

HISTORY OF CHURCHES

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church - Strange



Rev. Dr. James Carmichael in front of St. Andrews Church - 6th con. taken previously to 1910.



Dr. Carmichael and his neice, Elizabeth Tawse. Horse-drawn cutters and buggies were his only mode of transportation.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Strange.

The pioneers of the wilderness of this country were chiefly Highlanders from the west coast of Scotland, Argyshire and the Islands. They brought with them sacred memories of the old parish church, and so was the beginning of the planting of the christian church on the 6th concession, when a small building of hewn pine logs was erected; a building consecrated to the worship of the God of their fathers. It was named St. Andrew's, King and had as its first minister, Mr. Gordon, who was inducted in 1834. His charge was King and Newmarket.

Other ministers and missionaries had found their way into King before this, visiting the homes of pioneers and preaching the gospel wherever a few families could be gathered together.

After Mr. Gordon, the Rev. John Tawse was inducted in 1837. These were the stirring days of the Upper Canada Rebellion. The work was heavy, preaching three times on Sabbath and travelling on horseback, over roads that, at some seasons of the year seemed to be bottomless. Mr. Tawse died in April, 1877 after a ministry of forty years and was buried at Eversley, 3rd Line, King.

Great changes had taken place in King. The old log churches had been replaced by two substantial stone buildings, St. Andrew's and 3rd Line, Eversley. A deed was issued and dated December 26th, 1853 for the property prior to the new stone building at St. Andrew's. One half acre of land was bought of Andrew and Mary Morton for the sum of seven pounds of lawful money. Sealed in the presence of

Andrew Burns and Donald McCallum.

A great chapter of the history of St. Andrew's Church, Strange, is reserved for the late Rev. James Carmichael, D.D., who was ordained 1860 at Strange Church and retired there at the end of 50 years.

St. Andrew's charge contained two churches, one a substantial stone building, opened about three months after the induction of Dr. Carmichael; and the other a frame building erected the year before; which in the course of a few years gave place to a brick church. The churches were five miles apart. The congregation around each church was half Gaelic speaking and half English. So there had to be two services in each church, one in English and one in Gaelic. As the older members

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Strange. (Continued)

of the congregation passed away the Gaelic died with them, and the last twenty years of his ministry there was no Gaelic service in King. Dr. Carmichael in his course of ministry became the chaplain of the Gaelic Society of Canada. It is interesting to note that the Gaelic Bible Dr. Carmichael preached from is still at St. Andrew's, Strange at time of writing, 1954.

The Toronto Presbytery resolved that the completion of a half-century of service in one charge by such a man should have a fitting celebration. A committee was appointed and it was arranged that special services be held at St. Andrew's, Sunday, October Second and that Thursday, October Sixth, the Presbytery would meet at St. Andrew's at ten o'clock in the morning, and after necessary business they should adjourn, and spend the rest of the day in social fellowship with Dr. Carmichael and his congregation.

It was a splendid tribute to Dr. Carmichael that more than one hundred and thirty people went up from Toronto to Strange to celebrate. The wind and rain swept unceasingly over the hills of King on a four-mile drive from the railway station. But one speedily forgot the weather in the hearty Highland welcome that was given and provided for the crowd. Tents were used to accommodate the people.

Dr. Carmichael related at this Jubilee that -- "Two generations have gone, and I am getting down among the 3rd and 4th and sometimes I see the 5th generation of my first communicants in church." So far, as he knew, only one was left of all who sat down at the table of the Lord at the first communion.

He lived 8 years Emeritus, and died at the Eversley Manse and was buried at St. Andrew's, Strange.

The church continued in its progress and was ministered to by faithful ministers till the year of church union, 1925, when the church membership was split up. The numbers were fewer, but stronger were the ties. It is interesting to note that St. Andrew's had its first church wedding in 1928 when the bride was presented with a Bible in honor of the occasion.

In 1937 the 100th Anniversary of St. Andrew's was held.



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Choir - taken 1905-06.

Back row - H. Ross, R. Farren, R. Rutherford, T. Lawson, Dr. Carmichael  
 2nd row - Beatrice Rutherford, organist, Mae MacCallum, Octavia McCallum,  
 1st row - Mr. Firth-choir leader, & school teacher at Strange School.  
 Margaret McCallum, Kate Ross, Jennie Gillies, Elizabeth Lawson,  
 Allie McClure, Irene Rutherford.



Two familiar scenes taken in Strange Church.

Mr s. R. Farren at the organ, a consecrated church, S.S. and W.M.S. worker for many years.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Strange. (Continued)

At these Sunday services the old, long-handled, square collection boxes were used.

In 1941 the charge was vacated and from that time the charge did not have the guidance of an ordained minister till 1952. During the Second World War years, when ministers and students were in the armed services, a layman, a native of West King served the three point charge in a faithful manner. The numbers were few, but their efforts were strongly united in the service of the church. Student ministers served the charge then till the present minister, who was here two years before his ordination and induction at St. Andrew's, Strange in 1952. The present minister is Rev. David Wotherspoon.

Also in 1952, St. Andrew's Women's Missionary Society celebrated its 60th Anniversary.

It is believed that the wedding bands of Donald McCallum, a descendant of this Historical Church, were the first to be read in this church also, in 1952.

A change of hour of worship for the first time, beginning on Sunday, June 6th, 1954 and continuing for summer months, will be held at 9.45 A.M. instead of 2.30 P.M. The adult and junior congregations will meet in the church auditorium.

In August, 1954, St. Andrew's, Strange underwent a renovation program. An eight-foot panelling was built on the west wall of the auditorium, behind the pulpit and choir loft. The vestry will be improved and equipped as a Sunday school room. The vestibule is to be panelled and the floor tiled. The floor of the furnace room will be cemented and a new outside chimney built. Donald McCallum is planning and building chairman.

Other officials and the men of the congregation did the work; the minister, Rev. David Wotherspoon, helping. He constructed a baptismal font which is finished to correspond with the panelled woodwork. The whole program was to be completed for anniversary services in the fall.

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - STRANGE - KING CITY

The final chapter of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Strange, came to a close on Sunday, December 7, 1958, when the door was locked and the historical old church was closed by the Toronto Presbytery. The remaining congregation were divided, some going west to join with St. Paul's of ninth line to form a new church at Nobleton; others going east to join with St. Andrew's, Eversley, to form new church at King City.

The Official Opening and Dedication  
of Portable Church

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, King City



*The Reverend D. P. Rowland, M.C., D.D., Interim Moderator of the Congregation  
Minister of York Memorial Presbyterian Church*

*The Reverend David McCullough, Director of Church Extension of the  
Presbyteries of East and West Toronto*

*Mr. Bruce A. Will, B.A., Student in Charge*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1958

at

3 o'clock.

ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - STRANGE

Cont'd.

Anglican Priest buys old church as summer home.

For the first time in his 19 years of ministry Rev. Gordon Agar of the King Charge has been instructed by West Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church to conduct a "deconsecration" service. The rare ceremony is expected to be held shortly at the picturesque century-old St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Strange, which has been purchased as a summer home by an Anglican Archdeacon, Rev. W. J. Gilling. Legal details of the property change are expected to be completed August 2, 1960.

The fieldstone building has been standing vacant for nearly two years, since the congregation joined forces with their sister group from Eversley and established the new temporary church in King City.

The move left the two rural churches for sale. At Strange on the sixth Concession, the cemetery is now separated from the half-acre Church site, which is being sold to the Venerable Gilling on condition that the building be used as a single family dwelling until Presbytery decides to relinquish the restriction. King Township Planning Board has stipulated the single family occupancy clause can be effective up to a 20-year limit.

The Board of Managers of the re-located St. Andrew's congregation intends to call a meeting to establish a committee to undertake financing and maintenance of the churchyard cemetery, where early families of the area were buried.

## REMEMBER PASTOR

"I remember him well", Miss Elizabeth Tinline, 92 year old resident of King, and possibly the oldest living member of the church, told the Telegram. Speaking of John Tawse, who went from place to place, preaching and visiting his people, on horseback; Miss Tinline said, "He was a big rugged Scotsman and he had a heart as big as a house. I can still recall sitting on my Father's knee as a little girl, looking up into his face as he preached. That was in the old log church. The pulpit was at one side of the church and stood at least six feet off the floor.

"There were no pews in those days, just long rows of benches. Below the minister stood the precenter, who started all the hymns. Of course there was no organ or choir, but the happy group of people joined lustily in singing those old Presbyterian hymns."

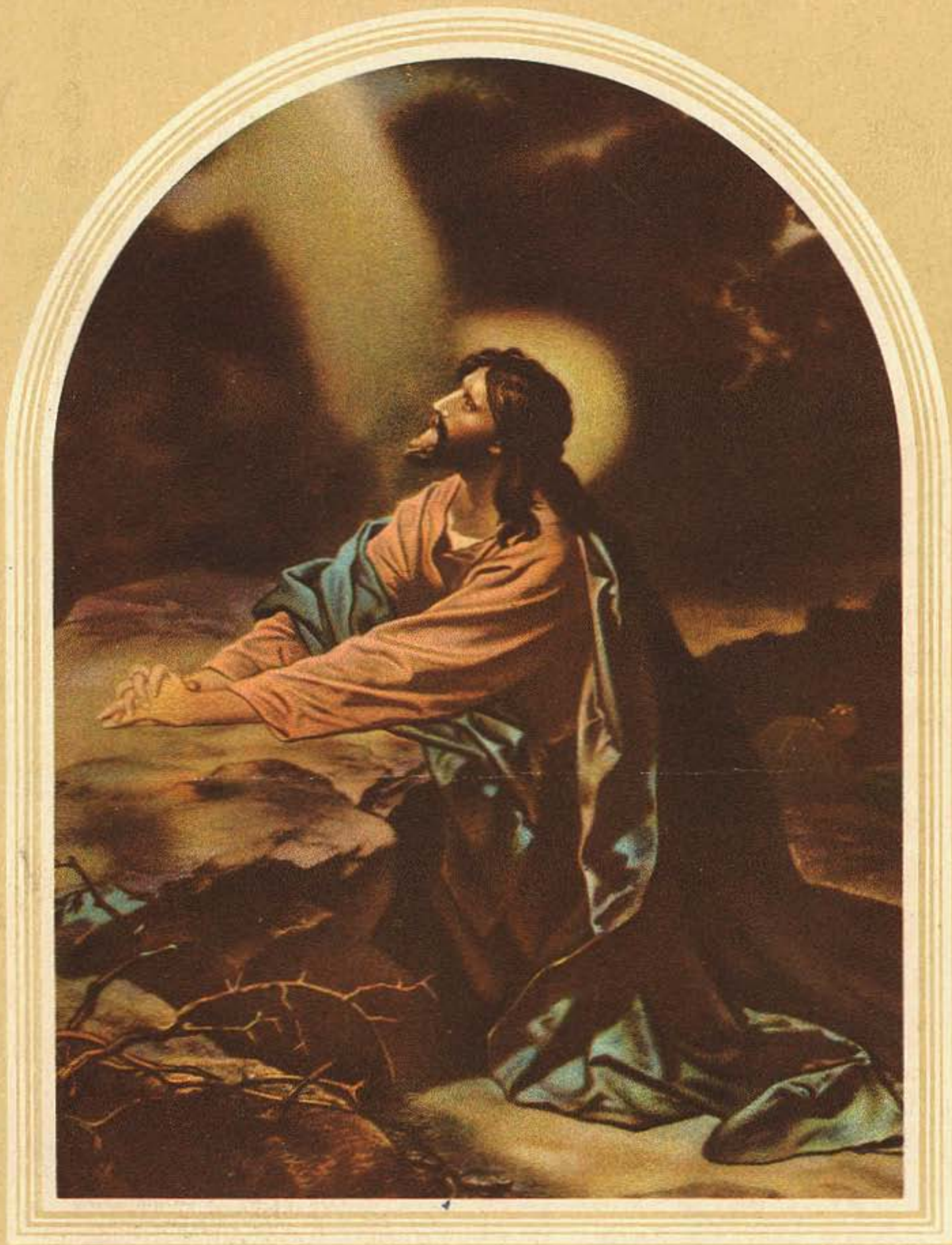


Miss Elizabeth Tinline

member of Presbyterian church and  
School teacher at Strange for  
sixteen years - 1885 - 1901, and  
lived to be over 90 years of age.







# 1876 PRIMITIVE METHODIST PREACHER'S PLAN - LASKAY CIRCUIT 1877

## "Arise O God, plead Thine own Cause"

Stewards	Places	Hour	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Preachers	Hymn
Love the brotherhood of God	Why is the house of God forsaken	Gen Time					whose power his first in the Lord shall be safe	Who'll be the next to follow Jesus
W. Warren	Laskay	6½					1 H. Harris	
W. Dalton	Nobleton	2½					2 G. J. Reeve	
R. Archibald	Eighth Line	10					3 W. Nixon	
	"	6½					4 T. Reynolds	
J. Reynolds	Salem	2					5 W. Lind	
W. Kirby	Hope	2					6 D. Archibald	
T. Cook	Carrville	6½					7 W. Denton	
W. Penny	Patterson	2½					8 H. Diceman	
M. Martson	Thompson's	10					9 J. Johnson	
	"	6½					10 J. Ireland	
J. Scott	Ebenezer	10					11 W. Reynolds	
	"	6½					12 J. J. Grimshaw	
G. Walker	Aurora	10½					13 J. Coombs	
J. Usherwood	"	6½					14 E. Gardiner	

Circuit Steward  
C. Nixon

Circuit Committee

Bros J. Baldwin

W. Nixon

T. Cook

A. Diceman

J. Craddock

W. Warren

G. Coombs &

W. Knight

Notices The Quarterly Business meeting will be held at  
Ebenezer on Sat. Jan 27 at 1.30 P.M. the religious  
Service on Sun. 28 at the same Place at 10.30 A.M.

Sabbath School tea Meeting Salem Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 1 P.M.

Laskay " 23<sup>rd</sup> 4 P.M.

Missionary Meetings Jan 8<sup>th</sup> Salem 9<sup>th</sup> Laskay 10<sup>th</sup> Eighth Line Deputation Revs.

J. W. Robinson & T. Sirms Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> Thompson's 16<sup>th</sup> Patterson 17<sup>th</sup> Carrville 18<sup>th</sup> Hope Revs

U. Reid & J. F. Oakley Jan 22 Nobleton 23<sup>rd</sup> Ebenezer 24<sup>th</sup> Aurora Revs C. Lazenby & J. Dennis

(COPY)

## HISTORY OF CHURCHES

### Primitive Methodist -later United.

The Primitive Methodists were the first to hold religious services in Laskay, the meetings being held in the Cooper shop in 1852 and until 1856, when the first church was erected.

Mr. Baldwin donated to the Primitive Methodists, land situated on the 6th con. upon which to build their church and parsonage.

The church was a wooden structure and the entrance was at the east side near the end where the pulpit stood. The seats were built so that each row was a step above the other, rising towards the back.

The church was well attended and old timers say one had to go early in order to get a seat.

Sunday School picnics were held in the woods on the south-east corner of the townline and con. 6. Everyone went and had a wonderful time. The trees were so close together children put up swings between them.

The parsonage stood where Smith's cottage is at present, south of the church.

For twenty-five years the singing was led by a negro, Richard Barnard. He had been a slave in the States and escaped to Canada. Mr. Barnard could not read a word but the preacher would read the verses, two lines at a time, so he could memorize them. His voice was very melodious and his singing was admired by all who listened to him.

The old church was torn down and the cornerstone of the new brick church was laid in 1904.



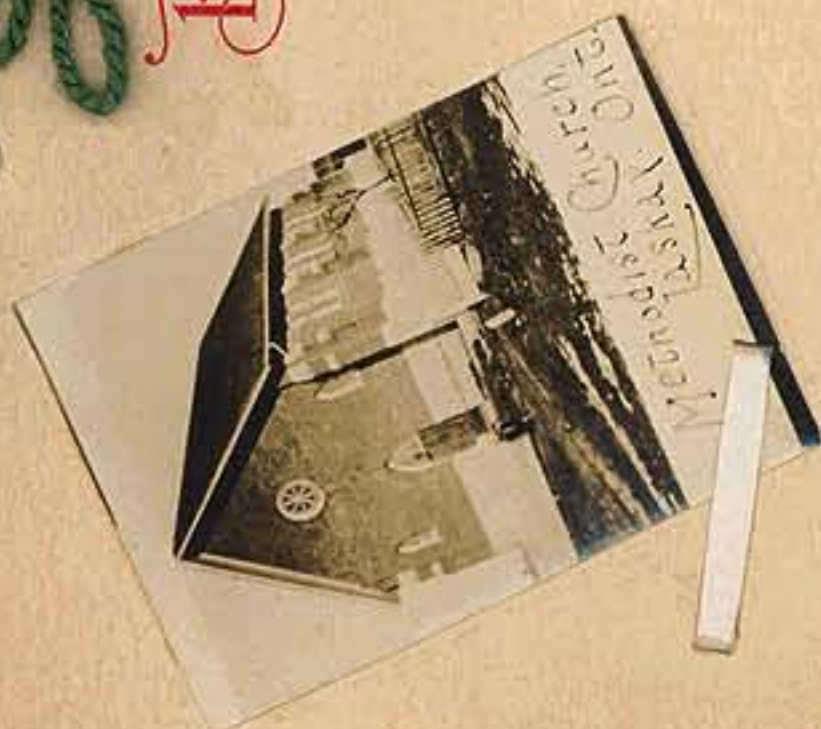
METH. CHURCH  
LASKAY



Best Christmas  
Wishes



Sweet Christmas! welcome be thy day  
 Most joyous of the year  
 When Gladness holds her merry sway  
 And fills the earth with cheer



Meth. Church  
Laskay

## Laskay United Church

In April, 1949, the Laskay congregation began the task of redecoration and renovation in their church. This involved the painting of the building both inside and outside. On top of all this, the system of the church lighting was changed.

Much voluntary labour on the part of certain men of the congregation went into the venture. It was such effort that made possible the speedier dispatch of the work as a whole.

On May 29th -- the 45th anniversary of the laying of the corner-stone of the present building, the services of reopening and rededication were held, and drew capacity crowds.

One cannot think of this work of beautification without making mention of the kindly interest and financial aid of the Women's Missionary Society of the Church. It was this group who paid the expense of redecoration, which cost in the neighbourhood of \$800. The men of the congregation undertook the expense of the lighting.

The Young People's Society purchased the picture of the "Head of Christ" by Sallman. Here in this lovely little country church, the efforts of man have sought to make God's House more worthy.

## Laskay Congregation 102 Years Old, Mark 50th Anniversary of Building.

The building of a new church at Laskay in 1904 was an important period in the history of the Primitive Methodist congregation at Laskay. It was important also for the Wesleyan Methodist congregation at Strange, on the sixth concession of King. A new building was a dire necessity to both congregations. The old wooden structure of the Primitive Methodist had served well and the white frame building of the Wesley congregation in the same circuit also was in poor condition and its numbers were diminishing.

When the time arrived to construct a new brick building that would unite both congregations, the question of a site was the subject of a heated controversy. Would the new edifice be on the same site as Laskay's Primitive Methodist church, which would be dismantled to make way for the new building? Or would a new site be chosen directly on the sixth line highway in Laskay.

Laskayites, now forming a thriving community, were proud that Joseph Baldwin, an early pioneer who came to this district in 1832 from Yorkshire, England, had given a portion of his land for "a Primitive Methodist church and a parsonage".



Picture of cemetery at back of first church built in 1856, showing Baldwin tombstone.



The parsonage, prior to being torn down, stood on 4th lot south of of the church.

Many were proud that the first church built in 1856, had its roots from the nucleus of the Primitive congregation that held worship in a cooper shop back in the "flats" at Baldwin's from 1852-6.

Almost everyone recalled how the first church, (Some 20 rods east of the sixth concession road) was filled Sunday after Sunday with whole families. They all remembered how the wide plank seats were built in tiers, rising to the back of the church, so the "minister could see all his congregation at the same time, and keep a watchful eye on the young folks and late comers". They remembered the pulpit near the entrance at the ~~northwest~~ <sup>southeast</sup> corner of the building and the row of choir members to his left. They recalled the embarrassment of the tardy person who had to walk before the pulpit before he could climb to a row of seats.

They were loathe to give up the old site on "back street", rising behind the main roadway. And so, apart from some hard feelings, Laskay's Methodist church retained the original site. On May 24, 1904, the laying of the corner stone was held. Five hundred people witnessed the ceremony. The minister was Rev. Newton Hill and the guest speakers were Hon. J. W. St. John, Hon. E. J. Davis, Rev. G. W. Robinson and Rev. Dr. James Carmichael, the minister of Strange Presbyterian Church. The trowel was used by Mr. St. John and in the corner stone were placed two half gallon jars containing daily Toronto newspapers, and the Methodist church periodicals.

A huge tent was pitched across the road on Bob Wiles' lawn for the big supper. The women of Laskay Presbyterian congregation helped with the celebration.

It was a wet late season that year and construction of the building was delayed. The building committee headed by James T. Scott was enrolled by William Boys, Wesley Hamilton, Edward Marshall, George Teasdale and others. Half of the cost had already been subscribed, and by completion Rev. Hill looked for the remaining \$2,000 or more to pay off the debt.



## Laskay Congregation 102 Years Old (Continued)

On Sunday, April 3, 1905, the following year, the opening of the new church was held by large congregations on Easter Sunday. Three times that day services were held with the overflows taken in the basements by other ministers. Rev. Brown, president of the Presbytery Conference, Rev. Dr. Carmichael, and Rev. Young were the preachers. Mrs. Wesley Hamilton played the new reed organ which is still in use.

Mrs. L. J. Glass has the honor of being in the congregation for 56 years. Before that time she was a small girl in the old Sunday school. Mrs. William Boys, 86, is the oldest member in terms of age, having come into Laskay from the Wesleyan church.

For many years, a community Sunday school served both Methodists and Presbyterians in Laskay. Both in the original church and later in the present church, Sunday school teachers were a mixture of both congregations. In fact, the sixth of King boasted four churches, two Presbyterian and two Methodist.

In 1925 the Laskay church became the United Church of Canada and for the past eight years, Rev. M. R. Jenkinson has been the presiding minister of the present circuit of King, Laskay and Teston.

On Sunday, May 23rd, 1954, the Laskay church will celebrate its golden jubilee anniversary at 11 A.M. and 7 P.M. The beautifully preserved building, with its solid oak seats and other special appointments has been carefully and proudly preserved.

More than 500 attended the "laying of the stone" and more than 500 people joined in the services of worship and thanksgiving on Sunday. Rev. Martin Jenkinson, incumbent, welcomed the members of the church and their guests. The inspiring influence of the church and the blessing it brings to the confused mind was the theme of the guest preacher, Dr. Archer Wallace, who is a well-known author.

The church was decorated with many bouquets. Those placing memorial flowers included: Mrs. Leonard Glass in memory of her parents, Mr. & Mrs. James T. Scott; Mary Marwood and family in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan McMarchy.

Laskay Congregation 102 Years Old (Continued)

A reception was held following the morning service when the registry was presented by Mrs. Marwood and Mrs. William Bryson. It was held in the church hall.

The anniversary cake in gold and white with its spired chapel centred the decorated table. Mrs. Glass, a member of the Laskay congregation for the past 56 years cut the cake.

Hostesses for the reception was the W.M.S. Miss Winnifred Boys is the president. Pouring tea were Mrs. W. Baldwin, Aurora, Mrs. Percy Forester, Mrs. Sarah Harris, Mildmay, and Mrs. James Hunter.

Also at the guest table were Rev. and Mrs. Jenkinson, Dr. Wallace, Mrs. W. Williams, Mrs. Donald Paton, Mrs. William Boys, Mrs. Hazel Archibald Wellesley, Mrs. L. J. Glass, Miss Winnifred Boys and Mrs. Annie Evans. Mrs. Evans joined the Primitive church 61 years ago and was organist at the age of 15.

Mr. Jenkinson read an account of the "gala" cornerstone service of 1904. The register of names taken on Sunday will form a scrap book to replace the original church records burned in the manse fire in 1945.

A silver service, which had been presented to the late Mrs. Duncan McMurchy prior to her marriage in 1899 from the Wesleyan congregation, was used. The gift had recognized her services as organist for seven years. Her son, Marshall McMurchy, who is a Laskay official, read the original presentation address which had been signed by Mrs. Boys and Mrs. Charlotte Peterbaugh.

Mr. Jenkinson read letters of congratulations from those who were unable to be present. They came from Rev. R. J. D. Simpson, Toronto, a former pastor of the charge 60 years ago, Mrs. Annie Thompson Cathcart, a former teacher of Strange school and Sunday school teacher and from Mr. Elmer Davis, Kingston, whose father, the late Hon. E. J. Davis, participated in the ceremony 50 years ago.

At the evening service, Rev. A. C. Forrest, B.A., B.D., Port Credit, was preacher. He spoke of the blessings of "remembering". Mr. Forrest compared the hardships of the pioneers to the easy mode of living in the modern world.

Laskay Congregation 102 Years Old (Continued)

The Thornbury singers, the trio in the morning and a 30-voice choir at night, contributed to the service of worship.

At the evening service, Miss Winnifred Boys and Mrs. Norman Bryson were registry hostesses. The W.M.S. members were hostesses to the choir later in the evening.

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Prior to this 50th Anniversary a new Oil Burner Heating Unit was installed in the rear of the church basement. The removal of the old furnace and pipes made a good improvement to the floor space.

Also, at the rear of the church property, the church sheds were removed after being sold, and more ground was cleared of trees. Thus, there is ample parking space available.

This year the Sunday services were changed from afternoon to evening service at 7.30 P.M. during July and August. The Sunday school hour was dispensed with for the summer.

## HISTORY OF CHURCHES Cont'd.

### Presbyterian

Senator Reesor presented a site for a church, manse and small graveyard on the west side of the 6th con. to the Presbyterian Church of Canada. In 1858 the Rev. Jas. Dick of Richmond Hill Presbyterian church opened a mission at Laskay and in the same year the Church and manse were built.

This church was used continuously until the Union of Churches, June 10th, 1925. Then it was left idle and torn down in the 1940's. Mr. Charles Black has recently built his house on the lot. A few headstones show the site of the graveyard behind his house.

Mr. Wm. Dunning was also clerk in the general store and assistant postmaster. Having an education and being a good penman and bookkeeper, also having acquired a perfect knowledge of conversation in the Gaelic language, he was in great demand for writing deeds and wills.

The manse was built between the church and north of Laskay Hall and is now owned by Mr. Woods.



The above picture is on a postcard which was written on July 29-1910 by Thomas Cairns from Laskay to Miss Jean Patton, and was postmarked Laskay. The stamp was steamed from this card.

Rev. John W. Cameron, born 1851 in New York State, entered Knox College, graduated with a B.A. in 1881, and was immediately invited to take charge of the Presbyterian Church at Laskay. He had charge of churches in the west of King Township, three under him having a membership of 175. The churches were all comfortable frame buildings.

COPY OF INDENTURE OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A memorial of an indenture made the twenty ninth day of October in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty one in pursuance of an act respecting short forms of conveyances:

Between the Honorable David Reesor of the Township of Markham in the County of York and Province of Canada esquire of the first part

Emily Reesor wife of the said part of the first part of the second part and...

William Goodfellow of the Townsh p of King in the county of York, aforesaid farmer..James Marsh of the same place farmer trustees of the Canada Presby-terian Church congregation of Laskay of the third part....

Whereby, after reciting as is therein recited it is witnessed that for and in consideration of the sum of twenty pounds of lawful money of Canada to him the said part of the first part in hand well and truly paid (the receipt whereof he did thereby acknowledge) he the said part of the first part did grant unto the said parties of the third part and their successors appointed as therein- after specified by the name of "The trustees of the Canada Presbyterian Con- gregation of Laskey" All and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate lying and being in the Village of Laskay in the Township of King in the county of York and Province of Canada containing by admeasurement two fifths of an acre of land be the same more or less, being composed of part of the east half of lot number four in the sixth concession of the said township of King, and may be more particularly known as Village lots number twenty-four and twenty-five on the west side of and fronting on Main street in the village of Laskey aforesaid according to a plan of said village made by George McPhillips Esquire a provincial land surveyor and filed in the registry office of the said county of York on the thirteenth day of August one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

To have and to hold the said lands tenements and hereditaments with the appurtenances to the said parties of the third part and their successors to be appointed as thereafter specified in perpetual succession by the name afore- said. Subject nevertheless to the reservations, limitations, conditions and provisos expressed..in the original grant thereof from the crown and nevertheless upon the trusts and to and for the purposes thereafter...expressed declared and contained of and concerning the same, and it is thereby provided and declared that the said land is granted upon the trusts and to and for the purposes and subject to the provisions thereafter expressed and contained..

That is to say for the sole and only use and benefit of the said congregation, as well for the site of a church, chapel or meeting house, burial ground and residence for the minister (as the said congregation may direct) with the appur- tenances for the use of the congregation as for the support and maintenance.

INDENTURE Cont'd.

of --public worship and the propagation of Christian knowledge..According to the Doctrines, discipline and modes of worship of the said Canada Presbyterian Church, and up further trust that they the said parties of the third part, and the trustees for the time being shall and will, well and truly, obey, abide by, perform and fulfil and permit and suffer to be obeyed performed and fulfilled.. with respect and in reference to the above granted premises and to any church, chapel, meeting house or other building or buildings now erected or to be erected upon the said land (the lawful orders and directions of respectively the said congregation the Kirk session of the said congregation, the Presbytery within whose bounds and under whose inspection and Ecclesiastical jurisdiction the said Congregation Church, provided that, and so far only as such orders and directions respectively are and shall be within the scope of the authority of such persons and bodies respectively..according to the laws customs and usages of the said church and with respect to the election and appointment of trustees in succession to the parties thereof of the third part, it is thereby provided and declared that the lands tenements and hereditaments thereby conveyed shall be held upon the trusts and to and for the uses intents purposes thereinbefore expressed..declared and contained of and concerning the same by three trustees elected by the said congregation and who shall all be members of the said congregation in full communion and it is thereby declared that it shall and may at all times be in the power of any trustee or trustees whether named in the said indenture or to be elected in succession to the parties thereto of the the third part, to resign the trusteeship and also that in the event of any trustee or trustees whether named in the said indenture or to be appointed as aforesaid, ceasing to be recognized by the Kirk session of the said congregation as a member in full communion or removing from the bounds of the said congregation or resigning as aforesaid, then and in such case such trustee or trustees shall ipso facto cease to have any right to act under the said indenture.....

..... In witness my hand and seal this twenty-ninth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one.

Signed and sealed in presence of

Henry Baldwin,            )  
William Blackburn        )     David Reesor     L.S.

LASKAY PRESBYTERIAN W.M.S. MEETING

At the home of Mrs. Charles Neill, Lot 5, West Half Con. 6.

About 1914



1st. Row -- Mrs. C. Neill & Mildred Armstrong, Mrs. John Watson, Mrs. James Finch,  
Mrs. J. Harris, Mrs. Kenneth Blanchard, Mrs. John Boys, Mrs. John  
Ireland, Mrs. Walter Monkman, Mrs. John Gray, (Rev.) Mrs. Robert  
Brydon & Mary, Mrs. Joe O'Brien.

2nd. Row -- Mrs. Will O'Brien, Mrs. Will Bryson, Mrs. John Readman, Mrs. Aaron  
Campbell, Mrs. Chas. Hately (Jean Paton), Mrs. Arthur Caldwell  
(Nora Neill), Mrs. Hughie McEachran

3rd. Row -- Mrs. William Glass, Sandy & Mac Brydon, Mrs. Fred Willis, Mrs. Len  
Glass, Mrs. Albert Wells (Annie Glass), Mrs. George D. Paton, Mrs.  
John Woods, Mrs. Colin Sinclair.

4th. Row -- Norman Willis, Roy Neill, Howard Neill, Dudley Watson.



Left.  
Presbyterian  
Manse.

Right.  
house built  
on site of  
Pres. church,  
by Charles  
Black.



WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH

King township

Wesley Church would appear to have its origin in the congregation known variously in the early days as "6th Con. Kin," "David Love's Branch", "Love and Dickinson's Branch", the designation more frequently used being "6th King". (There was also a Love's Branch on the 9th of King--Nobleton). The Wesley congregation must have started around 1845, for the Rev. Henry Wilkinson in describing a missionary meeting held in the district refers to it as a "new" appointment. An interesting fact is that the meeting was held in the Presbyterian Church. The extract appearing in the Christian Guardian of Feb. 18, 1846, is as follows:

"The first (i.e. meeting) at Love's in the 6th concession of King, held at 2 p.m.--a new appointment. The meeting being quite back in the woods and held in the day-time, my expectations were very moderate, both as to attendance and the avails. A fair congregation, however, met us in the Presbyterian Chapel which was kindly loaned to us for the occasion. Several of us spoke to the people and God was with us of a truth. It was truly good to be there and I confess I was taken by surprise when the boxes held 2 pounds, 2s. 9d., which handsome collection was followed up by a noble subscription of 8 pounds, 12s. 9d., making a total of 10 pounds, 15.6d., contributed to our Missionary Society in an obscure part of King, and by comparatively a poor people."

And in the Missionary Reports of the Wesleyan Methodist Church for the year 1845-46 the names of some of these subscribers are listed;

Robt. McMullen, Andrew Morton, Nancy Carley, Isabella Wood, John Wood, Wm. Dickinson, Jane Dickinson, Esau Wood, Samuel Hollingshead, John Stevenson, Mary A. Wells, David Love, Sarah Hollingshead, Jesse Jones, Mrs. Jones, Mary Smelser, David Jones." (The Missionary Collectors had been "Mesdames Wood & Jones").

It is also of interest to note that in the following year amongst the subscribers listed at this appointment was the name of "Taws": Rev. John Taws was the Presbyterian minister who had come to the 3rd King in 1837, preaching also on the 6th and 10th of King.

Just where the meetings on the 6th of King were first held cannot be determined from the records available here. There was a report of a log chapel but no definite evidence can be found to substantiate this. In the year 1855-56 the appointment appears in the Missionary Reports as "Roughcast Church Branch"--this is the first time that the word "church" is used in connection with the appointment--and continued to be so designated until 1871-72, when the name "Wesley



WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH cont'd

Church" appears. Unfortunately, no account of the opening of these churches could be found in the Christian Guardian.

From 1845 to 1856 the appointment on the 6th of King, as it was called, was part of the Newmarket Circuit, after that date becoming part of Kleinburg circuit. In 1857 the appointments comprising the circuit were Peterman's, Roughcast, (9th King, Kleinburg, Morrow's, Taylor's. ) In 1866 they were listed as Kleinburh, Peterman's, Kellam's, Nobleton, Roughcast, Morrow's, and by 1875 Teston had been added.

The names of families listed as subscribing to the missionary funds of the church in 1856-57 continued to include the names of Love, Marshall, Dickinson, Wood, Hollingshead, as well as Andrews, Crane, Hunter, Morton, Cook, Hill, Samson, Starr, Matchet, Hutty, Porter, Boys. In 1881 the families listed included Harvey, Carley, Marshall, Dickenson, Love.

Just what happened to the Wesley Church congregation after the union of all Methodist bodies in 1884 is not very clear from the records available here. But from a typewritten history of Laskay Church, locally prepared, the following reference to this period occurred.

"In 1884 all Methodist churches were united, but Laskay Primitive Methodist church and the Wesleyan Methodist Church continued to hold services in their buildings, and were served by the same minister until the year 1890."

In 1893 Laskay and King circuits united to form the King and Laskay circuit, which became known later simply as the King Circuit. On this combined circuit were six appointments; King, Wesley, Laskay, Teston, Snowball, Purpleville. This arrangement apparently lasted until 1900, to quote again from the local history.

"In 1900, under the leadership of Rev. George Robinson, the congregation of Wesley Church moved to Laskay Methodist Church and both congregations worked together to build one edifice. When this move took place, the people brought with them the organ, the minister's chair, and carpet. It is in this time of transition the letter of appreciation was drafted and the presentation made of a silver tea set to Miss Annie Marshall ( Mrs. Duncan McMurchy) for her services as organist for seven years in the Wesleyan Methodist Church. That tea set was used when celebrating the 50th anniversary.

"This church was situated on lot 8, east side of concession 6. The graveyard still remains).

LASKAY STORE

About 1910.



LASKAY STORE

1845 - 1957.



## THE MIRACLE OF LIGHT FROM CANDLE TO ELECTRICITY.

by

Gregory Clark - copied from Family Herald magazine - 1958.

Don't forget that in the childhood of all of us over 70 whom you see walking around, we had to scratch a match every time we wanted to turn on a light. For most of us, that meant oil lamps, naturally; though those of us who lived in cities had the modern marvel of illuminating gas, and all we had to do was turn the little tap, put the match to it, and -- presto!

I admit the well-to-do, the the largest cities, were already having their houses wired for a still greater miracle, electric light. But we 70-year-olds were good big boys before that became common, even in cities.

Oil lamps were the thing. And even they were modern. The 70-year-olds whom we saw walking around, when we were children, all recalled the sensation created by the first oil lamps. Our grandfathers travelled miles to see one, when they were first introduced; and usually stood well back, twenty feet or so, for fear of an explosion. Of course, the marvellous, great parlor oil lamps that hung on chains balanced by counterweights and went creaking to the ceiling to be out of the way during the daylight hours, were true scientific marvels. They added mechanical engineering to chemical science, and every youngster who came to the house would watch for an opportunity, when no one was looking, to see for himself how easily they moved up and down on their chains. But those were almost of a new age.

Matches? Why, matches were not invented until 1827, and were only for the upper crust until well into the 1840s. The way you lit a candle on rising in the morning was to light a spill at the embers of the fire. If the fire had gone out, you had to go over to the neighbor's, with a stove shovel, and borrow a scoop of red coals. If your neighbor was too far for that, you had to get out the tinder box and flint and steel which, in my grandfather's time, was a far commoner kitchen gadget than a box of matches is in the modern kitchen, and huff up a spark to get the kindling lit, and then the candle.

Look you; this fabulous modern world we live in today is a sudden thing. We 70-year-olds still tottering around started our lives in a world not very much different from the world of Julius Caesar.

STEAMER DAYS



Taken at Lot 33, Con. 6 on farm of Adam Cairns -- Vaughan Twp.  
 Adam Cairns, Thomas Cairns, Jack Mullen, Andy McCluskey.



Wm. Ham, Laskay, threshing on farm of Frank Smelser, Lot 1, Con. 5.

## STEAMER DAYS

One old-time thresherman used to start his rounds among fifty or so customers about the middle of August, and he didn't quit till the last mow was empty of sheaves, and sometimes it was after New Year's before we were through. Many Sundays saw work done keeping the outfit in repair.

Mows and stacks of grain - and bundle wagons - have become obsolete in most sections of the country, and so have the various jobs at which men once prided themselves on their skill -- engine man, separator man, spike pitcher and weed and water hauler, whose job was to quench the roaring monster's insatiable hunger and thirst. Threshing time was something special in those days.

Forty years ago the first few weeks were a flurry of activity. Farmers would come begging for a half day's threshing to clear out a mow of wheat, so they could get some seed wheat to sow, or so they could get all their grain in. Then we would return a second time to thresh out the barn. They really kept the thresher hopping.

Busy preparations were the order of the day. Grandfather was occupied cleaning the threshing floor and making sure it was braced to hold the heavy separator. Bins had to be cleaned out to receive the flow of new grain. If he traded work with a lot of neighbours and expected 12 to 20 men, he might have to slaughter a calf, a sheep or several dozen chickens. All this would have to be done between days spent helping neighbours to thresh.

In the meantime, Grandmother and the girls would be feverishly busy for days, making mounds of pies, buns, bread, cakes and a host of other good things. A woman's reputation was based on her meals at threshing time. It would be the subject of gossip for the next year if she failed to provide enough to satisfy everyone. Threshing crews were always famished. Why, some men could eat a whole pie at a sitting -- on top of several helpings of meat and vegetables!

## Steamer Days (Continued)

What got the women's goats was the filth of some of the men. The three or two threshers that went with the machine, always stayed at nights where they were threshing; so the towels and bedsheets used to get black.

A typical bill of fare at the noon meal would be hot roast meat or chicken, potatoes, a couple of other vegetables, three kinds of pickles, bread, butter, apple butter, maple syrup, apple sauce, pudding and at least four different kinds of pie -- and any young fellow who couldn't eat three or four pieces of pie was razzed about it all afternoon.

