



I am very pleased to have been asked by the Curator of the Tweedsmuir History, to write a story of my life, to be included in this beautiful book. I first saw the light of day on a farm in the Township of Brock in Ontario County, near the village of Cannington. I was the youngest of a family of four girls and two boys born to John and Harriet Amey. This momentous event took place on the 23rd. of September, 1897.

In the year 1906 the family moved to the Township of King in the County of York. Our home was on the tenth concession a mile and a quarter south of Lloydtown, and here I spent all my early years. I attended the school in Lloydtown, which incidentally, my mother had attended many years before, she having lived in this neighborhood prior to her marriage. I understand it has been recently closed in the transformation of the one roomed elementary schools to the consolidated type now recommended by the Department of Education.

After Public School days were over I spent some two and one half years with a sister in North Bay where I attended High School. The rest of my formal education consisted of a year at Normal School in Toronto from which I graduated in 1916. The first Great War was then at its height and I did not teach school very long but when my aging parents left the farm in 1920 and moved to Schomberg to occupy the house now occupied by Mrs. John Lister, I, being the only one of the family unmarried went with them and I remained with them until their deaths in 1933 and 1935. These were very full and happy years, as life in a small town can really be if one wishes to make it so. I did a great deal of Church work having belonged to the Women's Auxiliary of the Anglican Church from my young womanhood. I was also a long time member of the Women's Institute, as was my mother and grandmother before me. Books are my great love and I well remember canvassing the village with Mrs. Clarence Marchant, to obtain support for the beginning of the Library which was sponsored by the Women's Institute in 1930. This first library was housed in a case in our own Living Room and I was appointed first Librarian. I was also a Charter Member of the Horticultural Society. In 1942, when the second Great War was raging, and help was sorely needed I took a position in a textile mill in Woodbridge where I inspected many thousands of yards of cotton cloth for the Services. I later did First Aid work in the same mill until 1952 when this type of work was no longer required. My next move was to London, Ont., in 1953 where I accepted the position of Housekeeper at the New Huron College. I have remained here ever since and have been permitted to take a part in the many changes and growth until now we are a Co-educational College as well as a Theological College. As I have now reached retirement age, it is with deep regret that I will soon be moving on, this time, no doubt, to a more leisurely way of life. I trust I have made an acceptable contribution to a fast changing world, as in this Centennial year, I enter my twilight years and bring this tale to a close.



Mrs. Atkinson always had time in her busy life to add beauty to her surroundings as she tended her flowers. She loved all nature and once said: "Contact with nature makes the blood tingle, the heart leap and the mind expand"

Mrs. Atkinson, the former Catherine Ann Sutherland, was the daughter of the late Donald Sutherland and Ann Miller, who came from Cathness in the North of Scotland to establish their pioneer home near King Creek, east of Nobleton, on the Seventh Concession of King Township. Here Mrs. Atkinson was born in 1864 and as she grew up learned to speak the lovely old Gaelic of her forefathers. The Scots were a hardy stock and Mrs. Atkinson experienced all the hardships of pioneer farming as she grew up and spent her girlhood on her parents farm.

On October 1st, 1890 Catherine was married to Mr. George Atkinson of Castlederg, Peel County and lived in the small house (now demolished) that stood just north of the house owned for many years by Mr. Sam Pankhurst and now owned by Mr. Geo. Marsh on Lot 13 on the east side of Highway 27. Here their eldest daughter, Ella (Mrs. W. Stewart) was born, and from here Mr. Atkinson drove a horse and cart each day to work in the Tannery at King Horn, which is now marked by Memory Acres.

They soon moved to King Horn where their only son William was born, and then to the 8th Concession of King. In 1898 they moved again to start farming on the 6th Concession just north of the stone Church at Strange where their youngest daughter, Gertrude, was born.

It was while living here the idea of Women's Institutes began to spread in York County and in 1908 Laskay women felt the need of just such an organization in their community. Mrs. Atkinson was a clever, well read and very practical woman and became the first Secretary of the new Branch, and office she held until they again moved in 1910 to make their permanent home on Lot 21, Concession 9 at Linton - where Miss Gertrude still resides.

In 1911 Schomberg Women met to discuss the organization of a Womens' Institute and Mrs. Atkinson contributed greatly to the information needed to form such a group. From her busy farm life she took time to again become Secretary of a newly formed Branch and remained in office for twelve years consecutively. It was no small contribution to make to a community to drive with horse and buggy from that distance and home in time to get supper for her family, but she gave unstintingly of her service and knowledge and we have in our scrap book two of the original papers written by this clever woman for Institute programs. She also served as President for two years following her Secretaryship and remained a member as long as she was able.

Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1940, but Mr. Atkinson passed on 1942. Mrs. Atkinson was originally a member of Strange Presbyterian Church and later joined Schomberg Presbyterian which she served for many years. She passed to her reward, after a brief illness, on January 27th, 1950 in her eighty-seventh year, and was laid to rest in King City Cemetery. Rev. J.R. Duke of Tottenham conducted the service. The community and Womens' Institute were enriched from her association with them, and her creed for living was an inspiration to all with whom she shared it.

"Just live each day to it's utmost.
Get out of it every good thing to be had.
Give all you can, to all you can, each day
And look forward, always look forward and up."

Mr. and Mrs. David Archibald

1957



1957

1957



This picture was taken on the occasion of their Fiftieth Ewdding Anniversary when a Reception was held at the home of their daughter Mrs. Cecil Watson.

David H. Archibald was born on lot 8, concession 8, King Township, in November of 1878. He received a Public School education at Nobleton and attended the old Methodist Church on the 8th concession until it was closed, afterward attending Nobleton Methodist Church. He was the second son of Robert Archibald and Martha Readman.

In June 1906 he married Annie Jackson, who was the elder daughter of Thomas Jackson and Mary Ann Mellow of Palgrave. She was born in April 1885 near Palgrave and attended Palgrave Public School and the old Methodist Church at Cedar Mills. They spent the first five years of their married life on lot No 9, Concession 5 of King Township, near Kinghorn, later moving to lot 5, Concession 3 West Guillimbury Township where they continued to farm until they retired in 1948 and moved to Schomberg, where they still reside. Their family consists of four children- two boys, Louis and Norman and two daughters, Irene (Mrs. Cecil Watson) and Helen (Mrs. Wm. Hollingshead) both living in the village.

Modesty forbids this remarkable lady to reveal the secrets of her long and active life. I would say it is her continued interest and participation in the organizations of the village and community as well as her great love of reading which not only keeps her mind keen, but keeps her in touch with the times as well. For her years she is extremely alert, being an active member of the United Church Women's Organization; The Women's Institute and Chairman of The Library Board. To this latter project she has been very devoted and has worked tirelessly with the other members of the board throughout the entire period of the building of the new Library and it's opening. She assisted with the cataloguing and mending of all the books and takes her turn regularly as acting Librarian. The picture below shows her surrounded by Junior readers and Reeve Ray Jennings at the Official Opening.



1963



1963

1963

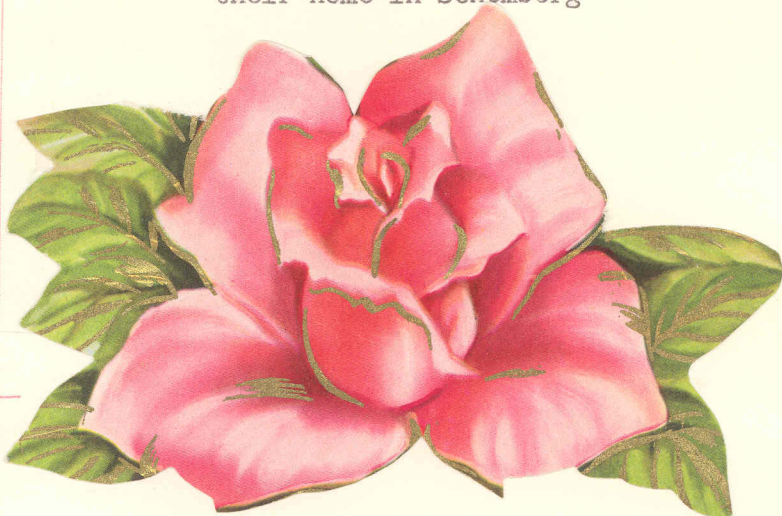
1963

MRS. FRED (MARGARET) BAGULEY



*Margaret and Fred at
their home in Schomberg*

Margaret and Fred at
their home in Schomberg



I was born on the 6th Concession of King Township, known as "The Ridges", on March 17, 1916, the daughter of Robert and Lydia (Ireland) Murdock. I have an older brother, William, now residing in Nottawa, and a younger brother, Robert, of Streetsville.

I attended school at S.S. #4, Strange, and was a member of Laskay United Church.

On April 27, 1938 I married Fred Baguley and moved to Schomberg. We have two sons, Robert, born September 4, 1941 and Edward, born November 16, 1944.

Robert married Patricia Kearns of Kleinburg on August 6, 1966. Edward married Judith Leetch on July 16, 1966. Edward and Judith have two sons, Gregory, born on February 4, 1969 and Jason, born on May 3, 1972.

I joined the Schomberg Women's Institute in 1950, having held office of President, Secretary and Treasurer.

My husband operates a successful service station and garage in Bond Head, assisted by our son, Edward, while we continue to make our home in Schomberg and care for Fred's aged father.



Mrs. John (Elizabeth) Botham



With kind permission of her daughters I have been assigned the task of writing the life story of this remarkable woman. I am sure I shall not be able to do justice to it because so little information is available. Of her early family life I have been able to learn very little but with memories of my association with her as Secretary of the W.I. during her Presidency, and with information I may glean from the Minute Books at that time, I shall do my best to leave a few facts for future generations because this Book would be incomplete without some reference to one who contributed so much to the achievements of the Branch in its early years.

Mrs. Botham, the former Elizabeth Varcoe, was born near Orangeville, on a farm at Laurel, Ont. on August 7th 1870. She attended school at Laurel but I know nothing of her early life until she met John Botham, who was then a conductor on the Toronto Street Railway, when then cars were drawn by horses. They were married around 1888 and came to live on a farm on the 2nd. concession of Tecumseth, later moving to the 3rd, concession and finally settling on the farm at "Dogtown" on No. 9 Highway, where Mr. Frank Barnes now lives. Here she lived the rest of her busy life and raised a family of seven. Harry, Mel. Violet, Andrew, Florence, Loudon and Russell. Two are deceased and the rest scattered as far as California and Prince Rupert B.C. only Harry remains in this Community.

