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A Drama of Real Life
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The Kind of Picture You Have Been Waiting For

(Note) - Miss Dorothy Siple appears in this production.

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JUVENILE COMEDY LARRY SEMON IN
"SCOUT PLUCK" LIGHTING LOVE

Bring the Family and Your Friends-- All Will Enjoy It

MATINEES At 2.30
MON.--TUES.--WED.
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COVER DESIGN BY JACK SAVAGE

RETROSPECT

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE
INGERSOLL & DISTRICT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 2, No. 1

MARY FRANCIS, editor

April, 1995

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PATHWAY OF THE GIANTS

by WILSON JOHNSTON

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UNVEILED

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1995 EXECUTIVE

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OUR NEW LOGO

The logo of the Ingersoll and District Historical Society was unveiled to members at the March 28 meeting. Designed by auctioneer, artist and club member, William Hawkins, it portrays four historical buildings, set against the background of a maple leaf: the Town Hall, the Post Office, the Alexandra Hospital and the original log cabin inhabited by the Ingersoll family.

Cast in pewter, the logo will be displayed on plaques designating sites of historical and architectural significance. Initial designations will include the Niagara District Bank, the Merchants' Bank, the Norsworthy Building, the Smith House, the McIntyre building and the site of the original log cabin of the Ingersoll family.



ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL



The James Noxon home, built in 1874 at the corner of Thames Street and Noxon Street, was purchased in 1909, becoming Ingersoll's 4th hospital. At that time it had 16 beds and averaged 120 patients per year. Deemed too small for a larger population, it was replaced by a modern facility in 1950, and demolished in 1951 to provide parking for the new hospital.

POST OFFICE (1898-99)

The Post Office was built on the south west corner of Thames and Charles Streets on a site left vacant when the Royal Exchange Hotel burned in 1872. The building was constructed of terra cotta brick, accented with stone. An imposing clock tower dominated the corner. Joseph Gibson, the first Postmaster in the new building, held the post for nearly 50 years. The building was demolished following the construction of the new Federal Post Office in 1960-61, at its present location on Charles St. W.



. photo courtesy of Mrs. H. Whitwell

TOWN HALL (1856-57)



INGERSOLL TOWN HALL 1856

Shortly after the incorporation of the village of Ingersoll in 1852, the community's first municipal hall was built on this lot. Destroyed by fire in February 1859, it was replaced by the present building. This structure, designed by John McMillen was erected in 1856-57. Its commodious auditorium was used for public meetings by such provincial figures as Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first prime minister, John Brown, the American abolitionist, Robert Gourlay, the radical reformer, Thomas D'Arcy McGee and George Brown, Fathers of Confederation and the noted Canadian statesmen Alexander Mackenzie and Sir Francis Hincks. This town hall built in the Italianate style remains today a characteristic example of the province's early municipal buildings.

.photos courtesy of Stuart Little

After much debate the historic, 132 year-old building was razed in 1988.

THOMAS INGERSOLL'S LOG CABIN

The original log cabin of the Ingersoll family is thought to have been located on Thames Street, approximately where the gazebo now stands. Although a precise date of construction is difficult to establish, it was likely constructed in the first decade of the 19th century.

PATHWAY OF THE GIANTS

The Ingersoll Museum is mounting an exciting exhibit, to open in May. For the next 5 years the facility will be home to an imposing work by artist, **Wilson Johnston** (1919-1994). Entitled "**Pathway of the Giants**", the carving depicts the difficulties encountered by the Swiss Dunker sect as they migrated from Pennsylvania to Southern Ontario in the 18th century.

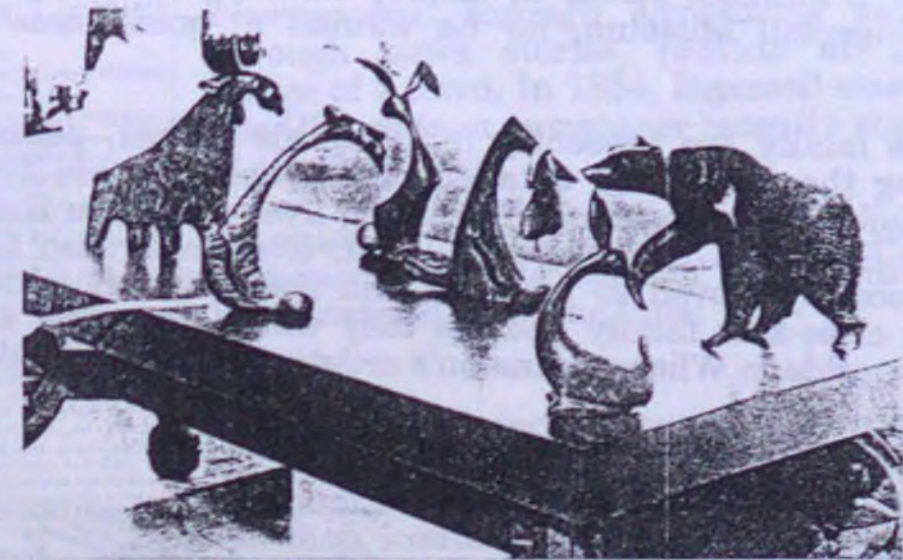
It is difficult to convey in print the impact of this work, which extends more than 20 feet in length. Before beginning the sculpture, Johnston carried out extensive research, ensuring that each detail is historically accurate - every harness, every wagon, every wheel. Even the leaves on the trees are of wood, individually glued in place. When the display is complete, information cards will describe to visitors what is happening in each of the vignettes.



This scene shows two settlers trying to free their wagon which has become mired in the mud as they ford a riverbed.

The sculpture was a project undertaken by Johnston in his "retirement". He had previously earned an international reputation as one of Canada's foremost wood sculptors, whose works were frequently commissioned as gifts for visiting royalty and political figures. Born in Cambridge in 1919, he displayed artistic ability at an early age, winning a prize at the Canadian National Exhibition at age 8. Over the years Johnston experimented with various media before finding his niche as a sculptor of wood.

Johnston was one of the few "spindle carvers" in North America, employing one of the oldest methods of wood carving. The following excerpt from a brochure published in 1972 by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, describes this aspect of his art.



When Wilson Johnston, one of Canada's foremost wood sculptors, sits down to work he has hundreds of years at his fingertips.

For Wilson Johnston is one of the few remaining spindle carvers in North America and virtually the only artist to make his living with a spindle. And spindle carving is one of the oldest methods of wood carving known.

In his shop in Virgil, Niagara-on-the-Lake, about 10 miles from Niagara Falls, Ontario, he creates works of art that have won numerous awards and brought him international recognition. His carvings can today be found in private and public collections in many countries including the official Japanese collection and the collection of Lord Louis Mountbatten of Britain's Royal Family.

His spindle, a concept of carving which was known to the ancient Egyptians and probably is even older than that, is a slim, horizontal shaft with a detachable cutting head that rotates at about 10,000 rpm. The wood is carved by pressing it at varying pressures against the swiftly spinning cutting head that can be changed to give an almost infinite variety of shapes.

Wilson Johnston has about 130 different cutting heads (one of the most complete collections in North America) and these are the oldest and most valuable parts of his equipment. "You can't buy anything like these today," he says. "They came from Germany more than 100 years ago and were probably made long before that."

Spindle carving was used extensively in the furniture industry to carve designs in furniture frames but more modern automatic equipment has since taken over and there are hardly any craftsmen left. Mr. Johnston had to learn the craft on his own, developing techniques to meet his needs.

However, Wilson Johnston is much more than a craftsman. He is an artist. He creates whatever his imagination and artistic talent dictate. "In art, I use all forms - Victorian, classical, abstract - whatever strikes me as suitable for a particular subject."

Among his creations is a distinctly Canadian chess set (now in a private German collection) in which the pieces are all animals native to Canada - the king and queen are bears, the rooks are racoons, the knights are weasels, the bishops are skunks and the pawns are beavers.

Another piece is a magnificent, six-foot sculpture of running horses, 21 of them (a stallion and 20 mares).

A few years ago Wilson Johnston was asked to design and carve a trophy for an unusual annual beauty contest.

The result was a statuesque young lady in wood, symbolically nude, for the Miss Nude World Annual Pageant.

Johnston's ties to Ingersoll run deep. With his wife, Madeline, and young family, Wilson moved to Ingersoll in 1959, living on Canterbury Street until 1967, when they moved to Embro. Their first store occupied the diminutive log cabin on Highway 19, west of Ingersoll. Customers came to browse and stayed to chat. Although his career took his family to other areas, Johnston had a soft spot in his heart for Ingersoll. Following a move to a Senior's apartment in Woodstock, he searched for a suitable venue to display Pathway of the Giants. He chose the Ingersoll Museum, for he wanted a "good home" for the sculpture.

Wilson's family are presently fulfilling his wishes, painstakingly reassembling the piece from detailed photographs. Of his 5 children, Jane and Kelly live in Ingersoll; Wilson Jr. lives nearby in Embro, and Lance near Stratford. Lizzane, a biologist, lives in British Columbia. Madeline recently moved to Ingersoll and lives with daughter, Jane. They are a close-knit family and, as they wield glue guns and paint rollers, their pride in Wilson Johnston's artistic heritage is evident.

This exhibit must be seen to be fully appreciated. Words alone cannot do justice to the skill of the artist. Ingersoll is truly blessed to be home to 'Pathway of the Giants'. Don't miss the opening May 21.



Wilson Johnston

FURTHER READING about the Swiss Dunker sect:

Reaman, G. E. (1957). The trail of the black walnut. ON: McClelland & Stewart Ltd.

INGERSOLL, in 1854

BY DOUG PALMER

The Ingersoll Chronicle

General Intelligence for the County of Oxford
 IN PUBLISHED WEEKLY
SATURDAY MORNING AT 9 O'CLOCK.
 At the Office, Caledonia House, Thames Street, Ingersoll, by the proprietor,
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 Each subsequent insertion 0 7 1/2
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 Each subsequent insertion 0 10
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 Each subsequent insertion, per line 0 1
 Advertisements without written instructions inserted until forbid, and charged accordingly.
 A liberal discount allowed merchants and others who advertise by the year.

Newspapers, through advertising as much as through news stories, provide an interesting image of a town. In 1854, Ingersoll was served by the Chronicle, a newspaper recently started by J. S. Gurnett.

By studying the ads in the Chronicle we can gain a measure of the type of commercial activity being carried on at the time:

C.P. Hall, grandson of one of Ingersoll's earliest settlers, carried on a jewelry business in competition with John Barnett who boasted that his shop, located near the first Post Office at King and Thames, had been established in 1817.

There was also competition in the drug and patent medicine business between O.B. Caldwell's "Sign of the Red Mortar" and Chapman's "Golden Mortar".

Ms M.A. Hughes invited Ingersoll ladies to visit her new showroom on King Street, where she was exhibiting a new shipment of finery from New York. Her competitors operated a millinery shop in the Caledonia House, owned by John McDonald and his brothers.

Watches and Jewelry!
 To inform those of Ingersoll and surrounding country, that he has made up a large stock of the best, and is now receiving a splendid supply of Gold and Silver Watches, Guards, Chains, Seals and Keys, and assortment of Breast Pins, Brooches, Bracelets, Gold Pens and Pencils, and assortment of
Silver and Electro Plate,
 for elegance and durability. MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS in great variety, such as Flutes and Fiddles, Musical Boxes, &c. As well as a large assortment of
HOUSEHOLD GOODS
 of every thing used in the household or bar.
 The best lot of **MERCHAUM PIPES**, with accoutrements, ever offered in Ingersoll, and Watches cleaned and annually repaired, and country orders punctually attended to.
 August 26, 1854.
C. P. HALL.

Ingersoll Drug Store.
SIGN OF THE GOLDEN MORTAR!
J. M. CHAPMAN,
 Chemist and Druggist, Thames Street, Ingersoll, who may be had Drugs and Chemicals of the best quality, together with Perfumery, Patent Medicines, and Stationery of all descriptions. Physicians' and Family prescriptions accurately prepared at all hours.
 August 26, 1854.

MEDICAL HALL,
 Sign of the **RED MORTAR,**
 Commercial Buildings, King Street, Ingersoll.
O. B. CALDWELL
 TAKE this opportunity of returning his sincere thanks to the people of Ingersoll and surrounding country for the very liberal patronage he has received since commencing here, and hopes by strict attention to business, and always keeping on hand a pure article to merit a share of public patronage. He has a splendid assortment of
DRUGS,
 Chemicals, Dye-Staffs, Patent Medicines, PAINTS, OILS, PERFUMERY, Hair and Tooth Brushes, Dressing and Side Combs, &c., on hand at present.
 Dye-Staffs warranted, if used in accordance with the printed directions. No colour, no pay! Physicians and Family prescriptions accurately prepared.
 Physicians supplied with Medicines on reasonable terms.
BOOK AND STATIONERY,
 Comprising Blank Books, Deeds, Mortgage, School Books, Writing and Wrapping Papers, Steel Pens, Ink, &c. Also, a number of useful and entertaining works by the best authors.
Bookbinding
 In all its branches, executed neatly and on reasonable terms.
 Ingersoll, August 12, 1854.

INSPECTION IS INVITED!—COMPETITION IS DEFIED!

FALL DRY GOODS,
CLOTHING, GROCERIES, &c. &c. &c.
CAN NOW BE PURCHASED AT
MARSHALL & SLAWSON'S,
KING STREET, INGERSOLL,
At 20 per cent. Lower than at any other House.

HAVING purchased an immense stock of Dry Goods under considerable advantages, they are now prepared to offer the same at such prices which cannot fail to ensure the greatest amount of satisfaction. By strictly honest principles and a systematic style of business, they feel determined to meet with the confidence of the people of Ingersoll and the public generally.

"Small Profits and Quick Returns."
Being now the order of the day, M. & S. instead acting up to that unregarded motto. The public will do well to inspect their immense stock of

DRY GOODS,
All of which were purchased for cash from the **FIRST MARKETS IN THE WORLD.**
The Tailoring Department

is now in its fullest vigor; the English principles are strictly adhered to, the price being charged for the cloth, separate from making and trimmings. A large stock of

Ready-made Clothing
Always on hand, the price of which we defy any house to compete with. The extensive stock of

GROCERIES
is selected from the best English and American Markets, and comprises articles of first class quality at moderate prices. It will be of the most important advantage for parties who study economy to pay a visit to this establishment. **NO TWO PRICES.** Come at once. Mark the address—

MARSHALL & SLAWSON,
Next door to Brown & Galliford's, King St., Ingersoll.
Nov. 9, 1854. 121f

HOPE MACNIVEN
INVITES particular attention to his **NEW STOCK** of
Summer Dry Goods & Groceries
Which he is happy to say he will be enabled to sell at unusually low prices.
THE MILLINERY AND CLOAK DEPARTMENT
Is now placed in a state of efficiency that for style and execution will compare favorably with the best establishments in the large cities, and at much lower rates.
Ingersoll, June 2, 1854. 42

The male inhabitants of Ingersoll were offered tailoring by Samuel Poole, John Morrison and newcomer, John Boles. Tailoring for the men of Ingersoll must have been lucrative, for both Poole and Morrison were in the process of building new three-storey brick buildings on Thames Street.

The shoe business appears to have been equally profitable, as Brown and Galliford were advertising for no less than 20 journeymen shoemakers for their establishment.

There were, as well, cabinet makers, glaziers, saddle makers and dry goods shops. Ingersoll, which today boasts more than its share of do-nut shops, must have had a sweet tooth in the nineteenth century as well, for there were a number of bakery and confectionery shops on both King and Thames Streets.

INGERSOLL BAKERY
JAMES BROWN,
Baker and Confectioner, Corner of King and Water Streets,
BEGS to intimate to the Inhabitants of Ingersoll and the surrounding country, that he keeps every thing connected with his line of business constantly on hand, at Wholesale and Retail.
WEDDING CAKES MADE TO ORDER AT THE SHORTEST NOTICE.

New Dry Goods and Grocery ESTABLISHMENT,
THAMES STREET, (WEST SIDE,) INGERSOLL.
The Subscriber begs to inform the residents of Ingersoll and surrounding country, that he has just opened out a large and well selected Stock of
Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware Crockery, Glassware, &c. &c.
Which, from the very favorable terms on which they were purchased, he will be enabled to sell at improved and **LOW PRICES.** His stock of Dry Goods embraces every variety and style, and his Groceries and Hardware Departments will be found very complete.
ALL KINDS OF FARM PRODUCE BOUGHT AND SOLD.
An early call is respectfully solicited.
REMEMBER THE ADDRESS—
GEORGE F. HUNTER,
Opposite J. McDonald & Bros., Thames Street.
Ingersoll, October 27, 1854.

NOTICE.
SELLING OFF: GREAT REDUCTION FOR CASH!
THE Subscriber being about to make a change in his business, would hereby return his sincere acknowledgments to his friends and the public for their past favors, and acquaint them that the whole of his stock, consisting of
Dry Goods, Clothing, Groceries, Hardware, &c.
WILL BE SOLD OFF at a **GREAT REDUCTION** for Cash and Notes payable in January, 1855, to meet the anticipated change at that time. The stock of **WOOLEN** and General **DRY GOODS** is repurchased with as good an assortment as was ever brought into this place.
The Tailoring business will hereafter be carried on opposite his present Store.
SAMUEL POOLE.
All Bank Accounts and Notes now due must be paid immediately, or they will be put in suit for collection the next Division Court.
Ingersoll, November 6, 1854. 122f

TWENTY GOOD JOURNEMEN SHOE-MAKERS WANTED.
WAGES paid Weekly in Cash. Apply to
BROWN & GALLIFORD,
Ingersoll, October 11, 1854. 81

Boots and Shoes.
A **LARGE** assortment of Ladies' **BOOTS** and **SHOES**, in Enamel, Patent Leather and Cloth. Also, Women's and Misses' Heavy Shoes, and a large variety of Children's sizes, will be found at the
NEW STORE,
THAMES STREET, INGERSOLL.
GEORGE F. HUNTER.
Ingersoll, October 28, 1854. 111f

The major economic development of the period was the establishment of a station for the Great Western Railway in Ingersoll. As early as 1854, building programs indicate that the commercial hub of the village was shifting from King and Thames northward to Charles and Thames. The recently built Royal Exchange Hotel at the latter corner was a worthy rival to the Daly House at King and Oxford. Within a decade more hotels would spring up near the rail line while hotels like the Carroll House on King Street (See **PUB TOUR OF DOWNTOWN INGERSOLL** vol. 1, pp 4,5), would suffer from the decline of stage business.

HOTEL FOR SALE
IN INGERSOLL.
THE well known House, known as "Carroll's Hotel," Ingersoll, is offered for sale. The reputation of the House being that of a first class Hotel, and there not being a better or more commodious house in town, presents an inducement to a person wishing to engage in a remunerative business seldom offered. The above property will be exchanged for land, or sold on reasonable terms. For further particulars apply to the proprietor.
Immediate possession will be given.
R. H. CARROLL,
Ingersoll, Feb. 22nd, 1855. 271f

RE-OPENING
CARROLL'S HOTEL.
INGERSOLL, C. W.
THE undersigned begs to inform the traveling community and the public at large that he has entirely refitted, furnished and repaired the first-class house known as "Carroll's Hotel," Ingersoll, which is **NOW OPEN** for the accommodation of the public. No pains or expense has been spared in making this one of the most comfortable Hotels in Canada West.
Public Patronage is Solicited!
An Omnibus is attached to the Hotel, to convey passengers to and from the Depot free of charge.
R. H. CARROLL,
Proprietor.
Ingersoll, May, 1855. 392f

CARROLL HOTEL,
KING STREET, INGERSOLL.
THE undersigned respectfully announces to the traveling Public, that he has purchased this first-class Hotel from Mr. R. H. Carroll, and will spare no pains or expense in rendering it as comfortable as possible to those who may honor him with their patronage. The rooms are large and commodious, and it will be the constant aim of the present proprietor to make the "Carroll Hotel" superior in accommodation to any house west of Hamilton.
An Omnibus is attached to the Hotel, to convey passengers to and from the Depot free of charge.
ISAAC MOTT, Proprietor.
Ingersoll, Nov. 22, 1855. 118f

Through the ads in the Chronicle, one can follow the decline and eventual sale of the Carroll House, a victim of the shift from stage travel to rail travel.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY!
FROM WINDSOR TO NIAGARA FALLS
ALTERATION OF TRAINS
Going East
DAILY TRAIN
ON AND AFTER MONDAY, 11th Sept. 1854, Trains to run as follows:
Leaves London at 7:00 a.m.
Ingersoll 7:45
Cahoon 8:30
Galt 9:15
Hamilton 10:00
Arrives at Suspension Bridge (N. Falls) 11:00 a.m.
Night Express
Leaves Windsor at 7:25 a.m.
London at 8:10
Ingersoll 8:55
Hamilton at 9:40
Arrives at Suspension Bridge (N. Falls) 10:30 a.m.
Night Express
Leaves Windsor at 6:55 a.m.
London at 7:40
Hamilton at 8:25
Arrives at Suspension Bridge (N. Falls) 9:10 a.m.
A Passenger Car will be attached to Freight train leaving Windsor for London at 8:30 p.m. and London for Hamilton at 9:30 p.m. and Hamilton for Suspension Bridge at 10:30 p.m.
Going West
DAILY TRAIN
Leaves Suspension Bridge (N. Falls) at 10:30 a.m.
Hamilton at 11:15
Ingersoll at 12:00
London at 12:45
Arrives at Windsor at 1:30
Night Express
Leaves Suspension Bridge (N. Falls) at 8:30 a.m.
Hamilton at 9:15
Cahoon 10:00
Galt 10:45
Ingersoll at 11:30
Arrives at London at 12:15
Night Express
Leaves Suspension Bridge (N. Falls) at 11:00 a.m.

There were no advertisements in the Chronicle for stages running east to Brantford, whereas the Great Western Railway advertised the Windsor to Niagara run, with stops in London, Brantford and Hamilton. A connection with the Great Western at Paris provided a traveller access to the Buffalo-Brantford Railway with subsequent connections to the American rail system.

BUFFALO AND BRANTFORD
THE SHORTEST & QUICKEST ROUTE BETWEEN
BUFFALO & DETROIT
BY THE
BUFFALO AND BRANTFORD RAILWAY!
In connection with the
Great Western Railway at Paris
ON and after Monday, 24th inst. Two Trains will run daily (Sundays excepted), leaving the new Depot on Erie street, Buffalo, at 10:10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., and Paris at 1:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., or immediately on the arrival of the Express Trains from Detroit.
A Freight and Accommodation Train will leave Paris at 9:50 a.m. and Fort Erie at 5:00 p.m. Passengers by Accommodation Trains going West of Brantford will take the Night Express to Paris, and the Accommodation Train will leave Brantford for Paris at 8:30 next morning.
The Company's steamer "International" will leave the Michigan Central Dock, Buffalo, with Freight and Emigrants at 4:00 p.m.
N. H. Train runs connects with the several Eastern Lines terminating in Buffalo, and the Michigan Central to Chicago.
WILLIAM WALLACE,
Superintendent.
Buffalo, July 21, 1854. 21f
Buffalo & Brantford Railway
Change of Time.
TRAINS LEAVE BRANTFORD AS FOLLOWS:
Going East
Accommodation Train 10:10 A.M.
Day Express 1:30 P.M.
N. H. Train 4:30 P.M.

1854.
Steamboat Notice.

HAMILTON, Toronto, Darlington, Port Hope, Cobourg, Kingston, Cape Vincent and Ogdensburg. The following Steamers (carrying the mail) will form a daily line, and run as follows, viz:—

MAGNET, Capt. Henry Tenby—Leave Hamilton every Monday and Thursday, at 7 A. M., leave Toronto at noon.

ARABIAN, Capt. Colclough—Leave Hamilton every Tuesday and Friday, at 7 A. M., leave Toronto at noon.

PASSPORT, Captain Harbottle—Leave Hamilton every Wednesday and Saturday, at 7 A. M., leave Toronto at noon.

Touching at Darlington, Port Hope and Cobourg (when the weather permits) arriving at Kingston next morning, when a steamer will be in readiness to carry passengers to Cape Vincent or Ogdensburg. All freight payable on delivery.

Returning will leave Kingston daily, (Sundays excepted) so as to connect with the Great Western Railway.
June 9, 1854.

HAMILTON AND TORONTO,
CALLING AT
Wellington Square, Oakville,
And Credit.



HIGHLANDER

CAPT. M'DRIDE,
WILL leave Hamilton every morning (Sundays excepted) at 7 o'clock. Returning, will leave Toronto at 3 1/2 o'clock. P. M., calling at the above ports, going and returning, weather permitting.

G. B. HOLLAND,
Agent.
June 9, 1854.

TORONTO, KINGSTON AND OGDENSBURGH.

STEAMER "BOSTON,"
CAPT. SINCLAIR,

WILL leave Hamilton every Monday, at 12 o'clock noon, for Toronto, Kingston and Ogdensburg, calling at intermediate ports, weather permitting.

Returning, will leave Ogdensburg every Thursday evening, at 7 o'clock.

STEAMER "MAYFLOWER,"
CAPT. MACDONALD,

WILL leave Hamilton every Thursday, at 12 o'clock noon, for Toronto, Kingston

Steam boat service was available to almost all ports on Lake Ontario from Hamilton. Plans were already afoot for a southern line to connect with Tillsonburg and Port Burwell.