For the young fry on the farm, threshing day was almost as exciting as the yearly junket to the Fall Fair. The children could hardly await the arrival of the big black engine and its equally black crew. The clatter of the pipes and straw carriers atop the machine made a distinctive sound that could be heard a long way off down the rutted mud road. There was always a chance that it would get stuck in a mud-hole, and maybe two or three teams would have to be hooked on in front before it would budge. The best part was watching the big separator being hauled up the barn ramp and placed on the threshing floor, the steamer jockeyed into place and the big belt slung around the pulleys.

One farmer was quoted saying -- "I would not like to go back to farming 40 years ago and more. It might be all right for a day now and again, just to show the younger people what we did, but the back breaking work from 7 A.M. till dark for \$1.00 a day outweighed the pleasure of the sumptuous meals. The dust and dirt would be harder to take than the comparative cleanliness of to-day's field threshing and combining."

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Mrs. Lydia (Ireland) Murdock reminisces: "My grandfather David Archibald, owned the first grain binder in King Township and his oldest son--Charles Archibald ran it, and he told how the fence was lined with people to watch the binder working.

COMPARISONS

Voters in King Township, 1878 -- 1,238

Total Receipts - King Township 1877  
15,770.26

Balance from 1876 -- \$330.15

Total Disbursements, 1877 --  
\$16,100.44

Auditors -- B. Lloyd F. D. Ramsay

No. of acres cultivated in  
King Township, 1803 -- 150 acres

Total no. acres in Township -- 86,480

Average price of farm land, 1885 --  
\$70 to \$80

Rented land -- \$2.50 to \$3.00 per  
acre.

Voters in King Township, 1957 -- 5,995

Total Receipts - King Township, 1957  
\$696,173.65

Total Disbursements, 1957 --  
\$695,960.94

Auditors -- S.S. Joscelyn, C.A.  
St. Catharines.

No. of acres <sup>1957</sup>cleared farm land --  
77,485 acres

No. of acres cleared land,  
towns, villages, etc. -- 2,103

Average price of farm land, 1957  
\$500 to \$700 acre.

Subdivision lots \$2,000 to \$3,000





CURRENT EVENTS

Christening Robe over 100 years old.

On Mothers Day, May 13th, 1956, a christening took place at Laskay United Church, of one of the descendants of a pioneer family of the old Methodist church, now replaced by the United Church.

The historical part of the christening was what the baby wore - that being her great - great grandmother's christening robe, brought from England over a century ago, 1849.

It was originally worn by Edith Wells, who became Mrs. James Scott and lived at Lot 2, Con.5, King. Followed by her son, Lewis Scott; then Earle Scott, the baby's grandfather, then Mother, Aileen Scott and finally by 4 months old Susan Aileen Jamieson.

This dress has been worn by many descendants at Christenings and Mrs. L.J. (Scott) Glass is the proud possessor of this robe.



THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN AROUND 1900

## FARM HISTORIES

Lot 1, Concession 6, King Township.

This property consists of two acres of land with an eight roomed red brick house and a small barn.

The property was originally obtained from the Smeltzer family who owned a large area of land between the 5th and 6th concessions.

Joseph Watson, was born on the old homestead in Vaughan. At the age of sixteen he was apprenticed to the trade of a blacksmith, which he continued to follow and was exceedingly prosperous. In 1859 he bought and settled at Lot 1, Con.6 of King. He also married in 1859 and had four children, two of whom later resided at Laskay, John and Annie (Mrs. Wesley Hamilton). His second marriage was to Caroline Harris in 1899. He died in 1917. His blacksmith shop faced the 6th concession, north of the house. Mr. Watson later added an addition to the rear of the house, moving the kitchen to its present location on the east side.

The property remained in the Watson family until about 1919, when it was sold to a Mr. Kerr, who in turn sold it in 1922 to Sinclair A. Levack, who used it as a summer home till his death in 1953. His family are the present owners and a grandson, Lorne Ney now resides there.

When electricity was first brought into the district the house and barn were wired and since that time, the house has been modernized to present day standards, without making any material changes in its structure.

Lot 35, Concession 5, Vaughan Township.

The property consists of 50 acres of bush, pasture and tillable land and there is a deep water hole which very rarely goes dry. The late Mr. George Patton of Laskay helped to clear some of this land in his younger days.

The original deed goes back to a Crown Grant and was owned by the Peterbaugh family for several generations. In 1923 Mr. Patton, King City, then the owner sold it to Sinclair A. Levack, who in 1950 sold it to his daughter Mrs. Walter J. Ney the present owner.

Mr. Joseph Wood

Mr. Joseph Wood was clerk of King Township from 1847 to 1867 when he retired.

(From History of York County, 1885) "Mr. Joseph Wood was a fine specimen of what may be accomplished by industry and faithful discharge of the duties of citizenship, one of a class of Englishmen, who by their energy and thrift have aided greatly in developing the country and improving themselves." (This quote from York County Historical Atlas, 1878)

He came with his parents from England in 1830 to "Little York". In 1831 the family consisting of three brothers and two sisters moved to Witchurch Township near Aurora.

In 1835 to Lot 12, Con. 6, King Township, while that region was almost a wilderness.

In 1857 Mr. Joseph Wood settled on Lot 1, Con. 6 where he continued to live. His only surviving brother was a minister of the Episcopal Methodist Church. His wife was Catharine Smeltzer.

This farm at Lot 1, Con. 6, remained in the Wood name for about 90 years, and in 1957 it has been owned about ten years by William Bryson, formerly of Vaughan Township.

The Brysons were of pioneer families in Vaughan. Mrs. Wm. Bryson (Beatrice Ireland- daughter of Jesse Ireland).

In 1951 Mr. Bryson remodelled the brick home which was built in 1860. Mrs. Bryson's only son Jesse operates the farm on a field crop basis. The barn was removed in 1951.



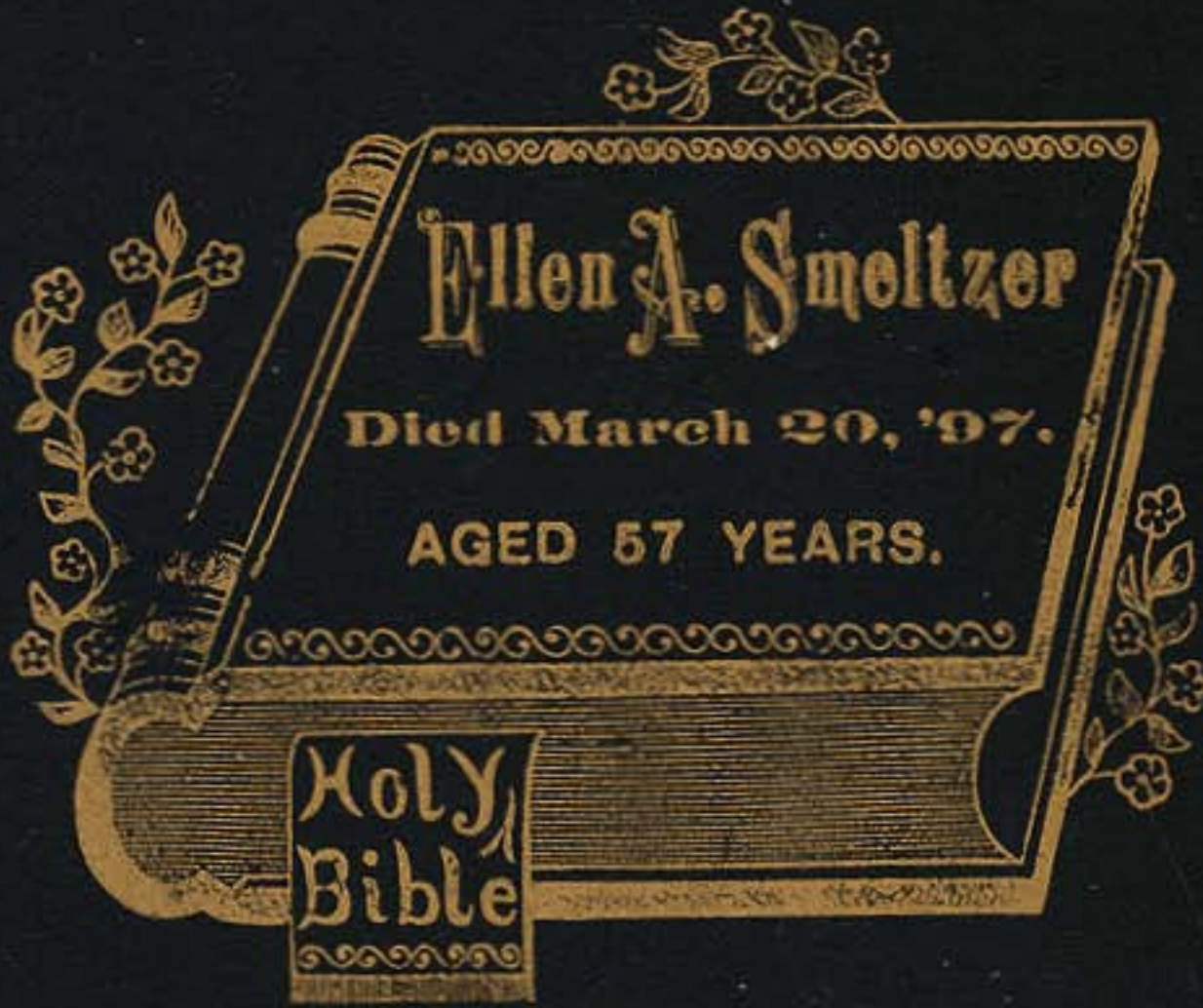
This house was shown in the nearly 100 years old picture in our book. The above picture was taken in early 1900's, the smaller one in 1950, now owned by Bert and Dorothy Ezard; who have renovated the inside and covered the outside with log-siding. This house is next to the United Church.

The picture shows there was no racial discrimination in Laskay, there being two negro families in Laskay. This is Nellie Barnard, daughter of Dick Barnard, also the Rolling Family lived here.



This house was built in 1860 by the Wood family at Lot 1, con. 6 and remained in the Wood Name till about 1950, at which time, Mr. Wm. Bryson, the new owner, tore down the old house and rebuilt a new one, using some of the old bricks.





A precious one from us has gone,  
A voice we loved is stilled ;  
A place is vacant in our home,  
Which never can be filled.

God in his wisdom has recalled  
The boon his love has given ;  
And though the body moulders here,  
The soul is safe in Heaven.

WITNESS PRINT:  
BRADFORD.



The Canada Co. sold lot 2, concession 5, King township, 200 acres for one hundred pounds on the 16th March 1833, to John Smelser, who already had acquired in 1828 the 200 acres to the south, lot 1 in 1828. Previous to this John had cleared the bush and cultivated a farm across the road which was King and Vaughan Townline.

John Smelser took his oath of allegiance to her Majesty, Queen Victoria, March 10th, 1840 at Toronto. (Have original copy). Have crown deed to farm also. John Smelser originally came from Germany and married Mary -- They had 6 sons and 2 daughters.

At the time of his death in 1859 he had about 250 acres; the easterly parts of lots 1 and 2 being sold off, the 250 acres was equally divided between three sons, Henry, Joseph and John.

Son Joseph 1843-1900 acquired approximately 82 acres the west part of lot 2, rear con. 5.

Ellen Ann Bailey 1840-1897.

Their only son Thomas Bailey 1862-1944 married in 1898 Frances Elizabeth Scott 1875-1946.

They had 2 sons, Scott Bailey - 1901 - married Alma Sloan.

Pearson James 1902 - -1962- married Adella Lawson  
Pearson and Adella's son- John Thomas born 1950.

In year 1962 Harold Books from lot 2, rear con. 6<sup>5</sup>, acquired a lot from southwest corner, built a home.

In year 1964 Wm. B. Gregg of Downsview, Ont. proprietor of Shell Service Station at Highway 400 and King City sideroad bought the Smeltzer property and thus ended one chapter of the book.

LOT 2, Rear Con. 5 cont'd.

The original spelling of the name was Smelser and am not sure when changed to Smeltzer, but before 1890. Joseph Smeltzer was one of the pioneers in establishing the Robertson Masonic Lodge at King City. His Masonic apron was given to King Lodge as a momento and tribute to his memory about 1947 on the occasion of the lodge's 75th birthday.

Mixed farming was the general type of farming with turkey raising carried on about 1930's to 1950's. The present barn was remodelled in 1902. The house is quite old, one part having been moved from con. 5 and townline area. The house was covered with insul brick siding in early 1940's. Several antique articles were sold at the sale in November 1962. An antique cherry pitter was donated to Pioneer Village.

In a Joseph Baldwin ledger book, 1848-50 and 1854-1858 considerable lumber and plank sawed for John Smeltzer was recorded but not sure if used on lot 1 or lot 2. We have the original birth certificate of Ellen Ann Bailey (wife of Joseph Smeltzer) 23rd June, 1840, District of Pendle, in county of Lancaster (presume England).

A King township assessment 1870 records.

County rate .20¢ on \$100.00

Township rate .07¢ on \$100.00

School rate .23¢ on \$100.00

Dog tax \$1 and \$2.

1836 - 13 shillings 4 pence

1870 - taxes on 100 acres \$13.10

King Township ass. 1954 records

County purposes - 11.25 mills  
on \$1.00

Twp. Administration 10.24 mills

Twp. Roads & bridges 8.73 mills

Twp. fire protection 1.11 mills

Road debt 1.17 mills

Farm & Residential property

rate - 29.8mills.

A grocery bill David Brigs to John Smelzer is recorded in shillings and pence and credited with 60 cord of wood, 1/2 days work in 1853.

In 1888 a grain binder was purchased for \$52.75.



December, 1948



This brick farmhouse on lot 2, con. 6, West Side, is said to be over a hundred years old. Has been owned by Goodfellow, J. Patton, J. McCallum, L. Glass and now LaRush.



This house is on South side of King and Vaughan Townline, between 6 and 7th con. owned by the Duncan McMurchy family since 1912, and sold in 1958 by son Marshall who was past warden of York County.

This house is presumably over 100 years old and built of mud and straw, and has a metal sheet siding on in this picture. The house is now being completely renovated.



This is the original hotel, shown in the nearly 100 year old picture. It is now owned by Mrs. Reginal Case. This was once owned by John Watson, well known bridge builder. This house is to the north of Laskay Store; since this picture was taken, part of the back was removed and the 2-story barn is torn down.



This farm house has been owned by J.T. Hunter family since 1920 and had the crown deed taken out in 1802 by a Hannah Palmer. John Peterman was the owner when farm house was built.



LOTS 9 and 10 - Plan 167, Lot 4, Con. 6.

According to the Canada Directory 1857-58 an Alexander Malcomb was a store-keeper at Lot 4, Con. 6, King Township and later this property was part of the Reesor subdivision registered in 1867 as lots 9 and 10, plan 167.

Mr. Benjamin Rolling, a negro, had the Laskay P.O. in this one room store from 1884-98. Mr. Rolling was killed enroute from Toronto with his team of horses and wagon by a train. This ended the General Store and about 1903 Colin and Duncan Sinclair were granted 2/5 acre for \$900.00 and George and John Sinclair were credited with 1/5 acre and George operated a shoe store.

Miss Winnie Boys relates the following - "I believe the front of the house to be built about 1880 and when we moved in March 1916, Geo. Sinclair's shop was then at the fence, north of house, and my father, Wm. Boys, moved it to the back of the house and made from it a back kitchen and woodshed. He also added the closed-in-verandah, put in hardwood floors and plastered most of the house. The kitchen had been built first and was used as a school. Mrs. Wes. Hamilton who lived south of Temperance Hall, said she attended school there. There is a board over the north door with a sign cut in the wood, but paint obscures its reading. There was also a log cottage northwest of Boy's house and Geo. Sinclair's two sisters lived there. I can remember going there to have a dress made, but building gone before 1916." A barber shop was also known to be operated here.

Wm. Boys and Mary (McTavish) Boys retired to Laskay from their farm Lot 13, West half of Con. 5 in 1916 and this Laskay property remained in the Boys name till 1957, when the daughter Winnifred, a R.N. sold to Edward Arthur Payne and before 1960 was sold to R.H. Franklin.

Son Harold Boys served in the war of 1914/18. Son Fred carried on the farm till about 1951; he was the third generation, Isaac, Wm. and Fred.

In the 1950's Mrs. Boys and Winnifred sold a lot to the north of their house to Al. Loucks and built a house. Taxes in 1957 on the approximately (Boys) 166' x 147' lot were \$31.74.



LOT 13, 14, 15- Part of Lot 4, Con. 6.

Information acquired from Registry Office, Newmarket states that first Grantee mentioned 1/5 acre land sold to David Van Every - Consideration \$114. in Aug. 1860.

In 1862 1/5 acre granted to Thomas Cundle for \$200.00

In 1882 reg. 1884 grant ee - Alex Pattons - 3/5 acre lots, 13,14,15.

In 1884 - Grantee - Lucy McCallum

In 1886 - 3/5 acre granted to 1889, registered 1896 to Geo. Patton, son of Alex. Patton and remained in Patton name till 1938.

George Patton 1856-1937 married to Sarah Rickett 1860-1938.

Mr. George Patton served on Strange School Board for over thirty years as Secretary-Treasurer.

When Lucy McCallum lived here the log dwelling was burned down and old timers reported a house had been moved from near Temperanceville, on rollers to its present site, and has been added to since. The original house is of solid plank construction.

Mr. and Mrs. George Patton raised eight children and all received their education at Strange School.

Ethel the oldest daughter still lives at Ayr Ontario, (1966). The late Gladys lived at Kirkland Lake; Till a teacher died in British Columbia while living there. Bertha lives in Toronto, Vera (Mrs. Fred Boys) lives locally; Gertrude lived and died in 1965 at Kirkland Lake. There were two sons Edward and Earl who married two daughters of Garret Bleugh of Vaughan Township and have lived in Western Canada, Edward died in Edmonton 1965 and Earl formerly of Winnipeg now lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

Gertrude the youngest daughter of a family of seven, remained at home till after her Mother's death, when she sold to Norman and Norma Etheridge (Toronto).

Norman Etheridge a commercial photographer served in second world war 1939-45.

We would like to mention about the four Etheridge boys who have travelled extensively in their early years.

Arthur, an artist, travelled to England and worked there for the B.B.C. part time. He hitchhiked to France, Italy and Spain, living on the Island of Ibeza for several months. He also went to Israel, working on a Kibbuta communal farm and also in the original King Solomon copper mines, returning to England via Greece and Yugo-Slavia.

Charles joined the American Air force and eventually went to Japan for two years, where he travelled to Formosa, Thailand, the Phillipine Islands, Wake Island and Korea.

Norman joined the Royal Canadian Navy and was a graduate of the first Venture class at Esquimaalt. He became a naval pilot and has been around the American

Lot 13, 14, 15, Part of Lot 4, Con.6.

Continent on the Bonaventure, South American, West Indies, Norway, Denmark.  
Edward joined the Dept. of Highway on leaving school and was immediately  
sent to Morrisburg to work on the St. Lawrence Seaway. He later drove to  
B.C. and worked as a surveyor on the first trans-Canada Pipeline near  
Kenora. Later left for a two months walking tour of Ireland and England.

Picture taken by Norman  
Etheridge in 1960.



Part of Lot 4, Concession 6 - Mr. & Mrs. Harold Dean.

In 1948 Mr. & Mrs. Harold Dean of Toronto purchased about 5 acres of the Northwest corner of the Reesor subdivision, now known as Part of Lot 4, Concession 6.

In 1949 the Deans built a summer home 24' X24' of log siding. The builder was Mr. Benson, King City. Since then an outdoor swimming pool, change house and carport have been added.

Extensive gardening of vegetables and flowers has been kept up. In keeping with the log siding, the house is furnished likewise. There are a number of articles which belonged to Mrs. Dean's great grandmother, a Mrs. Norman, who lived on Concession 8, King Township. Helen Dean passed on December, 1964.

WEST Half of Lot 4, Concession 5.



On March 23rd, 1920, James T. and Ada Clarkson Hunter and their five children moved to the West Half of Lot 4, Concession 5, King Township, having purchased the farm from John A. Ireland.

Mr. and Mrs. Ireland and daughters Bertha and Margaret to Richmond Hill leaving the farm where he settled with his bride, Elizabeth Malloy in 1890. Three daughters Jean, Bertha and Margaret blessed their marriage.

The legal papers of the property revealed that John Ireland bought the farm from David Archibald. Previously in the eighteenth century, Peterman, Hollinshead, Sount and Wolverton were named owners. Lastly Hannah Palmer received the Patent of the 200 acres, the complete lot from the fifth concession to the sixth concession from the Crown in 1802. It is noteworthy that 8% interest on the mortgage appeared twice in the 1805's. The material for the brick house which is still the residence was purchased in 1852 and 1853 from Joseph Baldwin. The present barn was built in 1906. "A newspaper clipping of 1865 describes the farm as follows. The soil is of the best description and in a high state of cultivation, with an excellent orchard. There is a first class brick dwelling house, good buildings and fences on the premises and it is well watered! The Humber river crosses the <sup>South</sup> ~~North~~-west corner of the farm.

The farm has borne out the truth of the 1865 description and has and still is producing good crops and livestock. Grain grown has received prizes at Woodbridge Fair and livestock sold at the Toronto Stockyards has been mentioned on the Weekly morning Radio broadcasts.

WEST HALF OF LOT 4, CONCESSION 5, Cont'd.

Tax bills show that in 1922 the taxes were \$109.87 and in 1940, \$106.00

In 1951, Son Marvin Hunter and his wife Elsie Elliott Hunter built a two storey stucco house on the north west corner of the farm. Now their two children take a keen interest and delight in helping with the farm activities.

As well as earning a living from the farm, the aim has been, as in most farm homes of the district, to carry the best ancestral traditions into future community and family life.

Besides operating the farm, Marvin Hunter through the years has established his own business of Insurance agency. Marvin was, also, secretary-treasurer of Strange school for a number of years till school area began in 1965. Marvin and Elsie have two children, Beverly & Jummy.



LOT 5, Concession 6.

This farm of 200 acres was first deeded to John McCallum by the Crown. In 1846 it was handed down to his heir and in 1937 Donald McCallum of British Columbia sold his part, the rear 95 acres of Lot 5, Con. 5 to Leonard James Glass. This was in the McCallum name for 90 years.

John McCallum owned east part and Archibald McCallum owned the West part of which Donald was the last heir. The farm was rented to tenants many years before Leonard and Elsie (Scott) Glass moved from lot 6, Con. 6 to Lot 5, Con. 5 in 1951 and remodelled the house; sons, Leslie and Dorothy (Phillips) Glass and family; Raymond and Audrey (Eves) Glass and daughter Edythe and husband, Clyde Cairns and family had lived there for short periods.

Electricity was installed in 1945.

Taxes on the farm in 1960 - 80 acres - \$244.72.

In the early 1950's Leonard Glass subdivided the frontage of Lot 5, on east side on 6th Concession. The first house built by Earle Lowe about 1956 on a 2 acre lot. Now in 1966 there are seven houses on the ten lots.

In 1948 their daughter, Edythe and husband Clyde Cairns built a home on a lot about half way along King sideroad. They had three daughters, Margaret, Linda and Beth.

In 1957 the King Township administration building was erected on King sideroad beside the Cairns lot.

The Dept. of Highway acquired some land on the easterly side for highway 400 about 1945.

THE BLACKSMITH SHOP

"AN OLD LANDMARK"



Mr. Walter Monkman, Sr., The man at the buggy.

The horse and buggy owned by Rev. Robert Brydon, then, the Presbyterian minister, who also took the picture. The Brydon Boys are in the Buggy.

Mr. Joseph O'Brien - the smithy.

This blacksmith shop was located at the southwest corner of the 6th concession, King and King sideroad, at Lot 5, concession 6. Daniel O'Brien, father of Jos. O'Brien (in the Picture), established his business in King Township in 1854, after learning the trade of blacksmith at Pickering, Ontario. By strict attention, added to good workmanship, he built up a large and increasing trade. He was married to a daughter of Joseph Wood, township clerk, and they had nine children. The oldest son, Joseph, carried on the blacksmith shop till about 1935. Joseph's wife was a Brydon and was the first Laskay Institute President, died 1933. Joseph died in 1941 after a few years retirement at his sister's in Aurora. The blacksmith shop was torn down. According to King Township assessment roll, there was an inn at Lot 5, concession 6, One Mr. Garrett Blough was assessed as Innkeeper, in 1859.





Lot 10, Con. 6, Don Barker home



Lot 2, Con. 5, West half, Harold Dooks, built 1962.



Lot 5, west half, con. 5, A.J. Gordon, built in 1962.

- Lot 6 In September, 1840 Job Wells purchased the 200 acres from a James Case of Whitchurch Township.
- In 1880 at the death of Job Wells, the farms were divided between his two sons, Job, Jr., the east 90 acres and David, the west 85 acres; 25 acres having been sold separately at the east side.
- In 1890 George Lawson purchased the 175 acres and at his death in 1929, the farms passed on to his two sons; John S., the easterly half and Thomas H., the westerly section. At Thomas' death in 1943, the west portion is owned by son, Rergus, and John S. had formerly sold his farm and is now owned by Henry Borden of Toronto.
- Lot 7 In 1860 owned by Benjamin, Peter and Lafayette Carley. A dwelling house, now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Murdock. A Blacksmith shop, where Mr. Daniel O'Brien and his son, Joseph, worked early and late. The sound of the hammer on the anvil was sweeter than the honk of a horn on the motor car. It is said he knew the name of every horse shod by him. A frame and later a brick school were on the north side of the fence, the brick much farther north and east. The farm is now owned by Walter Monkman.
- Lot 8 Owned by David Dexter, who gave the land for the Wesleyan Church and a burying ground at the north east corner. Donald McCallum bought the farm about 1833 or 1834. Our great grandfather, Donald MacCallum, was called Chief MacCallum and had the first Post Office in King Township and was called "King". It was in the south front field on the east side of our farm.
- Donald MacCallum came to Canada in 1821. He lived for a short time in Maple, then bought the farm on the 6th for about \$1,200. The first store at Strange was built just south of the MacMurchy farm gate. Mrs. Hewitt had another store on the MacMurchy farm just north of Bishop's house.
- Lot 9 Was owned by Andrew Burns and family. Dr. Pinkerton, Veterinary, at King was a descendant.

Lot 10 Was owned by Arthie McCallum, who came from Scotland in 1831. There was a log blacksmith shop on the northwest corner of the farm, the last Smithy being Malcolm McMillan. Mr. Forrester is the present owner.

West Side

- Lot 6 The said lot was granted to John McMillan by the Honorable William Allan of Toronto from Canada Company from the Crown, March 4th, 1835.
- In 1837, for the sum of 242 (two hundred and forty-two) pounds the said land was deeded to George Simpson.
- In 1860 the farm was deeded to James M. Jenkins. I remember two other houses. One is still there, owned by Mrs. Smith. Mr. Jeffrey was living there during my school days. There were two shops owned and operated by Mr. Carson, a wheelwright; one shop being quite large. The upstairs was used as a paint shop and the downstairs for making wagons, buggies, etc.
- In March, 1905, it was deeded to Daniel Glass, and in February, 1913, deeded to Leonard James Glass; now occupied by his son, Aubrey.
- Lot 7 Owned by Mr. Marsh - lumberman. There were two houses, one in well known, Shingle Valley. Later owned by Charles and Morrison Archibald, then William Baldwin and now Mr. Henderson.
- Lot 8 Owned first by Mr. J. Marsh, then A. Lawrie Gillies, a sturdy Scotchman, and now by Alfred Gillham.
- Lot 8 Owned by James McCallum, who came from Scotland with the early pioneers. He brought up a large family and was never too busy to help a neighbour. There were three houses on the farm, their residence, one in Egypt and one near the Concession. Later Walter Ireland, his wife and family lived on the farm and the present owner is Stanley Kerr.
- Lot 9 A family squatted on the farm when when Wells & Machell bought it they had the family evicted. Wells & Machell opened up a good general store. Later Machell moved to Aurora. Wells rented the store, but the tenants didn't stay long, so it was closed for years.

ONE MILE AND A QUARTER NORTH ON CON. 5 (Continued)

Lot 9 In 1885 Alex. MacMurchy bought the farm. There were four houses on it not including the old brick, where his son, Norman now resides. Thomas Gillies bought the store and lot; opened up a general store; ran a dressmaking and millinery business and succeeded in getting a Post Office, "Strange", named for "Dr. Strange", who was the member for North York and should get the credit for the office. The mail came three days a week from King, the courier living in Nobleton. His route was through King Creek across to Laskay, Strange, then to King. Strange was the first served on the return trip. The three day a week was of short duration but a great convenience. In a few years, the route was changed and Nobleton and King Creek were served from Kleinburg, the first mail man being Samuel Carson, grandfather of the famous radio artist, Jack Carson. Mr. Carson lived almost across the road from S.S. No. 4. His route was Strange, Laskay and King and remained that way until the Rural Route System was established and the community was and is served from King Post Office, in 1949.

Names of different people who operated the Post Office were -- Mowat, Gillies, Chandler, Brown, and last was Mr. Robert Rutherford. The old store was burned and Mr. Rutherford built a new house and store; the store being closed, when Mrs. Rutherford passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Bullock are the present owners of the house, 1949.

Lot 10 Owned by Mr. Morton, farmer and weaver. He gave the land for the Presbyterian Church and Cemetery. The Stone church was built in 1860. Dr. Carmichael came to preach in this church in 1860 and preached for 50 years in this same church. He baptized, married and buried many people during his ministry. He is buried in the cemetery just south of the church beside his wife and sons, Professor Norman and Dr. Fergus Carmichael, both of whom preceded him. The farm on which the church stands was later owned by A. J. McCallum, a staunch Presbyterian, who brought up his family of seven in the Presbyterian faith. They were all faithful church workers. The present owner is Mr. Leatherdale.

Mrs. Alex MacMurchy.

Lot 6, Concession 6, King Township

Lot 6, Concession 6, A Crown deed was granted to John McMullan by the Honourable Wm. Allen of Toronto from the Canada Co. 1835. In 1837 for the sum of Two Hundred and forty-two pounds the said land was deeded to George Simpson.

In 1860 the farm was deeded to Wm. Jenkins, born in New York State, came to Canada in 1857, son of the late Rev. Wm. Jenkins. Rev. Jenkins was recorded as being the first ordained preacher in York County. Brother James Jenkins served in King Township as clerk for over thirty years. Benjamin, another brother invented the cow catchers on the front of the trolley cars and trains, and they are still being used.

The Jenkins farm was sold to Daniel Glass in 1905, who was born in Nova Scotia, and later in 1913 deeded to Leonard Glass, youngest son of the Glass family. Daniel Glass died in 1912. His wife, Elizabeth Lockwood came from Suffolk county, England at the age of one, lived for a time in Toronto, was three years old when Old Trinity Church, Toronto was built across the street from where she lived. Mrs. Daniel Glass was named Kings Grand old lady, having acquired the age of 97 years. She was well known for her fine needlework, still doing it at the age of 95, and was the Mother of nine children. Mrs. Glass died in 1939, and her one daughter Mrs. Chas. Neill (Olive Glass) at the age of 92 is the last surviving member of her family in 1966.

Leonard Glass bought another 90 acres, lot 5, west half of Con. 5, in 1936. Leonard and Elsie (Scott) Glass were parents of one daughter, Edythe, and three sons; <sup>Lesley, Raymond + Aubrey (Bot)</sup> Aubrey and Joyce (Marwood) Glass who live on the home farm, lot 6, operate the two farms and have a son, John and daughter, Mary.

In the year 1926 Leonard Glass built a red brick house to replace the log house. Mixed farming has been the general practice. There is some bush and a lake.

On the northeast corner of the farm a lot had been sold off, and in York county history it states that a Francis Attridge, established a carriage making business in 1883 where buggies and wagons were made downstairs and a paint shop upstairs. Other family names known to have lived there were Sam Carson; Alfred O'Deoo and family who later lived at Priceville. Mr. O'Dell lived to be over 90 years, died early 1966. Mrs. O'Dell was Strange school caretaker for a number of years. Mark Allan of Laskay lived there, Jack Smith and family came early in 1940 and Mrs. Smith sold to Don Hutchinson in 1962 and now lives at Lot 3, Con. 7. Don Hutchinson made alterations to the house and sold in 1966 to John Manson, School Teacher, <sup>Township.</sup> North York. The Hutchinsons were owners of King City Hardware and moved to Tilbury, South-western, Ontario.

LOT 6, CONCESSION 5, King Township.

Lot

THE crown deed for 106, con. 5, King Township was patented March 12, 1797 to Edward Wright, consisting of 200 acres. In 1804 owner became Cartwright. In 1815 Mary Dobbs, followed by James case of Whitchurch township who sold the 200 acres to Job Wells in 1840. At death of Job Wells in 1880 the 200 acres was divided between his two sons, Bob. Jr. receiving the East 90 acres and David the west 85 acres as Robt. Pease had purchased 25 acres at the 5th con. corner and later owned by David Deather



Co., later of Newmarket. In later years property was bought back by one of the Davis family and called memory acres.

In the year 1890 the farms changed hands again to George Lawson, who purchased the 175 acres for \$14,000.00 and at his death in 1929 the farms passed on to his two sons, John the easterly portion and Thomas the westerly 98 acres. At Thomas' death his farm was handed down to his only son George Fergus. Thus the westerly portion has been in the Lawson name from 1890 till now 1966.

George Lawson 1847-1929 was born in Richmond Hill, came to King Township in his early years to lot 10, near Con.6 with his parents Thos. Lawson, 1821-1889, and Janet 1827-1863.

Janet Manderson 1844-1925, born in Kelso Scotland, came to Canada at age of 4 with her parents John and Isabel Manderson. The trip was made in a sailing vessel. The family first settled in King Township later to Reach Township.

George Lawsons' retired to village life in King City in 1911..

Their family -	Isabella	married	John L. Ferguson	)
	John	"	Hannah Forsyth	)
	Thomas	"	Ada J. Ferguson	( All born at Lot 10, rear
	Elizabeth	"	Ernest D. Glass	Concesion 6.

Thomas' family born here - Velma married Howard Neill

Adella " Pearson Smeltser

Fergus

## JOHN ARCHIBALD AND HIS DESCENDANTS

The story of how my great-grandfather came to leave Scotland, and settle in America is as follows.

My great-great-grandfather was a teacher of mathematics at Edinburgh University. His son, my great-grandfather John Archibald came from Edinburgh, Scotland when a boy of about thirteen in 1740. His Father had apprenticed him to a cheese maker to learn that worthy trade.

His master did not give him sufficient food to eat, so as he worked with the cheese, once in a while he would take a lump of curd and eat it. His master told his father, who gave him a very severe thrashing. After that happened he made up his mind to leave his place, so he ran away and getting aboard a British Man-o'-war as a stow-away, came to New York, New England States, where in the harbor he gave the sailors the slip and got away.

He first lived at Fish Kill's, New York, but what happened after that until the war of Independence broke out in 1775 is unknown to me. At that time it is said, he lived on and owned a large farm, somewhere, either where the city of Philadelphia now stands, or near to that city (and was married to an English girl by the name of Tait). They called it the forks of the Delaware River.

When the war broke out, he decided to take neither part in it, but while working in the fields on his farm, he was shot at several times by an enemy among the rebel soldiers. Then he made up his mind to join the Loyalists, leaving his wife and family on the farm.

Sometime after, while out with a scouting party, he was taken prisoner, handcuffed and marched away between two soldiers. Night came on. It became very dark. As they were going through a forest he thought he would take a chance for his life, because to go on with them as prisoner, meant certain death. So he broke away, made a dash through the trees, was missed by the shots fired at him, ran for a while, dropped down on the ground and lay still, scarcely breathing; fearful of making a noise. In vain they searched all around for him, almost stepping on him. Finally they gave up the search, thinking they had either killed him, or he had got beyond their hearing. They were forced to go on, being in the lines of the Loyalists army. After waiting a long while until they were out of hearing, (the minutes seeming like hours) he got up and wandered aimlessly around in the darkness, but finally had to ~~xx~~ lie down and wait for daylight.

When morning came he knew not where he was, or where to go for safety

and moreover, how to get the irons off his hands. Wet, shivering, and numbed with the cold and also hungry, he decided to trust in Providence and go to one of the houses that he could see in a clearing. Fortunately he met with sympathy, and the women of the house filed the hand-cuffs off. Once more he was free!

After many difficulties he found his way home. There he left his son Jesse to take care of the farm, while he with his wife and the rest of the family came as United Empire Loyalists to Nova Scotia, 1783. They lived at Digby Point or Digby Neck.

When the war was over and the treaty signed in 1783, leaving his children in Nova Scotia he and his wife started to go back to look after his affairs and see their son who had been left on the farm in Pennsylvania. The ship that they sailed on was wrecked on the Bay of Fundy, and neither they nor their son Jesse was ever heard of again.

John Archibald Senior or 1 had six children born in Pennsylvania, James, Jesse, John Junior or 2, David, Margaret and Mrs. Morill, name thought to be Susan or Sarah.

One son, possibly James settled on the St. Lawrence River in Ontario. He was a blacksmith by trade. During the war 1812 the Americans put a cable across the St. Lawrence to stop the British gun boats and so train their guns on the British. He went down between the two fires, to the river, and cut the cable with a cold chisel. Another son fought at Queenston Heights. (more likely John Jr's. son Alexander.)

John Junior, my grandfather who was born in 1770, married Elizabeth Teed in Digby, Nova Scotia, 1794, migrated to the town of York in Upper Canada in 1811. He took up land in Vaughan township, two hundred acre lot 25, Concession 4, July 22, 1811, from James Nevins, otherwise called James Lacquith, for fifty-six pounds, five shillings. James Nevins bought from Peter Musselman, Junior, January 26, 1810. This was registered by Thomas G. Ridout, County of York. The Crown deed was dated 1808 (before this)

The house which grandfather built is still standing, and is over one hundred years old. That was the house in which my father was born 1814. It was built of elm logs, and is now used as an out building on the old farm.



Grandfather was buried on the same farm in the grave\*yard of a Primitive Methodist Church, of which he was a member. The site, three acres, the first in the district, he gave to that society. This was a log church built about 1828 at the halfway mark on the Teston side road between the fourth and fifth concessions.

One of grandfather's sons, my father, David Archibald was a local preacher, and at the early age of eighteen years on the suggestion of Colonel O'Brien, of the Primitive Methodists, Thornhill, was put on "The Plan" for the circuit, which included Teston, Laskay and Markham, becoming a Circuit Rider. Here it was at Mark ham he met his future wife, my Mother Catherine Buckendol whom he married in 1838.

The primitive methodists of England then, held their first conference in 1854 in Canada, When the Markham circuit was changed to Laskay Circuit. The Primitive Methodists joined the Wesleyans in 1884.

Grandfather John Archibald 2nd was noted as a hard working industrious farmer. With open-hearted benevolence he was ever ready to help the needy. The trail through the woods passed by his home to the townships farther back and settlers travelling by, to their own homesteads (when benighted) he would keep over night, feeding their horses, oxen or cattle free of any charge.

There is an episode in connection with this which happened in the year 1832, a year of one of the very bad cholera epidemics. A many very sick and ill called to stay over night, but unfortunately, during the night passed away. They didn't even know who he was, although he was known to have a considerable sum of money in his belt. However, fearful of the cholera, which he may have had, a grave was dug in the orchard and the man, money, bed clothes and all were hurriedly buried the next day.

One hundred and seven acres of the farm, lot 25, con. 4, Grandfather had sold to Joe Rimnic, three acres given for the church and in his will, which by the way was registered by one of the first citizens of the Town of York, W m. Chewitt., John Archibald 2nd willed the remaining east ninety acres evenly to his sons Alexander Samuel Thomas. (Thomas, died in 1842 before his Father and Mrs. Cryderman claimed it as his daughter).

In 1839, he had bought one hundred acres in King township, the west half, lot eight, Con. seven from Jesse Kinnee of Vaughan for Two hundred and fifty pounds, also held a bond for the east half of the same lot for one Hundred and eighty-seven pounds, which later he took over

land values rose fast then.

My Father inherited this farm on the eight of King; it was later passed on to his son Robert, then later to his son George. Grandfather lived there with my Father, David, after he purchased it, until his death in 1842, and was buried in the graveyard of the little log church in Vaughan which he had given to the Primitive Methodists, about 14 years before.

Father being the youngest had the old people to look after in their old age. Grandmother died in 1845. Grandfather had also bought farms on the twelfth and thirteenth of King, also the farm, lot ten on the south west of the eight concession, where his son John lived, and later his son Edward. A church site was given on the twelfth and also one on the eight concession, lot 10, on the south east corner of the farm, a frame church.

