

HISTORY OF BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH, KING CITY,

By

Miss Eliza Fisher

In the year 1872, there were three Baptist families in the neighborhood of Eversley: Robert Norman and wife; James Hutchinson and wife; and George Norman and wife. They drove many miles to worship with Second King (Pottageville) and sometimes the Markham churches. In the autumn of that year, J. B. Moore of the Markham church, and Pastor Wright of Second King, held special services for five weeks in the public school house. (King) These were well attended and a number were converted, and twenty of the number were baptized by Rev. J. B. Moore and a church organized, in January 1872, with a membership of twenty-seven. Pastor Wright and J. B. Moore assisting in the organization and also in the recognition, services on January 23, 1873. Others taking part were Deacon Radcliffe and Baker, and Brother Henderson from the Markham Church. Deacon Tranch and Brother McLaughlin from 2nd King.

The building committee lost no time in purchasing a lot and building a house of worship, which was opened December 28th, 1873, the Rev. William Stewart of Toronto preaching the opening service in the morning and Rev. John Torrance of Yorkville in the afternoon. James Ross was the first church clerk, followed in a few months by Charles Norman, who held this office for three years. George Norman was then appointed, and held office continuously for forty-five years. He was also Deacon for thirty-six years.

Elder Wright served as pastor of this church and 2nd King (Pottageville), until April 1874. The Church at that time applied for a student pastor for the summer and Thos. Williamson commenced his labours April 15th, continuing until September 20th, 1874. During the next few months the church was supplied by different speakers until November 28th, 1875, a call was accepted by Rev. Mr. Grant to the 2nd King and Eversley churches, which continued until December 1878. Rev. William Carey, pastor of Markham church supplied for one year when a call to become pastor was accepted, and continued until November 1881. At this time the church resolved to apply to the Home Mission Board for aid in supporting a pastor, with the understanding that an appointment be opened in Aurora, the Mission Board granting \$300.00. Rev. P. G. Robertson accepted the pastorate, commencing November 27th, 1881, resigning in 1885, during which time the Aurora church was organized. Deacons George Norman and Martin Hutchinson, taking an active part in purchasing the lot and building a chapel, they holding the deed until trustees were appointed; fifteen members were dismissed from the Aurora church and taking an afternoon service so that the Aurora church could have a morning and evening service. During 1885, the church was supplied by students, Rev. D. B. Cohoe accepting the pastorate, remaining one year, 1

Rev. J. H. Sowerby became pastor in January 1887, ordained in May of the same year. Some of those taking part were Rev. C. A. Cook, ordination sermon; Rev. Elmore Harris, charge to church, pastorate continued until April 1st, 1889. Plans were underway at this time for the removal of the chapel to the Village of King, which was consummated in 1889 under the pastorate of Benjamin Davies, a summer student. He accepted a call to become pastor in September 1889, and was ordained on May 28th, 1890. Rev. Dr. Thomas preaching the ordination sermon, Rev. Thomas Bingham, charge to church, Rev. W. Walker, charge to candidate. Rev. B. Davies resigned, March 8th, 1891. Rev. James Hollingshead, late of England, served the church from August 1891, to June 1896. Andrew Imrie became pastor Jan. 1st, 1897, ordained June 28th, 1898 with Rev. W. W. Weeks preaching the ordination sermon, Rev. Dr. Thomas charge to candidate, Rev. Parker charge to church. He resigned in 1901, and George L. Sprague, pastor from October 1901, to October 1902. The church entertained the Toronto Association in June 1902, which was noted for its large attendance and great spiritual power, about 120 delegates present during its sessions. Charles G. Beck became pastor Feb. 22, 1903, which terminated by death on Feb. 9, 1905, after a most successful pastorate--much loved by all. Ernest Bingham supplied for the summer of 1905, and in October of that year, L. H. Vale accepted pastorate, continued until 1908. E. J. Bingham accepted a call but only remained a few months. Rev. James Strachan, 1909-1911. J. E. McKendry, May 1911, resigned March 1913. Rev. Wm. Spencer 1913-1916. Rev. J. C. Scott 1917-1921. Rev. McGregor student pastor, 1921-1925. Rev. W. B. Meikleham, March 28th, 1926, to September 30th, 1928. At the close of this pastorate, we decided to separate from Aurora Church, and applied to Home Mission Board to become a summer student field, and supplied by students from McMaster University during winter months. This proved very satisfactory until the University moved to Hamilton. A. H. Sinclair served the church very acceptable for two years as student pastor, 1929-1930. In July 1930, second King

approached us, suggesting we unite, and also the Kettleby Church, the three churches forming one field, under one pastor, as it would be difficult to be served by students from Hamilton. After consulting with members of the Home Missions Board, Revs. C. Schutt, and J. C. Camerson, it was decided to unite and accept their pastor, Rev. R. E. Turner as pastor. A. G. Sinclair withdrawing in Sept. Mr. Turner took the charge at that time and remained one year. Rev. H. B. Hardy became pastor Nov. 8th, 1931.

A parsonage has been purchased which we are endeavouring to pay for by special subscription and rent. The parsonage is the house that George Norman built in King, when he operated a wood and coal establishment at the railway station.

After Mr. Hardy, came Rev. John Galloway, from 1938 he gave up in 1942 to work in a war plant in Toronto, but remained in the parsonage, until Rev. Harry Wilson came in June 1942-June 1948. Then came Rev. W.E. Smalley, followed by Rev. G. A. Hart, present minister.

The King City Church, was named "Bethel", after it became established in the village. Miss Fisher was baptized in Bethel Church, and is the oldest living member. She took over the Church

treasurership from Mrs. George Norman, and until January 1953, remained in office for twenty years. She is still parsonage secretary. Arthur Peck is now treasurer.

Baptism is by immersion. The first baptismal ceremony, she thinks (Miss Fisher), was in the Humber River near the village. Beneath the present platform of the Baptist church is the Baptistry, a cement tank, still in use.

Before the church or the cement tank was built, they used to immerse in Ferguson's Pond at Eversley. At that time, they would even chop a hole in the ice, and immerse them!

KING CITY UNITED CHURCH

The earliest records of this Methodist Episcopal congregation are dated 1865 when the village was called Springhill. This church was part of the Newmarket circuit which included as well as Newmarket church, Springhill, Love's Branch (Temperanceville), Lodge Room Branch and Jewett Branch.

For many years Mr. George Garrow had conducted a Sunday School in a wheelwright's shop which occupied the front of the lot where Mr. Raymond Burt now lives. In 1871 Mr. George Garrow gave the land on King Street (now the site of the United Church) for a church to be built, and the building was completed that year.

The Canada Christian Advocate recorded the opening ceremonies as follows:-

"On January 7, 1872 the Springhill Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated. Bishop Richardson preached at 10½ A.M., Rev. J. Gardiner, editor of Canada Christian Advocate, at 2½ P.M., and Rev. John Gemley, Agent of Upper Canada Bible Society, at 6½ P.M. Bishop Richardson was evidently directed in his selection of the text and in the presentation of its truth. Blessed fruit followed in a few hours. The Bishop sustained his reputation and the other gentlemen made an enviable one."

A Tea Meeting was held on Monday evening January 8th. Speakers were Bishop Richardson Brothers Gardiner, Bradshaw, Curts, and other talented gentlemen. Rev. A. Hunt is pastor.

The clapboard church cost \$1,350.00 not including a lot of free work. Brother Gardiner managed finances well, ably assisted by James Magee. They had \$1,374.00 in hand.

Rev. T. Argue, in Springhill from 1866 to 1869 is the father of the Springhill appointment. The parsonage was located in Kinghorn in 1871, a beautiful stone house, today owned by Mr. Everton Smith.

The branches of the Methodist denomination united in 1883 and the Springhill congregation then became part of the Bradford district of the Methodist church. For a time in 1893, Purpleville was also part of the same circuit. The parsonage was built on Keele Street in 1887.

Names of families prominent in early records are Garrow, Lloyd, Winter, Wells, Fease, Machell, Davis, Clubine, Carley, Mortson, Crossley, Irwin, Gordon and Elliott.

Seven young men of this congregation entered the ministry:- H. Redditt, A. Latter, Arthur McKenzie, Wesley Fox, Albert Leece, D. O. Crossley, T. H. Crossley. R. L. Large became a medical missionary.

An auxiliary of the Women's Missionary Society was organized in 1895 with eleven members, and the following officers:-

President - Mrs. J. Jackson

Vice Pres. and Recording Sec. - Mrs. Carley

Corr. Sec. - Mrs. M. Winter

Treasurer - Mrs. Nunn

other members were Mrs. Large, Mrs. Garrow, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Brett, Mrs. Latter, Mrs. Leece, Mrs. Mason

In 1925 this Methodist congregation entered the United Church of Canada and joined Laskay and Teston to constitute one circuit.

In 1928 the church was renovated and at the re-dedication services Rev. S. D. Chown of Toronto was the guest preacher. Rev. A. H. Halbert was pastor.

The parsonage on Keele Street destroyed by lightning in 1944 was rebuilt on the same site the following year, at a cost of \$7,500.00. All church records were lost in the fire.

In 1948 the chancel of the church was re-modelled. A Copy of Sallman's "Head of Christ" was given by the Davis family of Newmarket, two chairs for the pulpit platform by Mrs. John Dew Sr. and the centre chair by Mrs. George Stone.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

For many years the W.M.S. Auxiliary and the Women's Auxiliary met as one and together carried on the work of both. There were two treasurers, one for W.A. funds, one for W.M.S. auxiliary contributions. In the early forties the W. A. work was discontinued until in 1949 a W.A. group was organized with Mrs. A. J. Gordon as president. Since that time the following have held that office:- Mrs. Austin Rumble, Mrs. George Harvey, Mrs. I. L. Scott, Mrs. Edmund Wallas, Mrs. Gordon Orr, Mrs. Donald Hadwen.

Because church records were destroyed in the fire of 1944, there is no list of presidents of the W.M.S. auxiliary during the years since its first president Mrs. J. Jackson was leader. But among the presidents succeeding her were Mrs. M. Winter, Mrs. Wm. Carson, Mrs. George Garrow, Mrs. George Stone and Mrs. James Patton, and in later years Mrs. Colin Stewart, Mrs. M. R. Jenkinson, Mrs. H. G. Ratcliffe and Mrs. I. L. Scott.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

In January 1962 the Woman's Missionary Society auxiliary and the Woman's Association combined to form the United Church Women (U.C.W.) to which all women of the church belong. Mrs. Donald Hadwen was the first president. The members were in four groups, two evening and two afternoon groups, The W.M.S. group on joining the U.C.W. had 27 members and 2 associate members and their free-will offerings amounted to \$312.00

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Superintendents of the Sunday School have been:- George Garrow, Benjamin Lloyd, E.D. Davis, J.A. McDonald, George Stone, Colin Campbell, Henry Hambly, J.A. Leece, John McAllister, John Dew Jr., Harvey Folliott, Mrs. Walter Gellatly, Laurence Scott, Glen Ferguson

THE CHOIR

The following have been choir leaders:- Mr. Carley, Mr. J. W. Crossley, Miss Verna Winter, Mr. John Dew Sr., Mrs. A. E. Lunau, Mr. & Mrs. Reynolds, Miss Verna Carson, Mrs. Ward (Queenie Charlotte Crossley) John Dew Jr., Mrs. Ewart Patton (Verna Carson) Mr. J. N. Flucker

JUNIOR CHOIR

A children's choir was organized by Mrs. Harold Gilbert who then was leader with Mrs. A. Davidson accompanist. Mrs. Gordon Orr is now leader. (1963) This choir assists in the church service once a month.

CRADLE ROLL

Mrs. Harold Kirby, Leader. The members are children of pre-sunday school age. Since the women's groups became one, the Baby Band, part of the W.M.S. organization merged with the Cradle Roll.

In 1962 the chancel was re-arranged with reading desk as well as pulpit and new stairways were built for safety in case of fire.

The ministers in the King charge have been:-

METHODIST EPISCOPAL

1865 - Rev. J. Curtis
1866 -69 Rev. T. Argue
1870 - 71 Rev. A. Hunt
Rev. J. Abbs
Rev. T. Andrew Ferguson

METHODIST

1884 - 87 Rev. J. Rankin (84 members)
Rev. F. Watts
1887 - 88 Rev. Mc Dowell
1889 - 90 Rev. F. S. Hunt
1890 - 92 Rev. Thomas Fox
1893 - 95 Rev. R. Large and R.J.D. Simpson (student)
1896 Rev. R. J. Stillwell
1897 - 99 Rev. C. T. Cocking
1900 - 03 Rev. Geo. W. Robinson
Rev. W.H.W. Webster
1903 - 05 Rev. Newton Hill
1906 - 09 Rev. H. George Walker
1910 - 12 Rev. F. C. Kean
1913 - 16 Rev. D. R. Gray

1917 - 20 Rev. F. J. Dunlop

1921 - 24 Rev. A. E. Lunau

UNITED CHURCH

1925 - 1929 Rev. A. H. Halbert

1930 - 1941 Rev. Douglas G. Davis

1941-1944 Rev. J. H. Anderson

1945 - Rev. M. R. Jenkinson

The organized groups for children and young people in 1962:-
Messengers (formerly mission band) for children 6, 7, 8 years old.
Explorers for girls 9, 10 and 11 years old.
C.G.I.T. for girls 12 to 17 years old.
Tyro group for boys 8 to 11 years
Sigma C for boys 12 and over.
Hi C. for girls and boys 15 years and older.

THE A.O.T.S. GROUP FOR MEN

This group with members from King City, Teston and Laskay is interested mainly in work with boys. The initials stand for "As One That Serves".

In 1961 the McBride family, Mr. Alfred McBride, Mrs. Pearl Wilson, Miss Annie McBride and Mrs. Wm. Thompson gave three building lots on Elizabeth Grove, King City, a frontage of 225 feet, for a new site for the church. Property for parking lot was bought from Mr. Gordon Orr for \$2,500 and plans for a new building are under way in 1963.

1963. The parsonage must be called the manse in future according to United Church Ruling.

ST ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - EVERSLEY

by

Mrs. D. McCallum

There is no story quite so interesting as the story of the planting of the christian church. The work required great heroism, it was illumined with true romance, it has been crowned with a largeness and a victory of which even the most hopeful ever dreamed. (Souvenir booklet of Rev. James Carmichael D.D.)

The people who found Eversley Church were few in number and not richly endowed with possessions. A small log cabin on the third concession was the beginning. Rev. Henry Gorden (first minister) was inducted in 1834. His charge was King and Newmarket.

Other ministers and missionaries had found their way into King before this. Perhaps the earliest was the Rev. Mr. McDowall who was settled in the Bay of Quinte district. He and a Mr. Jenkins who had settled in the township of Markham in 1820 and a Mr. Carruthers, a missionary sent out by the London Missionary Society near the beginning of the century, visited the homes of the pioneers, preaching the gospel wherever a few families could be gathered together.

Mr. Gorden was transferred to Gananoque in 1837. After a short vacancy the Rev. John Tawse was inducted on March 8, 1837, and served from then until his death forty years later.

When Rev. Tawse failing health made an assistant necessary an earnest young man, Rev. James Carmichael of Carleton Place, then known as Beckwith, was called and in 1860 was inducted as minister of the King Charge, which consisted of Eversley, Strange and West King. He later became Rev. Dr. Carmichael, ministering in the same charge for fifty years, until 1910 and for 6 years pastor emeritus.

The deed of land on which the church stands has been preserved and shows that the price was five pounds of good lawful money. The site was purchased from Joseph Wells, fronting his farm on the third concession road. The first congregation of Eversley held services in a log building which also served as a schoolhouse on week days. Mr. Tawse was both minister and schoolteacher. When a wedding was solemnized the pupils were sent to the back of the room with orders to keep quiet.

The present stone church was built in 1848. Since that time not one of the weathered stone blocks has been removed. The only changes made since that time were the raising of the roof and an alteration to the entrance. The narrow straight pews were closed by stout gates, designed to keep the children of the worshippers from running up and down the aisles during the service. The ministers and the precentor were also boxed in. The high boxed in pulpit and the precentor's box, still higher, were replaced by a more modern type at a later date. Precentor Hugh Mitchell struck the tune with a tuning fork and it was not until 1889 that an organ was installed and a choir organized. Flowers were never used to decorate the church in the early days.

Eversley Manse, long since rebuilt, has remained in the Tawse Family since 1837. Mr. Jim Tawse and his sisters Mrs. Elizabeth Folliot and Mrs. Mina Bridgeman live there. Many years ago the home of the ministers became settled on Keele St. N., King City. The first marriage performed in the stone church was between James McMillan, 32 years of age, and Rose McKellar, 26 years of age, both of King.

In 1877, when Rev. Tawse passed away his body was laid to rest in the cemetery beside the church. In the graveyard are headstones dating from 1837.

Since 1910 the following ministers have occupied Eversley pulpit:-

Rev. Robert Brydon

Rev. A. W. Crow

Rev. J.M. Miller

Rev. James Hagen

Rev. T. L. Williams

Rev. A.K. MacLaren

Rev. M. E. Burch

Mr. R. Boak

Rev. Black

Rev. D. C. Soules

Rev. D. C. Wotherspoon

Rev. G. Johnston

Rev. J. C. Shepherd

Mr. Bruce Will (a student)

In 1958 this historic building was offered for sale after the members of its congregation had amalgamated with those from Strange to form one congregation, with a new church in King City.

Lady Eaton, who has lived at Eversley since 1919 purchased the 110-year old church and has preserved it for posterity.

"Some of the greatest moments of peoples' lives take place within the walls of their church buildings, their weddings, their christenings and their farewells. The church building becomes precious in their sight and they love every stone." Thus spoke Rev. C. Andrew Lawson, minister of Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, Toronto, on Sunday afternoon, June 30th. 1963, when friends and neighbours gathered for the final service in the church their forefathers knew so well.

Reverend G. K. Agar, minister of St. Andrew's, King City, read the statement from Presbytery releasing the little stone building from its use as a Church.



ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH---KING CITY

On June 17, 1958 when the Presbytery of West Toronto met in ordinary session in Morningside Presbyterian Church the Committee on Church Extension recommended to the court that St. Andrew's Congregation, King City be granted permission to erect a portable church on the property adjoining the manse on Keele St. North.

Permission being granted by Presbytery a joint congregational meeting was held at Strange with Eversley on July 20, 1958 to appoint a Building Committee and a Building Finance Committee. Mr. Donald McCallum was appointed chairman of the building committee and Mr. John Tanner, chairman of the finance Committee. Mr. Bruce Will, a student at Knox College was minister of the church at that time.

The manse property was surveyed which comprises of five sixths of an acre. Plans for the portable building were drawn by Mr. David Clark, architect and later trustee of the village of King City. A building permit was granted by council and the digging of the footings was begun Saturday afternoon August 9, 1958 at 4 p.m. The masonry work was done by Alfred Bayliss, local contractor. Precutting of the wall studding was carried on while the wall was being erected.

On Sunday, August 17, 1958 the official sod turning was conducted. The sod was turned by Mrs. Robert Farren of Strange and Mr. Duncan Ross of Eversley. Members of the Extension Committee and Toronto West Presbytery presided. Ministers of the local churches spoke briefly at the ceremony.

The following week centre supporting beams were transported from a farm north east of Aurora. Floor joists and floor panels were in place by Saturday noon. Twenty-nine roof trusses were built in a jig on the floor and wall panels were fabricated at the same time. Roof trusses were put in place the second Saturday evening, August 30, after supper completing the job in time to enable workers to take cover from a thunderstorm.

Roof sheathing was applied the following week and the roofing on the north side. There was a delay of several days due to rain before the south side could be roofed. Then it was accomplished in one evening being completed at 10 p.m. by electric lights. Electric wiring was then commenced and the installing of the heating unit. The water supply line was laid into the church to accomodate the grounding of the hydro service.

The six window units were fabricated in a family car garage, glazed and were installed on Thanksgiving Day.

The overall time of construction from footings to the Dedication Service was eighteen weeks from August 9 to December 14, 1958. During that time members and adherents and interested persons in the neighbourhood worked vountarily many

hours together. They got to know one another better. Many welcome cups of tea and lunches were consumed. Ladies of the church met to paint both the interior and exterior of the church.

In the latter weeks the lights burned later in the evenings as completion for the Dedication drew near.

It was extremely gratifying to all those who had contributed to the erection of the church building to witness a capacity congregation of close to 200 people attend the service of Dedication on December 14, 1958.

The congregation of St. Andrews began the year 1959 with a communicant membership of 75.

During that year the congregation mourned the passing of Duncan Ross, senior elder who had given a life of service to the church of Christ.

In May 1959, Mr. Will, the student minister was ordained in the church. This was a happy moment for the congregation as Rev. Bruce Will had been active in helping to build the church.

As Rev. Will was to leave with his family for the mission field in British Columbia in August a combined congregational meeting was held in May 1959. A call was sent to Rev. Gordon K. Agar of Tisdale, Saskatchewan and was accepted. Rev. Agar was inducted into the congregation on August 28, 1959.

ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SCHOOL

In 1959 when the church school began in St. Andrew's new church there were 28 scholars enrolled. Mr. L. E. Siverns was the Church School Superintendent and Mrs. Fred Curtis the Secretary. In the years following the number of scholars doubled in attendance making it necessary for the occupation of St. Andrew's Church house in 1963. Mr. John Tanner was the Church School Superintendent in 1967.

ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH -- KING CITY

On January 24, 1960 the congregation was honoured by the visitation of the Right Rev. Alex Nimmo, D.D. moderator of the General Assembly.

In June 1961, Mr. L. E. Siverns, Church School Superintendent, accepted a call as student in charge at McBeth Presbyterian Church, East Selkirk, Manitoba.

The new manse on Elizabeth Grove was completed by the first of November 1962 and the Agar family were moved into their new home.

The old manse was declared for worship purpose; to be used for the church

school in 1963. It was officially named St Andrew's Church house at a Dedication Service on December 15, 1963

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION-- ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH--KING CITY

On January 19, 1959 a group of ladies met in the new St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, King City, to elect officers for a Women's Organization. Mrs. John Tanner was the first president with Mrs. L. E. Siverns as secretary. There were 24, twenty-four, names on the roll call. A kitchen shower was held in the church in February 1959. A Congregational Pot-Luck Supper was held in late April. A bake sale was held on June 66, a corn roast for the congregation on September 11 and the first annual bazaar on November 28th. Mrs. L. E. Siverns became President following the completion of Mrs. Tanner's term of office. Upon Mrs. Siverns leaving for Manitoba with her husband in June 1961, Mrs. Albert Holman became President of the W. A. Following her term of office Mrs. Fred Curtis became President then Mrs. Victor Potter. Mrs. Fred Curtis became President again for 1967.

ST ANDREW'S W. M. S. ---KING CITY

On January 5, 1959, a meeting was held in St. Andrew's Church, King City to organize a Women's Missionary Society. Mrs. Donald McCallum was elected President and Mrs. Charles Gordon, Secfetary. There were thirty-two members and the meetings were held at night in the church.

A life membership certifi cate and pin were presented to Mrs. Bruce Will, the former minister's wife before her departure to the charge in the west.

A friendship tea was held in August 1959 to help raise funds to organize the children's groups in the church.

PRESIDENTS--

Mrs. D. McCallum	1959--1963
Mrs. H. Clegg	1963--1966
Mrs. R. A. Arbuckle	1966--

In 1959 when the Church School began in St. Andrew's new church there were twenty-eight pupils enrolled. Mr. L. E. Siverns was the Church School Superintendent and Mrs. Fred Curtis the secretary. In the years following the number of pupils doubled in attendance making it necessary for the occupation of St. Andrew's Church House in 1963. Mr. John Tanner was the church school superintendent in 1967.

SIGMA - C---St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Boys
(12--13--14)

The purpose of the Sigma - C, is to help boys discover that the full scope and goal of their life ^{is} found in Jesus Christ. The activities they do are all related to the teachings of the Bible and the Christian Faith.

The first meeting of the group was held November 2, 1959. Mr. Victor Potter was the Christian Guide (C.G.) of the group. The first members were Russel Arbuckle, Ron Clegg, Larry Graham and Brian Forsythe.

Upon completing four successive meetings and learning the meaning of Sigma - C, the personal aim Philippians 3-14 and making a personal octagon the boys passed their new members vow and recieved their family initial. On January 18, 1960 these boys passed their halfway mark consisting of the sports and church areas.

The Sigma - C Group was held until 1964 when as the average age of boys in the 1964 group were below the Sigm - C requirements made it necessary to discontinue the meetings for that year.

ST. ANDREWS C. G. I. T.

The opening meeting of St. Andrew's C.G.I.T. was held on October 27, 1959. Membership included six girls and the two leaders Mrs. Howard Clegg and Miss Betty Arbuckle.

Bible pictures were prepared for missionaries in Africa. Church calendars were sold. Each girl made a towel while learning huck weaving and also learned to make a fancy Christmas candle. A candlelight vesper service was held in December, 1959.

The C.G.I.T. was carried on under the capable leadership of Mrs. Clegg until 1963. Cash on hand at that time was sent to the Treasurer of Toronto West Presbyterial W.M.S. to be used to help train and pay the salary of Miss Hsin-mei Cheng

who was to teach at the Hsin-chu Bible School in Formosa.

CHILDREN OF THE CHURCH

On November 5, 1959 a mid-week group for children aged 6-8 was commenced under the leadership of Mrs. John Tanner and Mrs. William Willoughby with eight children enrolled. This group was disbanded in 1962 because of the lack of children for the age group. All monies were sent to Toronto West Presbyterial.