It was the stage coach business that still provided service for travellers heading south. A coach left Ingersoll at 9 a.m. each morning, delivering passengers to Vienna in 14 hours for the price of \$1.25. From Vienna one could get to Port Burwell and access to steam boat service around Lake Erie. Doty's stage line still operated to London, but it took 8 hours by road and much less by rail.

Ingersoll must have been growing in 1854. The new buildings being erected by Poole and Morrison have already been noted. Brick three-storey buildings were also being built by Browett, on the site of the old King Street Post Office, and by Warren Harris on Thames Street between King and Charles. There were also numerous frame buildings being built, prompting the editor of the Chronicle to remark prophetically that it was time that Ingersoll organize a fire department.

In October of 1854, an auction was held for the sale of 150 new lots on Wonham, Merritt, Ann and Albert Streets, paving the way for the development of the southwest part of town. This had been land owned by Charles Ingersoll which, at his death, had passed into the hands of his wife's family, the Merritts of St. Catherines.

Mail Stage.

STAGES leave Ingersoll every morning and afternoon at 8 A. M., and 4 P. M., (after the arrival of the express trains from the East and West) for Mount Elgin, Tillsonburg, Eden, Bradfordville, Vienna and Port Burwell. Leave Port Burwell every day at 6 A. M., and 1 P. M.

The morning stage from Ingersoll runs in connection with the steamer between Port Burwell and Hulsburg and Cleveland.

NTAGE leaves Ingersoll every Monday Wednesday and Friday, at 11 o'clock, A. M. Leaves St. Mary every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, at 5 A. M., and arrives in Ingersoll in time for the 12 o'clock train going East and West.

E. DOTY.
Ingersoll, May, 1865.

The editorials of the Chronicle reflect the major political event of 1854. Francis Hincks, arguably the most prominent politician in the history of Oxford County, resigned his south Oxford seat to run in Renfrew County. Mr. Gurnett, ardent and loyal Reform Party supporter, deplored the loss of Hincks, but supported his proposed successor, Malcolm Cameron. However, Cameron soon announced his intention to leave public life and the Reformers divided over Dr. Ephraim Cook of Norwich and another candidate named Van Norman, from Dereham township. Gurnett urged the candidacy of Van Norman but loyally switched his support to Cook when he won quite handily.

1854 was a good year for Ingersoll reflecting events far beyond its borders. The predicted economic disaster arising from the repeal of the Imperial Economic Protections had not materialized. War in far off Crimea brought a steady demand for North American agricultural commodities. The arrival of the Great Western Railroad had stimulated economic growth in Ingersoll. Gurnett and others thought that Ingersoll's future rivalled that of both Woodstock and London. Consideration was already being given to making the village of Ingersoll a town. In 1854, the future did indeed look very bright.

TO THE WARMERS, MECHANICS, HOTEL KEEPERS,
And Inhabitants generally of the County of Oxford.

THE subscriber begs to intimate to the above parties that he is prepared to offer them a first rate assortment of
Teas, Sugars, Coffees, Tobaccos, Hops, Soap,
And other Dry Groceries, together with an extensive stock of
Port and Sherry Wines, BROWN AND PALE BRANDIES, HOLLAND GIN, JAMAICA RUM, SCOTCH WHISKY,
&c. &c.

Which, having been purchased previous to the late advance in prices, he is enabled to sell very cheap.
Remember the address—
Alex. D.

KEEPING PACE WITH THE TIMES.
No. 2, Commercial Buildings, King Street, Ingersoll.

W. H. LANPHIER,
In various woods and many patterns. Furniture of all kinds made to order on the premises. Ware Rooms nearly opposite "Carnell's Hotel," King Street, Ingersoll, July 12, 1854.

Fancy Dry Goods
A very large and complete assortment of
for quality and cheapness he will leave the
Tobacco, Snuff, Fruits, &c.

NEW DRY GOODS STORE,
MONROE'S NEW BUILDINGS,
King Street, Ingersoll, C. W.

THE Subscriber having taken one of the
Stores lately erected by S. H. King, intends to open the same on the 8th of November next, with new and well selected stock of
Staples & Fancy DRY GOODS
Ready-Made Clothing,
&c. &c.

All of which will be disposed of on the very lowest terms.
W. W. H.
A call is respectfully requested
Ingersoll, October 20, 1854.

JAMES MCINTYRE,
IN Returning thanks for the very liberal patronage bestowed upon him, respectfully informs that in addition to his extensive stock of common Furniture of every description, he has just received a great variety of finely carved, Mahogany and Walnut, Spring-bottomed
Chairs, Sofas, Tete-a-tetes, MATTRESSES, &c. &c.
Also on hand, a great assortment of French, Bedsteads, Bureaus, Centre Tables, &c. &c. In various woods and many patterns. Furniture of all kinds made to order on the premises. Ware Rooms nearly opposite "Carnell's Hotel," King Street, Ingersoll, July 12, 1854.

TO THE INDEPENDENT ELECTORS OF THE South Riding of Oxford.

GENTLEMEN: A vacancy having occurred in the representation of your Riding, I have been solicited by many influential citizens, to seek the high honor of representing you in the Provincial Parliament.

Though not a resident among you, yet, a long connection with your County has locally identified my interests with yours, and my political principles are not altogether unknown to you, and, I trust, may be found in harmony with those of my Brother Electors of this Riding.

In seeking your suffrages it would be but right that my views, on the leading questions of the day, should be set before you. A brief statement for a full and religious history, on the true acceptance of the term, I believe that religious equality as respects the State, is the only one essential to our social happiness, and, though formerly attached to the United Church of England and Ireland, to which I belong, I am yet desirous that my acquaintance with the State, should be removed, & satisfied as I am, that in relying only on the purity of her doctrine, and the purity of her Clergy she has nothing to dread.

The Secularization of the Clergy Reserve has long been agitated. Recent events in parliament have rendered individual opinion, upon this subject, now of little moment; but did their fate rest with me, I would cheerfully support any measure for the secularization of the lands, vesting the value of proceeds, in such manner, as might for ever secure them for Educational objects, or the strictly necessary purposes of Protestantism—at the will of the Legislature.—By the latter restriction, granting to the scattered settlers, in the Bush, these gospel administrations which, in well settled localities, the population may be able and willing to provide for themselves.

There is one other subject, of importance to all who demand a total abolition of protection, as well as trade, but I would not insist upon that, that their views are altogether with that religious equality which they also desire. To be consistent, they should secularize all church property or more, dealing, at such times and in the manner, with the rich endowments of the Church of Rome and the paltry Treasuries of Protestantism.

We have all witnessed, with surprise, the heavy taxation to which the County has been subjected in latter years, although there has been a large surplus of income tax and other expenditures in which it has been. I believe, in common with you, to be so grievous an abuse corrected—taxation reduced—a judicious retrenchment of the public expenditure, wherever practicable—and a judicious outlay, wherever outlay may be justifiable, for the better development of our resources.

In Canada these resources are vast, if not inexhaustible. Her trade and commerce, even in her infant state, are considerable. If manufactures are prospering around us. Then, the freedom of trade and facility for intercommunication are essential. Every effort, therefore, should be made to remove those restrictions which impede our advantageous commercial intercourse with other countries; and everything done to facilitate it by the encouragement of navigation in our noble waters—the construction of railroads—and the more general opening of inland communication. By the latter, in particular, your local prosperity must be increased, and in these, your representative should devote particular attention.

Responsible Government is the key stone of that British Liberty which we prize. It has been more effectively secured to us by the late increase of the Representation and extension of the elective Franchise; but, to preserve it in its integrity, we need representation based on population, and a reconstruction of the Legislative Council.

National, or class legislation I believe to be incompatible with a wholesome state of society, and though these Provinces are legally united, they can be so, in reality, until the same principles of Government be gradually extended to both sections of the Province, and their interests are identified—then we may hope to see our fellow subjects in the Lower Province, as energetic, intelligent and prosperous as ourselves.

The simplification and reduction of our laws, I believe to be much required, and, I would desire to see the administration of them, ever preserved to the hands of men of talent and character, placed above the reach of temptation or the influence of party.

Gentlemen—There are my views upon the leading questions which are agitating the public mind, and which, if placed in the good position of the

Caution.
THE public are hereby cautioned not to trust, on my account, my wife, KATHARINE LOTT, who has left my bed and board with out any just cause or provocation, as I will not be responsible for any debts she may contract after this date.
WILLIAM LOTT.
Dorchester, March 19, 1858.



VIEWS OF THAMES STREET



... KING STREET ...

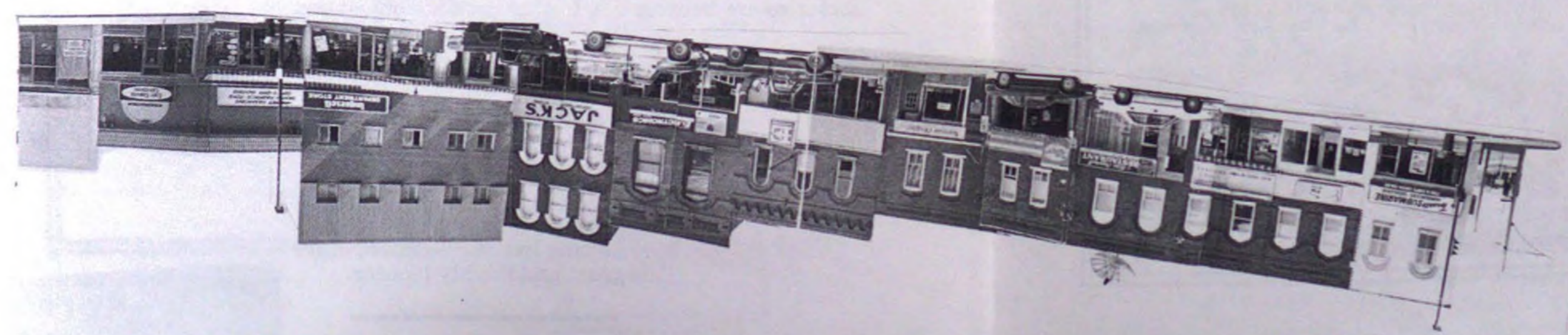


THAMES STREET





..... 1995



... CHARLES STREET ..



FROM KING TO CHARLES



POET OF THE CANADIAN PASTURE FIELDS



James McIntyre

The cheese industry was a recurring theme in the writings of our "poet of the Canadian pasture fields", James McIntyre. The following is an excerpt from McIntyre's Poems, published in 1889.

As cheese making first began in this county and it has already become the chief industry of many counties, it is no insignificant theme. About the middle of this century Canada was a great importer of cheese, and now cheese is the principal article of export from the Province of Ontario, and this Province will soon export no less than ten millions of dollars worth of cheese per annum. Mr. Ranney was doing a thriving business in the dairy line, manufacturing cheese after the century was half gone on the dairy plan from the products of his own cows, and one decade later Mr. Farrington introduced the factory system. Both of these gentlemen have departed this life but Canada is enjoying the fruits of their labors, and about eight hundred cheese factories are in operation in this Province of Ontario.

RANNEY, 1856, DAIRY SYSTEM

Ranney began with just two cows,
Which he in winter fed on browse,
And now he hath got mighty herds
Numerous as flock of birds,
May he long live our hearts to cheer
This great and mighty pioneer.



18



FARRINGTON, 1866, FACTORY SYSTEM

The farmers they now all make rich
Since Farrington went to Norwich,
And the system first there began
Of making cheese on factory plan;
He came from Herkimer county,
To Canada he was a bounty;
Norwich village moved but slow,
Till railways made it quickly grow,
And industries here now take root,
The township's famous for its fruit.

Among the earliest champions of the Factory System of making cheese were Messrs. Chadwick, Casswell and Ballantyne. The North Oxford Company were awarded the highest honor at the Centennial Exhibition. Messrs. J. L. Grant & Co. have a fine large cold storage warehouse on the G.T.R., and the C.P.R. have erected one on their line, which is leased by Mr. Riley. Ingersoll being the great dairy centre of Ontario it was deemed requisite to have those facilities for preserving the cheese in the hot season. The following is a list of the most prominent cheese factories in the district and the salesmen thereof:

Dereham and West Oxford - W. Nancekivell.
Harris Street - T. R. Mayberry.
W. Oxford - G. Galloway.
N. Oxford - D. J. Dundass.
Maple Leaf - Thomas Caddy.
W. Zorra - John Blair.
Burnside - H. George.
Gore - H. C. Hopkins.
Salford - Foster & Gregg.
Mt. Elgin - W. Tripp.
Brownsville - Hopkins & Fulton.
Prouse's - T. Prouse.
Kintore - G. Alderson.
Harrietsville - R. Facey.
East Nissouri - W. J. Walker.
Cold Springs - H. Matheson.
Dorchester - L. D. Monk.
Lawson - N. Wilford.
Wilkinson - J. H. Wilkinson.
Dereham and Norwich Union - W. Fewster.
Verschoyle - James Hunter.
Avon and Firby - W. Kirkly.
Thamesford - F. Patterson.
Lyons - James Mitchell.
Lakeside - T. Marshall.
Belmont - John Evans.
Cherry Hill - H. Webster.



19

To Bare or Not to Bare



FROM THE MEMOIRS OF ABIGAIL HUNT SHEARER (1896-1992)

The period 1908 -1912 saw a strange new sight - arms to the elbows were emerging, as was the neck. True, in society magazines bare arms and totally bare, low necks and shoulders had always been in evidence - but that was different. It was associated with royalty, dreamy waltzes and operas. This was everyday life and living!

There were no ready made dresses. The same seamstress, at \$1.00 per day, went from home to home, remaining overnight and working on the handwork in the evening. She brought around her big fashion book and was scrupulous in warning us which pattern each of our confreres had already selected. We, like the president's wife did not want to emerge in duplicate gowns.

But now the Spring fashion book was showing something new - sleeves to the elbow and neckline around the base of the neck, no longer just below the ears. What a reprieve for the dressmaker! Would we - did we - dare bite? "To bare or not to bare" became the issue. Whether 'twere better to risk exposure of our flesh and thus proclaim that we thought our arms and neck were beautiful (much discussion had led us to the decision that only girls with a beautiful arm or neck should discard the higher and longer lengths) or play it safe and not risk the chance of having to wear last year's dress if the style proved unpopular.



The Wilford sisters model the height of fashion circa 1895.

The dressmaker couldn't risk it, nor could we. We compromised. We made the dress elbow length and the neck lowered. We bought white eyelet embroidered goods and had long sleeves and high dickey made, which we stitched in. If the "body expose" caught on we were prepared to remove them. Our caution and foresight in not making them permanent proved commendable. The lower arm and neck emerged, and we soon were able to regard each other completely oblivious to our respective bone structure claim to beauty.

Did we throw away our eyelet embroidery annexations? Did we indulge in an orgy of cotton burning to celebrate our emmanicipation? Such nonsense! The very astuteness "to play it safe" which had inspired their creation survived. We kept them. How could we be sure, absolutely, that next year's fashion would not signal their compulsory return? A freed Roman slave never could quite believe that his freedom would endure, so who were we to trust the tyrant, Style?

Besides, had we not already spent many hours painstakingly lowering our skirts from exactly boot top length to one inch above or below the boot top for years. What if sleeve length did likewise? But the arm was here to stay.

The "bare to the shoulder" did not arrive for years. We had to accustom ourselves to the lower arm before we dared to display the upper. Again most of us approached this new risque style with diffidence. Again we played it safe. Styles saw sleeves halfway to the shoulder, or the kimona sleeve, but in 1922 fashion again went haywire. No sleeve at all! Was my upper arm too fat? Did my small pox mark show? Wish he hadn't clapped it square on the top of my shoulder! By design or acumen, that same year they decreed the cape collar, huge and wide, draping like a shawl half way down the arm. Many a dress had the short undersleeve removed as the season advanced; propinquity to many bare arms wore off that naked feeling!

1924, 25 - A new era of decision arose. This time it featured the hair - To Bob or Not to Bob - This question bore Biblical overtones. St. Paul had never mentioned arms, legs or necks but he repeatedly denounced a woman with an uncovered head. Had that anything to do with the length of hair? Must we wear a huge bun? No, that was to anchor the hat to its moorings with long hat pins. However, one by one defied St. Paul and survived, and the hair came off! Strange, the straight little hair cut did make most people look younger and the day of the "monstrosity in hats" perched precariously, anchored only by pins to a sturdy bun, faded into the mists of the past. The cloche was in.

The only thing left to emerge was the body itself and fashion had become more and more revealing since the introduction of a new material with body clinging tendencies, crepe-de-chine, around 1918.

Our limbs, bit by bit, had emerged; even a suggestive slit in the long hobble skirt of 1913 had been condoned, for purely utilitarian reasons, that of being able to put one foot in front of the other - not a stride, but a mincing step. How tall and statuesque the young ladies looked as they wended their way to church, toes moving swiftly in and out but getting anywhere slowly. However, being still in High School, pleated skirts prevailed for us and we could only look on and admire.

Back to 1918, and the crepe-de-chine. We were still (and as late as 1921) wearing a skirt and a tight waist beneath a corset cover. Don't construe a tight waist as something antiquated and constrictive. It was merely straight, firm cotton and was worn for the sole purpose of disguising from the world that our upper anatomy was not flat, certainly leaving no suggestion of a fissure. Upon that perpendicular base one wore the firmest and laciest - often hand crocheted - "corset cover", the gentle fullness of which gave grace to the blouse. It was a case of "the Lord giveth, the tight waist taketh away and the corset cover replaceth."

Co-inciding, unfortunately, with the introduction of soft, clinging crepe-de-chine was the 1 yard peasant blouse, cut like an infant's jacket with a draw string. The first crepe-de-chine must have been pure silk, so soft and fine it was! It was comparatively expensive, almost \$2.00 per yard, in a range of beautiful colours. Who couldn't manage at least one 1 yard blouse? I chose a sunshiny yellow and "ran one up" in the prescribed hour.

I wasn't overendowed with female pulchritude, but what little I had, it revealed! Every movement revealed whatever I'd been hiding for 18 years. Resourcefulness is my middle name. If I couldn't wear it in public, I'd wear it when Tom came on Thanksgiving week-end - wear it casually as though I wasn't dressing up to impress him. Yes, I put it on and took it off again regretfully - not afraid of his judgement - but that it was too obvious an attempt to be - oh, Heck, let's use the word we'd use today but wouldn't even think of then - too sexy.

I gave it to Margaret, Grade 8, aged 12, with no explanation. Let her think that I was being philanthropic.

Usually I learn with one lesson, but I had to suffer another experience before I learned to avoid clinging dress material. This time, 1922, it was a jersey material - navy, of an unbelievably lovely, knobby texture. It was Mother's birthday present, the first new dress of my marriage in 1921. (If one's trousseau couldn't last 3 years, one had planned very poorly indeed!! If necessity demanded, could wait 10 years.) I passed up, to Mother's disappointment, a beautiful \$16.95 dress on the cover of Eaton's catalogue, to buy this gorgeous material. It wasn't cheap. Texture in anything has a vital attraction for me and this had a texture never manufactured before.

Well, it clung! It clung everywhere! I was most fashionably slim and firm, even for these days, but the blouse revealed figure! The flat sash revealed figure! I walked the full length of the main street and the only word in my mind was "Jezabel"!

How I eased that dress out of my wardrobe, I know not. Oh, well, my trousseau dresses could be worn for sentimental reasons a couple of years longer.



Tom and Abbie's wedding in 1921.

I have made passing reference to the approved shape of the human body through the passing years without any specific mention of that figure moulder, the corset.

Corsets meant nothing to my young life. Mother, fortunately very slight, had appallingly never worn one, though a pair always lay hopefully atop her ironed petticoats. These she always meant to wear for some grand, impossible occasion.

But I was entering the teens; I had begun High School as free as the wind that blew. The sooner a colt is broken to a bit, bridle and harness, the easier he adjusts to his harness. So one spring, just previous to the dressmaker's visit to make my supply of Spring dresses (not exceeding two), a pair of corsets from Eaton's catalogue mysteriously appeared on my bed.

Abigail Hunt Shearer was the editor's maternal grandmother.

How embarrassing it must have been, in the pre-Eaton Catalogue days, to buy personal supplies at the local store. And suddenly, I remember that almost every dry goods store had one woman clerk. Dress goods and such was in the farthest back corner of the store. True, the girl sold groceries in front but if, in a low voice, you let it be known that you wanted feminine apparel, the male clerks took over her duties and they left her to her private domain.

I had been noting that some of the girls in Grade 9 were more willowy than I. Later they confided that they slept in their corsets at night. Notwithstanding that, one can't fool Mother Nature. You are willowy or you are not willowy, and I was sturdy and square.

Mother had used such good strategy! Curiosity bade me try out the uninviting contraption, reminiscent of the armour of a knight in the 15th century pictured in our history books. I looked, and my skirt fell in folds, faintly resembling that of the beautiful ladies I'd adored in secret all my life. I pulled in the strings. At 13 one doesn't smother if one is sufficiently intrigued. A tighter pull. Magically, I was grown up. My new dresses were fitted over a harness as firm as the Rock of Gibraltar. Pride pinches? No! Pride eliminates any discomfort! It was rather tough at Christmas when one forgot and ate beyond the corset's capacity. And our back bone conformed to it, until we were uncomfortable without one on, and heat did not stifle us.

But we quit the schoolroom. The wood fueled kitchen was hot; the cow's flanks were hot. The cotton at the top of each steel rotted out, especially the heavy middle one which punched into our chest bone. We covered and recovered them, building up an easy rounded edge. Now, corsets were designed for fat on the sides which my anatomy lacked, and shorter waist line heights had not been invented, but we did possess an iron railway tie, a chisel and a hammer. It worked, the steels could be cut off and recovered at a low, bendable waistline. Wriggle one's body, the steels held the garment up and the cooler air circulated freely.

Freedom begets a longing for more freedom. Why not discard them entirely? For days, after an hour one's body clamoured for support, but finally came the half day, the whole day, when the absence of support was forgotten. We were free, corsetless!

FURTHER READING:

- Collard, E. (1975). Clothing in English Canada: 1867 to 1907. Burlington, ON: Eileen Collard.
 _____ (1981). Decade of change: 1909 - 1919. Burlington, ON: Eileen Collard.
 _____ (1981). Women's dress in the 1920's. Burlington, ON: Eileen Collard.
 Routh, C. (1993). In style: 100 years of Canadian women's fashion. Toronto: Stoddart Publishing.

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122 Thames St. S.,
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485-3895



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OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE
INGERSOLL & DISTRICT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 2, No. 2

MARY FRANCIS, editor

June, 1995

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This is the way Momma
makes them.



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1995 EXECUTIVE

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ADAM OLIVER: INGERSOLL'S FIRST MAYOR

BY DOUG PALMER

One of the most interesting of Ingersoll's early citizens was Adam Oliver. Many people are aware that Adam Oliver was the first mayor of the incorporated town of Ingersoll. Few are aware that he was one of the major builders in the town, and throughout the area of southwestern Ontario. In searching for supplies of lumber, his influence was felt in the communities of Orillia and Thunder Bay. Nor were his activities confined to business. He was, of course, a local politician but for many years he was the member of Parliament for South Oxford and his friendships and influence extended to the highest political ranks of the Reform and Liberal parties.

Oliver was born in New Brunswick of Scottish immigrant parents. At the age of 12 or 14 (accounts differ) he moved to Westminster township near London, where he learned the trade of carpenter. He married Ann Grieve and moved to Ingersoll in 1850. Not long after Oliver's arrival, the Great Western Railway reached the village and Ingersoll experienced a building boom unmatched at any later time in its history. Oliver was shrewd enough to take advantage of the economic opportunity and it was not long before he was one of the leading builders in the area. By 1868 he was searching further afield for supplies of pine lumber. With his son, John Grieve Oliver, and Hugh Sutherland, he established a lumber mill in Orillia. In the 1870s, after fire destroyed the mill in Orillia, he pursued supplies of lumber in the Thunder Bay area. There he became enmeshed in the controversy over the proper place to establish the railway line to the west. Inhabitants of Port Arthur regarded Oliver as one of the major villains who determined that the rail terminal would be in Fort William rather than the more populated Port Arthur. Pierre Berton has taken this line in The National Dream, much to the disgust of family historian, Glenna Jamieson.

Oliver's growing business interests did not prevent him from an active political life as well. He began his career with service on the local Board of Education within a couple of years of his arrival in Ingersoll. In 1855, he was elected to the village council where he began his life-long feud with John Galliford. Galliford holds the distinction of being

the first reeve of Ingersoll, having been elected to this position when the community was incorporated as a village in 1852. It is clear that Galliford and Oliver did not like each other at all. But there were substantive differences between them as well. Oliver did not think that Galliford ran village affairs in a competent manner. Galliford also represented the old King Street axis of the town's commercial activity. Oliver had located his home and business north of the tracks and wanted the focus of the town to shift northward to reflect the importance of the railway. The political constituencies of the two men seem to have been well balanced, for the prize of political office swung back and forth between them for many years. Between 1852 and 1868 only these two men occupied the top office. Galliford held it for eight of those years, Oliver for six. In 1865, Ingersoll gained the status of an incorporated town, and Oliver and Galliford battled for the office of mayor. Oliver won, holding his own south of the tracks and sweeping the north side of town with a two to one majority. He held the position again in 1866, but in 1867 opted to run as the Reform candidate for South Oxford's seat in the newly created Ontario Legislature. In the election he defeated James Noxon, proprietor of Ingersoll's largest industry. He held the seat until 1875, when he was forced to resign because of "electoral irregularities" by some of his supporters. Oliver suffered a further decline in his political career when he was defeated by James Noxon for the post of reeve in the town government, although he would win the lesser post of deputy reeve the following year.