The children of John Archibald 2nd and Elizabeth Teed;

Francis born 1795, married David Wait Sweet, died 1861

Alexander " 1798 " Sarah Clement " 1850

Margaret " 1800 " " 1801

Samuel " 1802 " Jemina Kinee " 1873

Elizabeth " 1804 " Able Kinee " 1873

Susan " 1806

Thomas " 1808 " Elizabeth Bretenton " 1842

John 3rd " 1811 " Mary Anne Cameron  
Emma Pane " 1891

David " 1814 " Catherine Buckendol " 1893

Joanna " 1816 " David C. Hill  
Charles Hickling " 1897

The children of my father David Archibald 2nd and Catherine Buckendol

are:  
George " 1839, July 29, died Aug. 14, same year.

Anne " 1840, married Daniel Cameron

Susanna " 1842 - died 1860

David James 3rd, born 1845 - died 1850

Robert Coursin, born 1848, married Martha Readmond

Lydia Elizabeth, born 1849 - married John Egan - died

Mary Anne, born 1850, married Wm. Lyons - died 1936.

Charles Henry, born 1853, married Mary Anne Dyke - died Nov. 8, 1943

" " " " - died ~~Nov 12, 1946~~ June 12, 1946.

JOHN ARCHIBALD AND HIS DESCENDANTS cont'd. - 5-

Joanna born 1857 - married Walter Ireland - died 1938

David Morrison - born 1860 - married Lizzie Boyd - died 1943  
" Sarah Cairn  
" " died 1944.

Father seemed to be the most noted character in the family of John Archibald, Jr. or the 2nd. He was enterprising and successful in his business undertakings. He took the first newspaper in the neighbourhood "The Globe" and as not everybody could read or write in those days, he read the news by candlelight to the neighbours in the evenings as they gathered at our home on the eighth of King. He also did clerical work for them. They came too, to see his grain binder, a Patterson work, one of the first in those parts. They cut grain on their three farms. The first round in a field was invariably cradled, but when at last to save time, I started into a field, and cut that first round with the binder, although there were many protests, at the trampled grain under the horses feet, it was never again cradled by hand.

When Father died on the sixth of King township in 1893, he owned six hundred and thirty acres in that township.

As written and told by Charles H. Archibald, April, 1910,

Lot 7, Concession 6, Strange, Ont. Later of King City, Ont.

William Baldwin (father of Ruth Baldwin) came to Canada at age 11. His mother died at his birth. His father remarried and came to Woodville, Ontario and worked at mill business. His father had been here one year and died suddenly. William got his school education and came to Laskay in 1885 and stayed till 1888, working for Henry Baldwin, his second cousin, at the woollen mill. His grandfather was William Baldwin, brother to Joseph Baldwin, who came out from England to Laskay.

William worked at the mill at Bolton about three years and then farmed at Kinghorn (Davis Farm) from 1902 to 1920. Then he moved to Strange, Lot 7, west half of Concession 7 and retired to Aurora in 1946.

Mr. & Mrs. William Baldwin celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1948.

George Simpson Baldwin, who lived in Tom and Agnes Walker's house, brother to Henry, moved to Aurora to run the mill there. His son, George, and grandson was Gordon, who gave us early pictures of Laskay.

A Mr. Graham, who ran the woollen mill for a while, was related to Dr. William Baldwin's wife (Anderson). Dr. William Baldwin was the son of William Baldwin of Laskay and Strange.

Abraham Carley came to Canada from New York state in 1831. He settled near Thornhill, was successful at farming and later bought 200 acres of bush land on Lot 7, Concession 5. With the assistance of his sons he cleared and cultivated the land. In 1864 he died, leaving seven children and had a prosperous career.

Benjamin Carley was born in New York state in 1814. When he was 17 years old, he came to Canada. In 1837 he married Martha Clark, originally from Pennsylvania, and lived on the home farm, Lot 7 Con. 5. His family consisted of ten children.

A. D. Carley was born in 1846 on the farm at Lot 7, Con. 5. He was the son of Peter B. Carley, who inherited his grandfather's farm mentioned above and added 25 acres. Peter took no part in the 1837 Rebellion, but narrowly escaped being killed by a mob of men armed with clubs. In 1872 Peter died aged 56 years. He left nine children. A. D. Carley inherited the old homestead, 75 acres and worked an adjacent 100 acres. In 1875 he married Miss Dutcher of Innisfil. They had two children, William B. and Francis A. O.

LOT 8, CONCESSION 6.

Maple Lane Farm, east-half of lot 8, concession 6, King Township was purchased in October 1964 by the Hendersons whose farms adjoin Alfred and Elizabeth Gillhams.

Elizabeth, an elementary school teacher in King Township was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew McClure.

The Gillhams bought the farm in 1945 from Mrs. Jean Gillies, after her husband John died. Terms were cash for 60 acres at \$100.00 an acre.

A barn was built in 1870 and another one was raised on July 7th, 1913. A picture of the barn raising supper tells the story. The house is of frame construction. Water is pumped from shallow wells.

The telephone was installed in 1913 and electricity in 1930.

At one time on this property there were two brickyards. When trees were being cut into lumber, one tree measuring 4' across made 2100 feet, a record for maple.

Mixed farming has been done and Alfred kept bees.

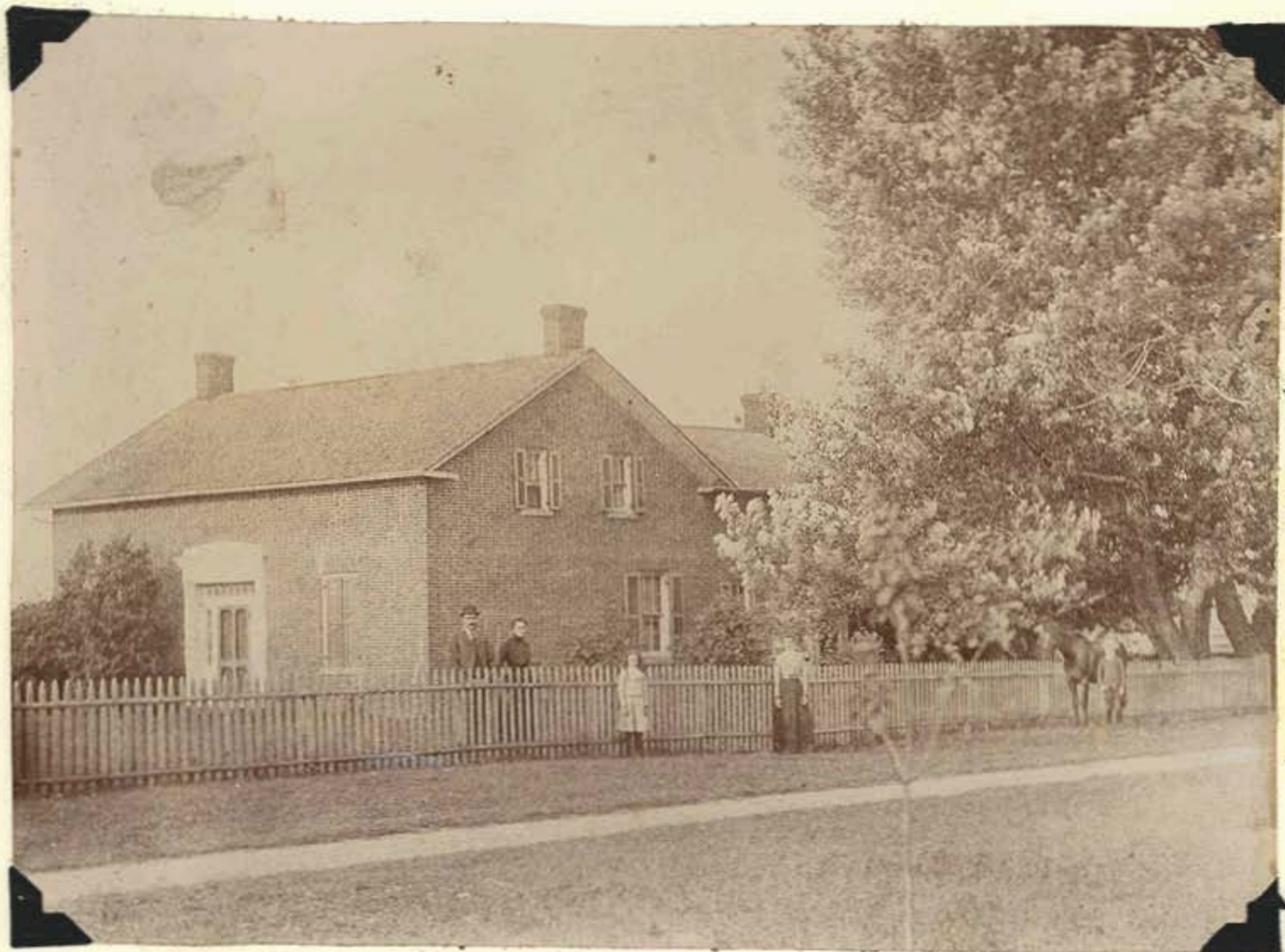
Taxes amounted to \$204.00 in 1960.

Mr. John Gillies collected money and Indian souvenirs, and his wife left a collection of 1750 pieces of china including an unique collection of jugs from all over the world which went to Ontario Museum in Toronto at her death.



THE MACMURCHY HOMESTEAD

The red brick house still in good use in 1966, was built in 1859 by a Wm. Wells. Norman relates that all the building material for this house came off the farm; the bricks were made in the field south of the barn and you can see where the old lime kiln was near the road south of the orchard. Lumber from timber on the farm was most likely sawed at Marsh's mill on Lot 7, Con. 6.



Norman MacMurchy - Elizabeth McCallum

parents of

Alexander MacMurchy - Agnes McCallum

parents of

1. Norman MacMurchy - Pearl Teale
2. Ouida MacMurchy - Albert Hill - Nobleton
3. Margaret MacMurchy - Dr. R.M. Lymburner - Hamilton.

Ouida and Margaret were both Public School teachers.

Mr. Norman MacMurchy submitted this information for Laskay Tweedsmuir History Book, 1966.

Lot 9, Concession 6 - 1885-1961.

Lot 9, Con. 6, King township, the said east half 100 acres was granted by the crown to Richard Machell in 1839 and in 1840 William or "Squire" Wells as he was better known, purchased the 100 acres from his father-in-law Richard Machell, "Machell's corners", now Aurora for 252 pounds or about \$1100.00

It was Mr. Well's ambition to start a town and he built a store at the road, south of the laneway in 1841. Some years later he moved the store a few rods north to the site it occupied until burned in 1922. On the northerly site the store was enlarged and quite a large house was built at the back (picture elsewhere in this book)

The store was stocked with groceries, hardware, boots, shoes and about everything needed in those pioneer days. There was also a dressmaker and millinery shop. Norman MacMurchy still has an account book dated 1846 from this store.

The farmers traded their produce for goods, eggs by the dozen and butter by the pound for a York shilling or 12½¢. Cow hides, calf skins and wool were also traded. One item a plow sold for four lbs., two shillings. Whiskey was even sold at two shillings or .50¢ a gallon., and rumors were, there was a barrell of whiskey in the store room with a tin cup hanging for customer's use.

Later when a Mr. Mowat operated the store he had a bakery. In the 1840's there were four other homes built along the front of lot 8. One house owned by Mary Howitt contained a small store, this house later torn down by Alex. MacMurchy.

Mr. Wells' hopes of a town were shattered when the railroad went through King City in 1853 and he sold the farm to his eldest son, Wm. Wells, who kept it til 1885, when Alexander MacMurchy purchased the farm for \$7,600.00

Alexander MacMurchy was the son of Norman and Elizabeth (McCallum) MacMurchy of New Scotland lot 13, Concession 7, King township. The MacMurchy family emigrated to Canada in 1840. The farm stayed in the MacMurchy name till 1961, when Alexander's son-Norman sold the farm to Stanley Kerr, who also owned Lot 8, and son Douglas Kerr's family live in the old MacMurchy homestead.

Mrs. Alexander (A gnes) MacMurchy was the daughter of the late Peter McCallum who lived nearby at lot 8 west half of Con. 5, and was an active community church and Institute worker.

Mr. Alexander MacMurchy played a very prominent part in municipal life; as a member of council first in 1903, later reeve for some years and the highest award when chosen warden of York county in 1913. He played an active part in York county council for eight years. After a short retirement he was again found in the Reeves' chair, and totalled 18 years in local council life.



LOT 9, Concession 6, 1885-1961. cont'd.

His son Norman followed in his father's footsteps and participated in municipal office for thirteen years. Norman is a member of the Masonic Order. Needless to say this agricultural farm was always kept in operation. Norman and his wife Pearl Teale (Carleton Place) reserved a lot on the northeast corner of the farm and built a modern red brick home about 1961-62 beside the old Stone church. Besides the store and Norman's new house there still are two houses on the southeast corner of the farm.

STRANGE STORE AND POST OFFICE



Robert Rutherford purchased Strange Store in 1895 from a Mr. Brown.

Mr. Rutherford kept bees and sold the honey in his store. In 1922 the house and store were wiped out by fire. This building was replaced by a new house and a store. The store was confined to one room in the new home.

Strange store closed in 1941.

There was also a Post Office for many years and no doubt would be closed about 1926 when Rural Mail Delivery came to Road mail boxes.



Robert Rutherford and his model-T Ford Car taken 1916 in front of Presbyterian Manse - Strange.

WILLIAMSTOWN - STRANGE.

In 1840 William or Squire Wells purchased 100 acres, east half of Lot 9 Con. 6 King, from his father-in-law, Richard Machell, who had received the crown grant in 1839. It was Mr. Wells' ambition to start a town, so he built a store south of laneway in 1841 on the 6th concession road. Some years later he moved the store a few rods north of the site which it occupied until the store and house were burned in 1922.

In the 1840's four other houses were built, one of which included another store which was short lived and torn down in 1880. Mr. Wells' hopes of a town were shattered when the railroad went through King City in 1853. Mr. Wells then took over the farm until 1885 when it was sold to Alexander MacMurchy.

Robert Rutherford purchased the store in 1895 from a Mr. Brown. Mr. Rutherford kept the store well stocked with groceries, hardware, boots, etc. and in exchange hides, calfskins, wool, butter and eggs were brought in. At one time, whiskey sold at two shillings a gallon and a tin cup hung on a barrel in the back of the store. A bakery existed one time in the history of the store and the Rutherford daughters carried on a Millinery and Dressmaking business in the home.

This town was first called Williamstown and changed to Strange about 1879, named after Dr. Strange M.D. of Aurora Conservative Leader in North York Riding. The first Post Office in King Township was called King and Donald (Chief) McCallum was it's postmaster on Lot 8, west half of Concession 5. Later the Post Office was at Strange Store and Post Masters were Mowat, Gillies, Chandler, Brown and Rutherford.

Early records state that Francis Attridge established a carriage making business in 1883. Buggies and wagons were made downstairs and a paint shop was upstairs at the east half of Lot 6, Concession 6. Sam Carson, besides being a rural mail carrier, also carried on the wheelwright business. His grandson was the late Jack Carson of Hollywood fame.

Brick yards have been reported on Lots 7,8 and 9 west side of the 6th Concession.

Daniel O'Brien established a blacksmith shop in 1854 at Lot 7, west half Concession 5. Later he and his eldest son, Joseph carried on their business at the corner of Lot 5, Con. 6 until Joseph's retirement in 1935. Mr. Joe O'Brien or Spurgeon, as nearly everyone called him, kept

posted on all the local news at the "Old Forge".

Mrs. Joseph O'Brien was the first Laskay Women's Institute President.

Malcolm McMillan was the last reported Smithy to operate in a log shop at Lot 10, west half of Concession 5,

Some local names for individual places in and around Strange included - Vinegar Hill, Velvet Hill, Egypt and Scripture Town.

Lot 7, east half of Concession 6, now known as Hawthorn Hills Farm can claim three notable people who have made their mark in the world.

Rev. Herbert Archibald first went out to India in 1913 and spent twenty-seven years in missionary service in that country. Mr. Archibald passed on to greater service in 1966.

Dr. W. W. Baldwin, who graduated in 1930's has been the local practitioner in Brooklin, Ontario, since his graduation, and became the 80th President of the Ontario Medical Association in 1959-60.

Mrs. D. C. Henderson, now residing on the Hawthorn Hills Farm, has had a profound interest in Christian education and refugee work, also a very avid worker of the United Nations Association, Toronto and York Branches.

Mrs. Henderson, a world traveller, a scholar and teacher of a Universal language -- "Esparanto" is also an author of books, including "Greater Glory" and "People Have Power".

## PIONEER DAYS

One of the few farms on the 6th of King, still farmed by a descendant of the pioneers, is Lot 15, Con. 6 farmed and owned by Donald Gillies. He has the crown deed that his Grandfather received when he bought the farm in 1850.

The first owner of this land, Lawrie Gillies, was a Scotch immigrant, who had saved enough money from herding cattle in Scotland, to buy a passage to Canada. He started on foot to buy land to settle, walking from Richmond Hill, to find the land, Lot 15, Con. 6.

He started clearing the bush land and lived alone here for two years, then married Jane Craik, a native of Scotland. They had a hard, lonely life, as pioneers did, plenty of hard work and not much money, but plenty of ambition.

The woods were full of wild animals and the supply of food was replenished by walking to Richmond Hill and carrying the groceries home in a pack on the back.

In 1895, the second son, Robert C. Gillies, married and took over the task of clearing and farming this land, where he lived all his life -- 78 years. He died in 1933 and the farm was taken over by his son, Donald.

Lot 16, rear Con. 5 - Gillham Homestead

Mr. George Gillham pioneered the 200 acre farm at Lot 16, Con. 5 (rear) and received the crown grant. The farm later became handed down to Lewis (son), who lived all but nine of his eighty-four years on the homestead. Then his son, William, lived there for about seven years. The Lewis Gillham family lived at an Eversley Farm for seven years, thence retiring to Aurora two years before his death in 1956. Lewis was married to Sarah Jane Ash of Whitchurch Township and they celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1954.

The following information was given by Wing Commander R. A. Stubbs, who purchased 50 acres of the Gillham farm in 1952 at \$125.00 an acre. The present cement house (40 X 30) was built in 1900 by Lew Gillham. A barn (100 X 40) was built in 1926. There is a cement cistern and a shallow well - stoned. Electricity was installed about 1949. A summer kitchen was renovated with wooden siding in 1926. Ten acres to the north were reforested in 1940 and 4 more acres in 1960. Present acreage - 36 acres in 1960. Taxes in 1950 - \$52.00 -- in 1960 - \$220.00. Name of farm - Wendy Ridge - well named for its location.

## KNOLLWOOD FARM

"Knollwood Farm" was acquired and named by the Fraser Grant family in 1936. At times, it has included about 180 acres in the East Halves of Lots 16 and 17 in the Seventh Concession, a few acres in Lot 16 of the Sixth and a stretch of the original Seventh Concession which was "detoured" many years ago to skirt the steel hill over the "watershed" between Lakes Ontario and Simcoe. The lands adjoined "Kelly Lake" and the "New Scotland Sideroad", -so named from the school built in 18 , between the East and West Halves of Lot 16.

The previous owners were several members of the Douglas family, who lived and farmed in the seventh concession. The Grants purchased the East Half of Lot-17, from Clifford Douglas in 1936 and the remainder, at different times, from Frederick William Douglas and his widow, formerly Rose May Jarvis. At that time, the only buildings were a two-story frame house and a stone-and-frame barn on Lot 17, built around the turn of the Century. The wells of those times still serve the properties and the "New Scotland" School; and, conspicuously visible throughout the valleys across to Bolton and the Albion Hills, are the "Hilliard Pines".

Before the Douglas family - and during their earlier tenancies, was an owner of Lot 16, Donald Bowie, by name - who surprisinly disappeared from those parts for a quarter-century, - who cased his rent cheques, ultimately mailed in a Deed to Frederick Douglas, and never returned. About that time Mr. Douglas bought the West half of Lot 17 from his wife's (Jarvis) family. Meanwhile, early in this century, East-Seventeen was acquired by one Joseph Parker, a master carriage builder of Oshawa, who turned to farming because he couldn't believe in the future of the automobile.

In the 'thirties, the Grants renovated and enlarged the farm-house and barn and built the steel (Peatty-Brothers) riding-stable, riding-arena, and implement shed in Lot 17, now (1953) owned by Mr. Laurence J. McGuinness. The buildings were erected by the "Saints". -those then famous brothers, Art and Len Saint. As a sample of those remarkable master-craftsmen of King Township,- on Monday they started the excavation for a 110-foot long four-level Council standar steel implement-shed, finished it Friday with time to build a complete new roof on the farm-house and moved their equipment in time to start a new job across the Township on Monday morning. These were giants in the land in those days!

KNOLLWOOD FARM - 2

During the years 1936 to 1953, Lot 17 was used for (a) mixed farming, including various crops; and riding-trails (b) raising, pasturing and training saddle-horses and ponies, and for breeding and pasturing sheep, and for poultry. The "Knollwood" part of Lot 16 was - and still is - used for the family's living cabins, garage, swimming pool, and in the Easterly part, for the home of the farm-manager, and a composite steel barn housing box-stalls, tack-room, garage and storage. Latterly the "ponds" by the side-road have been cleaned, enlarged, graded and seeded. Telephone and electric wires have been put underground. And throughout both lots many thousands of trees were planted, - most of them now full grown - for soil-conservation and for beautifying the landscape. In 1953, Lot 17, including all of the riding-stables, etc., was sold to Mr. McGuinness, who now maintains it for his new residence and his farm.

Lands and buildings of King Township would be dull statistics without the "Stories" of its people. For instance, no sketch of these parts should omit "The Kellys", that amazingly durable father-and-son team, - Archibald, Sr. and Jr., - who named "Kelly Lake", lived by it from the Grant by the Crown until 1935. They almost spanned three centuries and left only one registration on the title, - the will from father to son. Their housekeeper, Margaret Mitchell, survived briefly to eighty-eight. The Kellys told the Douglasses that they had to clear some of the hills for farming because so much of the valley was covered by small lakes and streams. A nti-Conservationists take notice!

Another stalwart character and next door neighbour of "Knollwood" was Mark Gillham, who worked several farms as a widower in his eighties. He fell and broke a hip in his stable yard in sub-zero temperature, was found the next day living on frozen eggs, threw off frost bite and pneumonia and was preparing to go home, when he died of a heart attack.

"Knollwood" Farm throughout its twenty-five years and through three generations has been guided and "cared-for" by its two bachelor "originals", - Clifford Douglas and Victor Cull of the 5th Concession, Newr Kinghorn. Clifford Douglas died in 1965.

This information was prepared and given to us February 10, 1961 by Mr. W.G.Fraser Grant, 9 Highland Ave. Toronto 1,. In his letter he mentions that his wife's Father, was born in Lloydtown (The Hon. H.C.Schofield) where his Father was a practicing physician and surgeon. He died (Dr. Schofield) as a young man and his family moved to Toronto.





The Marshall re-union at Duncan McMurchy's on July 1, 1914, at which all were present except Will MacCallum.

Standing at back; left

Colin Campbell holding Ruth (Mrs. Tankard), Mary McMurchy (Marwood), Aubrey Marshall, Mrs. Albert Marshall (Jenny), Albert Marshall, Frank Marshall, Mrs. Frank Marshall (Florence), Duncan McMurchy, Mrs. Art Marshall (Elizabeth), Art Marshall.

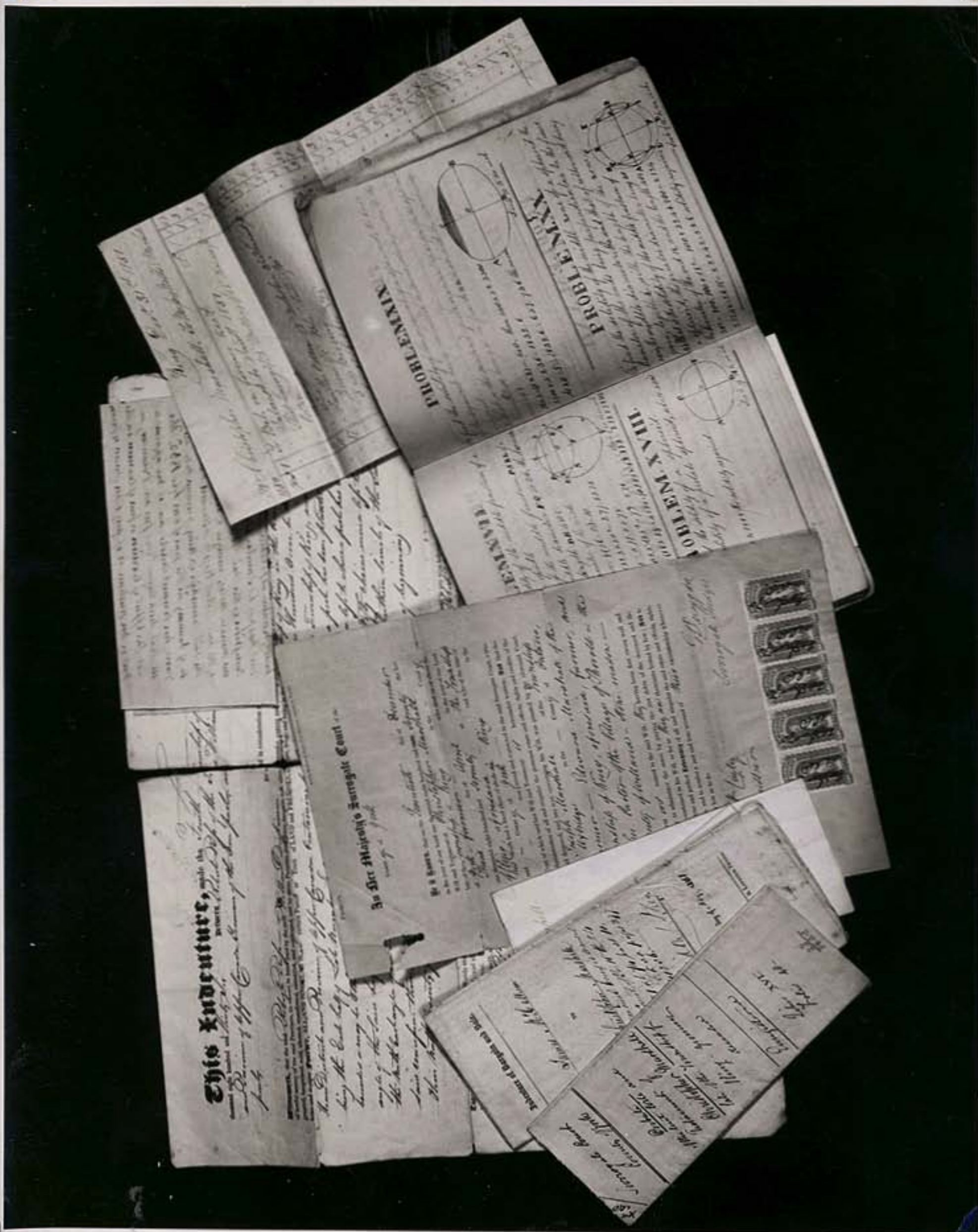
Seated; (left to right)

Mrs. Colin Campbell (Ella), holding Marshall Campbell, Mrs. Neil MacCallum (Louise) holding Irene (Mrs. Geo. Boone) and Kenneth, Edward Marshall, Mrs. Ed. Marshall (Margaret Carson), Mrs. Duncan McMurchy (Annie)

Front Row:

Raymond Marshall, Margaret MacCallum, Marjorie McMurchy, Evelyn MacCallum (Mrs. Ken Jones) Aileen Marshall (Mrs. Jack McDonald) Marshall McMurchy

Absent; Will Mac Callum.



This collection of papers is in possession of Mrs. Irene (Marshall) Polliott, and had belonged to her Grandfather and great-grandfather. The geometry workbook was compiled in 1849 and is in excellent condition. It was highly recommended by a Notary Public - J.M. Walton.

## THE MUD HOUSE

I sipped Chinese tea and ate little cakes as I looked across miles of green woodland when recently I had the opportunity of visiting with Blair Acton Burroughs, probably the only woman in Canada who has built her own house, not from bricks, cement or lumber, but constructed of earth from her own property. This unique process is called 'pise de terre' which means earth rammed between forms until it is hard as stone and rings like a bell.

Miss Burrows had lived in the city for a number of years, when a friend told her about a farm for sale near King. She had not wanted as large a piece of land, but 'just a little plot of land somewhere in this wide Dominion'. On a snowy day she came up to look at it. Soon after, the 50-acre property became hers. It is located on the sixth concession, north of the King sideroad. The problem now arose about constructing a house both durable and economical.

Examples of earth dwellings had been examined in Normandy and Spain, where Hannibal's walls still stand also houses in the Valley of Rhone which are 600 to 900 years old. Miss Burrows found another advantage of the pise de terre construction is its warmth. It prevents absorption of heat in summer and cold in winter. It is much dryer and warmer, and on account of dry earth absorbing moisture, conditions its rooms, which other building materials do not do. After consulting many books on the subject, she decided to build her own house.

Miss Burrows, a carpenter and two boys, set to work in June 1937. All were skeptical but determined. Many vicissitudes interrupted work, such as the carpenter being called on jury duty which lasted five weeks, but the main room was completed by the time snow fell. This was essential as work must be done in dry weather with dry earth.

The fireplace and chimney went up first, along with the foundation, both made of stone from the property. Then forms were set up for the earth. When these were taken down, Miss Burrows went along the wall poking earth into the holes left by the bolts. The walls are twenty inches thick. Trim is wood from the property and the beams in the living room are B.C. fir. Walls were whitewashed according to a government recipe, using skim milk and shutters were painted a French blue. Trim was given two applications of used crankcase oil, coloured with a little lampblack and yellow ochre, creating a deep, rich brown colour. At first the roof was thatched, but when Miss Burrows took up permanent residence, she had the roof shingled in pale grey.

The surprise came when I remarked on the beautiful setting of

### THE MUD HOUSE Cont'd.

the house among fir trees and how it fitted in so well with the landscape. Miss Burrows told me that it had been a bare hill and all the trees and shrubs had been planted. During the war, she had grown potatoes at the bottom of the hill, but since the new road went through, she had let the underbrush grow up so the view wouldn't be marred by the sight of cars racing along the road. However, the old road remains, curving in front of her house, banked on each side by silver birch and dense foliage. This was, at one time, the road Governor Simcoe used to travel from Toronto to the north, as is explained in the book 'French Regime in Canada'.

Main advantage in building one's own home," said Miss Burroughs, "is the psychological satisfaction of using materials from your own land and actually putting up walls and trim yourself. Then you know exactly what goes into the house and as you sit back in front of a blazing fire in the stone fireplace, you can remember the stages of building with its joy, sorrows and setbacks and then, the final joy of completion.

After the completion of her home, Miss Burrows wrote a booklet for the Department of Lands and Forests called "Pise de Terre, Rammed Earth Construction", which made it possible for anyone interested in building a home of this type of house to have advantage of her experience. Many houses in South Dakota have been built in this manner because natural resources are plentiful.

As I left the cool interior of the house and ventured in the heat of the afternoon, a breeze blew the delicate fragrance of fir and pine which mingled with the smell of mint as I walked across the plants creeping in profusion over the stone walk. I turned again to wave goodbye and again viewed the white house, set in lovely green trees, with curving stone walks and rustic fences, living again as I drove away, my interesting afternoon with a charming person.

(This article was written by Beverly Smith for one of the local papers).

## “FOREWORD”

I am so glad to hear that the Women's Institutes of Ontario are going to compile village history books. Events move very fast nowadays; houses are pulled down, new roads are made, and the aspect of the countryside changes completely sometimes in a short time.

It is a most useful and satisfying task for Women's Institute members to see that nothing valuable is lost or forgotten, and women should be on the alert always to guard the traditions of their homes, and to see that water colour sketches and prints, poems and prose legends should find their way into these books. The oldest people in the village will tell us fascinating stories of what they remember, which the younger members can write down, thus making a bridge between them and events which happened before they were born. After all, it is the history of humanity which is continually interesting to us, and your village histories will be the basis of accurate facts much valued by historians of the future. I am proud to think that you have called them “The Tweedsmuir Village Histories”.

—Written by Lady Tweedsmuir.



Lord and Lady Tweedsmuir



"MRS. ADELAIDE HOODLESS"

Founder of the first Women's Institute in the World  
at Stoney Creek, Ontario, February 19th, 1897.

Mrs. Hoodless was born on a farm near St. George,  
Ontario in 1857 where a cairn was erected to her  
memory by the Women's Institutes of Brant County.

Her love and sympathy were for the rural people; to  
whom she dedicated her life; to help them raise the  
standard of homemaking to the highest possible level.

MUSINGS AT MEMORY'S GATE.

Gentle Reader, joys await you,  
When you turn these pages o'er.  
Mem'ries rich and mem'ries varied,  
Lie beyond its golden door.  
There we see the lovely valley  
Nestling mid the rolling hills,  
And the feathered songsters please us,  
With their carefree tuneful trills.  
Winding through the verdant hollow  
The Humber lazily strays;  
Dreaming in its restless moments  
Of its busy yesterdays.

---

A mill once stood upon its bank-  
The water gave it power;  
And men, now gone beyond our sight  
Spent many a busy hour.  
The past brings back some names to mind  
And well-loved faces too;  
They lived their little share of life,  
E'en as you and I must do.  
Did thee know their way of living  
Would be seen 'yon Hist'ry's door?  
And that those who never knew them  
Would recall those days of yore?

-----

The "Past" is there for us to see;  
We see it in the "Present"-  
Though part a tinge of sadness wears,  
The greater part is pleasant.  
Standing thus at Mem'rys Gateway-  
Having strolled down Hist'ry's path,  
Here's a thought that Hist'ry leaves us-  
We live our own epitaph.  
The "Present" we are living now,  
Makes the "Future" some fine day;  
Should folk then, find us their subjects,  
Give them something nice to say.

(Rev.) Martin Jenkinson  
King City - Ontario  
March 18th-1953.





## GEOGRAPHY AND TOPOGRAPHY

### SITUATION

Laskay is on the sixth concession, one-half mile above Vaughan Township line; in the Township of King, County of York.

At the present time (1949) twenty-five homes, the United Church General Store, and Women's Institute Hall comprise the hamlet.

The country-side, is hilly and rolling; one source of the Humber River flows through our valley. Woods are plentiful, and nearly all roads are bordered by rows of beautiful trees. The lands are generally clay, and clay loam, with silt in the valley.

### CLIMATE

The mean annual temperature is 45 degrees F. The average daily maximum in July is 80 degrees; minimum 56 degrees F. Average daily maximum in February 25 degrees and minimum 7 degrees F.

Normal annual precipitation is 28.94 inches, with a (total) total average snowfall of four feet.

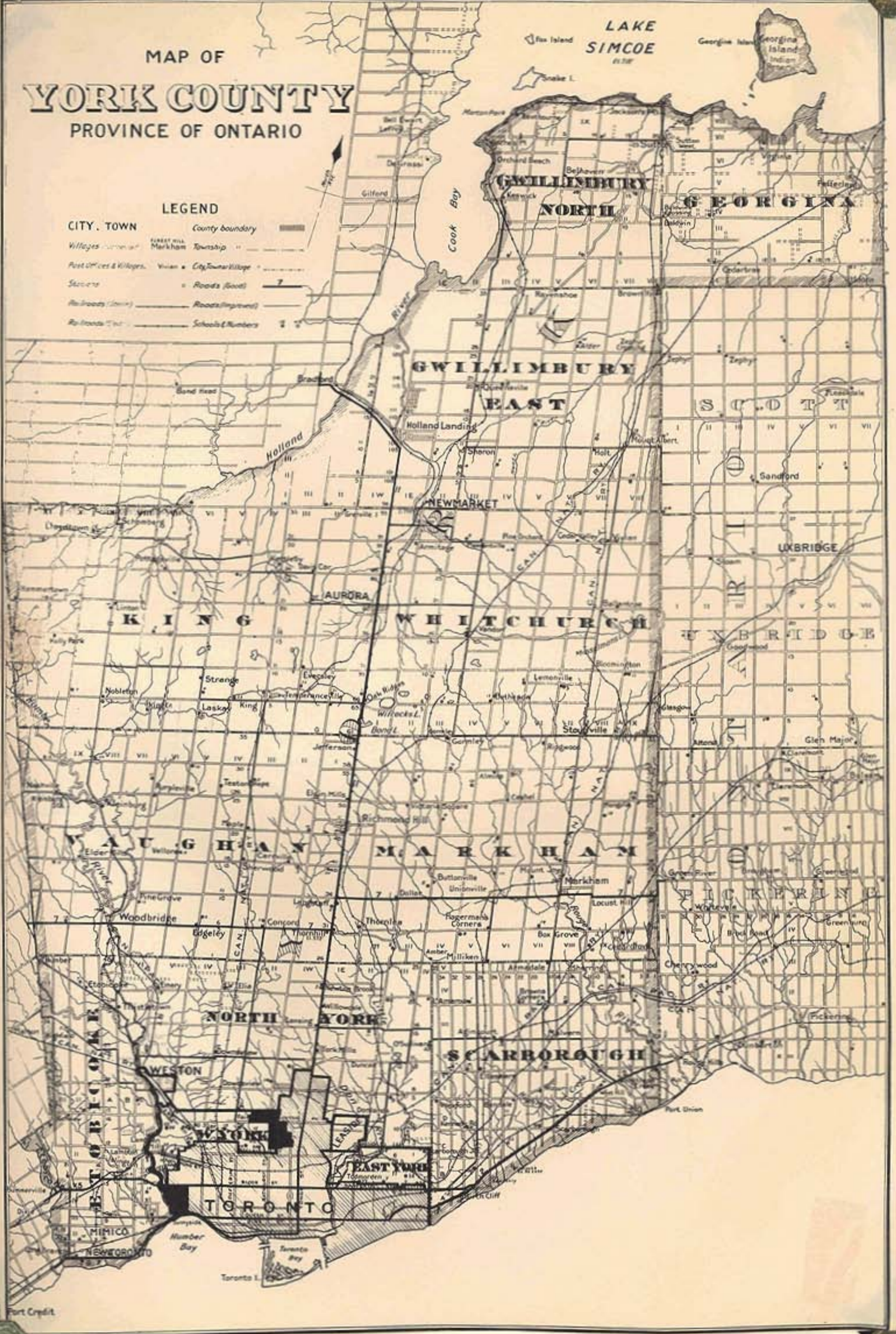
The situation, woods, and climate, were very favourable to early settlers.

# MAP OF YORK COUNTY

## PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

### LEGEND

- |                         |                       |  |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| CITY, TOWN              | County boundary       |  |
| Villages                | Markham Township      |  |
| Post Offices & Villages | City, Town or Village |  |
| Stations                | Roads (Good)          |  |
| Roads (Poor)            | Roads (Improved)      |  |
| Railroads (Trunk)       | Schools & Numbers     |  |



FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

"Should Auld Acquaintance be Forgot and Never Brought to Mind"

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE  
**FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY**

OF THE

Laskay Branch of the Women's Institute

TO BE HELD IN THE LASKAY W. I. HALL

Friday, June 25th, 1948, at 2.30

MRS. E. BATH, King R.R. 2.  
Secretary.

MRS. W. FINCH,  
President

On June 25th The Laskay Women's Institute Branch celebrated the 40th anniversary of their organization in Laskay Hall. Present and former members of the Branch and guests numbered 70, including several young children who regularly attend meetings.

As chairman, Mrs. Whatley Finch received the gathering, warmly pointing out the common interest of all women interested in W.I. work and the larger field of world interest the organization embodies.

From records carefully preserved the minutes of the organization meeting held July 2nd, 1908 were read by secretary Mrs. Effie Bath. The original enrolment of 25 members was called, seven of whom were present. Seventeen charter members are now living, and the first secretary treasurer, Mrs. George Atkinson, Schomberg and Mrs. W. Boys, vice-pres. in 1908 attended.

Present membership is well onto 45 of whom all but three responded to the roll call.

The branch was organized by a Mrs. Miller and according to Mrs. William Boys, a charter member, who later on in the afternoon enlarged on its formation. Laskay and Nobleton had organized as one group in February 1908. While this plan proved co-operatively successful, winter weather with bad roads and long distance travel by horses and sleighs hampered attendance at meetings which were alternated monthly at Nobleton and Laskay. Separation of the groups gave rise to more rapid development and convenience to the branch.

#### FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY Cont'd.

As guest speaker, Miss Grace Hamilton, W.I. department, brought greetings from Miss Anna P. Lewis, Ontario director for Women's Institute who was unable to be present. Referring to a quotation that 40 years is the youth of old age, which only comes when there is lack of enthusiasm in life, Miss Hamilton paid tribute to those who had pioneered the local branch, challenging the present group to press forward to greater achievement and wider interests. There is no lack of incentive for the woman of to-day whose communities bear the mark of their influence, because they have lived in it and for it, she implied, stressing the need of organizations made up of persons who have interests and desires as well as facts and understanding to make wise choices in matters affecting the group or community. To-day there is as strong tendency to resist change as in years ago. Adherence to practices and customs not in keeping with current progress tends to retard growth and ultimate loss to any groups, Miss Hamilton believes.

She advised ideals for the branch and ~~though~~ though like the stars which we never actually reach they urge and inspire the higher motive without which, nobility is worse than lost. Let your new members put their ideas into practice, make use of the dept. services and incorporate panel discussion in meetings.

An unexpected pleasure was found in the presence of Mrs. J. F. Franklin, a visitor from Windsor, England, who accompanied Miss Hamilton. She extended greetings from her W.I. branch of Old Windsor and proudly displayed the pins she wore, that ~~is~~ of the British W.I. and the Canadian W.I. She was agreeably surprised to learn Women's Institutes had originated in Ontario and from the Laskay president she was asked to carry home to England sincere greetings and fellowship from the Laskay Branch. Mrs. Findlay, a delightful friendly person brought and passed round a sample cake, the Silver wedding cake of the King and Queen.

During this section of the programme vocal numbers were given by Miss Helen Hunter and a ~~weak~~ vocal duet by Mrs. Fred Boys and Mrs. Bath, with piano accompaniments by Miss Marjorie McMurchy.



Head Table - Mrs. A. Hill - Mrs. J. McCallum - Mrs. Boys? - Mrs. Atkinson,  
Mrs. A. McMurchy - speaker - Miss Hamilton



Tables at fortieth anniversary



FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY Cont'd.

The strawberry supper was served on the spacious lawn of Mrs. Marvin Hunter, adjacent to the Hall. Among those seated at the head-table were Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. W. Boys, Mrs. A. MacMurchy, Mrs. James McCallum, Mrs. John Gillies and Mrs. Earnest Glass, all charter members.

Others were Mrs. R. H. Corner, district president, Miss Hamilton and Mrs. Findlay. Proposal of the toast to the King was followed by a toast to the W. I. at large, proposed by the president, replied by Mrs. Boys. From the district Mrs. Corner brought greetings of the branches. Mrs. Atkinson offered her continued best wishes and Mrs. MacMurchy who cut the birthday cake adorned with 40 candles and the blue and gold colors of the branch, expressed the hope that years of success lie ahead for Laskay W. I. "We, the older generation, throw to you the torch, be it yours to hold it high", said Mrs. MacMurchy.

Beside other charter members mentioned who were present for the event was Miss Winnifred Boys.



"The Children's table at 40th Anniversary.



"The 40th Anniversary Cake".



LASKAY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MEETING  
held at  
Laskay United Church  
Summer - 1913.

Back row - left to right.

Mrs. Geo. Teasdale - Mrs. M. Allan - Mrs. Len Glass - Mrs. John Gillies  
Mrs. John Gray.

Second row.

Edith Teasdale, baby Irene Gillies, Merle Hamilton, Winnie Boys,  
Wilhena Walkington, Bertha Ireland, Pearl Smeltzer, Barbara Ireland,  
Irene Rutherford, Mrs. Jas. McCallum, Margaret McCallum, Merelda Campbell,  
Vera Gillies, Hazel Rutherford, Mrs. John Boys, Octavia McCallum

Third row.

Vera Patton, Mary Walkington, Lizzie Ireland ( Laura Rose Stephens is one  
of the next four ladies). Mrs. A. MacMurchy, Mrs. John Watson.

Fourth row.

Winnie Watson, Mrs. F. Marshall, Kate Ross, Mrs. Wm. Boys, Mrs. H. Hamilton,  
Susie Finch, Agnes Allan, Mrs. A. Marshall, Mrs. Thos. Smeltzer, Bessie Wylie,  
Mrs. C. Campbell, Mrs. R. C. Gillies.



SEWING CLASS - LASKAY W.I.



Back from left.

Mrs. John Bowen

Joyce Porter

Mrs. John Gillies

Mary Teasdale

Mrs. Wm. Boys

Mearl Hamilton

Mrs. John Watson

Vera Gillies

Front Row.

Dorothy Bowen

Pauline Campbell

Pauline Campbell

Gertie Patton

Mrs. A. Marshall

Mrs. T. Smeltzer

60th ANNIVERSARY OF INSTITUTES.

On February, 12, 1957, at our regular meeting held at Laskay Institute Hall, we, like other Institutes all across Canada celebrated the 60th Birthday of the Founding of Institute work, started at Stoney Creek, Ont., on February 19th, 1897 by the founder, Adelaide Hoodless.

Miss Vera Hunter gave a very full and descriptive outline of the founding and growth of Women's Institute work, and their aims and purpose, and the establishment of Home Economics Services.

At a social half hour after the meeting, a beautiful Birthday Cake was the highlight and is always a pleasant memory. The cake was decorated in Institute colors with Institute Crest, candles, etc.

The influence of the Women's Institute has been felt throughout this community. We can never sit back and rest on the laurels of our Mothers and Grandmothers; but having started life with such advantages we must advance a little farther, to give the world more in the way of useful service. Since we are but stewards in this vineyard, let us build a solid foundation for the coming generations so that the world may be a little better place because we have passed this way.

Laskay Women's Institute is the second oldest Branch in King Township, organized in 1908.

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This picture was taken in September, 1956, when these three members of Laskay Women's Institute were honored with certificates of Life Members and Life Member Pins.

The occasion held at our regular meeting in the Hall which was Mrs. G.D. Paton's 82nd birthday.

Left to right -  
Mrs. L.J. Glass,  
Mrs. G.D. Paton,  
Mrs. P. Forester.



## HISTORY OF INSTITUTE HALL

Senator David Reesor of Markham owned part of Lot 4 on concession 6, on the East side. This was surveyed by George McPhillips, the plan being registered in North York Registry Office. ( A photograph of the map is shown.)

Senator Reesor donated land, one-fifth~~th~~ acre, lot 20, upon which to build a Temperance Hall. The Sons of Temperance formed a division, No.220, and erected a hall, which was opened about New Years, 1859. The Hall was not fully completed when the division became dormant. It was subsequently re-organized about 1888 and flourished under the energetic work of some of the members.

About the time local option came into force, the division was disbanded and the Hall turned over to the Laskay Branch of the Women's Institute. According to assessment Roll at township office, Nobleton, the Hall was under the name of Thomas Burgess, Worthy Patriarch from the year 1850, and was exempt from taxes while a Temperance Hall.

The first mention of the Temperance Hall in the Institute Minute Books was in October, 1914. In 1914 a Committee was appointed by the Institute, consisting of Mrs. John Watson, Mrs. Wm. Boys and Miss Mary Teasdale, who were to see what was needed and report. Concerts were held during the year to raise money for repairs.

1915 - In April of this year back taxes were paid, a sum of \$4.37, then in December \$1.11. In December shingles were purchased - \$19.52.

1915-16 - In this term \$63.43 was raised for hall benefit. In June 1916 a board of trustees was elected, namely, Mrs. A.McMurchy, Mrs. Wm. Boys - Mrs. W. Monkman.

1917 - Cups and saucers were bought, plans were made to paint the Hall and varnish the wood work. A shed at the back of the Hall was auctioned off for \$16.20 to Mel. McCallum.

<u>1917-18 - Hall Receipts.</u>		<u>Expenditures.</u>	
Concert, sale of shed		Shingles -	\$24.35
Box social,	\$59.76	glass-taxes	
prev. balance	\$35.27	plaster, nails,	
	\$95.03	express & work	\$43.72
			\$68.07

1925-26 - As near as we can determine this is when the hall was jacked up and sills put in. A piano was also bought.

1929 - in July a chimney was built, hall painted. Geo. Williams built the chimney.

Three coats of paint were put on hall, windows puttied and painted.

Mr. Geo. Patton was paid \$185.00



HISTORY OF INSTITUTE HALL CONT'D.

- 1930 - In July-September, the wiring of the Hall was completed. In January the hall cupboards were built, cups and saucers bought.
- 1933 - Hardwood floor laid - platform 1.
- 1935 - Hardwood floor laid - main floor. Duncan Ross paid \$150.00
- 1936-37 - A piano was bought for \$75.00 - tuning \$4.00,  
Spoons costing \$1.80 - tables \$21.00
- 1937-38 - Tables amounting to \$24.00 were bought.
- 1939-40 - Chairs costing \$100.83 were purchased
- 1941 - School was held in Hall for three months.
- 1945 - About this time the Hall was beginning to show the need of repairs and re-painting. It was felt in this day and age that the Institute members should make sure of ownership of the Hall and Property before spending too much money on it, the Hall having been handed over by word of mouth. A committee was named, and a lawyer was consulted. It was found that a clause in the deed would not permit it being transferred. A great deal of time elapsed during investigation and we were advised to not pay the taxes for three years, and the property would be put up for tax sale. It sure was a great relief in December 1953 when the delegation learned at Nobleton Hall that there were no bids against us, much to the credit of Township Clerk, Mr. Harold Rose.
- 1954 - Plans were made to go ahead, repair and paint the hall. Some new window sills, new floor and sill in lobby, new sidewalks to North and east doors, insulated ceiling, new insul brick siding, new rood, windows paned and puttied, woodwork inside all painted. The money was raised since 1945, by bazaars, strawberry and oyster suppers, collections and euchres.
- 1954-55 - Material and Labour for Laskay Hall.
- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| Shingles, tarpaper, valley iron and nails.             | \$238.27 |
|  | 6.91     |
| Stone siding, insulation paper - 35 panes glass-putty, | 220.99   |
|  | 29.00    |
| Paint - \$29.00-Aubrey Campbell painting               | 96.35    |
| Construction & Labour                                  | 302.27   |
|  | <hr/>    |
|  | \$893.79 |
- 1955 - On February 10th ,1955 the secretary received the tax deed in the mail and has since had it registered and banked.

LASKAY HALL

This is a photo of a page in the ledger book of Joseph Baldwin, Dated 1840 to 1864, and showing at the top of the page, that on Nov. 24, 1856, the lumber sold for the building of Temperance Hall, later known as Laskay Hall.

This book is now owned by Pearson Smeltzer.

Remembered the 24 '1856

101 Temperance Hall

1856	Nov 24	To 2958 ft Plank	\$8	5	18 3/2
	"	" 112 Scaunting	\$7 1/2	4	13 9/2
	25	" 1500 " Flooring	12 1/2	4	13 9/2
	"	" 1300 " Clear in Boards	\$15	4	17 1/2
		By Bill			15 14 1/2
		Red by Cash in full			

1857	Feb 28	To 57 ft Common Lumber	\$	2	2 1/2
	"	" 240 " Flooring @	1/8	18	0
	June 10	" 1011 " inch Boards @ 41	41	2	0 5 1/2
	"	" 36 " Clear Siding	4 3/4	2	3
	"	" 67 " 3/4 Boards	5 1/4	3	1 1/2
	15	" 176 " inch Boards	4	7	2
	"	" 222 " Scaunting		9	4
	"	" 109 2 " joist		19	3
	"	" 480 " Rotted		11	8
	"	" Scaunting		11	8

July 22	"	208 ft Laths		7	3 1/2
"	"	100 " Clear		7	6
"	"	32 " "		2	5
"	"	120 " "		9	"

Stone 1858  
 Jan 25 By Cash  
 1859 By returned tock 2 1/2

102  
 1851  
 Jan 1  
 29  
 Jan 2  
 1857  
 Jan 28  
 Feb 7  
 March 11  
 17  
 28  
 April 2  
 11  
 18

Newmarket, Ont.

June 12, 1928.

Mrs. Sandy MacMurchy,

Strange, Ont.

Dear Mrs. McMurchy:-

Yours of the 5th just reached me to-day as I have been away for nearly a week attending the Toronto Conference of the United Church of Canada, and in the accumulated mail on my return to the office to-day I found your letter.

As you know I would be only too pleased to give you any information possible with reference to the old Temperance Hall at Laskay, and would just state from memory, as I have no other record, some incidents in connection with its early history. A "Sons of Temperance Lodge" was established in that Hall about the year 1870, of which I was one of the charter members. The building itself as I recollect it apparently had been empty and not used for some time, as it was only a shell, not even being lathed and plastered.

The members of the division began to see what could be done to put the Hall in some proper shape. As you can readily understand we had no money in those days, but what we did was, a number of the young men met at the Hall in the evening and put the laths on to save expense. We then got a man to plaster it for which we had to pay. There was other fixings that required to be done and going as far as we felt our finances would permit we found we had established a little debt, so a few of the members decided to advance the money for the annual fees for several years ahead and it was pretty hard to get the money to do it, the most of it, and pay our debts and our money was placed at our credit on our dues account. At that time men only were allowed under the constitution of the "Sons of Temperance" to become members of the Lodge.

The Lodge prospered during this next few years and the building being improved some not only with an advantage to the Lodge meetings but also became a meeting place for other gatherings.

About this time the Lodge established an annual tea-party which was held on New Years' night. This, for a number of years was an event in all that section of country, the hall being crowded on every occasion, and from which funds were received to help in various improvements. An organ was bought and put in, and then the constitution of the Order was changed permitting the ladies to attend, and become members. As you can easily understand how this brightened up for all of us our evening gatherings, and I have reason to believe that as a result of this change in the constitution of the Order, many happy marriages took place in that neighborhood.

In the passing years the hall got entirely too small for our annual gathering, and also for many other gatherings that were held, for the convenience of the community. After much deliberation and a great deal of thought as to how it would ever be paid for, it was finally decided to build a large addition, to the west of the building. This cost, for those days, quite a sum of money, but it was successfully completed and the building in its new form became of greater value for meetings of various kinds.

Then after many years the Lodge discontinued, and somewhere about this time, owing to the loss by fire of our business at Kinghorn, we removed to Newmarket, and from that time on you will be more familiar with what uses were made of the hall until the time the ladies of the neighborhood took charge of the situation and made many improvements, the result of which surprised me when, accepting an invitation to be present at the re-opening after all these improvements were completed, and I can assure you it gave me a great deal of pleasure to see the old hall renovated and put into such a splendid condition for the use of community gatherings, many of them under the direction of the ladies of the neighborhood, and it is to be hoped it will long fill that very useful place in Laskay and surrounding country.



Mrs. Sandy McMurchy

-3-

I can assure you as I look back to those early years of that Temperance Lodge, there were quite a few young men at that date who have owed a great deal during their future lives as a result of debates and other kinds of entertainment which gave them an opportunity to learn to express themselves on questions of interest to the public and on the public platform in the years that followed.

q You may pick something out of this which will be of interest and allow me to wish the Women's Institute of York County a most successful and profitable meeting on Thursday next June 14th.

With very kind personal regards, and best wishes, I remain

EJD/FE

Yours sincerely,

E. J. Davis (Signed).

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE HISTORY

1897-1949

The first women's Institute was organized at Stoney Creek, Ontario, in 1897, the founder of the movement, Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless born in 1857 close to St. George, Ontario, and moving to Stoney Creek on her marriage.

When Adelaide Hoodless on the death of her child, realized the inadequacy in knowing how to care and feed her baby, the thought came to her, if agricultural colleges taught men how to care and feed their animals for better health and growth, was it not more important that women be given training in the care of their children and homes. As a result of this thinking, the first Women's Institute meeting was held at Stoney Creek on February 19th, 1897.

A request was sent to the Minister of Agriculture asking for support and assistance, this support was gladly given; at first in forms of grants and later, government lecturers were appointed to speak to Women's Institutes and to help in their organization. Down through the years this assistance has increased and as the Institute has grown in numbers and responsibility, so also have the services from the Department of Agriculture increased and improved; and now provides an Extension service in Home Economics for all rural women and girls.

At the beginning the Superintendent of Farmer's Institutes acted as Superintendent of W.I.'s., and in 1899 under the Farmer's superintendent Miss Laura Rose was appointed first government lecturer and organizer of Women's Institute. More staff were added and more Institutes grew into being. In 1902 a whole day was planned for the women at the Session of Experimental Union at Guelph, thus the first W.I. Convention came into being.

The next year 1903, the Women's meetings were held in the then new MacDonald Institute Hall, O.A.C., Guelph and 116 women from 53 Institutes gathered.

By 1914 the numbers had so increased that it was considered wise to divide the province into three convention areas, London, Toronto and Ottawa. With three conventions a certain loss in Provincial Unity was the natural result, hence in 1914 a Provincial Advisory committee was appointed. By 1916 there were 17 representatives elected, one for each of the 17 subdivisions in the Province. As an outgrowth of this advisory committee our first Provincial board was formed and the F.W.I.O. (Federated Women's Instit-

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE HISTORY (Cont'd)

ute of Ontario), came into being by formal resolution, February 7th, 1919. Later in the same month the F.W.I. of Canada was organized. By 1933, there were 13 conventions areas.

By 1910 there was a desire for teachers trained as specialists and qualified to demonstrate the arts of foods and cookery, clothing and other Home Economic topics. By 1912-13 educational short courses were taken right into the rural communities for the benefit of those who could not leave their home. Home nursing training was beneficial, too.

In the fall of 1934 a new forward step was taken when Miss Bess McDermaid, a qualified Home Economist became Superintendent of W.I. and ever since that time a University Graduate in this field has held Home Economics position. In post war years the programme has been revived and broadened to include greater variety in Home crafts, home furnishings and Psychology for the Homemaker.

Methods have changed, objectives outlined at the time of inception of Institutes can be met more adequately now than in 1897 but the basic aims are the same. The aims as set forth today are--

1. To help women acquire sound and approved practices for greater home efficiency.
2. To discover, stimulate and train leaders.
3. To develop a more abundant life in our rural communities and a deeper appreciation of the things near at hand.
4. To develop better, happier and more useful citizens.

In 1946, the title was changed to Womens Institute Branch and Home Economics servive, and the title of Superintendent was changed to that of director.

The Provincial Board Directors of the F.W.I.O. elected by W.I. members, meet twice a year to outline the policy of the O.W.I.

The Board Directors elect the Provincial President, hence the Provincial President is the elected head of F.W.I.O.

The Director, Women's Institute Branch and Home Economic Service is a member of the Provincial Board, acts as advisor and Councillor to the F.W.I.O. and it's board of directors and as liason between the F.W.I.O., and the Department of Agriculture.

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE HISTORY (Cont'd)

The purpose of the Provincial Board of the F.W.I.O. is

1. To co-ordinate the work of the W.I.'s of Ontario.
2. To unite the province and provide official representation in the F.W.I.O of Canada, the associated country women of the world and other organizations.
3. To express the views of the local institutes on all matters of Provincial or national importance within the scope of W.I. work and responsibility.
4. To Co-operate with the Ontario Dept. of Agriculture to improve educational, social and economic conditions in the province.

This editorial comment was written by a former director, Miss Anna P. Lewis and printed in the "Winter, 1949", issue of Home and Country magazine, published quarterly and distributed through the secretaries of Women Institutes to the Institute members.

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### OUR OPENING ODE

A goodly thing it is to meet  
In friendship's circle bright,  
Where nothing stains the pleasure sweet  
Or dims the radiant light.  
No unkind word our lips shall pass,  
No envy sour the mind,  
But each shall seek the common weal,  
The good of all mankind.

---

## Naming of LASKAY

There are various stories as to the naming of Laskay.

Laskay was given this official name by Joseph Baldwin, who called it after his native "Loskey" in Yorkshire England.

But Laskay is sometimes called Bulltown, locally.

One story has it, that years ago, a British Army pensioner, by the name of Cook, lived here. He tried many ways to make a living; finally bought a bull, killed, dressed, and peddled the meat. "Bullmeat became the talk of the township, and Laskay was nicknamed "Bulltown."

Another version of the origin of "Bulltown" claims that at the Annual Fall Fair, a bull on exhibition, broke loose and charged the crowd. The resulting consternation, and panic caused our village to bear this uncomplimentary nickname for over half a century.

HISTORY OF INSTITUTE

The community of Laskay was first organized with Nobleton; Mrs. Campbell of Nobleton acted as president and Mrs. Snider of Nobleton as secretary. The first meeting was at Nobleton.

The second meeting was held at the home of Mrs. W.Boys; Mrs. Snider and Mrs. Campbell of Nobleton being present. At this meeting (in June) it was decided to organize a separate branch as it was impossible to go so far.

SOME CHARTER MEMBERS



Mrs. Alex McMurchy - charter member



Mrs. Thos. Smeltzer



Mrs. Wm. Boys

These three members remained with Laskay Institute till their death.

PICTURES OF INSTITUTE

Debate by W.I. at home of C. Walkington.



Left to right

Mrs. D. McMurchy - Mrs. C. Ross - B. Teasdale - Rose Egan -  
Jennie Orr - J. MacCallum - D. McMurchy - Mrs. Port -  
Mrs. A. Marshall - M. Campbell - M. Ireland - Mrs. N. Bryson -  
Mrs. R. Folllott - Norman McMurchy - Mrs. Smeltzer - Mrs. H.  
Folllott - Florence Walkington.

PICTURES OF INSTITUTE MEMBERS



Mrs. George Teasdale  
Edith Teasdale

Mary Teasdale





## LASKAY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

are celebrating their

### *50th Anniversary*

in Laskay Institute Hall

on Tuesday, July 8, 1958, at 8 p.m.

and have much pleasure in extending an invitation to you  
to join with them on this occasion

R.S.V.P.

MRS. CHARLES HATELY, *Pres.*

MRS. CLYDE CAIRNS, *Sec.*

### 50th Anniversary

Tuesday evening, July 8, 1958, will be remembered as a memorable occasion for those who attended the 50th Anniversary of Laskay W.I. Branch. The weather was perfect, the Institute Hall, 100 years old, never looked better in all its finery of decorations and beautiful display of flowers, mostly from local gardens. The hall was filled to capacity, 185 people registering. The thirteen Branch Institutes of York Centre District were invited, as well as Maple and Vellore Branches to the south of us. Past members returned and local visitors were present. One past member came from Sarnia, some from Hamilton and Toronto. Eight 4-H Girls assisted us in chorus singing and serving lunch.

Of twenty members, sixteen were present, four first-year 1908 members were present. Our three life members were present. Pictures, some old, some new from our History Book were displayed as well as Institute History.



50th ANNIVERSARY PICTURES



THE TABLE



MRS. P. FORESTER CUTTING CAKE



FLORAL DECORATIONS



DISPLAY OF PICTURES



CHORUS GROUP



MRS. WM. BRYSON - MRS. NORMAN BRYSON  
MRS. E. T REITZ - MRS. F. BOYS - MRS. C. HATEL



1908-1958

Rouise Norris King City  
Mrs John Ireland Newton Robinson  
Helen Rumble King H. I.  
Velma Neill King W. I.  
Alma Smeltzer W. M. S. Laskay  
Mrs. E. D. Glass Aurora  
Joyce Dore Aurora  
Jean McMurphy Aurora  
Janet Buddin Laskay  
Nora Hatily Laskay  
Mrs. D. B. Paton Laskay  
Ida Black Laskay  
Mary Ann M. Murdock Laskay  
Linda Cairns  
Mrs P. J. Glass Laskay  
Mrs Edna King Regina  
Mrs. Clyde Cairns Laskay  
Winnifred Boyd Whitey  
Minnie Egan Bolton  
Jean A. Bryson Vellou  
Mary Bryson  
Barbara B. Bryson Vellou  
Fathlee Armstrong Keuleby  
Gertrude Hunter Keuleby  
Oelma Haas Kettleby

Jean Murray. Woodbridge  
Mrs Gordon Watson Maple  
Mrs Percy Foresti - Saskay  
Mrs Donald Allen Maple  
Mrs E. Harris Maple  
Mrs R. Julian Vellere  
Mrs F. Nieman Vellere.  
Maureen Wellesley.

Mrs Arthur Wellesley.

Mrs Fred. Gray

Mrs. Alex Bishop Vellere

Margaret Lyburner Hamilton

Mrs. Berie Eif. King

Opiea Hill. Nibleton

Ruth Finch Saskay.

Irene McCallum Schomberg

Mrs. Albert Farr, Bolton

Mary McCallum Cookstown

Rita Richards - Churchill

Mrs. O. T. Thompson

(Ed. Penrose)

Mrs. J. J. Hunter

Margaret Kerr

Grace Lutt

Jean McDonald. Saskay  
Woodbridge

Betty Macklin.

Temperanceville

Evelyn Parton

Temperanceville

Dr. T. MacMurphy

R. R. King



1908-1958

- May Foots - Vandal
- Mrs Norman Burton
- Lila I. Reddick-Snowball
- Mrs. Mary Snider Snowball
- Edna Gellatly "
- Ruth Snubb "
- Verna Chamberlain Nobleton
- Mrs Matilda Williams "
- Mrs J. King Snowball.
- Mrs. Albert Kidley "Bagartson"
- Mrs. L. Harper " "
- Mrs. Frank Williams " "
- Mrs. E. Ewart " "
- Mrs. Mary Smith " Sec. Trus. Centre York
- Mrs Forest MacTaggart Nobleton
- Mrs. Murray Irwin " "
- Mrs Garnet Hoover " "
- Mrs Joe Boak
- Mrs John Boak
- Mrs James Cherry
- Mrs Hester Wood
- Mrs. Sea. Shultz, Schomberg. Pres. Centre York.
- Mrs E. Neale Schomberg
- Verna Patton King
- Christine Campbell "
- Mrs (Rev) Jenkinson "
- Mrs. J.H. Neate, Nobleton
- Mrs. G. Chapman, Nobleton
- Mrs. C. Hodgson "
- Mrs. K. Hodgson "
- Mr. Eric Johnston - King -



1908-1958

Helen A. Hunter Saskay  
Marion Plant - Empressville  
Lera Bays. "  
Kathleen Smith King  
Elizabeth Gillham "  
Jean Kerr Saskay  
Margaret Bussey Vauxsf.  
Mary Marwood Woodbridge RR2  
Mrs. Aubrey Glass King  
Marion MacTaggart Nobleton  
Grace Bruce "  
Pauline Cain "  
Jenny Dralley "  
Hilda Mitchell Snowball.  
Mabel Seaton Snowfall.  
Monetta Mouny Snowball.  
Mrs. Ernest Popson Snowball  
Mrs. Lotte Smith Snowball  
Mrs. Leslie Kerr Snowball  
Mrs. Harold Snider Snowball  
Mrs. Rose James Snowball.  
Mrs. J. Lister Schomberg  
Mrs. C. Watson Schomberg  
Mrs. W. Leam. Schomberg.  
Mrs. J. McBride Willowdale  
Bessie (McBride) Skinner Toronto  
Mrs. Rosie Sheardown  
Mrs. Chris Chamberlain Nobleton  
Mrs. Lillian Payne Saskay



1908 - 1958

Mrs Lyman Davis Hobbleton  
Mrs. C. W. Marchant - Schomberg.  
Mrs. Harry Jackson Maple  
Mrs. Heeph Hamilton Schomberg  
Mrs L. Clarke Maple  
Mrs. H. Jennings Maple  
Mrs. A. Wells Maple  
Mrs H. Stephenson Maple.  
Mrs R. Warlow Kettuby  
Mrs. E. B. West Kettuby.  
Mrs. A. Farren Kettuby.  
Mrs G. Old Kettuby.  
Mrs Kockyer  
Mrs. D. Julian  
Mrs M. Wilson  
Mrs M. Hess  
Mrs M. Jones. - Maple  
Miss M. Richards King City  
Mary Scott King Ridge  
Mrs. Harriet M. Corwick King Ridge  
Maizon M. Moughton King Ridge  
June Follitt King RR2  
Mrs. Beta Kellam, W. York District Past President  
Mrs. Vida E. Humansen Sec. - Pres. West York  
Mrs. Elton Armstrong Area Chairman  
Nelle E. Treib, Larnia Dist.  
Dolys M. L. Marie Maple R. R. 1  
Dorothy Henderson, (Mrs. D. C.) R. R. 2 King  
Ethel Hitchman, Schomberg R. R. 2.



1908-1958

Wella Gordon Kestel  
Dorothy Pleasant Kettleby  
Flora Martinan Dept. of Agriculture  
Daisy McCallum Strange N.M.S.  
Doris Willoughby Strange N.M.S.  
Rhoda Farren Strange W.M.S.  
Bertha Blanchard Richmond Hill  
Mrs. J. Phillips King City  
Dorothy Glass R. Hill  
Lyn. Egan Hobbleton  
Mellow MacDiarmid Hobbleton  
Muriel Arlow Hobbleton  
Mrs. Milton Wells Des Moines  
Mrs. A. M. Clarke Aurora  
Mrs. H. Gisman Aurora  
Mrs. J. W. Teasdale Aurora  
Mrs. Frances J. Tuttlebury Aurora  
Mrs. Harry Smith Gornley  
Lana E. Roemer King City  
Mrs. T. Hepburn Gornley  
Mrs. R. C. Baycroft Gornley  
Mrs. N. Brown Gornley  
Mrs. M. Avey Gornley  
Mrs. George Boynton Gornley  
Margaret Ellen Teasdale  
Edna Teasdale  
Bessie Farn  
Mrs. Thomas Walker  
Kay Lowe



Margaret Leuchs, King  
Bridget O'Leary  
Adella Smeltzer (Mrs. P. J.)  
Laskay

Mrs. George Forester

Mrs. Fred O'Brien

Mrs. Effie Bath

Mrs. Frank Buddin

Mrs. Norman Etheridge

Mrs. Chas. Hately

Mrs. L. J. Hennett

Margaret Cairns

Frances Forester

Lila Ann Forester

Janet Mary Finch

Margaret Finch

Mrs. W. Montsman

Mrs. B. Hill  
R. R. 2 Woodbridge

Elsie Hunter

PROGRAMME

OPENING ODE

WELCOME - by President

ROLL CALL - by Secretary - 15 Institutes  
Past Members  
Visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE

GREETINGS - Mrs. Elton Armstrong (Chairman-Toronto Convention Area)  
Mrs. George Shoults - President - Centre York District.

LASKAY INSTITUTE HISTORY.

Panel - Mrs. Whatley Finch - a past President.  
Mrs. Walter Monkman - a past Secretary.  
Mrs. Pearson Smeltzer - Historical Research Convener.

GREETINGS - Miss Wilda Gordon - Home Economist - York County.  
Mrs. Boddy - President - West York District.

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WELCOME CHORUS - Members of Institute and 4-H Girls

SOLO - Mrs. Fred Boys (Little Road to Laskay - words and music by Mrs. L. Dennet of Laskay).

MONOLOGUE - Mrs. Frank Buddin

(Many city folk have grown tired of the fantastic clamor and scurry of metropolitan life and have transplanted themselves into the country, there to live in rural happiness ever after. Here is one who didn't-----Mrs. Reginald Minkworthy, Junior, is about to make a phone call.)

SCOTTISH SONGS - The Keel Row,  
Comin' thro' the Rye,  
Bonnie Banks O'Loch Lomon' - Members of Inst. & 4-H Girls.

PIANO DUET - Mrs. Wm. Bryson - Mrs. Norman Bryson

DUETS - Mrs. Ernest Treitz, Sarnia - Mrs. Fred Boys - Temperanceville.

RECITATION - Mrs. L. Dennet (The Gardener)

DUET - Mrs. Ernest Treitz - Mrs. Fred Boys (Stream of Mercy)

COURTESIES - Mrs. Charles Black

CHORUS - When you and I were young, Maggie,  
Down by the old Mill Stream,  
There is a tavern in the town - Members of Inst. and 4-H Girls.

THE QUEEN



Mrs-Dennet-Mrs.Buddin



The History Panel

Little road to Laskay,

Where you climb the sunlit hill

Deep in dust of passing years,

Do you hear my footprint still?

Little Laskay river,

Where the willow trees lean low,

Do you mirror still my image

As you saw me long ago?

Little sunflecked valley,

Where the restless grasses sway,

Is a child's small shadow dancing

Drowsing summer hours away?

Long the bitter road I've travelled

Since those golden days of old,

Now a voice within cries 'Homeward'-

"Turn before the heart grows cold".

So the weary feet turn homeward,

As the sun dips in the West,

Where the road to Laskay leads me

Like a tired child to rest.

---

WELCOME CHORUS

Well, Hi, there neighbours, gee, it's good to see you coming,  
Well, hello, there neighbours, we'll set the old hall humming--  
So just sit down and kick your shoes off,  
Let your hair down, shake the blues off,  
We're all out to please you on our Anniversary!

If you're from Aurora, then we'll switch on the Northern Lights,  
The ladies out from Kettleby could brew themselves some tea,  
And don't you worry, Temperanceville--  
We've never even seen a still,  
We said we'd make you happy on our Anniversary!

For Bogarttown, Vandorf, Pine Orchard and King Ridge,  
We'll sing a gay chorus and serve up a sandwidge,  
And for Nobleton and Gormley, Schomberg, Snowball, King,  
Any Laskay Lass might even dance a Highland Fling,  
And Hello, Vellore and Maple on our Anniversary!



1968 LASKAY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MEMBERS TAKEN AT 60th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Seated. (left to right)

Mrs. N. Etheridge, Mrs. Smeltzer, Mrs. C. Black, Mrs. Thos. Walker,  
Miss H. Hunter, Mrs. N. MacMurchy, Mrs. M. Hunter.

STANDING (left to right)

Mrs. A. McDonaia, Mrs. F. O'Brien, Miss H. McMurchy, Mrs. H. Dooks,  
Mrs. C. Cairns, Mrs. A. Gordon, Mrs. F. Leatherdale, Mrs. P. Smeltzer,  
Mrs. T. Colborne.

## DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

The 60th Birthday celebration of the Laskay Women's Institute was held on July 10th, 1968 at the W.I. Hall and weather permitted many visitors to enjoy the luncheon out of doors. Two beautifully iced cakes to form '60', were made by the Sec. Treas. Mrs. Thos. Walker. Birthday cake, strawberries and ice cream were preceded by a buffet style luncheon to eighty guests, prepared by the fifteen active members.

Miss Winnie Boys, a past president, now living in Whitby, had the honor of cutting the cake. Another earlier member, Mrs. A. Wellesley was present, and regrets were sent by former charter member, Mrs. Jennie Hoover, of Toronto.

The highlight of our 60th anniversary was the unveiling of the 'Laskay Portfolio', a documentary compiled by Institute members of the material gathered over the years for the Tweedsmuir History Book, and contains many pictures of the community. We trust it will provide a permanent record and popular reference book of the contributions made to this part of the country by the pioneers of the area. The Portfolio was compiled under the capable leadership of Jack McBride (of Toronto and Laskay), who was also the publisher.

The highlight of our program was "Flashes from the Past", a panel program, chaired by Mrs. W. Finch, a former past president and teacher, also was president in our 40th anniversary year.

We aimed to have the program somewhat resemble the C.B.C. TV 'Flashback', complete with local commercials, prepared so ably and read by Mrs. Pam Dennett, a Laskay resident. Mrs. M. Hunter carefully presented the clues to the audience.

Our 'Flashes from the Past' panel were Miss Roberta Gillies of Islington, a former secretary; Mrs. A. Gillham of King City, teacher and former resident; Mrs. L. Rolling, King City, pioneer of local newspaper reporting; Mrs. M. McMurchy, Aurora, former member.

Challengers were/

Mrs. N. MacMurchy, mystery object - old long handled collection boxes used at Strange Pres. church.

Miss H. Hunter - minutes of first Laskay W.I. Meeting, who gave brief history of branch.

Mrs. D.C. Henderson - our celebrity guest, a local resident, author and world traveller, who stumped the panel with her participation in teaching 'Esperanto', the universal language, to a class at King City in the winter of 1961-62.

Our local advertisers were--

Mrs. R. Hoover, Artex paint demonstrator.  
Mrs. E. Eif - florist.  
Mrs. B. Charak - grocer.  
Mr. M. Hunter - Insurance agent.  
Mr. A. Gordon - Real estate agent.



Standing in the doorway of the Laskay W.I. Hall, three members discuss the Centennial Project, which reached its successful conclusion, when first copies were on sale at the 60th Birthday party, July 10th, 1967.

Left to right

Mrs. Adella Smeltzer, Curator, Mrs. Norman Etheridge, District Director and Miss Helen Hunter, president.

Photo by Stuart's Studio.

Winnie Perdue

Mamie Chalk

Margaret Perdue

Mildred McBride

Laura K. Rolling.

St Lawrence Gould

Edwinifed Bays

Janet Hobson

B. Willard.

S. Gray.

Edna Hadwen Richman W.S.

Mr. George Robson.

Wm Riddell

Louise Yossis

Betty Wade

Helen Rumble King W.S.

Hazel (Archibald) Willsley

Mary Mc Callum

Mary Watson

Sue Morgan

Hanna Eberidge

Aida Dooks.

Florence Pugh

Mary Marwood

Minnie Hatfield (Egan)

Ruth Gillies

Gertrude Orr



Elizabeth Gillham  
Mildred Gillies

Irene Follott

Muriel Lowcock

Flossie Crane.

Margaret Baguley

Roberta Gillies

Pearl Mac Murchy.

Ida Blackie

Edythe Cairns

Dorothy Henderson

Joan Holloway

Wanda Morgan

Gay Lowe

Louise Danks.

Marjorie Richardson

Ruth Rose

Jean Bryson

Grace Gunders Hamilton

Verna Chamberlain Robbleton

Horis Payne Thornhill

Marjorie M. Murchy Saskatoon

Pam Denucet.

Jean Mc Gerty.

Margaret Shipley

Mary Barker  
Alma Smeltzer  
Josephine Wells.  
Christine Campbell  
Vera Monkman  
Ruth Finck  
Jean McMurchy  
Verne Patton King City  
Beta Richards - Aurora  
Joyce Glass - King  
Marquett Calhoun Laskay  
Mildred Manson - King.  
Alma Cook Kettleby  
Linda Patrick King and  
Ann Harmon King.  
Buddy Hoover Laskay  
Elsie Hunter Laskay  
Flora Hill Bruce Mines  
Vera Hunter Laskay  
Geeta Jewett King  
Margaret Scott. King  
Adella Smeltzer  
Marion Gordon  
Jean Leathursak  
Diana Rowney.  
Minnie Bloem.

Helen Hunter  
Agnes Walker.  
Jean McDonald  
Paul O'Brien

CELEBRATING 60th ANNIVERSARY



Having lunch on the Hall grounds.



'Flashes from the Past', panel in action.

Left to right-  
 Mrs. D.C. Henderson  
 Mrs. W. Finch  
 Miss Roberta Gillies  
 Mrs. A. Gillham  
 Mrs. L. Rolling  
 Mrs. M. McMurchy

Home and Country motto on wall was Artex painted by Mrs. Ruby Hoover.



Left to right  
 Mrs. N. Etheridge, Mrs. T. Walker,  
 Miss H. Hunter, Miss V. Boys,  
 Mrs. A. Smeltzer.

Left to right.  
 Mrs. N. Payne (area W.I. representative)  
 Mrs. T. Walker, Miss W. Boys, Mrs. G.  
 Richardson (District Pres.) Mrs. A.  
 Wellesley, Mrs. N. Etheridge, Miss H. Hunter  
 Mrs. M. McMurchy.

7th TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE A.C.W.W. - 1953.

Gleanings from some A.C.W.W. Conference sessions, held at the Royal York Hotel were given by Mrs. Laura E. Rolling of King, who attended several plenary meetings, round table conferences and press interviews.

When we think that over 6 million women will, within the year be learning about Canada through the delegates and publicity channels, the impact will doubtless be tremendous.

The conference in Ontario was the "home coming" of ACWW. As Mrs. Sayre, the president said, at the opening ceremony in Convocation Hall, which I attended on August 14, "In a very real sense Canada is the land of our birth. Here it was in 1897 that Adelaide Hoodless conceived the idea of Women's Institutes, and here our first ACWW president, Mrs. Watt lived and worked among you and carried from these shores this idea of an international organization that was to circle the globe and eventually find its fruition on our Associations.

Mrs. Rolling described the scene in Convocation Hall, August 14, when the opening ceremonial took place, as a memorable day. Interspersed with speeches, the processional of the Ontario Junior Farmers Girls bearing the flags of the nations represented in ACWW, and the United Nations flag, made an unforgettable picture which aroused the admiration of the large assemblage. Dressed in their blue and white uniforms, and Jr. Farmer crests, they carried the flags to the platform depositing them in stands. When the two young girls, walking side by side, carried the flag of U.S. and the Canadian ensign, there was a murmur of patriotism and a clap of hands. Everyone felt the significance of "3,000 miles of unfortified border", was truly demonstrated.