The Wade Family

Philip

1835

Mary

Of Sussex England

Mary Ann John Dianna Philip George William Frances James

Sara Hoover

John Kate Ann William Sara Sadie Philip Frances

Eliza
Moody

John
Fry

Arthur
Lane

Hall

Frank
Moody

Hannah
Wattlake

George
Stewart

Ethel
|
William
Cannoyson

Florence
|
Scott
Bovair

John Aubrey
|

Grace
Chandler

Laura
|
Oliver
Legge

Norman

Linda Sandra

Betty Saigle

1967

THE WINTER FARM

Lot #3, In 4th Concession, Township of King

200 Acres

I have been told that the above lot was the one selected as the "Clergy Reserve" for the Anglican Church at King. It apparently was one among a number of similar purposes, but in some way or other, the responsible Officials failed to obtain the signature of the Governor of Upper Canada before his departure for England, and before anything further could be done, so great an opposition towards these grants arose that no Government had the courage to try to put them through. Some years ago when the Writer was a member of the Ontario Civil Service, Veterans Land Grants Department, Lands Forests and Mines. I made it my business to search "DOOMSDAY" in which all Crown Deeds are recorded. This Lot was granted to Neil Wilkie in the year 1801. Some years later he disposed of the east half of the lot (shown on sketch) On part of this half, the plan of part of the Village of King was Registered by Dr. James Beatty, in the year 1852. Eventually the 3 part lots were sold to individual buyers. At one time Lot 3 had a mortgage for \$1000.00 placed upon it. This mortgage was defaulted, the Lot passed into "The Court Of Chancery" and sold to the highest bidder. The Mortgagee, in giving title to the new owner had to secure, along with his own and family, that of sons-in-law, as well as, daughters-in-law, twenty-three signatures in all.

My Father, having bought the remaining 54 and $\frac{1}{2}$ acres of the Lot, in the year 1867. He, at that time, and up until 1872, resided with his 3 brothers on the east half of Lot 5 in the 4th Concession, which they owned. Sometime between 1867 and 1872 the Northern and Northwestern Railway closed North Street on their western boundary. They put on gates and locked them. This would compel my Father, in his journey to his New Farm, to use the first street north of North Street, which ran west from Keele St. along the north side of the Station Agents' house, to a junction with West Street then south to North Street. My Father, in order to pass in the usual way, cut the gate down the centre, and passed through. A few days later a new gate was on and locked. This time he cut the gate posts off level with the ground. And that was that! From that day to the present hour, no attempt has ever been made to close the right of way. The incident shows what a man of courage can do in defence of his rights in face of a powerful company.

In 1907, my Father set aside a lot on which to build a home for his retirement from the farm, but before this was completed he passed on, leaving this home and the income from the farm to my Mother for life.

My Mother died in 1921, leaving her estate to my sister Margaret.

The time had come when my two brothers and I had to prepare to carry out the terms of my Father's will. We found that an error had occurred in the will respecting the House and Lot, which would result so that the road to the farm would be cut off, to remedy this, we thought it best to give my sister a deed for the property, clearing the road to the farm, but reserving a right of way over it for her property. I prepared a Deed for the same and sent it to the Registry office, in 10 days it was returned to me, stating that it could not be registered as the house appeared to be on a street allowance. A sketch was enclosed marking the street, and upon measurement, it was found that the house was right on Winter Street.

This state of affairs was caused by the fact that when a Village Plan is registered the ownership of the streets are invested in the of the township in which the village is situated and do not become the property of the village until such time as it is incorporated. Negotiations were opened with the officials of the township council, These negotiations extended over a period of two and one half years, before satisfactory terms were arranged for the closing of Summer Street, Winter Street, North Street, Union Street, and South Street, on the twenty-third of December 1923.

A Deed, by the Corporation of the Township of King, was granted to the Executors of the Estate of Thomas Winter, thus investing the ownership of the named streets in the above named estate, and from that date we are outside the Village of King.

As we close, we leave to the hand of time, the recording of the history yet to be. We have with us ⁱⁿ our declining years the memory of those semi-pioneer days, with their mud roads and well-worn paths, no sidewalks of any kind, youth did not need them. We would not wish for a return of these conditions again unless accompanied by youth.

King, Ontario

R.T.Winter

September 30, 1952



CENTURY FARM

Allan Gellatly - Lot 16 and part of 17, Conc. 4 (rear of 3rd), King Township

In the year 1857, Peter Gellatly, of Blairgowrie, Scotland, came to Canada. His neighbours, the Wightons, and their son John and daughter Margaret had emigrated the previous year. In 1858 Peter Gellatly and Margaret Wighton were married in Toronto, then called Muddy York. Their son Robert was born in 1859.

About 1860, Peter Gellatly and his brother-in-law, John Wighton bought a 200 acre farm in King Township from a land agent in Toronto without seeing it. The agent said "It was as level as a table". John Wighton got the north 50 acres of Lot 17 and Peter Gellatly got the south 50 acres. This property was completely wooded with huge pine trees, to be cleared with oxen and later a stumping machine. In later years, Robert Gellatly bought the adjoining 100 acres to the south.

Robert Gellatly had 3 sisters, Jennie, the eldest, married Tom Marshall and they farmed just east of Eversley. The two unmarried sisters, Bessie and Maggie, kept the Post Office at Eversley for many years.

Robert Gellatly married Elizabeth Ferguson, only daughter of Thomas Ferguson. Thomas Ferguson and his sons Will and Hugh owned farms, now part of Eaton Hall Farm. Another son, T.K. Ferguson, owned the farm just north of the Green Lane on Con. 3. The five Ferguson brothers were Joshua, John, Will, Hugh and T.K. Ferguson.

We have been told that in the early days, the hills of King produced good straight pine trees and that they were shipped to England and Scotland to be used as masts for sailing ships. On our farm we had at one time about 400 rod of stump fence. The oxen pulled the stumps to clear the land.

Robert Gellatly had three daughters, Clara, Jessie and Mary and five sons, Walter, Harvey, Roger, Ernest and Allan.

Allan Gellatly has two daughters, Carol and Shelia, and three sons, Peter, Brian and Kenneth. Brian is the fourth generation to farm this land.

HISTORY OF THE ANDREW DAVIS AND SON TANNERY

This information has been taken from a book entitled "THE DAVIS FAMILY AND THE LEATHER INDUSTRY" 1834-1934, written by Bruce Pettit Davis and his wife Carrol Langstaff Davis.

Elihu Pease, in addition to his tannery business which he operated on Yonge Street, was a school inspector, and in the course of his duties in connection with his work travelled a good deal throughout the country. On one of these trips through the bush he found himself on the east branch of the Humber River in the township of King, at the place which is now known as Kinghorn. Here he found a good stream of water which he could use for power and an almost unlimited supply of hemlock. He was so impressed with the location as a tannery site that in 1847 he purchased sixteen acres of land on lot six in the fifth concession for his son Edward. At first just one building was erected, as a combined dwelling house and tannery, the tannery being on the ground floor with living quarters above it, and a currying room at the back of the building. The entire payroll included perhaps two or three men. In the meantime a commodious dwelling was built some distance east of the tannery, which, however, was not ready for occupation for some three or four years.

In 1856, Andrew Davis, husband of Elizabeth Pease, purchased the tannery site from his brother-in-law, Edward. Shortly after Andrew Davis took over the Kinghorn factory, he named it the Lowell Tannery for some reason that is now obscure. The name, however, stuck, and from that time on until the business left King "Lowell Tannery" appeared on all letter-heads and other printed documents of the firm.

In the autumn of 1868 Andrew took his eldest son, Elihu James (E.J.) then in his seventeenth year, into business with him. This young man began his career as a tanner on the bottom rung of the ladder, and the next four years represented for him a period of hard physical work in every department of the little factory. In 1872, when he was twenty-one, he became a partner in the firm now known as "Andrew Davis and Son".

Business increased and sales were now made with the rapidly developing wholesale houses as well as private individuals, farmers and shoemakers. However, the distance between these wholesalers and the tannery posed another problem for the owners. At first, the leather was drawn by horse and wagon all the way to Toronto. In 1853 train service was established between Toronto and Aurora, with a station in King. The goods were then hauled two miles to the station for shipment.

With the gradually increased acreage of cleared land in the vicinity, the flow of water in the Humber River began to diminish and no longer provide an adequate supply of water power. A small engine room was built in a separate structure back of the main building and a small steam power plant was installed.

In 1877 E.J. was elected to the council of King Township on which body he served as a member until 1881, when he became Deputy Reeve, being elected to the Reeveship in 1883, and to the office of Warden of York Count in 1884.

On April 1, 1884 Andrew retired from the business and E.J. bought out his father's share to become the sole owner of the firm of Andrew Davis and Son. Some conception of the steady growth of the business since 1868 may be obtained from a memo in Andrew's handwriting in which he lists his original capital at six thousand dollars and the amount in the business in 1884 at thirty-seven thousand nine hundred and three dollars and seventy-four cents.

On the third Sunday of April, Dr. Rankin, then a young preacher on his first or second circuit, but later a nationally known figure in the Methodist Church, was delivering a sermon in the little community church some seven hundred yards from the Lowell Tannery. It was a bright spring day; E.J. Davis and his entire family were present, and the congregation was following the minister through the four steps into which he announced his sermon had been divided. During the second step, however, the door was opened and someone shouted, "The tannery is on fire." The church was emptied in a few seconds and the third and fourth steps remained locked in the mind of the preacher. Despite the willing assistance of the entire congregation, the fire had obtained a tremendous start and the Lowell Tannery was doomed. The buildings were of wood; there was no such thing as a fire department in the community; and fire fighting appliances were non-existent. Consequently it is not surprising that everything was destroyed except stock actually in the vats. Moreover, the loss was only partially covered by insurance, due to the almost prohibitive rates in force on buildings in such a locality.

Rebuilding the Lowell Tannery seemed such a task that E.J. had first to overcome the natural inclination to abandon his life's work. Having decided to face the problem squarely, the next decision was, where the tannery should be rebuilt. Kinghorn presented many disadvantages,

foremost being lack of fire protection. The railway was two miles away and with an ever increasing volume of business this was proving a serious drawback, especially during spring and fall when the roads were almost impassable. Again, as the business expanded, and the payroll increased, houses had to be built for the employees.

Realizing what the loss of "King Township's first major industry" would mean to the district, the owner of the local sawmill, one Henry Marsh, gave Mr. Davis such a remarkably low figure for the timber that another frame building was erected on the old site. This building was designed to provide at least double the production of the former tannery. In October, 1884 the new building was completed.

In 1872, E.J. Davis married Margaret Johnston, daughter of David Johnston, and they had a family of five sons and two daughters. All of the sons learned the trade. Business steadily increased and additions to the building had to be made from time to time. The executives of A. Davis & Son felt justified in looking to the future with ever growing confidence.

Spring came early to King Township in 1903. In fact, the dust was blowing on the Saturday morning of March 14th, when E.J. and his second son, Aubrey, walked home together for lunch. Suddenly they were startled to hear a few peals of the tannery bell, followed by a short blast from the whistle. Stepping back from the house they saw smoke pouring from the roof of the factory, and by the time they reached the building, flames were raging through the drying flat on the fourth floor. Again the lack of fire protection made the task of fighting the blaze hopeless, and all efforts were concentrated on moving as much as possible out of the reach of the flames. Most of the records from the second floor office were rescued and a small portion of the stock from the building. There was nothing to do but watch the destruction, for a second time, of a generation's work. Within an hour the Lowell Tannery was razed to the ground.

It was now evident that the Kinghorn site must be abandoned. During the last few years it had been necessary to bring in the tan-bark from ever increasing distances, and the Humber River had long since failed as a source of power. All these factors combined to deprive Kinghorn of all those advantages which had so appealed to Elihu Pease a half a century earlier.

The search for a new site culminated in a selection of a plant at Kingston, Ontario. The Kingston establishment was a going concern and enabled them to get back into production with a minimum of delay. The eldest son, Elmer, took charge of this operation.

In 1904, excavation started for another tannery in York County in the town of Newmarket. The name of the firm was changed to the Davis Leather Company Limited. Recently constructed workmen's houses were moved from Kinghorn to Newmarket. Applications began to pour in from the old employees of the Lowell Tannery and when operations actually started on the second of March, 1905, it was a source of gratification to the management to find that practically all the key men were former employees of the old firm.

In 1946, on his retirement, Aubrey Davis purchased the former property from the then owners, Mr. And Mrs. Archie Campbell. He retained Mr. and Mrs. Campbell as caretakers and they still live in the original Davis house. Mr. Davis built himself a cottage on the property. After his death, his son Bruce enlarged this small house into a permanent family home. The property is fittingly named "MEMORY ACRES"

HISTORY OF THE CURTIS FARM - A CROWN DEED FARM

By

Mrs. Fred Curtis

The first settlers to settle on the Curtis Farm, located in Lot 9, Con. 4, King Township, were Mr. William Curtis and his wife, Mary Ann Germain, both English descent, Grandparents of Mr. Frederick William Curtis who holds the Crown Deed.

They were married February 26, 1857. Mr. Curtis bought the 100 acre farm from the Crown May 18, 1857, at a cost of 62 lbs., 10 shillings. That same summer the first house was built at the back of the farm. It was built of logs. Later the farm was cleared and a barn built close to the house.

Farming was started by the use of oxen. There were several beech trees on the farm so from that it was named " BEECH MOUNT FARM "

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis had five of a family and spent their life on the farm until retirement age, when they built a home in King, and lived there, 113 Keele St. S., until their death.

Their son, Arthur William Lonsdale Curtis, took over the farm, in the year 1891.

On February 24, 1892, he married Annie Cicely Ball. The house that still stands was built in the year 1861, and was the birth place of Arthur William Lonsdale Curtis, the father of Frederick William Curtis, Mary Isobelle (Mrs. Ralph Burns) and Josephine Beatrice (Mrs. James Wells) all of whom reside in King City at the present time.

Mr. Curtis did mixed farming. The hydro was installed in both the house and barn in the year 1928. The telephone, known as the King Line, later changed to King and Vaughan line, was installed in the year 1908.

Frederick William Curtis worked the farm with his father. In the year 1940, April 17, at the age of 78, Mr. William Curtis died. The farm was willed to his wife, Annie Cicely Curtis. Frederick William Curtis then worked the farm for his mother.

On June 11, 1941 he married Annie Roberta Ferguson, who came as a bride to the farm. On August 5, 1944, after a lengthy illness, Mrs. Annie Cecely Curtis died. At this time Mr. Frederick William Curtis inherited the farm, stock and implements.

Up until this time a dug well back of the barn watered the stock, and a dug well at the house supplied the house. In 1945 a well was drilled at the back of the barn and water installed in the house and the barn. A bathroom was put in the house.

The barn was a bank barn, stableing underneath and barn above. Up until five years before selling the farm it was all mixed farming. The last years some dairying.

In 1892 taxes on this property were about \$20.00 per year. In 1955 the last year for this farm to be in the Curtis name, the taxes were \$185.00

In March 1955 the farm was sold, to the King Cross Estate.

April 20, 1955 a sale was called and stock and implements disposed of.

Mr. & Mrs. Frederick William Curtis moved to King City, 143 Humber Crescent. They retained the Crown Deed to the farm.







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LOWELL TANNERY KINGHORN 1903.



NOV • 63

CROSSLEY HALL

by

Mrs. Wm. J. Houston

February 15, 1967-- No trace remains to-day of the 64-year-old Crossley Hall in King City where famed Canadian E. Pauline Johnson once recited her poems.

Making way for business progress, the natural pine structure on the south side of King Sideroad, next to Bethel Baptist Church at the corner of Fisher St., was razed by the owner, Carlton Crossley, in 1963.

The resulting space increased the parking area needed by patrons of the King City Cold Storage business operated by Art Rigg.

Built in 1899, the hall was opened January 1, 1900. Operated by the late William J. Crossley, it soon became a popular social meeting place.

As the only hall located in a large area, the Crossley building functioned until the middle of the first world war.

Buggies were the popular mode of transportation when the young people congregated for dances. Crossley Hall was the focal point for political campaigns of the day. Visiting public figures were heralded and escorted by booming bands to the crowded community centre.

On different occasions Prime Minister Mackenzie King, the late Postmaster-General William P. Mulock, Hon. A.B. Aylsworth, Hon. Clifford Sifton, Minister of Crown Lands Hon. E. J. Davis and Member of Parliament Herbert Lennox greeted their supporters from the platform at the south end of the hall.

Beneath the platform were kitchen facilities used for favorite get-togethers, oyster suppers. The Masonic Lodge had its annual social night there. Congregations enjoyed "Christmas Trees", and community concerts were the result of diversified talents originating on the village's surrounding farms.

A few King residents remember when the late George Stone entertained with Irish songs. The second owner, Carlton Crossley, one-time bush pilot, vividly recalled early in the century when Pauline Johnson recited, "Song My Paddle Sings", in a program featuring her poetry. She was more accustomed to the larger audiences of Toronto's Massey Hall.

The final social event was held in 1916 and by that time other halls and meeting places came into prominence.

Crossley Hall was then used commercially. Pickling onions grown on the Crossley property along Fisher and Patton Streets were stored. For one season the place was rented for ice cut four miles eastward on Lake Wilcox.

For many years it was vacant and in final years used to protect lumber and furnace equipment.

The original owner died in 1938, well-known by the many people who had spent leisure hours in the hall he built, large enough to seat 280 people.

The one-storey structure belonging to the past era of the village's social life was demolished by Carlton Crossley with the aid of another King Township resident, retired farmer Wib. Burns.

RE PICTURE:

Snapshot taken May, 1963 of Crossley Hall shows demolition work already started on the roof. At this stage few of the newcomers, forming the majority of the village's population, were aware the unpainted shed was once the vital social hub. At left can be seen Bethel Baptist Church at the corner of Fisher Street.

EATON HALL, KING CITY, ONTARIO

By

Lady Eaton.

It was a cold February day, below zero, when we first looked at Eaton Hall. Our neighbour in Toronto, Sir Henry Pellatt of Casa Loma, came over to Ardwold one evening to tell us that next to his farm at King, Lake Marie, there was another farm, with a lake, for sale. This was in the year

Although the lake was frozen over and snow covered the ground as far as we could see, and in spite of the biting cold, we fell in love with the farm. That was the south half where the farm buildings stood, and the woods through which the drive winds. The woods were up for sale for cutting and there was an option on them. We made an offer for the farm, and before a week passed we were the owners, with only legal matters in connection with the purchase to be completed. Before the next year we had bought the second half.

We soon discovered that most of the top soil had long since left these parts, and was down in Lake Ontario. Too much wood had been cut, too much had been taken out of the soil, too little had been put back. The hills were covered with thistles and mullins, the woods had been pastured, the lake was full of carp. So, there was not much left of what had once been good farm land and wood lots. In Canada even carp was despised. So began the long slow road back to production. The first year by use of fertilizer we doubled the yield of grain per acre but even that was a low yield by Ontario standards.

We have used contour plowing, fertilizer, rotation of crops, but the woods are still a problem. We keep a Friesian-Holstein herd, and at one time we used horses almost entirely for farm work. Now, however we have just four farm horses, and the farm is becoming mechanized. We cultivate and pasture about three hundred acres.

We have also re-stocked the lake. While Canadians generally despise carp, others find them good, and they often appear on the menu as a special dish. They are bad in a small lake for they eat the spawn, and young fish. First, we had an Italian firm come, and they fished with their nets for weeks, and took most of the carp out. Then, we put in first, green bass; later on rainbow trout from British Columbia, and later still, brown trout. There are also perch. The reason why we can have three varieties of fish is that the lake is very deep in parts, while shallow in others, and it seems these fish live at different levels.

We raise turkeys and chickens, and so we have for sale besides cattle and horses, (I raise hunters), eggs, cream, broilers and turkeys. It is more economical for us to buy the ducks and geese we need for home consumption and fatten them. Broilers, turkeys, and all the poultry, are killed at the proper time and put in the deep freeze.

We started a reforestation plan, and have planted hundreds of thousands of trees, using

the kinds suitable to the place to be planted.

We have had the original woods inspected and have cut them according to advice. They are still very beautiful, and each time I pass under their branches they give me a thrill. The new woods I have helped to plant. During the war, with the help of school boys, we planted thirty-five acres in one day. This is on two hills at the north boundry, north of the Navy road which is the north entrance. Another day that these trees were planted the same year, we planted ten acres. Both these areas were arid hills. It has been a joy to watch them grow.

We have had one terrifying experience. It was an early spring day. Luckily, banks of snow still lay by the big trees. Some one had dropped a burning cigarette butt at the foot of the hill north of us. A strong wind was blowing our way. The phone rang and a neighbour warned us that flames were sweeping up the hill. In fifteen minutes the fire brigades from Aurora and King were here, and everybody in the place and nearby was at work. It was really the banks of snow which our people shovelled on to the flames which checked the fire till the fire brigades arrived and finally put the fire out. If it had not been for this quick action by neighbours, farmers and fire brigades there would have been no Eaton Hall to-day.

It seems terrible that there is no warning, to make smokers careful. If each smoker made sure his match and his cigarette were completely dead before dropping them it would save millions of feet of timbers every year. It would help also if no one dropped anything out of cars on the roads. Surely, all waste papers, cigarette boxes, butts, and match ends could be carried to a stopping place and deposited in the garbage tins.

By this fire eight acres of young trees were destroyed, disfiguring the hill, and losing us at least ten year's growth.

As we no longer put the cattle into the woods, the trilliums have come back, and during May they are like a carpet and a wonderful sight. Dogs tooth and wood violets, too have multiplied. Last fall we were able to purchase wild flowers and have set out quite a few of which have wintered. Already ladies' slippers have bloomed.

We have used several ground covers, but the one which gives the most satisfaction is the periwinkle. It covers the ground under the trees and on banks thickly, and chokes out the weeds, but curiously enough, bulbs grow well in a bank of it. Whenever the snow melts in winter, the leaves are dark green and glossy. In the Spring, it is covered with blue flowers from which we get the colour "Periwinkle Blue".

We have feeding trays for the birds and put out suet. We also hang the carcasses of turkeys and geese on the limbs of trees. The Blue-jays love these. Last winter there were chickadees nut hatches, and sometimes even a blue jay, and snow birds feeding from the tray in front of my window. We have had martin houses these last two years, and the martins have taken over. We

also have cardinals, scarlet tanagers, blue birds, canaries, orioles, gold finch, red winged black birds, chimney swifts, and many varieties of sparrows. Inevitably, we have starlings, crows and pigeons. We would forego their company if possible. There are several varieties of woodpeckers, one the pileated.

There is a varied wild life--foxes, raccoons and skunks. We do not care for these as they are all fond of chickens. There are ground hogs which burrow in the ground and make dangerous holes, and lots of mud turtles. There are pheasants and partridge which we try to encourage to stay. From time to time, wild geese and ducks rest on the lake, when in migration.

Strangely speaking, we do not have much of a garden, but we are planting bulbs--jonquils, narcissi, tulips, hyacinths, scilla, and iris in groups on the hillsides, and amongst the trees, also lily of the valley, trying to have a natural growth of these flowers. The hillside was a blaze of jonquils this spring, and was a wonderful sight. The hyacinths and narcissi did very well too, and we had magnificent tulips.

F O R E W O R D

The following article presents the past and present of "Kingcrafts". It marks a milestone in its growth and influence in the community, and augurs well for continued progress towards an even brighter future.

Lady Flavelle, the author of the "Kingcrafts Story" is also the founder of this flourishing organization. Through her creative interest in handicrafts and her inspired leadership in this community enterprise, "Kingcrafts" is now the concrete embodiment of her vision, courage and faith.

Those of us who have worked closely with her in "Kingcrafts" realize how much time and energy she has unselfishly devoted to enriching the lives and increasing the happiness of the women of King and district through their achievements and handicrafts.

Marion Baxter.

January, 1960.

THE "KINGCRAFTS" STORY

By

Lady Flavelle

1950 - 1960

Many times during the past nine years, I have been asked to write the story of the origin and amazing growth and development of Kingcrafts. It is a simple thing to talk about a subject which is so near to one's heart as Handicrafts are to mine, but it is quite a different matter when one is confronted with writing down cold facts in concrete form.

The most difficult challenge is 'where and how to begin' and 'how to keep it from becoming too personal', especially when the writer is the founder of the organization and its President for the first four years. Therefore I hope the reader will understand if, occasionally, the personal creeps into the narrative.

In the autumn of 1948 my husband and I severed our city contacts, and fulfilled a long-cherished dream by moving to the peace and quiet of the country. We found in King Township our ideal spot, and built our home called "Kingswold". For the first two years, every available moment was filled with such activities as the finishing of our home, built in those post-war days when materials were scarce and substitutes had to be found; learning to cook; landscaping, including flower and vegetable gardens, orchards; wells to be drilled for drinking water; fences repaired; bad road conditions to be improved; and in general adjusting our lives to this new way of life. Eventually living became more organized and to my surprise I found that there were a few leisure hours in the day, and I asked myself "What do I do with leisure time in the country?"

The many functional activities which had filled my days in the city were nonexistent in the country. Golf for exercise was no longer an appeal as I had more than adequate exercise working in the garden. Things that had seemed important to me in the city lost their values, and I cast my eyes about for a new and more satisfying type of interest, preferably something creative.

From my mother, an artist in fine needlework, I had unconsciously inherited the love of working with my hands. This inheritance had remained dormant up to this

point, but suddenly the inspiration came to me of using these precious leisure hours in developing the craft of weaving, a hobby I had started a few months previous to moving to the country, while waiting for our house to be completed. It also occurred to me that it would be more interesting, and a friendly gesture, if I could persuade some of my country neighbours to become interested in weaving or some other craft of their choice and work at these interests together.