In 1880, Oliver was stricken with paralysis and endured the last two years of his life as an invalid. He died in 1882. For almost a quarter of a century he had been a dominant figure in the business and political life of Ingersoll. His will called for the dissolution of his businesses and partnerships, with most of the proceeds marked for the income of his second wife. This was not the vast fortune that Conservatives and their press suggested was the result of his political influence. Two sons received one thousand dollars each, the other children, one hundred. His daughter, Chone, would use her share from the sale of the family home to attend medical school and carve a distinguished career as a medical missionary. John Grieve Oliver and Hugh Sutherland would become important pioneers in the development of Canada's Northwest. Because of the provisions of Oliver's will, the Adam Oliver Company, which had been one of the major businesses in Ingersoll for a quarter of a century, would become W. C. Bell's Planing Mill.

The following article and photo are from the files of the Ingersoll Times. Published on February 15, 1978, the article was one of a series entitled *Echoes of the Past*, by Helen W. Foster.

Home of Ingersoll's first mayor is now a historic landmark

BY HELEN W. FOSTER

The home of Adam Oliver, controversial first Mayor of Ingersoll, graces the north side of Victoria Street.

The simple square Ontario Gothic style has been extended by two side additions. Victorian love of decoration is evident in the heavy scalloped verge board with its tear-drop design at each corner and pinnacle at the apex of the gable. Unusual chimneys balance the steeply pitched roof. Set sideways, they not only create interest for the observer but also show the builder's pride in accomplishing a complicated feature.

Upper windows on the side are pointed gothic but the front side ones curiously enough, are curved romanesque. Originally part of the servants' quarters,

the windows at this side of the house are unusual in that they break with the gothic styling of the rest of the home. It does reflect the eclectic taste of the energetic original owner, a Maritimer who ran a lumber mill, built several homes in Ingersoll and was a substantial influence in the new town of 1865.

Coloured glass both in the side windows of the front door and the square window on the right extension may be part of the original.

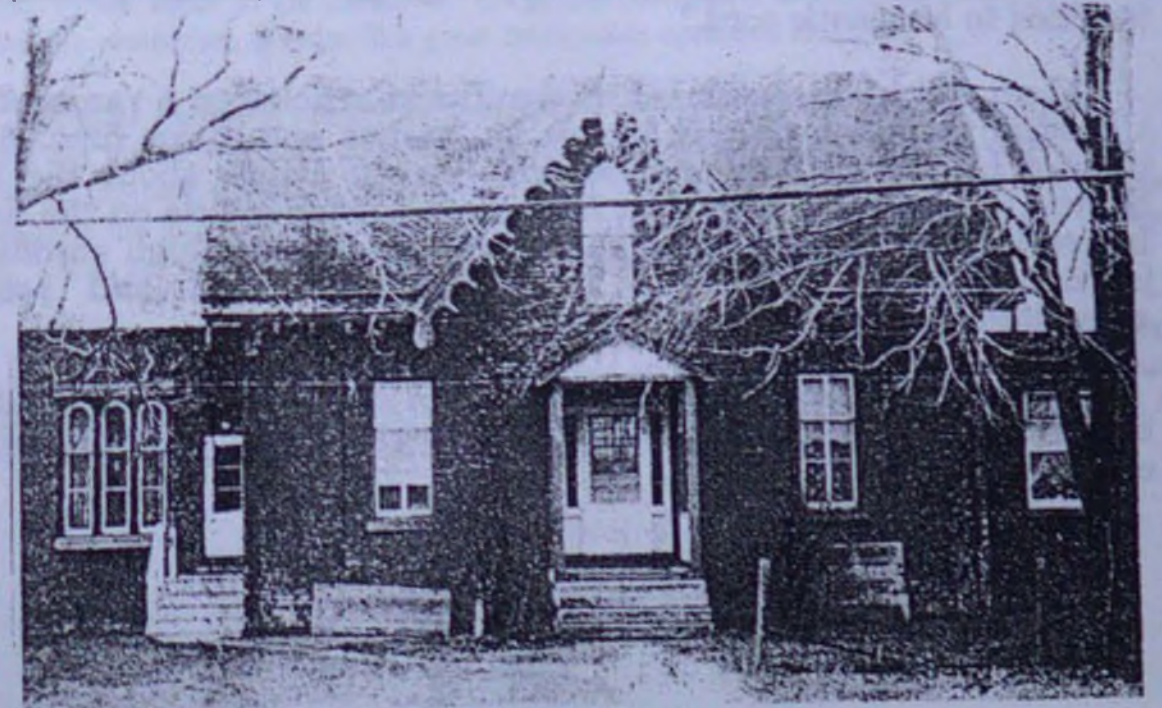
There is a little confusion as to the exact building date of the red brick home. The present owner has evidence that the first mortgage was granted to Oliver in 1856 but the Registry Office in Woodstock shows that the land itself was deeded to

John Carnegie to the Bishop de Charboumel in 1852 and that Adam Oliver purchased it in 1877 from the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of London, Ontario.

However, there is no doubt at all that Oliver willed the house to his wife in 1882. Mrs. Roy (Marjorie) Hawkins has in her possession his hand-written Last Will and Testament.

She was visited recently by a grandson of Ingersoll's first Mayor who was surprised to find the house still standing. Delighted at finding the original will, he asked Mrs. Hawkins to put it eventually in the Woodstock Museum.

Marjorie Hawkins recalls that when they moved into the old brick house she hated it, "but now, I'd hate to move."



This house was built by Ingersoll's first mayor.

KEN MOYER

1926 - 1994



Local historian, Ken Moyer, was a true Ingersoll native. Born in Ingersoll, he attended Ward Public School and Ingersoll Collegiate. He married and raised his family in Ingersoll. Most of his working life was spent at Morrow Machine & Tool.

With no formal training as a historian, Ken was motivated by a lively curiosity and an interest in local history. His son, David, traces Ken's "hobby" back to his involvement with the history of Princess Elizabeth School, a publishing project marking the school reunion held in 1993.

The newly available microfilmed copies of local newspapers, dating back to 1853, drew Ken like a magnet. He was soon to be found in the Ingersoll Library, spending at least an hour a day scouring the files. His search revealed small items of interest which he gleefully shared with librarian, Rosemary Lewis, such as an early reference to bungee jumping in the Ingersoll Chronicle of July 8, 1869: "a new circus trick, just introduced in Paris, is for a man to leap from the height of eighty feet, and bound back again to the original spot. The performer is fastened to an elastic cord."

More serious research led to significant articles on a range of local historical themes including the parks, arenas and major fires. At the time of his death, Ken was working on an article about the Silica Barytic Company. It is evident from the following article on the fires of Ingersoll, from 1856 to 1876, that Ken maintained a high standard of journalism. His work was thoroughly researched and properly accredited.

Ken Moyer's death was a loss felt, not only by his family, but also by his community. His love of local history enriched us all. He will be sadly missed.

A HISTORY OF THE MAJOR FIRES IN INGERSOLL - 1856 to 1876

Ken Moyer, 1994

Forward:

One of the most destructive forces in nature is FIRE. This scourge not only consumes all it touches, but also leaves in its wake losses in many forms. The monetary, physical and often loss of life, leaves family and community affairs in long lasting distress.

Ingersoll in its early days was no exception. In the days when cooking and heating was mainly fuelled by wood, when lighting was by candle or kerosene lamp, the prospect of fire was always present and carefully guarded against.

From the histories of the major fires in early Ingersoll, it must be concluded that as the Ingersoll Chronicle reported "most fires were caused by an incendiary." Reports in the press of the day continually mention this thought. Nearly all of the fires we shall report in this article were credited to a firebug. Most of the fires occurred in empty buildings, which by all reports, had neither heat or light at the time of the outbreak.

Since nearly all the early business blocks and homes were of wood construction, a small fire, if left unchecked, could spread and destroy all in its path.

Ingersoll, as a small community, had nothing but the residents with a bucket brigade or damp blankets to contain a fire and so suffered many very disastrous blazes. A fire department did not come until sometime after the first major fire, and only then, after some very scathing editorials by the editor of the Chronicle. (A person found later to have had great vision. Not only for fire protection, but also in a great many other unrelated fields).

We shall attempt in this article to highlight some of the major fires which changed the business and public sectors of the community. Descriptions of these fires are taken from the files of the Ingersoll Chronicle, so by referring to the date of publication, may be viewed on Microfilm at the local Public Library, where the staff is always willing to assist you in your search. Other records of these fires also exist, and may also be found in the Library files.

Beginning with the Incorporation of Ingersoll as a village on January 1, 1852, plans were soon presented for the erection of a Town Hall and Market Building. The reeve and council with the assistance of the prominent citizens, brought these plans to completion, and it is generally believed that the first Municipal Building was completed in 1853.

THE FIRE OF 1856:

¹About 1:00 a.m. on February 1st, 1856, fire of an undetermined origin (but believed to be that of an incendiary), broke out in an area of the building in which there had been no fires after 5 o'clock in the evening of the previous day. The fire completely destroyed the building including the new bell, just recently installed.

Lost in the fire were the official records and papers of the Village of Ingersoll, and also the records of the Township of West Oxford. Many other papers and valuable records belonging to the Village Clerk were also destroyed.

It is difficult to estimate the monetary loss in this fire, but the building was only insured for 200 pounds, which would only cover a portion of the loss.

THE GAINS FROM THE FIRE:

Plans were immediately begun for the erection of a new Town Hall. As the old site was not sufficient for a larger building, additional land was conveyed to the municipality by Mr. Pomroy who had much holdings in the immediate area. A new bell was put on order from the Troy Foundry of Troy, New York and since the firm had a bell already in stock, the new bell was shipped and arrived some time before the structure was ready for it. The new bell weighed 750 lbs., some 300 lbs. more than the one destroyed in the fire.

The overall contract for the structure was awarded to William M. Long of Ingersoll with George O'Hayra the contractor and John McNiven of Ingersoll the architect. The new building was to be of brick construction whereas the former building had been frame. The new building was completed in 1857, and was a great change from the older original structure.

This building, through the years, saw many exciting and sometimes strange activities including, in 1858 while on a recruiting trip of Canada, the abolitionist, John Brown, held a public meeting in its upper hall. Other famous persons who spoke from the stage included Sir John A. Macdonald, Thomas D'Arcy McGee and George Brown (Fathers of Confederation), Alexander MacKenzie, the reformer Robert Gourley, and Sir Francis Hincks. The hall served the community as a centre for many activities. Whenever a stage performance was to be held in the community, it always took place in this hall.

As you will discover as the article continues there was a disaster in the halls future.

¹ Fire Report, Ingersoll Chronicle, February 8th, 1856.

THE FIRES OF 1872:

²On the afternoon of Tuesday, April 9, 1872, fire broke out in the cooper shop of the Kings Mills on King Street West, which completely destroyed the shop and a large supply of staves which were stored nearby. Embers from this fire were carried by the wind across King Street to the stables at the rear of Tricks Tavern nearly opposite the cooper shop. The embers started a blaze which quickly spread to the tavern itself. Both were destroyed in the resulting flames. The large grist mill immediately to the west of the cooperage was saved as were the nearby homes of J.M. Wilson, G.H. Webster and others.

It was written at that time that had not these buildings been saved, the west portion of the town would have been destroyed.

The cause of this fire was never determined, and the loss was about \$5200.00 of which only \$600.00 was insured.

THE DOWNTOWN FIRE:

³A few minutes before 8 o'clock on the evening of May 7, 1872, fire erupted in the stable of the Royal Exchange Hotel on the corner of Thames and Charles Streets. The building had been empty for 3 weeks, while the new proprietor, Mr. Searles, made preparations to reopen in the same business. The stables and hotel were old frame structures, as were most of the homes and business shops in the area. The old Hotel, when it took fire, created such intense heat that the nearby structures succumbed to the blaze and spread it even further.

The fire spread quickly up Oxford Street and burned all in its path until it reached Bowmans Hotel on the east side of the street, at the market square. The buildings on the west side of Oxford Street received a severed scorching, but by the efforts of the residents in the area, they were saved from destruction. The buildings on the north side of Charles Street were also very close to flames, but once again, the residents by the use mainly of wet blankets, were able to contain the fire in this direction.

² Fire Report, Ingersoll Chronicle, April 11th, 1872.

³ Fire Report, Chronicle, May 25th, 1872.

While this mass of frame buildings was burning, a light north-west breeze carried the fire to other smaller frame buildings at the rear of the 3 storey brick block on the west side of Thames Street, which seemed to catch fire and burn simultaneously the whole length, leaving it a smouldering mass of ruins. Many of the buildings in this block were new or nearly so, and had very handsome fronts.

The towns' fire fighting apparatus at this time consisted of two-hand engines, with which it was impossible to cope with the situation. As the fire gained headway among the buildings on Thames Street, a call was put out for assistance, which was answered by both London and Woodstock, who sent fire apparatus and men by rail to the scene. Upon the arrival of these new fire fighters, every effort was made to save what was left of the street.

With the wind blowing to the south and east, the fire quickly spread to the old frame buildings on the east side of Thames (a description of the street was that it was a solid canyon of flames, and impassable). When the fire was finally brought under control, nearly all of both sides of Thames Street from Charles Street to King Street had been destroyed. As a result of the blaze, there were some 80 dwellings and business houses in ruins.

The fire had travelled so fast and furious that panic gripped most everyone. Goods were removed from businesses to safety only to be moved again as the fire approached their place of removal. Much damage occurred during these frantic moves, but much worse than this was the fact that during the fire, thieves were at work preying on those who were suffering the losses.

The monetary loss in this fire was estimated at \$250,000 of which there was an undetermined amount not covered by insurance.⁴

THE GAINS FROM THE FIRE:

Plans were implemented almost immediately for the rebuilding of most of the fire destroyed properties. Only a few, and those mostly owned by absentee landlords, were not rebuilt, while many properties changed ownership. In the case of the Ingersoll Chronicle, who lost a new building and all their presses, the rebirth was immediate. In their absence for 2 weeks, there was no paper available in the Ingersoll business area. They first moved to temporary quarters, and then into their new building by August of 1872. They, like many others who were affected by the fire losses, actually returned to business much better equipped to do business than before the blaze.

⁴ The Chronicle was not able to print for two weeks at the time as they had lost their printing shop and printing presses as a result of the fire.

The streetscape that one observes on Thames Street today is a direct result of the rebuilding which took place in 1872-1873. One of the results of the fire was that both the Masonic Lodge and the I.O.O.F. relocated to the east side of the street from their burned out ruins on the west side of Thames. Both these orders lost heavily in records and regalia due to the blaze.

While this fire was a severe blow to the young community, there were other disasters in the near future for the citizens to face.

THE FIRE OF 1874:

⁵As the Chronicle reports "another great calamity has befallen our town". On Sunday July 19, 1874 at 11:30 p.m., a fire was discovered in the premises of the Nationalist printing office, a three storey frame building, adjoining Mr. C.P. Hall's brick block on the south side of King Street east. The proprietors Messrs. Constable and Harris, together with their workmen resided in this building, and narrowly escaped with their lives. The flames spread quickly to the east and west of the print shop, and before they were completely contained, had destroyed all of the buildings from the pond on King Street to the end brick block on Thames Street directly across from the Niagara District Bank. (The building just to the north of the present Clog & Thistle). The buildings on the north side of King Street were also in danger of being destroyed, and only through the efforts of the workers of the Steam Furniture establishment of McIntyre and Crotty, who worked with the firemen, was the blaze denied further victims.

Once again, the call for assistance went out and was answered by the London Fire Department who arrived on the scene at 2 o'clock in the morning. While they were too late to be of effective assistance, their prompt reply to the request was, none-the-less, much appreciated.

The Chronicle goes on to state that most of the destroyed buildings were frame rookeries that "have been considered ancient for many years". Several of the brick buildings were what are commonly called "bricknogs", and consequently were of little real value. It was felt at the time that had the fire crossed either Thames or King Streets, another catastrophe such as occurred in 1872 could not have been averted.

Once again, while the origin of the fire is unknown, circumstances lead to the supposition that it was the work of an incendiary.

⁵ Fire loss was \$40,000. Some were insured. Fire Report, Chronicle, July 23rd, 1874.

THE GAINS AFTER THE FIRE:

As in previous days, the business sector had to be rebuilt. From the experience of the rebuilding of Thames Street, many methods were available and no doubt were put into effect by the architects and the council solved many of the problems by passing a By-Law that restricted buildings in the downtown core area to only those of double brick wall construction. This made sure that the new buildings would not be as some on Thames Street had been... frame construction with only a brick facing on the street side. Fire standards were also established to prevent a recurrence of a similar nature.

When the rebuilding was complete, King Street east and Thames Street south of King Street presented a completely new appearance than before the fire. No longer was there a mixture of frame and brick, but in its place, stood the streets as they appear today.

Ingersoll, although badly destroyed by fire in the early days, survived, and by surviving, showed others how to overcome the new challenges which occur after devastation.

In all the fires that took place and listed here, only two lives were lost and those during the Thames Street fire. One man lost his life while helping to removed goods from a jewellery store, and one man lost his life when a wall collapsed trapping him in the burning building.

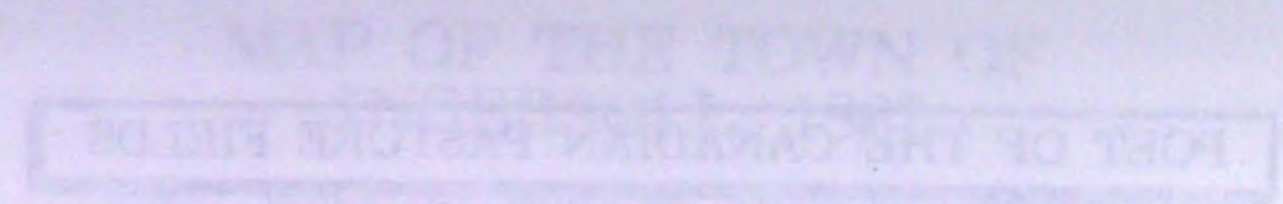
THE FIRE OF 1876:

⁶On Saturday morning, February 6, 1876, about 8 o'clock, smoke was discovered issuing from the roof on the rear part of the Town Hall. The alarm was sounded, and the fire engines responded, but before they were in working order, the roof was ablaze from one end to the other. The firemen worked hard but with the great headway the fire had gained, only the walls and engine house could be saved.

Lost in the fire were the offices of T.D. Millar and D.M. Robertson. The market stalls of Mr. B. Sawdon and James Smart were destroyed, but with little loss or damage to their meat supply. Firemen (who ironically had attended the Hook and Ladder Company's Ball in the main hall the previous evening), worked bravely in their attempt to save the structure.

The building was valued at \$9,000 or \$10,000, and was insured for \$6,000 with the Provincial and Western Insurance Company.

⁶ Fire Report, Chronicle, February 10th, 1876. Other reports in following weeks report of council meetings.



The Chronicle in an editorial in the issue of February 10th, 1876 made many suggestions for either rebuilding or repairing the building which it said were "in the best interests of the community".

Council was very divided in their opinion on what should be done, so a local architect, Mr. Proctor, was commissioned to draw up plans to repair and remodel the building. One of the new features was to relocate the Bell Tower closer to the front of the roof, and also erect fireproof walls in the interior. The building when rebuilt within the existing walls presented an entirely new look to the citizens and council was congratulated on the wisdom they had shown. Another of the changes made was to put fireproof doors on the safe in the clerk's office. (The records of the town had been saved during the fire by Mr. George B. Lang, who received the thanks of council).

Once again, a new bell was purchased and upon delivery (earlier than expected), was hung in the Bell Tower of St. James Church, whereby all reports, its tones could be heard throughout the community. The contract for the repair and remodelling of the building was awarded to Christopher Bros. at a contract price of \$3,980.00.

Councillor James McIntyre said he would wind up all disputes that had taken place with the following lines:

Old Market already has given good proof
That it is strong even without a roof,
And Proctor can doctor up the old walls
Into one of the neatest of Western Halls.

The new look town hall was officially opened at a ceremony on August 15th, 1876.

Well-built, this building existed until only a few years ago when the concern for public safety determined its use and it was demolished.

The last of the Troy bells was saved from the wreckers and is mounted on a cairn at the Ingersoll Cheese Museum in Centennial Park.

POET OF THE CANADIAN PASTURE FIELDS



Our "Poet of the Canadian Pasture Fields", James McIntyre, addressed the theme of fire in this excerpt from McIntyre's Poems, published in 1889.

James McIntyre

GREAT FIRE IN INGERSOLL, MAY, 1872.

'Twas on a pleasant eve in May,
Just as the sun shed its last ray,
The bell it rang, citizens to warn,
For lo! a fire appears in barn.

An ancient barn near hotel stood,
The joining buildings all were wood,
This barn, a relic of the past,
There farmers' horses were made fast.

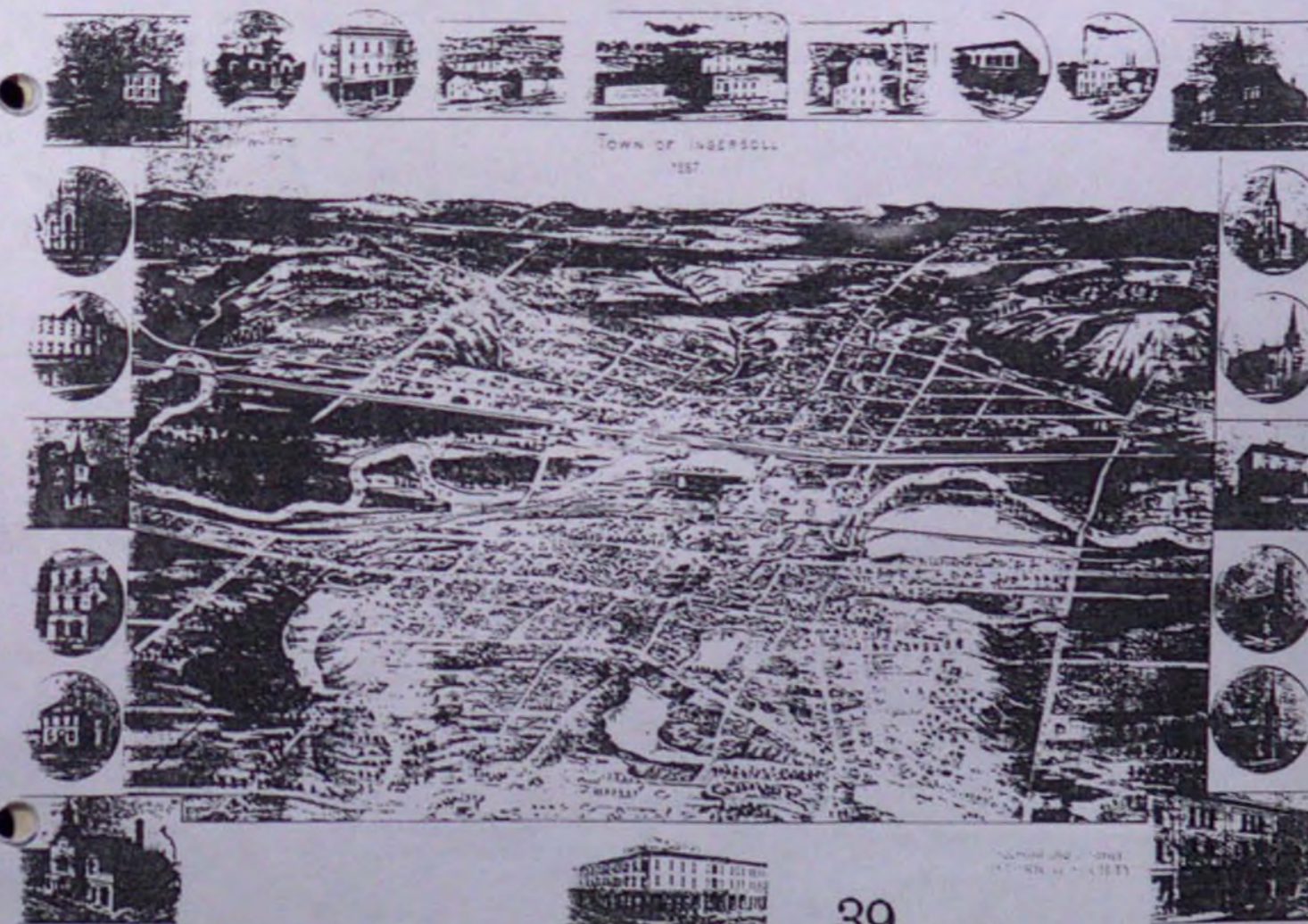
Our once fair town is now in woe,
And we have had our Chicago,
But soon a nobler town will rise,
For our town is all enterprise.