Mrs. Rolling spoke of the friendly relations among delegates, as evidence of how much pleasure they felt in mingling together. The longer the Conference lasted, the stronger these ties of friendship became. There was no hint of restraint, and while many were in Canada for the first time, and Canadian customs were graciously accepted by many strangers.

Round table discussions or conferences, too, had an important place in the conference. Led by a chairman, they are the key-pins up which the ACWW builds up its future references and work. The findings at each round table talk, had an important relation to the whole outcome of the conference as a whole.

The problems existing in the underdeveloped country are being met through technical assistance, which is sharing knowledge and ways and means with other countries, giving them a chance to "help themselves". Today FAO (Food Agriculture Organization) technical assistance is the greatest idea of our times. Last year it sent 532 expert advisers to underdeveloped countries.

International exchange of programs is building world wide friendship.

Methods include International Day, letterfriends, exchange of students.

CANADA DAY - Aug. 21 - 53.

About 11,000 women gathered in the Maple Leaf Gardens for Canada Day, climaxed by a colorful pageant. The women came from many parts of Canada and the United States, who came by train, plane and bus to join the 1000 delegates from 26 countries here for the conference.

The gardens were appropriately decorated with stocks of Canadian corn and barley, and at the rear of the platform, on which were seated international representatives, many in national costume--was a large map of Canada flanked with a miniature forest of Scotch pines.

"Few organizations have a better grasp of the essentials of our national life than your members", Mr. Justice Garson said. "New techniques mean changing cultural patterns" he said, "This is where women's organizations, and especially international organizations, come in. Who understands better than women the true spiritual and moral values of these national cultures? Who can better appreciate what can safely and beneficially be changed and what values must be retained?"

"ACWW membership is open to all women on the same footing", said Mrs. Raymond Sayre, retiring President, "We believe in the basic sameness of human nature. Whether we are called women, or feminies or frauen, we love and care for our homes and families. Whether we are Christians or Moslems or Hindus we believe in the importance of the things of the spirit."

"This banding together of women, mothers of the nations, with the same ideals and aspirations, is one of the greatest means of achieving world peace," said the incoming President, Mrs. A.M. Berry, Australia. "It is within our power to instill into the minds and hearts of our children tolerance and respect for other peoples of the world.

From this triennial would go out "a more complete understanding of the problems of the peoples of every nation, and a deeper desire to give all aid possible wherever it is needed," said Mrs. Hugh Summers, president of the Canadian federation

Mme. J.B Cadrin, St. Anselme, Que., president of Les Cercles de Fermieres, co-hostesses with the FWIC also spoke briefly. Messages to Canada from their respective countries and governments were given by heads of the 26 delegates.

Some of the impressions of the women from Laskay who attended were that the pageant was outstanding, the colour, costumes and the lighted Globe of Canada and when the lights were out, the colored lights on for the pageant, the Maple Leaf pins looked like little flashlights shining in the darkness.

### 1956 A.C.W.W. CONFERENCE

The 1956 A.C.W.W. conference was planned to be held in Ceylon, but had to be cancelled on account of the European situation, and was held one year later.

The five delegates left Malton on Friday, June 14, 1957 for Vancouver via San Francisco, Honolulu, Fiji Islands, thence Auckland, Sydney and Singapore to their destination, of Colombo, Ceylon for a ten day conference. Many stops were made during this trip.

Their return trip took them to Bombay, Karachi, Istanbul, Athens, Rome, Geneva, Frankfort, Dusseldorf, and Paris to England for eight day tour of British Isles, thence to New York and Malton on August 25th, 1957.

## FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION

"It is better to light a candle than to grumble at the dark," said Mrs. Nancy Adams in her presidential address at the first convention of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada held in Ottawa October 28 to 31. Mrs. Adams went on to say that the Women's Institutes throughout Canada had lighted many candles each candle representing another effort, another responsibility accepted. At this national convention, delegates from every province of Canada were assembled to celebrate the Institutes' sixtieth anniversary to pay tribute to the founders of the Institute movement, "to say 'Thank you' to the mother Institute at Stoney Creek and to members of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario and the Department who lighted and tended the first candles and have kept the more and more lights shining all these years."

Mrs. J. Freeborn of Saskatchewan presented the trophies won in the national Tweedsmuir competitions, the competition in Hope Chests was won by Penticton in British Columbia, with the second prize going to West End, Ontario and honorable mention to Richard Homemaker's club in Saskatchewan. Tweedsmuir Histories, first, Sunshine, Coutts Bay, Alberta; First Prize in the Cultural Projects, an oil painting, went to King.

The Hon. Lester B. Pearson was guest speaker at the convention Banquet. Presiding at this session, Mrs. Hugh Summers said that membership in A.C.W.W. had made Canadian Institute women more international-minded, and their contributions through UNESCO of a tractor to Greece, sewing machines to Korea and home demonstration equipment to Ceylon had given them a closer tie with the women of these countries. Relationships within our own nation are important too, and it is hoped that this convention would cement friendships among women of the different provinces of Canada. ("We have a common purpose in creating a home life of the highest order," Mrs. Summers said, "then creating national unity and better relationships with women the world over.")

There was a Conservation Panel chaired by Dr. P.O. Ripley, and a President's Panel about different activities in the Institute. Problems and Projects were discussed by representatives of various groups.

The new Executive consists of President, Mrs. Keith Rand, Fort Williams, N.B. First Vice-President, Mrs. E.J. Roylance, Greenwood, B.C., Second Vice-President Mrs. T.H. Howse, Millet, Alberta, other members, Mrs. Leonard Steeves, Surrey, N.B., and Mrs. James Haggerty, Napanee, Ont.

Resolutions were presented by Mrs. E.J. Roylance. The Board, dealing with a resolution from British Columbia concerning conventions decided that to keep expenses to a minimum, future conventions be held in universities if possible and that the place of the convention alternate among provinces.



## Club Women's Creed

KEEP us O Lord from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word and deed ❖

Let us be done with fault finding and leave off self seeking ❖ ❖

May we put away all pretence and meet each other face to face, without self pity and without prejudice ❖ ❖

May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous ❖ ❖

Let us take time for all things: make us grow calm, serene, gentle ❖ ❖

Teach us to put into action our better impulses straight forward and unafraid ❖

Grant that we may realize that it is the little things that create differences: that in the big things of life we are one ❖ ❖

And may we strive to touch and know the great human heart common to us all, and O Lord God let us not forget to be kind ❖

Mary Stewart

FOR many years, women's clubs in Canada, United States, Britain and other countries have used a prayer for the opening or closing ceremonies of their meetings. Sometimes it is simply read by one member, at others it is repeated in unison by all those present. They have usually called it Our Creed or The Club Women's Creed and as such it is widely known and popular on this continent, especially in small towns and rural districts. Widespread usage has resulted in some changes. The author gave it a title: "Collect For Club Women," when it first appeared in an obscure corner of a well known American magazine.

Mary Stewart wrote the prayer in 1904, while she was principal of Longmont high school in Colorado. We are indebted to a Canadian woman, the late Mrs. Alfred Watt, M.B.E., for a true and correct version of the prayer, as here presented, and a little of the author's own personal story. Mrs. Watt came back to Canada in 1939 to attend and speak at the eleventh biennial conference of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, in Edmonton. She it was, who had carried the Women's Institute idea to Britain and later became president of the Associated Country Women of the World.

Mary Stewart, while visiting in England had spent some time with Mrs. Watt at her English home. Errors had crept into the various printings of the prayer, especially in the first and second-last lines. These errors marred the beauty of expression and the clarity of thought of this prayer. The author expressed concern about the garbled versions which were being circulated. In the studio of Robin Watt, the artist son of Mrs. Alfred Watt, Miss Stewart personally supervised his work of copying out the prayer, down even to fine points of placing a comma or a period. Reproduced here is Robin Watt's copy done by hand, under Mary Stewart's close supervision. The title, it should be noted is set in type, to identify it.

"It was written as a prayer for the day. I called it a 'Collect For Club Women,' because I felt that women working together with wide interests for large ends was a new thing under the sun and that, perhaps they had need for special petition and meditation of their own. This must have been true for the Collect has found its way about the world, especially wherever English speaking women get together. Indeed it has been reprinted in many forms in many lands."

It was officially adopted by the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, meeting at their second convention in 1920, at St. Paul. It was read into the printed records of the Congress of the United States by Senator Tobey of New Hampshire, at the closing session in 1949.

Mary Stewart held a number of special teaching posts in Colorado and Montana. In 1921 she became a junior guidance and placement officer in the pioneer period of U.S. employment services. She continued to write for American newspapers and magazines. Her Alma Mater, the University of Colorado, in 1927 conferred upon her an honorary degree in recognition of her distinguished work in education, social and civic service.

### WORLD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE STAMP

The post office department will issue a special stamp Wednesday, May 13, 1959, to commemorate a world-wide organization of some 6,000,000 rural women—an organization conceived by a Canadian woman.

The five-cent stamp will honor the development of the Federated Women's Institute of Canada. Cercles des Fermieres of Quebec and similar groups elsewhere belonging to the Associated Country Women of the World.

The green, black and white stamp, designed by Helen Fitzgerald, Toronto artist, shows a female figure kneeling beside a tree over which the globe is poised.

The words Associated Country Women of the World and Union Mondiale de Femmes Rurales form the border on three sides of the stamp. On the fourth side is the word Canada, with the denomination in the bottom right corner.

The border of the stamp is green and the lettering white. The denomination is black.

The female figure, the tree and the globe are pen outlines on a white background. The drawings of the woman and the globe are in black and the tree is green.

The postoffice said recently "the design symbolizes growth, as cultivated by country women, of individual country organizations into the world association as represented by the globe."

The idea of Women's Institutes was conceived in 1897 by Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless of Hamilton. The first institute was organized in that year at Stoney Creek.

The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, the national organization, was formed in Winnipeg in 1919. It now has a membership of 95,000 country women.

Mrs. Alfred Watt of Collingwood proposed the idea of any international organization and was named the first president at a meeting in Stockholm in 1933.

Miss Helen Hunter, one of our members, was the first member to purchase a stamp at King Post Office the next day, and gave it to us.



Twenty Year Membership Award

To commemorate membership of twenty-five years, April 12, 1972  
"The Ontario Womens Institute Story" was presented to  
Jean McDonald, Pearl O'Brien, Helen Hunter, Norma Etheridge  
and Elsie Hunter. (Picture below)



OBITUARIES OF CHARTERED MEMBERS

Mrs. Agnes McCallum MacMurchy, aged 84, descendant of a King Township pioneer family of the sixth concession at Strange passed away early Saturday morning, October 15, 1948, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Albert Hill of Nobleton. The wife of the late Alexander MacMurchy, mother of Norman D. MacMurchy, mother of Mrs. Hill (Ouida) and Mrs. Ross Lymburner (Margaret) of Hamilton, she has been in frail health for some years and was latterly confined to bed for approximately five months. A life long resident at Strange, she was the daughter of the late Peter McCallum and more than 60 years ago she married, settling on her late farm residence nearby her father's farm place. Mr. MacMurchy died 10 years ago having played a very prominent part in municipal life as a member of council, later reeve for some years and the warden of York County. Her interest in township affairs has since continued as her son Norman participates in municipal office, being Deputy Reeve of King Township.

Deceased was highly esteemed and widely known. She was a member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Strange, a member of the Women's Missionary Society of the Church; a life member of Laskay Women's Institute Branch. As a hostess, her hospitality knew no bounds and her personal talents she gave toward community benefit. She remained bouthful through her bright personality and her faculty for "silver linings" thoughts and comments.

The funeral was held on Monday, October 17th from the farm residence with the Rev. E. Burch, Mimico officiating, assisted by Rev. W.A. Westcott of Kleinburg. Internment was made in King Cemetery.

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On Sunday morning, August 31st, 1947, Mrs. T.B. Smeltzer of Laskay passed away peacefully at her home following poor health for a period of time. The funeral service was held from her late residence on Wednesday, the Rev. M.R. Jenkinson officiating. A large number of friends paid their last respects to one who was well known and highly respected throughout her life. Internment was made in King Cemetery.

Deceased was born in 1875 near Teston, Vaughan township, the daughter of the late James Scott and Edith Wells. At the age of six she came to the fifth concession of King, living on the Scott homestead until her marriage 48 years ago, when she and her husband settled on the Smeltzer farm at Laskay, where she has since resided. Mrs. Smeltzer was an active member of Laskay United Church for well onto 60 years, giving valuable service in the Sunday School and the W.M.S. of which she was a life member. As a charter member of Laskay Women's Institute, she enjoyed a life membership in that organization. Her interest in the community was maintained to a high degree until the last, and her life will be remembered for good works and kindness.

OBITUARIES OF CHARTERED MEMBERS Cont'd.

When King Horticultural Society flourished, Mrs. Smeltzer was one of the strongest members. Her fondness for flowers led her to contribute time and talent to its success.

Two sons survive, Pearson and Scott at home. Two sisters, Mrs. John Ash at Victoria Square and Mrs. L.J. Glass of King. Mr. Smeltzer passed away in 1944 and a brother, <sup>Lewis</sup> Louis Scott died in 1943.

Mrs. Geo. Atkinson

The first secretary of Laskay W.I. was the former Catharine Ann Sutherland born on the 7th Concession of King. She was a life long resident of King township, a life member of St. Andrews' Presbyterian church, but attended Schomberg church in the later years of her life, where she also took an active part in church and W.I. work.

Mrs. Atkinson passed away, after a short illness, at her home, lot 21, Concession 9, January 27th, 1950, at the age of 86.

Mrs. Atkinson attended the 40th anniversary of Laskay Women's Institute.

Mrs. Robt. Gillies

One of the charter members of Laskay W.I., was born at the homestead, lot 10, Concession 6, King, was married in 1895 to Robert Gillies, also a native of the community. Mrs. Gillies was the former Laura McCallum. Mr. and Mrs. Gillies settled on lot 15, con. 6, where they resided until the death of Mr. Gillies in 1933. The Gillies were faithful attendants at Strange Presbyterian church where Dr. Carmichael preached for fifty years and who also married them. Mrs. Gillies was a great worker in the W.M.S. work as well as W.I., and remained a member in her home community after moving to Weston, where she resided until her death in 1940.

Miss Octavia McCallum

One of the charter members of Laskay W.I. was born at the homestead in Strange where she worked faithfully with the Institute and W.M.S. In 1919 she married Robt. McQuade and spent the later years of her life in Collingwood. She passed away in 1940 after a lingering illness. The burial took place in Collingwood.

OBITUARIES OF CHARTERED MEMBERS.

Funeral service for Mrs. Mary McTavish Boys, Laskay, was held in Laskay United church, Friday, March 8th. Mrs. Boys was 90 years old, a Prominent church and community worker, she was the widow of William H. Boys and died at her home from a stroke which she suffered on March 1. Although her health was failing for two years, she remained quite active until last fall. A resident of the Sixth Concession of King for 70 years, she was born at Chesley, Ont.

After her marriage in 1899 she lived on her husband's farm at Boy's Lake until 1916, when they retired to Laskay, where she lived for 41 years. She was the oldest and longest resident of Laskay, Mrs. Boys was a widow for 25 years.

Mrs. Boys had a remarkably active and useful life. She was a fine leader and organizer and was a pillar of her church and the Women's Institute. She was a life member of the Women's Missionary Society and of Laskay W.I. of which she was one of the founders 49 years ago. Her community service was outstanding as she had been president both of her WMS and Institute branch on more than one occasion.

Mrs. Boys also led an active life in Sunday school work for over 60 years and always took part in young peoples' activities. She was director of Laskay Dramatic Club when it functioned several years ago.

Her charming personality, her lively sense of humor and executive ability as well as her good neighbor attitude made her a beloved and highly respected citizen.

Surviving are her sons, Frederick, Oak Ridges, Harold, Whitby and a daughter Winnifred, at home, also three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

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Mrs. Sarah Jane Gillham, 80, of Aurora, a former King township resident passed away at Rest Haven nursing home and was buried in King City cemetery on Monday, March 11. She was the widow of the late Lewis Gillham, who died in March, 1956. She had been in poor health for a number of years from a serious heart malady. F

Mrs. Gillham was the daughter of James Ash, Yonge St. and after her marriage came to King township 52 years ago where she and her husband farmed for 48 years, moving to Aurora four years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Gillham celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. She had belonged to All Saints Anglican church and WA and at one time was in Laskay Women's Institute.

## OBITUARIES OF CHARTERED MEMBERS

Mrs. Gillham is survived by two sons, William, Sharon, James, Temperanceville and two daughters, Mrs. Ernest Faires (annie) and Mrs. Frank Robertson (Hazel), Aurora. There are thirteen grandchildren and a brother, John Ash, Gormley.

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Funeral service for Mrs. Jean E. Robbins Gillies, 82, Richmond Hill, formerly of King Township was held, in Richmond Hill, on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 1957. Internment in King Cemetery.

The widow of John Gillies, who predeceased her in 1942, Mrs. Gillies died in St. Michael's hospital, Toronto, following an attack of pneumonia.

Mrs. Gillies lived on the Sixth concession of King following her marriage 50 years ago until she moved to Richmond Hill after her husband's death.

Mrs. Gillies was a member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, Strange, for as long as she lived on the Gillies farm and later transferred her membership to the Richmond Hill church. She was made a life member of WMS of that church about two years ago, but retained her membership in the Strange auxiliary until her death. She was a charter member of the Laskay Women's Institute.

With her late husband, she was a connoiseur of fine china collected from many countries in the world. In her possession were 250 plates and 1500 jugs and pitchers. She was familiar with the historical aspect and composition of each of the 1750 pieces. Mrs. Gillies had travelled considerably and had collections from the the United Kingdom, Europe, Canada, United States, India, Mexico and other places. Some of her china came from India.

## OBITUARIES OF CHARTERED MEMBERS

A life-long resident of King Township, living at St range, Laskay and King City, Mrs. James MacCallum was laid to rest Monday afternoon in the family plot in King City Cemetery. Mrs. MacCallum died in March, 1959.

In her eighty-fifth year, Mrs. MacCallum died at her Springhill Road home, her heart failing after pneumonia. Mr. Bruce Will of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church conducted the funeral service in Aurora parlors, where relatives and long-time friends gathered to pay their last respects. Pall-bearers were a neighbour, Mr. Donald McCallum and relatives, Mr. Marshall McMurchy, Mr. Donald Gillies, Mr. Walter Monkman, Mr. Gordon McCallum and Mr. Bert Ross.

A year ago Mrs. McCallum was among the chartered members honored at the fiftieth anniversary of Laskay Women's Institute. She was made a life member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church W.M.S. at Strange and a few weeks ago became a charter member of the newly-formed St. Andrew's W.M.S. in King City.

The former May Ross, she was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Ross, who farmed at Strange. When she married she moved to a nearby Laskay farm.

Upon her husband's death, she came to King City.

Surviving are her daughter, Mrs. Wilbert McCallum of Cookstown; one grandson Bruce McCallum of North Bay; and a sister and three brothers of King City, Mrs. Kate Port, Mr. Charles Ross, Mr. Duncan Ross and Mr. Herbert E. Ross.



## OBITUARIES

The death of Mrs. Maggie Peas Teasdale, Aurora in her 95th years on Friday, March 8, 1957, made the third in two days of three former neighbors who had resided on the Sixth Line of King in the Strange-Laskay community. Mrs. William Boys of Laskay and Mrs. Lewis Gilham of Aurora and Mrs. Teasdale raised their families in the same district. Mrs. Teasdale was buried in Aurora Cemetery on Monday. Before moving to Aurora she and her late husband had operated the general store and post office at Laskay from 1898 to 1921 and were closely connected with Laskay United Church. For as long as she was able, she returned to this church when anniversary services were held.

Surviving are her sons Frank and George, Aurora, and Edward, St. Catherines. Her daughter Edythe, Mrs. H. Gramshaw, Toronto. A daughter, Mary who was a registered nurse died in September, 1945.

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The death of Mrs. Marion M. Boys, Laskay, following a week's illness was a profound shock to her husband, Lawrie Boys, her sister, Mrs. Effie Bath, and others of the Collins family and community. She passed away in York County hospital, Newmarket, Saturday afternoon, Oct. 27, 1956. Funeral service was held in Laskay United Church.

Rev. Mr. Jenkinson paid sincere and heartfelt tribute to the life work of service to church and community which Marion Boys had served quietly, willingly and efficiently. She has left her imprint indelibly and decisively in whatever capacity she acted and everywhere drew forth admiration and devotion from her associates. Modest and sincere in her undertakings she emanated goodwill and companionship, and her wholesome mirth was a rare quality.

Mrs. Boys came to Laskay community 27 years ago and in July, 1938 became the wife of Lawrie Boy. She was a member of Laskay church; a former president of the W.M.S. and lately, quilting convener. She had taught Sunday school and was a member of the church choir. On the Sunday when illness struck her she was taking part in the special W.M.S. annual service at the church.

In the Women's Institute branch, Mrs. Boys was a enthusiastic member and was district director at the time of her demise. She was also a director on the W.I. Hall board and Sunshine convener of the branch.

Mrs. Boys found time to attend all sewing meetings of the local branch of the Canadian Cancer Society.

## OBITUARIES

A funeral service was held in Aurora parlors for Mrs. John Percival Forester of Strange, the former Lila Lloyd, who died in her 83rd year. Rev. Martin Jenkinson, minister of Laskay United Church where Mrs. Forester was active in the Women's Missionary Society, conducted the service. Burial was in Aurora Cemetery. Acting as pallbearers were Mr. Marshall McMurchy, Mrs. Lawrie Boys, Mr. Fred Boys, Mr. Norman McMurchy, Mr. Ross Folllott and Mr. Fergus Lawson.

Mrs. Forester was born at White Rose, before it became known as Mount Pisgah. Her farming parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lloyd, died when she was a young girl. Skilled in sewing, she did it professionally at Eaton's before her marriage and always liked needlework as a hobby.

Mrs. Forrester lived in Witchurch Township until 1933. Since then she and her husband farmed at Strange. Mr. Forester was a president of the Women's Institute and also a life member. Even in her eighties she kept busy with reading, fancy work and gardening interests. Her death came in March, 1959. She is survived by her husband, Percy Forester; their son at home, George, his wife and five daughters; and a daughter, Mrs. Barbara Nelson of Toronto with her three sons and a daughter. There are three great-grandchildren. Last November Mr. and Mrs. Forester celebrated their fifty-seventh wedding anniversary.

INDIANS - Cont'd.

Each Indian community had their own medicine man. By charms and magic, howling and beating of drums they claimed the power to frighten away demons and destroy enemies.

(This Indian History was taken from J.N. Cranston's Book - Etienne Brule , Immortal Scoundrel).

Many flint and arrowheads were found in this district, as history points to an Indian camp at Hackett's Lake, two miles north of Laskay.

## INDIANS

When the Indians were travelling on their trading trips and war expeditions as night came on they built wigwams which they covered with bark stripped from trees, others felled big trees and placed them around their encampment as a barricade, except on the riverside where their canoes were drawn up, so if need be, they could embark quickly. Trees were felled by burning and chopping with a stone axe.

Deer and bear were scarce up in the Kawartha Lakes district, then Huron Indian territory. Four or five hundred savages would spread themselves through the woods and by shouting and other noises frightened the animals, and drove them along a narrow point where other Indians lay in wait with bow and arrows. The deer and bears which took to the water were killed by savages in canoes. Fat of deer was kept for winter use, some meat was carried home for feasts. Winter clothes were made from skins.

In early 1600's the Indian canoes were described as frail looking craft of birch bark, eight or nine yars long with a breadth in the middle of a yard and a half. In winter when the rivers froze over progress was more rapid, as the Indians made wooden sledges which they used to carry their heavy loads of meat and fur.

The Hurons lived in fortified villages in areas from three to twenty-five acres and had populations from 200 to at least 6,000. These villages were called Palisades and inside Palisades were longhouses, constructed like arcades or garden arbors. In length the houses varied from 30 to 200 feet. Two platforms on which parents and children slept. Of privacy there was absolutely none. Sanitation was little better and villages were moved to other sites when it became impossible to live in them longer.

The Hurons dressed chiefly in smoke-cured skins. The staple food was corn, served without salt. The squaws pounded the corn into flour in large wooden mortars. Huron women once married were drudges. They gathered firewood, sowed, tilled and harvested the crops, smoked the fish, made clothing and prepared food in clay pots they shaped. Children were never disciplined. Houses were built by men. They also made weapons, pipes and canoes. Most of their time was spent in idle leisure, in hunting or fishing or in fur trapping and trading. Men were gamblers, they played hockey. The Hurons were continually at war with their kindred nation, the Iroquios. The Hurons were anxious to pick up the French tongue, The Hurons had no belief in a Supreme Being, they had a countless number of little gods or spirits which inhabited the trees, lakes, streams, birds and beasts.

BARN RAISING  
early 1920's



This is a barn raising on Jim McCallum's farm, lot 2, concession 6



This barn raising took place on the farm then owned by Albert Marshall,  
Lot 11, concession 6, and was taken by Rev. Robt. Brydon between 1910-1920

## LASKAY OLD BOYS

Laskay Field Day Association began about 30 years ago, with the former store keeper at Laskay, George Williams, its first president. It disbanded for a time but flourished again when Charles Black was elected president. The proper celebration of Dominion Day, with family fun, was the chief objective of this organization of young men. Prizes were given for the program of sports, races and games that made the day a popular one for the whole of King Township and its neighbours, and there were such novel innovations as a Baby Show, and a prize for the largest family on the grounds at Taffy Hollow. Sometime during the day, a swim in the Humber was of great interest. Dancing on a large wooden platform was the last event.

A gift of \$500.00 with no strings attached, is received joyfully by any organization. Such an unexpected windfall was announced during the 50th Anniversary Program of Laskay W.I. This donation "to be used for the building fund, or whatever purpose is deemed necessary" was bestowed upon the W.I. Branch by members of Laskay Field Day Association, when the members of this organization decided to disband.

Laskay Field Day Association whose members are the men of that little hamlet and district, decided to disband when a meeting was held recently in Laskay Hall, now owned by the W.I. Present at this meeting were Norman McMurchy, President; Fergus Lawson, secretary-treasurer; Charles Black, Pearson Smeltzer, Whatley Finch, Don Gillies and Fred O'Brien. The Secretary treasurer reported a bank deposit of \$760. owned by this association, whose chief activity was a Field Day each July 1.

It was decided to dispose of most of this dormant fund, but to retain \$200.00 so that there would be encouragement for younger men to organize and start a new Laskay Field Day in the future.

The sum of \$500.00 was voted outright to the Laskay Institute, whose members always co-operated faithfully when the association held its celebrations in Taffy Hollow at Laskay. The same Institute is entrusted with the \$200. that is to be deposited for some future Field Day. The remaining \$60.00 was sent to the School for Retarded Children at Thornhill.



Looking North  
Aerial view of Laskay - taken by N. Etheridge - 1950.



Looking east - taken 1940

LASKAY THIRD ANNUAL FIELD DAY.

On Saturday, August 19, 1933, Laskay celebrated the Third Annual Field Day. Laskay is situated on the south part of King Township, being divided north and south by the sixth concession line, and east and west by the crystal waters of the Humber River. On the slopes of this peaceful valley rest a happy contented people, full of ambition and sociality; and why not so, for hasn't Providence robed this spot in all of Nature's best. Look where you will, you see hills and slopes spotted with trees of all shapes and sizes and clothed in various shades and colours, that blend with the various hues of the firmament.

The afternoon's programme was begun by dedicating the new dam, which had been recently installed across the Humber. The speakers were Ex-Warden of York County, Alexander MacMurchy of Strange and Councillor D. McMurchy of Vaughan Township.

The result of the sport events are as follows, showing only the first and second winners.

Girls' Race, 10 yrs. and under 1. Jean Jewett.

Boy's Race, 10 yrs. and under 1. Don McMillan, Vaughan; 2. Clarence Ireland, King.

Girls' Race, 12 and under--1, Mary Barker, Bondhead; 2--Annie Walkington, King.

Boy's Race, 12 yrs. and under, 1--Sam Carlyle, Oak Ridges; 2. Howard Felliott, Ex Eversley.

Girls' Race, 16 yrs. and under, 1. Orma Devins, Nashville; 2, Evelyn Farmsworth, Toronte.

Boys' Race, 16 yrs. and under 1. Roy King, Toronte, 2, Ernest Lefroy, Oak Ridges.

110 Yd. Dash, single men, open to King & Township--1. <sup>Whatley</sup> Walter Finch, Laskay, 2, Marvin Hunter, Laskay.

75 yd. Dash, single ladies--1. Orma Devins, Nashville; 2. Ruth Baldwin--Strange.

100 yd. Dash--men, open--1. Marvin Hunter, Laskay; 2. Whatley Finch, Laskay.

75 yd. Dash, ladies open--1. Orma Devins, Nashville, 2. Mrs. Gould, Pottageville.

Married Men's Race, 50 yrs. and over--1. Ernest Castater, Teston; 2. George Paton, Laskay.

Married Women's Race, 30 yrs. and over--1. Mrs. Gould, 2. Mrs. G. McLean, Kettleby.

Married Women's Race--1. Mrs. Gould, Pottageville; 2. Mrs. McLean, Kettleby.

Stepping 100 yds.--1. Norman McMurchy, Strange.

Wheelbarrow Race--1. Dick Jones and Mabel Rumble, King, Marvin Hunter and Jean Watson, both of Laskay.

Obstacle Race--1. George Forester, Strange, 2. Joe Ball, Kettleby.

200 yd. swim, men--1. Harold Burt, Gerrans, Toronte, 2. F. Moore, Toronte.

100 yd. swim, ladies--1. Edna Ferris, Toronte; 2. Helen Burnett, Richmond Hill.

100 yd. swim, girls 16 yrs and under, 1. Edna Ferris, Toronte; 2. Laura Thompson, Toronte.

100 yd. swim, boys 14 yrs. and under--1. Jim Mizen, Toronte; 2. Murray Ezard, Laskay.

Boys' and Girls' swim, 12 yrs. and under--1. Murray Ezard, Laskay, 2. Howard Felliott, Laskay.

Pillow Fight, men, over water--1. Vern Williams, Newmarket; 2. Harold Vaughan, Toronte.

Pillow Fight, boys 16 yrs. and under--1. J. Willis, King; 2. A. Morrison, Vaughan



## PLOWING MATCH

This is a copy of a newspaper clipping kept by Mrs. John Grey, Laskay, which had been written up about or before the 1920's; and was an imaginary plowing match written by an anonymous writer (presumed to be Jos. O'Brien).

The addresses affixed to the competitors real names were some fictional, some from several places which had nicknames and some from proper names of places.

For example - "Vinegar Hill" was the hill (Now cut down) on the 6th con. King at Lot 14.

Scripture Town was named because of the Presbyterian Manse on sideroad between 6 and 7th concessions at Lots 10 and 11.

"Egypt" was between 6 and 7th concessions at Lot 8.

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## PLOWING MATCH

Forty-two plowmen competed at the match held by New Scotland Plowmen's Association on the farm of Mr. John McCallum. The following is the list of prize-winners:

I. Class in Sod--Open to Dominion--1st, Abraham Kerr, Egypt, 2nd, John Mitchell, New Scotland, 3rd, Watt Finch, Vinegar Hill; 4th, Cam. Walkington, Maple, 5th, Jas. McCallum, New Scotland.

II. Class in Sod.--1st, Cecil Pratt, Elvridge, 2nd, Lorne Gilpin, Thornton; 3rd, Harold Pringle, Hillsburg; 4th, Wallace Sinclair, Uxbridge.

III. Class in Sod--Boys under 18--1st, J.M. O'Brien, O'Brien's Corners; 2nd, Harry Finch, Loganville; 3rd, Archibald McCallum, Rolland Hill; 4th, John Blough, Rolland Hills; 5th, George Patton, Laskay.

IV. Jointer Class--1st, Roy McCallum, Gilpin's Cross, 2nd, Donald Rawlings, Hazleton, 3rd, Norman MacMurchy, Bolton, 4th, Frank Teasdale, Aurora, 5th, Roderick McCutcheon, Huttonville; 6th, Garfield McCallum, Dick, Ont.

V. Class, Stubble.--1st, Russel Snider, Carryvale, 2nd, Wells McDonald, Edwardsburg; 3rd, Jacob Belcher, Nobleton; 4th, Alex. Vanderburg, Ridgeway, 5th, Cameron Smart, King City; 6th, Robert Farren, Roden.

VI. Class, Stubble--Boys under 18--1st, James A. Cameron, Weston, 2nd, John Malloy, Linton; 3rd, William Mitchell, New Scotland; 4th, Mark McCallum, Webbwood; 5th, Frank Smelser, King, 6th, Ed. Lloyd, Laskay.

VII. Class Stubble--Boys under 15, wheel ploughs--1st, Freddie Boys, Strange, 2nd, Tommy Dick, Kingsboro'; 3rd, Davie Egan, New Scotland, 4th, Melly McCallum, Honey Harbor; 5th, Forest Koake, Copper Cliff, 6th, Tom McMurchy, Nobleton.

VIII. Class, Sulky Plow.--1st, Albert Hill, Mount Wolff; 2nd, Norman Ireland, Edgeley; 3rd, Archie Gillies, Scripture Town; 4th, Walter Monkman, Scripture Town.

Specials--Best Crown in 1st, class, Abe Kerr, Egypt; Best Finish in 2nd Class, Cecil Pratt; Best Finish, 2nd class, Lorne Gilpin; Best Crown, 3rd class, Jas. O'Brien; Best Finish in 3rd Class, Harry Finch; Best crown in 4th class, Harry Finch; Best Crown in 4th Class, Roy McCallum, Best Finish in 4th Class, D. Rawlings; Best Crown in 5th Class, Russel Snider; Best Finish in 5th Class, Wells McDonald; Best Crown in 6th class, James Cameron; Best Finish in 6th Class, John Malloy; Best Crown in 7th Class, Fred Boys, Best Finish in 7th Class, Tommy Dick; Best Crown in 8th class, Albert Hill; Best Finish in 8th Class, Albert Hill.

Judges for Plowing in Sod -- Andy Crawford, Milt Wellar, Malcolm McCallum

Judges for Plowing in Stubble--Andy Maclure, R.J. Mactaggart, Harvey Wells.

LASKAY THIRD ANNUAL FIELD DAY Cont'd.

Bicycle Race, on water - 1. Charlie Gordon.

Boxing - 1. Dick Jones, King; 2. Heber Irwin, Nobleton.

Hershesee Pitching, professional. 1. Allie Rebb, Jack Gould, both of Woodbridge;

2. Joe Quantz, Ed. Bone, both of Teston.

Hershesee Pitching, amateur 1. Joe Leece, Lester Downing, both of King.

2. C. Wallace, Sam Plunkett, both of Woodbridge.

Largest family on grounds--1. Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Robson of King, 2. Mr. and Mrs.

G. Rowntree of King.

Oldest Couple on Grounds--1. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Barker of Bondhead, total

years, 157.

Softball, men's tournament-- 1. Richmond Hill and King City, a tie.

Mixed Tournament--1. Victoria Square and Temperanceville, a tie.

Baby Show--Judges; Dr. Ross Lymburner, Miss Winnie Boys, Mrs. N. Carmichael.

1st- Patricia Parnell, King, - 2. Hazel Bone, King.

Old Time Waltz - 1. Art Gilham, Nobleton, Mrs. Fred Boys, Strange.

### MARSHALL BROS. LOSE LIVES IN ACCIDENT.

The double fatality of Frank and J. Arthur Marshall, as a result of an accident near Hornby on Saturday, March 14th, 1942, brought tragedy and sorrow to the Marshall families at King and Kettleby.

The whole incident is so filled with tragedy and deep concern to all involved, words cannot express the widespread sympathy that goes out to them all.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Marshall of King, Mr. Arthur Marshall of Kettleby, and their sister Mrs. Anne Marshall-MacMurchy, were travelling in the Frank Marshall car to attend the funeral of a relative, Mrs. Frank Dickinson of Milton. The collision with a truck occurred near Hornby, the intersection of sideroad No. 5 and concession line 7. Poor visibility was claimed to be the cause of the accident. The terrific impact was caused both the car and truck to be sent 60 feet away into a field. The men were instantly killed reports state. The women were taken to Peel Memorial Hospital, Brampton. At the time of writing Mrs. Marshall is suffering from fractured ribs and a fractured arm, shock and bruises; Mrs. MacMurchy from bruises and severe shock. Both are aware of the death of the men but neither were able to leave the hospital to attend the double funeral.

LASKAY FIELD DAY PICTURES



LASKAY OLD BOYS AND GIRLS REUNION - 1937

THIS REUNION (1937) WAS HELD ON THE LEVACK'S PROPERTY



THESE PICTURES WERE TAKEN AROUND 1940.



THESE PICTURES WERE TAKEN in 1950.

Surviving are Mrs. Frank Marshall and two children, Irene aged 20 and Aubrey aged 10 years. Mrs. J..A.Marshall of Kettleby and two children Ray, and Mrs. Jack McDonald both of kettleby and three grandchildren,

The circumstances are such that Irene Marshall must take her mother's place and with her young brother, face the situation as best she can.

Mrs. MacMurchy will recall that during the first Great War, her youngest brother Aubrey Marshall was killed on active service. Four years ago a brother Albert was laid to rest still a young man. With her to mourn the last and tragic deaths are two sisters, Mrs. Ella Campbell of King and Louisa McCallum of Toronto

One of the finest and oldest district families there has passed. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Marshall and four sons, Arthur, Albert, Frank and Aubrey.

It is more than 100 years since Christopher Marshall pioneered the farm occupied by the late Frank Marshall at Strange. When J.Arthur Marshall married Elizabeth Allan of Laskay, shortly afterwards,they settled at Kettleby. Both men were prosperous farmers, highly respected citizens and devoted to their church, Frank remaining a loyal officer there and Arthur an outstanding churchman at Kettleby.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.

This was on a happy occasion on September 5th, 1956, at the home of Mrs. Wm. Boys, when she celebrated her 89th Birthday. Her guests were members and friends of Laskay United W.M.S., and two members were made life members prior to their departure from the Community. Mrs. Boys seated in centre, and Mrs. Jesse Richards and Mrs. Les Glass holding certificates, and had all been presented with corsages.



Mrs. Wm. Boys  
Charter Member -  
Laskay Womens Institute  
Longest living active  
Charter Member till her  
death when Laskay Institute  
was nearly 59 years old.

### GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis R. Gillham, 122 Wells St. Aurora, held an "at Home" on Tuesday afternoon and evening, Sept. 21, to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Mrs. Gilham wore a brown crepe dress and a corsage of autumn flowers. <sup>1954</sup> Assisting were their sons and their wives, Mrs. and Mrs. Jim Gillham, Temperanceville, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Gillham, Sharon, their daughters, Mrs. Ernest Faiers and husband, and Mrs. Frank Robertson and husband.

Among the large number of guests were the bride's brother, John Ash and his wife of Gormley. They were the attendants when the couple were married in 1904, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Ash, Lake Wilcox.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilham retired to Aurora from their farm on the sixth concession of King a little over two years ago. All but nine of his 84 years were spent on the homestead where Mr. Lewis Gilham was born. He brought his bride, the former Sarah Jane Ash, to the large house where his parents Mr. and Mrs. George Gilham lived. They lived at Eversley for seven years, while their son Bill operated the home farm.

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February - 1955

Their golden Wedding day on Saturday must have been one of the happiest days in the lives of Mr. and Mrs. James Hunter. With them to celebrate were every member of their family, except one brother of Mr. Hunter, who lives in Seattle, but he was there in spirit, sending greetings. The family included four daughters and one son and fourteen grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Hunter, their three sisters and three brothers.

A reception was held during the afternoon and evening at the home of their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Hunter, Laskay. The rooms were decorated with many gift bouquets of spring flowers. Mr. and Mrs. Hunter welcomed over 150 guests during the reception. Beside them were their wedding attendants of 50 years ago, Mrs. James Watson and Mr. William Hunter.

Mr. and Mrs. Hunter were presented with a television set by their family. On Tuesday evening which was the actual anniversary day, Mr. and Mrs. Hunter held a family dinner party at their farm home. Twenty-five members of their immediate family were present, including Mrs. John Hill, Marvin Hunter, Mrs. Earl Scott, Helen and Vera Hunter, grand-children, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Jamieson, Mary, Betty, Jim, John, Robert, Judy, David, Peter, Paul, Carolyn, Scott, and Beverley and Jim Hunter.



## STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

The strawberry festival was held on June 1949, and if not too big a success financially, we at least brought a good rain to the community, soaking the fields, as well as the tables and people at the festival.