Mrs. Botham was not a Charter Member of the W.I. but she must have joined soon after because she held the office of President four years after it's organization, for her first three year term and later in 1931 and '32 until she was chosen President of the District, of the then North York District, the second member of our branch to hold this honor.

They were a very musical family, and the big house rang with music on many occasions when each member of the family chose his or her special instrument to form a Botham orchestra. Mrs. Botham loved people, they were always welcomed in their home where hospitality was warm and sincere. She entertained with an easiness and charm that made it a pleasure to visit her. She was truly a remarkable woman-capable and talented yet humble; sure of herself without being arrogant; a born leader without being dictatorial. No amount of confusion could upset her and she could surmount any difficulty. She was a charitable person and no one appealed for help, in vain.

I remember Mrs. Botham best as a leader, and in this office she really excelled. During her Presidency most of the meetings were held in the Club room of the hall where facilities for comfort were nil. but she prepared herself for every emergency. Mr. Botham was running an implement business where Cliff Graham's garage now stands, and she would ride in with him on meeting days with the back of the buggy filled with kindling wood and the odd big dry block to keep the room warm for the meeting. I have known her to drive in the buggy many miles into isolated places where she would hear of a family in need and organize committees to care for emergency cases until it was being handled by the proper authorities.

Mrs. Botham was a perfectionist and believed that valuable time and effort were wasted unless every meeting had a full well balanced program so that information, entertainment and relaxation were provided for the busy women who felt it worth the effort to attend and who could go home feeling glad they had been there and proud to be a member. she believed that every member had a contribution to make for the good of the organization, and that every member should be an active member, and when the programs were planned, each one contained an address or paper, a good Roll Call, a demonstration and a contest and that as many members as possible were involved in some way. Her favorite themes were Education, Nutrition and Health and Better Home Making. She was talented herself and many times demonstrated on Foods, Sewing, Rug Making and Textile Painting, to mention only a few . She was deeply concerned about Relief and Charity and felt that in this land of plenty, no-one should want for the necessities of life. Realizing this need she impressed the members to waste nothing that could be used to help where poverty and want existed. Other activities important to her were School Fairs, Short courses and the Library- we should never cease self-education. Decoration at the Community Cemetery was instituted by her and was carried on successfully for several years.

In 1935 her health began to fail and she was no longer able to give leadership as had been her custom and on May 9th. 1936 she passed away having completed a very full and useful life. The members of the Women's Institute attended her funeral in a body and carried flowers to her graveside. We realized we had lost a talented and capable leader but the organization had been enriched and strengthened by the contribution she had made during her association with it.

MRS. CHAS. (MARY) DAVIS



Mr. and Mrs. Davis on their sunny porch in the Sunset years of their lives. Mr. Davis is in his 89th year here.



Mrs. Davis, the former Mary Louise Morris, was born at Bradford, Ontario and came to Schomberg in 1875 on her eighteenth birthday, the bride of Mr. Chas. Davis. The happy couple took up residence in the pretty little white cottage on the west side of Main Street where Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Wood now live. Here they lived happily for sixty-four years when Mr. Davis was called to rest in his Ninety-Sixth year. Mrs. Davis lived until 1941 and died in her Eighty-Third year. Mr. and Mrs. Davis celebrated their golden and Diamond Wedding Anniversaries and were feted on both occasions by many friends and neighbours. Mr. Davis was of United Empire Loyalist stock and they supported the little Quaker Church on the hill as long as there were enough Friends to keep it open; then they associated themselves with the Methodist and later the United Church.

Mrs. Davis had an exceptional personality, being happy and of very ready sense of humour. She made friends wherever she went. She joined the Women's Institute when it was first organized and held the first meeting in her own home. She was renowned for her ability to have her sunny windows full of blooming plants and her living room was cheery and homey with beautiful pieces of antique furniture of gleaming solid wood.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis had four children - Florence (Mrs. Moore) who trained for a nurse and spent many years in Ithaca, New York; Laurina, who passed away when she was ten years old; Miss Clara who was a bookkeeper at Pickering and later lived at home with her parents and now shares her present home, still beautiful with antiques, needlepoint and china, with her sister, Mrs. Moore; Charles Russell, the only son and youngest of the family trained in the Royal Bank in Schomberg and later served as Manager in Shelburne, Ridgetown and Hamilton. After his retirement from the Bank he retired in Islington where he only lived two years to enjoy his new home.

Mrs. Davis was as modest as she was witty and always maintained "We're just ordinary county people", but everyone knew her as the type of person, who in her quiet way, contributed greatly to the community in which she lived.



DR. MORRIS KINSEY AND MRS. DILLANE



After some consideration, and because it is difficult for me to think of Dad and Mother separately, and because I do not think the account of one life would be complete without that of the other, I have decided to write this as one tribute.

Dad was born two miles east of Tottenham on the fourth of Tecumseth in 1874. He was the fourth son and fifth child of James Dillane and Elizabeth Morris of Irish, Welsh and English ancestry, by way of Pennsylvania. Fanny Kinsey, his Grandmother, was of U.E.L. stock.

He went to Mount Pleasant School #6 on the fifth, which is now a consolidated or area school. Later he went to Tottenham and on to Newmarket High School. While there he came under the influence of two teachers, one being Mr. E. Hollingshead, who was an excellent teacher and a relative at whose home Dad lived. The second was Mr. Dickson from whom he learned his great love of literature - particularly poetry and the plays of Shakespeare - something he kept throughout his lifetime. This, with his remarkable memory, gave us a great deal of pleasure in the home. While out driving something would bring a poem or quotation to his mind, and so much would be added to the pleasure and companionship. He also met one pupil who was a lifelong friend in the person of Rev. J.E. Gibson, who was well known to many as the Rector of the Church here. Dad went on to the University of Toronto taking his M.B. in 1899 and his M.D. from Trinity University the same year. He and mother met while he was a student. He started to practice in Schomberg in January, 1900, having practiced for a few months with Dr. Williams in Lyle.

Mother was born at Ancaster near Hamilton. In earlier years letters were addressed to "Hamilton near Ancaster". She was of Irish-English ancestry, the second daughter and child of Edward Henderson and Sarah Jane Phillips. She was given the education thought proper, public school and Collegiate (Hamilton). There she became friends with Nellie Hooper and Agnes Lavis, with whom she kept in contact until recent years. She was also taught lace making, now almost a lost art, painting and of course homemaking, a very important part of every girl's education then as now. She was also given the opportunity to attend Theatre which she enjoyed thoroughly, and which assisted her in later years when she helped with amateur theatricals.

Mother was also greatly interested in the Church. She sang alto in the choir of St. John's Church, Ancaster, with her friend Miss Mussen. Mother early became a member of the Womens' Auxiliary. Through her church work she became a great admirer of Rev. Mr. Fessenden and his wife, Clementina, who founded Empire Day, i.e. the Friday nearest May 24th when children were told particularly about the Empire, it's component parts and the relationship to the Crown. There was a second family of Church people who influenced her, Mr. Halson and his neices Misses Kate and Margaret. Miss Kate was later Dorcas Secretary for the Diocese of Toronto W.A. Mother was very pleased when Dad decided on Schomberg because of the fact there was a Church in Lloydtown.

Dad had come to Schomberg on January 22, 1900 and for six months he practiced in Dr. Taggart's house (now Mrs. Piercey's house). He had bought Dr. Taggart's practice. Later he had offices and rooms in Mrs. Sloan's house. He and Mother were married April 29th, 1902. Mr. Fred Dennis, the Druggist, was his best man. Dad and Mother's first home was where Mrs. Gourlay now lives. In 1906 we moved to our present home buying it from Mrs. Richard Manning.

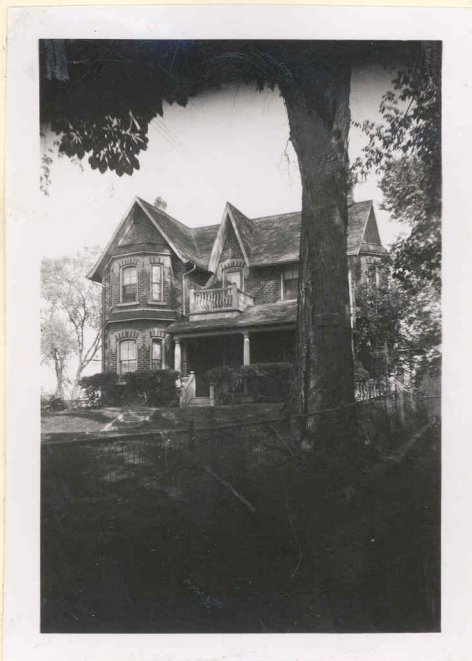
In the earlier days of the practice it was all, of necessity, by horse and buggy. Many times the patients relative or neighbour had to drive in for the Doctor. Father's eldest brother had given he and Mother a driving horse for a wedding present and old Dolly, as we knew her, covered many miles night and day. In 1913 we bought the first of many cars and I do not think we were ever so proud of another. We had three punctures the 24th of May, the first we had had - a tack, a screw nail and a gramophone needle - a major project to fix in those days. Of course the car had to be put on blocks for the winter and it was back to old Dolly with a cutter for the winter and in the spring a buggy or cart where possible. Many times it was on horseback. On occasion in the winter when the roads were full, Dad would go as far as possible with the horse and continue on showshoes.

Mother became associated with community life. In the early years there was a tennis club, the court being on what is now the Piercey lawn. Later by some years there was a bowling club to which she belonged. She brought from her home her interest in the W.A., being a member of this branch for more than sixty-two years, holding many offices, particularly that of Guild Treasurer at the time of the furnishing of the Church in Schomberg. She was a member of the Institute at it's beginning, later finding it necessary to discontinue that particular endeavour. Through the years she staged many plays for the Red Cross during the first war, for the Church and for the Womens' Institute one called the Old Maids Convention. In 1913 a group of boys started coming to our home under Mother's direction. They came every Friday night during the fall, winter and spring. One night there was reading aloud to the group, the next games and always music. We had the player piano at the time



The Doctor and Mrs. Dillane relax on the spacious lawns at a Medical Convention.