MAP OF THE TOWN OF INGERSOLL, 1887

Heritage Weekend, 1995, marked the debut of the Ingersoll & District Historical Society's first publishing project - reproduction of the bird's-eye view map of Ingersoll originally published in 1887 by the Toronto publishing firm, J. C. Young & Co.

The project, spear-headed by John Thompson, involved tremendous creativity on the part of Universal Printing. Original copies of the map, on loan from the Ingersoll Cheese Museum, showed their age. Had the original merely been photographed and reproduced, the cracked and chipped portions would have drastically altered the accuracy of the reproduction. Using more than one original as a guide, computer enhancement allowed the printer to fill in the gaps left by the ravages of time. The resulting product is remarkably accurate. The colours used are also quite true to the original.

As the project progressed, the printer became increasingly engrossed. His generosity in donating many upgrades allows the Historical Society to offer a high quality print at a remarkably reasonable price. Measuring 25" x 17.5", the map is suitable for lamination or framing. At only \$5.00, the map makes a great gift. It is available at the Ingersoll Cheese Museum, the Ingersoll Public Library, the offices of the Ingersoll Times and the Ingersoll BIA or may be obtained by contacting Ernie Hunt (485-1539).



A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

At the April 18th meeting of the Ingersoll & District Historical Society First Vice-President, Bill Hawkins, reminisced about the downtown merchants of his youth. His discussion kindled a great deal of interest and discussion among members whose memories coincided, or conflicted, with his.

Shortly thereafter Shirley Lovell, curator of the Ingersoll Cheese Museum, came across the following engineer's rendering of Thames Street. Prepared in March of 1930, it shows plans for the widening of the block from King Street to Charles Street. Members will undoubtedly enjoy a stroll down memory lane and an imaginary shopping trip in the stores of Ingersoll, sixty-five years ago.

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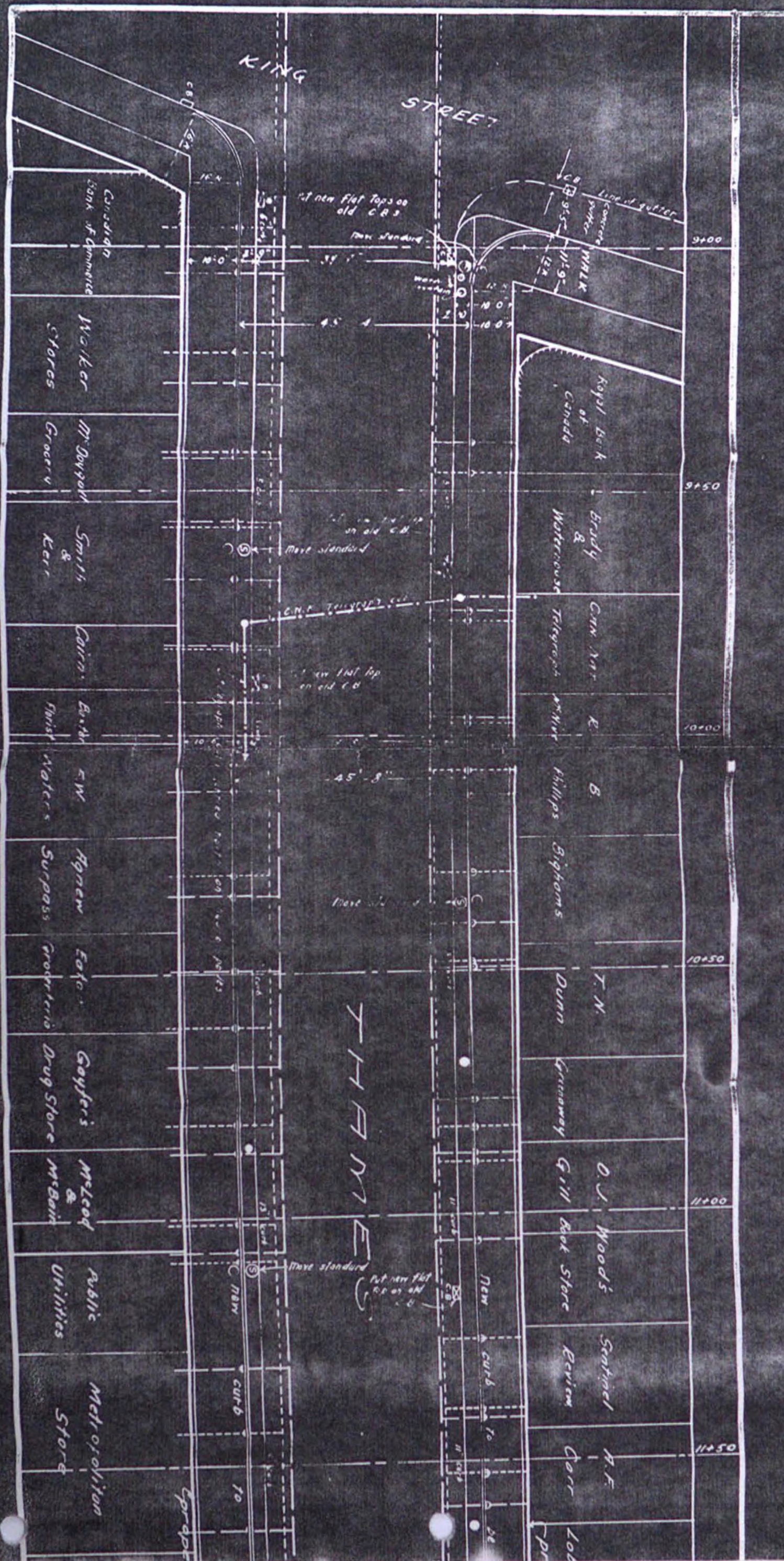
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 Civil Engineer,
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 March 1930

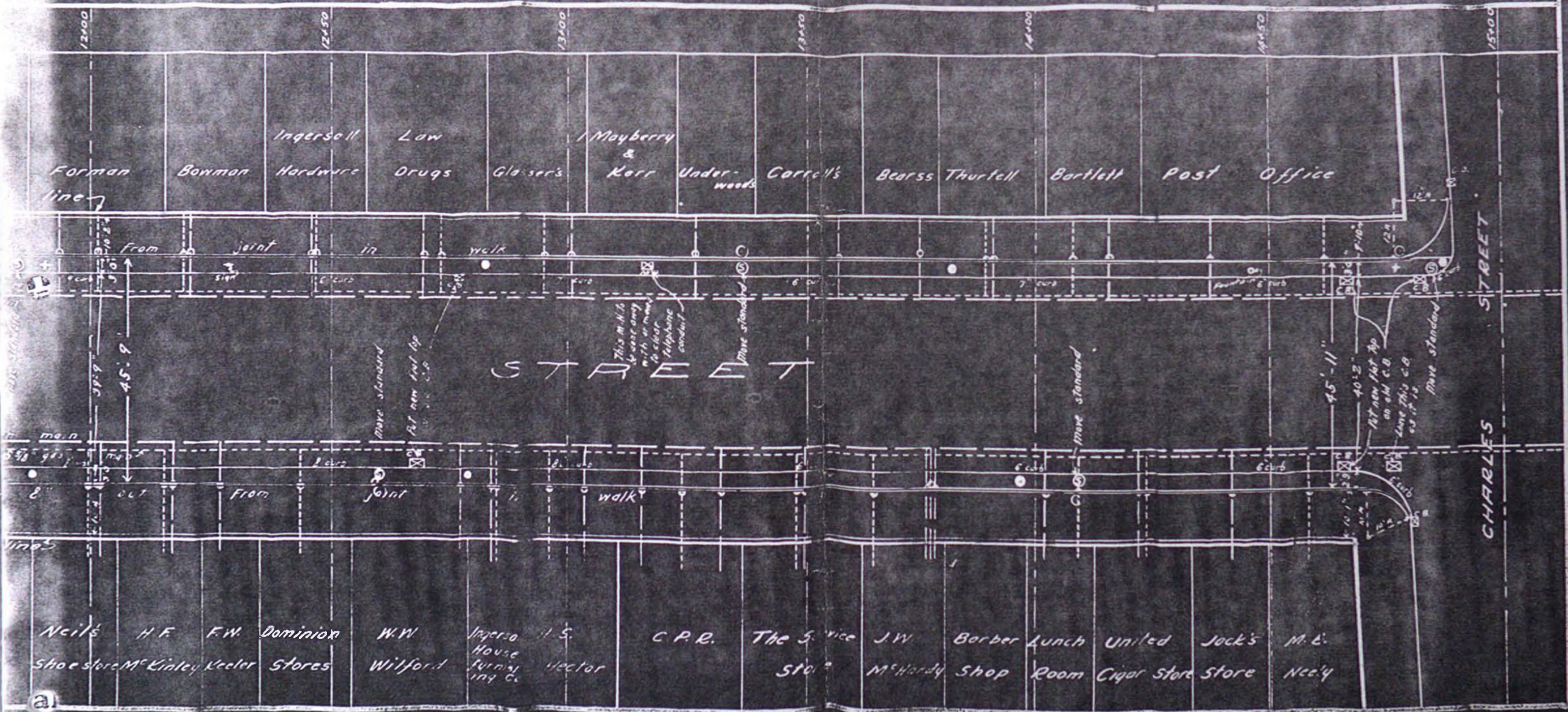
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QUALITY HARDWARE PHONE 47

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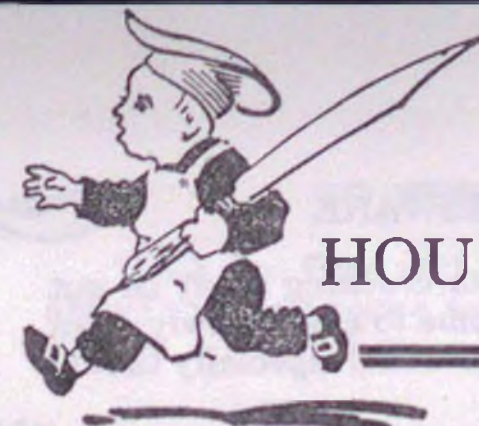
—The "Summery" Note for the Home—

Spring's days are numbered and first thing we know, the glorious Summer season will be open us. Season of bright sunshine-of gay color in everything surely its coming stirs in you the desire to reflect its spirit in the home?

Reed and Fibre Furniture, with its light, cool, clean-cut appearance, solves the problem. It gives the home a touch of the summery beauty!



FRED W. KEELER
HOME FURNISHINGS FUNERAL DIRECTOR



HOUSEHOLD HINTS

During a recent visit, Mrs. Whitwell emerged from her basement, cookbook in hand. This hefty volume, entitled **CANADA'S FAVORITE COOKBOOK**, written by Annie R. Gregory, was published in Brantford in 1902 by The Linscott Publishing Co. Although Mrs. Whitwell is unsure as to the origin of the book, it is inscribed as follows: Perhaps one of our readers will be able to place the original owner.

Almost 600 pages in length, the book covers all aspects of homemaking, from etiquette to bed bugs. From the book I have selected a variety of household hints and home remedies.

ODDS AND ENDS

TO REMOVE MILDEW STAINS

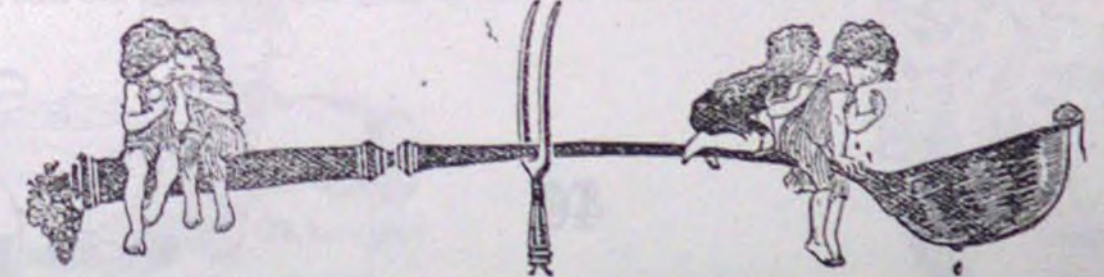
Soak in milk for forty-eight hours, or, rub with lemon juice and salt.

TO CLEAN GREASE FROM CARPETS

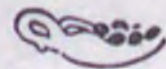
Use ammonia almost pure, cover the spot with white blotting paper and iron lightly or rub spot with a white flannel dipped in turpentine.

TO POLISH GLASS

For glassware, mirrors, etc., mix calcine magnesia with enough gasoline to make a liquid the consistency of cream. This will polish glass to perfection.



TO STRENGTHEN GLASSWARE



All glassware that one wishes to keep from cracking must be put into a dish of slightly salted cold water. Let it come to a boil slowly, then boil well, and again cool slowly, the slower the process, especially that of cooling, the more effective will be the result.

TO TREAT NEW IRONWARE



To prepare new iron kettles for use and prevent rust, fill them with potato peelings and boil for an hour, then wash with hot water and rub with a little lard.

TO KEEP GLUE LIQUID



Dissolve the glue in whisky instead of water. Pour it into a bottle and cork it tight. This will keep for years.

TO CLEAN BLACK KID GLOVES



A good way to clean black kid gloves is to take a teaspoonful of salad oil, drop a few drops of ink into it, and rub it over the gloves with the tip of a feather, then let them dry in the sun.

TO WASH CORSETS



To keep a pair of corsets perfectly fresh and clean they should be washed every two or three weeks. The operation is simple and will not injure the shape or cut. Make warm suds into which a few drops of ammonia have been put. Spread the corset on a flat table, taking out the laces, but not the bones and steels. Scrub it with a clean brush and the hot suds, then rinse quickly in clear, warm water. Lay flat on a board in the sun or near the fire so that it may dry quickly. Do not iron.



TO KEEP MOTHS OUT OF CARPETS

Wash the floor with a strong brine, before laying the carpet, and sweep with salt once a week.

TO RESTORE THE COLOR OF BLACK KID BOOTS

Take a small quantity of good black ink, mix it with the white of an egg, and apply to the boots with a soft sponge.

HOW TO CLEAN VINEGAR CRUETS

Shake crushed eggshells and a little water vigorously in a vinegar cruet and it will remove that cloudy look which the bottle often takes on.

TO KILL CORNS

Soak bread in vinegar, bind on day and night and they will come out by the roots.

TO KILL WARTS

Prick until they bleed; then apply soda.

CAUTION

Never bite or pass sewing silk through the lips as lead poisoning has been known to result, as the silk is soaked in acetate of lead to make it weigh heavier.



CHOKING

To prevent choking, break an egg into a cup and give it to the person choking to swallow. The white of the egg seems to catch around the obstacle and remove it. If one egg does not answer the purpose try another. The white is all that is necessary.

NOSE BLEED

Snuffing up powdered alum will generally control troublesome bleeding from the nose. It will almost always stop excessive hemorrhage from a cavity caused by the extraction of a tooth, by being placed in it.

The best remedy for bleeding at the nose, as given by Dr. Gleason in one of his lectures, is in the vigorous motion of the jaws, as if in the act of mastication. In the case of a child a wad of paper should be placed in its mouth and the child should be instructed to chew it hard. It is the motion of the jaws that stops the flow of blood. This remedy is so very simple that many will feel inclined to laugh at it, but it has never been known to fail in a single instance, even in very severe cases.

TO COOL THE BLOOD

Take eight ounces of sarsaparilla, three ounces of root licorice, six ounces of wild cherry bark, one-half ounce of mandrake, one ounce of gentian, one-half teaspoonful each of cinnamon and red pepper. Boil in three gallons of rain water till reduced to one-half. Sweeten a very little. This is a fine drink for cooling the blood. Abstain from sweets while using it.

BLOOD PURIFIER

Clover tea is a fine blood purifier, drank freely, removing pimples and whitening the skin. It is also a sleep-inducing draught. Its efficiency in the early stages of cancer is unquestioned.

TO REMOVE LODGMENT IN THROAT

When a child swallows anything that lodges in the throat lift it suddenly by the wrists. It will cause the little one to scream and cough and the object will generally be dislodged at once.



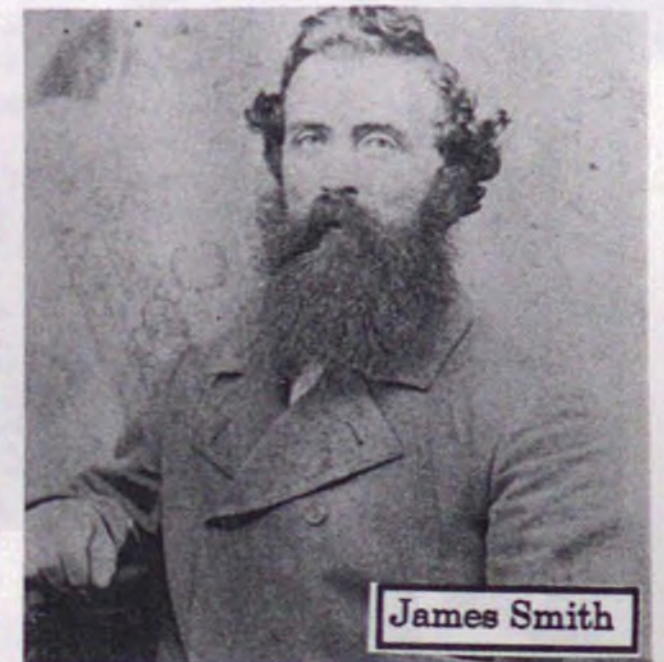
THE SMITH HOUSE

BY JOHN VAN DYKE

One of the first buildings to receive historical designation by the Ingersoll and District Historical Society will be the Smith House. Located at 189 Thames Street South, it currently houses the Clog and Thistle Tearoom. Designation is based on both the architectural and historical significance of the building which traces back to the beginnings of this town. The home was occupied by several generations of a family which played a very important part in the growth and development of Ingersoll.

James Smith emigrated from Scotland in 1862, along with his cousin, Donald. Shortly after his arrival in Ingersoll, he married Alice Galliford, daughter of John Galliford, Ingersoll's first reeve. They moved into what has been referred to for the last one hundred and fifty years as the "Smith House".

At the time that they bought the house, it was a small, one-floor cottage. As the family grew to include nine children, a wing was built on the south side, containing a kitchen and a dining room. A second storey, containing five bedrooms, was also added. James admired the mansard roofline of the newly completed Niagara District Bank across the street and incorporated a similar roofline in his second-storey addition. As was the case with most homes of that era, the advent of indoor plumbing led to the conversion of one of the bedrooms into a bathroom.

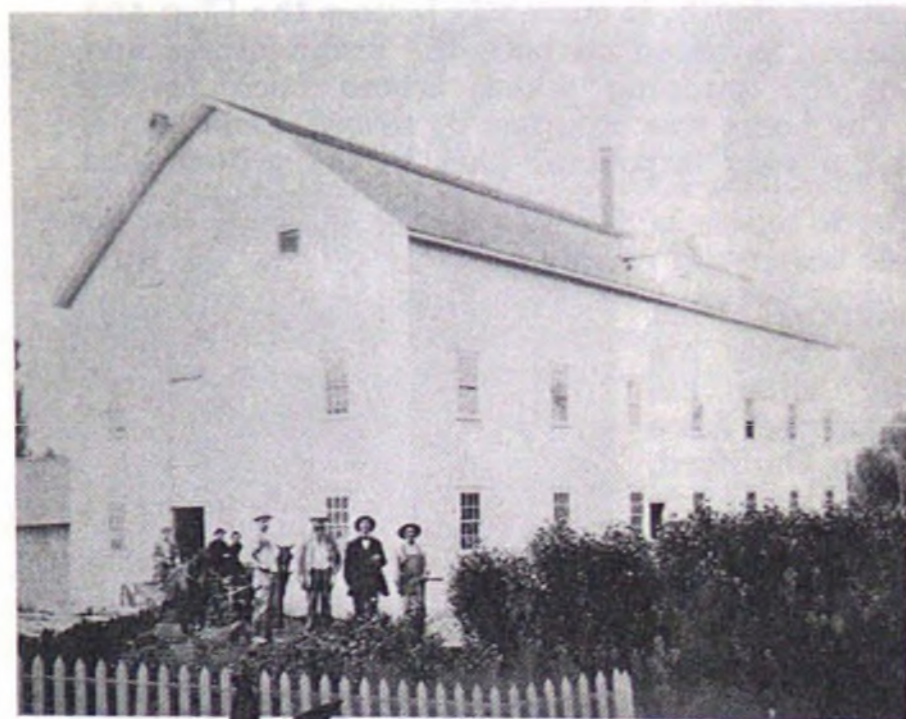


James Smith



Mary Alice Galliford Smith

Shortly after establishing themselves in Ingersoll, the Smith family built a grist mill just down the street. A dam was constructed across Harris Creek, just south of Canterbury Street. A large wooden structure was erected, to be used as a mill, and two additional houses were built. One of these was built for the head miller. This house faces Canterbury Street and is still a part of the Smith property. The second, directly adjacent to the mill, was occupied by James' son, John, who was actively involved with the operation of the mill.



Shown outside the mill, in 1886, are (L-R) John Smith, son of James & Alice; Mr. & Mrs. Langdon; head miller, John Bain; James Smith; a local farmer, Daniel Burns; mill carpenter, Jim Adair



The mill pond, which soon came to be referred to as Smith's Pond, was used to power the millstones. In the winter, ice was cut out of the pond and delivered to the iceboxes used for refrigeration by most of the families around town.



In addition, a large volume of ice was delivered to the Ingersoll Packing Company. Packing their product in ice allowed them to ship right across the country. The fact that Robert Smith worked at the Ingersoll Packing Co. would undoubtedly have helped them to secure this contract. However, with the invention of commercial refrigeration, this source of revenue slowly disappeared as people started buying refrigerators, packing houses started building cold storage rooms and began using refrigerated railcars and trucks for transportation.

The mill business had its ups and downs, with the dam giving way early in the 1900s and a fire levelling an earlier mill. These events were likely a fairly common occurrence in such an operation at the time.

The Smith house was occupied by three generations of the family. James and Alice had five daughters: Maggie, Helen (also known as Weenie), Alice, Fanny and Clarissa. Of these, only Clarissa wed, marrying a man named Wright. The other four lived in the house until their deaths. Of the four sons, John was most involved with the operation of the mill. He and his father, James, were active in its day to day operation.

Robert, who worked at the Ingersoll Packing Company, was a partner in the mill but did not work there full time, most likely being involved in the book keeping end of the business.



Helen and James Smith

Harry, who was known as "Shiner", moved to New York. Jim, the fourth boy in the family, moved to Chicago and had a son, Harold. Little is known about these last two, but both John and Robert lived out their lives in Ingersoll.

John married Helen Pellow and fathered three children: John Austin, James and Charles Stewart. Austin remained a bachelor, although he did have a bit of a thing going with a woman named Elsie Sumner. Most of his career was spent with one of the banks in Toronto, but he returned to Ingersoll on many occasions, spending many weekends and summer holidays in the family home.

James became a pharmacist. He married Irene Stauffer of Kitchener and they bought a large home in the Rosedale area of Toronto. James died a few years ago, but his wife, Irene still resides there today. They have one son, Stauffer James Smith, who resides in Toronto.



Photo of Austin Smith by photographer, Frank Kiborn

Charles married a local girl, Billy Gayfer. Her family was well known for the drugstore they operated for many years in downtown Ingersoll and for their large, white brick Italianate home on Oxford Street. Charles was a banker with Barclay's Bank and served in England, Jamaica, Montreal and Toronto. Charles and Billy had two daughters: Francis Gayfer Smith and Roberta Kramer.

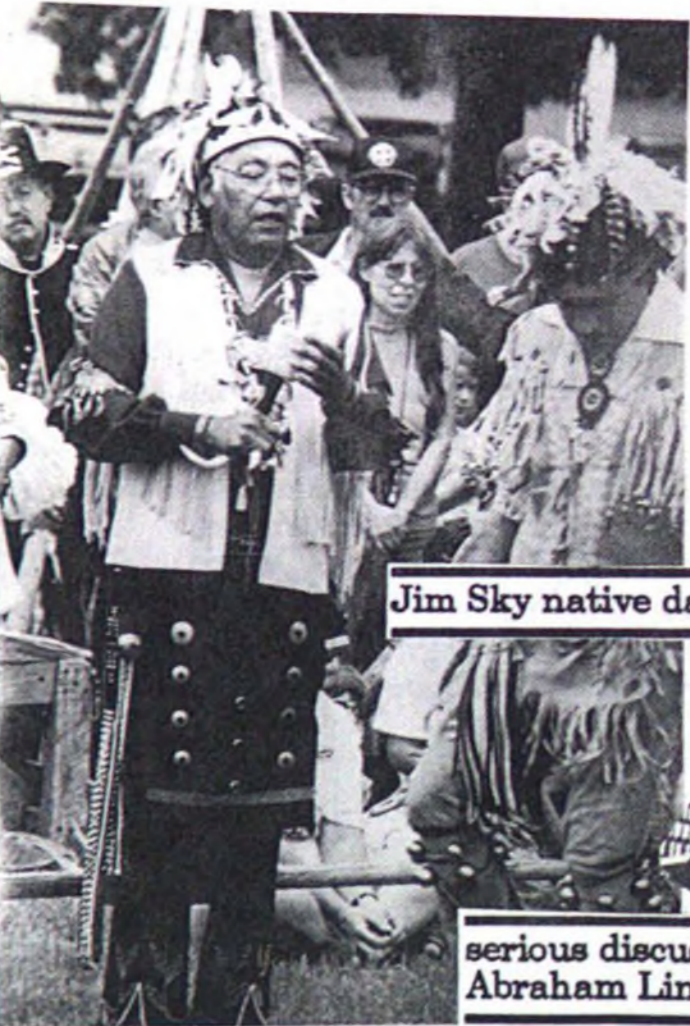
Austin Smith, son of John and Helen, was the last member of this influential family to live in the house. After Austin's death, in 1981, the building was owned briefly by the local law firm of McBride and Carr, who had drawings prepared by an architect from Goderich, who is well known for historical restorations. When the decision was made not to proceed with the conversion of the house into a law office, it was purchased by Lionel Parr, who operated a beauty salon on the premises from 1982 until 1989.