Knowing very few people in the neighborhood, I sought the help of the owner of a local store, a charming woman who knew everyone in the community. We discussed the idea together, and she was very enthusiastic about it and gave me a list of about twenty women who she thought would be interested in the project. With the addition of my own few friends the list eventually reached thirty. I called the Secretary of the Canadian Handicrafts Guild of Toronto, told her my story and asked if she would come out to our home and tell this group of women about the possibilities of developing Handicrafts in this district. She kindly accepted the invitation and the meeting was arranged for September 26, 1950, at our home 'Kingswold'.

On that day, thirty women, two small children and a baby in a laundry basket, met in our living room and listened to a fascinating story of the increasing development and interest in Handicrafts, and the splendid opportunity that could be ours in this field. Some of these women, no doubt, had come to the meeting out of curiosity, others in doubt, but before the meeting ended such was the enthusiasm that "Kingcrafts" was organized that day. It was amazing to find how many of these women had at some time worked in a simple way at one of the crafts.

Three groups were formed that day - Rug-Hooking, Weaving, and Smocking. The latter was suggested by the mother of eight children who felt there was a need for this type of needlework, and she offered to teach a group of mothers of young children. Convenor-Teachers were found for the other two groups. A school teacher, who had studied weaving in her teachers' course, volunteered to teach weaving, and an elderly woman who had many years previously learned to braid and hook rugs, volunteered to teach this craft.

A simple organization was set up, consisting of a President, First Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, plus the three convenors. The name "Kingcrafts" was suggested and accepted. The fee was set at \$1.00 per year, and now in our tenth year this fee is changed only in that a member now pays \$1.00 for each group to which she belongs.

Every woman at that meeting signed up with one of the three groups.

It was decided that work meetings would be held in the homes of the members every two weeks, and once a month (the fourth Wednesday) a meeting of the entire group would be held in the homes large enough to accommodate the thirty members.

At this monthly meeting, the convenors would give a report on the progress of their group, bring samples of their work to show the other members, discuss problems and receive help and advice. Names of women wishing to join Kingcrafts could be proposed at the monthly meetings.

Only women having their permanent homes in the country were eligible to become active members of Kingcrafts. City people, spending only week-ends in the country, could become associate members.

Arrangements were made to have a guest at these meetings to speak on various subjects of interest, including Interior Decorating, History of Fabrics, Flower and Dried Flower Arrangements, Gardening, Conservation, Bird Lore, Vegetable Dyeing of Wools, Colour and Original Design. These were a few of the principal subjects.

A friendly tea hour followed the business meeting, the food being supplied by each group in turn.

These were very happy and friendly gatherings. Many women who had lived in the same neighborhood anywhere from ten to twenty years met for the first time and became friends. Quickly the membership started to increase as the news of Kingcrafts spread throughout the countryside.

It seems unbelievable that with such a simple beginning, Kingcrafts, now as I write in its tenth year, would have seven active craft groups each with an average of fifteen to twenty members, and each with its own convenor and assistant convenor, one hundred and forty active members and one hundred and seventeen associate members. The latter do not work in the groups but are invited to attend the monthly meetings. A greatly enlarged executive consisting of an Honorary President and two Past Presidents, form an Advisory Board. A President, First and Second Vice Presidents, a Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, and two Convenors are also included in the executive meetings - the House Committee Convenor and the Membership Convenor. Kingcrafts believes in spreading responsibility to as large a number of members as possible, thus increasing the interest in the organization.

We now have an attractive and functional building, called 'Kingcrafts', with a lovely garden, in the heart of King Village, which was built and completely paid for in eighteen months. A substantial Building Maintenance Fund for repairs

and expansion, was set aside, also a separate fund to assist groups, with instructors and equipment, and an adequate fund for running expenses for the coming year.

Sales are held every two years to meet the budget expenses, and to give the members an outlet for their craft work. A high quality is maintained at these sales by having a special committee appointed before each sale to examine every article for perfection of work. If it passes this inspection the article is then marked with a 'Kingcraft' label.

Such is the power of a group of women devoted to a worthy idea.

The early years were not lacking in amusing incidents, indeed enough to fill a book, but space allows me to relate only the most memorable one.

It was on the occasion of the first Annual Meeting of Kingcrafts, 1951, held in the basement room of the United Church. The monthly meetings had been conducted according to parliamentary procedure, and we were anxious to have the Annual Meeting run true to this form. We had invited guests from the city, representatives from the Canadian Handicrafts Guild, and also an important guest speaker. So reports were carefully prepared and rehearsed, and everything seemed to be in perfect order. The night turned out to be cold and stormy, but the room was filled to capacity and our city guests arrived safely in spite of the weather.

In one corner of the room there was a large furnace in full view of the audience, and behind it a small kitchen where the women had prepared refreshments for the meeting. Everything ran smoothly until the guest speaker stood up to address the meeting on the subject of "The Importance of Handicrafts in any Community." He had just become warmed up to his subject when an explosion occurred from the direction of the furnace. Fortunately, our guest speaker, and incidentally the only man at the meeting, turned out to be an engineer. So he calmly put down his notes, walked over to the furnace, repaired the trouble, returned and resumed his address. A few minutes later a repetition of the trouble occurred. Once again he attended to the furnace. When for the third time the noise and rattle broke into his remarks the meeting became almost hysterical. But the third time completed the job satisfactorily and the speaker was able to finish his address in peace and quiet. Loud was the applause of the grateful audience, and no applause was ever more genuinely earned than by our ingenious guest speaker.

As the invitation for refreshments was being extended by the President, the lights suddenly went out (the result of blown fuses from the furnace), and we were in total darkness. However, some candles were eventually found, and refreshments were duly served by artistic candlelight, and in spite of the coffee being slightly cool

the meeting was acclaimed a great success. The first Annual Meeting of Kingcrafts will be remembered by many of its members when other more smoothly running ones will long be forgotten.

Step by step, during the early years, Kingcrafts grew to maturity as the need developed. A set of aims and objectives were proposed and accepted and were as follows:

- 1) To promote the various crafts in King and the surrounding districts.
- 2) To promote the skill and artistry of those practising the crafts.
- 3) To foster a community spirit through the medium of handicrafts.

An unwritten, but well understood, aim from the very beginning, was to strive for perfection and high quality in all of our work.

A fitting prayer was written especially for Kingcrafts by a beloved minister and every meeting is opened with the reading of this beautiful prayer.

The need for a constitution and by-laws governing Kingcrafts arose. These were carefully drawn up and incorporated into our charter.

In the beginning the membership was limited to fifty, as our homes would not accommodate a larger number, but soon we reached this limit when a fourth craft, Leather, was added to the others and drew the interest of even more women.

One of the first contributions made to Kingcrafts by the leather group convenor was an attractively designed round leather pin, showing the Kingcrafts insignia of a pair of hands. Fifty pins were immediately ordered and sold to the members, who proudly wore them on the occasion of the meetings. There have been many of these pins re-ordered through the years as membership increased.

In 1952 our craftsmanship had so improved and our reputation for artistry and quality had become so well known far and wide, that it was decided to hold a sale to raise funds to help provide much needed equipment, the sale to be held in June in the gardens of "Kingswold".

The aims were set high, with an objective of \$1200.00. Tickets were sold in advance to insure us against inclement weather and thus total loss. Nature shone upon our first big effort, for the day was perfect, and about seven hundred people attended the sale. The garage at the entrance to the grounds was decorated with apple blossoms and the posts covered with cedar boughs. It looked very attractive when filled with the colorful craftwork, including weaving, hooking, leather work, smocked dresses and nighties for children, and dolls.

The barbecue house by the side of the swimming pool was gaily decorated and housed the 'Country Home Baking.' A section of the flower garden was the background

for a booth where perennial plants and flowers were sold. Afternoon tea was served on the lawn near the house so that the kitchen facilitated the serving of tea and refreshments.

A large colorful awning attached to one wall of the garage sheltered an amazing display of 'Country Antiques and By-Gones.'

Raffle tickets for handicraft pieces donated by each group had also been sold previously to the sale, each member being responsible for selling a certain number of entrance and raffle tickets.

By four o'clock we were 'sold out' and the money realized far exceeded our highest expectations. Each member received 85% from her work which was sold, and Kingcrafts received 15%. Even with this distribution Kingcrafts netted \$1200.00.

We could now afford to pay for professional instruction so as to improve our craftwork, assist the groups with better equipment, rent a room in the church for our monthly meetings which had by now outgrown the capacity of our homes, and donate prizes to the Handicraft booths of the Country Fall Fairs, thus encouraging better handicrafts. In general, we were able to take an active and important place in the community life, which was fulfilling one of our main objectives.

Vision and enthusiasm never waned in Kingcrafts. During the third year, 1953, a sketching group, later to become the Art Group, was organized, with an experienced and talented artist to instruct the class both in still life and outdoor sketching in the Spring and Fall. This has developed into a very large and enthusiastic group. One member won a first award in a competition held by the Women's Institute for all of Ontario. This group has held two separate art sales and many of their paintings have been sold.

Early in 1954 a ceramic group was organized, but as it was found difficult to work with clay and water in private homes, the basement of the Anglican church was rented for two days each month, and there could be found a keen and happy group moulding and creating figures and articles of grace and beauty.

Fortunately, about this time a woman experienced in pottery moved to King and brought with her a kiln (a necessary piece of equipment for pottery). She took over the instruction of this group and fired the pieces of pottery made by the members, in her own kiln.

It was only natural that the next group to be formed in this picturesque countryside would be Gardening and Flower Arrangements, for in the country we all have gardens but had much to learn about the care and cultivation of flowers in a section of the country which experiences severe winters. This group was skilfully

developed under the guidance of a Toronto Garden Club member living in King, who is an artist in flower arrangements and with a green thumb as well. She opened our eyes to the possibilities of using driftwood, dried leaves, weeds and dried flowers. Soon our clothes cupboards were sharing the space with strange companions, such as weeds, branches from shrubs, and flowers being dried for winter arrangements. Christmas decorations for our homes were no longer bought in florists' shops but were created by our own hands and even sold to our city friends at Christmas sales.

With the addition of four craft groups to the original three, the problem of adequate and central work rooms became a vital issue. It was imperative that Kingcrafts look for a permanent home to house its ever-increasing membership. In February, 1954, we learned that a lot 50 x 200 feet, ideally located near the centre of the village, was for sale at a fairly reasonable price. An emergency meeting was promptly called, and the issue presented to the members, who, after a short discussion, voted unanimously in favor of purchasing this lot. There was a sufficient fund in the bank from the previous sale to cover the cost, and so the first step in a long-cherished dream of a permanent home for Kingcrafts was realized.

This ownership of property spurred us on to even greater effort, that of raising money to build a workroom on our newly acquired lot. A sale was planned for the following October, 1954. The objective this time was set at \$2500.00, double the previous sale. The large Community Hall at Maple was engaged, and an able and enthusiastic committee appointed to organize the work and urge the members on to redouble their efforts for this important project.

At our first sale in 1952 there had been many inquiries for knitted articles and although there was no organized group for knitting in Kingcrafts, many of our members volunteered to knit for the coming sale during the summer months. Wool was purchased by Kingcrafts, and under the guidance of an expert knitter was given out with directions for attractive and unusual articles, such as caps, scarves, mitts, children's sweaters and socks, sizes two to eight years. Baby dolls were also beautifully dressed in knitted clothes. This booth turned out to be a great success and brought in substantial financial returns to Kingcrafts, so much so that knitting has been included in all of our recent sales and continues to be a popular feature.

The Community Hall was turned into a veritable fairyland, with the assistance of the display department of a widely known department store in Toronto. The Kingcrafts members produced beautiful craft work. The publicity and efficient organization during the month preceding the sale brought gratifying results in the tremendous attendance and enthusiastic praise and purchasing of our craft work. Once again the

final results were far beyond our most optimistic expectations.

With the beginning of the New Year, 1955, a building committee was appointed to arrange for the construction of a basement workroom, the main floor to be built later. However, and fortunately, both the architect and the building contractor were of the sound opinion that the construction of a building in two stages was both impractical and more costly.

The architect submitted drawings of his ideas of a building suitable to our requirements. Because of the nature of our sloping property, a split level building was advised. The main or upper level, 30 feet wide x 50 feet long, to have floor to gable windows at each end, the westerly window giving an intriguing view of the garden and distant rolling hills. This room to be used for meetings, sales and lectures. The lower level of the same dimensions, and with a similar west window, to be used for a bright and pleasant workroom for the crafts, and which would also house the kitchen washroom, storage cupboards and heating equipment. From this lower level there would be easy access to the garden.

This attractive drawing was unanimously accepted by the members of Kingcrafts, but in order to comply with these plans more money than we then had in the bank would be required. The executive met this situation by a well-conceived idea. A special meeting of all members was called to approve or disapprove of the plan for financing it. Ninety percent of the members voted in favor. The extra amount needed was \$4200.00, and the plan conceived by the executive was as follows:

To approach forty-two persons living in the communities in which our members lived (these boundaries now reached Aurora, Newmarket, and Thornhill), and to ask for individual loans of \$100.00, without interest, from each person, the loan to be repaid by Kingcrafts within a period of five years.

Each member of the Executive took her share of names and agreed to report the results within ten days. The organization of Kingcrafts, during the past four years, had apparently earned a very fine reputation in the community, for the response to our requests for loans was overwhelming. At the end of the ten days each member of the Executive reported one hundred percent success.

With the necessary funds now in the bank, the "go ahead" signal was posted, and no time was lost in turning the first sod. Great was the excitement on that day.

In view of the fact that we were now property owners, and a very substantial body, it was felt that it would be wise to incorporate under the laws of the Province. In June, 1955, we became incorporated as KINGCRAFTS: A Self-Supporting Non-Profit Organization.

In the meantime the building progressed slowly but surely and carefully under

the watchful eyes of an indefatigable and enthusiastic building committee. In talking to our friends about our hopes and plans for the future, numerous generous gifts were offered to us for the new building, including the furnace, floor covering, electric fixtures, aluminum storm and screen doors, and paint. One man in the village offered to do our plastering free of charge. Such was the encouraging response to our efforts from the whole community.

As the building neared completion the problem of basic furniture loomed up. On the main floor, measuring 30 x 50 we needed a minimum of sixty chairs, a large pine table and a chest of drawers, also curtains for the large picture windows at both ends of the room.

Once again a brain wave came to one of the members. She approached a well-known furniture and cabinet maker in Toronto, told him the Story of Kingcrafts and the need of a large pine table, selling the idea to him that this piece would be on loan to Kingcrafts and that the name of his firm and the price would be neatly printed on a card in full view. Many people building new homes in the district would see and admire this piece and probably order a similar one, or buy this table which would then be replaced by another; in other words - an out-of-town showroom.

The owner of the shop, a great artist in wood carving and deeply interested in the crafts, agreed to the proposition, and in due time the beautiful table was delivered. A short time after Kingcraft House was opened the table was sold and replaced by another. The idea was proven a success. But I might add, the owner of the shop generously made a gift of the second table.

Following the first successful effort in securing furniture, a second cabinet maker was approached with the same proposition, but this time the need was for a pine Welsh dresser on which to show off our ceramics, with cupboards below in which to store stationery and supplies. Hearing of the experience of the former cabinet maker he quickly agreed and produced for us a very beautiful piece which greatly enhanced our room. This Welsh dresser was also on loan but did not readily sell as it was fairly expensive. Two years passed by, and then one day we received a very polite note from the cabinet maker to the effect that he was not in a financial position to make a gift of the dresser but if we wished to buy it he would sell it to us at a reasonable price for such a beautiful piece of furniture.

This problem was brought before the executive, for it entailed a substantial sum of money not included in our budget. We had grown accustomed to this beautiful piece of furniture and could not picture the long blank wall without it, yet we had to be practical about the matter.

Two choices faced us: We would either have to pay the expense of having it moved back to the owner, which would amount to a considerable sum, or have a special Home Bakery sale to raise the money. Country Home Baking sales are always an assured success. The matter was put before the members at the monthly meeting, and they unanimously voted in favor of the sale. It was to be held Saturday, October 31st, Hallowe'en Day. This gave us an opportunity for interesting decorations both in the building and in the food.

Every member was asked to produce home cooking, to the cost of \$1.00 to her, which would possibly sell for \$2.00.

The Garden Group offered to help by making a dozen or more attractive dried arrangements with driftwood, and the members were allowed, if they so desired, to sell any crafts they had on hand.

The sale turned out to be much bigger than planned. Practically everything was sold. The Baking Sale alone raised more than enough to buy the Welsh dresser, and the surplus was used to purchase a much needed electric stove.

Chairs were an absolute necessity. We appealed to active and associate members for donations of chairs. The chairs were of uniform stack type. The response to this appeal was very generous. An old chest of drawers was given by one of the members and we scraped it and waxed it ourselves.

Another member, who was renewing her livingroom curtains, gave Kingcrafts her very suitable ones of theatrical gauze. Another member made us a gift of cups and saucers. Odd plates and trays drifted in from kind friends, and a two-burner electric plate and teakettle were also given to us.

Each group expressed a desire to contribute to the furnishings of Kingcrafts. The Hooking Group some years previously, had, as a group project, hooked a rug approximately 54 x 36, depicting the Village of King. This rug had been shown throughout the country at exhibits. The Hooking Group now offered this as an interesting piece to hang on the wall. Another member had a wrought iron frame made upon which to hang the rug, and it made a most attractive wall decoration.

The Weaving Group offered as their contribution to provide hand-woven curtains for the downstairs workroom; ivory with deep bands of many colors.

The Leather Group made a beautiful guest book with Kingcrafts and the Insignia of the Working Hands carved on the cover.

The Ceramics Group contributed pottery ashtrays and a lovely plate, with 'Kingcrafts' worked into it. This adorns the Welsh dresser.

The Art Group had a metal strip, painted green, to match the wall, and this was attached to the wall and affords the group an excellent opportunity of exhibiting

their art work and adding colorful interest to the room.

The convenor of the Garden Group made two unusual wall plaques in the shape of an artist's pallet, on which she made a most artistic arrangement of dried fruits, nuts and leaves. Also she contributed a large and handsome piece of driftwood filled with a colorful dried arrangement for a centrepiece on the pine table.

The products of the Smocking Group naturally did not lend themselves to furnishings, but they contributed their share by keeping attractive and colorful smocked articles in the show cases. Several women volunteered to paint the downstairs work-room to save the expense of a painter.

So the essentials were now ready for the grand opening.

In January, 1956, our new home, Kingcraft House, was completed sufficiently for us to hold our monthly meeting, and that was a proud and never-to-be-forgotten day in the history of Kingcrafts. Every member took a personal pride in the accomplishment.

With the new building came an influx of new members and groups were greatly enlarged.

With such a low fee as \$1.00 per year, there was the danger of women becoming members primarily for social reasons, with no serious intention of learning a craft or abiding by our laws of attending the minimum fifty percent of their work meetings. To overcome this difficulty we established an initiation fee of \$5.00 and found that this helped to answer this problem.

While enthusiasm over the new building was at its height, plans were formulated to repay our loans and obtain a fund to meet the yearly budget for maintaining Kingcraft House. We had met with such great success at our previous sale in 1954 that we decided to organize immediately for a yet bigger and better sale in September 1956, to be held once again in the Community Hall at Maple.

While we longed to have the sale in our new Kingcraft House, yet our better judgment told us that in order to raise our objective of \$4000.00, we would need a hall big enough to accommodate a very large attendance, possibly fifteen hundred to two thousand people. Tickets for admittance were once again sold in advance. Each member was responsible for selling a minimum of ten tickets and five books of raffle tickets. These were given to the members four to five months in advance of the sale.

Every member put her shoulder to the wheel for this effort, for we were all anxious to have Kingcraft House free of debt. Once again we far exceeded our objective and thus were able to repay by October. 75% of every \$100.00 lent to us, and by the following spring, assisted by the fact that a few generous-minded people returned our cheques and thus made us gifts of their loans, we were enabled to repay

all outstanding amounts. The result was that loans were entirely repaid in eighteen months instead of the five years as promised, and the fine reputation and confidence in the members of Kingcrafts was maintained and even enhanced.

In addition to repaying the loans, we had sufficient surplus to purchase some much needed furnishings for the kitchen and workrooms on the lower level. As Kingcrafts was now being rented to other organizations for evening meetings, this necessitated an addition to the number of chairs and cups and saucers to the capacity of one hundred people.

In the year 1956 Kingcrafts became an affiliated member of the Canadian Handicrafts Guild of Toronto, and we were honoured when they asked our Hooking Group to exhibit their rugs, and to demonstrate this craft at the Guild Exhibit at the Canadian National Exhibition. This group has now fulfilled this request for three consecutive years, and has become well known to people far and wide who are interested in this craft.

Throughout the years Kingcrafts hookers and weavers have exhibited and won many awards and honorable mentions for their work at the Montreal Canadian Handicraft Guild Exhibit, London District Weavers, and Canadian Handicraft Guild Exhibit at the Canadian National Exhibition. For two consecutive years the Rug Hookers have demonstrated their craft at the Dalziel Pioneer Museum. They also exhibited at the Simcoe County Arts and Crafts, where our President was asked to tell the Story of Kingcrafts.

Amongst the members of Kingcrafts were many young women with small children, who could not attend our monthly meetings and thus lost touch with the work being done outside of their own group. Also by this time we had nearly one hundred associate members whom we rarely contacted. In order to keep these members and associate members informed of the ever-increasing activities of Kingcrafts, it was suggested that a quarterly publication be edited and sent out to all members. Thus THE KINGCRAFT CHRONICLE came into being in 1956 under the able direction and editing of one of our younger members. Now, in its fourth year, it has proved to be of inestimable value and of great interest to all who receive it. The circulation of the last edition in November, 1959, was over three hundred, and at every issue there is an increase as membership expands.

About this time one of our members made a pen and ink sketch of Kingcraft House, with the idea of having it used as a frontispiece for "Hasty-Notes", and on the back page a route map from Toronto to Kingcraft House. The drawing was submitted to the executive. They agreed that there was a need for such stationery for sending out invitations and letters of thanks. Also it could be sold to the members for personal use. One thousand were printed and made up into packages of ten and twenty-five.

and sold for 50¢ and \$1.00 respectively. This stationery proved to be very popular, and before long a second order was printed, this time in green ink. Many thousands of these Hasty-Notes have been sold throughout the years, not only to Kingcrafts members but also to visitors to our attractive Craft House.

In 1957 a yearly budget for the maintenance of Kingcraft House was carefully studied and estimated at \$600.00 per year. This included taxes, water, light, oil for heating, caretaking, grass cutting, snow shovelling, plus an ample surplus for any necessary small repairs. The President at this time (1957) was a very level-headed and far-seeing person, and while we were free of any debt and had sufficient funds in the bank to carry us for one year, she felt strongly that we should have a reserve building maintenance fund, for any emergency which might arise regarding the building, thus alleviating the executive of any personal financial responsibility. In order to raise this fund we decided to hold a smaller sale at Kingcraft House in October 1958. We had nine months in which to work and prepare for this sale. Everyone was enthusiastic in anticipation of the first sale in our own attractive building, where the artistic surroundings would lend themselves to the favourable showing of crafts.

Entrance tickets, including lunch, were once again sold in advance, for Kingcraft House would not accommodate more than about one hundred and fifty people at one time. A revolutionary idea in display was planned by a member who had years of experience in her own artistic gift shop, and the result was breath-taking in its beauty. Our work, though attractive and of high quality, was enhanced by the ingenious way in which it was displayed.

The sale opened at 10.30 and we were practically sold out by 2 o'clock.

Our patrons from Toronto and outlying districts appreciated the opportunity to shop early and partake of an attractive lunch served in the Anglican Sunday School across the road. Here many treasured handicraft articles, which were not for sale, decorated the walls and made interesting conversation pieces.

The financial results of this sale were once again beyond our expectations, and we were not only able to establish a substantial building maintenance fund, but also put aside a sum for special instruction to the groups and make additions to our equipment and to the reference library. In this sale the members received 75% from the sale of their work and Kingcrafts 25%. Many of the members spent their returns on buying better materials and equipment, thus ever improving the quality of their work. But in some cases this extra amount of income has helped many a family through an anxious financial period.

The years 1958 and 1959 saw great changes in the garden at Kingcraft House.

On the south side of the front lawn an attractive rockery had been built the previous year and planted by the garden group. This in the spring was a blaze of colour. A nursery of small government evergreens filled the back of the two hundred foot lot. A cedar hedge for the entire south boundary was donated and planted by one of the members, with the aid of her husband. Several very fine specimen shrubs, including lilacs, flowering crabs, spirea and forsythia, were purchased from funds made available by a special sale of plants and bulbs arranged by the garden group.

In the autumn of 1958, many fine species of bulbs, including tulips, scillas, grape hyacinths and daffodils, were planted on the north border, and lately a few perennials have been added. We were fortunate in having two very large old and widely-spreading apple trees in the garden, and in the spring we occasionally sit under them for our meetings.

The husband of the convenor of the garden group made three high redwood trellises for the south wall of Kingcrafts and now vines hide an otherwise plain and unattractive wall.

The garden group members, numbering about eighteen, took on the responsibility of keeping the grass and flower beds watered during the summer months -- no mean task when one realizes that these women all have gardens of their own to attend to, and many have at least five to ten miles to drive to reach Kingcraft House.

The enthusiasm of this group is inspired by the leadership of a member with tireless energy and one increasing purpose, to make our gardens beautiful. Kingcrafts throughout the ten years, has been most fortunate in the high quality of its leaders not only the executive level but also in the individual craft groups. All members hold office for a period not exceeding two years; but there has never been a lack of efficient leaders to follow the high standard of their predecessors. A feeling of the need of most women for the expression of beauty, finds an outlet in Kingcrafts, and this spirit produces a desire to give freely and ably of their individual abilities for leadership.