Their Home and Family



"The Elms"

and we learned the appreciation of semi classical music as well as popular. From this group activity developed the junior and senior dancing classes during the winter 1919-20.

Both Dad and Mother were fond of Theatre, particularly Shakespeare, Dad beginning as a student and both carrying on together through the years as late as 1956 when we went to Stratford to see our last one as a family. Mother saw several in England at both London and Stratford.

There was a great change in the treatment of disease and the practice of medicine during the fifty-six years that Dad practiced. He saw the end of the scourges of Diptheria and Typhoid. Later with the Sulpha Drugs and the anti-biotics the end of Pneumonia and Scarlet Feaver. The most severe and prolonged epidemic he had to contend with was the Flu of 1918. He worked twenty-hours out of twenty-four, Luke Lyons doing the driving of both car and horse and buggy and sleeping in the kitchen by the fire while dad made the call. Dad slept between calls. When they arrived home finally Mother would have sandwiches on the table and coffee on the stove.

Dad said that if he could have chosen the years in which to practice he would have chosen those years in which he did. There was a great change in the practice of mid-wifery through the years. Eighty-five percent was carried on in the home in the early years. Later, the patient went to a nursing home. At this phase, Dad had a great deal of help, loyalty and co-operation from Mrs. Lister. In the final years it was practically all hospital work. Dad, in the course of the years, waited on three generations in maternity. There were more advances during the fifty-six years than in the five hundred before. Dad said that he hoped he would see cancer conquered. He was most fortunate in his confrere - he and Dr. Kay, during the time they practiced together, were very good friends and helped one another out in many ways. He always had mother's backing, and we were all made to understand early in life that the practice was of first importance and everything else took second place.

In 1936 Mother joined the Womens' Canadian Club of Toronto and found it to be well worth while in that the members had a broader appreciation of world problems and concepts. Here she renewed a friendship with Mrs. Cumberland, originally from Ancaster, which was an added source of pleasure. In the early Thirties she joined the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, and as there was a chapter in Toronto named in honour of her friend Mrs. Clementina Fessenden, founder of Empire Day, it was natural she should join that chapter. She enjoyed the work and the contacts and carried on for a number of years until it became too difficult.

Father and Mother were very pleased and touched on the occasion of the "At Home" to mark the Fifty Years of Practice in 1950, and again in 1952 on the Fiftieth Anniversary of their wedding by the number who called to offer good wishes. There had been many Orchids from individuals and Mrs. Rhodes gave them expression in a tribute in the Globe and Mail in 1947. Dad received the Brydon Award, a ring, for the outstanding Doctor in District #5 for 1953 and Mother an Orchid at the same meeting. On August 9th, 1953 Schomberg and community, as well as friends and former patients, gathered in the Fair Grounds to mark Fifty-three years that Dad, and mother too, had been serving the community in the practice of Medicine. They were touched by the thought and planning that had made it possible. It was a tribute to a country Doctor and his helpmate in the true meaning of the word. There was a tribute that came after Dad's passing that was deeply moving and appreciated, in the form of a poem written by a patient and a friend who understood. It was called "The Country Doctor" by Mrs. Chris McGuire.

If any one word can sum up Dad's and Mother's lives that word would be service. For Dad it was service to his patients, his family, his church and his community. For mother, the family, and particularly Dad, the Church and the community. Dad would not have been able to carry on for Fifty-six years in the practice of medicine without the help of Mother.

Dad and Mother were keen horticulturists. In the early years the emphasis was on the vegetable garden. Later we had the rose garden landscaped and flowers became our main pleasure. Mother was a member of the Ontario Rose Society and Dad was President of the Horticultural Society in its early years. On the front lawn there is a Ginkgo, a rare Japanese tree, one of approximately 200 in Canada.

There are four in the family. Eric decided to study medicine. He graduated from the University of Western Ontario, interned at St. Michaels Hospital, Toronto, went to Powassan and worked with Dad's younger brother, and later went into partnership and eventually took over the practice. He married Teena McClosky. They have two sons, Richard and Danny. Grant decided on business and joined the Bell Telephone Company on January 22nd, 1930. In 1937 he married Isobel Clark. They have three sons, Kin who is with the Bell Telephone in Oshawa and is married; Tom who attends Lawrence Park Collegiate, and John who goes to John Wanless School. We have one sister, Lorna Elizabeth, who graduated from St. Hilda's College, Trinity University. After graduation she took a Secretarial course, joined the North American Life Assurance Company and later became the company librarian. I helped Dad and Mother and have found it, from a selfish standpoint, a most rewarding life and a very great privilege.

The following is a poem which I think is applicable:

The Pastor and the Doctor

I meet him as I go upon my rounds
We deal with life and death this man and I
He carries with him balm for healing wounds
And so do I.

We meet at bedsides where death's hand has lain
We meet at scenes that no man loves to see
I seek to give the soothing touch to pain
And so does he.

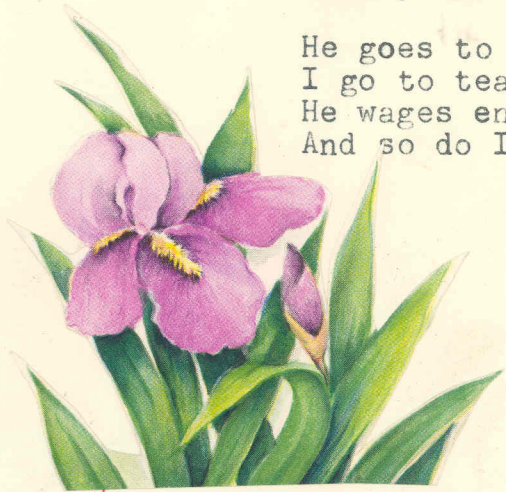
Oft-times returning home at dead of night
Along dark roads when other men may sleep
I meet him on some outward mission's flight
To those who weep.

No tufted easy way for him, no price
Can buy this vision. He prefers to try
The well worn way that leads through sacrifice
And so do I.

Continued --

Ah, truly we should walk as Christ assigned
For we are in Christ's business here below
He heals the sick, I seek to lead the blind
From paths of woe.

He goes to give new life and life sustain
I go to teach men how to live who die
He wages endless war with death and pain
And so do I.



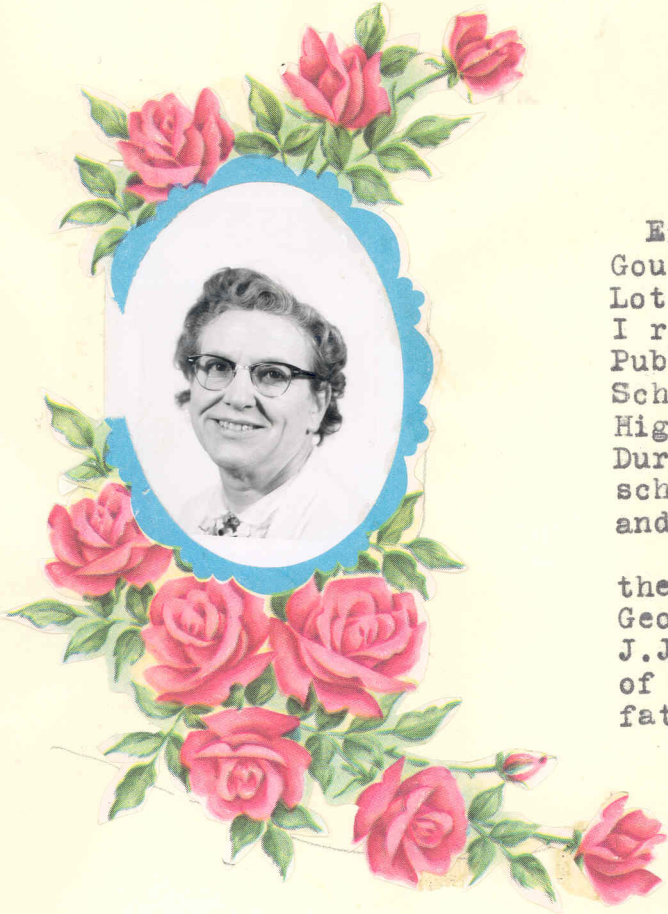
- Contributed by Lister Dillane,
Eldest son of the beloved Doctor
and Mrs. Dillane.



Even a busy Doctor's life must hold some fun.



Mrs. Dillane, seated centre, with Church friends



Effie Gould, Born to Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Gould on May 1st. 1905 at their home on Lot 27, concession 8, King Township. I received my education at Pottageville Public School, known as S.S. No. 13, King, Schomberg Continuation School; Newmarket High School and Toronto Normal School. During my teaching career I taught in schools of West Guillimbury, Tecumseth and King Townships.

In the little Baptist Church, just off the eighth concession I was married to George Edwards, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Edwards; one of the third generation of Edwards to in the home of his forefathers, on the ninth concession. Our first home was a rented one on Church Street, in Schomberg, then, after a couple of years we moved to our new home on Main Street where we have lived ever since. This home had been built on the lot adjoining the Schomberg Land Mark-"The Old Mill"

In 1962 the lot on which this historic old building was built in 1836 was bought, by the Crown to become the site of Schomberg's new Post Office, The property has been owned by my husband since 1927 and when the Post Office is built, it will be the first Government owned building in King Township. The story of the mill is recorded elsewhere in this book.

I have been a member of the Women's Institute for many years and served as President for two years. At present I am serving my second period as Secretary, this being my sixth year (1963-64) I am also very interested in 4H Club Work, having inherited my interest in youth from my teaching days. I have enjoyed assisting with a number of projects in the Home making groups. I am also a Director on the Women's Division of the Agricultural Society and assist with Librarian duties at the Library. Our family consists of two-Betty, now Mrs. Hans Huisman who has been on the staff of the local Imperial Bank for many years, and Murray, who is also married and living in the village. I find village life very interesting and satisfying and have no desire to change my lot.

Curator's Note-

Mrs. Edwards suffered patiently from a heart condition for many years but continued in the service of Institute work with a dedication and cheerfulness of a well person. During the past two years she contracted complications from which she was confined to her home for lengthy periods, but she remained interested in the work until the last. She was called to her reward on Feb. 19th 1967 and will be greatly missed in the Community she so willingly served."