At this time it was purchased by John and Catherine Van Dyke. Using the earlier architect's renderings, the Smith House was renovated to house the Clog and Thistle Tearoom. The renovation process revealed that the walls were constructed of rough cut 1x6 planks nailed flat on top of one another. This type of construction, also used in the building of early silos, is referred to as "flat plank construction." A sample of this construction technique is displayed in the entrance to the restaurant along with early photographs of the Smith family.

HERITAGE WEEKEND 1995



military skirmish



Jim Sky native dancers



serious discussion between Abraham Lincoln and J. C. Herbert

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RETROSPECT

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—THEATRE—

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AUGUST 11TH AND 12TH.

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY
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Depicting
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Directed by Ernst Lubitsch
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Part in Natural Colors.

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COVER DESIGN BY JACK SAVAGE

RETROSPECT

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE
INGERSOLL & DISTRICT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 3, No. 1

MARY FRANCIS, editor

February, 1996

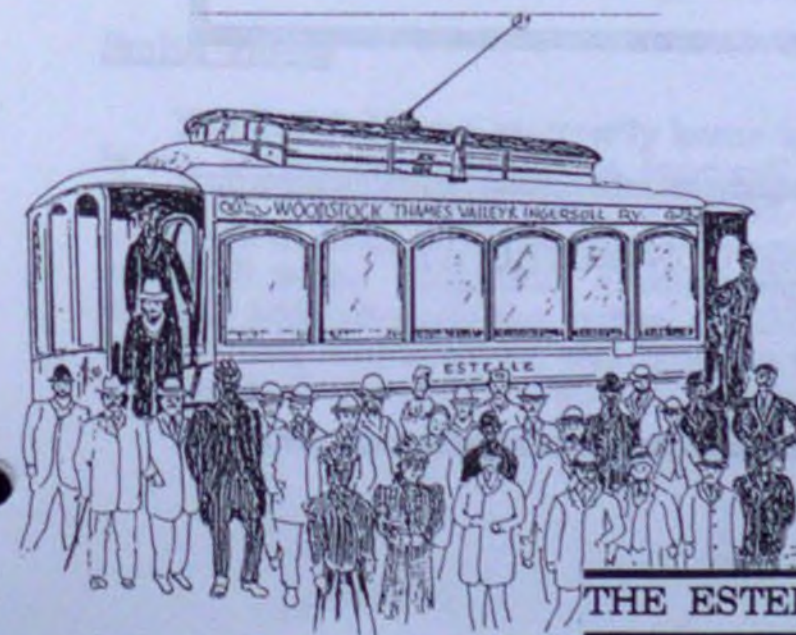
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The "Trolley" Estelle - 1901 - Between Woodstock and Ingersoll & Village Car.

1996 EXECUTIVE

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HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS

BY: SUSAN MASTERS

One of the first projects of the Ingersoll and District Historical Society nearing completion, is that of marking some buildings of historical significance in the community. It was decided that, initially, a small number would be identified and efforts were made to do this in, or about, the core area of Ingersoll. Thanks to Ernie Hunt and Bill Hawkins, commemorative plaques have been designed and produced and will soon be visible on the following sites which were chosen by the executive and approved by the general membership for their historical significance and, in most cases, architectural relevance.

Ingersoll Log Cabin

It would appear that the original Ingersoll Log Cabin was located on Thames Street, on the site presently occupied by the Gazebo. An article written by James Ingersoll, youngest son of Major Thomas Ingersoll, tells about his father's arrival in the area. Although a dwelling was not likely built on Major Thomas' first visit, it is noted that he pitched a tent and hand-felled the first tree. James noted the location to be that later occupied by Poole's Store. That store was subsequently purchased by the Gayfer family and remained in their ownership for almost a century. It was then purchased by King Newell who operated a pharmacy there until 1970, when it was sold to become part of Jack's Department Store. Exactly when the log cabin was built or demolished is unknown. However, it was built by Major Thomas Ingersoll some time shortly after he was granted charter in 1793 and was demolished sometime during his son James' lifetime.

Smith House

The Smith House, currently home to the Clog and Thistle Tearoom, is one of the oldest homes in Ingersoll. Built by James Smith shortly after his emmigration from Scotland, in 1862, and his subsequent marriage to Alice Galliford, the house remained in the Smith family for over 125 years. Originally a small one floor cottage, additions were made to accommodate the arrival of nine children. A wing, containing a kitchen and dining room, was built on the south side. A second storey containing five bedrooms was also added. The house was made of flat

plank construction and incorporated a mansard style roofline in the second floor addition.

The Smith family established themselves in Ingersoll in the grist mill business. A dam, mill and two additional houses were built in the Canterbury / Harris Creek area. In addition to milling, the Smith family also operated an ice business in the winter months, supplying domestic needs and fulfilling a contract with the Ingersoll Packing Company.



An example of Flat Plank construction original to the Smith House

Of the nine Smith children, seven lived out their lives in Ingersoll and, of these, only two married. The third generation of Smiths included three boys who did not live continuously in Ingersoll. Austin frequently returned to the family home and it was following his death, in 1981, that the building was sold. Owned briefly by a local law firm, it was then sold and used as a beauty salon. In 1989, it was purchased by its current owners, the Van Dykes.



Although the original design of the house is somewhat hidden by more recent porch and patio additions, one can still observe the Mansard style roof on the second storey addition.

The Niagara District Bank

Across the street from the Smith House one will see a fine structure that currently houses a new business called Chocolate and Things. This building was originally a branch of the Niagara District Bank. It opened in Ingersoll in 1856 and in 1871 this building was erected for the exclusive use of the bank. In 1875, it merged with the Canadian Imperial Bank and operated in this building under the Imperial Bank's name. In 1913 a new building was erected on the site of the former Mansion Hotel on the southwest corner of Thames and King Streets. The final merger with the Canadian Bank of Commerce to form the present Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce took place in 1951.



A handsome structure, the Niagara District Bank is an example of Empire design with Italianate features.

This building is of the Second Empire design, as indicated in the Mansard roof. It also exhibits strong Italianate features, as evident in the Palladian window in the roof as well as the rounded window and door design with keystone accents, wide cornice, brackets and dentils.



Note the beautiful Italianate features including the Palladian window, wide cornice, detailed brackets and dentils. Also Italianate in design are the toppers on the windows, with keystone accents.

The Merchant Bank of Canada

Located directly south of the Niagara Bank is a building which presently houses the Ingersoll Optical and which was originally the Merchant Bank of Canada. A branch of this bank was established in Ingersoll in 1868. In 1870, this building was erected and business was conducted on this site until 1907, when a new bank was built on the northeast corner of Charles and Thames Streets. In 1920, the Bank of Montreal and the Merchant Bank merged, assuming the name of the Bank of Montreal. In 1961-62, they moved to their present location on the southwest corner of Charles and Thames Streets.

Of Italianate design, the building currently does not exhibit many features of this architectural style. In all likelihood, decorative features were removed over the years due to decay and cost of upkeep.



The Merchant Bank is also of Italianate style, however, decorative features are absent and were likely removed over the years as a result of decay.

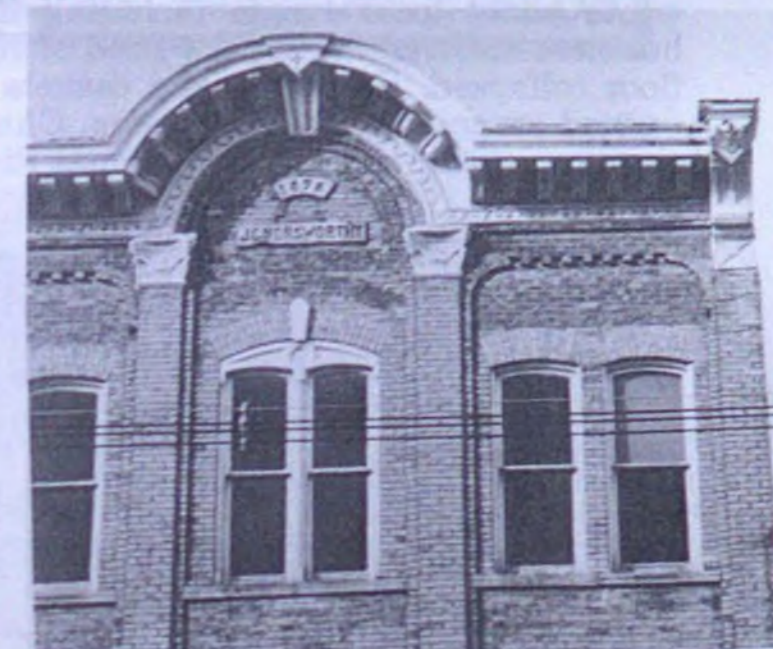
The Norsworthy Building

On King Street, just west of Thames, sits a handsome structure known as the Norsworthy Building. Mr. J. C. Norsworthy was a general banker and broker who was also in the insurance business and who was an agent for various steamship lines. A branch of the London Bank was located in this building for a few years. In 1887, the Traders Bank took over the business of the London Bank and began operating in this building. The business prospered so that it was necessary to secure larger quarters and a new building was erected on the northwest corner of Thames and King Streets, the present location of the Royal Bank. The Royal Bank merged with the Traders Bank to form the present Royal Bank of Canada.

The Norsworthy Building is an example of Italianate design. The building has strong Classical features as noted in the pilasters on the corners. The arches in the brickwork just under the cornice are also indicative of Classical design. The windows, wide cornice and brackets are Italianate.



An example of Italianate design, the Norsworthy Building has strong Classical features.



Corner and centre pilasters and arches in the brickwork above the windows are representative of the Classical style. Cornice and bracket work are Italianate.

The James McIntyre Building

Located on King Street East and currently the home of the Oak House Furniture is the building known as the McIntyre Building. James McIntyre came to Canada from Forres, Scotland and in 1859 established his furniture business, consisting of a store on King Street and a factory on Carroll Street where the Senior's Apartments now stand. As well as manufacturing and selling furniture, he also manufactured coffins and was the town embalmer, perhaps the first undertaker in Ingersoll. In addition, McIntyre was also a poet. Although dubbed "Poet of the Canadian Pasture Fields" whose musings lacked classical polish, he did write about everyday matters in a straight

forward, common sense manner which makes his work historically significant today. He was a great booster of the town of Ingersoll and was particularly interested in the growing dairying and cheese industries in the townships. The poem most frequently quoted is his Ode to the Mammoth Cheese (see Retrospect Vol.1, No.1, p.6). McIntyre wrote about local events including fire and flood. In fact, his own business suffered during the flood of 1894, when part of a wall and the floor collapsed. Furniture and caskets were swept into the water and carried several miles downstream. Chairs and other pieces of furniture were reportedly seen in the Thames River as far west as Dorchester.



The James McIntyre Building has recently been redecorated to accentuate the Italianate design.

The McIntyre Building boasts a number of Italianate architectural features. The elaborate cornice, comprised of dentils and brackets, as well as the detailed window hoods are all indicative of this style.

James McIntyre died in 1906 and is buried in the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery along with his wife and son, Alex.



Note the elaborate cornice work and hooded windows, all Italianate features.

NOTE: Historical facts have been provided by J. C. Herbert and John Van Dyke. Jack Hedges provided consultation on architectural features.

POET OF THE CANADIAN PASTURE FIELDS



James McIntyre

Our poet of the Canadian pasture fields, James McIntyre, is best known for his interest in the local cheese industry. The following excerpt from McIntyre's Poems, published in 1891, describes in poetry and prose the cheese industry in Oxford County.

CANADIAN CHEESE TRADE

Owing to the deep interest I have taken in the pasture lands and the cows grazing thereon, along the pleasant streams, where geese and ducks sported in the pleasant waters, I have been so delighted with the pictorial beauty of the picturesque rural landscape that the thoughts thereof have been a perpetual joy to me and it has gradually drawn me to sing of milk, and cream and cheese, which is now the chief export of Canada. I wrote the following lines many years ago referring to the skilful hands and cultivated mind had enabled her to produce cheese of the finest grade:

When Ranney left his native state
With his industrious, skilful mate,
They settled down in Dereham
Then, no dairyman lived near them.

As a controversy had arisen about who was the person entitled to the rank of the pioneer of cheese making and as I was aware that Mrs. Ranney was enjoying good health, and managing her own business, and

answering her own correspondence, I requested her to state her experience as a cheese maker and when she began to manufacture in Canada. She stated in reply that she came to Dereham Township, Oxford county, near Ingersoll, in the year 1831 and that she had made cheese for ten years before that time in the States for the Boston market. She began in this neighborhood with a few cows and gradually increased her stock until in the year 1838 she had 25 cows and in the year 1855 her herd numbered 102 cows. She was then sending her cheese to Toronto, Hamilton, London, Brantford and Guelph. A few years ago her son-in-law, the late James Harris, built a factory on her farm, and Mr. Farrington, originator of the factory system in Canada, was also connected with her family. Mr. Harris was the manufacturer of the mammoth cheese which weighed nearly four tons and all of it a uniform fine quality and colour. It entered Ingersoll drawn by four large grey teams in a triumphal procession, and it was received in Liverpool with even more regal honours.

It sailed with triumph o'er the seas,
'Twas hailed with welcome queen of cheese.

Mrs. Ranney was born in the first year of this century and is healthy, happy and cheerful in her 92nd year. I visited her recently and she hopes I will have success with this book. Her husband, and James Harris and Mr. Farrington have all passed away to the spirit land. Mrs. Ranney resides in the village of Salford, where a fine, new Methodist church was recently erected and arrangements are now being made to build a new Baptist parsonage. About a mile east of the village is what is said to be a small bottomless swamp over which is a floating bridge which sometimes becomes submerged.

Two miles south, the Reynold's creek extension ditches are gradually drying up the great Dereham swamp and transforming it into fertile farms, but the people in some portions of Dorchester would prefer the stream to be diverted elsewhere than through their township.

Ingersoll 30 years ago was the centre from which radiated the light and refulgence of the cheese knowledge.

Here were the books, the arts, the academies, that showed, contained and nourished the cheese factory industries.

And one of the earliest visitors in search of light, was him who now is the Honourable Thomas Ballantyne, who is fully entitled to front rank as a promotor and sustainer of the factory system, and the

beneficial legislation which has been procured for its protection has been secured by him.

Early and bright in bygone years
One of a noble form appears,
Resolved the milk flood should go forth
Flowing o'er his county to the north,
Now Perth has cheese crop large and fine
Thanks to the cheese champion Ballantyne.

A few years ago Mr. Ballantyne was applied to by a gentleman from the dairy district of Scotland, wishing him to recommend a cheese instructor from Canada for their institute, he selected Mr. Drummond who is married to one of Ingersoll's fair daughters, and owns a beautiful home here. He formerly successfully carried on factories in this neighbourhood which were models of neatness and of system. Mr. Drummond resides here in the winter season and has recently purchased a fine residence in this town. He has elevated the standard quality of cheese in Scotland to the first rank.

The following article contained in the February 28, 1901 issue of the Ingersoll Chronicle, documents the passing of Lydia Ranney .

DEATH OF A CENTENARIAN

Mrs. Lydia Ranney Passes away at the Age of One Hundred Years and Five Months,

The death occurred at Hagersville on Wednesday of Mrs. Lydia Ranney, formerly of Salford, at the ripe age of 100 years and five months. For sometime past deceased has been residing with her granddaughter, Mrs. (Rev.) G. H. Harris, at Hagersville, and has been quite feeble for a considerable length of time, but was able to be around and the day before her death partook of a meal with the family. The end came suddenly and unexpectedly. Mrs. Ranney's maiden name was Chase. She had as an ancestor one of the three Chase

brothers, who came over from England in the Mayflower. She was born in the state of Massachusetts, on the 22nd of Sept., 1800, and was married to Hiram Ranney, of Vermont, in 1819. The young couple went into dairying in Vermont and were soon sending the butter and cheese from twenty-five cows to the Boston market. Here were born to them three children, Hiram, Homer and Julia; but having signed notes to accommodate a relative, they lost most of their property, and resolved to make a new start in a new land. Setting out with a covered wagon, and in it their all, they drove into Lower Canada and there remained for three years. Hearing of cheap land and better prospects in Upper Canada, they again packed up, and in the month of October, 1837, drove for three weeks westward. Stopping for a few days rest at Mr. Peter Hagel's, of Hagel's Corners, Dereham Township, they were persuaded by him to settle down and make for themselves a home

near his place, Mr. Hagel's principal object being to secure a woman of Mrs. Ranney's ability and education to teach his own children and his neighbor's children that were fast growing up without any school privileges. Under Mr. Hagel's leadership the neighborhood turned out and soon had up a log school house. The school opened with about sixty pupils, several of whom were over twenty years of age. Mrs. Ranney rode through the woods to St. Thomas, to be examined as a teacher, and on horse back returned duly qualified, and opened the first school of which we have an official account in the county of Oxford. She talked of her boys who shouldered rifles and took part in the rebellion of '37, and gave the names of several of them, thrifty farmers not far from the place where the old school house stood, on the winding cow path, now the main road through the village of Salford. Soon after they came to the country they purchased the first fifty acres of land and Mr. Ranney went to work hewing out a home. To this fifty they kept adding until they finally owned 700 acres in one block. Four years after they came to Dersham they had succeeded in getting into the dairying business again with the old number of twenty-five cows they once had in Vermont.

Mrs. Ranney, after the year '89, when her trustees were Peter Hagel, Huson Sinclair, and Henry Hill, gave up teaching and gave her attention to home duties. London was their market for cheese and butter, and as time went on, their cows kept increasing until a wag of the village of Salford said he and Mr. Ranney had the most cows of any two men in the county - he owned one, and Mr. Ranney one hundred.

Mrs. Ranney has been a widow for the past thirty years, and has outlived all her children. Her grandchildren still living are Sullivan P. Ranney, Esq., of Salford; Judson Harris, Esq., of Ingersoll; Rev. E. J. Harris, B.A., of Toronto; Mrs. Wm. Craig, of Toronto; Mrs. (Prof.) S. J. McKee, of Brandon College, and Mrs. (Rev.) G. B. Davis, of Hagersville.

NOTE: The apparent discrepancy as to the name of Lydia Ranney's granddaughter in Hagersville is original to the article.

HISTORIC SKATES

The Ingersoll Cheese Museum is pleased to have received a pair of unique skates, steeped in local history. The skates were owned by Alice Galliford Smith, wife of James Smith (see Retrospect Vol.2, No.2, pp. 49-54), who wore them to skate on the family's mill pond in the latter half of the last century.



Manufactured by Douglas Rogers & Company of Norwich, Connecticut, they feature a wooden sole, steel blade and brass trim engraved:

Blondin Skate
Pat. Oct. 20, 1860

CANADA'S FAVORITE COOKBOOK

In the last issue of RETROSPECT, you were introduced to Canada's Favorite Cookbook, published in Brantford in 1902. A chapter, entitled "Dinner Giving", outlines turn-of-the-century menus for special occasions. Compare your menus for St. Patrick's Day and for Easter Sunday with those of the author, Annie R. Gregory.

Special Menus

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

(March 17)

"There's a dear little Island far over the sea,
And no spot on the globe's half so precious to me;
And by lake or mountain where e'er I may roam,
I shall never forget thee, my own Ireland home.
Other skies may be bright, other lands may be fair,
But what of all that if the heart be not there?
Other music may charm me, but ah! there is none
Which can move me to sadness or mirth like thine own."

As green is the prevailing color on St. Patrick's Day, I have suggested a dinner menu where this color and white are used exclusively. Let a dish of ferns be made the centerpiece and scatter ferns about the table. Let Irish flags decorate the room. Have the china green and white, so far as possible.

Green silk embroidered over a small wire, to imitate the shamrock, placed at each plate, for a *bouttonniere*, is quite appropriate and novel.

"Oh! the Shamrock, the green, immortal Shamrock!
Chosen Leaf
Of Bard and Chief,
Old Erin's native Shamrock!"

MENU.

BREAKFAST	DINNER	LUNCHEON
Grape Fruit	Cream of Spinach	Escalloped Potatoes
Rice, with cream	Creamed Fricassee of Chicken	Whitefish Turbot
Popovers	Irish Potatoes, mashed	Cold Slaw
White Omelette, garnished with parsley	Peas	Fruit Glacé à la St. Patrick, whipped cream
Irish Potatoes, in cream	Lettuce and Celery Salad	
Coffee	Pistachio Ice Cream	
	Angel Cake	
	Coffee	
		Cocos

(The above recipes and many similar ones are found within the pages of this book.)



Easter Sunday

"RESURRECTION is a *lives* lining to the dark clouds of death, and we know the sun is shining beyond."

Easter brings joy to the festival. Let the table decorations be fresh andainty. The dominant dish should be eggs—eggs and eggs, over again.

In pagan days, the use of eggs in the spring was symbolical of nature—"the bursting forth of life." With the Christians, it symbolizes the resurrection: "From death—Life." The free use of eggs on Easter has now generally become a custom with all nations, whether that nation acknowledges its religious significance or not.

White and green are the most appropriate colors for decoration. White china and pure white linen, with Easter lilies for a centerpiece, make an ideal looking table. Hard-boiled eggs sliced crosswise, make pretty garnishings for the different dishes. On this special day, for breakfast, let the eggs be cooked to order as best pleases each individual fancy. This privilege will be greatly appreciated, especially by the little folks, who like innovations.

MENU

BREAKFAST	DINNER	SUPPER
Oranges	Consommé, with egg <i>with</i>	Welch Rarebit
Grape Nut and cream	Roast Lamb and mint sauce	Filberts Eggs, in jelly
Eggs, "to order"	Greens, with hard-boiled eggs	Easter Eggs Palm Cake
Hashed Potatoes, in cream	Egg and Watercress Salad	
Rolls	Strawberry Ice Cream	Russian Tea
Griddle Cakes and maple syrup	Easter Cakelets	
Coffee	Coffee	

(The above recipes and many similar ones are found within the pages of this book.)

It is a pretty custom to exchange souvenirs on Easter mornings. The candy rabbit and bonbon box of speckled eggs, fill quite a place in the boy's heart and help him remember happily the day.

A pretty custom in my girlhood was the rolling of the colored eggs out of doors on the day following Easter. I am told that this custom is now quite modern—that the children in our Capital city all repair to the White House grounds to roll their eggs, and that our Presidents, as well as the wee folks, enjoy the sport. Long live the Presidents!

Eggs were such a staple in the diet of the times that an entire chapter, comprising over 50 recipes, is devoted to the humble egg. Additional recipes are included in a chapter on the use of the chafing dish. This excerpt from the chapter on eggs outlines three methods of preserving eggs in the era before refrigeration.



OVER FIFTY WAYS TO COOK THEM.

THERE is probably no one article of food that enters so frequently into the composition of dishes for the table as do eggs. Their value as food is well known, the nutriment in them as well as their ease of digestion entitling them to be considered as one of the most useful articles for daily use. In some households they are the principal breakfast dish, and the variety of ways in which they can be used greatly enhances their value.

HOW TO TEST GOOD AND BAD EGGS.

A sure test of the freshness of an egg is to immerse it in water. Should it sink to the bottom and lie on its side it is good but if the egg is stale, it will float or stand upon one end.

The "candling" process consists in looking through the egg at a light, or holding it between you and the sun. If it shows up clear and spotless so that the yolk can be perceived, it is good, otherwise, it is not; also, in shaking an egg, if it makes a sound it is not a good egg and should be rejected.

HOW TO PRESERVE EGGS FOR WINTER USE.

In many households eggs are regarded as expensive, and so they are, perhaps, but not when the amount of real nutriment they contain is considered. No other food can take their place at the same price. We give below three methods of preserving them.

TO PRESERVE EGGS (METHOD No. 1).

Procure a new and clean wood box the size that will hold the quantity desired to pack away—and lay all over the bottom a layer of common salt about one inch thick. Now, have ready the eggs—fresh as fresh can be and pack them in rows placing the small ends down. When layer is complete put in salt until eggs are covered and then put on another layer of eggs. Continue until box is full, cover and put away in dry, cool, dark closet. If fresh eggs are put in, fresh eggs will come out. G. P.

TO PRESERVE EGGS (METHOD No. 2).

For every three gallons of water, put in one pint of fresh slacked lime and one-half pint of common salt; mix well, and let the crock be about one-half full of this fluid, then with a dish let down your eggs into it, tipping the dish after it fills with water, so they roll out without cracking the shell, for if the shell is cracked the egg will spoil. Lay a piece of board across the top of the eggs, and keep a little lime and salt upon it. They must always be kept covered with the brine. Be sure that eggs are fresh. If fresh they will keep two and three years. This is the method sailors often use.