However, in spite of this splendid leadership, in the spring of 1959 a certain note of apathy seemed to be apparent in some of the groups. It is the belief of Kingcrafts that nothing stands still in this world; there must be either progress or recession. Of course it is possible that this apathy was partially due to 'Spring Fever', but psychologically the time had arrived when inspiration from an outside source was needed. The idea of introducing a course of lectures on 'Colour and Original Design' was thoroughly looked into and the results presented at the June meeting.

The course was to consist of a series of six lectures to be given once a week from mid-October to mid-November, by a well-known artisan and lecturer on this sub-

ject, the fee for this course to be \$3.00 per member (50¢ per lecture), to be payable in advance. This was to cover the expenses of the teacher's fee. A book was passed around at this meeting for members to sign if they wished to take these lectures, and to our amazement sixty women out of the sixty-five present at the meeting expressed their desire to take the course. We thought that by the fall the enthusiasm might wane, but on the stated date in October sixty members arrived at Kingcraft House at 10.15 A.M., equipped with pencils, rubbers and drawing paper, ready and eager to broaden their horizons.

It was an exhausting morning, for it had been a long time since many of us had experienced such concentration of effort. The group turned out to be much too large for one person to manage, so we were divided into morning and afternoon classes 10 o'clock to 12 and 2 o'clock to 4. We left at the end of our first lecture with, alas! home-work to be done before the following week. This seemed almost more than we could take. For some of us it had been forty years since we had been given homework.

An amusing experience is told by one of the younger members, the mother of four young boys. She was sitting at the table with the two younger sons while they were doing their homework. Eventually she brought out her drawing paper and pencil and started on her work for the lecture the following morning. When asked by the ten-year old why she looked so worried, she replied, "I am doing my homework." The boys thought that this was a big joke and laughed heartily at the sight of their mummy doing homework. The older boy, somewhat of an artist, said: "But what are you so worried about to which she replied, "I have to make an original design for a Christmas card tonight." The artist lad said, "Why that's as easy as falling off a log", and in a very few minutes he produced an interesting and certainly an original design.

Such is the ease with which imaginative and uninhibited youth can produce originality while to adults it is a struggle.

The results of the series of lectures was very gratifying. Naturally some benefitted much more than others, but many of our members produced their own original design for Christmas cards by the block linoleum method, others made block prints on place mats for Christmas gifts, while everyone gained an insight into the field of the importance of colour and originality in design in modern-day craftsmanship.

There was a surplus left over when all expenses had been paid, and with this we bought a much-needed "green" blackboard framed in pine, and an excellent textbook on design which was highly recommended by our instructor, another valuable addition to our reference library.

It is quite possible that, in the not too distant future, we may add an eight

craft to Kingcrafts, that of 'Textile Printing', and this would be the result of the keen interest shown by many of our members in the lectures and demonstrations in this fascinating and most useful craft.

At present we are very busy planning and organizing for our fifth Kingcrafts sale to be held in October, 1960.

One of the main objectives for this sale is to raise funds to purchase a fifty foot lot next to Kingcraft House, if and when it becomes available. We feel that it would not only be a good investment, as our present property has doubled in value in three years, but also another and more important reason is that if Kingcrafts continues to grow in membership at the rate that it has done in the past ten years, we shall have to face the necessity of enlarging our present building to accommodate the members.

Many of our members feel strongly that any new addition to Kingcrafts should provide accommodation for a workroom for the men of our community, especially those who have retired, in order that they too might follow the hobbies of their choice and at the same time meet in friendly unison. Of course this is still a dream, but to quote Carl Sandburg, "Nothing happens unless first a dream."

Gifts still continue to arrive at Kingcraft House, the latest being a much-needed pine lectern to match the beautiful pine table referred to earlier in this story. It is being made by the same firm and will be presented at the January month meeting. This is a gift from the author of this story, to commemorate the tenth anniversary of Kingcrafts.

The foregoing has been a chronological account of the material and fascinating growth of Kingcrafts over the period of the last nine years. Now for the even more important human side of the story.

Any community enterprise, to be successful, should be unselfish in its objectives. It must attract and hold its members, through their sincere desire to help one another rather than in any spirit of competition. Human values far outweigh those of dollars and cents, necessary as they were and are and will continue to be in our future advancement. The human values to which I refer are not merely theoretical but have been vividly apparent throughout the years.

The following human values seem to be uppermost. They are:

- 1) Congenial companionship has been found, both by long-time residents and newcomers to our fast-growing community. Women who had experienced great loneliness, and in some cases where life was without purpose, have found a way to happiness by joining a group of women who are eager to share their knowledge and experience of a craft with their neighbours.
- 2) Working creatively with the hands and mind breaks down any social barrier that otherwise might exist, and almost all of us have some latent talent which, when discovered and developed, will bring a profound sense of reward and satisfaction to the individual.

- 3) The joy of learning and discovery of new fields at any age.
- 4) Our homes and gardens have been enhanced in beauty by the knowledge we have acquired through lectures and demonstrations throughout the years, on colour and design, history of fabrics, gardening and the use of driftwood and dried flowers for winter arrangements, vegetable dyeing of wool, conservation, and many other subjects of interest. The creative work of our hands in weaving, hooking, ceramics, leathercraft, smocking, art and flower arrangements, have found important places in our homes, and have given to us a wider realization of life's enduring values.

It is with great pleasure and a feeling of pride that I write this account of the 'Kingcrafts Story' and the magnificent achievement of the women of King and district. My hope is that it may prove to be an inspiration and valuable guide and pattern for any group of women desiring to find expression of Beauty through the work of their hands and minds.

Perhaps the truest meaning of Kingcrafts is best exemplified in the following verses written by our Publicity Convenor, who takes for her title the Kingcrafts insignia, which is 'A Pair of Working Hands'.

A Pair of Working Hands

A pair of working hands,
Symbol of Kingcrafts,
Sturdy, deft and sensitive,
Fashioning creative instinct
Into tangible workmanship.
This is Kingcrafts.

A pair of sensitive hands,
Country women at work
Capturing the light and shadow of a summer day,
Catching the burnished autumn tones,
The tender grace of a leaflike spring,
Taking the vivid hues of the garden's ecstasy,
This is Kingcrafts.

A pair of creative hands,
Searching design, seeking perfection,
Hidden joys springing to life,
Heart and hands producing,
Knowing that handcrafts are
Inseparable to living.
This is Kingcrafts.

Laura Rolling - 1956.

Muriel I. Flavelle,
"Kingswold" King,
January 15, 1960.

With grateful acknowledgment to:

- a) Mrs. James Baxter, whose research through the minutes of meetings of nine years for a chronological report of the development of Kingcrafts, which she gave at our Ninth Birthday Meeting in September 1959. This has proved to be of great assistance to me in writing this 'Kingcrafts Story'.
- b) Mrs. Laura Rolling for the verses which she wrote on 'Kingcrafts'.
- c) My husband, Sir Ellsworth Flavelle, for the pictures he took of all the most important events in the development of Kingcrafts, and for his encouragement and helpful vision all through the years.

"THE TORONTO CARRYING PLACE"

By

Mrs. Wm. Willoughby
Jan. 1961

The earliest recorded history of this area is found in Percy J. Robinson's book "Toronto during the French Regime"; in which in full detail the "Toronto Carrying Place". is described.

This portage thirty miles in length, formed a link between Lake Ontario and the Upper Lakes. It ran from the mouth of the Humber River to the west branch of the Holland River. It was always traversed on foot, and saved a detour of hundreds of miles over exposed waters of the Great Lakes. This was no ordinary Indian trail, but a main thoroughfare as old as human life in America.

After crossing Bloor St. east of Jane St., it followed closely the course of the Humber. It swung to the east of Duncan Creek. Keeping east of the river, it crossed a small stream one and a half miles south of Purpeville. Swinging west, it crossed the east branch of the Humber close to the spot where the road crosses it today at the little village of King Creek. To the north of this ford the trail enters a wilder region, swinging to the east of the 6th. concession road, north of Hackett Lake., and crossing a height of land 1,150 feet above sea level (ridges of King). Keeping slightly to the east to avoid the sources of the numerous small streams flowing northward into the Holland River, the trail ran north a little east of the 6th. concession. The end of the Carrying Place where Simcoe camped is a quarter of a mile south-west of the northern extremity of the 6th. concession road.

Robinson describes the trail as follows:

"Toronto Carrying Place for a century and a half before the arrival of John Graves Simcoe, possesses a history, which, though little known, is always dramatic and picturesque; it is the history of the wilderness, the fur-trade, of the wars and cruelties of the Iroquois, of the adventures of explorers and missionaries, of the discovery of the Mississippi Valley and the Great North West.

By the beginning of the 17th. century the French explorers under Champlain had set up a colony in Quebec, and had made friends of the Huron Indians and enemies of the Iroquois. The Huron hunting grounds fronted on the shores of Lake Ontario and extended to Lake Simcoe; but their fortified villages lay north in the Midland district. Only encampments were built in the hunting area; the one in this district being at Hackett Lake. The Iroquois, the Hurons worst enemies dwelt on the south shore of Lake Ontario in New York State. Continual warring was carried on between these two tribes with the French assisting the Hurons.

Among Champlain's party was a young Frenchman named Etienne Brulé. Winning favour among the Hurons, he was taken into their tribe, and became like them in every respect. On September 8, 1615, Brulé, in company with twelve Huron warriors travelled down the Carrying Place to seek assistance of the Andastes Indians who lived in eastern Pennsylvania in war against the Iroquois. Brulé was the first white man to cross the Toronto Carrying Place, discover Lake Ontario and view the site of the City of Toronto.

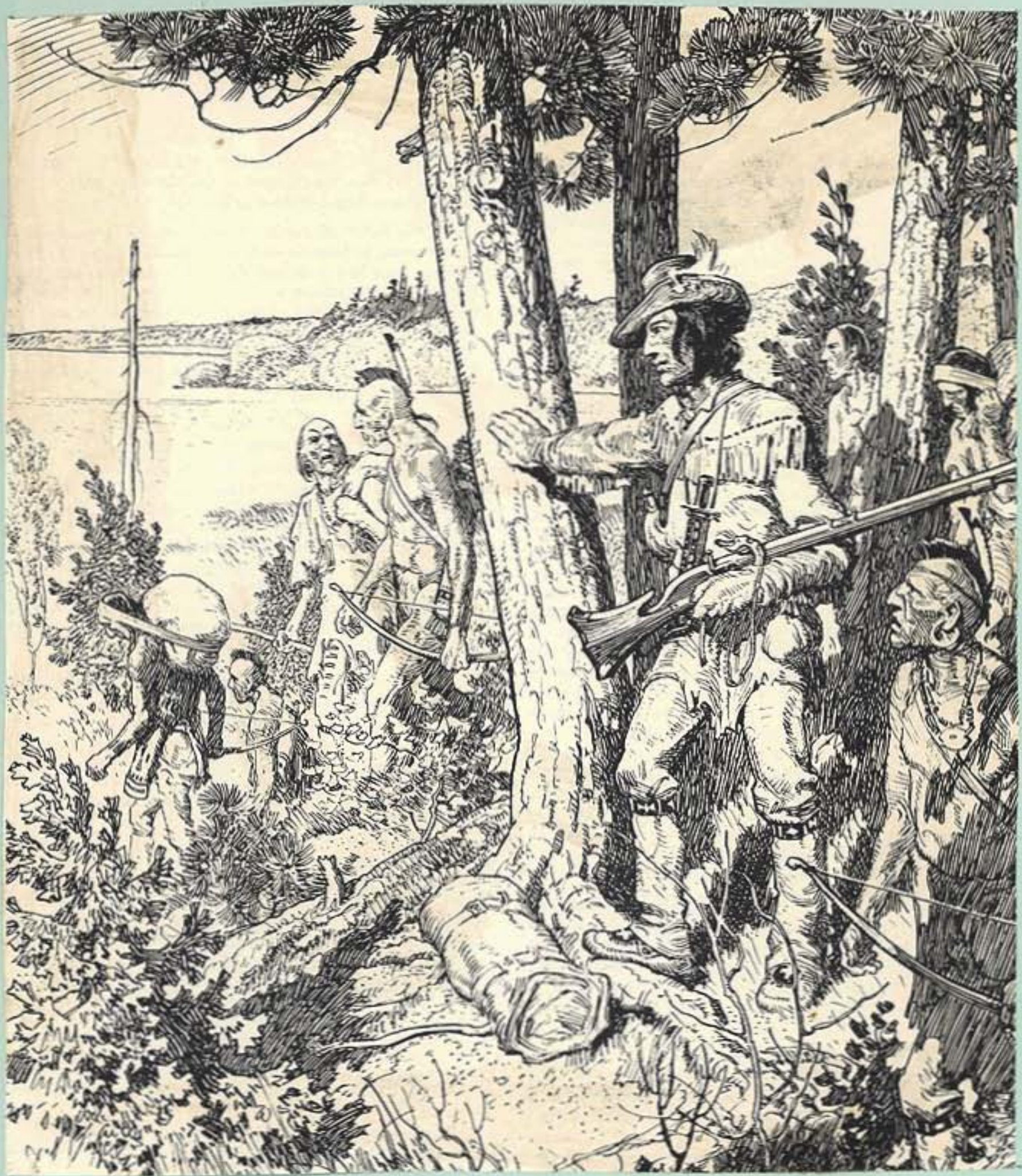
Two Jesuit missionaries, Brebeuf and Charmant, passed this way in the Spring of 1641 on their way back to Fort Ste. Marie, after spending a winter with the Neutrals. About 1895 a small Jesuit stone was found in Vaughan township, in lot 24, concession 5 with the date 1641 carved on it.

By 1649 the Hurons were driven from the land along the Carrying Place; and the Iroquois held undisputed possession of the lands lying between Lake Ontario and Lake Simcoe until the end of the 17th century. This part of the country abounded in fur-bearing animals, and the Carrying Place was used mainly by fur traders.

In 1680 LaSalle first crossed the Carrying Place from south to north; then twice in 1681. He found it the shortest route between Lake Ontario and Lake Huron, and a sheltered route in stormy weather. In his account of the trip up the Carrying Place, LaSalle wrote "All baggage must be carried over the crest of very high mountains"--a glowing tribute to the ridges of King. It is also possible LaSalle crossed this route again in 1683 after descending the Mississippi. The Carrying Place may be proud of so many historical memories of this remarkable man.

By 1758 the French had abandoned their trading post at the mouth of the Humber River. The Iroquois had gone back to the south shore of Lake Ontario; and the Mississauga Indians had drifted down from the north to replace them. By 1760 the English were settled at Toronto, and they soon realized the importance of the Carrying Place as the safe way to the Upper Great Lakes. On September 23, 1787, a meeting took place on the Bay of Quinte between the English and Mississaugas. Sir John Johnson was the Indian agent at this time. About one third of York County, including nearly 140 square miles of King Township was purchased from the Indians for the sum of seventeen hundred pounds in cash and goods. 1,107 Indians had an interest in this transaction.

In 1791 the Canada Act was passed, Upper Canada became an Independent province, with John Graves Simcoe as its first Lieutenant-governor. In 1793 Simcoe visited Lake Huron by way of the Carrying Place. A member of Simcoe's party said of the Carrying Place "the scenery was fit for pictures the whole way". In 1794 Governor Simcoe chose and surveyed the route of Yonge Street; and after its opening in 1796, the Humber-Holland route was abandoned. The townships were immediately settled after the Canada Act, and the original trail soon vanished except at its northern terminus in the Holland River marsh.



ETIENNE BRULE AT THE MOUTH OF THE HUMBER, 1615



LA SALLE ON THE TORONTO CARRYING-PLACE, 1681



THE HISTORY OF EVERSLEY

By

Miss A. A. Fergusson.

Eversley stands at the Intersection of The Third of King, two and a half miles north of the townline of King and Vaughan. It is the centre of a fine agricultural district, dotted with lakes and bathed in the warmth of its sunlit fields. It slopes to the south of the Humber River and to the ridges of King to the north.

Possibly the beginning of Eversley was a store on the north east corner, and a large dwelling house attached. Mr. James Tinline was the storekeeper, and we take for granted that the Tinline family lived in the house, as Mr. Tinline Sr. taught the school for some years. His daughter, our dear, much-respected teacher, Miss Elizabeth Tinline, may have grown up there.

As we remember Eversley, a blacksmith shop stood on the south-east corner.....

The Smith, a mighty man was he,
With large and sinewy hands
And the muscles of his brawny arms
Were strong as iron bands.

On the north west corner stood a wheelwright's shop, presided over by Mr. Robert Reddeth, whose son, Rev. J. J. Reddeth, was a prominent Methodist preacher. His dwelling stood to the north, and north of that was the Hugh Mitchell home. Mr. Mitchell was known as Dr. Tick, as his work was to clean the flocks of sheep from their troublesome sheep ticks. The family were musical and the hymns and psalms on Sundays were led by Dr. Tick's powerful voice, assisted by his family.

Next to the store stood a dwelling where different families lived in our memory. Mr. and Mrs. McKellar retired there in their old age. Later Mrs. P. Gellatly and her daughters, Bessie and Maggie, a highly respected and much loved family kept the post office and a small store later on as the large store was burned down.

Next to this stood the Baptist Church, where the Norman Hutchinson's and other families worshipped. Later on this church was moved to King, where Bethel Baptist services are now conducted by Rev. Mr. Hart.

South of the blacksmith shop stood two homes, one for the blacksmith, whom we remember as Mr. Kitchen, and later Alex. Hurst and his family. The next house and the cheese factory below it housed the families of the Eversley cheesemakers.

The name Eversley is possibly named for a little village in England. Eversley Anglican Church was the church where Charles Kingsley was curate. We remember him as the writer of "Westward Ho." I always think of him in my mind as living next to our Stone Church in the red brick manse of the Tawse family.

The pioneer families included--Rodgers, who owned the 200 acre farm with the large red brick house east of the corner. Mr. Timothy Rodgers raised a family of noted men. Dr. David Rodgers of Newmarket, and the best dentist for a large district around, Dr. Billy Rodgers. Also to the north on a fine farm, Jimmie Rodgers. Also Henry Rodgers, who took over the store for some years, until he left it for the farm, where he died, leaving Thomas Cairns to carry on. He, with Mrs. Rodgers, Aunt Jessie, as she was lovingly called, retired to Aurora, where she died at the age of 94.

Then there were the Wells, probably of United Empire Loyalists stock. Shall we devote a separate chapter to the Wells?

The Fergusons, Scotts, Lloyds, Tawses and Folliotts occupied farms.

THE WELLS

Judge Dalton Wells. Does that name mean anything to You? Had you lived on the Third of King from Eversley down during the last century, you would have known the name of Wells. That was a pioneer family. There were two of the older families, John and Joel and their descendants. I remember old Mrs. John Wells, who, in her old age lived at Eversley in the house in which their grandson Lyle Wells, lives now.

Their sons were Joel and James. Joel owned the south east corner farm and had a red brick house. He built a cheese factory at the south of Eversley. The fame of Eversley cheese was known far and wide. The farmers were out early with their wagons of milk cans going to the cheese factory. After the milk was weighed and the cans emptied into the big tank, the farmers drove a little further to the whey pump and filled the cans with whey for the pigs.

Half way down the west side, was the farm of Mr. James Wells. He also lived in a red brick house. Later it was taken down and the present white brick dwelling was erected. I believe that all the red brick houses were built of bricks burned on the farms. They certainly were large and well built.

Besides the two Well's red brick, and the large Rodgers, there was the Scott home, the Manse, a neat cottage in which the Tawse family lived, also the two sons of Joel Wells, Pearson and Gabriel lived in the very large solid brick house. Now these are painted white.

Mr. William Wells, oldest son of James Wells is still living. He was reeve of King for some years and lived on his farm north of Temperanceville in a red, brick house.

Farther down on the Third, Pearson Wells lived on his fine farm, through which the Humber ran on its way from Lake Wilcox down to Toronto Bay. The railway tracks cut the farm in two on the South. It is now a forestry demonstration, and very beautiful with its blue spruce and scotch pine.

Pearson Wells represented the Liberals for North York in the Federal Government in

Ottawa, for a term. He was highly esteemed. His eldest son was Dr. John Wells, a dentist. He suffered from epilepsy and often was unable for his work. He had married Josephine Erwin and she studied dentistry in Canada, and was a good one too. Their son, Dalton C. Wells, was the first Judge Dalton Wells of whom we spoke, a Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada. So lift up your heads a little higher, ye people of Eversley, for a judge has come from your ranks.

Gabriel Wells, brother of Pearson, lived on the farm west, also in a fine red, brick house. He and Pearson Wells, were Disciples of Christ, and attended the church in Aurora, of that denomination. Gabriel Wells built a church on the King corner of his farm, and though in my memory, was not used as a church. It still stands as a church on the north boundry of King, and is known as the old church.

The James Wells, were Presbyterians and worshipped in the Stone Church, built on the south east corner of the James Wells' farm. The red brick Manse was north of the church, the first resident Minister was Rev. John Tawse. He came from Scotland. He had been married three times, and had two daughters, Mary and Georgina. The latter became the wife of Rev. Dr. James Carmichael. Also a son, John, who owned the farm opposite the church. The present school was built on one acre of his farm. The grandchildren of Rev. Tawse still occupy the manse, which was re-built several years ago.

One of the earliest district churches and the oldest of the Presbyterian charges, Eversley congregation was founded in 1834. The present stone church was erected in 1848, and is a landmark of early architectural of the gothic design. The cemetary surrounding from 1837 to 1877, a period of 40 years. The cemetary surrounding the church holds the remains of Rev. John Tawse, minister from 1837 untill 1877, a period of 40 years.

Eversley Presbyterian Church was an offshoot of Newmarket Presbyterian Church. The first church at Eversley was a log structure. It was to be used for divine service on Sundays and for a school during the week. Rev. John Tawse was the teacher. Young men and maidens attended during the winter, adding to their store of knowledge. If any of the young men desired to go further, Rev. Tawse was a grand tutor and gave them every assistance. Among the young men of letters, who rose to prominence was Andrew Yule, who became a school teacher, later the reeve of Aurora, and a highly respected man there. Another man of letters was Frederick Burrows. He became a school teacher, and then a chief inspector of Toronto schools and died only a few years ago. He was a poet of some renown. I have copies of some of his poems. Others, too, got a start from that fine old preacher, Rev. John Tawse.

Sometimes a couple would call to be married. Mr. Tawse would send the children to the back of the room while he conducted the ceremony. At the back of the room, the young men would edge up to the young girls and go through the ceremony with them. I often wondered if any of those couples married in later years.

The log church was replaced by the present stone one, and the school was later replaced by the present white brick one across the road.

I attended both schools. Miss Alice Smeltser was the first teacher. She was the first cousin of Parnham Wells, son of Pearson Wells, and later became his wife. On that first Arbor Day, a new institution, a row of cedars across the front was planted, a living testimony to her memory. No doubt Mr. Parnham Wells assisted in the work.

In the old brick school we had a succession of teachers, all men, and very fine teachers. My brother, Thomas, attended as a wee boy, when a Mr. March was teacher. He may have been good with the older pupils, but gave little attention to the little ones. Thomas used to tell how Martha Curts who was in his class, returned after being absent for a day, and asked him for a lesson. In the first book, they had the first lesson long enough, so he showed her the next one, and the teacher did not know the difference.

My first teacher was Frank Stiver, who, with his charming wife, lived in the part of the store dwelling. I remember when the Rev. Mr. Grant lived in that apartment with his family. He was the first baptist preacher. Later when Mr. Henry Rodgers gave up the store for the farm, Mr. Stiver became storekeeper. He also dealt in organs -- the Uxbridge Organ Co. He sold several of the first organs in the community. My first organ was one of these. It cost \$75.00. The whole family took music on it. The teacher was Miss Izzie Norman, whose home was in King, where Mr. Burt now lives.

After Mr. Stiver, came Mr. Mathew Harry Thompson. The Thompson family lived on the farm north of the new school house. Mr. M.H. Thompson and his family lived in the house where Mr. and Mrs. McConnell now live. After some years he was transferred to Aurora as principal of the public school. He was a good teacher and a strict disciplinarian. Miss Smeltser was the first woman teacher, but since her time we have had a succession of good women teachers.

One of the finest teachers was Archie Campbell. He was very much esteemed. He became Inspector of North York, and passed away a few years ago. He suggested to me that I try for entrance, a rather unusual thing in those days. My brother Henry and Albert were attending high school, but with the cost of the board and room I did not expect to be able to go on. I went up to Newmarket on December 20

and passed first in the 92 pupils trying, so later my turn came to go to Aurora High School, eventually to Model and Normal. Later in 1913-1914, I taught at Eversley School, thoroughly enjoying the youth of those years.

Now we shall tell of the Ferguson Clan and the Scotts, for they became very close in marriage. Mr. Thomas Scott came from Scotland with his brother Walter (later of South Aurora), his brother Robert, his sister Mr. John Yule, and his old mother - Granny. He was a pioneer blacksmith and built a home and shop on the south west corner of the Third, a block south of Eversley. His brother Robert learned the trade with him, as did other young men. Nearly every implement used on the farm was made by the blacksmith - the iron plows, harrows etc.