MRS. WILLIAM (MARGARET) FREELE



Margaret McMillan Galbraith was born December 5th, 1886 in West Williams, Middlesex Co., one of a family of four - one boy and three girls who are all still living in this year 1958.

I attended public school at Springbank in East Williams. At that time a young man and his sister, Wm. E. and Melissa Freele kept a country store next to the public school. Quite often at noon and recess W.E. would come over to the school grounds and play ball with the boys and girls. That was how I met my future husband, although the romance did not start until ten or twelve years later.

In 1909 he sold this store and in looking for a larger business saw in the Globe a store in Schomberg advertised for sale. He looked it over and was favourably impressed with the business and location. So, he bought the business and rented the building which was owned by Dr. Dillane.

On April 19th, 1909 W.E. and his two sisters, Melissa and Lavella came to Schomberg to take stock. They boarded at Harris' Hotel. After stock taking was completed W.E. boarded at Mrs. Peaker's for two years, until he came back to West Williams to claim his bride.

We were married on April 13th, 1911 at my home. I had a white wedding with about 20 guests. We spent our honeymoon at Bad Axe in Northern Michigan.

On April 27th we left my home for Schomberg - a beautiful warm sunny April morning. We arrived at Schomberg on the 7:30 p.m. train - "The Old Annie Rooney". I can still see the long narrow and high board walk from the Station to the street, but I didn't fall off. We were met by Mr. Luke Lyons in his brand new Ford car - we were his first passengers in the new car. We went to Mrs. Peaker's and it wasn't very long till we heard some noise outside. Will looked out and saw a number of children who had come to serenade the bride and groom. We went out and gave them what they hoped we would. We boarded at Mrs. Peaker's for three weeks waiting for my things to come from home. They had been sent by C.N.R. to Aurora instead of being transferred to the Metropolitan Railway.

We lived for two years on the west side of what was known as the Woods house and two years in Mr. Thompson's house and in 1915 we bought Mr. Vic Attridge's house and remained there until we sold out in 1922.

I well remember my first institute meeting held at Mrs. Pearson's on a beautiful June day in 1911. I don't remember with whom I went to the meeting, but I can still see all those ladies, about 60 strong, sitting on the wide farm verandah and the 60 introductions which followed. Of course I joined the Institute and enjoyed very much working with the Schomberg ladies.

In 1915 on June 2nd our daughter was born and named Agnes Eliza after her two grandmothers. So many of our friends thought it an extremely old fashioned name, but we were used to the names, so they suited us alright. In 1922 W.E. Decided to change his place of business again. In Forest there was a dry goods and gents furnishings for sale. He bought the stock and we settled down in Forest.

I can assure you it was a heart break for me to leave all my friends in Schomberg, but one has to up and follow. I still have a very warm feeling for Schomberg and all the Associations in both the Church and Institute life of the village.

MRS. FRED (NORA) HUNTER



MRS. HUNTER'S DANCING CLASS

Back Row: Nora Cabell, Lois Stonehouse, Kathleen Duggan, Joyce Wauchope, Gwyn Marchant.

Front Row: Betty Marchant, Valerie Hunter, Shirley MacLeod.

Mrs. Fred Hunter - formerly Nora Armstrong - was born at Olean, New York, February 1st, 1904, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Armstrong. Nora's father died when she was quite young and she returned with her mother and brother to live at her mother's former home in St. Catharines, where she attended the Public School and Collegiate Institute from which she graduated with a First Class Certificate. She attended the Hamilton Normal School in 1923. After graduation Miss Armstrong taught Continuation School at Comber and Cookstown and came to Schomberg to act as Principal of the Continuation School in 1925. A new school was built in 1927 and Nora Armstrong acted as first Principal until 1928 when she left to become Principal of the Continuation School at Lansdowne, Ontario.

Miss Armstrong was married in St. Mary Magdalenes Church, Schomberg on March 31st, 1929 to Fred Hunter and took up residence on her husband's farm on the third line of Tecumseth where she lived until she moved with her husband to Barrie in April, 1950.

Mrs. Hunter had two children, Valerie Isobel (Mrs. Jack Wauchope) and Evelyn Marie, who moved to Barrie with her parents.

During Mrs. Hunter's residence in Tecumseth she gave freely of her time and talents to Community Work and it was during this period that she joined the Women's Institute and served as president during the years 1933-34.

Having such a keen interest in all things educational, and believing that one of the prime purposes of the Women's Institute was to enlighten its members and create a greater interest in self education, many new ideas were introduced during her term of office. Current Events were used for the first time and have been used ever since. Standing Committees were brought into being and were adopted by the Branch and during that year a five minute talk was given at each meeting by a member on the life of a prominent woman. An increased interest in schools was evident with grants to the School Fair, prizes for school competitions and Oratorical Contests and a very successful Public Speaking Contest held in the town hall the first night of the Fair.

Mrs. Hunter was ever interested in children's activities. Her greatest joy was to work with them, encouraging public speaking, training them in music and dramatization, and at one time had a dancing class in Schomberg. She taught public school during her married life at S.S. No. 17 King, S.S. No. 3 Tecumseth and S.S. No. 1 West Gwillimbury and at all times was very highly regarded by her pupils.

Shortly after moving to Barrie Mrs. Hunter suffered a severe stroke and after six frustrating years of comparative inactivity, she passed away on August 27th, 1957. She was buried in the Anglican Cemetery at Lloydtown, just west of the entrance to the old Church.

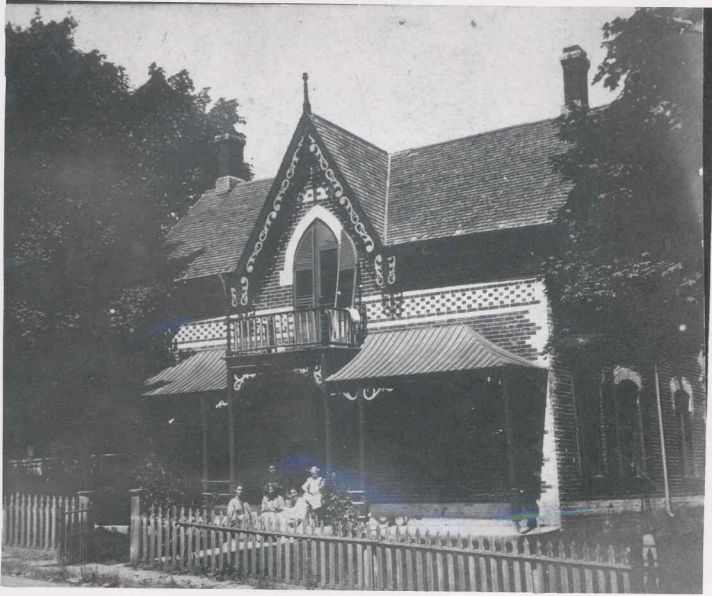
MRS. ELMIRA (LLOYD) KITCHEN



Sarah Elmira Lloyd, daughter of John and Rebecca Lloyd, was born December 1st, 1868 on a farm on the Second Concession of King Township near the village of Newmarket. She was of United Empire Loyalist and Irish extraction, and was one of a family of four - two sons and two daughters. When she was six years old the family moved to the Sixth Concession, near Kettleby and here she continued to live until her marriage. Elmira was clever with a needle and at an early age learned the dressmaking trade in Newmarket and her fine and meticulous work was known by the whole community.

On December 13th, 1893 she married James Alfred Kitchen, son of William Kitchen and Esther Ann Lackie who came from Bramham, England in 1850 and settled near Coventry on the Twelfth Concession of King, and twenty-five years later moved to the village of Schomberg where Mr. Kitchen opened a Blacksmith shop on the Main Street between the homes now owned by Walter Thompson and Miss Cora Aitchison. Here James assisted in the busy shop, learning the trade with his father until he passed away in 1889. After that time he took over the business himself and worked hard until his own early death in 1923 at the age of fifty-seven. It was a busy trade as hundreds of horse shoes were made and fitted by Mr. Kitchen as the sparks flew under the heavy strokes of his hammer on the anvil. I am sure he must have told many interesting stories and suffered many narrow escapes from injury from the handling of lively and excited horses. His work was not only shoeing horses, but included the setting of wagon tires, sharpening and making plough shares and harrows and indeed mending all farm implements. A Blacksmith shop in those days was a "must" and a good Blacksmith was a popular man in the Village. Mr. Kitchen was a good Blacksmith.

When Elmira Lloyd and James were married she came to live in the fine brick house on the corner of Church and Main Streets and here she lived the rest of her life. Their family consisted of four. Percy, who married Marion Holmes and lives retired on Highway Nine at the



Their home on the corner of Main and Church Streets where they began their married life and remained more than 40 years.



Eighth Concession; Merle, Mrs. John Doane, who lives near Norval; Gertrude, Mrs. M. Gould, of Toronto and Jack who lives in London, Ont.

Mrs. Kitchen was a staunch member of the Methodist and later United Church and was tireless in her efforts for its' support in both the W.A. and W.M.S. She was always interested in community activities and did excellent work with the Red Cross in World War I, when the ladies met each week in the Masonic Hall and were responsible for a tremendous contribution to that Society. Her great love of community work was centred in her membership in the Women's Institute, and here she was a conscientious and devoted worker. Records show of her excellent leadership as President of our Branch for two terms, 1921-22 and 1928-29, when such important subjects as Health Inspection in Schools, Courses in Home Nursing and Domestic Science and a great amount of relief work undertaken both locally and in Northern Ontario. Mrs. Kitchen was also interested in community work and the upkeep of the Agricultural Grounds as a safe place for children's play grounds and during her term of office slides and swings were erected by the W.I. She continued as an active member until she was forced to retire, having the misfortune to suffer a broken hip which caused her decline in health and her death on October 19th, 1933.

The Church, Village and Community were saddened by her passing but enriched by her example and the privilege of having shared her life among us.
- Facts contributed by her Family.



The Blacksmith Shop

l. to r.