There had been no rain for five weeks and we set the tables outside on the dance platform. Just before the crowd was due, a terrible clap of thunder sounded and the clouds opened. We rushed all the food indoors and the tables too. In about a half-hour the sky cleared and the sun came out. So did the tables, and the food. We were just about halfway through when the rain came again and we had to do everything over again, food, tables and people all indoors, this time to stay.

## ANNUAL INSTITUTE PICNIC - 1951



Standing - Mrs. Etheridge - Mrs. O'Brien, Mrs. Egan-visitor- Miss Helen  
Hunter - Mrs. Dean - Miss W. Boys - Mrs. Black - Mrs. Forrester  
The ones with heads cut off- ? Mrs. Cairns, Mrs. McMurchy, Mrs. Hunter  
? Mrs. L. Boys.

INSTITUTE PICNIC - 1951

Back row - Margaret Cairns - Grace Glass - Janet Riddell - Lila Ann  
Forrester - Carol Ann Eagan - Diana Dean - Norah Jane  
Hately - Linda Cairns

Second Row - Carol McMurchy - ~~Mary~~ Mary-Ann McMurchy - Nancy  
Forrester - Ronnie Eagan - Florence McDonald - Beverly  
Hunter - Sandra Forrester

Front row - Sarah Ann McDonald - Jimmie Hunter



## YORK CENTRE W.I. ANNUAL MEETING

"The Women's Institute is admired from every standpoint and is identified with every good movement. It therefore should not take a back seat to any organization," declared Mrs. R.A. Birrell, provincial board member when she spoke to Centre York branches at the district annual meeting at Laskay United church on June 2, 1955.

It was the first time Laskay had been hosts to a district annual since its inception 46 years ago. Fine weather and the spirit of hospitality under the branch president, Mrs. Norman Etheridge, predominated the scene.

Rev. M.R. Jenkinson, the pastor, spoke of the Institute as a great adventure in sharing ideals when he gave the address of welcome. Mrs. L. Starr replied briefly. At the reception desks were Mrs. C.A. Black, Miss Winnifred Boys and Mrs. Lawrie Boys. A sumptuous luncheon was provided by Laskay.

From the 13 branches with 437 members, there were 110 at the rally, chaired by the district president, Mrs. E.S. Reddick. She was re-elected for a second term of office.

Wins Historic Contest. Mrs. L.W. Zuefelt, Richmond Hill, judged seven Tweedsmuir Historical books, awarding first place to Bogartown W.I., second place to Laskay and honorable mention to Aurora.

### Second Award!

In 1956, Laskay Tweedsmuir History Book was entered in the Annual Salada Tea contest for Ontario competition and we were awarded Honorable Mention. Later at the Fall Area Convention in Toronto, the F.W.I.O. presented ten Institute Branches with \$3.00 award for our efforts in achieving honorable mention from a competition of 56 books.

### Third Award!

In June, 1957, Laskay Tweedsmuir History Book was entered in the District Area Competition at District Annual meeting held at Vandorf. First Prize was acquired in this competition, \$5.00 being the prize donated by Mrs. Powell, Vandorf, District Secretary.

### Recognition!

In 1958 Laskay Tweedsmuir History was chosen one of three books entered in York Centre to be sent on to the Area convention, November, 1958, and was one of twelve on display at the Royal York Hotel Convention, Toronto.

## A BUS TRIP TO NIAGARA FALLS.

O, what is so rare as a day in June!

Well, that is what the ladies from Laskay and District thought on June 9th, 1953, when they enjoyed a delightful outing to Niagara Falls and other points on June 9th.

Sponsored by Laskay Women's Institute, 34 members and friends set out by bus at 8.30 in the morning. The weather was perfect with the scenery so fresh and green, as June is an ideal month for travelling.

We travelled by Highway 400, thence to Lakeshore Road on No. 2 Highway to Burlington and stopped at the famous Hamilton rock gardens, which was an interesting stopover. Back to Burlington, we went on to Queenston. We arrived at the Floral clock at 12.15 P.M., and a guide described and explained about the formation of the flowers, which are changed for the different seasons. Then, we viewed from a scenic platform the Hydro generating plant below us. Thence to the Hydro Building where we were shown films.

A short distance to Queenston Heights' Park was a pleasant thought where we enjoyed our Picnic Lunch. Some were able to climb to the top of Brock's Monument and view the sights, while others enjoyed the scenery of the Park.

Then we were on our way to Niagara Falls. After viewing Niagara Falls, you turn to the beauty of the Niagara Parks. Some of our party crossed the Honeymoon Bridge and viewed the American sights and shops.

Bidding farewell to Niagara Falls about 6.45 P.M., we drove over to the Welland Canal at Thorold to see cargo ships go through the lift locks. Homeward bound by Burlington and the Queen Elizabeth Way via No. 27 and 7 Highways, we arrived home shortly after 11.00 P.M., tired but happy with such pleasant memories of a happy days among friends.

Norma Etheridge  
Helen Hunter  
Jean Hately  
Frances Hoover  
Isabel Forest  
Dorothy Glass  
Jean McDonald  
Marilyn Egan  
Pearl Owen  
Edythe Cairns  
Beatrice Millard  
Grace Lutt

Christine Campbell  
Jean McMurphy  
Marilyn McMurphy  
Marion Boyd  
Maurie Richards

Ida Black  
Vera Monkman  
Effie Batts  
Refa Richards  
Verna Fuller  
Margaret Lee

Heldie Sever  
Mary Marwood  
Anne McNeil  
J. Buddin  
J. Abuckle  
Mary Scott  
A. Della Smith  
Mary M. Scott  
Margaret Scott  
Doreen Gilday  
Dolly McQuarrie  
Signatures of those  
who were on the  
bus trip to  
Niagara Falls

General Brock's Monument



Bus Trip to Niagara Falls, June 1953.

Part of the group taken on bus trip.

Back Row, Mrs. A. Campbell, Mr. P. McMans, Mrs. P. Smeltzer, Mrs. G. Forester  
Mrs. A. McDonald, Mrs. F. Tutt, Miss H. Hunter, Mrs. N. Egan, Mrs. H. Gilday,  
Mrs. L. Boys, Mrs. H. Severs.

Frent - Mrs. C. Cairns, Mrs. M. McMurchy, Mrs. L. Glass, Mrs. F. Buddin,  
Mrs. C. Black, Mrs. C. Hately, Mrs. E. Scott.



Mrs. C. Black - Mrs. L. Boys.

Institute Picnic at Mrs. Clubine's Cottage, Woodland Beach,  
July 1956.



## Laskay United Church

In April, 1949, the Laskay congregation began the task of redecoration and renovation in their church. This involved the painting of the building both inside and outside. On top of all this, the system of the church lighting was changed.

Much voluntary labour on the part of certain men of the congregation went into the venture. It was such effort that made possible the speedier dispatch of the work as a whole.

On May 29th -- the 45th anniversary of the laying of the corner-stone of the present building, the services of reopening and rededication were held, and drew capacity crowds.

One cannot think of this work of beautification without making mention of the kindly interest and financial aid of the Women's Missionary Society of the Church. It was this group who paid the expense of redecoration, which cost in the neighbourhood of \$800. The men of the congregation undertook the expense of the lighting.

The Young People's Society purchased the picture of the "Head of Christ" by Sallman. Here in this lovely little country church, the efforts of man have sought to make God's House more worthy.

## Laskay Congregation 102 Years Old, Mark 50th Anniversary of Building.

The building of a new church at Laskay in 1904 was an important period in the history of the Primitive Methodist congregation at Laskay. It was important also for the Wesleyan Methodist congregation at Strange, on the sixth concession of King. A new building was a dire necessity to both congregations. The old wooden structure of the Primitive Methodist had served well and the white frame building of the Wesley congregation in the same circuit also was in poor condition and its numbers were diminishing.

When the time arrived to construct a new brick building that would unite both congregations, the question of a site was the subject of a heated controversy. Would the new edifice be on the same site as Laskay's Primitive Methodist church, which would be dismantled to make way for the new building? Or would a new site be chosen directly on the sixth line highway in Laskay.

Laskayites, now forming a thriving community, were proud that Joseph Baldwin, an early pioneer who came to this district in 1832 from Yorkshire, England, had given a portion of his land for "a Primitive Methodist church and a parsonage".



Picture of cemetery at back of first church built in 1856, showing Baldwin tombstone.



The parsonage, prior to being torn down, stood on 4th lot south of of the church.



Many were proud that the first church built in 1856, had its roots from the nucleus of the Primitive congregation that held worship in a cooper shop back in the "flats" at Baldwin's from 1852-6.

Almost everyone recalled how the first church, (Some 20 rods east of the sixth concession road) was filled Sunday after Sunday with whole families. They all remembered how the wide plank seats were built in tiers, rising to the back of the church, so the "minister could see all his congregation at the same time, and keep a watchful eye on the young folks and late comers". They remembered the pulpit near the entrance at the ~~northwest~~ <sup>southeast</sup> corner of the building and the row of choir members to his left. They recalled the embarrassment of the tardy person who had to walk before the pulpit before he could climb to a row of seats.

They were loathe to give up the old site on "back street", rising behind the main roadway. And so, apart from some hard feelings, Laskay's Methodist church retained the original site. On May 24, 1904, the laying of the corner stone was held. Five hundred people witnessed the ceremony. The minister was Rev. Newton Hill and the guest speakers were Hon. J. W. St. John, Hon. E. J. Davis, Rev. G. W. Robinson and Rev. Dr. James Carmichael, the minister of Strange Presbyterian Church. The trowel was used by Mr. St. John and in the corner stone were placed two half gallon jars containing daily Toronto newspapers, and the Methodist church periodicals.

A huge tent was pitched across the road on Bob Wiles' lawn for the big supper. The women of Laskay Presbyterian congregation helped with the celebration.

It was a wet late season that year and construction of the building was delayed. The building committee headed by James T. Scott was enrolled by William Boys, Wesley Hamilton, Edward Marshall, George Teasdale and others. Half of the cost had already been subscribed, and by completion Rev. Hill looked for the remaining \$2,000 or more to pay off the debt.

## Laskay Congregation 102 Years Old (Continued)

On Sunday, April 3, 1905, the following year, the opening of the new church was held by large congregations on Easter Sunday. Three times that day services were held with the overflows taken in the basements by other ministers. Rev. Brown, president of the Presbytery Conference, Rev. Dr. Carmichael, and Rev. Young were the preachers. Mrs. Wesley Hamilton played the new reed organ which is still in use.

Mrs. L. J. Glass has the honor of being in the congregation for 56 years. Before that time she was a small girl in the old Sunday school. Mrs. William Boys, 86, is the oldest member in terms of age, having come into Laskay from the Wesleyan church.

For many years, a community Sunday school served both Methodists and Presbyterians in Laskay. Both in the original church and later in the present church, Sunday school teachers were a mixture of both congregations. In fact, the sixth of King boasted four churches, two Presbyterian and two Methodist.

In 1925 the Laskay church became the United Church of Canada and for the past eight years, Rev. M. R. Jenkinson has been the presiding minister of the present circuit of King, Laskay and Teston.

On Sunday, May 23rd, 1954, the Laskay church will celebrate its golden jubilee anniversary at 11 A.M. and 7 P.M. The beautifully preserved building, with its solid oak seats and other special appointments has been carefully and proudly preserved.

More than 500 attended the "laying of the stone" and more than 500 people joined in the services of worship and thanksgiving on Sunday. Rev. Martin Jenkinson, incumbent, welcomed the members of the church and their guests. The inspiring influence of the church and the blessing it brings to the confused mind was the theme of the guest preacher, Dr. Archer Wallace, who is a well-known author.

The church was decorated with many bouquets. Those placing memorial flowers included: Mrs. Leonard Glass in memory of her parents, Mr. & Mrs. James T. Scott; Mary Marwood and family in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan McMarchy.

Laskay Congregation 102 Years Old (Continued)

A reception was held following the morning service when the registry was presented by Mrs. Marwood and Mrs. William Bryson. It was held in the church hall.

The anniversary cake in gold and white with its spired chapel centred the decorated table. Mrs. Glass, a member of the Laskay congregation for the past 56 years cut the cake.

Hostesses for the reception was the W.M.S. Miss Winnifred Boys is the president. Pouring tea were Mrs. W. Baldwin, Aurora, Mrs. Percy Forester, Mrs. Sarah Harris, Mildmay, and Mrs. James Hunter.

Also at the guest table were Rev. and Mrs. Jenkinson, Dr. Wallace, Mrs. W. Williams, Mrs. Donald Paton, Mrs. William Boys, Mrs. Hazel Archibald Wellesley, Mrs. L. J. Glass, Miss Winnifred Boys and Mrs. Annie Evans. Mrs. Evans joined the Primitive church 61 years ago and was organist at the age of 15.

Mr. Jenkinson read an account of the "gala" cornerstone service of 1904. The register of names taken on Sunday will form a scrap book to replace the original church records burned in the manse fire in 1945.

A silver service, which had been presented to the late Mrs. Duncan McMurchy prior to her marriage in 1899 from the Wesleyan congregation, was used. The gift had recognized her services as organist for seven years. Her son, Marshall McMurchy, who is a Laskay official, read the original presentation address which had been signed by Mrs. Boys and Mrs. Charlotte Peterbaugh.

Mr. Jenkinson read letters of congratulations from those who were unable to be present. They came from Rev. R. J. D. Simpson, Toronto, a former pastor of the charge 60 years ago, Mrs. Annie Thompson Cathcart, a former teacher of Strange school and Sunday school teacher and from Mr. Elmer Davis, Kingston, whose father, the late Hon. E. J. Davis, participated in the ceremony 50 years ago.

At the evening service, Rev. A. C. Forrest, B.A., B.D., Port Credit, was preacher. He spoke of the blessings of "remembering". Mr. Forrest compared the hardships of the pioneers to the easy mode of living in the modern world.

Laskay Congregation 102 Years Old (Continued)

The Thornbury singers, the trio in the morning and a 30-voice choir at night, contributed to the service of worship.

At the evening service, Miss Winnifred Boys and Mrs. Norman Bryson were registry hostesses. The W.M.S. members were hostesses to the choir later in the evening.

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Prior to this 50th Anniversary a new Oil Burner Heating Unit was installed in the rear of the church basement. The removal of the old furnace and pipes made a good improvement to the floor space.

Also, at the rear of the church property, the church sheds were removed after being sold, and more ground was cleared of trees. Thus, there is ample parking space available.

This year the Sunday services were changed from afternoon to evening service at 7.30 P.M. during July and August. The Sunday school hour was dispensed with for the summer.

## HISTORY OF CHURCHES Cont'd.

### Presbyterian

Senator Reesor presented a site for a church, manse and small graveyard on the west side of the 6th con. to the Presbyterian Church of Canada. In 1858 the Rev. Jas. Dick of Richmond Hill Presbyterian church opened a mission at Laskay and in the same year the Church and manse were built.

This church was used continuously until the Union of Churches, June 10th, 1925. Then it was left idle and torn down in the 1940's. Mr. Charles Black has recently built his house on the lot. A few headstones show the site of the graveyard behind his house.

Mr. Wm. Dunning was also clerk in the general store and assistant postmaster. Having an education and being a good penman and bookkeeper, also having acquired a perfect knowledge of conversation in the Gaelic language, he was in great demand for writing deeds and wills.

The manse was built between the church and north of Laskay Hall and is now owned by Mr. Woods.



The above picture is on a postcard which was written on July 29-1910 by Thomas Cairns from Laskay to Miss Jean Patton, and was postmarked Laskay. The stamp was steamed from this card.

Rev. John W. Cameron, born 1851 in New York State, entered Knox College, graduated with a B.A. in 1881, and was immediately invited to take charge of the Presbyterian Church at Laskay. He had charge of churches in the west of King Township, three under him having a membership of 175. The churches were all comfortable frame buildings.



Baby Band Picnic - taken at Mrs. Jesse Bryson's  
June 1954



Four Oldest Members in Laskay W.M.S.

left - Mrs. W. Boys - Mrs. H. Ross - Mrs. J. Hunter - Mrs. F. Marshall



Members and friends at same picnic.

KING AND GAUGHAN BEEF RING CELEBRATES 60th YEAR - cont'd.

The price of beef has certainly taken a jump since 1911, when it was 9¢ per pound. Currently beef is 40¢ per pound. Lucky is the farmer who draws a twenty pound steak the week he is threshing. But someone has to get the neck and if the beef has been a large one (the average this year was 530<sup>lbs</sup>, the neck seems to be the largest part of it.

None of the society's original members appear on the membership of 1952, but the Hadwens and the McQuarries still carry on the family tradition.

The slaughter house, a 12x12 frame building was first on the farm of Wm. Walkington. In 1917 the Walkingtons sold it to the society for \$50.00, and it was moved to the other side of the road. In 1925 the insurance of \$3 per year was dropped and ten years later it burned to the ground. Undaunted the society appointed a building committee, and a new building was erected. In 1942 it was moved to the Scott farm on the fifth of King, where it now stands. The huge chart which hangs in the slaughter house is a weekly record of the weight of meat each member has received, and the weight of the beef killed.

The idea of the chart and the Beef Ring is that everything works out evenly when the long columns of figures have been added correctly. The members taking out more beef than they have put in, pay the difference at the annual meeting, at the rate of 40¢ per pound. If a member has put in a large beef, and over the summer he has got less than this weight of beef, he is paid at the same rate.

Over the years, whenever the members have held a supper or anniversary party, they have always had oysters or fowl, never roast beef.

Most farmers in Laskay district have been members at one time or another during this period.

This history was written by Mary Moore Scott.

## KING TOWNSHIP OFFICIALLY OPENS ITS NEW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING Cont'd.

Ontario. It seems too bad, he said that in slightly over 100 years, "there isn't one old pine tree left in King township, probably not in the whole of York County". He told how the King pines were cut for ship masts and how the earliest settlers cut and rolled the pines down hill, burning them in order to clear the land. He remembered the last mast was taken from Loves bush on the 7th of King, lot 12, brought down through Herb Ross's farm to the sideroad and hauled to King station with six teams of horses. He was a small boy when this took place.

Major A.A. Mackenzie, MPP introduced J.D. Millar. He too had fond boyhood memories of King township when he was a lad on his father's farm at Woodbridge. Mr. Millar said he firmly believes that "all public servants should be brought up on a farm." The art of farming is the oldest and most demanding craft in the world, he said. Once its rudiments are mastered all other skills come easily.

He spoke highly of the township's elected and permanent officials. Not only your township but the province, he said is richer by the advice and guidance of Harold Rose, your efficient clerk-treasurer and tax collector. "Any man who can collect taxes and still be popular is in truth endowed with the wisdom of Solomon," said Mr. Millar.

Mr. Millar said the new municipal building has historic value, because it is erected on a site not far from the place where the illiterate but adventurous Entienne Brule, the French explorer had travelled and where Governor Simcoe had travelled in his search for a feasible overland route from the new capital of York to the inland waters of the Great Lakes. Could I make the suggestion that on or near the grounds of this site, a suitable memorial be erected to the memory of Brule and his illustrious successor, John Graves Simcoe, he added.

### DEDICATION CEREMONY

Before the cutting of the ribbon, the new building was dedicated by Rev. Dr. Abbott of Schomberg.

The unveiling of the blue and silver plaque by C.A. Cathers, MP a King township farmer was a special feature. "Many of you were born in King township but I chose this township for my home," said Mr. Cathers. "I am proud," he said, "to represent this municipality in the House of Commons and am looking forward to the time when the Queen opens parliament."

In accepting the key of the King township building, Reeve Hodgson on behalf of council recognized the support given in promoting the project.





Beginning of Highway 400 in middle of lots 4 and 5 - About 1945.



Beginning of service station - 400 Highway & King City Sideroad.

KING TOWNSHIP OFFICIALLY OPENS ITS NEW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING Cont'd

DEDICATION CEREMONY

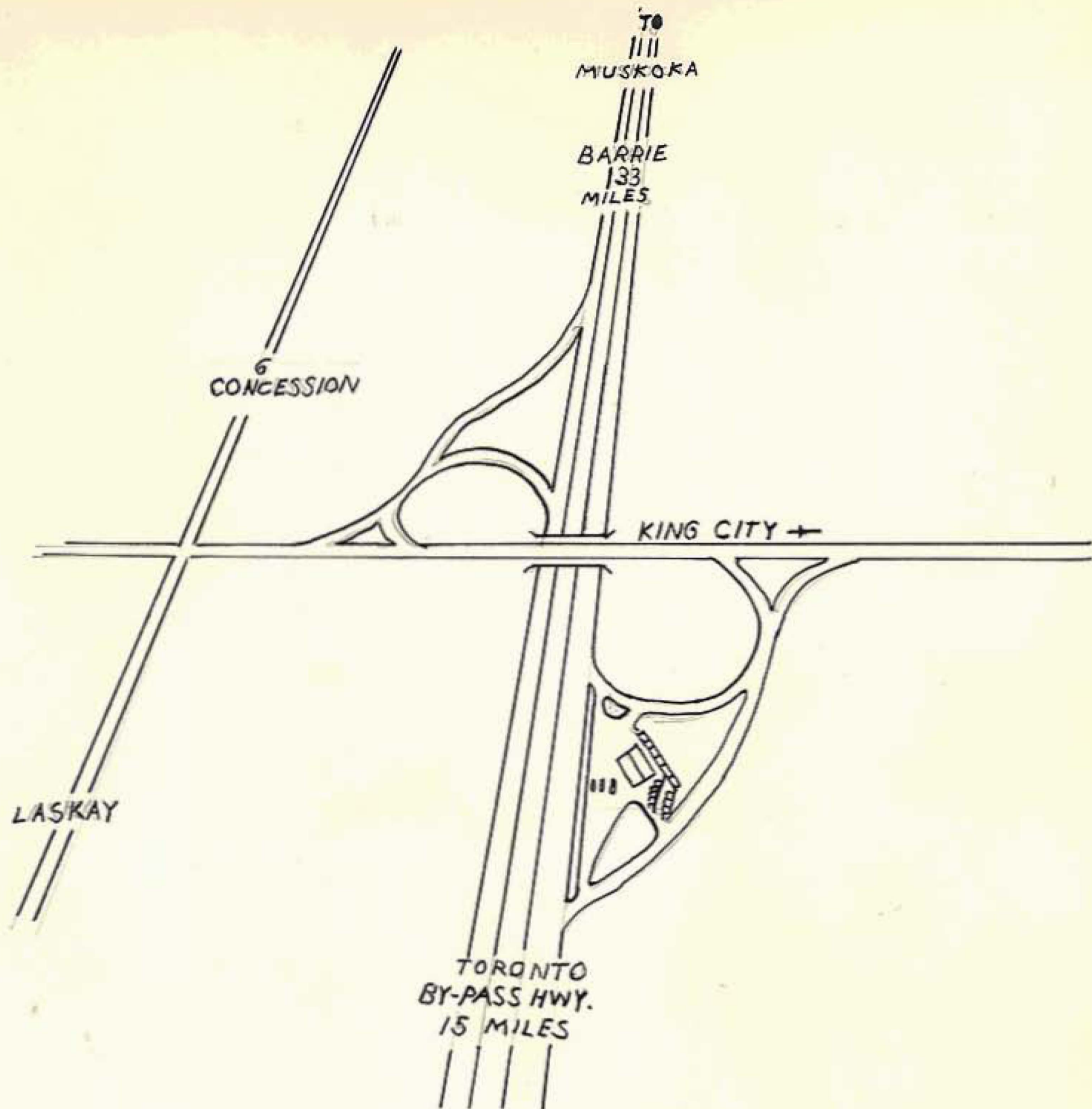
"It will do a good job for years to come," he said. The reeve said over 50 individual gifts from taxpayers and others had beautified and enhanced the building on opening day. Baskets of flowers from everywhere and permanent gifts were marks of goodwill and friendship.

The building was now open for inspection, for the signing of the guest book, and then downstairs where light refreshments were served to everyone by the ladies of Laskay Women's Institute.

The first council meeting was held in the new township municipal building on Tuesday, August 6th, 1957. There was a good deal of township business on hand but almost overlooked while topics of accessories for the new building were discussed.

Charles Black of Laskay was engaged as caretaker on a contract basis.





MINISTER OF HIGHWAYS TO OPEN NEW 400 ROAD SERVICE STATION - June, 1954.

The finest of its kind in Canada, the Shell Oil Company Service station, located on the Barrie highway at the King City interchange, is to be opened officially next week by Hon. George Doucette, Minister of Highways. It is the first of three such stations on Highway 400 between Toronto and Barrie. Built to conform with specifications of the Ontario Department of Highways, it was commenced on February 24th. It was designed by John B. Park Associates, Toronto.

The site is nearly four acres, with 825 foot frontage. It has a commanding view and the structure is a notable feature in King Township. The building which is 135 feet by 35 feet is composed of split granite field stone, with raked joint. This stone, according to the Carroll Construction Company, the contractors, was found, after some difficulty, on Mary Lake Farm to the north of the site.



NEW 400 ROAD SERVICE STATION (Continued)

New in service stations, it features a large restaurant, capable of seating over 40 people. This room has laminated arch beams to the roof, with sound-proof ceiling inlays. The floor is pegged oak and the kitchen floor space is tiled.

Modern restaurant equipment is designed to give fast service. All outside walls of the building are solid stone and inside dark pine paint has contrasting effect.

The foyer, stock room and garage and wash room floors are polished cement painted light brick red. Rest room facilities are provided, including a furnished ladies' lounge. The building has modern lighting facilities, with direct and indirect lighting in the restaurant.

The three pump gasoline islands are fed by a remote pumping unit, 200 feet away, operated on a pressure system. This is new in Canada and the United States and the only one in Ontario. Gasoline capacity is 20,000 gallons. The driveway approaches are long, allowing motorists to enter safely and easily at comparatively high speeds. Parking space is ample. The whole area has a high powered flood lighting system visible from great distances.

The building itself has small ground flood light units that will illuminate the coloring of the stonework. Flower beds are ready for planting and the outside area is being landscaped for shrubs and flowers.

*You are cordially invited to attend the*

**GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION**

*of*

**W. B. GREGG'S SHELL SERVICE STATION**

Highway 400 at the King City Interchange

**Beginning Friday, June 11th**

TOWNSHIP OF KING, 1957

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Instructions to Builders --

A building permit shall be obtained from the Building Inspector by the owner or his authorized agent for the excavation, erection, alterations, reconstruction, removal or wrecking of, or repairs to any building or part of any building on any lot, part of lot or farm, also for septic tanks. No such work shall be commenced until a building permit has been obtained and "is prominently displayed at the sight".

Basic Building Restrictions --

Every lot must contain at least 15,000 square feet with 75 feet frontage, and must be surveyed and registered before a permit is used for any building.

Foundation wall shall rest upon footings of concrete six inches by eighteen inches and protected from front by at least four feet of earth.

Dwellings of one storey in height must contain at least 700 square feet of floor area, and at least one room containing not less than one hundred and forty square feet of floor area, and every habitable room therein shall contain at least one hundred square feet of floor space. Ceiling must be eight feet clear above floor.

The roofs of one-storey buildings shall have double pitched roofs, the rise of roofs to be at least one quarter the width of such buildings.

No person shall be permitted to dwell in cellar or garage.

Charles H. Ross,

Building Inspector.

In 1957, 263 Building Permits were issued, of which 124 were for houses. Estimated total cost of building represented by the permits came to \$1,847,425. Most of the houses erected were large ones of more than six rooms.



Gas-Line Deadline November 1st, 1958.

These pictures were taken from King Sideroad between 7 and 8th concessins of King Township, where the Trans-Canada Gas pipeline is laid, showing a few rods of the gas line from Alberta to Toronto.

Toronto consumers should be burning Alberta gas in their homes and factories on or before November 1st, 1958. 1956-57 saw the first 1300 miles of pipe laid. This year's task was to lay 853 miles of 30" pipe from Port Arthur to Maple, north of Toronto Total cost of 1958 operation is estimated at \$765,000,000. A mile of pipe a day is slow progress now, in contrast with the easy two or three miles daily across the prairies. The pipeline is designed to deliver 780 cubic feet a day. The newly built Laskay bridge surely had its strength tested, as soon after it's completion, the constant pipe delivery on huge transportation trucks carrying 60' length, 30" pipe began to their allotted destination.



## THE TELEPHONE

New residents in such little communities as King City do not always remember that some of the niceties and necessities of modern living are not the result of the migration of city folks to the country, but were installed because of the industry and planning of progressive farmers.

Such is the history of the telephone system in King City that will soon lose its identity as an old-fashioned service operated by friendly people who know their customers by name and voices. When King City exchange becomes Temple 3, on November 1, 1960, an automatically controlled dial system will be installed, with perhaps a quicker, but less friendly service.

The first telephone line in this part of Ontario began under the Bell system, from Yonge St. to King City, and was formally opened in 1886, with James C. Stokes its first manager. His switchboard was installed in the store on the north-west side of Springhill Rd., now a real estate office. There were just a few telephones then; the doctor, the stores and the small businesses being the customers.

There was another line at Laskay and Kinghorn, operated by the Bell to accommodate that busier part of the township, where flour and woollen mills, and the Davis Tannery with its 100 or more employees, were connected with the city.

Norman MacMurchy, 6th of King, remembers his mother's first telephone conversation when he accompanied her, as a small boy, to the store at Laskay.

In 1910 a few farmers decided that the telephone system should be extended to their homes, and they formed the King City Telephone Company, with Al Wells its manager. Shares were sold at \$20. each and farmers contributed sums up to \$200 for lines to be run up and down the concession roads to their farms. Some of these were Neil McMurchy on the 5th; Alex MacMurchy on the 6th; Fred Willis, Archie McCallum and Andrew McClure on the 8th of King. Of these, only Andrew McClure, in his 89th year, remains to tell of the early days.

The line was extended as far west as Nobleton, and Mrs. McClure was the first woman from the west side of the township to speak to friends in King City. Telephone numbers were recognized by their rings. "Our number was five longs and six shorts, and we were often confused with the neighbours who had six longs and five shorts," remembers Mrs. Alfred Gilham who was little Elizabeth McClure.



## NATURALISTS PRAISE KING PUPILS FOR DISPLAYS ON CONSERVATION

When 500 pupils in grades 4 to 8 of 18 elementary schools of King township will produce many displays of three-dimensional projects on methods of conservation, plus dozens of posters and scrapbooks, it proves their desire for the establishment of a "Wildlife Sanctuary in King Township". Such was shown at the pupil's display last Friday, June 1955.

Pupils of five schools read briefs to the township council, giving reasons for a sanctuary, suggestions for methods of setting it up and outlining its uses and ultimate benefit to the present and future generation of children and adults.

Reeve Elton Armstrong was inspired to tell them in a reply speech to children, teachers and parents: "Perhaps a year from now council will be able to assure you such a sanctuary will come about." He also said the late Aubrey Davis had made a conservation survey of the township in 1938, and his son is now chairman of the planning board which would be consulted on such matters. The non-competitive exhibit was held in the auditorium of Aurora and district high school on June 16. It was a tremendous achievement by the schools and an educational program sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, to stimulate an interest in conservation. Through the leadership of inspectors Halman and J.F.Hodge, the various school principals and with the co-operation of the Federation of Naturalists and Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, the panorama spelled intensive study and research on the part of the children. Inspector Maynard Hallman was chairman of the gathering.

Mr. G. Marshall Bartman spoke on behalf of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. The schools taking part were Oak Ridges, King City, Strange, New Scotland, Pottageville, Snowball, S.S. 7, S.S. 17, Lloydtown, Linton, Eversley, Temperanceville, Kinghorn, S.S. 26 and S.S. 24 (Amsterdam). Books will be sent to these schools by the Federation.

To describe each school project individually would be impossible but the general theme was picturing a wildlife sanctuary in a multitude of variations. Several schools explained the projects to the audience. The briefs expressed definite opinions for the need of a sanctuary. A film, "The world at our Feet", was shown. The boys and girls were treated to ice cream by the Federation.

The program was televised. In the morning King City school was televised. The program was made from grades 7 and 8, among them pupils from Strange. Those who were fortunate in our community to be looking at T.V. on June 29th at 5.15 P.M. recognized many local faces from the Aurora scene and King City.

The switchboard of the King City Telephone Company was transferred to the grocery store of Milt Winters, where Robert O'Reilly still operates a general business. One of the first operators was Mrs. Jim Burns who lives at Erindale, Ontario. Mrs. Winters was night operator. The yearly charge was light, being only \$12. for the privilege of repeating messages to local people--during the hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. There was a charge of 25 cents on all calls between 6 and 9 p.m.

At the same time a private telephone company began operating from Maple, and it amalgamated with the private line at Woodbridge. After a few years the Vaughan-Woodbridge company bought the King City system, paying back their capital investment and dividends to the farmer investors.

This company operated successfully the business in King City that grew to 60 lines on one position in 1930, when Mrs. Bruce Hall came to relieve during the holidays. Then there were three girls employed on full time, and one on part time on the King City exchange, that has been moved to its present building on North Keele.

When the Bell Telephone Company bought the independent Vaughan, King and Woodbridge lines in January, 1951, there were seven operators employed on the busy local exchange, operating three positions. Now business has increased, with four positions crowding the office, which employs a staff of 12 operators.

"What will our girls do when the dial system is installed," the reporter asked Mrs. Hall this week.

"Some of the girls who stayed with us after they married, will keep house. Some have accepted transfers with the company, and some are undecided," said Mrs. Hall.

Section of Maple Tree Marks History Dates.

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There are still grand old trees in King Township that have lived all the years between the two Queens Elizabeth. One<sup>is</sup>/a maple, cut down to make room for new growth in the bush lot on Donald C. Gillies' farm, 6th Con., King. A slice of this tree was part of a study in conservation shown by the pupils of King City Public School at Aurora & District High School last week.

Ross Gillies, great-grandson of the original Scottish emigrant farmer, Archibald Gillies who settled on his Crown Grant of 100 acres and has continued to be the home of his descendants, along with his school friends, Danny Buddin and Barry Wallace, have learned a great deal from this slice of Maple tree. With their teacher, Carson Bice, and other classmates, they counted the rings of growth and discovered that it was quite a tree in 1665 when Champlain sailed to Quebec.

At the display of conservation study, the rings on the tree were marked to show the time when Wolfe captured Quebec, when Brock fell at Queenston Heights, the Battle of Trafalgar and the beginning of the Great War. These were among the historical events and scientific discoveries studied by the pupils and marked on the tree trunk.

CONSERVATION

Land Judging Competitions are Here

1957.

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Livestock judging used to be the rage in farm districts. Now, some farm groups are turning to their soil, giving it that same thorough inspection once saved for the cattle. They are finding out that each field on the farm has characteristics which make it unique.

In the fall of 1957, land judging competitions made their debut in Ontario. This competition in York County was sponsored by the Metropolitan Toronto conservation authority of York County. Seventeen young farmers were peering into pits to study the soil horizons, rubbing topsoil and subsoil in their hands to test the structure and texture, sizing up the topography of the fields, and filling out their score cards.

Soil scientists from the Ontario Agricultural College took the groups to several farms before the competition was held to coach contestants on how to identify the characteristics of various soils.

## THE FOX

The hamlet of Laskay made history in the beginning of Centennial year when a one and a half million dollar movie based on D.H. Lawrence's movie, "The Fox" was filmed on the original Baldwin farm, now the Charles Shields Estate. The farm tenant is Scott Smeltzer, a third descendant of John Smeltzer an early pioneer of Laskay district.

The Rayan production is being directed by Mark Rydell and stars Ann Heywood, Sandy Dennis and Keir Dullea. With the exception of the head cameraman and a few technicians, the crew is Canadian and the Fox is filmed in color. The American Movie Co. chose Canada for this production because of lower costs and because snow was needed. Snow and below zero weather on some of the coldest nights of the winter was a real challenge to the actors working outside under big klieg lights until one, two and three o'clock in the morning.

Throughout the picture, a marauding fox, which has been stealing the farm's chickens has been hunted. Finally, one night in the forest, Miss Heywood comes upon it and was unable to shoot. It has become for her the symbol of masculinity. The fox's place is taken, in her mind, by the sailor; Trained foxes were shipped in from California and a local veterinarian, Dr. C. Heder assisted on Fox days.

Prior to movie taking days, much preparation took place. Insul brick siding was removed from the farm house, and replaced with old tongue and groove for authenticity. A closed in verandah was added to the south of the house and a porch at the back door entrance. The T.V. aerial was removed. The roadway bridge was re-inforced for heavy traffic. Rail fences were erected on each side of laneway and farmyard. A dead elm tree, was uprooted from a field and placed in dooryard, which in the film was cut down by the two farm women, when the tree shifted and fell on the one and killed her.

A windmill was transported to the scene and erected. Some farm animals, hens and ducks were moved in. Miles of electric cable were used and power was generated on the spot. Trailers were set up for an office and make-up rooms.

The cast were brought in by bus from Toronto daily. Outside catering for noon or supper meals was partaken of in Laskay Women's Institute Hall, which also served a second purpose, a place to get warm.

Mrs. Ross Morgan next door to the Hall, came to the rescue of the star actor and actress one day, when she was called up to dry out their clothes in her clothes dryer, when they had been drenched from forced rain, on a cold winter day.

The farm house and driveway finally got back to normal about the

## CONSERVATION

### Land Judging Competitions are Here - 1957 (Continued)

Then when they went into the four fields of the Russell Hoover farm at King, they were prepared for judging. This competition was held on farm Lot 1, west part of Con. 6, about one mile from Laskay, where the ladies of Laskay Women's Institute catered the noon lunch to the group of men.

end of May. The lane was impassable in the spring, but has now received a good gravel covering.

The film was first shown in Toronto in May 1968.



For the Laskey  
"Woman's Institute,"  
I wish I could  
have had the  
pleasure of  
meeting you all!  
Sincere good  
wishes and good  
luck in all you  
do!  
Aunt See Wood  
1967

FIRE DESTROYS LANDMARK RESIDENCE IN KING TWP. - January - 1956.

Fire destroyed a landmark dwelling on the farm of G.G.Wanless, sixth concession of King, four miles northwest of King City, late Monday afternoon. Mrs. Winnifred Diceman, 28, the farm manager's wife was able to get her two youngest children, Margaret, 16 months and Steven, three months out of the house.

Her husband, John Diceman, 30, was at King City getting special milk for the baby when his wife telephoned Rigwood Supermarket to tell him the kitchen stove pipes were on fire. Carol, four was with her Father and Norman 8, and Linda, 6 were at Strange school.

The fire had a head start before fireman arrived. When the truck tank was empty, fireman had to take the truck 70 rods to a nearby lake (Boys Lake) for more water.

When neighbours arrived on the scene they got some furniture and an odd piece of household equipment to a driving shed nearby. But the greater part of the family belongings was destroyed. Mr. Diceman had no insurance on his possessions. The family spent the night at the Ross Folliot farm house and were to stay there as long as they needed help, Mrs. Folliot stated.

The King City firemen stayed at the scene until 11 p.m. to safeguard the large barn and other buildings. The six-room house was made of logs covered with clapboard. It was built nearly 125 years ago by Isaac Boys and was used by three generations of the Boys family.

The last of the family to occupy the farm was Fred Boys of Oak Ridges. He modernized the house 10 years ago. It was sold five years ago to Larry McGuinness who sold it to Mr. Wanless. Total loss of dwelling and contents, including a deep freeze belonging to Mr. Wanless, was estimated at over \$15,000.

Communities help burned-out family.

Excavation will be started soon for a two storey modern dwelling to replace the above house. On Tuesday neighbors collected clothing for children and took in home baking and groceries to the Ross Folliot farm where Mrs. Diceman and children are staying.

Mrs. Wanless brought a carload of clothes she collected from her Toronto friends and a layette for Stephen, and other articles. The King City Lions club is supplying winter under clothing and emergency items for the children. A community shower for bedding and miscellaneous articles will be held by Laskay W.I. in the Laskay Hall, on Saturday night.

SCENES TAKEN AT THE FILMING OF THE FOX





## RADIO BROADCAST

On February 25th, 1958, Laskay Institute was honored by being on a local Radio Broadcast at Richmond Hill, C.J.R.H.

During the Fall of 1957, and through 1958, ten minutes is allowed the Women's Institutes of York County, every Tuesday on the Farm and Home Show.

Mrs. Norman Etheridge, second-vice President of York Centre District and Mrs. Pearson Smeltzer, Historical Research Convener for Laskay were interviewed on compiling our History Book.

### MY HOME IS MY CASTLE

Sometimes, when tired, I fret and stew  
There seems too much for me to do.  
The kitchen floor needs swept and scrubbed  
The clothes and children, all need tubbed.  
There seems to be excessive noise  
From hungry little girls and boys  
I think, if I could get away,  
I'd have the grandest holiday.