The charcoal used in the smithy was burned in the field below the house. The farms were covered with forests. The huge trees were cut down: a large pit was dug, and the logs heaped high in this pit. The earth was thrown over the logs until they were well covered, only a few spaces left where the fire could be laid. Men had to be there day and night. If the fire broke through more earth covered the hole. So the logs were completely burned to make charcoal. Mr. Scott has filled his shed with new charcoal. On the night of March 4th, the whole lot of buildings were burned to the ground - the coal shed, the blacksmith shop, and the dwelling house. Kind neighbours gave shelter to the women and children. There were four wee Scotts at the time - my mother Agnes, known as Nancy, Walter, Helen and wee Jeannie.

On the east corner stood a tavern owned by the Raffartys. Mr. Raffarty had brought a farm. There was a large family, of big boys, and in order to supplement the income they built an extra room to house the bar. It was not a good move, for the boys were good customers and were often seen fighting outside. A new license was needed and names needed to request one. Mr. Scott would not sign for the license. A strange man had been at the tavern a few days before. The night of the fire he disappeared, and the surmise was that he had the fire set and then fled, as he was never seen or heard of again.

Old Mr. Raffarty was a good neighbour and rode his old horse down to the Roman Catholic Church in Richmond Hill on a Sunday morning. When calling on his

neighbours and they would ask 'How are you Mr. Raffarty?', he would reply, 'Still striving to be better'. As he needed money to make a payment on his farm he borrowed money from Mr. George Hartman, east of Aurora. One morning Mr. Hartman rode over to see Mr. Raffarty. He found him working in the field. They exchanged greetings and Mr. Raffarty explained that he was unable to make a payment at present, but invited Mr. Hartman in to dinner. 'There may not be much more but potatoes and buttermilk' he said, 'but you are welcome to it.' So Mr. Hartman shared in the dinner and the two men parted good friends. In time Mr. Raffarty paid the mortgage. Raffarty's Corner was later known as Al Wells' Corner; now Dr. J.T. Phair, Ontario's Deputy Minister of Health lives there.

On the south east corner was the Ferguson home. Mr. Thomas Ferguson married a Glasgow lady, Catherine Kerr. They left Ayr, where Bobby Burns was born in a Ferguson cottage, and sailed for America. After a long sailing voyage they reached New York and remained there until their son John was born. Later they came to Upper Canada, and settled on a farm below Richmond Hill, later known as the Kail Farm, now the home of the great telescope, the OBSERVATORY. There their family increased. Thomas, Hugh and Alex, possibly Margaret joined the family there.

In 1826 Mr. Ferguson bought 400 acres in King, from the Third to Temperanceville. The first 200 acres were kept as a homestead, the next 100 acres were sold to Barnes Beynon, and the rest to Henry Stewart, my great-great grandfather.

Mr. Ferguson was a weaver by trade and his fingers had woven the fine, silken Paisley shawls in Scotland. To cut down the forest and hew out a home was not easy for him. He wove the sheep's wool into blankets and underwear, shirts and pants, to keep out the winter cold. In exchange the neighbours helped him in the making of lumber and building a home. Apparently not a log house was erected, but a full-sized stucco house. In those days the house was built from the ground up, no cellars, but an outside brick cellar for keeping milk and potatoes, apples and preserved fruits. Later, after a century of occupation by the Fergusons, a cellar, the full size of the house was dug by Thomas in 1896. In the cornerstone of this cellar Thomas placed the local papers, Aurora Banner, Toronto Globe and Mail etc.

I contributed the following lines,

When Grandfather Ferguson built this home,
He built it without a cellar.
He said, 'This is good enough for me,
I'll leave that job for another feller.
Within this house was Thomas born,
This house without a cellar.
Within this house was Thomas born,
And he was the other feller.'

In fact five youngsters of us were born in that house without a cellar. Only I was born in the pantry. Besides the Fergusons, mentioned before, others were born in King - Catherine, Mark and Mary Larmont. The Ferguson family grew. The eldest son John bought the farm at Eversley on the south west corner - a sunny acre farm.

For long years the corner field was the forest. On July 1st a great picnic was held there. Big picnic tables, big swings for the children, the Aurora band under the leadership of Sylvanus Lundy, and series of games. It was the big event of the season. In later years the trees were cut down, leaving a level field. Besides the fifty acre farm were ten additional acres at the west known as the Mill Pond. It was dammed up and a heavy plank sluice was built and a lumber mill erected. In the winter the farmers cut what trees were wanted to make lumber and John Ferguson and his wife, Margaret Stewart hired them at the sawmill and after the chores were finished they turned the water from the millrace over the big wheel and cut the logs into lumber. So a striving industry was carried on.

The millpond was a continuation of the lake north of it, known then as Ferguson's Lake, now Lady Eaton's Lake. On the 24 of May holiday the pond was alive with fishermen. All the youngsters around went to the pond to fish. There were sunfish, perch, catfish and shiners. One day Thomas and Henry took their fishing poles for a day's fishing at the millpond. They returned home at night tired but happy with a catch of 99 fish, all catfish but 6 which were sunfish, and all a goodly size. They were sweet eating. It was quite a chore to clean 99 fish, but everyone helped at least with the eating. This millpond was partly on the north side of the road bridge on Walter Scott's farm.

He owned two hundred acres, the length of the block from the 4th of Eversley. The second hundred had been the Bovair farm, but was sold to Walter Scott. Long years afterwards it was sold to Sir Henry Pellatt, and later became part of Eaton Hall farm. Mr. Scott retired to Aurora where he died, also his wife, leaving two daughters and one son.

A great gate led from the road into the logyard. It was used not only by the loggers but by the Thomas Scott family. When Mr. Scott had been burned out at Raffarty's Corners, Mr. Ferguson gave the family the use of the large parlor and bedroom attached until they built another home, known as Scott's Wha Hae, now owned by Harry McBride. The brick Blacksmith shop stood on the corner for many years. I suppose James Fraser took it down.

The Scott family increased in size, so he bought the farm behind John Ferguson's for his family. He built a blacksmith shop in the field near the big red brick house, where he could shoe his horses or fix his implements. He married Alison Stewart, daughter of Henry of Temperanceville. They had 15 children. The oldest Agnes married the youngest Ferguson son, Mark. Mr. Walter Scott Sr., brother of Thomas Scott, married Margaret Ferguson, my father's sister, and they first settled on a farm up the 2nd of King, later on a farm south of Aurora where the CNR cuts through. Both my grandfather and Uncle Walter had black, crisp curly heads and beards, while their brother Robert was like a golden god with pale gold, silken curls. Robert studied for the ministry and was for long a fine Presbyterian Minister. In his blacksmithing days he was engaged to be married to Mary Larmont Ferguson, my father's youngest sister, but Mary took a heart attack and was dead before Robert knew of her illness.

The Thomas Scott home with its deep veranda to the south, stood west of the mill and the width of a field from the road. So he used the lane into the millyard, then up a lane to the barn, which meant opening and closing three gates. Yet the young men who drove in to win the winsome Scott girls, did not seem to mind the job of jumping in and out of their buggies. John F. Scott, the youngest son became a Presbyterian Minister. Henry Scott died in his young manhood as he prepared to study for the ministry.

Mr. Thomas Ferguson, second son of the pioneer father, the weaver, also bought a farm one and a quarter miles, or one block north of Eversley. The farm

later became known as the T.K. Ferguson Farm, with a pond on the side next to the road. There most of his family were born. But he had a desire to own at least a part of a lake on a farm lower down, so he bought the farm now owned by Lady Eaton and called it Forest Home and the lake was known as Ferguson's Lake. It was a beautiful farm with a row of walnut trees up the lane. The forest was kept as a shelter and a beauty spot, and it still stands in its primeval beauty.

His sons owned farms in the neighbourhood. There was the T.K. Farm, the John Ferguson farm, the Hugh Ferguson farm and lake, and later William Ferguson, who farmed the homestead. Mr. Thomas Ferguson, the father retired to King where he built the brick home now owned by Dr. Hardy. Lady Eaton bought the Ferguson farm and added it to the neighbouring farms. It is now a thing of beauty, a great achievement. A CANADIAN PRODUCT.

The Fergusons had thought of supplying their lake with fish, so applied to the government Game and Fisheries Department. At that time they were interested in carp, so they sent enough carp fishlets to supply the lake. This was a sad mistake, as few people care for carp and they hug the mud at the bottom of the lake and are difficult to catch. We believe that Jewish people like them. Along one shore of the lake was a layer of white clay. Men would come and dig up a pail of this white clay to use as a whitewash for their outhouses and cellars. A sample was sent away to the government to enquire as to it being used in quantity, but nothing was done about it. So it is probably there until this day.

Mr. Thomas Ferguson married Francis Wade, daughter of old Philip Wade, of the farm down the Third, across from the Fergusons. Mr. Wade used to use the ash of those old forests to make potash, a clear, solid produce used in the manufacture of soap. We apparently made a good product which sold well.

My good mother was cutting up some potash for soap making, and some fine pieces flew around. I, as children often do, picked up this 'candy' put it in my mouth to lick. My mother quickly filled my mouth with butter, thus saving my throat from burning.

North of Eversley, next to the Timothy Rodgers farm, was the George Norman Wade farm. A beautiful farm with a big, red brick house. Mr. Norman later

moved to King and built the house which is now the Baptist parsonage. The farm was sold to Mr. Peter Bovair who married Eliza Scott. Their youngest son, Arthur, lives there now with his wife, a son Ross and his wife, while the second son Scott owned and worked the farm which backs to it, facing the second.

The farm north of the Norman farm and south of the James Rogers farm was the Hutchinson farm. After the passing of the parents it was farmed by the son, James Hutchinson. Later it was bought by Mr. Alex McLennan, the present owner.

South of the Ferguson farm was the Maple Avenue farm, situated on the south east corner of Raffarty's Corners. On the map of the County of York, published in 1861 is the Ferguson Homestead farm, named by Alec Ferguson, Maple Avenue Farm. He was my father's next older brother, and planted the rows of sugar maple trees and an inner row of other varieties which have long since disappeared - balm of gileads, mountain ash, pines, which I remember as a child. Grandmother Scott picked the buds of the balm of gilead and made a wonderful healing salve.

The farm joining our on the south was the Thomas Wood farm. Mrs. Wood was a Trench, a lady from Scotland. With her lived her adopted niece Jean Trench, who later married James Ness and inherited the Wood Ha' farm.

Thomas Ness, the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Ness, opened an electric business in Montreal. His brother Walter and Andrew and my brother Walter went to Montreal and were employed by T.W. Ness there. Walter Ness carried on the farm. He had brought parts of telephones with him and suggested that he might run a telephone between our farms. He ran the wires along our back lane and made the connection. Our phone was inside the pantry door. Daily Mrs. Ness and I had a phone talk. Other people thought it was a splendid idea and wanted a phone in their homes.

At Temperanceville Theo C. Cadden, who had the blacksmith shop opposite the store, and his home a quarter of a mile south, had a telephone installed so that he could contact his home. Thus the first telephone line in King Township was started by Walter Ness. The Temperanceville store was the first central. Later it was moved to King, to the store of Milton Winters and he and Mrs. Winters carried it along. Thus was the beginning of the KING TELEPHONE COMPANY.

The Ferguson farm, Maple Avenue Farm, had four houses on it. First there was the large farmhouse built by grandfather Ferguson before he and his family took up residence there. Another house was built in the garden, later moved to the Third, where it was used by hired man and family. Later it was rented to different people. At one time Mr. Hugh Mitchell lived there while he assisted on the farm. Further down was the cottage called The Pines. First it was built for a hired man, and consisted of a living room and two small bedrooms. Later this was taken over by Mr. George Burrows, husband of Catherine Ferguson, my father's sister. Mr. Burrows was a cabinet maker by trade, having learned his trade with Jacques and Hayes, a noted cabinet maker of long ago. He added to the house, with an upstairs room and bedroom, while the downstairs was his workshop. Later on, on account of father's poor health, we rented the farm to Mr. Peter Paxton, who was a tenant for 20 years, while we grew up and received our schooling. In the lower corner of the farm stood a small log cabin - a squatter's claim - where the Carter's lived, free of rent. Old Mr. Carter had been a soldier in the British army. He lived here with his wife and son, Harry. The boy mixed with the soldiers and liked to march like a soldier. Harry, or Henry as he preferred to be called, had been born mentally deficient. He loved to get a group of boys around him and pretend to train them. He would give the command "March", and the boys would break ranks. He would give the command, "Halt" and the boys would stop abruptly. He was known as Captain Carter. He would work and after his father and mother died, he lived alone in the log shack. People who knew him helped him out with food. If a girl smiled on him he was very happy. If he were sawing wood and a sunbonnet were held up on a pole he would work tremendously hard, thinking a girl was watching him. He was good-natured and happy when used right, but he was often the bull for the boy's nonsense. The boys would gather at his log hut and give him a letter from Queen Victoria and he would read it. The queen was his best girl. Of course he always wanted to be married. Once a woman did come home with him, but seeing conditions, left him. He once said to me "You know Alice, you can always have me, but I thought you would marry a minister." His one dread was that after death he would be sent to the doctor for experimentation. My brother finally took him to the poor house, where he died. A few of his neighbours clubbed

THE HISTORY OF KING CITY

King City was first named Springhill (Spring Hill) supposedly after springs which were so easily found when digging. Even shallow wells were spring fed. In Springhill and later King City, there were two hotels, "Dennis's Hotel" situated in the south-west part of the village and "Hogan's Hotel" (Armstrong's in 1967), located in the central part. There were three stores, a saddlers shop, a shoemaker, a furniture store, an undertaker's, two blacksmiths' shops, a chopping mill, a cheese factory, two doctors, two grainbuyers and a bake shop. There was also a brick yard which was operated by Alfred Jarvis, the only person who went from this village to the 1898 Klondike Gold Rush.

In 1868 in the name of Queen Victoria a quarter acre was purchased for \$250.00 from Rob't. Stewart. A military drill shed was built there and members of the York Rangers came down from Aurora to drill. This site was later used for garden parties, fairs and social events: it was also used for a skating rink. John Hogan, hotel owner and builder of the shed constructed a race track where he tried out his race horses.

A meeting was called by the trustees in Springhill to discuss the area comprising the village. A petition was circulated by J. W. Crossley, a trustee and a foremost leader of the community, to include a thousand acres as an incorporated village to be called King City. There was another Springhill in Nova Scotia, which was on the same railway line and the mail was continually being mixed up because of this. In May 1890 Springhill was officially named King City.

A large brass bell was erected on the roof of J. W. Crossley's driving shed. This bell was rung everyday,....exactly at twelve o'clock noon and six at night. It is said that the villagers could set their watches by it, it was so exact. This bell was later sold to the Augustinian Fathers at Marylake, a mile north of King City, where it is still used for a dinner bell.

The Grand Trunk Railway was the first railway built from Toronto to Aurora in 1853, later sold to the Canadian National Railway. All the villagers and surrounding neighbourhoods came to see the first train and also have a free ride on it. The engine of the first train the "Lady Elgin". It is said the first railway station was to have been built in the central part of the village, but the hotel-keeper Dennis gave a concession of land to the Grand Trunk Company, in the south-western part where it was built and still stands to-day.

Isaac McBride took over Dennis's Hotel (Langdon's Garage built on site) and was the first to establish the grain buyers at the King Station. This was a great relief to farmers to sell grain at King City rather than have to haul it to Aurora.

The first Post Master of this village was Benjamin Lloyd. Later the MacDonald Family took over the post office and hence served it for sixty years.

In the year 1857. the first religious services were held in an "Upper Room" of the Dennis Hotel, by a minister who rode to his charge on horse back. Two years later land, which was donated by a Mr. Pulford, was cleared of virgin bush and the first church, which was Anglican, was built from the clear lumber that had been cut from the bush. The good folk travelled to church by wagon and team on roads with mud to the axle. The original bell still rings and the original door with its stout six inch key still remains in the church. The church cemetery is kept in fine order and while seldom a burial takes place now, the old monuments still recall the zealous and ardent devotees of the church. Since then, the United Church was built in 1871, and the Baptist Church which was first established at Eversley in 1873 and later moved to King City and rebuilt in 1889

In 1873 the first school was established in the northern part of town. It had two rooms although there was only one teacher at the beginning. Before this a Miss Blisher had kept a private school for ladies in a room at the station hotel, where she taught sewing, fancy work, music and art. There was also a school for young children, held in a room which had formerly been a wheelwright shop. In 1951 1951, because there had been such a growth of population in the village, it was necessary to add another large room to the two-room school house. This new room was of the most modern plan of new schools.

The people of King City have always been book lovers and in 1893 a library was organized, known as the King City Mechanics and Library Association. Altogether there were 800 books, including classics, adventure and a few for children. Later the books were kept in private homes, but after a few years the organization became defunct. It was not until 1945 when King Memorial Library was established.

In 1895 a special meeting of the inhabitants of King City was held at Hogan's hotel for the purpose of relieving or rejecting coal oil lamps to be placed on the streets by our first commissioner J. W. Crossley. It was carried unanimously in favour of the motion, that Crossley Take control of the lamps, get the oil and set the hour for extinguishing them. Apparently, the first year the lamps were installed, they used eighty gallons of oil, the next year only forty gallons were used, while another year only seventeen gallons used. It was in 1907 that the

One of the chief reasons for the growth and population of this village, and the construction of many new homes has been the installation of waterworks. While there are no industries located in the village, the time may come with the decentralization of industry by the city of Toronto, when this village may become a suburb of Metropolitan Toronto.

This information was provided by the Senior Citizens of King City in 1952, for Roger Rawlings, a student of Aurora and District High School. We cannot verify the authenticity of this interesting story.

King Township Circa 1800

Largest township in York County

Area, 1878 - 86,480 acres.

Named in honour of Major John King, under-secretary of state in England.

Purchased from Mississaugas in 1787 by Toronto Purchase Act.

First survey - 1800.

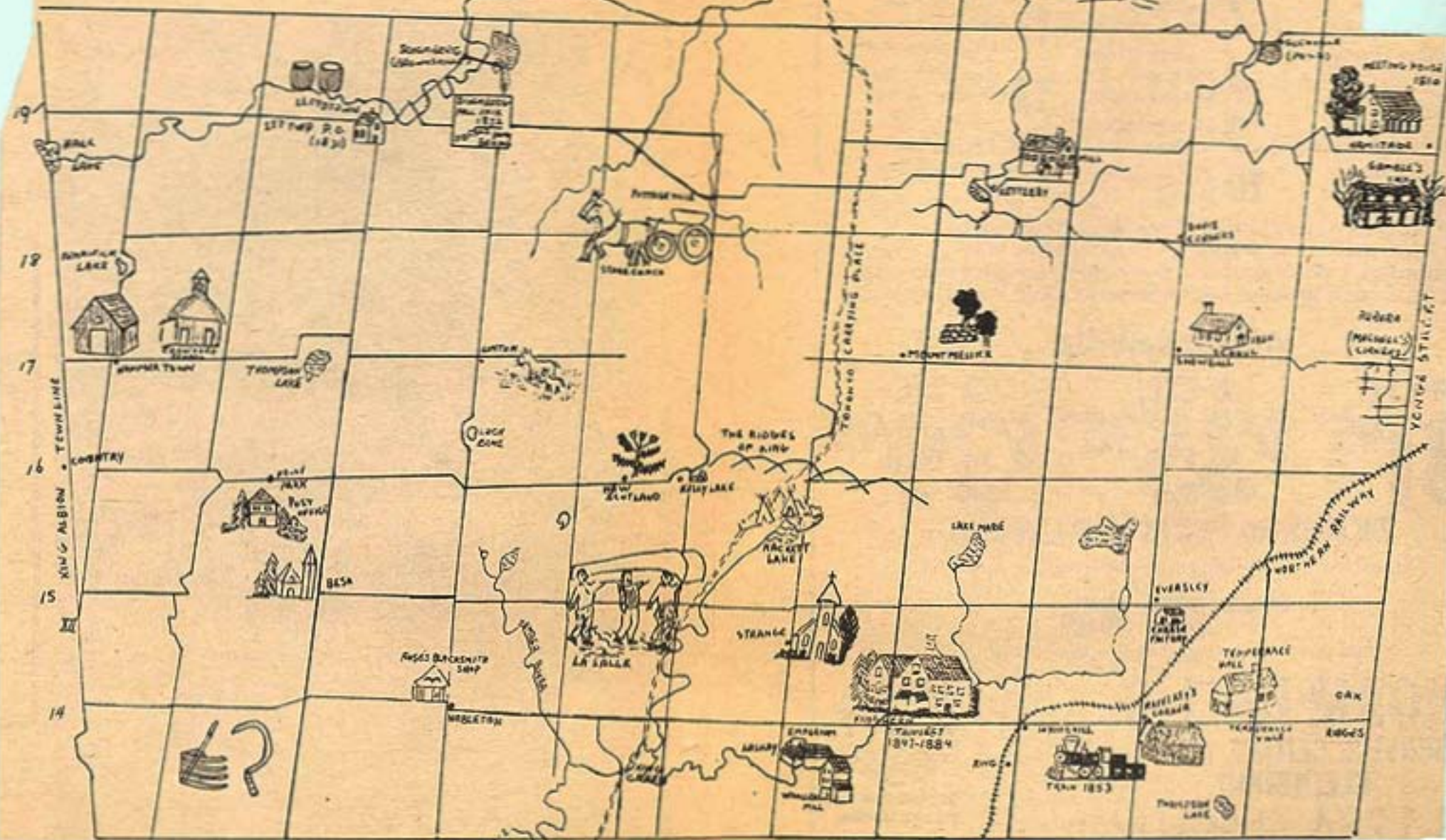
First Township Meeting held at Gamble's Inn, Armitage, in 1809.

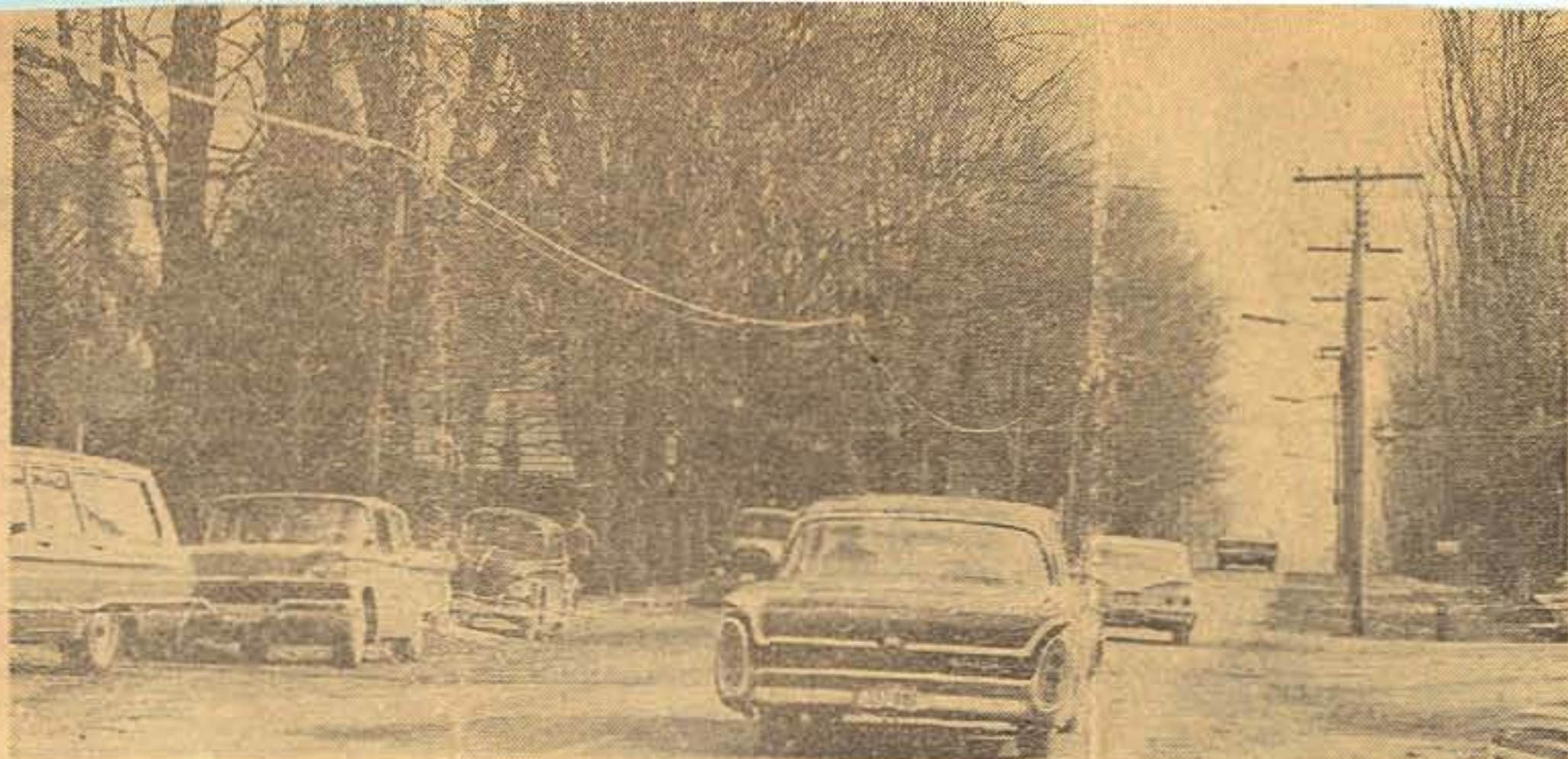
Etienne Brulé in 1615 travelled south on Toronto carrying place. First white man to visit York (Toronto).

LaSalle called the height of land "mountains." It forms the watershed between Lakes Ontario and Simcoe.

In 1855 first train through township to Macell's Corners (Aurora).

Copyright Elizabeth Gillham, Doris Willoughby
 Sketched by Barbara Male





—Globe and Mail

Despite two-month fight, King City's tree-lined main street is doomed by new road construction.