- Herb Leonard
- Albert Wisner
- Jack Kitchen
- (on wheel)
- James Kitchen
- Cliff Pitt
- John Lloyd
- Percy Kitchen
- Arnold Dove

DOCTOR AMOS F. KAY



AS HE ARRIVED IN
SCHOMBERG TO BEGIN
43 YEARS OF PRACTISE
AGED - 30 YEARS



HIS CHARMING BRIDE
ON THE STEPS OF
THEIR FIRST HOME -
NOW THE POST OFFICE

THE BELOVED DOCTOR AS WE REMEMBER HIM



Dr. Amos F. Kay was born on a farm near Sutton, Ontario, the youngest of seven children. His father was Joseph Kay and his mother Elizabeth Marshall Rae. After public school he attended Port Perry High School and Model School where his uncle was Principal. After teaching three years he enrolled in Medicine at the University of Toronto. He interned at St. Lukes Hospital in Ottawa and was assistant to Dr. MacKay of Collingwood and also Dr. Uiddrie of Creemore.

He then married Caroline Lillian Dougan and put out his shingle in Schomberg, where he practised for forty-three years. Their first home for five years was in the building now used as the Post Office. From there they purchased the lovely old white house on the hill, just north of the United Church Parsonage.

He was an elder and treasurer of the Presbyterian Church and after Union, of the United Church. He was a Mason, a member of the Bowling Club and of the Lions Club and an ardent Baseball fan. He was Medical Health Officer of King Township, an arduous task.

For many years he raised Buff Orpington chickens and won many prizes and championships at the Royal Winter Fair and Canadian National Exhibition. He also took great pleasure in his large garden. It gave him peace and serenity for the tasks of the day.

His two sons, Ronald Bruce and Harry Leslie graduated from Toronto University; Ronald in Medicine and Harry in Commerce and Finance. Life was satisfying and complete and then war clouds gathered and his sons both enlisted. Ronald in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps and Harry in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Ronald was soon overseas and became a Doctor on the battlefield. Harry became a pilot and rose to Squadron Leader and Commanding Officer of two Air Stations for training pilots, first at Windsor and later at Oshawa. Then he too, was sent overseas. Harry was shot down over Stuttgart Germany on January 28th, 1945 on his thirteenth mission.

Dr. Kay was a man of peace. His life was devoted to the preservation of life. To him the sacrifice of so many fine young lives was appalling and utterly senseless. When Harry died something died in him too. His heart was broken.

He carried on for seven more years and then on May 8th, 1952 he was stricken while attending a patient. His Minister, Rev. Gordon Hunter, who lived him, in his final tribute to him, summed up his life in these words:

"He was a great Doctor, a great man, and a great Christian".

MRS. ALFRED (ELIZABETH) LLOYD



Mrs. Lloyd, the former Elizabeth Shrigley, was born October 21st, 1863, one of four children of the late Robert and Mrs. Shrigley who owned the farm immediately east of Newmarket and which now forms a part of the town. There was a small house on the very fringe of the town on what was known as Shrigley Street, near Gorham, and here Mr. and Mrs. Shrigley lived until the farm home was built. Elizabeth was born there and the rest of the family, two sisters and one brother, in the new house.

Mr. Shrigley was a farmer but he hoped his children would gain an education to fit them for their future. This they did and three of them became school teachers and Elizabeth attended Public School and High School in Newmarket and on her graduation from High School attended Model School in what is now Alexander Muir School on Prospect Street. Ready to assume the duties of a teacher, she secured a position at Jamieson's School on the 6th concession of King Township, and the following year accepted a position at Lloydtown. She remained there for two years, but on account of a throat weakness, retired from teaching and was succeeded at Lloydtown by her sister.

She returned to Newmarket to learn the dressmaking trade, and worked at this until January, 1891 when she married Mr. Alfred L. Lloyd and returned to Lloydtown where soon after their marriage they settled on Lot 33, concession 10, previously owned by William Lloyd, Alfred's father. They were spared to enjoy sixty-three years of married life and lived the whole of the time in the vicinity of Lloydtown. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd had two children, Myrtle (Mrs. Harry Carter), and Ewart Gladstone, whose life history appears elsewhere in this book.

Mrs. Lloyd knew the joys and trials of pioneer living, but having a keen interest in all community activities, made her a valued member of the area. She was very alert and well posted on world affairs and her love of reading was a constant education to her. She was a member of the Public Library until the last year of her life and her training as a needlewoman made her outstanding in this art. Her fine crocheting, knitting, embroidery and dressmaking were expertly done and she continued to work at it until the very end of her life.

Mrs. Lloyd seemed to find time for all good works. She gave generously of her time and talents for the good of the community and was President of the Women's Institute during 1919 and 1920. These were difficult years because it was a time of readjustment after the strenuous years of war work and Mrs. Lloyd had thrown herself whole-heartedly into it. She knew what it was to suffer the aftermath of war because her only son lay in Christie Street Hospital with doubtful hopes for the future, but she worked tirelessly for the Bright New World we hoped was won.

Mrs. Lloyd was an ardent member of the United Church and organized a Young Ladies Bible Class in 1917 and continued as its leader for twenty years. She was President of the Women's Missionary Society and attended the meetings until a few weeks before her death. She was blessed with good health and a very keen mind, a gracious personality and a cheerful disposition and was loved by all with whom she worked.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd had the unique experience of living, not only to each pass their four score years and ten, but to celebrate both their golden and diamond wedding anniversaries and were feted on these occasions by their entire community, who knew their fine qualities and marvellous contribution to society and loved and respected them for their example.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd retired to Lloydtown when their daughter and son-in-law took over the farm but moved to Schomberg in 1929 where they lived active interesting lives until Mrs. Lloyd passed on on February 16th, 1954 in her 91st year and was laid to rest in Union Cemetery. In passing she left her mark on this community which everyone agreed was a better place because she had lived here. No greater tribute could be paid to anyone, "She had done what she could throughout her long and busy life".

Facts contributed by
Mrs. H. Carter.



MRS. EDWARD (EMMA JANE) MARCHANT



Emma Jane Perry, sixth child in the family of twelve, was born on September 5th, 1865 on lot 34, concession 10, King Township. Her father, Henry Perry, was the second son of the late Richard Perry and Susannah Proctor, and was born in Ireland in 1824, coming to Canada in 1831 when Henry was seven years old and settled on lot 24, concession 7 of King Township. Her mother was Elizabeth Gardiner, daughter of Lieut. Gardiner of the British Army.

When Henry and Elizabeth were married in 1854 they obtained lot 34, concession 10, on which they lived the remainder of their lives and raised their large family, who grew up to scatter as far west as Winnipeg and Victoria to make their homes. They experienced all the hardships, privations, joys and sorrows of pioneer farming and knew what it meant to make sacrifices to provide food and love and shelter for their children. They were devout Christians and loyal to their church, St. Mary Magdalenes in Lloydtown, which they helped to establish, and brought up their family to follow in their foot steps.

Emma received her education at Lloydtown Public School, and then remained at home to help with the task of homemaking. There were few opportunities for girls in those days and her father did not believe in his daughters leaving home - his greatest joy was to have his family around him in his own home until they were ready to make homes of their own. Consequently, she had a wide experience in pioneer life and was an accomplished homemaker. However, her life was not hum-drum because they were a happy family and enjoyed each other's companionship. They entered whole-heartedly into the life of the community and as Lloydtown was a very busy and important centre at that time they did not lack recreation and entertainment. They spent much time with church activities and since Emma was very musical she was a member of Lloydtown's Women's Band playing a coronet with much skill. She was also organist at St. Mary Magdalenes for twenty-five years and on her retirement received a beautiful set of Moss Rose dinnerware, from the congregation - a gift she treasured and used with pride throughout her long life.

On November 1st, 1893 Emma married Edward Marchant and moved to lot 14, concession 8, Tecumseth, where their family of three sons - Clarence, Victor and Clifford, was born. Here also, Mrs. Marchant found time to serve her church and was the organist there while her husband was Superintendent of the Sunday School. After eight years there they retired to the old Perry Homestead as Mr. and Mrs. Perry were becoming too old to manage the farm and although Mr. and Mrs. Marchant purchased the farm her parents were not obliged to leave their old home, but remained as welcome guests as long as they lived. Farming saw many changes during these years, and Mr. Marchant progressed with the times. It was a happy but strenuous life since this was the homestead and the parents were still there. It was a common thing for Mrs. Marchant to have at least 20 for dinner, as the children came home each Sunday to see their parents. This did not keep her from her church but she used to say, as they drove home, she would look in the yard as soon as they passed the orchard, to see how many guests she would have to prepare dinner for. It was also the centre for summer holidays and nieces and nephews came to the farm all summer long for their turn for a week's holidays.

Mrs. Marchant was a good neighbour and neighbours were needed in those days. She would take little treats and spend a whole day visiting the sick and shut-ins in the village. She was always on hand when a neighbour needed help and she cared tenderly her aged mother until she passed away. She was President of the W.A. of her church for many years and was a Life Member of the same. She was also President of the Women's Institute in 1915, 16 and 17, during those busy war years when she drove every Wednesday with horse and buggy to sew for the Red Cross in the Masonic Hall.

In 1926, after fifty-three years on the farm of her birth, she and her husband moved to their pretty new brick bungalow on Main Street in Schomberg, where she was happy to enjoy her retired life, serve her community and church and tend her lovely flowers for which she had a great love.

Two special events stood out in her latter years - on November 1st, 1943 they celebrated their fiftieth Wedding Anniversary when friends gathered from near and far to express their good wishes and shower them with gifts. It was a gala occasion and the Institute sent flowers to show their esteem, and on September 5th, 1955 she was again honoured with a party on the occasion of her nintieth birthday when she cut her cake, received her friends and enjoyed their company.

Mrs. Marchant was blessed with good health, a mild disposition and a happy contented nature. She had a very keen memory and could re-tell interesting stories of pioneer life and in fact, was a source of information for many who had no record of births, deaths, etc. She was able to remain in her own home after she was widowed in 1952 and enjoyed an interesting life until she passed quietly away in November, 1956 in her 92nd year. She was laid to rest in old St. Mary Magdalenes Cemetery and the people mourned the passing of a senior citizen who left the community a better place for having lived there.