C. S. F.

TO PRESERVE EGGS (METHOD No. 3).

Dissolve sufficient gum arabic in water to make rather a thick liquid. Soon as possible after the eggs have been laid, coat them thoroughly with it, then place them in a box filled with powdered charcoal; when required for use wash off the coating.

MRS. MARY GOODRICH.

EGGS COOKED WITHOUT BOILING.

By this simple process eggs are lighter for delicate stomachs than by plunging them into boiling water. Heat a basin with boiling water till it is thoroughly hot; then turn off the water and put the eggs to be cooked into it, moving them round so that every part shall receive the heat. Have ready a kettle of boiling water, pour this over the eggs, and cover the basin to prevent any steam from escaping. In twelve minutes they will be perfectly cooked.

B. A. COOK.

STEAMED EGGS.

Break one-half dozen eggs into separate cups, and have ready a well-buttered dish, into which each egg should be placed carefully. Cover the dish to prevent the heat from escaping, and set it over a pan of boiling water, first putting small bits of butter lightly over the top of the eggs. When they are set sufficiently, sprinkle them with a little salt and serve with fried ham or sausages. It takes four minutes to set.

MRS. LYELL.

SOFT-BOILED EGGS.

Put the eggs in boiling water and let boil for three minutes. Take them from the fire, and let stand in the water one minute to set the whites. Another way is to put the eggs into cold water, and leave them over the fire until the water boils, when the whites will be set.

NELLIE SAMMONS.

THE ESTELLE

INDUSTRIAL INGERSOLL, published by the Ingersoll Sun in February of 1907, described the virtues of the Town of Ingersoll in glowing terms, a tribute to the thriving economy and an inducement to prospective industry. The preamble contains the following description of one of the modern transportation systems servicing the town.

The opening of an electric trolley line, the W. T. V. and I. Electric Railway, between Ingersoll and Woodstock has furnished a cheap and convenient mode of transportation, and it is confidently expected that in the very near future the extension of the South-Western Traction Electric Railway system will reach Ingersoll from London, thus opening up more convenient communication with a rich section of country lying west of the town.

Although the promised connection with London never materialized, the electric trolley forms a romantic chapter in the history of the area. In the latter part of the 19th century, the production of electric power lay in the hands of small privately-owned companies. The application of electricity to transportation was, therefore, limited by availability and local initiative. Electricity had been generated in Woodstock, at the corner of Mill and Main Streets, since the 1880s, attracting the attention of entrepreneurs from Pennsylvania, Dr. S. Ritter Ickles and J. Armstrong, who arrived in 1897, promoting the use of electrical railways. To be financially viable, it was decided to extend the line beyond the town limits and access Beachville and Ingersoll. Proponents of the electric railway were confident that all of southwestern Ontario would eventually be serviced by electric railways which conveniently passed through the downtown areas, rather than skirting towns the way that the steam railways did.

The newly formed Woodstock, Thames Valley and Ingersoll Electric Railway was granted a 50 year franchise by the Woodstock town council and immediately began selling stock to raise the \$113,000 capital necessary. It has been estimated that the actual investment may have been closer to \$130,000. By-laws passed on January 23, 1900, stipulated that all work had to be completed within 18 months and that paving and maintenance of the street allowance between the tracks rested with the company. The first track was laid on July 3, 1900 by the Von Echo Construction Company.

The first street car, built by Genslager Bros. of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, arrived in the summer of 1900 on a flat car at the G. W. R. Station. A "Toonerville Trolley Type", it proved a disappointment to excited residents who had anticipated something larger and more opulent. It was small, a mere 30 feet in length, accommodating 24 passengers on benches along either side. A vestibule was located at either end of the car. The controls could be operated from either end, allowing the trolley to begin its return trip without turning around. During the winter season, a small pot-bellied stove was added, decreasing the seating capacity. The car was named "Estelle" after the daughter of Dr. Ickes.



This postcard shows the Estelle on Dundas Street, in Woodstock.

The inaugural run of the Estelle was made on November 8, 1900, accompanied by great ceremony. The line only extended to Beachville at this time, the track to Ingersoll not being completed until later in the year when franchise difficulties had been resolved. Local newspaper coverage of the May 6, 1901 town council meeting provides the following details of issues relating to the new electric railway:

Mr. King introduced a by-law granting certain privileges to the Woodstock and Thames Valley Electric road, which was carried to committee of the whole, and then referred back to the board of works for their report thereon, the committee rising with leave to sit again.

The by-law before the council, which the company desires to have passed, provides for the laying of standard T rails on Charles street to Oxford st., and Oxford street to King street, and for a forty years' franchise.

In discussing the by-law exception was taken to the standard T rails, girder rails being the kind required. A franchise of forty years was also objected to, as well as the limited number of streets mentioned in the by-law. These matters as well as the matter of fares and other important features will be duly considered by the council before the by-law is finally passed.

Following the June 17, 1901 meeting of the town council, the Chronicle reported the following:

The board of works committee reported as follows:

Your committee met the representatives of the Woodstock, Thames Valley and Ingersoll Electric Railway on the 14th inst., and discussed the by-law granting said company a franchise and other privileges clause by clause, and after the by-law was duly considered and several amendments agreed to, the committee unanimously adopted the same. We would therefore recommend that the said by-law be given its third reading and finally passed by the council to-night.

-- Adopted.

A further article details the particulars of the terms agreed to.

Dr. Ickes and Lawyer Wallace, of the Woodstock, Ingersoll and Thames Valley Electric Railway, were in town last night and met the committee of the town council in reference to the terms of the proposed by-law.

The members of the committee have agreed to concede the 40 years' franchise, and the company will be required to pay besides taxes rental of \$100 per annum for the first ten years, \$200 per annum for the second ten years, and \$300 per annum for the balance of the term.

The only bone of contention was the terms of rental, which the representatives of the company considered too high. The committee, however, were as adamant, and the by-law will be submitted to the council for approval on those terms.

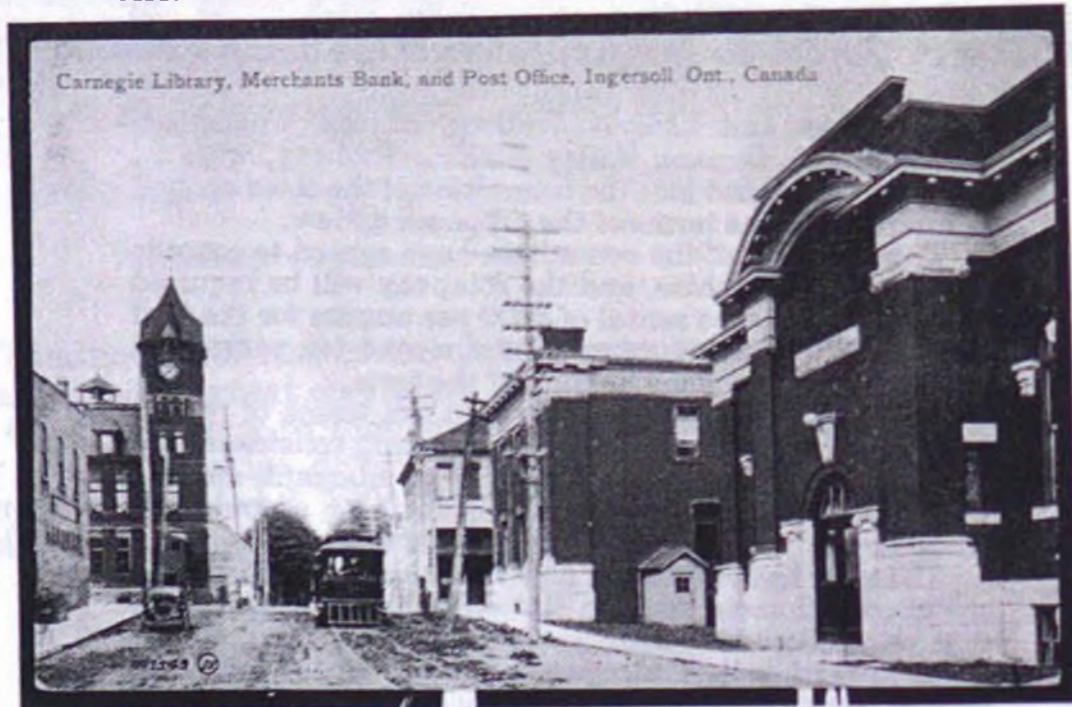
The rails have been laid and the poles erected as far as the corporation limits, and the stringing of the wires is now being proceeded with.

If no further delays occur it is expected that the cars will be running here in a few days. The proposed route in town will be along Charles street to Oxford, and up Oxford street to the market.

The initial run to Ingersoll was eventually made in late June, 1901, ending at the town limits. Coverage in the July 18, 1901 issue of the Chronicle described the next step in the expansion of the line.

Dr. Ickes, of the Woodstock, Ingersoll and Thames Valley Electric Railway, was in town Tuesday morning and had a conference with the council in regard to running the road up Charles street. The track will be laid on the north side of Charles street, to the Thames street crossing. The rails will cross the road just at the edge of the corporation. In answer to a question by Ald. Walter Mills, Dr. Ickes said the cars would in all probability be running to the Thames street corner by the first week in August.

After expansion, the line extended as far east as Huron Street in Woodstock. The trolley travelled west on Dundas Street to Mill Street, south to Park Row, west to Ingersoll Road, continuing on to Beachville and Ingersoll. As it entered Ingersoll, it passed the Ingersoll Public Library, turning south onto Oxford Street. Arriving at the Ingersoll Inn, the conductor turned the electrical rod to the opposite end of the trolley for the return trip. Passengers were picked up at any point between the city limits of Woodstock and Ingersoll. Plans to extend the line to Embro never came to fruition despite considerable interest on the part of local citizens.



This postcard, from the collection of John Harris, shows the trolley running west on Charles Street, past the Carnegie Library. The tracks are clearly visible in the centre of the street.

The Estelle captured the imagination of area residents who avidly followed its exploits in the local newspapers. No event seemed too trivial to be recorded in the press and avidly devoured by its readers. The Estelle developed a personality and a quirky temperament. The pot-bellied stove might warm its passengers, smother them with smoke, or refuse to burn at all and freeze them. The trolley might climb the hill on Mill Street without difficulty, slide backwards, or be pulled off its tracks by pranksters. Upon occasion, the occupants had to lift the car back onto the tracks so that it might continue its journey. During the spring thaw, the Estelle was even towed through the mud by a steam roller. It seemed that everyone who rode the Estelle had a story to tell.

In a brilliant marketing manoeuvre, the W. T. V & I purchased land along the Thames River just west of Woodstock and developed a recreational area. Named "Fairmont Park" after the Pennsylvania home of the promoters, it enticed area residents to make even greater use of the trolley line. At its peak, the park boasted a boathouse where canoes could be rented, a pavilion where weekly dances were held and where a summer stock company performed. The Bohemian Club of Woodstock established a camp there as well. The park was especially popular with courting couples of the era.

So successful was the enterprise that a second trolley, the "City of Woodstock", was added to accommodate the increased volume of traffic during the summer months. This car was larger and open-sided, ideally suited to warm weather and the buoyant mood of picnickers.

The Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario was created, in 1906, to contract for the delivery of energy to municipalities which had formerly been serviced by private enterprise. By the end of 1912, Woodstock and Ingersoll were among 12 municipalities who were receiving power from the Hydro-Electric System. The following chart shows the comparison between the former rates for private companies in these communities and the first average rates of the Hydro-Electric System.

Municipality	Former Rate per k.w.h.	Hydro Rate per k.w.h.
Toronto	8c +	4.4c
London	9c +	4.5c
Guelph	8c +	5.2c
Stratford	12c +	5.5c
St. Thomas	11c +	5.9c
Woodstock	8c +	6.5c
Kitchener	11c +	4.9c
Hespeler	10c +	7.6c
Preston	9c +	6.5c
Waterloo	12c +	6.1c
New Hamburg	10c +	7.7c
Ingersoll	8c +	8.3c

The plus sign indicates a charge of from 15c to 25c a month for meter rental.

Ingersoll was the only town in which the Hydro charge equalled or exceeded that formerly charged under private ownership. However, these rates soon declined.

The Ontario public became caught up in a frenzy of enthusiasm toward the application of electricity to transportation, resulting in the construction and operation of several electric railways. However, a Royal Commission named in 1920, under Mr. Justice Sutherland, concluded that Electric Railways could not be self-supporting. The findings of this commission proved prophetic. In 1925, the Estelle and the City of Woodstock were replaced by buses and automobiles. The Woodstock, Thames River and Ingersoll Electric Railway was officially dissolved in 1939. An era had ended.

The following article, from the Ingersoll Tribune, is one of many chronicling the exploits of the Estelle.

STREET CAR FATALITY

MRS. W. B. THORNTON ALMOST INSTANTLY KILLED.

The Buggy in Which She Was Riding Crashed Into by an Electric Car, and She and Her Daughter Thrown Violently to the Ground- An Inquest Will be Held

The Woodstock Express gives the following particulars of the lamentable accident which occurred at Woodstock on Friday afternoon:

"Mrs. Thornton and her daughter left home early in the afternoon to come to Woodstock. They drove in a top buggy, with the top up, and they were well wrapped up, particularly Mrs. Thornton, who was muffled in a large cape, which was wrapped around her head. They came down the Sweaburg road, and as they drew near the street car tracks at the corner of Park Row and Mill streets, they expressed the hope that they would not meet the street car. Both were nervous and at the head of Mill street were relieved at the prospect of reaching the top of the hill at Vanstittart avenue before the car appeared. The prospect was not realized.

"Ahead of the buggy was a load of wood and the horses were acting ugly. The driver was endeavoring to control the team. Miss Thornton thought to turn out and pass the load, and to do so she must cross the car track.

Had the buggy top been down, and the occupants of the rig not so heavily wrapped up, they would have known that the car was upon them. They would have heard it as it swung around Mill street. As it was they apparently did not hear it until too late to get out of the way. The car struck the buggy, and, breaking the king-bolt, threw the occupants violently to the ground. The car was stopped within its own length from the scene of the accident.

The car was in charge of Superintendent Warfield. He says that he saw Mrs. Thornton thrown under the wheels of the wagon carrying the load of wood, and that the wagon wheel passed over her body. Whether this is so or whether death resulted from the shock of so violent a fall to the ground the investigation has not yet brought out.

Miss Thornton recovered herself and appeared not to be so much hurt. Her mother was picked up and carried into Nelson Lampman's establishment near by, by Mr. Lampman and Dr. Ickes, who was on the car when the accident occurred.

Dr. McKay and Dr. Welford were quickly on hand, but Mrs. Thornton died a few moments after being taken inside. The horse was captured before it got a chance to run away.

An inquest was opened by Dr. McKay, and adjourned until Wednesday.

Mrs. Thornton was 57 years of age. She was one of the best known and most highly respected residents of the township, and was a member of Chalmers church. Besides a husband, the following children are left, John, in British Columbia, William A., in Woodstock, Benjamin, of Curries, Fred, Henry W., and Frank, of West Oxford, and Muggie and Mamie, at home, and Mrs. Joseph McGachie, Woodstock.

The funeral took place on Monday afternoon to the Methodist cemetery, Woodstock, and was very largely attended, the pall bearers being the five sons and one son-in-law of deceased.

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TO
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TIONS



Part in Natural Colors.

(Note) - Miss Dorothy Siple
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JUVENILE COMEDY "SCOUT PLUCK" LARRY SEMON IN
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COVER DESIGN BY JACK SAVAGE

RETROSPECT

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE
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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 4, No. 1

MARY FRANCIS, editor

May, 1997.

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SINCLAIR
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1997 EXECUTIVE

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ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

A Look at the Past and the Future

BY SUSAN MASTERS

The January General Meeting of the Historical Society hosted speakers from the Alexandra Hospital who spoke on the history of the facility as well as future directions for it. Robin Schultz, Development Officer, gave a comprehensive review of the Hospital's history while Sandy Whittall, Site Administrator, shared insights into the direction in which our Hospital is headed.

What follows is an edited version of Robin's presentation. Also, a summary of the information of the information presented by Sandy has been included.

THE ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL SAGA

Part I: THE EARLY YEARS

June 1997 will mark one hundred and seven years since the concept of having a public hospital in Ingersoll was born. However, sufficient signatures could not be obtained on a petition due to the citizens' belief that it would be too costly. It was the year 1889, and the whole financial burden would have had to be borne by the municipality. It was not until 1909 that the dream was realized and, until then, Ingersoll had only private hospitals and private nurses.



Dr. J. M. Rogers

Dr. J. M. Rogers opened the first hospital for his patients in 1898, in the front rooms of what was then known as the "O'Neil House" at 106 Francis Street. One nurse assisted the doctor. That same year, Dr. Angus McKay opened the second private hospital in the house at 252 Victoria Street (northeast corner of Victoria and McKeand Streets). Again, one nurse was in attendance.



Dr. Angus McKay

In 1900, the doctors set up a joint hospital, with then modern equipment, in the Waterworth House on Oxford Avenue (a large yellow brick house on the west side of the street, no longer standing). It was here that operations and the first local hospital births took place. Even then, doctors had an insight into the advantages of shared facilities.



Dr. James Coleridge

The need for increased accommodation became evident and in late 1908 the idea of establishing a local, larger facility met little resistance. Those promoting the need for a proper facility were Drs. Rogers, Neff, Coleridge and Carroll.



Joseph Gibson



Stephen Noxon

A meeting was held and citizen support was given by Joseph Gibson, postmaster; Thomas Seldon, exporter; John E. Boles, merchant; Stephen Noxon, manufacturer; George Naylor, merchant, and J. Anderson Coulter, of the Morrow Company.



Thomas Seldon

On January 28, 1909, a citizen's group met in council chambers to consider properties suitable for purchase. Those being considered were: the George Christopher property on Thames street North (now the Canadian Legion), the Kirkwood property (opposite the present hospital) and the Dr. Angus McKay home on Noxon Street (the former James Noxon house).

The Dr. McKay property could be purchased for the sum of \$8000 with the agreement that he could keep the east field with a cottage and small barn for his horses. Dr. McKay included all the electric light fixtures, a 90 gallon hot water boiler, and the library book case. He also very generously donated \$2000 to the building fund.

This offer was accepted and the building and the site were both approved by a Dr. Bruce Smith, of Toronto. He reported that all the houses reviewed were well built and could be used for hospital purposes. At this time the Welland Hospital was newly built, and on comparing its size to the one needed to service the Ingersoll area, and the cost per bed being \$1000, Dr. Smith thought that the Dr. McKay property was quite appropriate.

A committee was appointed to procure a charter. The proper documents were sent to the Provincial Secretary's Department, Toronto. The committee was empowered to set bylaws, and legal documents were drawn up. This was on April 29, 1909, and not anticipating any delays, a suitable name had to be decided upon. It was Dr. McKay's suggestion that the name "Alexandra" be given in honour of the wife of the reigning monarch, King Edward VII (1841-1911), the eldest son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. The charter was granted on May 3, 1909.

Now the fund raising began under provincial directors: Thomas Seldon, Stephen Noxon, Mayor George Sutherland, Raymond Hutt, Joseph Gibson, George Naylor and John E. Boles. Legal advisor was J L. Paterson.

A bequest in the will of the late Dr. D. W. Carroll in 1916 enabled the Trust to build a new wing on the hospital.

Alexandra Hospital became a member of the Ontario Hospital Association in 1928.

Part II: THE NOXON HOUSE

James Noxon came to Ingersoll in the early 1850s and established the Noxon Implement Company. By 1873 this firm was the most important one in Ingersoll, employing 200-300 men. Their farm machinery became known world wide. It was sent, not only across Canada and the United States, but also to the British Isles and to some European countries.



James Noxon

In 1874, James Noxon built a castle-like home on the street that still bears his name. It was considered one of the beauty spots of Ingersoll, set in a treed, park-like setting. It became the centre of social life in Ingersoll and belles of that era were thrilled to dance in the lighted ballroom of the beautiful house on the hill. The gracious hospitality of the Noxons was enjoyed by many people of note, including Sir Wilfred Laurier when he visited Ingersoll in 1895.

This magnificent property was later purchased and occupied by Dr. Angus McKay, who was a beloved physician in Ingersoll and area for many years. He was known in Toronto, where he served for sixteen years in the Provincial Legislature, as "the handsome member from South Oxford."



ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL, 1909

Part III: ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL NURSING SCHOOL

In its 28 years as a training school, Alexandra Hospital graduated 36 nurses. The applicants had to be between 18 and 30 years of age. The students worked 12 hour duty with a 2-hour rest period for day duty. Lectures were given by the Medical Staff in the hospital library.

A monthly allowance "to cover expenses" was paid to the students - first year \$5.00; intermediate year \$8.00; senior year \$10.00 per student. During these early years, the superintendent was the only "training nurse" with rest of the nursing staff composed of "student nurses." This meant that she filled the position of surgical, obstetrical, X-ray and emergency nurse.



MISS ADA HODGES, first superintendent (1909- 1937) with the first two graduates of the Training School for Nurses -MISS ETHEL SIPLE and MISS LILIAN MAYNARD

Alexandra Hospital was fortunate in having Miss Ada C. Hodges as its first superintendent from 1909-1937. Miss Hodges was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Hodges of London, Ontario. She graduated from West Side Hospital, Chicago, Illinois in 1901 and remained in the United States for three years - during part of this time taking post graduate studies in surgical nursing. After returning to London, she worked there for five years, then came to Alexandra Hospital when it opened. She was well qualified and it was her untiring efforts and capable supervision that gave Alexandra such an efficient beginning.

During her tenure as Superintendent, a radio was given to the hospital by Mr. Raymond H. Swetland of Cleveland, Ohio, a friend of the Hodges family. It was one of the first radios installed in any hospital in this area.

In 1937, the Nurses Training School, Alexandra Hospital, was closed by the Provincial Department of Health following an order-in-council that all training schools in smaller hospitals should be eliminated.

Part IV: THE "NEW" ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

During 1944, the Board of Trust appointed a "New Hospital Building Committee" for the purpose of planning a new facility. The Lions Club of Ingersoll, County Council, the Auxiliary and fund raising projects by the Board resulted in the laying of the cornerstone for the new hospital on March 16, 1949. The new hospital officially opened on June 14, 1950 at a total cost of \$565,000. It featured a 60-bed complement with the capacity to handle 80 beds without any additional equipment.

The Programme

THE KING.

R. G. START, *President, Hospital Board.*

DR. J. G. MURRAY, *Mayor, Town of Ingersoll*

ROBERT RUDY, *Warden, County of Oxford.*

DR. C. C. CORNISH, *President Medical Staff.*

A. R. HORTON, *Chairman of Building Committee.*

MRS. P. M. DEWAN, *President, of the W.A.*

CARL PALMER, *President, Ingersoll Lions Club*

T. R. DENT, *Provincial Member for Oxford.*

CLARKE MURRAY, *Federal Member for Oxford.*

REV. FR. A. FUERTH.

REV. J. M. WARD, *President, Ingersoll Ministerial Association.*

Prayer of Dedication.

The Lieutenant-Governor, the Honourable RAY LAWSON, O.B.E., L.L.D.

The Trustees and Women's Auxiliary

of the

Alexandra Hospital, Ingersoll

cordially invite you to be present at the

opening of the

New Alexandra Hospital

on Wednesday, June the Fourteenth,

Nineteen Hundred and Fifty

at Four o'clock, in the afternoon

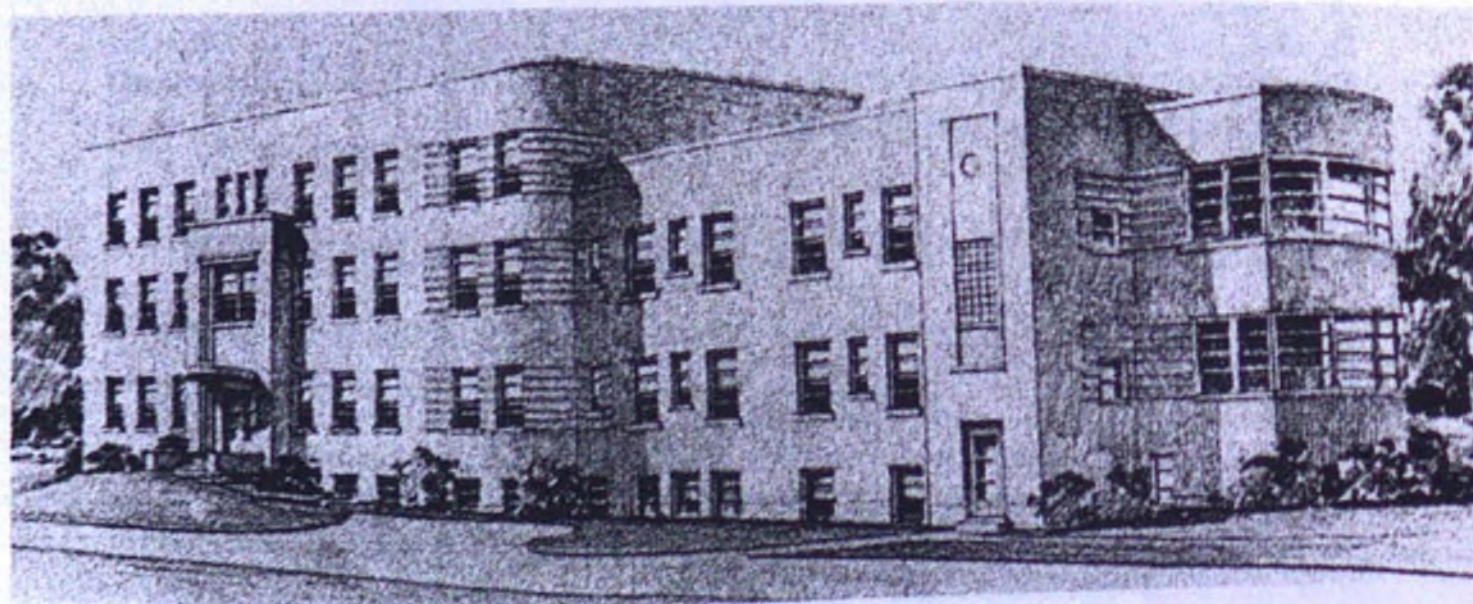
Opening ceremony by

The Honourable Ray Lawson, O.B.E., L.L.D.

Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario

Bring Card in your Official Admittance.

THE INVITATION AND PROGRAM FOR THE OPENING OF THE NEW ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL, JUNE 14, 1950.



THE NEW ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL, 1950

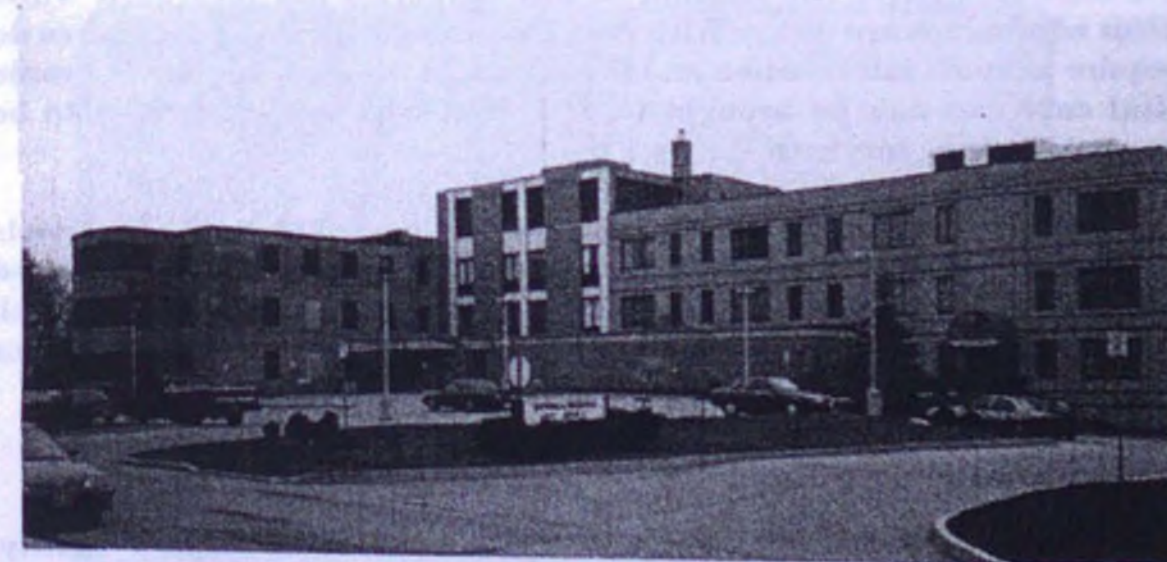


In 1966, a survey was completed which indicated that expanded facilities were necessary. In October 1968, the sod was turned for an addition. On May 12, 1970, Opening Day Ceremonies were held with the enlarged facility housing 80 patient beds as well as diagnostic facilities, hospital services and a larger Emergency/Outpatient Department. The cost of the expansion was \$1,817,307.

Early in the 1980s, planning for the future of the hospital began again. During the next several years, the Board of Trust and administration worked with consultant assistance to complete necessary Ministry of Health guidelines. In the fall of 1986, Alexandra Hospital received approval from the Ministry to proceed with its building/renovation project. Ellis Don won the contract for building and renovation, including fire safety code upgrades. The cost of the renovations and expansion totalled \$6,969,000.

Features of the latest addition include a second elevator, new emergency, physiotherapy and occupational therapy areas, larger nursing stations, improved wheelchair accessibility, an outside deck, a larger lounge and recreation facility and a larger parking lot.

The official sod turning ceremony took place on February 17, 1989, with Ontario premier David Peterson in attendance.



ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL FOLLOWING THE 1989 EXPANSION

A community fundraising program (A.H.E.A.D. - Alexandra Hospital Expansion and Development) surpassed its goal of \$1.4 million in less than nine months. The effort undertaken by the trustees, staff and volunteers clearly showed the tremendous support of the community. This trend continues to be seen through the C.A.R.E.S. (Community and Regional Equipment Support) Fund which is an annual campaign to raise funds for up-to-date hospital equipment.

PART II - THE FUTURE

Ms. Whittall addressed the group as to the future direction of Alexandra Hospital and health care in general in the current economic climate. The health care environment we are facing includes an aging population, new technology and inflation in health care costs. In order to cope with these changes, hospital management must consider ways of increasing revenue and increasing efficiency while decreasing services. Current trends point to a focus on patient-centred care provided by an integrated system of health services, a continuum of which the hospital is only a part. Cost efficiency and accountability are also expectations of the government.

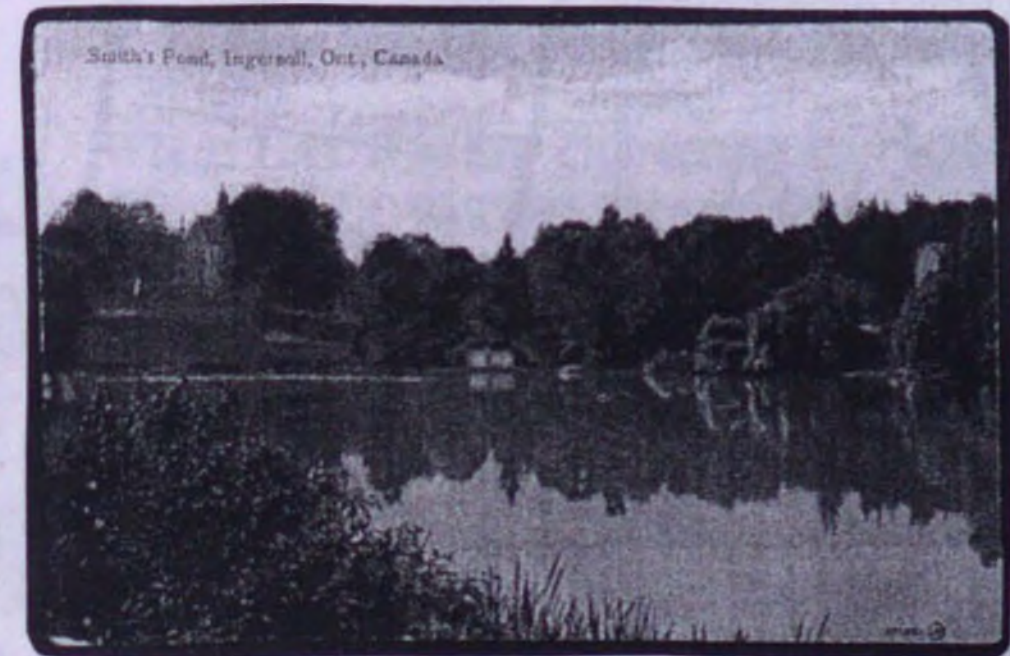
In the past eight years, the average length of stay for patients has decreased from 7 days to 4 days. The number of day surgeries has increased while inpatient admissions are down. With new technologies, many procedures do not require as much intervention and those who, in the past, required chronic hospital care can now be brought to a level of care enabling them to be discharged to other services.

The future plan for Alexandra Hospital is to decrease the number of beds from 52 to 35 (by April 1, 1997). The organizational structure is to be flattened and there is to be an increase in day programs. Alliances with other health agencies, an Information Link with London hospitals and shared services with other hospitals are all part of the future vision.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In 1950, to commemorate the opening of the new facility, The Women's Auxiliary published a 60 page history of the Alexandra Hospital, from 1909-1950. It is an excellent resource, packed with photos, some of which have been reproduced in this article.

SMITH'S POND

As the Waterfront Development Task Force finalizes plans for the development of the Smith's Pond property, let us recall what the area looked like circa 1910.



LOOKING SOUTH, THE ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL IS VISIBLE ON THE HILLTOP



STANDING AT THE DAM LOOKING EAST

NEW WEARABLES

That Will Make You Appear Well

RESOLVED
I LOVE TO SEE MY MOTHER
WELL DRESSED SO DOES EVERY
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OF PARENTS TO DRESS WELL
FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S SAKE
IT LEAVES A NICE IMPRESSION
ON THEIR MINDS
BUSTER BROWN



HOW CAN A MOTHER EXPECT HER CHILDREN TO BEHAVE WELL AND WISH TO APPEAR WELL UNLESS SHE HERSELF SETS THEM A GOOD EXAMPLE? GOOD DRESS INFLUENCES OTHERS AND INFLUENCES ONE'S SELF. OUR FALL AND WINTER STOCK OF WEARABLES FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IS NOW OPENED UP. WE SHALL BE GLAD TO HAVE YOU COME AND EXAMINE OUR BEAUTIFUL FURS AND MANTLES; OUR NEW MATERIALS AND TRIMMINGS TO MAKE CLOTHES FROM AND OUR EVERYTHING THAT THE LADY WILL WEAR THIS FALL AND WINTER SEASON.

OUR PRETTY NEW STYLES IN FALL HEAD GEAR WILL SOON BE ON DISPLAY. YOU WISH TO SEE WHAT THE NEW THINGS ARE. DO YOU NOT? THEN COME TO OUR STORE.

JOHN E. BOLES

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MISS GREEN

Desires to announce her opening display of Fall Millinery,

THURSDAY SEPT. 17

and following days
To which all ladies are invited

KING ST.

MILLINERY OPENING

Miss E. Bell

KING ST.

EAST

A cordial invitation to the ladies of Ingersoll and vicinity to attend the millinery openings

THURSDAY, SEPT. 17

and following days.
Miss Bell visited the Detroit and Toronto openings and is prepared to display splendid designs.

Miss E. Bell

Gem Millinery Parlors

THE EVENT OF THE SEASON Northway's MILLINERY OPENING

THURSDAY, FRIDAY and SATURDAY

We extend a very cordial invitation to the ladies of Ingersoll and vicinity to be present at the Fall Opening of Millinery, Mantles, Furs and Suitings---where you will find displayed such an immense gathering of rich merchandise from Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland as well as from our own fair Dominion.

Never have we seen such a carefully selected assortment of everything that is new as that which awaits you here. Come and Bring Your Friends.

and FOLLOWING DAYS.

Limited

CHOIR REMOVED HATS

WILL LADIES OF CONGREGATION FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE?

From Monday's Daily.

A pleasing feature was noticeable in the service at the Methodist church last evening when the ladies of the choir appeared with their hats removed. The effect was entirely favorable giving to the choir a decidedly attractive appearance. One could not help feeling that if the ladies in the congregation would follow the example, it would be a step in the right direction, and a boon to many worshippers who now find the preacher completely hidden from his view by the Merry Widow that looms so large before him.



POET OF THE CANADIAN PASTURE FIELDS

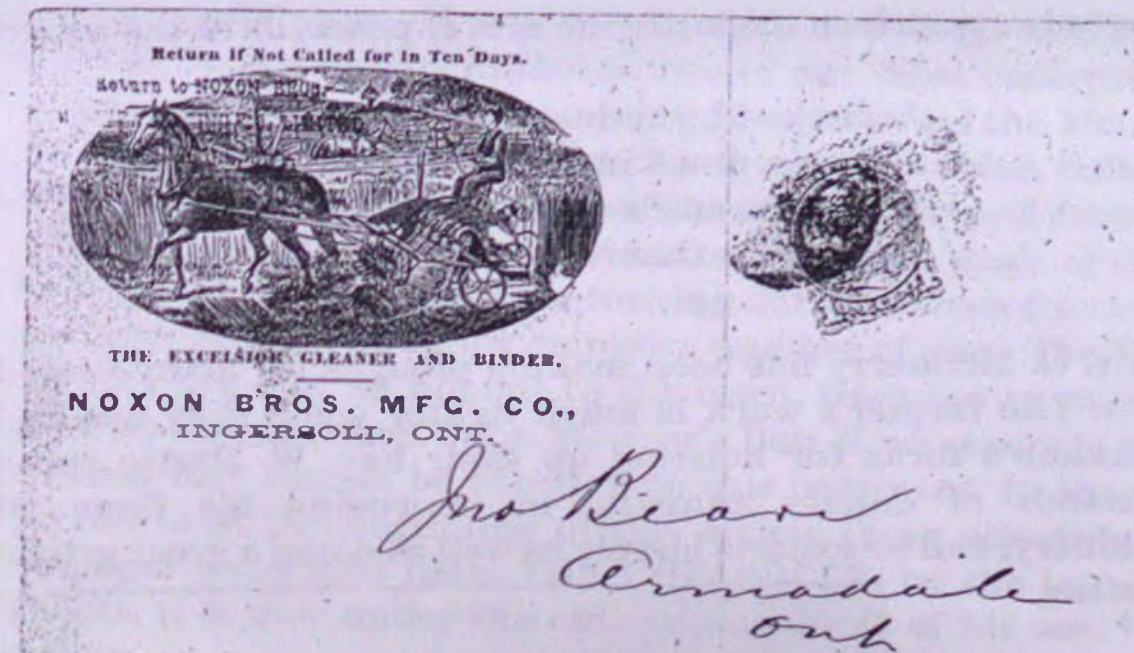


James McIntyre

Our "poet of the Canadian pasture fields," James McIntyre, originally visited Ingersoll in 1854. In this excerpt from McIntyre's Poems, published in 1889, he documents the economic progress made by the town in the intervening years.

INGERSOLL.

When we first visited this Town in the year 1854, we were pleased with the location of the place along the clear, sparkling Thames, which was flowing o'er a pebbly bottom. The village then contained about two thousand inhabitants. The farming lands therein were owned chiefly by Squires Crotty, Canfield, Hall, Carroll, Benson and Carnegie. The above gentlemen have all departed this life, but the old homesteads are in possession of several of their families. The Ingersoll depot was the leading station for shipping pine lumber on the Great Western, and now it is famous as a cheese centre. Mr. Brown's Tannery was in active operation at that early date, but it is still yearly increasing its trade, with new and enlarged premises and improved machinery. The late W. M. Rumsey carried on a foundry on Thames Street, and Dunn & Co. were carrying on the foundry on Charles St.



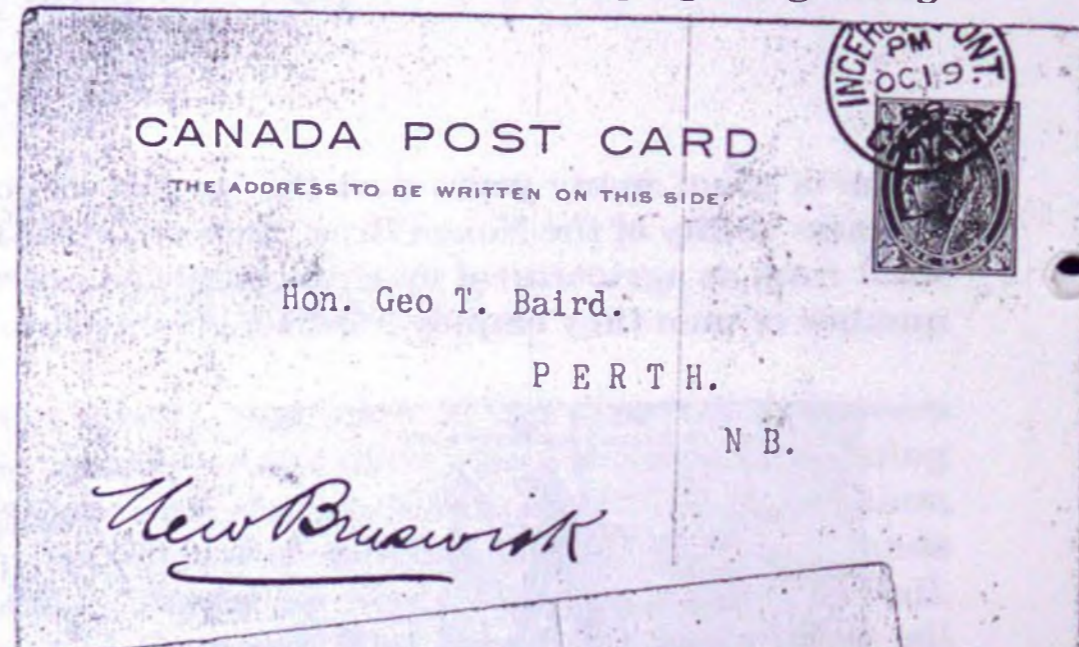
For a great many years past the inventive, constructive and business ability of the Noxon Bros., have enabled them to take the front rank as agricultural machine manufacturers, and the large number of men they employ has been a benefit to the town.



I have always striven to glorify the arts of peace, as in these lines:

Armed with scythes the old war chariot
Cut men down in the fierce war riot;
Round farmer's chariot falls the slain,
But tis the sheaves of fallen grain.

Mr. G. McSherry has been making ploughs for many years in Town. The farmer's work is much lighter when they use M. T. Buchanan's forks for hoisting up their hay. W. Partlo spends thousands of dollars annually in improving his flour mill machinery, and he exports largely as well as doing a great gristing business.



Ingersoll Ont. Oct 19th, 1898.
Dear Sir:-
Your wire ordering a Car Flour 100 Bbls Gold Leaf and 40 Bbls, Ruby with 20½ Bbls, has been booked and shall have our best care and attention. please accept our thanks for same.
Yours Truly,
W. Partlo

Mr. James Smith has a fine new flour mill, and King's mill in the same line is run by Mr. Holland. One of our most enterprising citizens is Mr. A. Grant; he is running Stewart's and the McInnes mills chiefly for oatmeal purposes. The Bradbury woolen mills are doing a flourishing business. Six of the above mills and factories are run by water power with a steam auxiliary in some of them. The Evans Piano Company are turning out numerous fine sweet toned instruments, and they employ a number of men. The Hault Company are also an honour to the town, from the quantity of work they manufacture. John Morrow's Bolt Works execute work of a class that cannot be excelled on this continent. In the year referred to at the beginning of this article there was only one newspaper published here. THE CHRONICLE, by the late J. S. Gurnett; it is now under the able management of his son, G. F. Gurnett.

GURNETT'S PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.

Plain and Ornamental
PRINTING,
In every variety of style, and at reasonable rates.
COUNTRY ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.
THE INGERSOLL CHRONICLE,
A Weekly Paper,
Containing the latest intelligence from all parts of the world, is published on Friday mornings.

Ingersoll, C. W., Jan 10, 1857.
Mr. John Weather
To J. S. Gurnett, Jr.
BOOK & FANCY JOB PRINTER,
THAMES STREET.

To one year's sub. to Chronicle
from Jan 1. '57, to Dec 31. '57 £ 7 6
Recd payment
J. Gurnett

The town has now two other newspapers, THE TRIBUNE, (Conservative), Byron Baillie, editor and publisher; and THE SUN, published by T. A. Bellamy. There were no banks at the time referred to in the village; now we have three: the Merchant's, managed by A. Smith; the Imperial, by J. A. Richardson; and the Trader's, by A. B. Ord. A. N. Christopher is conducting a private bank.

The Town has somewhat of a literary reputation. The late Mr. and Mrs. Macniven each of them published a small volume of poetry some twenty-five years ago. Mrs. Angus McLeod has won many friends by her sweet poems on various subjects. Mr. James Sinclair is a good writer of either prose or verse (see Historian, p. 24). Mr. G. Gregg has written a good many poems - possessing sharp wit and humor, and British sentiments; and J. C. Hegler, Barrister, has composed and sang topical songs which have caused a good deal of amusement to the audience. He is a very popular Major in the celebrated Oxford Rifles. He was a very successful District Deputy Grand Master in the Wilson District of A. F. and A. M. Mr. M. Walsh, Barrister, has met with similar success among the Harris Royal Arch Chapters. Mr. Joseph Gibson is one of the leading Temperance Speakers in this Province. Dr. Mckay, M. P. P. has a pleasant agreeable address; and Dr. Williams is always well versed on any subject which he undertakes to expound.

MURDER MOST FOUL

An article in the Ingersoll Chronicle of October 27, 1904 details a bizarre murder case.

VERDICT OF THE CORONER'S JURY

Mrs. Dee "Did Feloniously, Wilfully And of Malice Aforethought Murder her Husband."

STRYCHNINE IN STOMACH AND CAKE.

Further Evidence as to Remarks Made by Mrs. Dee Regarding her Husband - The Eccentricities of the Woman

(From Wednesday's Daily)

Salford, Oct. 25, 1904
That Mrs. Wm. Dee, otherwise called Lena Dee, on the tenth day of October in the year aforesaid, at her home in the County of Oxford, did feloniously, wilfully and with malice aforethought, kill and murder her husband, Wm. Dee, by administering strychnine as a poison, against the peace of our Lord the King, his crown and dignity.

The above was the verdict returned at 11:30 o'clock last night by the coroner's jury empanelled to enquire into the cause of the death of William Dee, of Dereham, who died suddenly after terrible suffering about noon on Monday, October 10th. The jury was out about three quarters of an hour.

The inquest was resumed at seven o'clock in the hall at Salford. There was a falling off in the attendance as compared with the previous sitting, although the building was comfortably filled. Among the gathering was a number of ladies.

Further sensational evidence was supplied by Miss Aimee Kennedy, who told of remarks she had heard Mrs. Dee make regarding Mr. Dee, one of which was that "she would shoot him if she had a gun." On another occasion Mrs. Dee said to her that "he deserved to be poisoned."

Miss Kennedy also gave evidence as to the eccentricities of Mrs. Dee, who, she said, had told her that she was crazy.

In all five witnesses were examined and the taking of evidence was proceeded with until nearly eleven o'clock.

Geo. Edwards of Ingersoll testified that, on calling at the Dee home, one day he had found Mr. Dee in great agony. Mr. Dee complained of cramps and spoke about "terrible pains." Witness gave the sick man some whiskey, after he had said that he believed some rum would help him. After taking the liquor, witness said that Mr. Dee rallied and was able to go on with his work in the afternoon.

Mrs. Edwards corroborated the evidence of her husband, with the exception of the date on which they visited Mr. and Mrs. Dee. She thought it was about two weeks before Mr. Dee's death.

Two witnesses swore that Mr. Dee had told them about harvest time that he had placed poison in grain for the purpose of killing birds.

POISON IN STOMACH AND CAKE

The principal sensational feature of the sitting was the announcement made by Coroner Neff that Provincial Analyst Ellis, of Toronto, had found strychnine in both the stomach and the cake of which Dee had eaten, and which, according to the evidence of several witnesses,

he said tasted bitter.

REPORT OF ANALYSIS

In summing up the evidence, which he did thoroughly and concisely, Coroner Neff read the following report from the Provincial analyst:

"Toronto, Oct. 16, 1904
J. A. Neff, Esq., M. D.,
Coroner Ingersoll, -

Dear Sir: The stomach you sent me stated to be that of William Dee, contains much strychnine. The cake has crystals of strychnine mixed with the pink part where it has been cut. I have not had time to examine the kidney and bladder; nor the fruit, nor the packet which resembles ginger. The white crystals are epsom salts.

Yours truly,

W. H. Ellis

Before the jury retired, the coroner very carefully reminded them of the oath they had taken.

MRS. DEE

Mrs. Dee was present and occupied her former place in the south-east side of the hall. She looked pale and careworn and most of the time appeared oblivious of the surroundings and of her serious predicament. Her hair was dishevelled to some extent and at times she busied herself in brushing it away from her face. At intervals she would appear lost in meditation only to suddenly glance about her in a somewhat startled manner. Friends of the woman were quick to note that her imprisonment is telling on

her. When the verdict had been read, Mrs. Dee was asked if she had anything to say. She stood up and her counsel, Mr. J. L. Paterson, said "Mrs. Dee has nothing to say."

Mrs. Wm. Piper, a neighbour who was present at the time the death of Wm. Dee occurred, said she was summoned there about 10 o'clock that morning by Mrs. Kennedy, who said "Mr. Dee is very sick."

When she arrived, the sick man was lying on the floor, his hands clenched on the door. Mrs. Dee was there with her husband and was bent over him. As soon as witness saw Mr. Dee she was certain that he was poisoned and she said "Mrs. Dee, he is poisoned," to which Mrs. Dee replied "yes he is poisoned." Witness then spoke to Mr. Dee, saying "could not we do something for you?" He replied, "don't touch me; don't touch me; don't touch me." Witness then said that they must try and give him something. He replied that he was choking and that he might as well choke without it as with it. Mrs. Dee then pointed to a glass with a rubber tube in it and said nothing could be given him as she had tried with the tube and that he could not swallow it with that. While Mrs. Kennedy and witness were alone, Mr. Dee asked to be turned over on his right side. He was in great agony then and clinched the chair on which witness was sitting. "When he gave one of those jerks," said witness, "he

would move the chair with me on it." Witness had been fanning Mr. Dee and she said to him, "when did you get like this?" He replied "I have not been well since Friday, and for a month, in fact I have not been well all summer." She then said to him "When did you get like this?" and his reply was "since he got his breakfast." He then told witness that, after eating his breakfast he went out and picked some apples. Mr. Dee had spoken of paralysis.