A tranquil past is doomed

By JOHN GILLIES

Globe and Mail Reporter

KING CITY — John Belknap awoke yesterday morning a bitterly disappointed man.

For more than two months he has been leading the fight to preserve the tranquillity of this police village of 1,900 persons less than five miles north of the Metropolitan Toronto boundary. Pressures exerted by the great urban complex of Metro and its immediate neighbors are pushing a swath of asphalt toward the village, a swath that will strip its main streets of their beautiful shade trees, eliminate several houses, drastically shorten the front lawns of others and probably eliminate a century-old general store where one can still buy whiffletree irons.

Mr. Belknap and his committee had pinned their hopes on a meeting Monday night with officials from the village, King Township, the Toronto and York Roads Commission and the Canadian National Railways, the four bodies involved in implementing a York County Roads program that would convert the village's two main roads, Keele Street and the King City Road, into efficient but barren four-lane thoroughfares.

Describing the meeting, he said yesterday that no one seemed to see his side at all. The officials, he said, were amazed that his group did not want the roads, one of which has already pushed its way through Maple, a few miles to the South.

And before he and his committee had a chance to plan the next move in their campaign the death knell was sounded for any hope of preventing implementation of the road program. King Township Reeve Gordon Cook

announced yesterday that the township had signed an agreement with the Roads Commission for construction of a new underpass at the village's CNR railway crossing and the widening of the roads.

In his two-month campaign, Mr. Belknap, a 21-year resident of the village, had obtained the support of more than 300 of the village's 502 homeowners. During their meetings with various township and village officials the group never put forth an alternative because, Mr. Belknap said, "we are purely laymen, not engineers; anything we put forth could be knocked down by the professionals."

As the campaign progressed it became intertwined with the long-standing need for an underpass at the CNR line that crosses both Keele Street and the King Sideroad within a few hundred yards of the village's main intersection. Those fighting to preserve the village's quiet character were said by others to be opposed to the underpass, a view not shared by Mr. Belknap and his committee.

His group, he said, has always been in favor of an underpass at the crossing and believed it could be built without greatly altering the face of the village.

Pressure for construction of an underpass has increased since the collision of a school bus and train at a level crossing in Dorion, Que., last month, in which 19 students were killed. More than 800 district school children ride buses over the crossing each day.

A report for King Township by planning consultant Eric Hardy gave momentary life to the group's attempts to save the village from the scars inflicted by road widening. In

the report, ordered before the start of the committee's campaign to save the village, Mr. Hardy urged the township council to resist plans to build the underpass and four-lane roads.

He stated that unless existing railway track is removed from the centre of the village, the community's potential for urban development will remain grossly inferior for all time. Mr. Hardy stated he could not see pouring volumes of traffic through the village.

But dollars and cents outweighed the recommendations of Mr. Hardy's report, which some officials wrote off as containing a lot of fantasy. Mr. Belknap and his committee were hopeful that the Roads Commission would suggest rerouting the four-lane roads around the village.

Such a proposal would have preserved the character of the village, but burdened its taxpayers. As a police village, the 1,900 residents would be responsible for the cost of maintaining the portions of Keele Street and the King Sideroad that run through the village, plus a share of the cost of an underpass, since they would become local roads if a bypass was constructed.

The road-widening program and the construction of the grade separation are inseparably tied together, with the cost shared by York County. Cost also killed consideration of Mr. Hardy's recommendation that the railway track be removed from the centre of the village.

Mr. Cook said yesterday it would cost \$1,000,000 to reroute the railway around the village.

Announcing the signing of agreements to proceed with the road program, he said: "In view of the costs it would be extremely unwise to make any change in existing plans."



Road program has already cut a swath to the south through Maple, which used to have tree-lined main street.







Bells wish Canada a happy birthday as King City's big crowd revels



KING CITY -- On July 1, 1867, the Daily Globe of Toronto reported:

"As the City clock struck midnight, and the Dominion of Canada began its legal existence, the bells of St. James' Cathedral, under the charge of Mr. Rawlinson, sent forth a merry peal."

On July 1, 1967, in King City, as the Dominion of Canada began the second century of its legal existence, the bells of King United's carillon, under the charge of Mrs. Glen Ferguson, also sent forth a merry peal -- O Canada, the bells sang: Happy Birthday; Auld Lang Syne. Bells from All Saints also clanged their welcome to Canada's Centennial.

Fireworks lit the sky, bringing to a close the biggest celebration in the history of the tiny police village.

All 13 organizations combined talents and good, old-fashioned hard work to make the birthday party an unqualified success.

Over 2,000 people -- more than the entire population, man, woman and child, flowed into the park to consume a ton of chicken, 300 pounds of potato salad, rolls, cole slaw and ice cream. Clouds of smoke

poured from the huge pits where the chicken barbecued.

Long lines of cheerful residents and visitors snaked their way to the serving tables. Those who swore they "couldn't eat another bite", succumbed at the sight of homemade pie sold by another organization.

Children and adults laughed with glee as doughty firemen were spilled into a huge drum of water by a well-aimed baseball, in one of several games in progress. Farther up Doctor's Lane, blocked off for the festivities, hundreds enjoyed an enthusiastic, well-performed concert by the band from King City Secondary School.

Bingo and euchre were also enjoyed, as was an hilarious "ball-game" between the Rangers and the Lions.

Teen-agers and those a little older danced to the music of their choice -- and when the rains came, jammed into the barns, and continued into the traditional "wee sma' hours".

In the back of a borrowed station wagon Mrs. L.J. Redman and a visiting relative who'd enlisted counted the money taken in that

night. Final figures are not yet available, but the proceeds of the celebrations, a very big bonus to the fun, are substantial, and will be turned over to the parks board for use in the new King Park.

Beautiful quilts provided by two organizations were won by Mrs. Bill Poulis and Gordon Baker.

Mrs. Bruce Hall, in authentic Centennial costume and pretty teenager Linda Millard were crowned Queen and Princess of King City.

Through rain-soaked branches the crowd watched the fireworks sprays of brilliant color and a group of youngsters spontaneously sang Happy Birthday to their country.

Canada's second century, destined for even greater achievement than its first, had begun.

SCHOOL SECTION NO. 2 KING

On November 20th, 1872, Joseph Wood the Clerk of Township of King, sent a letter to Dr. Lewis Langstaff appointing him to call the first School Meeting in Section No. 2. It required him to call a meeting within 20 days and to appoint a time and place and let all free holders and householders know.

SCHOOL NOTICE

The Municipal Council of King Township having formed a new School Section out of Section No. 22, Eversley and Section No. 23, Kinghorn, to be known as S.S. No. 2. It's boundaries and limits are as follows:

The east half Concession 4 from Lot No. 1 to Lot No. 15 inclusive and the West half of the 3rd Concession from Lot No. 1 to Lot 14 inclusive.

The public meeting will be held in Mr. John Hogan's Hall on Monday, the 9th December instant at the hour of 10 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of electing three fit and proper persons as School Trustees for said section as required by the Upper Canada School Act of 1850, Section 4.

Given under my hand the 2nd day of December 1872

L. Langstaff

At Springhill on December 9, 1872, according to special notice given, Mr. Parkhill was to act as chairman and Mr. J.H. Rowe, secretary.

The three men chosen were Benjamin Lloyd, William Curtis and Gabriel Wells, and they signed a Declaration of Office.

At the first Annual Meeting three trustees were given full power to collect all monies for school expenses.

A 'special meeting' was called on 18th January, 1873, to select a site for the new school. Three sites were chosen:

- 1] opposite the Deciples Chapel where Lawrence and Mary Scott lived and is the home of Douglas Beale.
- 2] N.P. Crossley's north-east corner.
- 3] J.B. Lloyd's north-east corner.

By show of hands a vote was recorded:

Opposite Church	0 hands
N.P. Crossley's corner	16 hands
J.B. Lloyd's corner	15 hands

Then on demand it was voted again; 16 for Lloyd's and 28 for Crossley's corner.

They then called another 'special meeting' to rescind the action taken at the former meeting, and they voted for the site opposite the Deciples Chapel and all the ground north of the fence that the trustees may think fit, and as much south of the said fence as will locate the buildings properly.

This must have suited all because chairman, N.P. Crossley and Secretary, J.B. Lloyd signed minutes.

In 1874, at the annual meeting, it was moved that the amount necessary for school taxes be raised through the Township Council.

At the 3rd Annual meeting it was brought to the Trustee's attention that pupils not attending school for four (4) months were violating the law, and they must notify the parents or guardians.

In 1881 it was noted that all books and monies belonging to School Section 2 be placed in the hands of B.L. Lloyd who was appointed Secretary-Treasurer.

Here there is a note:

Value of School Site	\$ 300.00
Value of School Building	\$5,000.00
Value of School Furniture	\$ 600.00
Value of School Equipment	\$ 150.00

Isaac McBride was present in 1882 and David Rumble in 1885. In 1891 they had a meeting to consider engaging a leader for 1892 - the first time King City was mentioned.

H.J. Saigeon placed his application; asked a salary of \$500. It was refused. Mr. Crossley and again Mr. Saigeon applied [with same salary]. He wasn't considered until his third application at \$485, provided there was no assistant teacher.

At the Annual Meeting on December 30, 1891, at the school house, the Secretary-Treasurer reported \$294.20 balance showing.

At a 'Special Meeting' on August 15, 1892, it was decided not to have present leader [Saigeon] but to offer Abram Carley, teacher at Vellore, sum of \$500, but he had to take full charge of school room; sweeping, dusting, scrubbing and lighting the fire. However, he didn't want to scrub so the trustees agreed to hire someone else.

At the Annual Meeting the new trustee Edward Ball just signed an 'X'; it was his mark [signature].

In 1898 they engaged M. Carley again as teacher at a salary of \$450, plus \$25 for caretaking school.

They decided to pay J.W. Crossley for the last six years as Secretary-Treasurer; stamps and stationary. Then it appears J.W. Crossley didn't want to give up the books, so they had to be bonded by \$1,000 to be Secretary-Treasurer. They fired Abram Carley and hired John H. Precious for \$400 for year 1899, and gave him \$450 for 1900. At the Inspector's request they hired an Assistant Teacher, Miss Nellie Holladay at \$225 a year. She stayed til 1902; they then hired Miss Grace A. Newberry.

In 1902 the school board were instructed to get a supply of water for the school. The school was painted on the outside woodwork and the boy's closet screened.

In 1903 Miss Francis E. Kelly was hired as Principal/Teacher at \$425, and if a fifth class is organized and carried through the year, they would ask for a special Grant.

In 1904 a Principal/Teacher, Miss Etta A. Richardson, was engaged at \$375. Senior teacher George P. Richardson at \$460 and re-engaged Miss Grace A. Newberry at \$290. Two month's notice to be given by either party to void agreement and in 1905 salary raised to \$315.

In 1906 George P. Richardson resigned. They advertised in the Globe and needed more money. Petitioned Township Council for Special Grant of \$600. Richard Moin was hired at \$450.

A new School Act in 1906 wanted repairs done to school or re-build it. Miss A. Newberry resigned and they hired Miss Mabel Walker for \$25 a month and Mr. Grover Lloyd as Senior Teacher at \$550.

In 1907 Mrs. Georgina Brown was hired for caretaking school at \$50 per year.

In 1908 T.H. Webster installed a Kelsey furnace in School house for \$225. The Board borrowed \$800 for school purposes - one half to be paid November 1909, the remaining half to be paid November, 1910.

In 1909 Glover G. Lloyd resigned. Inspector told them to advertise and they hired Mr. Robert Ingram at \$550.

In 1910 the Board offered Walter Rolling the Senior teacher's job for \$600 a year. He accepted at first, but then rescinded it in favour of Kinghorn. Mable Walker tendered her resignation and so did Robert Ingram. So they hired:

Senior teacher, Miss Holly A. Martin - \$600

Junior teacher, Miss Belle Martin - \$425

In 1911 the Inspector was asked about the closets. Decided to build in Spring and also wanted Slate Blackboards. Put a larger amount of insurance on the school property. Spent \$2 for Strathcona Shields. Asked for price from Mrs. Matchell of 1/2 acre of ground south of present schoolgrounds and asked C.W. Mulloy, Public

School Inspector, to meet Mrs. Matchell and offer her \$100 for 1/2 acre. Miss Holly Martin and Miss Belle Martin resigned. They advertised in Mail and Empire and the Globe for replacements.

Senior teacher John R. Miller, Kleinburg \$600

Junior teacher Miss Edith A. Long \$450

John Miller's salary was raised to \$625 in 1912.

In 1912 spent \$6 to get model Rifles for Cadet Training in Public School and Senior teacher to receive the Military Grant if any more needed - the \$6 already spent. Miss Edith A. Long decided not to come to King so they offered the job to Elsie G. Currie at \$475.

All through these three years 'X' appeared.

In 1913 they graded, seeded and fenced school property. Priced cement for wire fence. The first principal of school was hired, Mr. Robert Brook at \$675. Junior teacher Miss M.A. Speers at \$500.

In 1914, caretaker Mrs. Brown was paid \$80 a year, but if floor was oiled it would be \$75. Renewed the Insurance policy with London Mutual Fire Insurance Co. An amount of \$5 was established for the Public School Rural Fair. They hired Miss Ethel McQuarrie at \$500 for a Junior room. Mr. Brook was to purchase books recommended by Inspector.

In 1915 the coal bill was \$47.65. There was school fence bought for \$15.50 and delivered to Eversley Station. Employed Colin Campbell to erect fence and for this he received \$17.50. Ethel McQuarrie left. Miss Ruby Bruce was hired for Junior Room at \$500. Asked Township to levy for \$700 for school purposes. Provided a rig to take children to School Fair at Kettleby.

In 1916 School pupils stayed on school grounds all the time. Ruby Bruce resigned. Miss Ethel G. Brown was hired for Junior room at \$500. York asked to send 1 pint of ink for school for 55 cents. The school Principal was to report weekly if students did not attend school. Alfred Baylis was now caretaker at \$80.

In 1917 the coal bin was filled for \$46.11. Ethel Brown moved to Senior Room at \$600. Miss H. Grace Amy at \$500.

In 1918 Miss H. Grace Amy left.

In 1918 a tender was printed in Banner for repair work to school. Accepted Mr. Highland's bid as follows: Mason & brickwork @ .60 cents per hour; Concrete @ .40 cents an hour; Labour @ .40 cents an hour; carpentry work @ .35 cents an hour and Painting @ .45 cents an hour.

Advertising for Junior room teacher, mentioning King City is 1 hour from Toronto by Grand Trunk Railway. Advertisement cost \$2.25. Bought 8 desks, 1 teacher's desk and 2 chairs from Globe Furniture Co. for \$75.30 and express \$4.04. Hired Miss Elizabeth Waterhouse.

In 1920 considered a consolidated school system with Temperanceville, Kinghorn, Eversley and Strange.

In 1925 insurance for school building was raised to \$2,500, contents to \$3090.

In 1927 installed a water tank, supply to come from eaves to sink now in basement. Wash basin and paper towels to be supplied. To remedy lighting and ventilation in schools; provide oil stove and dishes for hot lunches for children who stayed at noon - teacher to organize. Discussed having electric lights and in 1928 it was done.

In December, 1930, a maximum teacher's salary was set at \$1,000. Paid hydro bill.

In 1931 Eva Dennis' salary was raised to \$1,050, the same as Miss Patton's.

In 1939 the Trustees decided to send a letter to Miss Dennis and Miss Patton in appreciation for the good work they are doing in the schools.

In 1941 a large delegation of the ladies of the section protested the changing of Daylight Saving Time to Standard Time. After much discussion the delegation was to forward a resolution to the Secretary protesting against the changing of the time.

In 1943 Mrs. Ross Walker spoke for the Women's Institute saying they were behind the School Board and Teachers and offered to help in any way (School Library - Dental Clinics etc.). They decided to have a [joint] meeting and invite Mr. Watson, the Public School Inspector.

Arthur Wellesley was Secretary from 1947 to 1949. Mr. Burt took over in 1949. Nobody but trustees showed up at the meeting so it was called again a week later.

At 8:20 p.m. there were just the same 3 people. Then in came a ratepayer - result he became the new trustee.

The first talk of AREA School began in 1950 - a survey was taken for five (5) years. An addition was needed at King City School. Hired an architect to add one room at a cost of \$25,000 with alteration to old school. Asked Township for debenture of \$25,000. They found they needed \$5,000 more for furnace, plus furnishings and architect's fees, ending up with a debenture of \$40,000.

In 1956 insurance was increased to \$80,000 and contents \$15,000; new policy with Jack Walkington. In 1957 the new school site bought on McBride - Valentine property [Eva L. Dennis School.

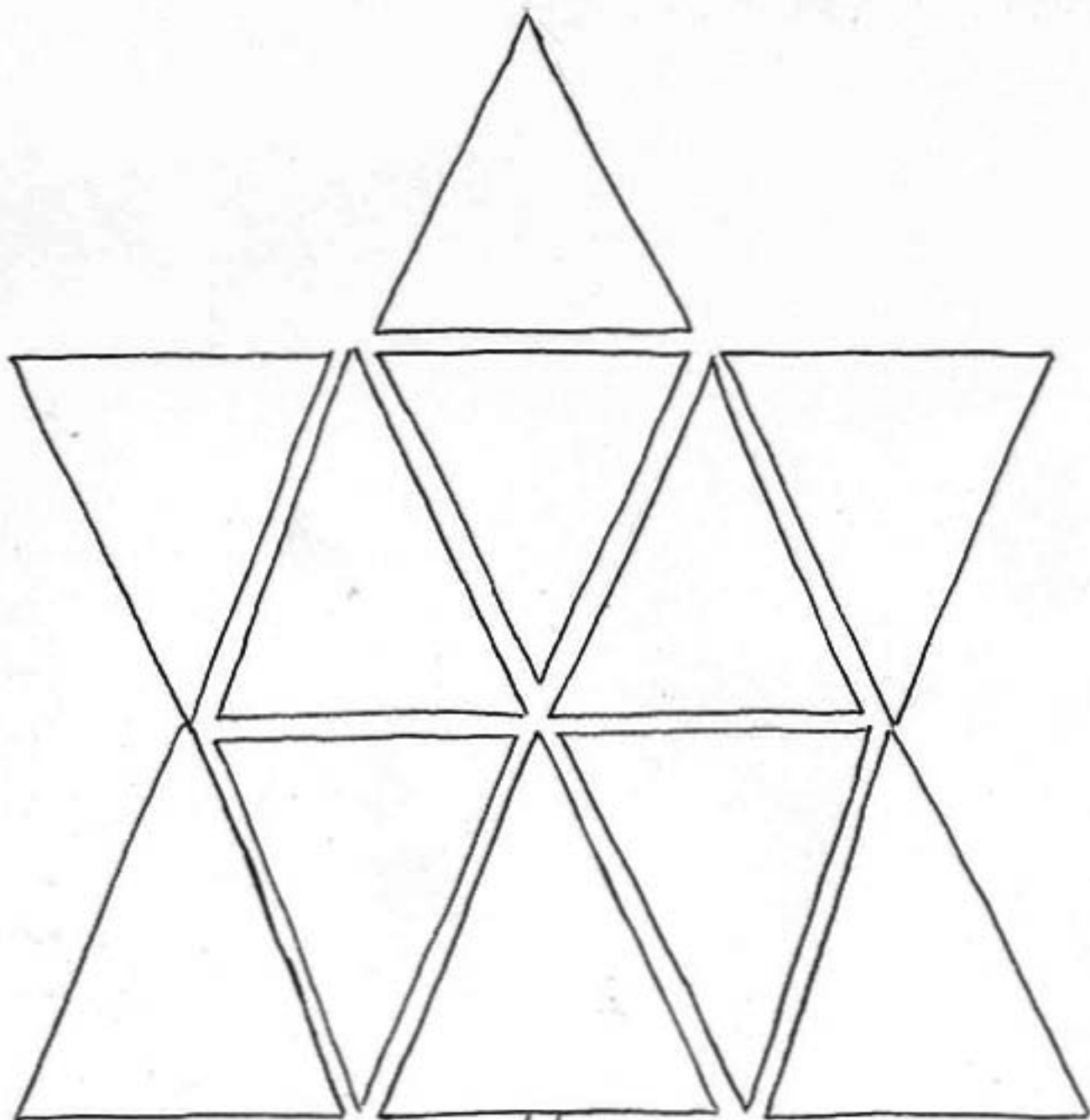
In 1958 voted for new 3-roomed school at \$65,000 including equipment. December, 1959, new names were given to the 2 King Schools; Doris M. Patton School and the Eva L. Dennis School.

In 1960, two classrooms, Principal's office and Teacher's room were added for \$40,000 @ 6-1/2%. In 1961 a meeting re Kindergarten was held - record crowd of 47 people. In 1963, meeting at Eva L. Dennis School, 14 present.

In 1964 back to Doris M. Patton School - 49 again. Insurance went up to \$87,500 on school building, \$7,500 on contents. Eva L. Dennis, \$100,000 for building, \$10,000 contents. More residents favoured a Kind in 'Special Meeting with 153 present because assessment records showed 74 children ready to start school. They engaged an architect whose estimate plus his costs was \$50,000 for addition to school. Eva L. Dennis School was free of debt, but Doris M. Patton had outstanding debentures of \$44,193. A vote to add the rooms with 96 in favour and 54 against. It was also noted, school ^{area} was coming in 1965.

At the Annual meeting in December, interest had dropped as only 32 attended. This was the final meeting of School Section No. 2 and Mr. Whalley presented Mr. Burt with a cheque for \$500 as a token of appreciation. Refreshments were served by Home and School ladies and School Section No. 2 came to the end of its existence.

NOTE: Mr. Burt was taking his writing course; his penmanship had improved 100% - make that 95%



1867 | 1967

The scarlet of the maples can shake me like a cry
Of bugles going by,
And my lonely spirit thrills
To see the frosty asters on the hills.

Bliss Carman

1861-1929



Alaska

Yukon

Northwest Territories

Duffin Island

British Columbia

Alberta

Saskatchewan

Manitoba

Hudson Bay

Quebec

Labrador

Newfoundland

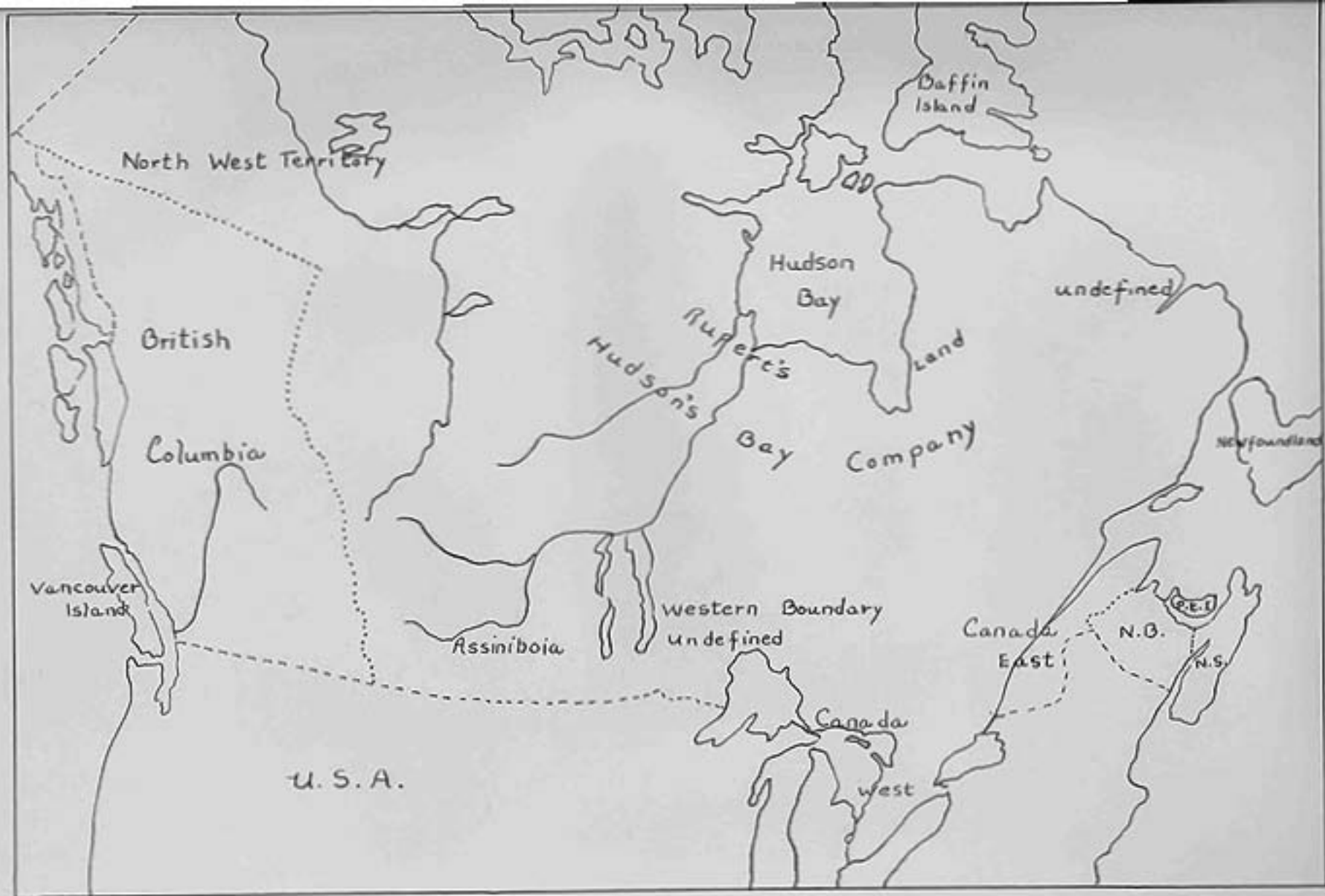
Vancouver Island

N.B.