Mrs. Leeson (Helen) McGowan



Mrs. McGowan, the former Helen Elaine Averall, was born November 10th 1891, one of two children of the late James and Mrs. Averall who lived on a farm about two miles north of Newton Robinson, on the Twelfth line of West Gwillimbury Township. Helen was born on this farm and also her sister, Daisy Ellis. Mrs. Averall passed away about two weeks after Daisy was born and Helen was three years old. The family then went to live with their Grandparents. The girls received their education at Newton Robinson public school. In 1919 the home farm was sold and the family moved to 111 Dixon Ave, Toronto, where Helen worked until her marriage to Leeson McGowan, Sept. 20th 1928.

Leeson came to Schomberg in 1924 and operated a Fancy and Dry goods store in the south half of the store owned by Miss Attridge, and now occupied by Roy Jennings. His elderly father lived with him there as did also his widowed sister, Mrs. Frankie Arnold. A little later he obtained the business of Mr. Geo. Bannerman (now Crest Hardware) and operated a general store until he purchased the business of Mr. Robt. Creighton, now owned by Mr. Cecil Henry. In March, 1945 he again sold out and moved to Barrie where they now live in a pretty little bungalow on Innisfil St.

Helen joined the Women's Institute soon after coming to Schomberg and although she never held an executive office, her contribution to the organization was very great. Her home was always open for meetings and her Co-operation and faithfulness to the work of the branch during the war effort was outstanding. Their great love was the work of their Church where Leeson was Warden, Treasurer and Superintendent of the Sunday School for many years and Helen was tireless in her efforts for the work of the W.A. of St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church. They made a fine contribution to the life of the community and were missed when they moved from our midst.



I was born on a farm, north of Schomberg in Tecumseth Township, which my Grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Clarke, had cleared of bush and farmed until their only son, my father, Stephen Henry Clark married and took over the farm. I still have a pair of brass candlesticks that was given my mother by a pedlar as a wedding gift when he called at their home the day after they were married.

I married Ernest J. Pearson, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Pearson, in November 1909 and lived on his parent's farm until 1926 when we moved to Schomberg where we have lived ever since with the exception of one year which we spent in Battle Creek, Mich.

I joined the Women's Institute when it was organized in 1911 and have been a member ever since with the exception of the one year we were out of the community. After Mrs. Pearson's death we sold our home on north Main St. and bought a bungalow on Elmwood Ave. but later as we realized we were getting older and it was a long walk to the business section of the village and to our Church, we sold again in 1962 and bought our present home on Church St, where we hope to spend the remainder of our years enjoying small town life and friends. I have many interests in the town which keep me busy and makes life full and satisfying and I would not live elsewhere. Besides my Church, which is Presbyterian, and the Institute activities I am a Charter Member of the Horticultural Society and a Board Member of the Public Library since its beginning. I am happy to have had a part in securing a new Library building and in the renovation of the Community Hall which are both a credit to the village. To me Cooperation is the keynote to a successful community and I hope I shall be able to do my share in all good projects as long as I am spared.



"Lunch Time at the Maple Syrup Camp 1914"

This scene is either in the sugar bush on the Pearson or McDonald farm where the ladies have brought lunch to the men who are gathering sap and putting it in the huge tank from which the ladies are drinking. It will then be put into the kettles to boil. These were kept boiling constantly until the syrup was at the right consistency for straining. Very often the kettles would be kept boiling all night, and the fires kept burning with wood gathered in the bush. It was hard work but the sparkling golden syrup was ample reward for their labor.

Mrs. James (Eliza) Pearson



The old farm home on Concession 8, King that was built by the late George Lount Pearson in 1856. All the wood that was used in the trim came from one tree and was all hand dressed.



Mrs. James Pearson was born on the 30th. of June, 1851 on a farm near Meaford in St. Vincent Township. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Leavens, had settled there when first married. They had travelled by horse back from her grandparents' home near Picton in Prince Edward County, on their Honeymoon. Mrs. Pearson received her education in the little school near her home, and when she married James Pearson, in the year 1877, she came to live on the farm on the 8th. concession of King where she lived for nearly fifty years, and where their two children were born. A son Ernest and a daughter Florence who graduated as a nurse and died during the Flu. epidemic in 1918. Ernest assisted with the farm until 1926 when they sold it to Mr. Robert Hulse and retired to Schomberg. Their ancestors were United Empire Loyalists and Quaker stock and the story of the Pearson family reaches far back in pioneer history of York County. Their family history is recorded in the pioneer histories appearing in another section. Mrs. Pearson was a woman of charming personality and was very capable and intelligent. She was interested in every movement that stood for better community life and was so enthused about the principals of the Women's Institute she labored for the organization of the branch that has flourished in Schomberg for more than half a century. She made herself so well informed of the constitution that she became the first President and remained active as long as she was physically able. Her spacious farm home was ever at the disposal of the branch for meetings and social activities and records reveal the wonderful foundation and leadership she gave to the branch. She brought honor to the branch by being chosen a District President and assisted in organizing many new branches. In this work she had the pleasure of working with Mrs. Effie O. Charles of Aurora as District Secretary, who, I think has done more to further the work of the W. I. in this County than any other single woman and who became so endeared to the women of rural North York.

Mr. and Mrs. Pearson made their home with their son and daughter-in-law after their retirement, on Main st. where Mr. Pearson died in 1931 and Mrs. Pearson passed quietly to her reward on Christmas day 1947 leaving the community poorer for her passing but richer for her having lived in our midst.



Mr. & Mrs.
Charles
Aurora, O.

Information by courtesy of
Mr. and Mrs. E. Pearson.

LOIS (BARTLETT) SHOULTS



I was born in the city of Hamilton, Ontario, the only child of Lavera Brown and Irvine Franklin Bartlett. I received my education at Hamilton public schools and Collegiate Institute and later graduated from Toronto Normal School. I also received a good musical education,

After teaching for two years on the Toronto staff, I was married to George Owen Shoults, and we went to Quebec Province where we lived for five years in a mining town. My husband was Lubrication Engineer with the Johns Mansville Company there.

After spending two more years in Cornwall, Ontario, we returned to Schomberg district where we have lived for the past twenty-eight years.

In religion, we are members of the United Church, being originally Methodist.

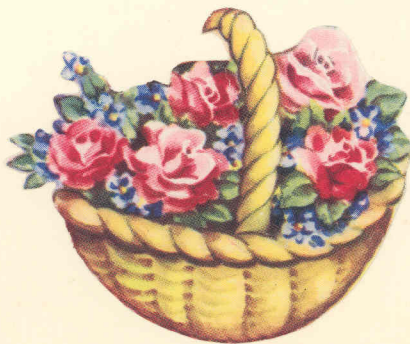
I have always been keenly interested in Institute work - in fact, it might be described as my "hobby". I have been a member of Schomberg Womens' Institute for twenty-five years, during which period I have held the offices of District Director and President, and have been President of Centre York District for a three year period from 1956-1959.

I have also been active in the work of Schomberg Library board for over twenty years, holding the offices of Director and President.

We raised two children, a son and a daughter. Our daughter, Beverley, is now married and living at Clarkson, and we have one granddaughter, Lynda. Our son, David, has finished his education and now works in Toronto.

I hope that I may be spared for many more years to work for my family, community and Institute.

The home that we now occupy is over one hundred years old. We purchased the property in 1938 from Mrs. Wm. Ferguson, and have resided here for a period of twenty-four years. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Ferguson and family owned the property for eighteen years, and they had purchased it in 1920 from Mr. and Mrs. Fred Strangway.



Mrs. Louise (Dodds) Skinner



I, Myrtle Louise Skinner, eldest daughter of Ira Dodds and Ruth Hall was born in King Township on lot 25, concession eleven, the farm my grandfather had hewn out of virgin forest, and on it built a solid brick house which is still in good condition although well over one hundred years old. It is now owned and occupied by my nephew Reg. Rainey, a great grandson of the original owner. The farm has never been out of the family connection and his children are the fifth generation to live in the old home to which my mother came as a bride.

Our family consisted of five daughters- Eva (Mrs. John Rainey); Hazel (Mrs. Geo. Leonard) now deceased; Elma (Mrs. R. Rae); Della (Mrs. J. O'Neill) and myself. I married Blake Skinner, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Skinner of Schomberg in 1915 and settled on the farm just west of the village, now owned and occupied by Wilfred Aitchison. We lived here for seven years and in 1922 we sold out to Mr. Smith Dixon of Beeton and moved to our present home on King St. in Schomberg, when my husband went into partnership with his father in the butcher business. Here he continued after his father's death until 1950 when he sold the business to Pat Ryan. Since that time he has driven a school bus transporting high school students, first to Aurora District High School and now to King Composite School at King City. The house we now live in was built of bricks taken from an old hotel in Lloydtown, which was a thriving town in the last century. Our family consists of two sons, Donald and Jack, both are married, live in Toronto, and are employed by the Bell Telephone Company.

My out-of-the-home interests lie in my Church, The United Church, to which I have always been a member, and in the past held the office of President of the W.M.S. and W.A. for nearly twenty years. I am also a member of the Horticultural Society and am keenly interested in the Public Library. I have been a member of the Women's Institute almost since its organization in our village in 1911, but not having attended the organization meeting I am not a charter member.

Submitted by - Louise Skinner.

Modesty forbids Mrs. Skinner to reveal her whole story, but I have her permission to record some of the things I know to be facts from scanning the minute books I have in my possession. Mrs. Skinner has been, and indeed still is, an outstanding member in her exemplification of the Creed of the Women's Institute. Her continued interest and participation in work of our branch has been an inspiration to many and her contribution in service can not be estimated- suffice it to say, I have never known her to refuse co-operation and assistance in any worthwhile cause.

I have read the minute books of the past forty years (Unfortunately the records of the first ten years were destroyed) and they tell a story of continued interest and service. Her home seemed always open for meetings. She held the office of Sec'y Treas. in 1923-24, and of President in 1940. When standing committees were introduced in 1933 she accepted the office of Home Economics convener. Two years later she changed to Community Activities and held this office for several years. From then on her name appears on nearly every slate of officers as either a Director or a convener. When war came, and the Institute affiliated with the Red Cross for greater service Mrs. Skinner represented the Institute on the Services committee and worked tirelessly in the strenuous tasks allotted to her. Time and space does not permit to tell of all the activities that have been accomplished through her co-operation but if every member of the Women's Institute contributed as much effort, we would have a tremendous force for good in both Home and Country.