Asked once as to where his pain was, he said "he didn't have any," but again said "he would rather die than go through this again." After one convulsion he said "If I have another I will never come back." Witness and Mrs. Kennedy held Mr. Dee while Mr. Kennedy removed his boots.

"Did he say what caused his illness?"

"No; only that he became sick after he ate his breakfast."

Witness heard Mr. Dee say that after he ate his breakfast he had a bitter taste.

Mr. Dee as well as Mrs. Dee was very anxious for the doctor to arrive.

Witness told of the efforts that were made to secure a doctor with all possible haste, and of instructions having been given to Mr. Kennedy, who went to the village to telephone to Ingersoll for one, to tell him to bring a stomach pump with him. Witness told of Dr. Coleridge having read the

symptoms of cases of arsenic and strychnine poisoning and said that Mr. Dee's symptoms corresponded with those in the latter case.

Questioned as to how Mr. and Mrs. Dee got along, witness said she had never heard Mr. Dee speak an unkind word of his wife. Mr. Dee had said that his wife would not take medicine if he got it for her. She had heard Mrs. Dee say that she was not well. He had never heard Mrs. Dee make any threats towards her husband, although she had heard her say to Dr. Coleridge that she had thought of doing away with him.

"Do you know if Mr. Dee ever had strychnine around?"

"I think that it was strychnine he told me he had; he also said he had Paris Green."

"When was that?"

"When the fall wheat was ripe."

Witness went on to say that Mr. Dee had said that he had soaked a sheaf of wheat in Paris green. She also thought that he had said that he had put strychnine in some corn.

"What did he do with the wheat and corn?"

"He put it on the field to kill fowl and sparrows."

He had also said that all of the corn had disappeared, and the witness stated that some of her ducks and one of her turkeys had died.

Juryman - "Were you ever aware that this man and woman were in the habit of quarrelling?"

"I did not know that they

quarrelled, and Mr. Dee at least."

To Dr. Coleridge, witness heard Mrs. Dee say that they quarrelled a little nearly every day. She also said that he was dead now and that she did not want to say anything.

Witness said that Mrs. Dee stated that her husband had pie, cake, bread and butter, tea and potatoes for his breakfast.

Witness also testified that when it was suggested that something be done to relieve Mr. Dee's sufferings she said that it was no use trying, that he could not take anything.

To Mr. Patterson, witness said that she had known for three years that Mrs. Dee's health was not good, especially her mental condition. She then went on to tell one of Mrs. Dee's eccentricities, which was that she would say some little thing and burst into laughter. Witness also said that when Mrs. Dee went out calling she did not act like other women. Judging from Mrs. Dee's eccentricities witness had thought that Mrs. Dee was not accountable. Witness also told of Mrs. Dee not being particular in her manner of dress and personal appearance. While giving evidence along this line, Mrs. Piper said that Mrs. Dee had told her that she wanted to get away from her home and go with her mother, saying "that she always felt better there."

Witness also said that she heard Mrs. Kennedy ask Mrs. Dee if she remembered

having said that she would kill her husband if she could, and she replied that she did.

In the opinion of the witness, Mrs. Dee's position would not be bettered by the death of her husband. She did not know as to whether Mr. Dee carried any life insurance.

Miss Aimee Kennedy testified that she had known the Dees for some time. Mrs. Dee had told her that her husband abused her. Mrs. Dee had also told her that he had put her out of doors in the morning before she was dressed. "She told me," said witness, "that he deserved to be smashed on the head with an axe."

"Once she said," went on the witness, "that he deserved to be poisoned."

"When was this?"

"I think it was in the winter time but I am not sure."

Witness further stated that Mrs. Dee had also said to her "that if she had a gun she would shoot him." She had said this on two different occasions, in the winter and in the spring. Witness had never heard Mr. and Mrs. Dee quarrel. Mrs. Dee had said that it was Mr. Dee who did the quarrelling; that she herself never quarrelled. Witness had heard Mr. Dee say that his wife did not do much work and that he had to get his own meals quite often, but she never heard him speak unkindly of her. The last time witness saw Mr. Dee was about 8.30 o'clock on the morning of his death. He then appeared in his usual

good health.

"Have you ever seen anything about Mrs. Dee that would lead you to think that she was not right in her mind?"

"Well, she has told me that she was crazy."

"Do you think she is crazy?"

"Sometimes I did, and then other times she seemed smart."

Witness went on to tell about the eccentricities of Mrs. Dee, saying that she had the idea, for some time that people were poisoning her by putting stuff in the well and in the milk cans. Witness had thought from Mrs. Dee's manner of dress and actions that she was not just right. She then proceeded to describe how Mrs. Dee had washed herself, saying that she would put the wash basin on the floor and sit down beside it, taking up the water in her hands and splashing it on her face.

Mr. Patterson - "You thought she was a little peculiar?"

"Yes."

Witness had told her mother about Mrs. Dee's queer sayings, and she told her that she had better stay away from there.

While being examined by Mr. Paterson, witness said that Mrs. Dee had told her that it was the King of England who was putting the poison in the well and in the milk cans. She also had said that the ministers of Salford did it too. Further questioned by Mr. Paterson, witness said that she had known Mrs. Dee

to go to town clothed in an odd manner.

Robert Quinn testified that while going through the Dee farm one day Mr. Dee told him that he had corn soaked in strychnine along the fence for sparrows. This was just before the wheat was cut. Witness said that so far as he knew, Mr. and Mrs. Dee lived happily together. He was well acquainted with Mr. Dee. He had never noticed anything peculiar about him.

In regard to Mrs. Dee, witness said that he was aware that she had odd ways.

"Would you say that these odd ways would make her irresponsible for her actions?"

"I would not like to say."

In the opinion of the witness, Mr. Dee would not have taken his own life. As to the time that Mr. Dee had told him about using strychnine, witness said it was in July.

Geo. Edwards, laborer, of Ingersoll, said that Wednesday morning, about four weeks before the death of Dee he visited Mr. and Mrs. Dee. He found Dee in agony when he went inside the house.

Dee had been on the floor and he spoke of the "terrible pains." He had vomited and he said, "Oh, George, if only I had a little rum, I think it would help me." Witness replied "Well, William, I have a little flask of Imperial Rye in my pocket." He said, "will you give me a little drink."

After he had taken the whiskey Dee felt better and in the afternoon he got up

and did some work. Dee had said he had been out threshing and that he got wet which he believed was the cause of his illness.

To the juryman, witness said that Mr. Dee did not tell him that he had been sick like that before. He did state, however, that he had never had such pains before. At this time Mrs. Dee seemed to take his illness quite hard, and said, "Will, what is the matter with you?" She did not offer to do anything for him.

Mrs. Geo. Edwards corroborated the evidence of her husband, except as to the date on which he said they visited Mr. and Mrs. Dee. She said it was about two weeks before the death of Mr. Dee. She also mentioned that while there Mr. Dee said he had had no breakfast. Mrs. Dee asked him to have something and she went to the pantry and got him some bread and butter. Mr. Dee then said that was the first he had eaten since five o'clock the night before. He complained a great deal about being thirsty and said he could drink a quart of water. He also spoke of chills and he had a couple of quilts over him. He had cramps in his stomach but witness did not see his arms or legs become stiff. Witness had been at the Dee home two or three times in the spring. She had noticed that Mrs. Dee had a "comical way," but did not think she was wrong mentally.

THE PRELIMINARY HEARING.

MRS. DEE SENT UP FOR TRIAL AT THE SPRING ASSIZES

At two o'clock this afternoon Mrs. Dee, who had been confined in the lockup here since the inquest last night was given her

preliminary hearing on the charge of murder, before Magistrate Morrison. The session was held in the council chamber and Justices of the Peace Walter Mills and J. F. Morrey were also on the bench. Crown Attorney Ball had charge of the case, while Mr. J. L. Paterson appeared on behalf of Mrs. Dee. Mrs. Jas. Kennedy was the first witness to take the stand.

The evidence of Dr. Coleridge and Lorn Tune, the drug clerk, who sold Mrs. Dee strychnine on August 5th last, was taken, being much the same as was given at the inquest. At the conclusion of the evidence the magistrate sent the case up for trial at the spring assizes.

Was Mrs. Dee found guilty of a brutal, premeditated crime or was she judged to be insane? Unfortunately, the outcome of the trial is unknown. Pertinent issues of the Ingersoll Chronicle and Tribune are not available on microfilm, so we may never know her fate. Do any of our readers have knowledge of the outcome of this case?

JAMES SINCLAIR (1844-1929)

James Sinclair was one of Ingersoll's earliest historians. Born in Dumbarton, Scotland on July 17, 1844, he emigrated with his parents in 1856, settling in Ingersoll. The following article, published upon his death December 4, 1929, details his life and accomplishments. Its length is indicative of his prominence in the community and of the high regard in which he was held.



DEATH SUMMONS AGED RESIDENT OF INGERSOLL

James Sinclair Passes
Away Following Severe
Illness ---
Long Active in Affairs
of Municipality.

In the passing of James
Sinclair, which occurred at

the family residence, Catherine street, at 1:30 o'clock this morning, Ingersoll has lost one of its oldest and best known residents, and another of those pioneers who had been a direct link of connection with the past.

Mr. Sinclair, who was in his 86th year, had been in failing health for some weeks past, and those intimate with the family feared for some time that the breaking-up was just what was to be expected after

a long and fruitful life, and that there was little hope.

Born in Scotland, deceased came to Ingersoll with his parents as a small boy, and had lived here continuously since that time. In actual time, Mr. Sinclair had spent seventy-five continuous years in Ingersoll. He knew its early life, he knew its early people, its early industry and its progress as few men have been spared to know these things. More than all this, his retentive memory, his keen

insight into the affairs of the times, had rendered him an important link with the past, and a man whose memory was often depended upon for certain events that featured years long since gone.

LOCAL HISTORIAN

Thus it came to be that for many years, James Sinclair was a local historian who in the course of a long life, had collected much data on a wide variety of subjects. Particularly was he in close touch with the early cheese and general dairy business of the Ingersoll district and Oxford county in general. Engaged for many years in the tinsmithing and plumbing business in Ingersoll, he had for a long term manufactured vats and other necessary equipment for the dairy trade. His business was conducted on the east side of Thames street, just south of the Evans Piano Co. plant. Here, it was at one time estimated that he made vats in which ninety per cent of the cheese in this district was manufactured.

In very close contact with the dairy business, and a man of active mind and body, he had taken a prominent part in many of the outstanding events connected with the early days of the dairy industry here. He saw it grow to its present marked importance from a beginning that was most meagre and weak.

HISTORY OF INGERSOLL

In all matters of Ingersoll's

history, from the early dwellings, the log houses of the district, from the days of the early industries and the coming of the railways, Mr. Sinclair had within his mind a perfect perspective of things both past and present. This is probably best illustrated by the fact that in 1924, at the time of the old boys' reunion, he issued a history of Ingersoll, copies of which are spread over a wide radius of the North American continent today and which were eagerly picked up by visitors to Ingersoll from distant points. In that history he told of the first industries, of the early awakening of many other features that are established portions of the fabric of the community life of today. Politics, public affairs not only of Ingersoll, but of the Province and the Dominion as well were woven into that history, for in those days what affected one place had in some way or other, something to do with others, as he explained in his own preface.

AN ARDENT WRITER

Until a few months ago, the active mind of the man found outlet in his writings and in his poetry. Patriotic to a marked degree, his poetical efforts were largely written in that channel. Local, provincial and dominion affairs, as well as affairs of the British Empire, formed his topics. In addition to his poetry, he also gave vent to his opinions on many topics of general interest through

the columns of the press. He maintained an intimate correspondence with a large number of friends, both in this land and across the seas.

VETERAN OF '66

A veteran of the troubles of 1866, when he served as a bugler, Mr. Sinclair did much to keep alive the memories of those stirring days, and for some years was associated with the organized veterans of that trouble as its secretary.

During the world war, there was probably no man in Ingersoll who kept himself better posted; who gave vent more freely to patriotic utterance; or who saw more deeply the true vision of the great tragedy that was being enacted.

He was a member of the Canadian Legion here, and visited a number of outside places with members of that organization. Naturally, he stood out plainly as the oldest member at many of the public gatherings, and was honored upon such an occasion in London.

Mr. Sinclair was for 54 years a member of the I.O.O.F. and is believed to have been one of the oldest members of the Order in Canada.

AS A PUBLIC SERVANT

As a public servant of his community, Mr. Sinclair also stood out. For a little over thirty years he was chairman of the local Board of Health, and was noted for his painstaking care to all

details; for his annual reports which were most illuminating as to what had been done by the board and what was being further attempted.

WITH HAMILTON 13th BAND

While it has been stated above that he has been a continuous resident of Ingersoll for seventy-five years, that means that this has always been his home in that period. He was at one time engaged at his trade in Hamilton and had worked on a number of the most outstanding of Canada's public buildings. He played a cornet with the famed Thirteenth Regiment band of Hamilton at that time, and had also the signal honor of having played with the band at the ceremony attending the birth of Confederation at the Parliament buildings in Ottawa. An oak tree, planted as an acorn that year, stands in his garden as a memento of that great year in Canadian progress. It is a large tree now.

Mr. Sinclair had many intimate stories of Ottawa, where he spent some time. The late D'arcy McGee was often discussed by him in a most intimate way.

VERSED IN POLITICS

A staunch supporter of the Conservative party, Mr. Sinclair had made a study of politics all his life, and was versed in the history of the political parties and the outstanding men of all parties in a very thorough way. His memory was most

retentive, even with regard to British history of almost forgotten ages.

He was an almost insatiable reader, not only of the daily press, but of the affairs of the British Empire and of his Canada.

REMARKABLE PHYSIQUE

Until just a few weeks ago, Mr. Sinclair walked uptown every day, and considering his age, was most active and agile. His morning trip was of course for his morning papers, which were a big feature of his every day.

It was with marked and pardonable pride about a year or so ago that he would read the small print of the daily press without the use of the glasses he had worn for so many years. He was pleased to refer to it as his second sight, and just to prove his claim, read a considerable portion of a newspaper item aloud for his auditor.

A WIDESPREAD INTEREST

Mr. Sinclair's facile mind was best indicated by his wide interests in life. He confined his interests to no one channel of thought, activity or opinion. He kept abreast of all the affairs of Ingersoll while he was still seeking for facts and details of the Dominion and the empire. He could and would discuss every great issue that came up, and was usually found with a very decided opinion which was original with his. He depended on no one else for his thought.

He was an honorary

member of the Big Eight in Ingersoll, and on July first of this year carried the flag at the head of the parade from the Post Office to Victoria Park.

In the recent provincial election campaign he was as ardently interested as any younger man in Ingersoll, and here again he kept fully in touch with all the arguments of the affair from beginning to end. He admired all that was best in public men, and had little in common with those who did not measure up to his rigid ideals of honor and integrity.

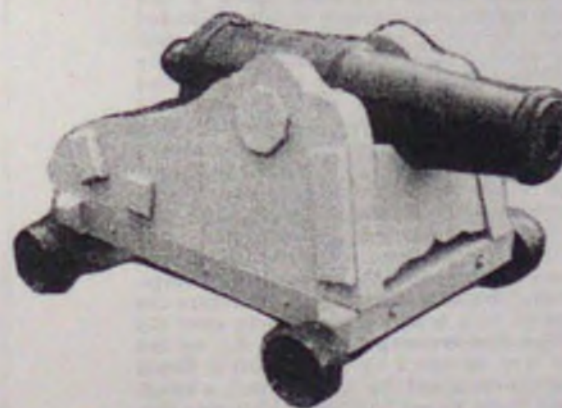
With all the other contents of a full mind, he still had room for a humorous anecdote, either to hear it or tell it. He had many most amusing references to affairs locally in the by-gone days, when some very daring episodes, under the heading of plain mischief, were brought to light by the young people of the community.

Besides the widow, he is survived by the following daughters and sons: Mrs. W. K. Watterworth, Ingersoll; Mrs. Thomas Knight, Walton, N.Y.; Mrs. Bruce McDougall, Orillia; Mrs. Walter Thurtell, Ingersoll; Mrs. Basil Wilson, West Oxford; John, at home; James, Ingersoll; also by seven grandsons, three granddaughters and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be held from the late residence, Catherine street, Friday afternoon to the Ingersoll rural cemetery, with service at 2:30.



JAMES SINCLAIR'S GRAVE
AT THE INGERSOLL RURAL
CEMETERY



This cannon originally graced the lawn of James Sinclair's home at 68 Catherine Street. It is now to be found on the lawn of his granddaughter, Diana Sinclair, of Canterbury Street.

IN MEMORY OF

James Sinclair

Local Poet and Historian.

O! Scion from the land of Burns,
Graft to our Maple Tree,
Who to thine aid did oft invoke,
The muse of Poetry
Forgive the unpretentious lay
In tribute offered thee.

Thine was an ever facile hand
To pregnant thought convey
And thine an ever subtle brain
To frame poetic lay
And breeze-like did thy cheer-filled
heart
Drive all life's mists away.

Full oft thy voice at festal board
By patriot ardor fired
To noble thought and soul-felt word
Thy fellow-men inspired,
Till thought and action unified
Left nought to be desired.

But not at festal board alone
Was felt thy power to thrill
But wit and humor sped full oft
In flashes from thy quill
Did lull the passion of desire
Or subjugate the will.

Some other and more gifted bard
Might well thy praises sing
The pen that voices my regard
Is not from eagle wing
Tho' "censure sharp" be my reward
I must my tribute bring.

J. W. MOYER.

December 12, 1929.

The editor wishes to thank Diana Sinclair, granddaughter of James Sinclair, for providing invaluable news clippings, photographs and background information.

The Oxford Historical Society has recently reprinted **THE HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF INGERSOLL**, published at the age of 80 by James Sinclair in honour of the Old Boys' Reunion of 1924. The following excerpt, taken from the reprint, demonstrates Sinclair's literary prowess.

appeared to be remembered by only our older citizens. The site afterward selected was the present one, which was purchased from Mr. John Carnagie and given to the Railway Company free, from Thames Street to the Wonham Street Crossing, through the efforts of Mr. Henry Crotty and a few others. Of the present situation of the G. T. R. station it can best be judged as to what it was like, when Mr. John Carnagie offered Mr. Henry Poole the whole of this property for half a day's mowing. This part of the village at that time was overflowed at high tide nearly to Victoria Street. It was from that condition the railway created the depot and railway yard as it is today. As it would not be instructive to our later citizens to leave this subject at the above point of description, we must add a few words as to the topography of this section of the town.

To do so we must describe from memory its general appearance about 68 years ago, looking westward from the Thames St. Bridge. In early spring time one could see only an unbroken view of the river extending from the site of the G. T. R. depot up to the foundation site of St. Paul's Church. On the right hand the river current was swiftly passing, while on the left many elm trees, centuries old, could be seen rising from the surrounding waters, with their great trunks, many of them eight feet in diameter and with an enormous spread of branches. Here the water was not affected by the current, with a depth of water of 4 to 6 feet, and often remained so until the middle of June. This flood was caused by the bends of the river, which were caused in early days by the numerous dams erected by the beaver, and also to the great flood-wood which held back the waters of the river. In the next ten years a great improvement had taken place. On the flats

where the water settled, the sediment had built up the land until it was above the stream, excepting at very high water. The first building to be erected was situated at the southwest corner adjoining the bridge and close to the river on the site of the offices of the present File Company. It was a wooden structure two stories in height, on posts which made a basement nearly eight feet high, which was woodshed and summer kitchen. The writer was then a lad, a messenger boy for the only telegraph office in town at the G. T. R. Station (then the Great Western) and the happy possessor of a row boat. It happened that the writer was out for a row on the river when the window of the upper story was opened and a mattress on which a poor fellow had died a few days before, was thrown out, and landed near the river, one end leaning against the wooden sides of the basement. (The mattress was filled with straw.) I had gone but a little way up the river, and turned back just in time to see the cook from the storey below throw out a pan of hot wood ashes, which lit on the mattress. The result was instantaneous, and before anything could be done the building was in flames and burned to the ground.

It was some years after that the Noxon Company erected the present buildings. Several wooden bridges existed before the present iron bridge. Going north over the bridge and crossing the G. T. R., on the site now occupied by Mr. Keatle's Grain Warehouse stood the Adair Hotel, a handsome three storey building. This was destroyed by fire in the course of which the late Dr. Carroll narrowly escaped death in his attempt to rescue his horse from the burning stable. This left him disfigured during his life.

With our reference to the location of the railway we end the most important event of the decade of the 40's, as our

James Sinclair wrote the following poem to commemorate the closing of the Public School and subsequent construction of Victory Memorial Public School.

THE PASSING OF THE OLD SCHOOL

Shall, this old school Building vanish, with unexpressed regret,
While around it gather memories none ever can forget?
To think that those who saw it rise, in grandeur from the earth
Should live to witness its demise, and gloried in its birth.
Is, but to mark the march of time when this old school was new,
And those who may, are aged today, in number they are few.
This old school building passing now, full three-score years has stood,
A land-mark of our early days, while yet in villagehood.
Those grand old men in days gone by for future years designed it;
Its duty well performed, and left fond memories behind it,
It was here in life's bright morning where little ones were brought,
And here in childhood's innocence they lisped the lesson taught.
Today, there's thousands scattered wide, both men and women too,
Whose course through life we note with pride, turn fondly to review.
No season in the life of man compare with school-life days,
And nothing can, throughout our lives, those memories erase.
Back to this same old schoolhouse then, though oceans may divide,
In memory often will return; nor can they be denied—
And oft in reminiscence mood, review those happy days
"E're care and toil in endless round encompass all their ways."
Could we that multitude review that o'er its threshold passed,
And knowing that in memory in lasting form is cast—
The passing of their learnings home will touch a chord in each
And vibrate through that mighty host, where'er this knowledge reach.
In passing hence we have been spared its wreck, in flood or flame
Dissolved into its elements, it went just as it came.
While from us it forever fades, yet in some other sphere,
In altered form, in usefulness, may somewhere reappear;
And while these thoughts with us abide, to human lives convey
In parallel, the passing of the Spirit from the Clay.

JAMES SINCLAIR,

Ingersoll, May 4th, 1921.



On a much more personal note, James Sinclair wrote the following poem upon the occasion of the wedding of his granddaughter, Helen Watterworth to Gordon Harkness in 1923.

*Mr. and Mrs. W. Kenneth Watterworth
request the pleasure of your company
at the marriage of their daughter
Helen Louise
to
Mr. Gordon Neil Harkness
on the afternoon of Wednesday November the fourteenth
nineteen hundred and twenty three
at half after two o'clock
at their residence Ingersoll
Ontario*



To my Granddaughter
Helen Louise Watterworth,
On this, her Wedding Day,
November 14th, 1923.

In looking backward o'er the years,
When but a child you were
How brief, the interval appears
To Why, we gather here.

Life's mornning passed, now life's noonday,
Your Mother's duty done,
Your future life confided to
Another Mother's Son.

Though from your parent home you pass
And distance may divide,
That bond, which links each heart to heart
Unsevered will abide.

The parents, both of each are here
In harmony consenting,
In future years, may it appear
Relationships cementing.

Thus, welding fast, life's endless chain
By nature so designed,
That subtle force, yet mighty power,
Which elevates mankind.

However this is not the time
For serious oration,
As mirth, and music, finds a place
And well suits this occasion.

Where blended harmonies prevail,
They lend an inspiration
And find an answer in the soul
For every situation.

Then let the song of joy be heard,
Thus latent thought revealing,
Of friends and neighbours gathered here
And thus their friendship sealing.

Professor Drummond's kindness too,
We always will remember,
The Heather, from old Scotland sent
This fourteenth of November.

No more the brew of mountain dew,
That glorious libation,
We'll pledge their health and welfare too,
In modern imitation.

Now here's your grandsire's hope and wish
In this your new relation
To prove a credit to yourselves
Friends, relatives, and Nation.

James Sinclair, Sen.

This photograph, taken in 1915, shows the children of James Sinclair and Caroline Tune.



(L to R)
John George Caroline Erskin Edith Victoria James Spence Marion Ethel Sarah Pettinger

- JOHN married Coza Ken and had one child, JACQUELINE.
- CAROLINE married BASIL WILSON and had two children, MARY and ROBERT.
- ETHEL married Ingersoll druggist, WALTER THURTELL, and had two sons, RICHARD and STEWART.
- JAMES married ZILLAH PORTEOUS and had one daughter, DIANA.
- MARION married BRUCE MACDOUGALL and had two sons, KENNETH and FINDLAY, a pharmacist in Ingersoll.
- ETHEL married KENNETH WATTERWORTH, owner of the Evans Piano Company, and had three children, ARTHUR, HELEN and MAUDE (Mary).
- SARAH married THOMAS KNIGHT and had one son, JOHN.

THEN and NOW



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OXFORD STREET, 1997

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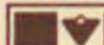
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