N.S.

U.S.A.

Ontario



THE KING MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Mechanics Institute Library was organized in 1893 by Mr. J. W. Crossley. The funds were raised by subscription and an equal amount was given by the Ontario Government. The books were kept in the office of Bailiff Crossley, 35 Keele St. S. There was a good selection of books, a total of 800, but few for children. Membership was \$1.00 per year per family or 50¢ per person. The books later moved to the home of James McClement and again to Frank Egan's home. It became difficult to find a supervisor and the library was discontinued.

In 1945 the King Women's Institute began a book club among members under the leadership of Miss Marjorie Jarvis. A committee of two, Mrs. A. E. Kelley and Miss Doris Patton, was appointed to look into the project of a library and in 1947 1000 books, most of which were donated, The King Memorial Library was officially opened. Miss Marjorie Jarvis, who had worked in the Reference Library, College St., Toronto, before coming to King in 1938, was its guiding light.

The library was founded and named as a memorial to the men fallen in World War 11, and the book plates said "For King and Country". The Lake Marie Athletic Association donated space and shelving in the library room, in the old barn, in Memorial Park. The Library was open every Wednesday afternoon and evening. Miss Marjorie Jarvis was Librarian, also Chairman of the Board. Mrs. James Rock was treasurer and Mr. Victor Hall, Secretary. At the official opening the Rev. M. R. Jenkinson was chairman and Mr. Angus Mowat, Superintendant of Provincial Libraries was the speaker. This was an Association Library supported by grants from the Township, the Village, the Ontario Government as well as by fees and fines. The fee was 50¢ per year for adults, children were free. The Provincial Library Department gave a special grant of \$100.00.

The new library was amazingly very successful considering its disadvantages. Subscribers numbered 114 and children read 1074 books. In the year following the opening 2116 books were circulated and 163 books purchased. The fee was increased to \$1.00. A big, woodburning stove in the main part of the barn was supposed to give heat to the library in the back room. This stove had to be lighted by the librarian after she had carried wood from the frozen woodpile outside. Even so it hardly heated the backroom, the books or the Librarian. Later an oil space heater was purchased and the fuel was donated by Mr. David Glass,

who operated a garage at that time. But in the spring the library, in fact, the whole barn flooded and on more than one occasion the lower shelves were under water. The library had to close while the barn and the books dried out. In spite of this the library survived, but a new location had to be found.

In February 1952 the new library was opened. A small building, at one time the King Barber Shop, was bought and installed in the park for a library. This building is now a tool shed in Mrs. Eleanor Scott's garden, Keele St. S. The new library could not house all the books, some were stored, but it was dry although even colder than the barn. In the winter the ink froze and snow sifted through the cracks. Mr. Ray Burt kindly lit the oil burner every Wednesday morning and librarians had to wear their warmest clothes. Mr. Burt also filled in as librarian in emergencies. The Lake Marie Athletic Association paid the hydro bill.

Meanwhile, there was more help, and interest was growing, as the village grew. In 1949, Mr. John L. Grew had become chairman of the Library Board, Mrs. Gordon Wells was secretary, Miss Marjorie Jarvis, Librarian, and Mrs. Jas. Rock, Treasurer. Books were borrowed from the Travelling Library and 1,789 books read in the year. Miss Jarvis said, "My main interest is to see that no child is denied access to the books he needs for his growth, mental and moral."

In October 1949, the library sponsored an Art and Photograph Contest and Exhibition for children and adults. There were 90 entries in the art section and 30 in the photography. Judges were Mr. Frank Fog, Mr. Oscar Cahen, Commercial Artists, and Mr. James Snelgrove.

In 1950 the Punchinello Players of Toronto presented a three-act comedy, "Widows Learn Fast" and the proceeds benefited the library \$45.00.

A summer art school for children from 5 years to high school age was conducted by Mr. Frank Fog, fee \$1.00 was given to the library.

Young Canada Book Week was observed with a display of children's books borrowed from the Travelling Libraries and also a collection of old books for children, many over 100 years old.

In 1953, owing to the illness of Miss Jarvis, Mrs. J. Rock became chief librarian and Mrs. H. G. Ratcliff, treasurer.

In the spring of 1954 the Library suffered a great loss in the death of Miss Marjorie Jarvis. In 1955 Mrs. A. E. Jarvis took charge when Mrs. Rock moved from the village.

MARCH 1956

New quarters were opened at 45 Springhill Rd. The Librarians canvassed

the village. It was so successful that the new building with all new shelving was secured and a mortgage of only \$1,650.00 needed. The mortgage was paid off in 1961. The T.Eaton Co. donated and laid the tile flooring and the Rob't. Simpson Co. the acoustic ceiling and florescent lighting. Mr. Norman Taylor, Electrician, donated the electric wiring and installed the lights. The King Women's Institute supplied a table for adults and one for children and six chairs, in memory of Miss Marjorie Jarvis, also, two books, "THE CHIEFTAN" and "THE YOUNG POLITICIAN" by Donald Creighton.

FEBRUARY 17, 1959

King Memorial Library became a public library after a poll of King City taxpayers, one citizen voted against having a public library. We now have a library free to all village residents but a fee of \$1.00 a year is charged all township members. Children are free from fees and fines. On the overdue books the fine is 51¢ per book per week.

The King Women's Institute has given books to the value of \$30.00 each year until the library became a public library supported by the village taxes.

In 1959 the circulation of books increased to 8,282, members totalled 472 of whom 241 were children, the books on the shelves numbered 3,503. In the fall of this year the back room was renovated, wallboard put on, congoleum laid and drapes made, shelves from the former building were adjusted. Total cost was \$400.00. The books were re-arranged.

In 1962 the village population was 1800. Number of books in library-4495. Members---adults 398,---children 534. Circulation---10,827.

Childrens Librarian---Mrs. Q. Hardy. Head Librarian---Mrs. A.E. Jarvis.

Volunteer Librarians for many years---

Mrs. A. E. Jarvis

Mrs. J. L. Grew

Mrs. G. Wells

Mrs. H. Ratcliff

Mrs. E. White

Mrs. G. Berry

Mrs. B. Wyer

Mrs. E. Wallas

Later Mrs. Q. Hardy, Mrs. D. M. Findlay, Mrs. R. Case joined the staff, making nine Librarians in all. Some former librarians were Mrs. J. Rock, Miss J. Wilson, Miss E. Dennis, Miss D. Patton, and Miss J. Gellatly.

The library hours in 1963 were ---MONDAY 7-9, WEDNESDAY 2.30-5.30, 7-9,
FRIDAY 2.30 - 5.30

For some time a story hour was a feature but was discontinued because
of lessened attendance.

LIBRARY CHAIRMEN

Miss Marjorie Jarvis	1947-1949
Mr. John L. Grew	1949-1955
Mr. Edmund Wallas	1955-1959
Mr. P. R. Cheetham	1959-1961
Mr. Ian Gilchrist	1962
Mr. Wm. Reynolds	1963



Adelaide Hunter Hoodless

ADELAIDE HUNTER HOODLESS

Adelaide was born on February 29, 1857, the youngest of a family of twelve. Her father, David Hunter, died several months before her birth, so she knew how to work to survive on a farm. She went to public school and ladies college, sponsored by her oldest sister Lizzie, who married well and had no children. She was Presbyterian by faith.

She married John Hoodless in 1881 and they had four children. The youngest son died at 18 months caused by drinking contaminated milk. She felt shw should have known better and set out to educate women to prevent similar tragedies. Her husband was chairman of the Hamilton School Board, so she worked through him (don't we all), to try to get Domestic Science taught in School. She was 'put down' by the press and from many a platform as the 'despised new woman' and told she should stay home and take care of her family. But she had a vision and was far ahead of her time in her thinking, and aren't we glad she was so determined. She used to say "Women must learn not to waste valuable time on non-essentials".

She was asked by the Minister of Education of Ontario to write the text book in Domestic Science. As more teachers were need, the government (being men) stopped the funds. Adelaide enlisted the assistance of Lord Strathcona and in 1902 we find the Ontario School of Domestic Science was affiliated with Ontario Normal School. From here it grew. She enlisted the support of Sir William MacDonald, a tobacco millionaire, who donated funds to build the Institute of Household Science at the Ontario College of Agriculture in Guelph. Adelaide also helped Lady Aberdeen found the Victorian Order of Nurses.

Erland Lee heard Adelaide speak on the fact that girls should be educated in Domestic Science in schools and he invited her to speak at the Farmer's Institute in Saltfleet Township where Adelaide said the women should have an Institute. On February 19, 1897, 101 women and one man, Erland Lee, attended a meeting in Squire Hall, Stoney Creek, where she questioned a Professor of Bacteriology as to why they failed to do anything for women and children when they were so interested in the care and breeding of livestock.

On Thursday, February 19, 1987, the Stoney Creek Women's Institute was organized, the FIRST Women's Institute in the world.

On the eve of her 52nd birthday, Adelaide was in Toronto addressing a Federation of Women's Clubs in Massey Hall. She complained of a bad headache, but spoke anyway. Halfway through her brilliant speech, she stopped, smiled, took a sip of water and fell to the floor. She died on February 26, 1910. Thanks to her, the seed was well sown. Institutes began to spring up all around Ontario. The second one was in Whitby, but as minute books were lost - the secretary burned them in a bonfire - we believe Maple was second. The Motto 'For Home and Country' was suggested by Adelaide.

From Canada it spread to England, Holland and all around the World. The associated Country - Women of the World was formed in 1933 and we Canadians can be justly proud.

There was a one-day convention at Guelph in 1902 and in 1903, held at New Macdonald Institute. In 1904 it went to two days at Massey Hall, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. The Minister of Agriculture gave us a grant of \$3.00. Blue and Gold were chosen for our colours. By 1914 the Convention, covering all of Ontario, had 29,000 members and it was decided to have three Convention Areas, Toronto, London and Ottawa. Toronto area went to a three-day until 19___. Now it is a two-day convention at the Royal York Hotel.

In 1919 the F.W.I.O. was formed and our governing body is the Provincial Board of Directors and our Provincial President.

Mr. F.W. Hodson, Superintendent of the Farmer's Institute became our first superintendent of the Women's Institute. Dr. Creeland was next and then Mr. Geo. Putman in whose term the Farmer's Institute passed out of existence and the branch was then called the Women's Institute Branch.

Miss Bess McDermard was head of Local Leaders Training, then Miss Mary A. Clarke, who in 1945 resigned for our own Anna P. Lewis. She was in office until 1955 when she resigned to marry Prof. W.T. Ewen; then Helen McKercher. Most of us will remember Miss Florence P. Eadie at our 4H Homemaking Clubs. She retired in 1962 and Jean M. Scott took over. This is where I learned a great deal about the new materials and new practices in food, clothing, shelter and management, including consumer education and family living. I, as well as many of you here

today, wear our County and Provincial Honour pins with pride, and we remember our 'Judging Competition' days and going to the Exhibition to 'Judge'. It is hard to imagine our girls and boys of today who take 33 projects as did our York County Dairy Princess Miss Janet Beynon.

Over the years, we as Institute members have been helping in many ways. Do you think re-cycling is NEW? We did that in 1950 until the price fell for newspapers. We volunteered for Baby Clinics, TB Clinics, Polio shots and Polio Vaccine, Hurricane Hazel Relief (we sent \$50 for rubber boots). We helped fireman, kids go to the dentist, swimming lessons for kids.

Do you remember the Radio Programme of CJRH Richmond Hill?

Widows self help in Greece?
Litterbug Campaign?
Unitarian Service Committee?
Layettes for Arab Babies?
Sweaters for Korea?
Korean Flood Relief?
The Tely Milk Ship?

We sponsored Relief Families, UNESCO Gift Coupons. We helped buy the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Home for F.W.I.C. and Erland Lee home for F.W.I.O.

We need not hang our head to any other organization. We should stand up and advertise our work so Adelaide's vision is still there for us to work at.

Thank you for listening to my story.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD POSTAGE STAMP

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

"FOR HOME
AND
COUNTRY"



"LA TERRE
ET LE
FOYER"



COMMEMORATING
THE ASSOCIATED
COUNTRY WOMEN
OF THE WORLD



King City Women's Institute,
King City,
Ont
c/ of Mrs A. Runkle.

On Wednesday, May 13th, 1959, the Canadian Government honoured the Associated Country Women of the World with the issue of a five cent Commemorative Postage Stamp.

The design was the work of Mrs. Helen Bacon who is known in art circles by her maiden name, Helen Fitzgerald. The stamp symbolizes growth as cultivated by Country Women of individual organizations into the world associations represented by the globe. The women and the globe are outlined in black; the tree and border are green. The stamp also honours the Canadian women, Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless and Mrs. Alfred Watt, founder of the Women's Institutes and the A.C.W.W.

To the little town of Stoney Creek, Ontario went the honour of mailing the First Covers, because it was the place where the first Women's Institute was organized by Mrs. Hoodless and the late Mr. Erland Lee.

After many days spent in addressing these First Covers, they were brought by car from Ottawa by Mrs. H.G. Taylor national secretary to the home of Mrs. C.G. Hopkins secretary-treasurer of the Stoney Creek W.I. who with Mrs. Angus B. Jackson Stoney Creek W.I. president was in charge of mailing the 10,000 First Day Covers and 1000 others asked for, were stamped and sent to Stoney Creek Post Office before 5 p.m. and so these envelopes will bear the postmark of the town where this organization was born. The crest of the A.C.W.W. also appears on the envelopes.

History was surely made over again in this historic little town with its monument to the Battle of Stoney Creek in the War of 1812 and the beginning of the Women's Institutes in 1897, when the sale of these commemorative stamps was opened there in 1959, May 13th.

"HOW TO MAKE THE BEST OF LIFE"

A Paper read by Miss Edna Kearn at a meeting of King East Branch in 1912.

One has said every man is the architect of his own fortunes. Or in other words the forces concealed within us are much more important in making life a success than the envirements of life. The wise will welcome help from whatever source it may come, yet self effort should ever be considered as the great secret to the greatest success.

The successful know in nine cases out of ten that success in life is achieved by their own earnest endeavor.

In the first place there must be some definite purpose or aim in order to secure success. An aimless life is sure to be a failure. Then there must be careful and well laid plans, half the failures in life arises from this defect, some people never think of planning out their work. A haphazard way of doing things is not the best way. Order is the greatest law of the universe, let it be so in every home, and in every undertaking. We should never forget that to attain the best in life we must pay attention to what is called the little things of life. As it is sometimes stated "Look after the pence and the pounds will look after themselves.

The perfection of the whole depends upon the perfection of its parts. Life is made up not of great deeds, efforts and sacrifices, but of little things in which words and smiles and kindnesses given habitually are what makes life enjoyable to ourselves and to those around us and secure for all the best results in life. All work should secure our careful attention. The work in the kitchen has its place in making the best in life as well as the drawing room or the parlour. To prepare a meal and set it up properly has its place in making home attractive and life happy as well as any function of so called society. Whatever is worth doing is worth doing well. It should be the aim of all to secure the highest degree of perfection possible in all avocations of life.

Industrious habits should be cultivated. The word of inspiration sends the sluggard to the busy ant to consider her ways and get wisdom. He who lived the most beautiful and most exemplary of all lives, said, "I must work the work of Him that sent me." What the world needs today are men and women to go forth in the steps of Him who went about doing good.

There is something in all of us if wisely used and directed will lead to success. It was the non-use of the talent that was condemned, but still how many are doing the same thing today? It is better to wear out than to rust out is a homely proverb with more meaning than is commonly supposed. Rust consumes faster than use. Many fail in life's race because they are too lazy to work or determined to do as little as possible.

A beggar is sitting by the side of the road, where the race of men go by. The men who are good, and the men who are bad. As good and as bad as I, I would not sit in the scorners seat,

nor hurl the cynic's lear, but live and be a friend to man. Am I my brother's keeper has but one answer. This is what will constitute success in the great day of Judgement. "In as much as ye did it unto one of these little ones, ye did it unto me and these shall go away into eternal life." This is making the best of life.

There appears to exist a greater desire to live long, than to live well. Measured by man's desires he does not live long enough, and measured by his good deeds he does not seem to live long enough, but measured by his evil deeds he lives too long.

Reading the biographies of great and good men and women often becomes inspiration to nobler living. It breathes into our nature a virtuous pride which leads to noble deeds.

Lives of great men all remind us we can make our lives sublime, and departing leave behind us, footprints on the sands of time. Life is a race and we should all run impelled by the highest motive. A hound having started a hare from its ambush rushed after it. The chase was kept up for a long time, but the hare had the best of it and got off. A goat near by jeered at the hound, but the hound replied, "It is one thing to run for your dinner and another thing to run for your life." Some seem to be running the race of life for their dinner and their great concern is "What shall I eat and wherewithall shall I be clothed?"; but this is too low for anyone who realizes the true dignity and destiny of his being. A philosopher asked a man which of the two lives he would rather live, that of Croesus, one of the richest of men, but very wicked, or that of Socrates, one of the poorest of men, but good. The answer was, "In life I would like to be Croesus, but in death Socrates."

The highest success in life does not consist in what one accumulates as much as in what one distributes. There is a greater blessing in giving than in receiving. In helping others than in being helped. How many are living without this one of the greatest joys of life. "He who lives for self lives for a mean man." Let us live for the good we can do. We are not here to play and to dream, to drift. We have hard work to do and loads to lift, Shun not the struggle, face it, 'Tis God's gift. We will close this paper with the words of Solomon. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter, Fear God and keep His commandments for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgement, with every secret thing whether it be good or evil.

The Friends of France

HONORARY PRESIDENT - MME. AUGUSTINE THIEFFRY
PRESIDENT - - - MRS. ARTHUR E. WELLS
VICE-PRESIDENT - - LADY STUART

REC. SECRETARY - MISS G. CAYLEY
COR. SECRETARY - MRS. D. C. M. HENDERSON
TREASURER - - MISS JOAN STEWART

216 Poplar Plains Road, Toronto,

Jan. 31st 1919

Miss Alice A. Ferguson
Secy Treas. King E. Women's Institute,
King East.
Ontario.

Dear Miss Ferguson,
The Friends of France want to gratefully
acknowledge the generous gift of fifty
dollars from the Women's Institute of King East.
It has come at an opportune time, as we
are receiving many letters from authoritative
sources, telling us that the need of the people
in the freed districts is desperate, and
begging us to go on with our work. We feel
that money is the best thing to send them
just now, it goes so quickly, and can
often give immediate relief. Thanking
you again, we are,

Faithfully yours

(Mrs A. E. Wells) Mary P. Wells President
THE FRIENDS OF FRANCE,

A FERGUSON RE-UNION

Saturday June 28, proved an ideal day for the Ferguson Re-union, held in an ideal setting at the home of Mrs. Rose Ferguson. The commodious lawn, sheltered by a beautiful hedge, with the waters of the lagoon gleaming through the trees, and the vine covered veranday presented an ideal spot for the gathering; and the clan forgathered, to the number of at least two hundred, and there were many absentees, who were much missed. They arrived during the forenoon, by bus from Toronto, by scores of autos from Shelburne, Stayner, Avonbank, and the neighborhood of St. Marys. At noon one hundred sat down to dinner. In the evening around two hundred enjoyed the sumptuous picnic supper.

The gathering was graced by the presence of a piper, a real piper, in the Charles Stuart Tartan and full regalia. Piper Smith of the 48th Highlanders, who stirred any highland blood in our veins and made the feet beat time to the music. A few essayed a try at the Highland Fling, or Reel or whatever it was. It was at least a surprising change on the program.

An interesting program was given. Rev. J. Stewart Ferguson, yesterday of Pickering, today of Carleton Place, as chairman. Rev. Mr. Lang of Mallorytown, who had entered the clan by marriage, gave his impressions of the Fergusons. Rev. Bev. Ferguson of Seattle, U.S.A., gave a stirring address. Mr. Alex F. Burrows of Vandorf gave a violin solo. Sir. Wm. Mulock was delightful in a short speech, and Mr. Milton followed in a happy appreciative mood. W. S. Ferguson, C.A., of Toronto, concluded the program in a humorous speech.

The gathering was graced by the presence of Canada's Grand Old Man, Chief Justice, Sir Wm. Mulock, and by that of Mr. Wm. P. Mulock, and Mrs. Mulock. A rousing cheer was given for the hostess Mrs. R. Ferguson.

We are not in the possession of the register, but a few of the nearest of kin were those representing the Fergusons of Hornings Mills. Mr. T. A. Ferguson, his wife and members of his family, his brother Rev. Ben Ferguson of Seattle, Washington Terr., who had attended the International Convention of The Religious Education Council. His sisters, Mrs. Purves, of Shelburne, Mrs. Rev. Lang, of Mallorytown, Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Torrence of Toronto, with members of their families. From Avonbank and neighborhood of St. Marys--descendants of the late Hugh Ferguson-- Mr. and Mrs. Crago and Alvin, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Oliver and little daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Albert P. Ferguson, Margaret and Arthur, Miss Margaret Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Ferguson of Russeldale, and the Misses Grant of St. Marys, and Miss Oliver of St. Marys.--From Syracuse, New York, came descendants of Mr. John Ferguson--Mr. and Mrs. F. Burrows of Stayner, and Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Davidson of Creemore, Mr. Alex Burrows and Miss Mary Burrows of Vandorf. Mr. Walter Scott, Mrs Scott and daughter of Richmond Hill, Mrs. Mary Scott, and Miss Webster of Aurora, Mrs. John Ferguson, Miss Sadie Ferguson, mack Ferguson, his wife and two sons, Mr. and Mrs. Stone of Aurora, of the descendants of the late Thos. Ferguson; the immediate family of our hostess.

Miss Bertha, Mrs. Harris and family, George and Harry, Elmer, wife and family, from Stouffville. Mrs. Robt. Gellatly, Miss Jessie, Walter and Ernest, Mrs. Bennington of Newmarket, Mr. Bennington and sons, also her sister from Syracuse, and members of her family. Wellington Travis, Mrs. Travis, Ernest and Dora from Newmarket. T. J. Ferguson was present with his family complete. Rev. J. Stewart, Mrs. Ferguson, Charlie and Dorothy, Mrs. Payne, Mr. Payne, and family Peter E., Mrs. Ferguson and sons, Lincoln and Mack of Aurora. Miss Myrtle Ferguson, and her sisters Annie and Eva with their husbands and children.

-Of Mark L. Ferguson's family--Rev. J. Albert, Mrs. Ferguson and Scott of Richmond Hill, W. S. Ferguson C.A. and Mrs. Ferguson, Toronto, T.A. and A.A., at Scots 'Wha Hae', King. Mr. George Ferguson, Mrs. Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Rumble and family, Mr. Thos. Lawson, and family.

There were many others, whose married names or children's names are not remembered, the list is already long, but it was a great get together, and much enjoyed by all.

A group photograph was taken.

HOUSEKEEPER'S GUIDE

One pint of butter equals a pound.

One quart of sifted flour equals a pound.

One large pint of sugar equals a pound.

A pint of graham, seven and three-fourths ounces.

A pint of cornmeal, ten and one-fourth ounces.

A pint of rice, fifteen ounces.

A pint of samp or coarse hominy, thirteen ounces.

A pint of tapioca, twelve ounces.

A pint of breadcrumbs, eight and three-quarter ounces.

A pint of raisins, nine ounces, lightly measured.

A pint of currants, ten ounces.

A pint of brown sugar, thirteen ounces.

A pint of maple sugar broken into crumbly pieces, equals one pound and four ounces.

An ounce of butter, two level tablespoonfuls.

An ounce of flour, four level tablespoonfuls.

An ounce of cornstarch, three tablespoonfuls. (level)

An ounce of granulated sugar, two level tablespoonfuls.

An ounce of ground coffee, five level tablespoonfuls.

An ounce of grated chocolate, three level tablespoonfuls.

An ounce of pepper, four level tablespoonfuls.

An ounce of salt, two level tablespoonfuls.

An ounce of cinamon, four and a half level teaspoonfuls.

An ounce of cloves, four level tablespoonfuls.

An ounce of mace, four level tablespoonfuls.

An ounce of curry, four level tablespoonfuls.

An ounce of mustard, four level tablespoonfuls.

An ounce of thyme, eight level tablespoonfuls.

'YESTERDAY AND TO-DAY'

A PAPER PREPARED BY ALICE FERGUSON

We might begin our study even farther back than yesterday and call it "The Day Before Yesterday". "Yesterday and To-Day". This will embrace the time of three or four generations, and represents the Pioneer Days, the days of our parents' childhood, or to some of us of our grandparents' childhood, and 'To-day', the present generation.

When our forefathers crossed the Atlantic in either a sailing vessel, or in one of the wonderful new steamers, the voyage occupying several weeks, they found the country forest-clad, rough and unsettled. The desire of each heart was to carve out a home, to own land, and to be independent.

A brave heart was necessary to meet the new conditions, and every ounce of will-power, of brain and brawn was called into action. Work must be done by main force, for there were few labor-saving devices in those days, to lighten labor. There were few implements with which to work, and those were of the rudest. An axe was the first necessity. Soon a small clearing was made, and a small log cabin built of unhewn logs; the cracks and chinks were filled in with moss and clay. The furniture was scant and rude. The packing boxes and chests containing their personal effects did duty as table or settee; blocks of wood made substantial seats, and soon rude benches were made, but the manufacture of lumber was slow, as a whip saw was needed. Gradually these articles of furniture were added to, especially during the winter, and a few comforts of this kind soon made home more homey.