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We've all felt this way, more or less  
When home affairs were in a mess.  
But what's our first thought when we roam?  
"If only I were safe at home!"  
Within the wall of our abode  
We find life's treasures, safely stowed.  
Family, fun, joy-we can't explain-  
Faith, love and comfort, when in pain.

This poem was written and read by Mrs. Mary Moore Scott in August, 1955, as an explanation of the motto - "My home is my castle".

CHRISTMAS

GREETINGS



1965 Christmas greeting from Metropolitan Conservation Authority.  
Showing drawing of Laskay Emporium.

## ICE STORM OF 1959

Those who remember back 60 years to 1900 reminisce that an ice storm, much like this one, hit this district. Then of course it was just a case of throwing another log on the fire, keeping the lamps trimmed, and bright, while you kept indoors. Today with all our "live electrically" conveniences, most of us were much harder hit and uncomfortable in our modern age. How helpless we feel without the magic power to flick a button and produce light. With the candles twinkling, we miss our T.V., Radio and worry about the furnace, 'frig. being off', but it was to the hydro crew our deepest thoughts go out, what a night to be out on the road, much less working with high tension wires covered with an inch of ice.

As we do the doctor or the police, we count on the hydro men to respond to emergency calls immediately and how important they are to keep the wheels rolling, the cows milked and the house warm. A storm of ice and frozen rain that changes the land to shimmering glass; it was so appalling to see the trees so weighted down, and brought these once majestic trees down to freakish sight.

In this area and many others hydro was disrupted from late Sunday afternoon, December 27th, 1959 till December 30th. The telephone service was out for ten days.

It is unlikely any of these hundreds of crew men, a great many crews came from North Bay, Sudbury, Ottawa, Bancroft, Oakville, Milton, St. Catharines, Coburg and Brockville, enjoyed their New Years' weekend--some were still on the job, others on call--while those who had free time just wanted to sleep.

We thank them for their untiring and valorous efforts in bringing order out of chaos in such short order.

The Smeltzer laneway at  
time of the ice storm,  
1959.



FAREWELL TO MR. CUMMINS, RETIRING MAILMAN.

Highlights of a dramatic past were recalled at Laskay Institute Hall on Friday evening, April 13, 1962, when 167 boxholders were given the opportunity to pay tribute to Ernest Cummins, who had given 38 years of continuous service on Rural Route 2, King City. From the horse and buggy days in 1924 when he started he graduated to the model T Ford and then to the more modern A. Many a time Mr. Cummins' cutter trail was the first marks on many a sideroad before snowplow days.

It was a friendly gathering and described as a "Gathering of the Clan"; and the highlight of the evening was when the honored guest was presented with a leather wallet, containing \$455.00 in cash. This money will help finance a three month visit to his boyhood home in Hampshire, England. Mr. Cummins has not visited England since he came to Canada 49 years ago, 1913.

There were 17½ miles on the mail route in 1924 and at his retirement he covered 31½ miles daily. The salaries ranged from \$700.00 to \$2300.00. From 1924 to 1938 the mail was sorted at King P.O. and then carried in two locked bags to the rural P.O. Laskay and P.O. Strange; and then returning each outgoing mail in locked bags.

Mr. Cummins' two daughters and two sons and one grandson attended the occasion, one daughter sent her regrets. Local entertainment was provided, followed by refreshments.

Responsible for the event were Deputy-Reeve Norman MacMurchy, Donald Barker and Ronald Fraser, all of 6th Concession, King.

## LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE

The little red schoolhouse, a vestige of pioneer days in Ontario, is slowly vanishing. Since 1945 when there were over 5000 such schoolhouses in Ontario, they have been diminishing at the rate of about 100 a year, squeezed out by the swelling demand for bigger and better facilities.

As rural population grows, township school areas are formed and two or more school boards combine to build a new school on a new location or add to one already in existence. Bus services are inaugurated to carry children from distant points. Instead of taking lessons in one room in groups of 30 or more, children are separated according to age and grade into classrooms in new spacious buildings.

In January, 1965, school areas became compulsory in Ontario, and King Township elected a five man schoolboard. In September, 1965, children who maybe lived next door to the school were transported to another school. At Strange school grades 1, 2 and 3 are taught to children who come from New Scotland, Kinghorn and Strange areas. At Kinghorn school grades 4 to 8 are taught to children.

In September a new Senior public school will be opened in King City across from high school to serve abt 7 and 8 grades from King Township. Since 1965 the Strange school built in 1942 has been used as offices for King Township area school board.

CHANGES IN PROPERTY HOLDINGS 1960-66.

including Laskay and Strange on 6th concession.

East Side

West Side

Lot 1. Whatley Finch and family moved to King city in 1963, but still own original Smeltzer farm of whom Whatley is a descendant. The oldest son, Jim Finch and his wife Donald live in house and a neighbour Russell Hoover rents and works the farm. New house built on northwest corner of Lot 1 by John Karpuck; formerly Eric Eif owned the lot.

Lot 2. Wm. B. Gregg bought farm in 1964 from Smeltzer estate, house rented to Van Husen. Harold and Ada Books built house on corner lot, 1962, who formerly farmed on lot 2, rear con. 6.

Lot 3. Chas. Shields and family moved to Hamilton, return some weekends. Chas. Hately and wife Jean moved to Eaton Hall Farm in late 1965. Daughter Nora Jane and husband live in Laskay house.

On back street the Smith cottage was purchased by Bruce Cox. Len Chandler sold to Mag, 1963. John Taylor sold to Stephen Cserna, 1965.

W m. Ham, Jr. built garage and apartment dwelling on south half of Ham property.

Lot 3, 1965 Chas. Levack sold to Maxwell Bruce, Q.C.

Chas. Levack still in farm house.

Lot 4. Newton Bros. sold property to Maxwell Bruce Q.C. S.M. Raymond still lives in old house at front of property. Mr. Bruce built large house and horse barn in 1964.

L.J. Bennett sold house and lot to Maxwell Bruce 1966. Bennetts still in residence.

R.H. Franklin purchased the original Boys house from Payne.

A. Loucks opened the Shamrock Paint & Varnish Works in a newly erected building around 1961.

CHANGES IN PROPERTY HOLDINGS 1960-66 cont'd.

East Side

Lot 5 - Earle Lowe and family moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Xmas 1963 by R.C.A. Co. and returned Feb. 1966.

Ivan Boy (formerly of Denmark) and his wife Margaret (formerly of Scotland) were occupants in Lowe's absence.

Three homes built and owned by D. Halloway, J.A. Shipley and Donald Ough.

Aubrey Gordon, a former Laskay boy born on Lot 3, west side, con.6 and his wife Florence built a new home in 1962-63.

Corner house first owned by Ballantyne, sold to Hlarace K. Henry in 1965.

Lot 7. John Guimond bought the Murdock home, 1959 and in 1964-65 built a new red brick house to replace the old one. Rebt. Murdock and family had lived there since 1925.

Walter Monkman sold farm to Mary J. Williams in 1965. Farm had been in Monkman name since 1914.

Allan Henderson, renting farm and H. Bloem and family formerly of Holland occupants of house.

Lot 8 - MacMurchy family sold original MacCallum farm to Mary J. Williams, 1964.

Lot 9. George Forester sold to Eric Reilly in 1963, retired to Nobleton, killed accidentally at work, Dec. 1964.

Ken O'Brien and family rent the farm and occupy half the house.

West Side

Lot 5. Original O'Brien 18 acres subdivided.

First house built, sold to F.P. Gill  
Second house now owned by D. Finnegan.  
Two more lots sold.

Original O'Brien home, latterly owned by Barratt sold to C.D. Whitten, 1965.

Lot 6. Donald Hutchinson bought of Mrs. J. Smith, 1962, sold to John Manson, 1966.

D. Hutchinson was former owner of King City Hardware, now moved to Tilbury, southwestern Ontario.

Lot 7. Alfred Gillham sold to D.C. Henderson - 1965, Jas. Hurlbut now resident.

Lot 9. Norman MacMurchy sold farm to Stan Kerr. Son Douglas Kerr and family live on farm.

Norman and Pearch MacMurchy built new home on northwest corner of farm in 1961.

1967 - HIGHLIGHTS - ADELLA SMELTZER.

Canada's Centennial year got off to a fine start on Jan. 1, 1967. All across Canada great excitement and chivalry dominated right through until December 31. In the nation's capital, the Prime Minister lit the Centennial flame which was to burn throughout the year 1967, but so many requests have been made to keep the gas jet burning, it will be kept burning as an eternal flame.

The greatest celebration of all was the more than successful Expo 67, "Man and his world", created on a man-made island in the St. Lawrence River. Fifty million people attended the site when fifty nations participated.

People travelled to Montreal in many unique ways but the most outstanding trip was the voyageurs by canoe from Peace River District to Expo in 104 days at an average of over 30 miles a day.

Many of the older public school children in our area were privileged to attend expo as well as many grown ups, including nine members from Laskay W.I., Marjorie MacMurchy having participated in the singing group of York Choralers.

Mention should be made of Bobby Gimby and his trumpet who led children in all parts of Canada in his marching song "Ca-na-da" and made his final exit at the closing exercises in Ottawa, Dec. 31, 1967.

The highlight of Manitoba's celebration was that they had the honour to hold the Pan American games in Winnipeg in Centennial Year.

Canada lost two loved and respected Governor-Generals; In 1967 the Acting Governor-General George Vanier and a past and first native born Governor-General, Vincent Massey.

Major Lex MacKenzie, a veteran and well-known, well respected M.P.P. and local historian retired from Parliament in 1967.

In Centennial year 20,000 irate farmers demanded a better deal for Agriculture and invaded Ottawa by tractor. It was the largest gathering by far of any type on Parliament Hill. Marching eight abreast the column took more than an hour to enter the vast grass covered square. Ottawa was host to some 60 dignitaries from other countries, including members of the Royal Family, most of whom visited Expo. Prince Philip made three official visits in '67 to Canada.

The confederation train and caravan journeyed across Canada to tell the Canadian story with the aid of life size models, sound effects, lightning artifacts and photography.

It was an interesting fact that a women helped plan and keep Centennial year colourful in none other than the Secretary of State, Judy LaMarsh. For this district the most talked about and certainly the most enjoyed social event which so many local people attended was the Centennial Chicken barbecue held in King City Park, June 30th. Many local organizations worked on this project, the new addition to the park. Over 2000 people (more than the entire population of



the village) attended and consumed a ton of chicken.

When the heavy rain came after the dancing started, you either had to jam into the park barn, your car or go home. Many stayed and braved the elements to watch the midnight fireworks and heard the church bells ring in Canada's birthday.

The Laskay Women Institute held a Centennial Ball in Laskay Hall in September; several former residents came to this re-union dance and many who didn't, wished they had; a friendly and social time was enjoyed by all.

Nobleton village sponsored a mile long parade and Dominion Day Celebration. The original Baldwin farm in Lot 3, Laskay was in the news highlights twice this year, first in Feb. and March when cameras began filming a colour Movie, "The Fox", first written in book form by D.H. Lawrence. Starring in the movie are Anne Heywood, Sandy Dennis and Keir Dullea. In July the Aurora Banner published the history of the Baldwin family and mills at Aurora; they told of the family origin and first mills at Laskay on Lot 3.

Laskay United Church for the first time in it's history acquired a morning service after many years of an afternoon hour of worship, and were sorry to lose their beloved pastor of 22 years, Rev. M. Jenkinson to another charge.

Three new houses have been erected in the Laskay area this year as well as an addition to the old Forge, some beams from the West barn on W. Finch's farm were used in the "Old Forge" addition. They have been carefully finished and are in the open ceiling.

Two well-known local couples have celebrated 50 year wedding anniversaries in 1967, Sir Ellsworth and Lady Flavelle and Mr. and Mrs. James Baxter, both of the 7th concession.

The Ontario Junior Farmers had a centennial project which gave the owners of centennial farms a plaque to be placed at their gateway. Three of these awards were displayed by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Gillies, Lot 15, King, Mrs. and Mrs. Ross Foliott, Lot 11, King, Mr. and Mrs. James Finch, Lot 1.

Sheila Dennett, a Laskay student topped the Ontario Scholar group in Centennial year at King City Secondary school.

Some local travellers in '67, Don Barker, by air, (accompanied by a group of men from Woodbridge when they spent 10 days in January in Ecuador, S.A. Mr. and Mrs. N. MacMurchy had a two weeks vacation in Bermuda and Antigua. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dooks motored to the east coast accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. F. Campbell. Two historical happenings took place in the ridges of King and Hacketts Lake. Colonel and Mrs. J.F.K. Strathy, Lot 13, con. 6, were host and hostess to Royalty, Her Royal Highness, Princess Alexandra and her husband, Hon. Angus Ogilvy, while the Princess (whom the Colonel had known for some time) was visiting in Canada and making a cross-country tour, in which she and her husband were widely acclaimed as

Jolly good fellows.

Secondly in July a group of senior boys from Richi<sup>u</sup>dooca camp at Kettleby hiked the eight miles to the old Carrying place, the portage from Humber to Holland River, with the use of modern topographic maps and compasses, the tribe headed north from Kelly Lake near the 7th concession. In the first one-quarter mile they climbed over 100 feet, one fine example of the mountains. Much was learned about the history, geography and geology of the region.

The Humane Society held a country home tour which included the old Stone Church at Strange, the McClelland and Strathy houses on lots 12-13 and lots 2-3 seventh concession.

Local history was made at Lloydtown school, a century old S.S. #15, when it re-opened its doors to the eager youngsters of the 20th century. The school was created for the teaching of natural science, history and geography. Hundreds of King Township school children came through the year to see many items of historical interest and learn their history and how they were used. At the opening of this township area school Board centennial Project, even the weather duplicated a 19th century condition when snow banks were a hindrance to the ladies attending in 1867 styles with the long skirts.

Another Centennial display worth mention was the nine day antique display shown at Vanderf in Whitechurch township, when an estimated 2000 people visited the antique show "Through the Years."

Some of our members were guests of Schomburg and Nobleton Institutes when they had antique displays. At a Centennial closing party at Ottawa where more than 5000 people braved the elements on a cold wintry night, the Governor-General, Roland Michener, described the Centennial Celebrations as a "Watershed in Canadian History". Like the explorer of old Canada was crossing a great height of land dividing the past from the future, "Having paused in 1967, Canada is now refreshed and ready to resume its journey. To-morrow is a day of new departure, a moment of choice and destiny."

1968 - Leskay students attending University or other schools were.

Ian, Mary and Sheila Dennett - Kitchener-Waterloo University.

Beverley Hunter, Wellington College, Guelph; Janet Stubbs - York University-Toronto. Lars Eif, Royal Roads College, B.C.; Beth Cairns, nurse-in-training, St. Joseph's Hospital, Toronto; Kirsten Eif, nurse-in-training at Wellesley Hospital, Toronto.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE  
LASKAY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

CENTENNIAL BALL

AND

RE-UNION

ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1967 at 8.30 P.M.

IN LASKAY INSTITUTE HALL

MUSIC PROVIDED BY FERGUS LAWSON'S ORCHESTRA

CENTENNIAL COSTUME OPTIONAL - SPECIAL PRIZES

ADMISSION - \$1.50 PER PERSON - LUNCH PROVIDED.

Mrs. A. MacMurchy

MRS. T. WALKER

President L.W.I.

SECRETARY.

First Wedding Ceremony  
in  
Laskay Womens Institute Hall  
July 25, 1976.

Linda Capon and Kevin Savage were married by Mr. J. Kotras in  
Laskay Womens Institute Hall on July 25, 1976.

Linda is a Health Care Aid at King City Lodge.

Kevin works for Ronalds Federated Graphics at Richmond Hill, Ontario.

Linda came to Canada from Wendover, England in 1968.

Kevin came from England in 1957.



# THE BRUCE TRAIL

Colour and Time — how do you equate them? Nature does, and in the grand manner — the brightening greens of spring, the warming yellows of summer — the ripening reds of fall — and nowhere more grandly than along the Bruce Trail!

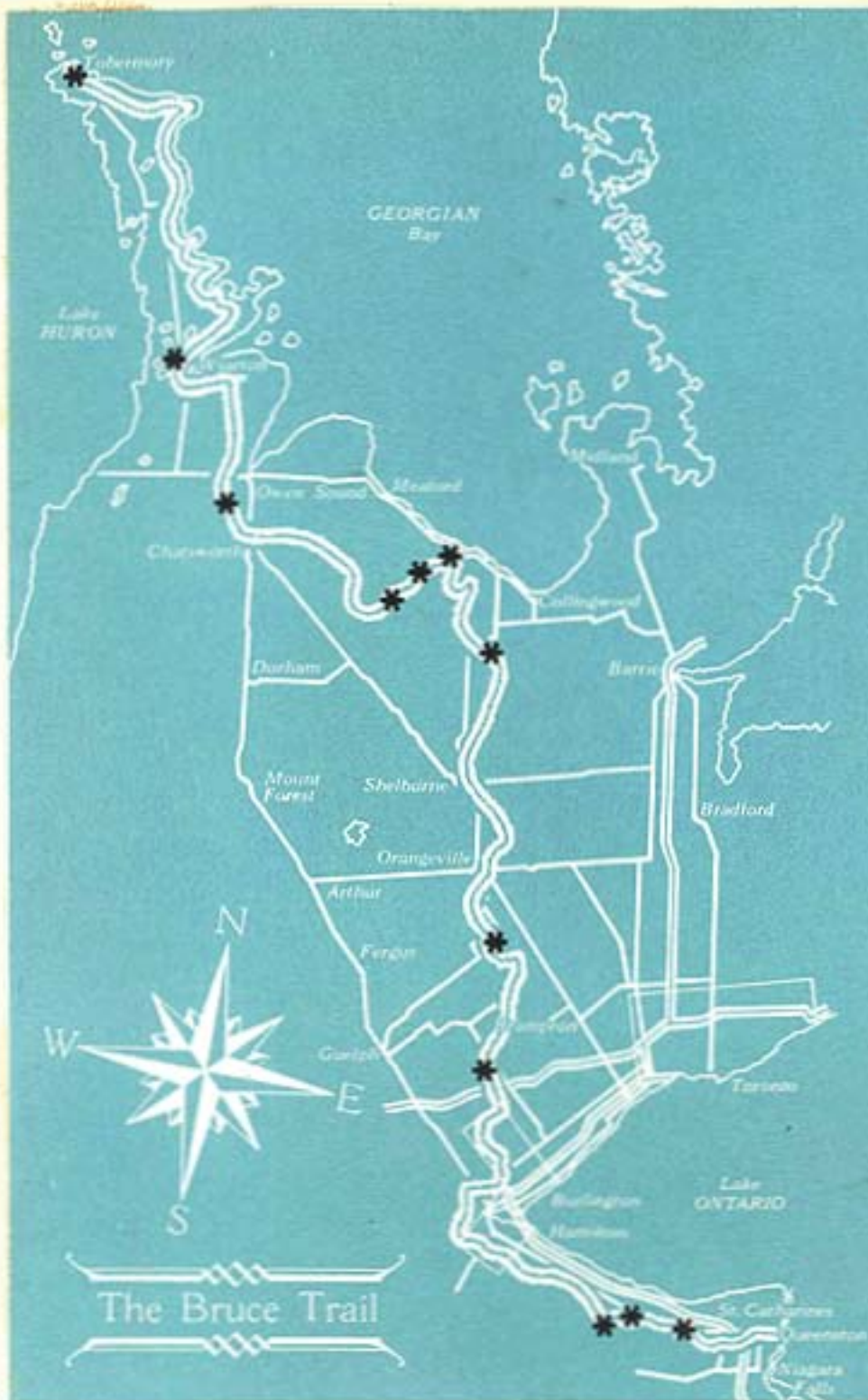
A project of The Federation of Ontario Naturalists, aided by the generosity of individuals, land owners, service clubs and government agencies, "The Trail" is a conscious effort to preserve for Ontario a three hundred mile long "green belt" through the industrial and agricultural heart land of the Province.

A foot path and nature trail following the crest of the Niagara Escarpment from Queenston in the South, to Tobermory in the North, The Bruce Trail forms a natural haven and retreat for those who would escape completely the hurrying confusions of our contemporary world. Here the family may relax; here the adventurous may know again the warmth and camaraderie of a campfire under the stars, or here the quiet ones may be at peace to examine their thoughts and the world around them; and here too may the artist fill his brush to capture the majesty of rushing waters, the magnificence of rolling hills and the calm coolness of the woodlands of this Ontario of ours!

We salute the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and those who would help them in this imaginative and exciting project.

**RICHARDSON, BOND & WRIGHT LIMITED**

\* Location of views painted along the trail commencing at Balls Falls near Vineland.



## THE TORONTO CARRYING PLACE AND PURCHASE

The Huron Indians used trails along both the Rouge and Humber Rivers in their trading trips, and war expeditions, and the first settlers followed the same routes.

In the early 1600's Samuel de Champlain, a Frenchman, sent a young lad named Etienne Brule, to live in the country of the Huron savages and make himself acquainted with their habits and customs. With no companions but primitive aborigines and 800 miles from any white friends he learned Indian habits and customs too well. He betrayed his country France and returned to the Huron Indians. He died by treachery.

Among white men Etienne Brule is undoubtedly the first, as a boy of eighteen he reached the Huron country five years before Champlain, and first travelled the Humber trail in 1615, as recorded in J.H. Cranston's Book "Etienne Brule" - Immortal Scoundrel". "Brule" and his twelve Huron companions travelled down the present Lake Couchiching, through Lake Simcoe and up the Holland River until they could go no further. Shouldering their canoes they completed the long twenty-mile portage to the mouth of the present Humber river, which is today Lake Ontario. This has since been called the "Carrying Place."

La Salle crossed the carrying place in 1680 and said "All baggage must be carried over the crest of high mountains". The canoes used by La Salle were 20 feet long, 3 feet wide and each carried about 12 hundred weight of merchandise.

Why the trail ran from the mouth of the Humber and not from some point nearer to its source was the fact that all rivers flowing into Lake Ontario were blocked by beaver dams and fallen timbers which the aborigines were unable to remove. The Holland river which was a dead water could not be dammed by beavers and was too wide to be obstructed by fallen timbers.

This trail according to the Indian Pioneer's map went up the West of Laskay and there was a tenting camp at Hackett's Lake, which is now at Lot 13, and Lot 14, on concession 6, King Township, about 2 miles north of Laskay.

Now a new highway named "400" between the mouth of the Humber River and the West branch of the Holland River and beyond, follows closely the course of the Toronto Carrying Place; the main route between Lake Ontario, the Huron Country and the Georgian Bay in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. This new highway is one-half mile east of Laskay and crosses the Humber River directly east of Laskay.

Between 1720 and 1759 Lake Ontario was controlled by French Posts at Niagara, Toronto and the Bay of Quinte; the English were disputing their sway and secured a fair share of the trade.

In 1785 the Humber Holland Trail was surveyed and in September 1787, the preliminary negotiations with the Indians took place on the Bay of Quinte. The Township of King is part of the Toronto Purchase arranged by Sir John Johnson, as

THE TORONTO CARRYING PLACE AND PURCHASE Cont'd.

Superintendent of Indian Affairs and comprised about one-third of York County. The price in trade goods was paid to the Indians and Nathaniel Lines invoice of the goods reads as follows: "Memorandum of bales and boxes brought from Cataraque by Mr. Lines to Toronto and delivered to Colonel Butler:--6 bales Strouds 5 pieces each 30 pieces; 4 Bales Moltons each 10 pieces 40 pieces; 4 kegs hoes 49 each, 196; 8 half barrels powder; 5 boxes guns; 3 cases shott; 24 Brass Kettles; 10 kegs of ball; 200 lbs. Tobacco 47 carrots; 1 Cask containing 3 Gro. Knives; 10 Doz. looking glasses; 4 trunks of linen, 1 Hogshead containing 18 pieces of gartering; 24 laced hats; 30 pieces Ribbon; 5 Gro. Fish Hooks; 2000 gun flints; 1 Box 60 hats; 1 bale flowered flannel 10 pieces; 5 bales 3 point blankets 16 pair each; 1 bale Broad cloth 4 pieces; 5 pieces embossed serge; 1 case Barley Corn beads; 96 gallons of rum".

The total number of Indians who had an interest in this transaction was, men, women, and children, 1,107 persons.

The exploratory trip which Simcoe made in the Autumn of 1793 over the whole communication between the Lakes is the last glimpse of the Humber Holland portage. The early surveyors were careful to note it's existence when their lines crossed the old path, but as York county became farm land all traces vanished except at the Northern and Southern extremities. As soon as Yonge Street was opened the Humber Holland route was abandoned.

King Township data taken from Historical Atlas of York County, 1878.

From one of the oldest records in the county, the minute book of King Township, commenced 6th of March, 1809. -- Inhabitants names 33.

James Rogers	William Hughes
John Doan	Joseph Cody
Enos Dennis	William Haines
Amos Hughes	Jacob Hollinshead
Isaac Rogers	William Tyler
William Doan	William Kennedy
Joseph Doan	Henry Harman
Mahlon Doan	Isaac Davis
Ebenezer Doan	Caleb McWilliams
Rufus Rogers	John Devine
Levi Dennis	David Love
Nathaniel Gamble, Jr.	James Love
Isaac Phillips	John Hunter
Isaac Hollinshead	Michael St. John
Thomas Taylor	Henry Sagle
John Nicol	Benjamin Kester
Benjamin Pearson	

March 28th, 1809

Total number of inhabitants -- 160

Heads of Families -- -- -- 33

May 13th, 1820 - King Township increase in inhabitants -- 278

1825	"	"	"	450
1830	"	"	"	766
1842	"	"	"	2,625
1850	"	"	"	5,574
1871	"	"	"	7,482
1881	"	"	"	6,664
1957	"	"	"	9,673



## PIONEER'S REQUIREMENTS.

The Surveyor General issued from his office the 15th of July, 1794 notice -- "that all persons who have obtained assignments for land including Yonge Street leading from York to Lake Simcoe unless a dwelling house shall be built on every lot under certificate of location, and the same occupied within one year, such lots will be forfeited on the roads".

These conditions were required from settlers --

"They must within the term of two years, clear, fit for cultivation, and fence, ten acres of the lot obtained; build a house 16 X 20 feet of logs or frame, with a single roof; also cut down all the timber in front of, and the whole width of the lot, (20 chains, 135 feet wide), 35 feet of which must be cleared smooth and left for half of the public road."

In 1796 Yonge Street north to Lake Simcoe was cleared and levelled so that it was possible to travel the route with a vehicle.

## PIONEER DAYS

In 1800 when the township was first surveyed King township had 30 settlers. BY 1830 King township had 766 population.

The erection of a saw mill was always the first marked event in the formation of a settlement in the bush; as the settlement increased grist or flour mills were erected. In some cases there were settlers on land before there were deeds granted, and some were squatters occupying a favorable location in the hope that they would not be disturbed.

A growing population requires the necessities of life at hand, thus stores were opened, taverns licensed and in a few years a thriving village, particularly where there is a river or stream and a good water power.

The first farming in York County was done by methods most primitive when compared with those of today. Loyalists recalled that a forked trunk of a tree was at first hauled over the ground by oxen, and that the ground so scraped, was then sown among the stumps by hand. Some pioneer farmers had the old Bull plough, with only one handle and a wooden mould-board. Heavy iron tools were used until later replaced by steel.

In harvesting the flail was early used to beat the grain out of sheaves, or horses treaded it on barn floor. In 1816 the "summerless year", almost all the grain was frozen off.

There were "bees" for all manner of activities, both of men and women. Primitive log houses and barns were erected in raising bees. The same in felling trees, making hog-heaps and burning piles and stumps; Women had bees for quilting, preserving, etc., and men joined women in husking corn, paring apples, and others, which were more frolics than work. Cattle and pigs were slaughtered at home and provided the settler with barrels of salt meat for winter or export.

Rough hewn furniture did not give way to finer until there was time and money to get it. Much hard labour was expended upon making potash and soap from hardwood ashes; making maple sugar, lime, shingles, boards and numerous other necessities. Women often rose as four in morning to spin flax and resumed that industry in evening after regular work. From flax was made ropes, harness and much of the first clothing for both winter and summer. Leather was tanned, and boots and harness made. To save shoe leather, adults and children went barefoot in homes at all seasons and outside during summer months.

If sickness came the doctoring was rough and ready, but none the less effective in most cases. What syrup and concoctions those grandmothers used to make from herbs and barks that grew in the woods about them. For colds they used

PIONEERS DAYS Cont'd.

boneset, coltsfoot and hoarhound. If they had cramps, colic or fits a little wild turnip would be grated and taken. If they took too much the cure would seem worse than the disease. For sore mouth there was gold thread, saffron for measles, sarsaparilla and burdock for the blood, onions for the croup. All kinds of bark, black cherry, prickly ash, pine, balsam and tamarac, were made into remedies for various maladies and preserved in plenty of whiskey.

Comparison of Prices:

<u>1853-58</u>		<u>1870</u>	<u>1949</u>
18 lb. - \$2.40	sugar	10 lbs. \$1.00	.9¢ lb.
1 lb. tea .96¢		.80¢	\$1.10 & up.
barrel \$5.00	flour		\$1.75 - 24 lb. bag
butter 16½¢ lb.			.73¢ per lb.
Eggs 2½ doz. -.31¢			.40¢ per doz.
raisins .13¢ per lb.			.21¢
currants - .9¢ per lb.			.23¢ per lb.
Print . 18¢ per yard			.39¢, 45¢, 69¢ per yar yard.

The first list of prices was taken from a page in the ledger book of

Joseph Baldwin, dated 1840 to 1864.

## FENCES

The story of Fences goes back through the dim ages to the very beginning of man. Always there have been fences or dividing walls or stockades or bulwarks or hedges of one separating kind or another. Amongst the few municipal officers which the Government of Upper Canada permitted were the fence viewers. The word "fence" derives from the Latin "fender", to ward off, implying a confining or enclosing against human or animal intrusion.

"Good Fences make good neighbours" - Robt. Frost "Love your neighbours, yet not pull down your hedge", Geo. Herbert. In Canada rural fences have grown up with the country. Whilst materials used and construction methods varied, one might even trace it back to the lower animals for what is a beaver dam but a water fence?

Deer pounds and buffalo pounds were a form of fencing originated and used by the Indians long before the advent of the white man to North America. Undoubtedly one of the first of our North American fences was the palisade surrounding an Indian Village. A fence of posts or thick pieces of bark standing eight to nine feet high built solidly side by side was supported by heavy crosslogs and an overlapping indirect entrance. In case of enemy attack this entrance could easily be blocked by heavy logs.

Abraham Lincoln in his day was affectionately known as the "rail splitter" because of his prowess at this very tricky job. Even in those days snake rail fences meandered up hill and down dale. Because of sharp angles, and interlocking joints, they were strong and solid, but they had two drawbacks, they sheltered weeds in their corners and they took up a lot of room, but served as eating and resting places for harvesters in hot weather.

Straight rail fences built much the same way but lacking the two bad features of the snake rail fence. They succeeded the snake fence, which in turn, succeeded the stump fence, which comprised simply large tree stumps piled in a row. Stumping bees were organized in the long ago pioneer days, when neighbours assembled including their families, and their team of oxen and oversized bulding hampers of food, consisting of cooked hams, chickens, home-made pork sausage, doughnuts, pies, cake, buttermilk and raspberry vinegar. Mostly the oxen were called Buck and Bright. The soil would be loosened about the stumps and all except the tap roots cut, then with a "good all-together" steady pull by the oxen, out came another section of fencing. After a tremendous supper the local fiddler cleared a space and 'called-off' for the dancing that usually followed, accompanied by lusty singing and genuine olden time frolics.

## FENCES

3

A foundry at Bolton, Ontario, made iron fences of beauty and dignity. Ornamental fencing is an important architectural feature in enclosing parks, cemeteries, reservoirs and public works of all kinds. The cost of brick fencing in Canada is now so high that it is seldom used. A hundred years ago the farmers often made their own bricks on their own farms and then built good solid brick houses, many of which are standing today.

This, then, in brief is the story of "Fences".

Material taken from the book "Fences" written by Harry Symonds, and formerly originated through the efforts of his father-in-law, the late William Perkins Bull, K.C., B.A., L.L.D. of Peel County, Ontario.

## PIONEERS AND EARLY SETTLERS

### 1800 (Eighteen Hundred.)

In 1800 the first survey of the Township of King showed the presence of twenty residents. At this time, Indian trails, and rivers were used for travel.

#### Development

The development of Laskay was divided into two parts. The east and west.

#### East

In 1832 Joseph Baldwin, who had immigrated to this country two years before, from Yorkshire England, settled on the Lot 3, Concession five, of King Township, on the East branch of the Humber River. This property stretched from the top of Laskay Hill to the Church Road, on the East of the sixth concession.

During the same year, Joseph Baldwin married Elizabeth Simpson. Her people were Quakers and had come to this country about the same time as he. Her native home was Kirby Moorside, Yorkshire England.

Mr Baldwin had the front of his farm sub-divided into village lots, but did not register his plan. On these lots were erected a (Wollen) Woollen Mill, General Store, Post Office, Shoe Shop, Photograph Gallery, Tavern, Cooper Shop, Church and parsonage.

The mill dam was built north-east of Shields residence. A sluice was dug to take water to the mill, which was a Grist Mill and situated a little west-down the hill from Shields.

Mr Layman was the miller. Later the Stevenson Brothers took it over.

The Cooper shop was between Shiel'd farm buildings and house. Mr Warren was the cooper.

The General Store was built in 1845, at the intersection of the Mill Road and Concession six. This is its present location-our sole link with the industries of the past.



The mill dam built East of the farm buildings on the Baldwin Farm, now known as Charles Shields.

1849

In 1849, Laskay was such a busy place there was a demand for a Post Office. William Munsil, who kept the General Store, was in 1849 appointed as the first Postmaster.

In those days the mail from Toronto was by stage coach to Richmond Hill, then it was transferred to a carrier, who took the following route;

North on Yonge Street-to what is now called Elgin Mills;

West to Honey Pot - on to Hope;

Then to McVicar's tavern on Lot 3 - Con.5 - then North-West to the Mill Road and west on the Mill Road to Conc.6 and the Post Office at Laskay.

Mr. Bowman followed Wm. Munsill as Postmaster and in 1857 Henry Baldwin was appointed. Since then, the list of Postmasters is as follows;

Henry Baldwin 1857-62

George S. Baldwin 1863-69

Henry Baldwin 1870-88

Benjamin Rollins 1889-98

George Teasedale 1898-1921

William Gray 1922-1923

D. McCallum 1924

John Glendining 1925

Wilbert McCallum 1926

The Post Office was closed in March 1926. W. McCallum was the last Post Master and he was a great-grandson of Donald McCallum, (Chief McCallum, who was the first postmaster of King Postoffice, when it was opened on Lot 8, concession 6, King twp., that is, just north of the Monkman farm).



Joseph Baldwin subdivided the front of his farm into village lots, but did not register the plan. On this subdivision were erected a woollen mill, general store and Post Office, shoe shop, photograph gallery, tavern and cooper shop. He donated land for a church, parsonage and graveyard to the Primitive Methodist Congregation.

He was married the year of his arrival to Elizabeth Simpson, a member of a Quaker family residing about three miles south of Newmarket. There not being at that time any authorized minister living within eighteen miles of their residence, the marriage contract was drawn up by a Justice of the Peace and witnessed by a number of friends and relatives. Four children blessed the marriage,

In 1844 he was selected to represent the Township in the District Council, which he fulfilled satisfactorily until 1851, when he was compelled to retire from the pressure of his own increasing business.

After the death of his first wife, he married Mrs. Bailey and they had six children. Mrs. Bailey was the great grandmother of Scott Smeltzer, who is now a tenant on the original farm.

He retired to the Village in 1880 and died in 1882. Mr. Baldwin was buried in the graveyard of the Methodist Church, the property he had previously presented for this purpose. The Baldwin family plot was later moved to Aurora Cemetery.

The Baldwin family was engaged in the business too. At the age of twenty, in 1856, Henry was established by his father in a General store in Laskay. He was subsequently appointed to the position of Postmaster of Laskay. He held this office for over twenty years. He added an additional business and purchased a carding and cloth finishing mill near the store. He later enlarged it to treble its original size and capacity. He also enlarged his store to suit the increased trade.

In 1862, health failing due to strain of business, he took an ocean voyage, sailing from New York to Victoria, British Columbia. He returned to Laskay in 1869 and friends and relatives prevailed upon him to return to his old business. He conducted the store and woollen mills

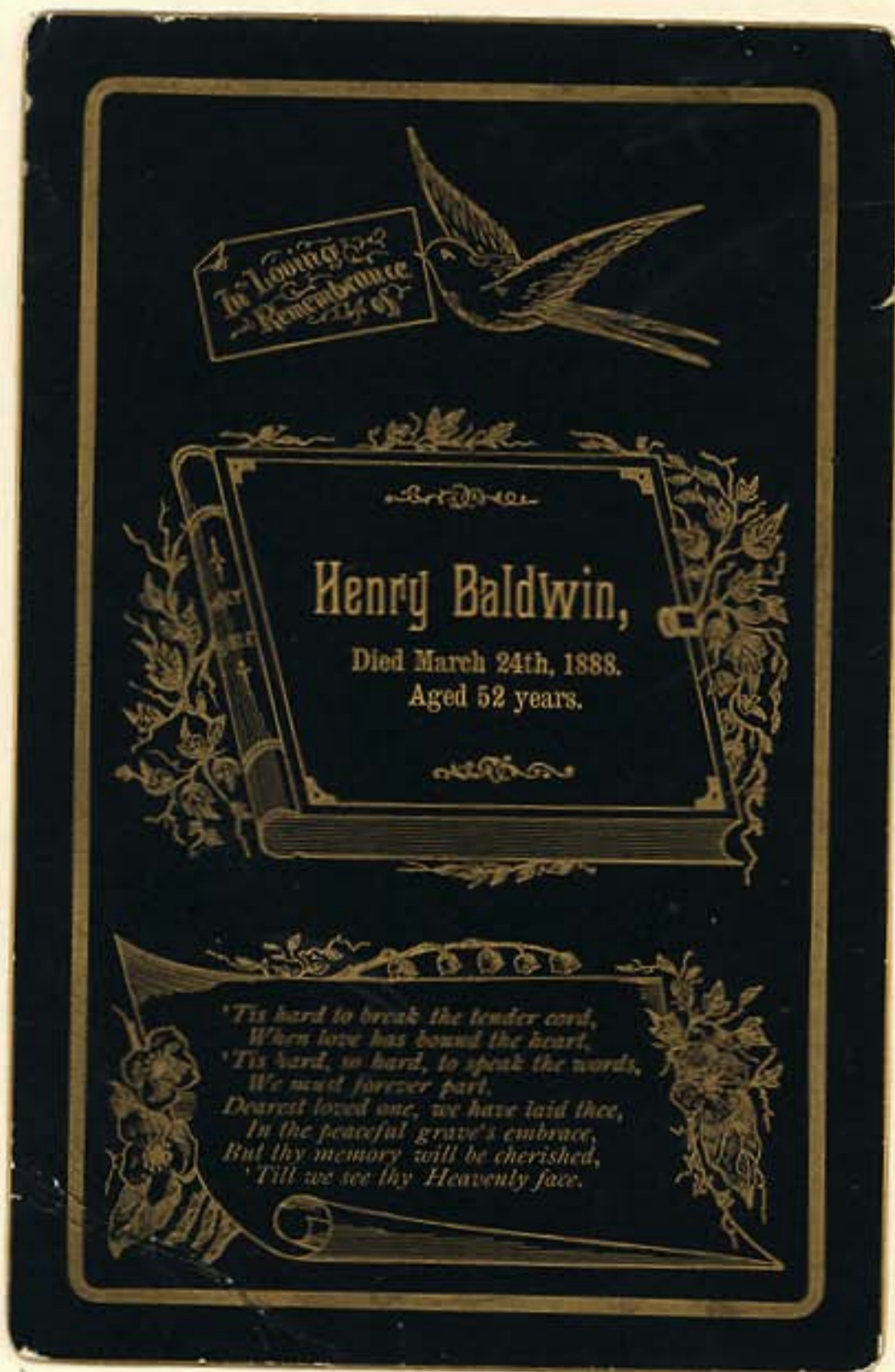
until 1882 when he disposed of the general part of the store.

George was Postmaster for seven years.

Henry Baldwin's wife and sister, Mrs. Lewis, operated a dressmaking and millinery business in the four rooms adjacent to the store.