O.H.M.

Mrs. (Cora) Roy Stephens



I was born on February, 26th, 1912 .on the eighth concession of King Township ;on the farm now owned by Hugh Hamilton. I am the oldest of the family of five born to Leonard Baguley and his wife, the former Edna Courtney, When I was Three years old I moved with my parents to a farm east of Dunkerron in West Guillimbury Township where we lived for three years before moving to another farm six miles south of Schomberg, near Nobleton I attended Nobleton Public School and Nobleton United Church.

On May the 22nd I married Roy Stephenson, son of Joseph Stephenson and Jane Whitmore of Kettleby Ont. and lived on a farm east of Woodbridge for three years where our first son, Leonard Joseph was born on July 9th 1938. On April 19 th 1939 we sold our farm and purchased our present home at the north end of Main St. known as the Frizzel property. Since coming here we have had three more children- Annie Esther born Jan. 16 ,1940 Douglas Henry, born March 18th, 1941 and Mary Carol born Dec. 18th, 1946. My husband is employed with the Burnel Graham Lumber Co.

I have always had a keen interest in the Women's Institute and have been a member over twenty years . I have been Pianist for a great many years and convener of many of the standing Committees. I enjoy working with all denominations in one organization and feel that the Women's Institute does a great deal to further good citizenship.

From searching the history of our home, we find it is probably around one hundred years old. The first owner we know of was Mr. Frank Brown who sold it to the Misses Margaret and Matilda Cain who in turn sold it to Mr. Jos. Fizzell from whom we purchased it in 1939.



Mrs. Ira (Mary Ellen) Shaw

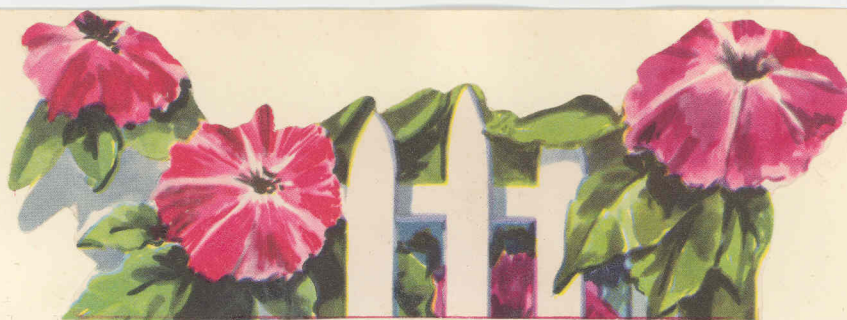


Mary Ellen Spring was born on June 25th 1860. She was the fourth child of William Spring and Martha Edwards Spring. Her father had a wheelwright shop in Schomberg but later sold it and moved to a farm on the fifth concession of King Township. Following this he moved his family to a farm at Allenwood, later retiring to Toronto where he died at the age of 86. His wife survived him and lived to the grand old age of 92 years in spite of the strenuous life of pioneer farming.

Mary married Ira Shaw on Feb. 22nd 1882 and came to live on lot 26 of the 8th. concession of King where they farmed until Mr. Shaw's death in 1916. He had the unique experience of owning and operating one of the first threshing machines in the community. Combining and even summer field threshing were unknown in those days. It was a full season's work to cut the grain with a horse drawn binder, then stook the sheaves in long rows to be later hauled into the barn, with horses and wagons and stored away in the spacious mows. When the harvest had been gathered and the other fall work completed Mr. Shaw would go from farm to farm with his steam propelled engine, threshing machine and water tank, and with the help of about a dozen neighbors, one by one of the farmers saw their bins filled with golden grain, an enormous pile of yellow chaff for winter feed and a huge straw stack in the barnyard for sweet clean bedding for all his livestock. Now the farmer could heave a sigh of relief for his harvest was finished and he could see the return for his months of labor. Mr. Shaw's threshing machine was not one of the efficient kind that some of this generation may still remember; everything was still done the hard way. The sheaves were thrown from the mows by an organized row of men passing them from one to another until they landed on the table of the machine where another man stood and cut the band of the sheaf, and still another fed it carefully into the machine. When the flow of golden grain poured out the side of the machine it was caught in hampers and carried by hand to the waiting bins. This was called "carrying the boxes". There was something fine about those threshing bees, something that can never be replaced in the pursuit of farming—Friendship, Co-operation, and a feeling of achievement with often a little deviltry to "liven things up" which saw neighborliness and good will at its best. And the women were a vital part of it all, for as soon as they the machine approaching their neighborhood they knew their turn would soon be coming and by the time it turned in at their particular gate and the water tank was hauled to the well or creek for filling, the pantry shelves were filled with rows of pies, bowls of fruit and pickles and other good things and the old kitchen table stretched to full length, for all those hungry, cold and dainty men were served with the most nourishing food for both dinner and supper wherever they worked and no-one ever knew of an eight hour day or a forty hour week.

Mr. and Mrs. Shaw raised four children; William, Ethel, Clare and Olive and lived on the farm until Mr. Shaw's death when Mrs. Shaw came to make her home with her daughter Ethel—Mrs. Harvey Leonard, until her death on Feb. 18th. 1938 at the age of 78 years.

Mrs. Shaw was very interested in Community activities and was a Charter Member of the Women's Institute and a most energetic President for two years following our first President Mrs. Jas. Pearson. Unfortunately little importance was placed on preserving the old minute books and the one containing the first ten years of our activity has been destroyed. This is very unfortunate because the records of some of our most illustrious Presidents has been lost forever. However we have the record of Mrs. Shaw's good work for "Home and Country" as she again served the branch as President in 1936-37.



It was during this time that a great interest was created to have music taught in the schools and through Mrs. Shaw's untiring efforts this was made possible for both Schomberg and Lloydtown schools, Much of the money raised for the work of the branch in those days was raised by catering to suppers, and it is interesting to note in this year the ladies catered to two banquets; charging 30¢ per plate to the Veterans and 35¢ per plate to the Masonic Order, because they wanted "A few extra frills"- so the minutes read. Christmas baskets for the needy were the responsibility of the Institute then and twelve were packed that year. A complete layette was made by the members to be held in the care of the Institute and be at the disposal of either Doctor to be used by any needy mother until further assistance could be arranged for the family. Financial assistance was given, as well as a new book case to the Library, and cash grants to both the School Fair and the Agricultural Society. The highlight of that year was the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the branch. Many distinguished guests were entertained and a delightful program prepared to celebrate the quarter century of service to the community. These are just a few of the things undertaken and accomplished during Mrs. Shaw's presidency. Her contribution to the community through the medium of the Women's Institute untiring as well as inspiring and her mild and kindly personality made it a delight to associate with her.

There could be no more appropriate place for these old pictures which depict harvesting operations in the early part of the century than with this family whose life was so closely associated with with this type of harvest.

No 1- The field of neatly stoked grain

No 2- Loading the wagon with sheaves

No 3- On the way to the barn

No 4- The straw stacked in the barnyard after the threshing.



Mrs. J.L. (Karen Mary Mackenzie) Thomas



I, the former Karen Mary Mackenzie Sutton, was born in Newcastle-on-Tyne in March 1930. I am the only child of my ship-owner father, who has since retired from business and is living in Scotland. This north-eastern corner of England is noted for its mining and shipping industries and the biting winds blowing from the North Sea which penetrates the most solid of houses, but play a considerable part in developing the hardy and tenacious character of the people.

I went to a co-educational boarding school at the age of 8 years, a school just a few miles from St. Albans, an ancient Roman town where there are still relics of those great people who laid their straight roads the length and breadth of England. I spent 10 years at this school, although during the war, the younger children, with myself were evacuated to a country house in Devon where we all had to use pencils for fear of desecrating the beautiful Adam mantle-pieces in every downstairs room. During these years I had my first taste of farming, as, due to the shortage of labor the children were allowed to go to help the local farmers two afternoons a week. These experiences were looked forward to with great anticipation and I never again expect to derive so much pleasure from an afternoon spent scrambling in the dirt for an unending number of potatoes, which were showered over us by a vicious machine. I can also remember vying for the chance of doing the daily 250 hand pumps require to fill the upstairs cisterns which supplied running water to the farm house. Haying time is the same the world over, with the exception of the Devonshire man who is never far from his bottle of home-made apple cider hidden in the hedgegows, frequently sampled by self. I remember the dreadful day I found someone had put cold tea in his bottle; Ugh; I spent many a happy holiday on a nearby farm, and also on the Devonshire Coast where we swam every day during the summer and lived in a little thatched cottage with no indoor plumbing. I was very fortunate to be in an area where there was very little bombing, and when the war ended in 1945 and 15 years old I was only just becoming aware of the disastrous period we had all survived.

When I left school at 17 I went to Lansauve in Switzerland for a year where I suffered from extreme homesickness and was very thankful to return home. Even my magnificent view from my window at Lake Geneva and Mount Blanc in the distance, and the amount of French I had learned did not seem to me, at that time, to compensate for the anguish of being so far from home and family. I have never suffered from homesickness since that time so I think I must be immune. On my return home I lived in London with my mother and worked for six months for a man who made gloves in fabric. These gloves were often made to match a hat or gown and were of the most beautiful fabrics I have ever seen - Chinese silks and thick springy satins, gold brocade and gossamer lace. We even made a pair of net gloves for a film star. I did not stay long at this job as I found I required a more active occupation than sitting all day. I worked for a large department store in the paper pattern department later moving to fabrics which was quite disastrous, as I love to sew and spent all my spare money on lengths of cloth. I enjoyed this work as you meet so many interesting people every day.

During this time I met my husband and we were married on a cold sunshiny December day in 1951. As this was an unseasonable time of year for a honeymoon we saved our trip until the summer. We travelled 3500 miles on the European Continent on a 1937 model motor cycle. Oh, those unforgettable days on the pillion. We had plenty of repairs to make on the way but people everywhere are so kind and fascinating. One young mechanic in Italy had his workshop in a beautiful cave in the mountain side, around which the road was winding, but we had plenty of time and no commitments so an extra day or two spent in one place didn't matter. We packed camping and were away 3½ weeks, having £75 to spend, which is \$225, although actually worth more in value of goods. An excellent meal in France in an unpretentious inn cost us \$3 each. We travelled through France to the Riviera and along the winding road slung between mountain and sea to Italy.