There was little variety in the way of food. Potatoes, turnips and other vegetables were grown among the stumps in the little clearing, and corn, oats and wheat were grown as fast as land could be cleared for the crop. It was slow work, and hard, few of "To-day" would care to try it under the same conditions. There was abundance of game, deer, wild fowl, fish in the streams, and bears in the woods. But ammunition was scarce and had to be husbanded carefully, to protect the family from wolves, bears and other enemies.. The maple trees provided almost the only sugar used, and maple sugar was used in sweetening their tea, preserving the wild fruit and as a confection.

Flour mills were very few and scattered. It was quite a usual thing for a farmer to take a bag of wheat on horseback, and make a journey to a distant grist mill, returning with his quota of white flour, too precious for ordinary fare, the journey occupying some days. Grain for porridge, and bannocks and oatcakes, was crushed in a hominy-stump. The centre was burned out of a hardwood stump, the grain was placed in this hollow, and crushed by a 'beetle' or a plumper, which was a stone attached to a 'sweep' and which was plumped up and down crushing the grain into meal.

A man was well off, who owned a horse, or a team of oxen, a cow, or a few sheep and pigs;

pasture was plentiful enough, as the woods were unfenced, and afforded food and shelter to the animals. The tinkle of the cow-bell was listened for as milking time drew near.

The clothing brought with them from the 'Old Country', had to be replaced in time, and the wool of the sheep was washed, carded, by hand cards, spun on the tiny spinning wheels, either brought out with them, or modelled after their fashion, and many a home had its own hand-loom, and wove the cloth for the garments. Good wearing material too, was this homespun, and warm; no need to be particular about the feel of wool against the skin. The only alternative was linen, for in the 'Old Country', flax was grown and put through the many processes to make it into linen, and when a corner could be sown in flax, linen could be manufactured by the family. Store goods were for best only.

Methods of transportation were few. The streams and lakes were used wherever possible; the canoe of the Indian, the hollowed log, or later the clumsy flat bottomed boat carried many a load. The roads were mere bridle paths through the forest, with blazed trails to show the way. There were no railways, and stage coaches were a rarity to be found in only the long settled sections.

Neighbours were far apart, churches and schools were few and far between, but in many a humble pioneer home, the Bible was used regularly and reverently as the great Comforter and Guide. Sacred associations with God's word and God's house were maintained, and the very hardships and loneliness, and trials of the pioneer life, built up a sturdy Christian manhood, and womanhood, for which we have every reason to thank God; for they were our ancestors, and we are largely what we are because of what they were.

In those days the fireplace occupied one end of the log cabin and it was the bright spot in the home. Matches for lighting fires were unknown a century ago, or at least unknown in useable quantities. The fire was covered at night, but sometimes it was out in the morning. There it was--"Johnnie, the fire has gone out, get up and dress as fast as you can, and run over to our nearest neighbours for a pan of coals to start another fire, or if that were not possible, fire was obtained by rubbing a flint with steel, and catching the spark, blowing it into a flame among shavings, or birch bark, or punk. Imagine the slowness of the process, should we be forced to get fire in that way! Tallow candles of home manufacture were used, firelighters of shavings being used in place of lucifers. The pitch pine knots often afforded the only light. Hence there was little to tempt late retiring, so our forefathers laid foundations for good institutions for future generations by retiring early and rising early.

Yet in the absence of many things which we would consider necessary for happiness or jollity, there were many gay times among the pioneers. Fiddles or bagpipes, came over the sea with their owners, and if a community owned one of these musical instruments, there was sure to be some jolly evenings, when a few neighbours could get together. Alas! there were whiskey stills in plenty also, pure whiskey home distilled, not poisoned by drugs and poisons, yet containing

the Devil in liquid form, and was dispensed as a necessary part of hospitality.

YESTERDAY

There is no exact dividing line between "Yesterday" and the "Day Before", no midnight stroke of the clock, which tells us that one day is done, and another begun. The two merge into each other and overlap. Yet there is a distinct difference between a century ago and half a century ago, as there is between that time and To-day. The farms of Yesterday were largely cleared, but each with its forest reservation and many a natural tree bearing its harvest of fruit.

Life was easier than in the old pioneer days. The country was fast being cleared. Great piles of logs were burned to facilitate the clearing of the land. The stumps--great pine fellows--were dragged in ragged rows to serve the double duty of fences and an easy way to get rid of them. Great piles of pine logs were covered over with earth and burned or baked into charcoal for the use of the blacksmith. Great sacrifice of splendid timber was made, as there was little sale for it, nor proper methods of transportation. Corduroy roads were built, taking the place of the old trails, these helped to use up the logs, and made a firmer road-bed, though often rather bumpy. During Governor Simcoe's time, Yonge and Dundas streets were opened up and broken stone and later gravel used to keep them in repair. The system of toll-gates was doubtless copied from the 'Old Country', and those who used the roads paid their toll, as their share in keeping up the road.

Farmer's implements were still of the rudest. The grain was cut with the cradle, and bound by hand. Probably this method was the only one possible, when the farms were so covered with stumps and stones, but later a reaper reached the colony, and was a wonderful, lumbering thing, one man sat on it to drive, another stood behind, shoving off the sheaves. The heavy iron plows were welded by hand by the local blacksmith, and were at least durable and suitable for their heavy work among the roots and rocks. Oxen were still used, though horses were becoming more common. Help was plentiful both for outdoor and indoor work, and as the work was not eased by labor savers, more hired help was needed. Those were the days of jolly big families, and a neighbour usually could lend a girl or two to help out another in need. Wages were low, yet probably the purchasing power of money was as great as now. Men worked hard from sun-rise till sun-set, at ditching, cradling, binding, or logging, at the sum of fifty cents per day.

Many a farm had two, three or even four houses built on its area. A little log hut with a few apple or plum trees, or a lilac bush in front, showed where some squatter had made a home, gaining permission from the owner to cut down trees and build a small shack.

The woods were not always fenced in, and people who were mere squatters, kept a cow or cows, a few pigs and sheep, which ran at large in the woods, during the summer, and the cows and sheep, browsed at some farmer's strawstack during the winter while master 'Piggywig', provided the meat to go with the potatoes and vegetables, for the winter's food. Stores and shops were few and

far between. There was little competition and each had a monopoly of trade. Butter sold at a few cents the pound; eggs as low as eight cents per dozen, while poultry,--good and fat--sold at five and six cents per pound, and chickens at thirty cents to forty cents per pair.

Churches were far apart, Mrs. Burrows, my grandmother, sometimes walked seven miles from King to Richmond Hill, to church, and carried a baby, and walked back again! And the hills were not cut down as they are now, nor the roads as smooth. Often the farm wagon, drawn by oxen, or horses carried the family to service, and the blessing received was greater because of hardship overcome to be present. The House of God was appreciated, and the services were long drawn out. When Communion season came, there were services on Thursday, Friday and Sunday and Monday. People brought baskets and solemnly picknicked under the trees between services. There was much preparation of heart, and these seasons were times of refreshing and upbuilding. People came long distances for the 'fast day' and sat patiently during the long sermons, had their dinner and sat again for another service. The preachers gave deep discourses on the fundamentals, preaching the certainty of a hell as well as of a heaven, and tracing the road by sure sign-posts to either place.

The school houses were small log structures, with the desk along the wall, and faced by the backless bench on which sat the pupils, from mere infants to mustached young men, or girls in long skirts. The teacher sat at his desk and 'heard' classes, and disciplined with the cane, or cat-of-nine-tails, or the blue-beach rod, while the majority of pupils received a mere rudimentary education, usually a 'star scholar' would gain distinction, and enter the larger world to be a credit to the community and teacher.

Gradually conditions were altering, log houses were being replaced by frame or more ambitious brick, or stone. Stoves were replacing gradually the fireplaces, and with the passing of the cheery old fireplace, with its welcoming blaze, and its musical heavy iron tea-kettle, its crane and tongs, its bellows and its backlog, there passed away the homiest atmosphere of contentment and good cheer. Better furniture was finding its way into the settlements, a melodian or even an organ was a piece of rare good fortune. The new houses were often built over a cellar, though often an outside cellar or cave was the only cellar for house use. The outside ovens still baked the very sweetest bread, and the smokehouse was just as necessary for 'smoking' the hams and bacon.

Churches were multiplying to meet the needs of the different creeds. Soon better schools were built. Railways were projected and canals made to overcome the rapids or falls in the rivers. When the first engine on the G. T. R., Northern Division, came as far as the third of King, a crowd of people gathered to see the terrible monster and children shrank back in terror or hid, lest the terrible engine should run after them, and kill them.

In our grandmother's day, there were fashions as there are now, though these were followed afar off, yet there were those who set the fashions in each community. See in your mind's eye, the picture of a demure young lady, in poke bonnet, voluminous skirt, low pointed bodice, with pantelett

showing below her short skirt. Those pantelettes were for ornament only, and were trimmed quite prettily, with ruffles or lace. The sewing which had been all done by hand, was made easier by the introduction of the sewing machine, which, while it facilitated the work of sewing, has made their fine needlework, at which our grandparents were so adept, a lost art.

In our mothers' young days, girls and boys went to school barefooted. Just as soon as a warm day came in spring, off went boots and stockings, and one of the trials of Sunday was that boots must go on again. It was quite a familiar sight to see grown up young women, with skirts tucked up, and bare feet, scrubbing the floors or doing other household tasks. In winter these legs were encased in good stockings of homespun wool, with finer "gross banded" wool for Sunday wear. The fleece of the sheep provided those splendid home woven blankets of which we are still proud. The homespun cloth for house dresses and undershirts, so rough but so warm and durable. The fulled cloth for mens wear--clumsy garments but such as turned the wind and kept out Jack Frost and his icy breath; good double wool mittens for the hands, and long warm mufflers for the neck, while the home tanned, skin of the fatted calf, or the sheep killed for the winter's meat, was often made into moccasins by the father or mother, or perhaps 'father' turned cobbler during the winter and made the family footwear; strong, heavy, but serviceable. These are the conditions under which our immediate forefathers lived, and these very conditions made them strong, honest, reliant, and gave to us a Godly, honorable name, which we are bound in honor to keep respectable, and for the sake of those whose names we bear.

TO-DAY

What of 'To-day'? There is a long call between the tedious uncomfortable sailing vessel in which our forefathers crossed the ocean, and those floating palaces with all modern conveniences and luxuries in which a hurried trip may be made to-day. It is a long call from the log cabin, in the woods, to the stately homes of 'To-day' equipped with bathroom, electric lighting, and all labor saving devices and luxuries. It is a long call from the matchless day of the tinder box, to the push button of the electric light, which is fast putting coal-oil lighting and gas out of business. It is a long call from the tedious 'stitch' of the hand needle to the sewing machine with its numerous attachments, for all kinds of ornamentation. It is a long call from the grain cradle to the self-binder with its sheaf carrier and knot cutter all in one. The country dotted with homes and squatters huts have shoved all unnecessary houses out of the way, and all that are not really needed on the farms are set down in better style in the village, town, or city. Instead of the backyard of forest, there are trim lawns, flower borders, and gardens. Instead of ox carts and carry-alls to carry the family to church, there are the covered carriages, and the automobiles. A balloon ascension would draw crowds together to view such a wonder--now we note carelessly that "Mr. So and So" has had an accident with his aeroplane while flying and was killed. We have talked all over our little world by telephone till its novelty has passed away. We are ready now for a new

sensation; what will it be?

Instead of good old fashioned paring bees and quilting parties, or an afternoon's visit with our apron and our knitting, we have our set day for receiving, and set phrases for talking, and set 'specials' for lunch, till formality is taking the place of good old time hospitality and friendliness. We have labor-saving devices--fireless cookers, vacuum cleaners, dustless brooms, self wringing mops, dumb waiters, electric irons, washers, toasters, and so on infanitem, yet we are over busy, overburdened, overtired. The pendulum of style has swung from the voluminous skirts, with their crinolins and hoops, to the scant hobble of to-day. (Where will it swing next?)

To-day is as far ahead of Yesterday as the heavens are higher than the earth, in the way of inventions, advances and wonderworkings. If we live at this rate, what a world this will be in fifty years to come! We cannot imagine to what heights we may rise, why have we accomplished such things? Because man has been working with God, finding out His secrets, and utilizing them. The same forces of electricity was present in the world in the pioneer days, but the secret of how to collect that power, to convey it to such places and in such ways that it could do such work, had to be learned slowly, and a little at a time. If only we can keep close to God, and learn more of the secrets He has enfolded in what we call nature,--Tomorrow may be even brighter than To-day.





1st display at Royal Winter Fair [and Rest Spot]

photo compliments of:
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food

two visitors - unknown

At Table - Irma Maltby, Area President
- Cathy Hall
- Ella Harris
- Helen Rumble, Provincial Board member
[responsible for display and
people to man the booth]

WELCOME

The first Institute meeting was held on June 19th, 1907, King East.

We have minutes till 1915, but I am told meetings were held til 1924. Members, numbering 29-41, were from Eversley, King and Temperanceville.

The second Institute was founded on September 28, 1939. A meeting was held at Mrs. A.(Doc) Gordon's home. There were 28 ladies present and 15 paid membership. They are our Charter Members. Mrs. Ross Walker, the first president, has been a member all that time (and we are so pleased to have her here today). Mrs. A. Gordon was the first Secretary-Treasurer, and she and Mrs. Clarke Archibald are still with us. Sixteen (16) more joined at their October 10 meeting, of these Mrs. Dan Rawlings remains. Member #34 was Miss E. McClure on December 12, 1939 and her mother was #35. Elizabeth McClure (now Gillham) was the second Secretary-Treasurer.

Laura Rolling joined the Institute on January 9, 1910. She is our only Life Member, conferred on her by her sister Kay Clarke, and we are very pleased to have her with us today.

At the Executive meeting, they set up the Programm Committees - Red Cross Committee and Social Committee, and decided a limit on the lunch. It was war time and these women wanted to do their 'bit' for the local Boys. The secretary was authorized to write to Lake Marie Athletic Association [Sr. Henry Pallet] regarding a donation for Red Cross Supplies. I don't know what they asked for, but in cash they got \$25.00 and it went to the Richmond Hill Chartered Red Cross Society for yarn. Right away they decided to have a dance to buy supplies. Mrs. Pitt gave a talk on the Red Cross and a motion was made that we continue as an Institute and do our work for the Red Cross. Mrs. Norris gave a very interesting talk on the origin of Thanksgiving and also made a replica of the Prune family. They sent delegates to the Convention (at the Royal York I think) and several ladies offered to cut out pyjamas and bought euchre cards for 12 tables. They had a euchre and made \$7.00 and the next month had a dance and euchre and made \$15.77. They bought the pattern for pyjamas from the Red Cross for 35 cents and the flannelette was \$17.20. They paid two delegates' expenses to the Convention [\$2.50]. They bought \$10.80 worth of wool. In the first year they handled \$96.34. They were busy women.

In 1940 they helped the Lake Marie Association at the Street Dance by a booth proceeds of \$28.06 and Lake Marie gave them \$300 which they used to fill boxes for the local boys overseas. They bought the boxes and sent some away each month. They held dances for British War Victim Funds, made quilts and sent cheques too. They filled 'Ditty bags' for Navy boys. They had a banquet every year to celebrate their Birthday, mostly in the United Church basement. They had good speakers - Rev. Frost, Kate Aitkins. When the war ended they had a banquet for the boys who were able to come home.

Do you think recycling is NEW? In 1944 the Institute discussed a collection and sale of waste paper.

They turned their eyes to local things. Started a skating rink for children next to Hogan's Inn and the Town trustee bought the hose to flood it; Mr. Langdon was asked to supervise it.

We used to give bank books with \$1.00 to new babies. This ended by giving the new mothers \$1.00 with the suggestion they start a bank account. We manned a Well-Baby Clinic till the Health Department stopped it. Used to send the children to the dentist and paid part of same. The children didn't mind going because they were taken from school by taxi and returned the same way. It was a real adventure to be in a taxi. Sent members to meetings to 'incorporate' the village. Sent volunteers to help with Polio shots, TB clinics, oral Polio vaccine. Bought eye glasses for a pupil in Doris Patton's class. Helped with first Lion's dinner in the Masonic Hall and kept doing it. Sent \$50 to the Hurricane Hazel Relief fund for rubber boots. Helped Lion's with bus transport to Thornhill for swimming lessons and supervised same. Helped get the Firemen going with money. Had booths at local sales - do you remember Borden's Sale?

The Library was started by Women's Institute members, each buying a book, reading it and exchanging them. The seed grew and many members were librarians for years. We supplied the Book of the Month, gave books in memory of members who passed away. Bought two tables and six chairs for the new building, which was the second home of the library; and placed a bronze plaque on table. Gave them money from our 'Special' account but not our \$1,000 bond. Gave prizes for posters for Book Week to our school children. Then it became a Public Library in 1959. We

have to 'toot' our horn about this. Nobody really gives our members credit for all they did in laying the ground work; it was the determination of our members like Miss Marjorie Jarvis, Mrs. Ann Grew, Mrs. James Rock, Mrs. Harold Ratcliffe and Miss Doris Patton.

We also bought a set of swings for the Park for the children and payed for repairs on them.

In 1956 Marj Peters started a Cook Book. It was finished in 1958 and sold at \$1.00. We had them printed at \$425.70 and had copies made. In 1959 a Five Cent stamp was issued to honour F.W.I.C. We put a float in the King Village Santa Claus Parade, did Radio programmes for CJRH in Richmond Hill at 11:50 a.m. in 1959, 1960 and 1961.

We held euchres in Cadden's Garage. Started a 4H Homemaking Club in 1963 with Rena Gordon and Isabelle McKendry as leaders. Did the booth for King Recreation Association at the High School and all got sunburnt noses! Put a programme on at the Ontario Mental Hospital at Aurora and how the boys enjoyed the nursery rhyme skits. These are a few of the things we did locally.

We supported Widow's Self Help in Greece; Litterbug Campaign; Unitarian Service Committee layettes for Arab babies; sweaters for Korean children; Korean Flood Relief; Canadian Save the Children Fund, for which Miss Patton was still knitting sweaters when she died; the Tely Milk Ship, Powdered milk for children in Europe; helped sponsor a Refugee family and had a shower for same when they arrived at Teston farm; UNESCO gift coupons for Jamaica. Supported with money, the buying of Adelaide Hoodless' Home, where our Institute all started.

RESOLUTIONS - some of them were - Laura Rolling's desire for a distinctive Canadian Flag; old age Pensions; Names be put on sides of school buses. Railway level crossings - Toronto and York Roads and Department of Transportation 1959. Opposed the closing of CNR Station in 1957; opposed trading stamps in stores in 1959. The high cost of family drugs; wanted government to finance the education of our retarded. Drafted and redrafted our Resolution on election of our High School Board, not appointments. Went to York County Council on this one as well as the Toronto Board of Education.

In 1962 we started a bursary at the High School in King City.

We had several good outings too - toured Sterling Drugs, Watson's Potato Chip Factory; went twice to see Front Page Challenge; went to see and hear Eleanor Roosevelt, who was the United Nation's representative. Mrs. Ratcliff took her opera glasses and we saw Eleanor [sleeping, tired out by proceedings, but woke up in time] to give us a good message.

Took a lot of short courses sponsored by government - Lampshades; Focus on Finishes; Sew to save dollars and make sense; Eat to Live; 143 pounds of meat; \$1.00 worth of meat; Rugmaking; Catering to a crowd; Crewel work and Millinery. Had Fashion Shows; Hat boxes and Bea Daly; Patti-Lue and Warwick House.

iN 1957 Rhoda Jarvis did the knife painting of Barker House and put it in a competition. It won the FWIC'S Senator Cairine Wilson's Trophy, a Rose Bowl Cup. We held a tea in her honour at Kingcraft House and as Senator Cairine Wilson was Mrs. Charles Burn's Mother, asked her to come. She was unable to attend. Rhoda gave the painting to the W.I. We asked to have it hung in the library for safekeeping. It got lost somewhere between the library 'over the tracks' and the new one.

We entered the F.W.I.C. competition with 8 photographs and commentary by Bruce Hall. We got 2nd prize because Velma Neal's horses did not look up [the judge said if someone had known enough to whistle to attract the horses to raise their heads we would have won 1st prize]. We entered the C.N.E. competition - Five Ways to Improve the Exhibition and won 1st Prize [\$100]. Costumes done by Marj Jarvis won \$75; and one on places in Canada, Elsie Shropshire. I did a driving quiz and won 2nd prize.

These are just some of the things we've done over the years. I concentrated on the early years, but we are still doing things for our Community and still learning through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

We are still a valuable Institute and hope you have all enjoyed your association with us. My most sincere wish is that you enjoy our 50th Anniversary.

Our Presidents, and Secretary-Treasurers from the start were:

Mrs. Ross Walker
 Mrs. Colin Stewart
 Mrs. Dan Rawlings
 Mrs. Ed Kyle

Mrs. Rhoda Jarvis
 Mrs. Helen Rumble
 Mrs. Marj Peter
 Mrs. Helen Wyer

Mrs. Doc Gordon
 Miss Elizabeth McClure
 Miss Patton
 {Sec. Mrs. Colin Stewart
 {Treas. Betty Billings
 Mrs. Doris Willoughby

We are not as active in the Community work now because we have so many more organizations in the village. Our 4H Club folded, but we do try to help the Temperanceville Club. You'll hear more of that later.

Thank you for listening to our past.

1957



KING CITY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
hosts to YORK CENTRE DISTRICT ANNUAL

by Helen Rumble

Highlight of a recent King Women's Institute Annual was having the York County Dairy Princess present. She is one of our 4-H Homemaking girls in the Temperanceville Club that her mother leads.

Marilyn Beynon [Janet's mother] has led 4-H Clubs for many years and we are pleased to have her here today too.

Grandmother Beynon, 'Elsie to us' is perhaps our oldest active member, having joined the Women's Institute in Temperanceville. When they disbanded she came to join us and has been a pillar in our branch.

It is so nice to have three generations here.

Back to our 'Princess'

Janet has completed 29 Clubs, and is presently working on 4 more. She received the Margaret Armstrong Award last year and is presently attending the University of Guelph. She is working towards her Bachelor of Science in Human Kinetics; 1 year over and three more to go.

In 1989 she was chosen the Guernsey Queen.

We like to claim a little bit of credit for this multi-talented girl.

It gives me great pleasure to present to you Janet Beynon.



King WI

At the King Women's Institute annual meeting three generations of the Beynon family - Elsie, Marilyn and Janet - were honoured for their work with 4-H. This trio of women represents years of co-operation between the WI and 4-H Clubs.

TREE PLANTING AT SENIOR'S CENTRE, KING CITY
October 10, 1991

by Helen Rumble, 1991

The King Women's Institute members were asked to plant a tree as part of our Environment programme. We thank the Senior's Centre for permission to do so. We chose a lilac because there doesn't seem to be a disease to destroy them. Mrs. Beynon, one of our older members, said she had some to be transplanted.

The night before, Hans Neilsen, Austin and I went to Mrs. Beynon's with shovels and got the tree. We came to the Senior's building, dug the hole (all sorts of stone and wire in the ground). We took some good 'Rumble' soil and Shirley Crossley brought some good 'cow's manure', well rotted, to mix with it. We decided we would be smart and just plant the tree and tomorrow at 11 o'clock when our members come we would just pretend during picture session. Norman Wade, Spence Urghuart, Gord Fawcett, members of the centre were there to help us.

October 10, 1991 - Trees are among our most useful and dependable of friends. They beautify the countryside and introduce a welcome shade. They temper our climate, curtail the wastage of our soil and conserve the dwindling moisture of our land. Now we are recognizing that our forests are our last great source of raw materials and we are destroying our planet. We need to preserve and plant more.

He who plants a tree, plants hope, plants joy and peace, and plants love. Heaven and earth reward us. Here we chose the lilac poem.

I love the simple things of life,
a garden in the Spring.
A lilac bush so fragrant, tall,
where young birds wake to sing.
There's magic in the Spring time.
There's magic in each flower.
There's magic in everything that grows.
The magic, *God's love and creative power.*

Elsie Beynon read - R.D. Little's poem



Helen Rumble, Shirley Crossley, Barbara Bennet, Frances Holman, Anne Bodi, Edna Gellately, Betty Wade, Muriel Wallace, Rena Gordon, Phil Pittari and Maria Vallazzi.

OLD REMINDERS OF 'THE WAY IT WAS'

Keele Street looking north towards
King City.
Taken from Austin Rumble's 'farm gate'.



HILTZ'S HOUSE [one of the oldest
houses in King City] before being
bulldozed down in May, 1990.
Photo given by Muriel Wallace who
saw them tearing it down and
asked the workers to stop until
she got her camera to take a
picture. They obliged.

This little building [still in
Mrs. (Silk) Scott's yard, South
Keele Street] was once an
old barber shop. It became
our FIRST LIBRARY.



KING CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL
(north Keele Street)



Back Row

Leslie Kerr, Harry McBride, Bob Riddell, Doug Welsley, Alfred Baylis, Miss Mable Waranaco [teacher], Mabel Rumble, Lillian Leece, Ethel Agar, Audrey Gambrill, Helen Campbell.

Middle Row

Bill Bahrey, Wes Dew, Charlie Gates, Viola Auckland, Marg Walker, Arlene Carson, Mattie Hambly, Bertha Hiltz.

Front

Austin Rumble, Clarke Archibald, Stan Kerr, Walter Jackson, Bill Hiltz, Herb Welsley, Gordon Patton, Walter Hambly, Wilf Bayliss.