In 1897 the carding mill was burned down and the pioneer's visions of the village expansion faded as the wool business died. When the woollen mill was built, there was enough power to run it day and night. By 1897 the Humber River could not supply enough water due to the bush being cleared away.

Descendants and relatives live in Aurora and the surrounding district. They have carried on the Baldwin tradition and chosen careers in business, education and the medical professions.



Henry Baldwin  
Born 1835  
Died 1888

First Storekeeper  
and Postmaster  
of Laskay  
1856 - 1857

## WEST SIDE OF LASKAY

1856

The second development commenced in 1856, when David Reesor, afterward Senator Reesor of Markham, subdivided the west fifty acres of lot 4, Concession 6. The survey was made by George McPhillips' and registered in 1856.

On this property was erected a sawmill, plaster mill, turning lathe mill for making chairs and beds, a tailor shop, shoe shop, butcher shop and slaughter shop.

Senator Reesor presented sites for a church, manse and small graveyard to the Prebysterian Church of Canada. (The history of this church is found on another page).

Shortly after Laskay was laid out with the intention of having it incorporated as a village, however, the incorporation was never carried through. A sale of lots was held at Richmond Hill and #1 lot was sold for One Hundred Dollars.

### SENATOR DAVID REESOR.

David Reesor was born in 1823 on the family homestead in Markham Township, York County; a descendant of a German family, who first came to Pennsylvania and later to Markham in 1801.

David's early education was from the common schools, then three years private training under a competent instructor. He farmed, was a merchant and manufacturer. In 1856 he published the first copy of the "Markham Economist", selling out in 1868. Real estate must have been another sideline, as he owned the registered subdivision, about forty acres on the west side of Laskay, King Township in the 1850's.

When York and Peel counties were united in 1850, he became a member of County Council, and later Warden in 1860. He was known as a Magistrate, Notary Public and connected with the militia, being Lieut.-Col. of reserve from 1866.

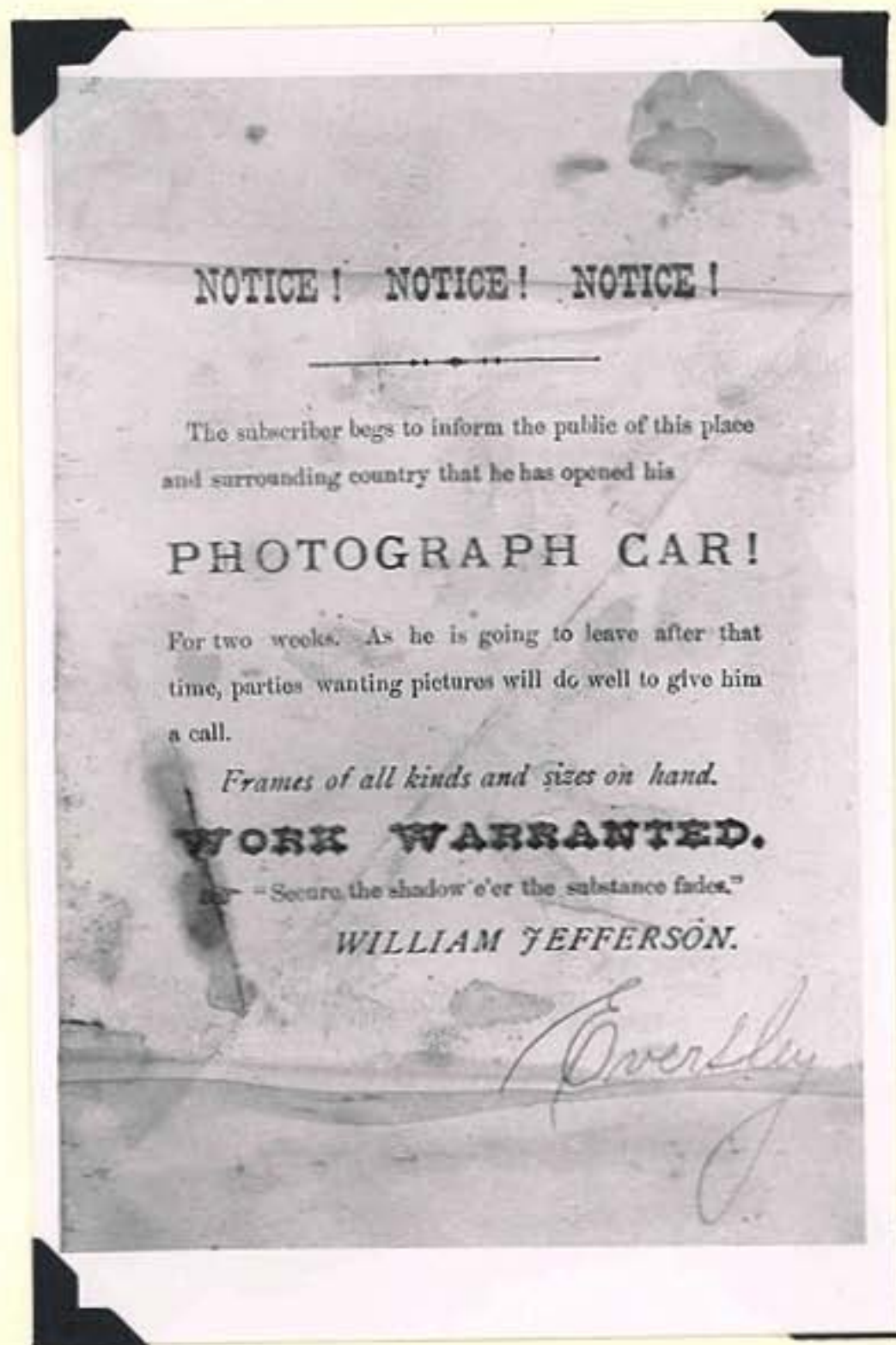
David Reesor represented the Legislative Council of Canada from 1860 till 1867, when he was called to the Senate. He was a Liberal in politics, a member of the Methodist Church, although he gave property to the Presbyterian Church at Laskay. He retired to Toronto in 1876 with his wife, Emily McDougall, whom he married in 1848.

The Senator was a great supporter of Local improvements and was a highly esteemed man both in public and private life.

THESE TWO PICTURES AND THE ONE ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE ARE REPRINTS (1958)  
TAKEN OFF PHOTOGRAPHS MADE NEARLY 100 YEARS AGO. THESE PICTURES WERE LOANED TO  
US BY DESCENDANTS OF THE ORIGINAL BALDWINS.



THE HENRY BALDWIN'S HOME, NOW OWNED BY THOS. AND AGNES WALKER,  
IN THE BACKGROUND, THE FLOUR AND GRIST MILL.



THE PRINTED CARD IS A COPY OF THE ADVERTISEMENT ON THE BACK OF ONE PICTURE.

THE FIRST LASKAY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MEETING

A special Meeting of the Women's Institute of North York was held in Laskay Hall on July 2nd, 1908, an address was given by Miss Millar, titled As Others see us, a second address by Mrs. M. McAllen on Home Sanitation and feeding of young children. A new Branch was then organized by Miss Millar, the officers appointed were

President - Mrs. J. O'Brien  
V. President - Mrs. Wm. Boys  
Sec. Treas. - Mrs. Geo. Atkinson  
Directors - Mrs. Norman McClure  
Miss May Ross  
Mrs. J. Egan  
Miss L. Tawse.

The name of the Branch to be called Laskay and the next meeting to be held at the home of Mrs. J. McCallum, topic for discussion, Canning and Preserving.

Mrs. J. M. O'Brien

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Membership list for the first year 1908 - 09.

Hazel Archibald	Miss Mae Ross
Mrs. Robt. C. Gillies	Mrs. Albert Marshall
Miss Octavia McCallum	Mrs. Jos. Egan
Mrs. Norman McClure	Miss Lizzie Lawson
Mrs. George Atkinson	Miss Winnie Boys
Mrs. Wm. Boys	Mrs. Lewis Gilham
Miss Jennie Orr	Miss Margaret McCallum
Miss Katie Ross	Mrs. Alex. McMurchy.
Mrs. John McCallum	
Mrs. Thos. Smeltzer	
Mrs. John Lawson	
Miss Kate McCallum	
Mrs. Jos. O'Brien	
Miss Annie Glass	
Mrs. John Gillies	
Miss Lizzie Tawse	
Mrs. Jas. Ross	

Reproduced from the Atlas of York County 1878

<p>Wm. Pinkerton Isaac Clayton</p>	<p>Watson Est T.R. Shaw</p>	<p>Isaac Fairborn T.R. Shaw</p>	<p>Zeph<sup>r</sup> Wisner Joz Larkin</p>	<p>Edw<sup>d</sup> Pottage Walter Rogers</p>	<p>POTTAGEVILLE Jno Woodrow Reubea Powell</p>	<p>C. Humbleton Wm Watson</p>	<p>Jno Spink S Bingley</p>	<p>Joz Spink Jno Elliott</p>
<p>The Ryeglen Wm Marks Robt Hunter Joz Hunter</p>	<p>Joz G Edwards Wm M Devitt Wm Proctor Hugh M Loughlin</p>	<p>Hugh Norman Est Joz Hunter Wm Proctor Jno Perry</p>	<p>Joz Johnson Joz Larkin Joz Woodrow Rich<sup>d</sup> Perry M<sup>r</sup> Dove Rich<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Dove H B Travis</p>	<p>Joz Clark's Est Robt Mills Edw<sup>d</sup> Watson Wm Holdaway Mortimer</p>	<p>Mass<sup>rs</sup> Cherry Dougald McGill Wm Cooper Jno Johnson Jno Webb Jno Spink</p>	<p>Wm<sup>r</sup> Ben Terry Jno Lewis Robt Boiles The Burdwell Dav<sup>d</sup> Terry Jonathan Terry</p>	<p>Imo Gordon Joz Boies Dav<sup>d</sup> Terry Wm H Conover Dav<sup>d</sup> Terry</p>	<p>Joz Boies Dav<sup>d</sup> Terry Wm C Joz De</p>
<p>Jno Stewart Jno Stinson Jas Somerville Alex Gough Wm Simpson Jno O'Reilly</p>	<p>LINTON Jno Boddy Joz Somerville Wm Perry Joz Somerville Hugh Riddle Pat M Cutcheon Joz Somerville Jno Trahanor Joz M Gillroy</p>	<p>Jno Perry M<sup>r</sup> Murphy Wm Perry Hugh Riddle Pat M Cutcheon Joz Somerville Joz M Gillroy</p>	<p>J.S. Proctor W H Proctor Wm Proctor Gordon Robt Orshan Page Non Res N Wallace Langh<sup>d</sup> Bowie's Estate Robt &amp; Bowie SH</p>	<p>Edw<sup>d</sup> Watson J.S. Proctor Wm H Proctor Non Res N Wallace Arch<sup>d</sup> M Callum</p>	<p>Thompson Smith Dougald M Callum Non Res Joz Wood Non Res R &amp; W Henry Arch<sup>d</sup> M Callum</p>	<p>Jno Dunning Jno Burley Joz M Curthy Walsh &amp; Lovey's Est In Chancery Geo Gillham Pat M Cobe Wm Wells Pat M Cobe</p>	<p>Joz Burley Joz M Curthy D. G Joz Egg J. E. Bues D M Ho R</p>	
<p>Joz Stewart Wm Proctor Joz M Fadden Joz Fry Joz Beasley Joz Armstrong Joz Weller Joz Larkin</p>	<p>Joz Stewart Dug<sup>d</sup> M Murchy J M Engowl Emmanuel Wood Joz Page Joz Mee Coruel O'Connor Wm Breden Joz Robinson Joz Robinson Joz Archibald Geo Pringle Joz Bowmar G Hill Joz Snider L Weller</p>	<p>Dug<sup>d</sup> M Murchy J M Engowl Joz Page Amos Breden Joz Murchy Wm Bailey Joz Rose Geo Ireland Joz Mitchell Joz Archibald Geo Pringle Joz Bowmar Joz Snider L Weller</p>	<p>M<sup>r</sup> M Vanghlan Arch<sup>d</sup> Kelly Joz Malloy D &amp; N M Millan Joz A Bred Dougald M Murchy Wm Bailey Joz Rose Geo Ireland Joz Mitchell Joz Archibald Geo Pringle Joz Bowmar Joz Snider L Weller</p>	<p>Jno B. Lloyd Arch<sup>d</sup> Gillis Dug<sup>d</sup> M Callum Joz Atkins Joz Hockett Joz M Callum Peter M Callum Joz Love The Porter Robt Rose Joz Dickenson SM</p>	<p>Ben Lloyd Step<sup>d</sup> Foubush Pat Connor Wm Gillham Joz Tinkler Joz Bred Joz Dutcher Joz Atkins Arch<sup>d</sup> M Murchy E Marshall Arch<sup>d</sup> M Murchy Stokes</p>	<p>Pat Connor Wm Gillham Joz Bred Joz Dutcher Arch<sup>d</sup> M Murchy M Murchy Oliver Sturdy Chs<sup>d</sup> Sturdy Joz Johnson Michael Carr Beng<sup>d</sup> Farley Joz Wells Joz Wells</p>	<p>Joz Bred Joz Dutcher Arch<sup>d</sup> M Murchy M Murchy Oliver Sturdy Chs<sup>d</sup> Sturdy Joz Johnson Michael Carr Beng<sup>d</sup> Farley Joz Wells Joz Wells</p>	
<p>NOBLETON Martin Snider Chs Snider Joz Snider Arthur Noble D &amp; A Armour Joz Hollingshead Geo Hollingshead</p>	<p>Martin Snider Chs Snider Joz Snider Geo Ireland Joz Murchy Joz Campbell The Carr M R Morgan</p>	<p>Joz Snider Geo Ireland Joz Murchy Joz Campbell The Carr M R Morgan</p>	<p>Joz Snider Geo Ireland Joz Murchy Joz Campbell The Carr M R Morgan</p>	<p>Frederick Weller Joz Willis D M Murchy Joz Ireland Joz Ireland Geo Ireland Joz Wood</p>	<p>Arch<sup>d</sup> M Callum Joz M Callum Wm Wells Joz Marsh Joz Marsh Joz Marsh Joz Marsh Joz Marsh Joz Marsh</p>	<p>Arch<sup>d</sup> M Callum Oliver Sturdy M<sup>r</sup> Lawler Widow Joz Johnson Michael Carr Beng<sup>d</sup> Farley Joz Wells Joz Wells</p>	<p>Arch<sup>d</sup> M Callum Oliver Sturdy Chs<sup>d</sup> Sturdy Joz Johnson Michael Carr Beng<sup>d</sup> Farley Joz Wells Joz Wells</p>	
<p>King Creek Joz Snider Joz Snider Arthur Noble D &amp; A Armour Joz Hollingshead Geo Hollingshead</p>	<p>Joz Snider Geo Ireland Joz Murchy Joz Campbell The Carr M R Morgan</p>	<p>Joz Snider Geo Ireland Joz Murchy Joz Campbell The Carr M R Morgan</p>	<p>Joz Snider Geo Ireland Joz Murchy Joz Campbell The Carr M R Morgan</p>	<p>Frederick Weller Joz Willis D M Murchy Joz Ireland Joz Ireland Geo Ireland Joz Wood</p>	<p>Arch<sup>d</sup> M Callum Joz M Callum Wm Wells Joz Marsh Joz Marsh Joz Marsh Joz Marsh Joz Marsh</p>	<p>Arch<sup>d</sup> M Callum Oliver Sturdy M<sup>r</sup> Lawler Widow Joz Johnson Michael Carr Beng<sup>d</sup> Farley Joz Wells Joz Wells</p>	<p>Arch<sup>d</sup> M Callum Oliver Sturdy Chs<sup>d</sup> Sturdy Joz Johnson Michael Carr Beng<sup>d</sup> Farley Joz Wells Joz Wells</p>	

Judson Book

Photograph of map owned by Mr. W. Williams showing plan of town and park lots, and showing locations of grist and saw mills, also showing locations of springs located at foot of Spring St. and on land bach of lot <sup>65</sup> 55, now owned by Col. Dean.





## HISTORY AND SITUATION OF ORIGINAL BUILDINGS

In the early days there was a tavern at the corner of the sixth and King sideroad, where later Joe O'Brien had a blacksmith shop. Dr. Taylor now has his home on this lot.

Mrs. William Boys kitchen was formerly a school, the first school in this district. You can still see some of the names carved above the door. The teacher was <sup>Mr.</sup> Mrs. Crown.

North of Mrs. W. Boys was a store, the properitor being Ben Rolling, father of the late Walter Rolling, who was school teacher at Kinghorn for forty years.

North of this store was a shoe shop which was later moved to become the woodshed of Mrs. Wm. Boys house.

The tailor shop was on Mr. Williams property at the top of the hill, and was owned by Peter Matheson.

The butcher shop and slaughter house were down Spring Street.

The sawmill, turning lathe and plaster mill were back of W. Williams by the Humber River.

In 1890 there was a flood and all the dams were washed out. Mr. W. Williams helped to rebuild the woollen and sawmill dams. In 1897 the woollen mill was burned down and never rebuilt.

Mr. Andrew McClure, formerly of King Creek and now of King City, well remembers the flood of June 5th, 1891, when the Laskay dam went out and a man was sent on horseback to warn King Creek to lower the dam there, King Creek having two gates and Laskay one gate. It usually took nearly seven hours for the water to go it's course from Laskay to King Creek.

Mr. McClure, having been out West in the late 1890's related to his mother on return that he had talked to a man out West called Nealon, who said his grandfather, Nealon, had built the woollen mill at Laskay.

## EARLY INDUSTRIES OF LASKAY

Before Joseph Baldwin came to Laskay in 1832, work had been commenced on a saw-mill and dam, on the north branch of the Humber, but he completed it, and in the year 1849, built a flour and grist mill.

### East Side of Sixth

Woollen Mill

Shoe Shop

Photograph Gallery

Tavern

Cooper Shop

### West Side-Development started in 1856

Senator Reesor had the west side of the sixth divided, and on this site were

Sawmill

Plaster mill

Turning Lathe Mill (for making chairs and beds.)

Tailor Shop

Shoe Shop

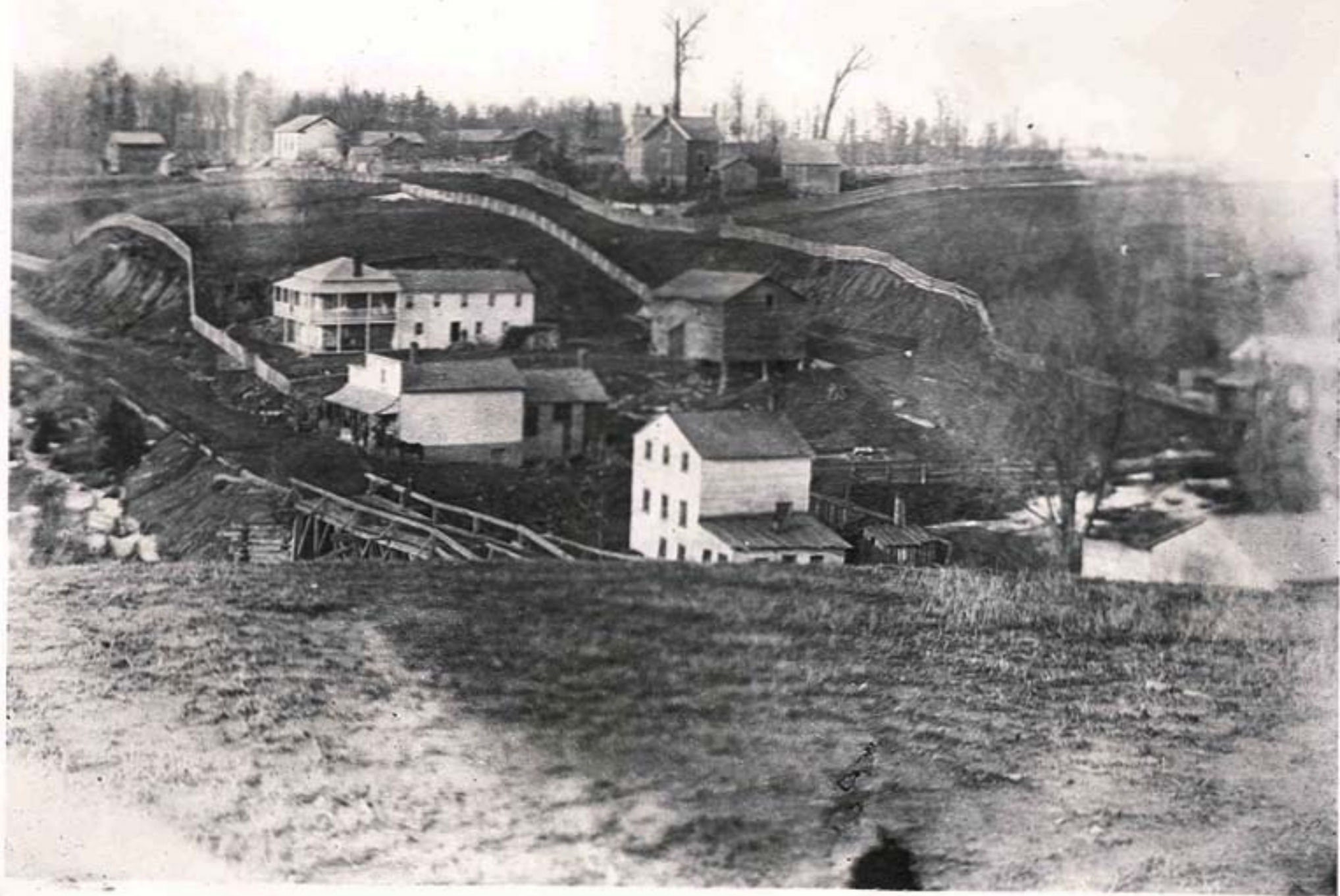
Butcher Shop and slaughter house.



Picture of flour mill, built in 1849, situated on Baldwin farm on South side of lane, looking East.



THE OLD BALDWIN HOMESTEAD  
ON THE FARM



MOVING DAY - FEB. 19 - 1960.



LOADING



TAKING OFF



GOOD-BYE LASKAY

MRS. JOSEPH BALDWIN

The second Mrs. Jos. Baldwin, was a Mrs. Mary Ann Bailey who came from England shortly after 1840.

Mrs. Mary Anne Bailey's oldest daughter, was Ellen Ann Bailey, later married to Joseph Smeltzer, and great-grandmother to Scott and Pearson Smeltzer of Laskay.

When Jos. Baldwin's son, Henry operated Laskay store, his half sister, a daughter of Mrs. Bailey had a millinery shop at back of store.

Henry Baldwin married Betsey Lewis of Markham and his half-sister, Miss Bailey married Betsey Lewis' brother.

Mrs. Henry Baldwin (Lewis) died at the birth of twin sons; George and Lewis were raised at Aurora by an Uncle George Baldwin. Henry Baldwin died shortly after his wife.

This information and picture were given by Will C. Lewis, of Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1963 to Mrs. Pearson Smeltzer. Mr. Lewis' Mother was the Miss Bailey in the millinery stop at Laskay Store and was a sister to Mrs. Joseph Smeltzer.

A reprint of photo sent  
by Mr. Lewis of his  
Grandmother.



### GROCER RETIRES AFTER 40 YEARS

Frank Teasdale gave his formula for Happiness this week. "I'd do it all again. I'd do exactly the same thing."

The tall, friendly merchant of Wellington Street East has sold his grocery business after nearly 40 years. He and Mrs. Teasdale recently bought a home on the second of King, The Walt Robinson farm just west of Aurora, and after his first day of retired freedom this week, said "there's nothing like it, particularly living in the country."

Frank Teasdale bought his store on April 13, 1920. It had been run for some years by W. N. Scanlon, brother of the founder of the Scanlon Bakery, who sold it to Archie Murray, former reeve of Aurora and father of the present mayor, James Murray, and who in turn sold it to Wm. McBride. When the Teasdales bought the store, Wellington Street was one long mud hole. "the wagons used to be down to the axles," said Mr. Teasdale, "the road was all in muddy ruts from the traffic drawing implements from the Fleury implement works to shipment at the railway station. There also was a lot of wagon traffic to and from Baldwin's mill.

Looking around the modern store, the retired merchant recalled, "we hardly ever use a scoop now. Everything is in a package. A few years ago we used to have beans by the bag, sugar by the barrel, and flour in the 98-lb. bag, and lard in the 56 pound box. The raisins, tapioca, everything was in bulk, and we used to have barrels of rolled oats and spices."

Frank Teasdale grew up in the grocery business. His father, George, had a general store at Laskay for 38 years and Frank this week remembered getting up at midnight and driving a team to the St. Lawrence market in Toronto to sell butter and eggs. It took all night to drive the 25 miles.

As a young man he came to Aurora and worked in James Whimster's store at the corner of Yonge and Wellington. In 1916, he joined the mounted section of the Canadian engineers and had three years of service.

It was at Whimster's that he met his future wife, then Miss Elsie Wilkinson, who also worked there. They were married in 1919. They have a son, Barton, a chemical engineer with Canada Packers in Toronto and a daughter, Emily, Mrs. Stewart Rankin in Toronto and five grandchildren.

Mr. Teasdale is a director of the Aurora Agricultural Society, a charter member of the Lions Club, past master of the Rising Sun Lodge, A.F. and A.M. and served on the board of stewards of the United Church. He hopes now to have a little more time for his many hobbies and for just plain relaxing.

PICTURES OF LASKAY



Picture of dam taken from bridge facing toward the East. Taken approx. 1910 - Mary Teasdale is standing on dam.



Picture of Laskay - looking North from Laskay Hill. Taken approx. 1910.



Picture of Laskay taken from south-west - taken approx. 1910.



Laskay Bridges

John Watson of Laskay built  
the second bridge.

Built in 1905, torn down  
1958.



Harry Aberling, contractor of Scarborough, Ontario built the third bridge.  
Albert Ezard a Laskay born resident worked on this new bridge, which was finished  
in 1959.

Wm. Ham and Pearson Smeltzer were night firemen to keep steam up to keep the  
concrete from freezing.

LASKAY UNION BRASS BAND

Some years before the first great war, about 1905 to 1910, Laskay had a brass band. This band was led by Abraham Carley and often played at fall fairs.



Back Row ( left to right)

Ed. Brown, <sup>LEWIS SCOTT</sup> ~~Earl Patton~~, Charles Ross, Dunc. Sinclair, Dan Rawlings, Elmer Carley, Bob Farren, Herb. Ross.

Front Row (left to right)

John Carley, R. Sinclair - D. McDonald - Billy Spragge - Ab. Carley (leader)  
M. McCallum - Earl Patton - Dunc. McDonald -

Wm. Ham - absent when picture taken.

Mr. Carley taught school in Kinghorn, Hope, Vellore, and Laskay (STRANGE) which was his last school. He died at Laskay in 1913. He always had a band



Laskay Hunt Club  
"South Magnetawan"

Fall of 1912

8 deer, 1 fox, 1 mink & partridges.

Members

Duncan McMurchy, Archie Gillies, a visitor, Wm. Gould, Bobby Melson, D. G. Paton & Frank Smeltzer.

## FALL FAIRS OF THE PAST

King township agricultural society dates back beyond 1862. In an old flour mill in Kettleby (burnt in 1950),  
(built 1840-burnt March 22-1950)  
there is a bill posted on a side wall, which shows that in 1862, the annual exhibition of that year was held in the Village of Laskay.

It is interesting to see what was included in the shows of that period. This bill lists exhibits of "horses, cattle, swing, roots, dairy produce, carriages and implements, leather and leather goods, ladies' crochet and other work".

Fall fairs were more important then as every village had its industry. Goods of local manufacture and handicrafts were exhibited and sales were made.

Some of the old timers say they can remember of seeing or being told that the horse races were run off on the stretch of ground on the sixth between Mill Street and Spring Street.

In those early days the exhibitions were held in different parts of the town ship alternately but as Schomberg had good grounds and a race track it became the place of the annual fair.

STRANGE  
LASKAY  
SCHOOL



Taken in 1912 - the first brick school.

Miss B. Wiley - taken in 1910 - teacher.





**THE FRAME SCHOOL**

**Built between 1850 and 1860**



STRANGE SCHOOL - 1896

BACK ROW - left to right

1-Belle McCallum (Brownlee), 2-Kate Ross Port, 3-Maggie Gillis,  
 4-Octavia McCallum McQuade, 5-Kate Sutherland, 6-Isobel Lawson Ferguson,  
 7-Agnes Baldwin, 8-Lou O'Brien, 9-May Aikens Egan, 10-Tillie Watson,  
 11-Fergus Carmichael, 12-Maud Dickenson Mackie

2nd Row

1-Ben O'Brien, 2-Ben Ross, 3-Mae Ross McCallum, 4-Frank Dickinson,  
 5-Duncan Ross, 6-Jennie Gillies, 7-Norman Carmichael, 8-John Lawson.

3rd Row

1-Garnet Smeltzer, 2-Harry Dickinson, 3-Herb Ross, 4-Wilbert Dickinson,  
 5-Fred Willis, 6-Thomas Lawson, 7-Herb Smeltzer, 8-Elmer Carson, 9-Bert Ross,  
 10-Mel McCallum, 11-John Willis.

4th row

1-Thursa Burton, 2-Jean McCallum, 3-Mary Hane McDonald, 4-Bertha Jenkins  
 5-Laura Graham, 6-Alice Burton, 7-Miss Tinline, 8-Mable Rawlings, Hollingshead,  
 9-Kate Ireland Ruthven, 10-Laura Patton, 11-Ella Marshall Campbell, 12-Jennie  
 Rawlings Egan, 13-Annie Archibald Evans, 14-Ether Patton.

5th Row

1-Wm. Graham, 2-Duncan Sinclair, 3-Elmer Boys, 4-Alfred Smelser,  
 5-Herb Archibald, 6-Donald Rawlings, 7-Charles Ross, 8-Ed. Patton,  
 9-Herb Patton, 10-Roy Dickinson, 11-Ada Ireland Cameron, 12-Margaret McCallum,  
 13-Elizabeth Lawson Glass, 14-Ethel Jenkins, 15-Ethel Carson.

STRANGE SCHOOL - 1896 - cont'd.

6th Row. 1-Burton, 2-Mable Carson, 3-Beatrice Rutherford Ross,  
4-Harry Ireland, 5-Aubrey Marshall, 6-Earl Patton, 7-Duncan McDonald  
8-Harold Watson, 9-Edäie Smith, 10-Norman McMurchy, 11-Sophia or Annie  
Andrews, 12-Hazel Archibald Wellesley, 13-Dpnalda Sinclair Williams,  
14-Myrtle McCallum Sinclair, 15-Pearl Smeltzer McNaughten, 16-Florence  
Rolling.

7th row - 1-Frank Teasdale, 2-Wm. Ireland, 3-Scott Graham, 4-Chas. Burton,  
5-Geo. Williams, 7-Daisy Crooks, 8-Mable Smith, 9-Wesley Smith, 10-  
11-Bertha Archibald, 12-Violet Archibald Gates, 13-Sinclair Twins, Gordon  
and Roy.

STRANGE PUBLIC SCHOOL - 1922



Back row.

Irene Gillies, Annie Gillham, Margaret Hunter, Miss Ouida MacMurchy (teacher)  
Elsie Egan, Vera Hunter, Roland Harvey, Wm. Gillham, Wesley Hamilton.

2nd. Row

Gladys Bowen, Adella Lawson, Helen Hunter, Velma Lawson, Dorothy Bowen,  
Winnie O'Dell, Frances Watson, Margaret Bowen, Ruth Baldwin, Edythe Glass,  
Norma Ash.


3rd row.

Garfield Ireland, Leslie Glass, Herbert Wellesley, Ronald O'Dell, Donald  
McCallum, Douglas Wellesley, Beth Baldwin, Jean Watson, Margaret Murdock.

Front row.

Albert O'Dell, Roy Ezard, Wm. Murdock, Alfred O'Dell, Wm. Bowen, Marvin Hunter,  
Arthur Greenbury, Norman Bowen, Fred Harvey, Albert Ezard, Andy Gordon.



An architectural rendering of a modern school building. The building features a long, low profile with a prominent overhanging roof supported by a series of columns. Large windows are visible along the side of the building. In the foreground, a paved walkway leads towards the entrance, where several children are walking. To the right, a tall flagpole stands. The background is filled with large, stylized trees. The entire scene is rendered in a classic architectural style with fine lines and shading.

STRANGE PUBLIC SCHOOL  
KING TOWNSHIP ONTARIO

A circular professional seal for the architect. It contains the text "I. B. BOIGDON ASSOCIATES" around the top inner edge, "ARCHITECTS" at the bottom, and "1990 AVENUE RD. TORONTO" in the center.

I. B. BOIGDON ASSOCIATES  
ARCHITECTS  
1990 AVENUE RD. TORONTO

THE FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL

Why are my eyes so misty?  
Why is my heart so full?  
Today, for my wee laddie,  
Is his first day at school.

Time is so fast in passing,  
Or, so it seems to me--  
Yesterday he was the babe  
I fondled on my knee.

There he stands before me, now  
A sturdy wee man.  
A world awaits his "try" to win  
And I feel he can.

At last the moment comes, when  
I stand beside the gate  
As a young 'recruit' of six  
Joins a 'veteran' of eight.

As they walk, he smiles, and turns,  
And waves his hand to me.  
I watched him as far as the  
Eyes of my heart could see.

To cheer this wee boy O'mine  
The Dear Lord knows I tried.  
The boy himself never knew  
I turned my head and cried.

He's home again. He likes it.  
His tongue wags on and on  
As he tells me of his school-day  
And the things he's done.

That's why my eyes are misty,  
That's why his heart is full.  
Today, for my wee laddie,  
Was his first day at school.

Rev. Martin R. Jenkinson  
United Church, King.

HONOR ROLL - 1914 - 1918

Roscoe Phillips - made the supreme sacrifice.

Harold Campbell

Lorne Campbell

Earl Campbell

Harold Boys

Aubrey Marshall - made the supreme sacrifice

Frank Teasdale

James Allen

Thomas Wise

Charles Williams

William Bowler

George Tate

Percy Butler

Sidney Stratford

Wallace Marchant - made the supreme sacrifice

John Mullen

Frank Rolf

John Kewell

Chester Ward

Harry Malseed

Sidney Goodswain

George Bainbridge

John Stubbs

George Howard

Samuel Moss



World War of 1914 - 1918

Going through the records of the Laskay Institute Branch minute books it is very gratifying and commendable to the then members and community that they were such generous and unselfish people for the magnificent piece of patriotic work that they contributed.

Over Seven Hundred Dollars was raised from concerts, socials, canvassing, tickets sold on autograph quilt, etc. Besides this the bales of clothing, hospital supplies, knitting and sewing and packing boxes that was accomplished.

In the Fall of 1914 the neighborhood was canvassed for donations, and \$107.00 was realized which was to be divided between the Patriotic Fund and the Red Cross.

In March 1915 clothing was collected for Belgian Relief, 62 yards of Shaker flannel was bought for \$5.58, and made up for Red Cross Bale. 12 shirts, 25 pairs socks (many socks given) were sent in this bale. Before May 400 more pairs of socks were sent to soldiers.

From May 1915 to 1916 were sent two bales of hospital supplies, numbers of pairs of socks, \$58.58 to Red Cross. An Autographed Quilt made realized nearly \$80.00. The quilt was sent to a Canadian hospital in France, the money used to buy materials and yarn to sew and knit (expense quilt lining and batt - .70¢).

In 1916-17 term there were 36 paid members. A .10¢ tea in June realized \$5.00. A bazaar and candy sale brought \$15.45, concert and quilt proceeds \$111.90. \$116.25 was paid out for yarn. \$56.75 for pyjama material and shirting. Socks and bales of sewing besides 24 boxes to soldiers at Easter. \$68.25 was realized for junk sold. Paid to Red Cross Treas. \$79.55. Paid out to materials, yarn, etc. \$251.09

1917-1918 - Patriotic receipts for past year \$55.57 plus balance \$10.23. Expenditures \$62.14 for yarn, postage \$1.10. 299 pairs socks knitted, 211 pairs socks sent direct to France, value - \$263.75. 14 pairs mitts - value \$10.50 - 58 pairs socks sent to Red Cross - 30 pairs still on hand.

In 1918-19 - balance \$2.56, contributions and collected \$34.65. Entertainments \$89.00 - sale of Junk \$22.85 - total \$145.50. Spent on yarn \$55.70. 160 pairs socks knit in year.

There was a \$93.00 balance in Patriotic Fund when work was adjourned, and was later donated, \$50.00 going to Soldiers Club at King - \$43.00 going to hospital in Newmarket.



A.F.A. 2012  
114 Gen. No. 2-131

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card will be  
destroyed.

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FIELD  
POST CARD



Miss M.A. Brown  
I. Sturdy  
Canada

HONOR ROLL 1939 - 1945.

Bogan, Martin

Clubine, Alvin

Etheridge, Norman

Ezard, Albert

Ezard - Russell

Ezard - Murray

Gladu - Romeo

Kerr - Ted

Scott - Kenneth

Sullivan - Dan

Whittle - Geoffrey

Woods - Ivel



Second World War - 1939

Again our country is involved in war and again the selfsame effort is made at home to send relief, comfort and supplies to the war torn lands.

At the beginning of the war nearly \$50.00 worth of wool was bought, Red Cross Donations, collections \$13.20.

From May 1940, to May 1941- collections and donations - \$30.00. Red Cross Donation \$74.00 - Toronto Telegram British Relief Fund \$15.00. Central Relief Fund \$5.00

From June 1941 - May 1942- Donations to Br. war victims fund \$30.00- Jam for overseas \$25.00 - Russian Relief \$25.00 -Boxes were packed this year too. Sewing and Knitting sent in - 17 sweaters - 33 prs.short socks, - 8 sockees - 56 pairs mitts - 13 scarfs - 9 cardigans - 4 pairs pyjamas - 3 boys shirts - 3 pairs bloomers - 5 women's nightgowns - 5 quilts - 51 pairs seamen's socks.

From 1942 - 43 - ten ditty bags were packed for the Navy League.

Russian Relief - \$25.00 Aurora Branch Red Cross \$25.00 - 41 pairs socks - 28 sweaters - 1 scarf - 21 pairs mitts - 14 pairs seamen's socks - 24 women's nightgowns - 11 cardigans - 8 pairs sockees - 3 pairs child's bloomers - 8 pairs pyjamas - 3 boy's shirts - 3 quilts

1943-44. Donations to Aurora Red Cross \$50.00 - Postage on boxes \$20.00 22 boxes valued at \$3.00 - \$66.00 - Gifts of candy and cigarettes, also sent 44 - pairs socks - 48 pairs mitts - 15 sweaters - 40 helmets - 3 pairs ladies sockees - 3 ladies cardigans - 4 baby bonnets - 5 ladies nightgowns - 11 shirts- 10 slips-12 boys shorts and shirts - 3 pyjamas - 3 blouses - 6 quilts.

1944-45. Boxes were sent out every two months to local boys until July 1945. Also gum and cigarettes were sent - Donations to Aurora Branch red cross \$25.00 - 128 articles turned in - 11 pairs socks sent in parcels.

A total of \$655.00 was spent on 131 boxes valued at \$5.00 each. Seventy-five percent of box contents was donated by Institute memers and friends.

From \$402.00 raised by means of Euchres, a dance and bazaar, \$200.00 went for box postage - cigarettes and candy, and \$132.00 was spent on a "Welcome Home" to the local boys.

Red cross activity spent \$292.44 which purchased supplies of yarn, jam and quilt supplies. Donations to Red Cross, Russian Relief and British war victims Fund.

Second World War -

Thursday evening, January 31st, 1946, the members of Laskay Women's Institute, sponsored a Welcome Home Banquet for all boys in our neighborhood who went overseas, numbering fourteen.

The hall was tastefully decorated with flags and the colour scheme was carried out in red, white and blue; red and pink carnations on the tables.

Menu

Tomato Juice

Roast chicken

Mashed potatoes

Peas, carrots

Salad, pickles

celery, red jelly

Bread - rolls

Pie

Tarts

Tea

A short program chaired by Rev. M. Jenkinson of Laskay United Church was done. Misses Mary and Gwen Smith favored us with an instrumental duet. Mrs. Reta Richards and Miss Helen Hunter sang duets. Mrs. Muriel Riddell, favored us with a solo. Mr. Jenkinson proposed the toast to the boys and Kenneth Scott very ably responded.

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of Initialled wallets containing \$5.00 bills and a written address prepared and read by Mrs. Ruth Finch; wallets were presented by Adella Lawson.

Guests of Honor were Russel Ezard, Murray Ezard, Kenneth Scott, Alvin Clubine, Norman Etheridge and Mrs. Mary Whittle ( in absence of her husband in England.