We saw the Leaning Tower of Pisa, but were far more fascinated by the beautiful church beside it. The sculptures and murals are wonderful, and we found in all Italy, that all the churches, even in the poorest districts had these paintings on the walls. Sometimes outside, and sometimes inside. Also there were many little wayside shrines, and a figure of Christ with a spray of flowers beneath it. We spent three days in Rome, not long enough of course to see everything, but we did enjoy the old Roman Forum and the many many sculptures. -also of course excellent spaghetti. The Italians eat spaghetti as an appetizer but we found it a meal in itself. In fact we found that the farther south we travelled the more beautiful the churches became, and also the tastier the spaghetti. That these two conclusions have any connection is a matter of conjecture.

We left Rome and crossed to the Adriatic Coast where the sea is warm and that wonderful translucent green. We went to see the famous mosaics! They are everywhere, walls ceilings and floors. Next, Venice which needs no introduction but I won't say anything about the aroma of fish and the other unpleasant smells which assail the nostrils. However by the time we were ready to leave we had become more or less accustomed to it. Then we went across Northern Italy, crossing the frontier to France at Grenoble. We had to hurry home as funds were getting low and for this reason were unable to stop in Paris.

My son, Edward John, was born in 1953 and when he was one year old we left him with my mother and took another trip to the Continent. This time we had a newer model Vincent Comet motor cycle. We had a side-car in it for taking baby Edward but for the trip we removed this as the side car would be on the inside of the road on the Continent and I felt safer on the pillion anyway. We had a better tent and a little more money this trip. We travelled across France, through Luxemburg, where we followed the river Rhine up to Cologne, The old chateaux on the Rhine, surrounded by vineyards, are a beautiful sight, as was also the Schwartzwold (Black Forest) and the mountains of Austria. We were unfortunate in having a very wet summer for this trip, but we were lucky in that we could spend a few of the worst nights in hotels. We crossed from Austria to Italy through those rocky peaks of pointing fingers not yet having had time to be weathered into a more graceful shape. We spent a few days here and returned home across the mountains between France and Italy. Again a mad dash home, this time because I missed my son and could not bear to be away from him any longer. Needless to say Edward was far too young to miss his mother, as long as his personal wants were attended to.

The place I enjoyed most on all our travels was Italy, particularly the southern regions.

My daughter, Joanna Mary, was born in 1955. During these years since our marriage, my husband, George, had been studying Engineering under a scholarship grant from the exiled Polish Government. These grants were available to Poles who had served in the Polish forces during the war. After George obtained his Degree in Engineering he worked in a local firm of engineering consultants. At this time the Suez Canal crisis was much in the news and petrol (gas) was rationed and very costly. George and I began to fear for the future of England and for our children, and our concern led us to the conclusion that we should consider moving. We decided on Canada and came here in July 1957 to spend a week in Montreal where for the first time in three years my French was a great help to us. I am very surprised that French is not taught in the schools here at an early age, as I had always thought that Canadians were bi-lingual. We came on to Toronto as the prospects of work were not as good in Montreal. We had wanted to go to Schefferville but they were not hiring men at that time.

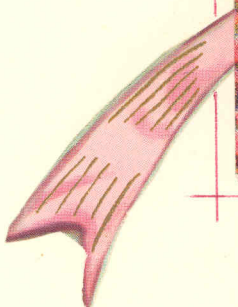
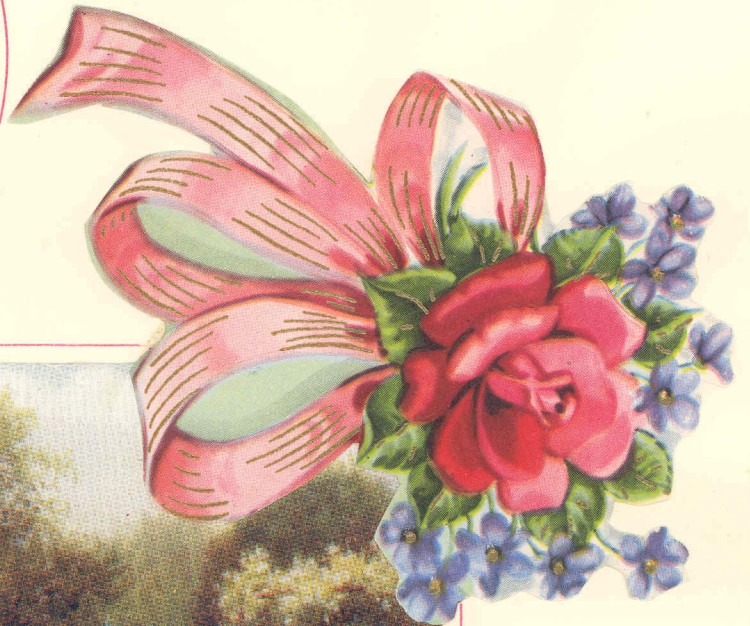
In Toronto we lived in an apartment for one year, and George had work with a firm on Dundas St. West. During the latter part of this year we came to the conclusion that city life was not for us, and we started looking for a home on land within commuting distance of the city. It is hard to imagine the derelict and dilapidated condition of some of the dwellings and barns we inspected. However we eventually managed to find the farm where we now live and are remodelling the old farmhouse in slow stages. We intend to keep a few animals to amuse the children and as a hobby. We have already found this too expensive a pastime and ended by building a new barn and at the time of writing I manage a herd of twenty sows while my husband works at his job in Toronto.



My family in England were very sceptical when we became interested in a farm, as an uncle of mine had done exactly the same thing in Canada away back in the 1920s and had lost his shirt, as the saying goes. Now we feel it is up to us to prove that every individual is different in himself and owes this part to others in order that we shall not all be cast in the same mould.

Our children are now attending the Schomberg School and it is my dearest wish that we may be able to live in this district for many more years to come. I joined the Women's Institute in 1958 and so am only a short term member, but I am grateful to all for making this part of the world such a good place to live in and for providing so much of what is worthwhile in life, measured in richness of soul.

Karen M. Thomas. March, 1963.



MRS. HAROLD (RUTH) THOMPSON



Mrs. Thompson when she was eighty-five years old. She is now over ninety and has still a wonderful personality. We are proud of our pioneer members.

Mrs. Thompson was born in the year 1868 in Albion Township, County of Peel. She was the eldest daughter of Sarah and George Hall who came from England. She attended Mt. Wolfe public school and became a member of the 12th line King Methodist Church.

Ruth Hall (at that time) married Ira Webb Dodds in 1893 and had six girls, five of whom are still living - Louise (Mrs. Blake Skinner); Eva (Mrs. John Rainey); Hazel (Mrs. George Leonard); Elma (Mrs. Douglas Rae) and Della (Mrs. James O'Neill). She came as a bride to her husband's farm, lot 25, concession 11, where his father, John Dodds settled and cleared the farm and built the substantial brick house that has been standing well over one hundred years, and now serves the fifth generation as their home. Mrs. Thompson knows what it was to share the arduous tasks of pioneer farming, and the experience of raising a family without the conveniences and comforts of present day living.

Her husband died in 1912 and she lived in Schomberg until 1930 when she married Harold Thompson and lived on his farm, lot 28, concession 10. He died in 1939.

Mrs. Thompson is now living in her house in Schomberg which she purchased in 1915. She is a member of the United Church and celebrated her 90th birthday on January 3rd.

She has been a member of the Women's Institute almost since it's inception and did excellent work through the war years, and scanning the old minute books her name appears wherever there was work to be done. She was very generous also in opening her home for meetings and many happy times are recorded both at her farm home and in town.

Unfortunately, her health will not permit her to get out to the meetings nor to her Church, but she is wonderfully alert and able to care for herself in her own home which she now shares with her daughter, Mrs. Rainey.

Time passes on, and since this story has been written Mrs. Thompson passed peacefully to her reward on the morning of December 10th, 1958 and was laid to rest in Laurel Hill Cemetery, Bolton, Ontario on December 12th. She was bright and cheerful throughout her long life and will be remembered for having left this Community a better place for having lived here.



MRS. GEORGE (JENNIE) TAYLOR



Mr. and Mrs. Taylor in front of their home in Schomberg just a short time before Mr. Taylor passed on in 1954.

I was born in the township of Tecumseth in the year 1873. My father, Thomas William Williamson, was a carpenter and with his wife Sarah Palmer, lived in a small house on the corner of what is now Edison Hasting's farm. There were three boys and three girls in our family and we later moved to a farm on the townline between King and Albion. On November 30th, 1898 I was married to George Taylor, son of Jeremiah Taylor and Jane Stuart, and we made our home on the fifth concession of Albion where we farmed for four years. We then purchased a farm at Mount Wolfe on the tenth concession of Albion where we lived happily and busily with our family of four sons and one daughter for twenty-eight years. We attended the Anglican Church at Palgrave where my husband was a warden and a devout servant of the Church. I was very busy and interested in the welfare of the church also and was a member of the W.A. there. My husband was also a member of Albion Township Council for eleven years and was very interested in all community affairs.

On April 1st, 1931 we gave up farming; our son taking over the farm; and we bought a house in the village of Schomberg on Church Street, between the Rectory and the Anglican Church. We wanted to have a home near the church so we could attend the services regularly as we had been accustomed to do. I joined the W.A. when we came here and was Treasurer of our Church for many years. I also joined the Women's Institute for I always thought it was such a worth while organization and gave all denominations an opportunity to work together which is a good thing in any community. The W.I. was quite in its infancy at that time and the meetings were held in the homes of those who had houses large enough to accomodate them. Then as the membership grew the meetings were held in the rooms over the Imperial Bank, where we also worked for the Red Cross and later we took over rooms in the Town Hall where it is still going forward. The meetings were always interesting and instructive and I felt there was always something to gain by attending them.

We were very happy in Schomberg until my husband passed away in 1954 and since my health was not so good I went to live with my daughter, Mrs. Raymond Woods, on the farm and later came with them to Tottenham to make my home.

I have a warm feeling for the friends I made in Schomberg and return at every opportunity to visit with them where I am always warmly welcomed.