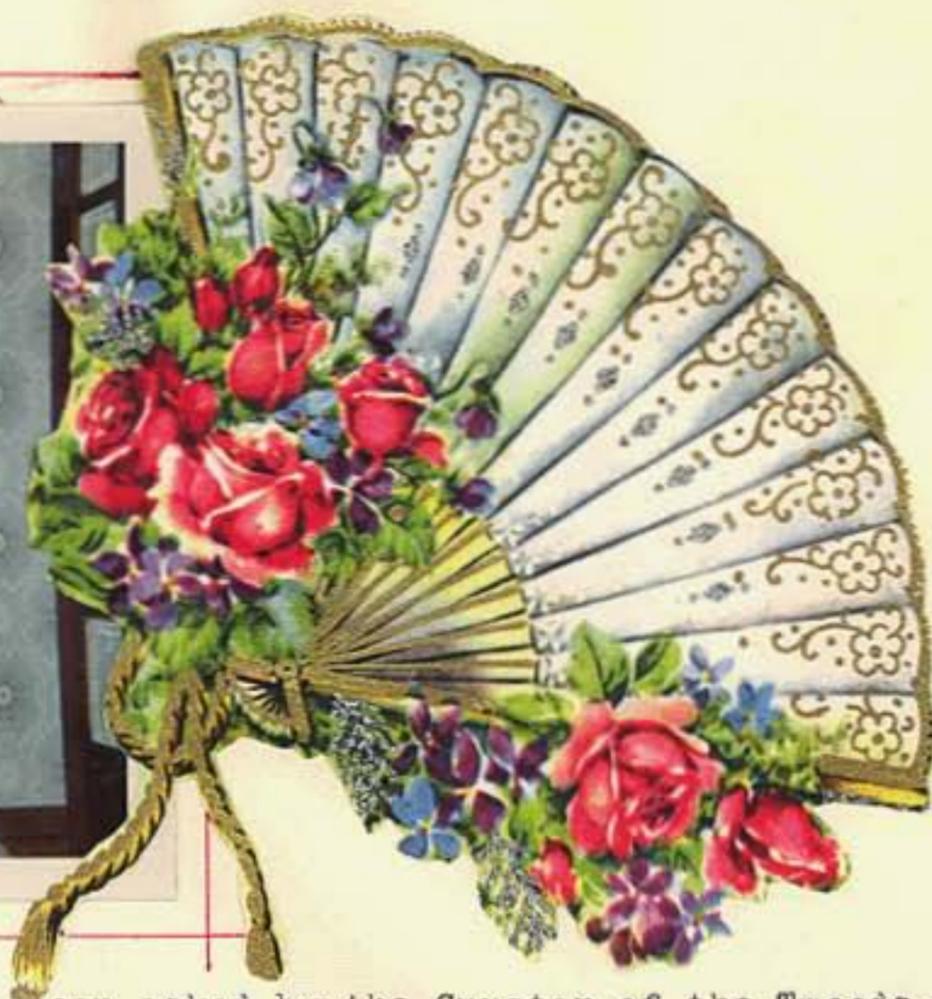


Miss Harriet Grace Amey

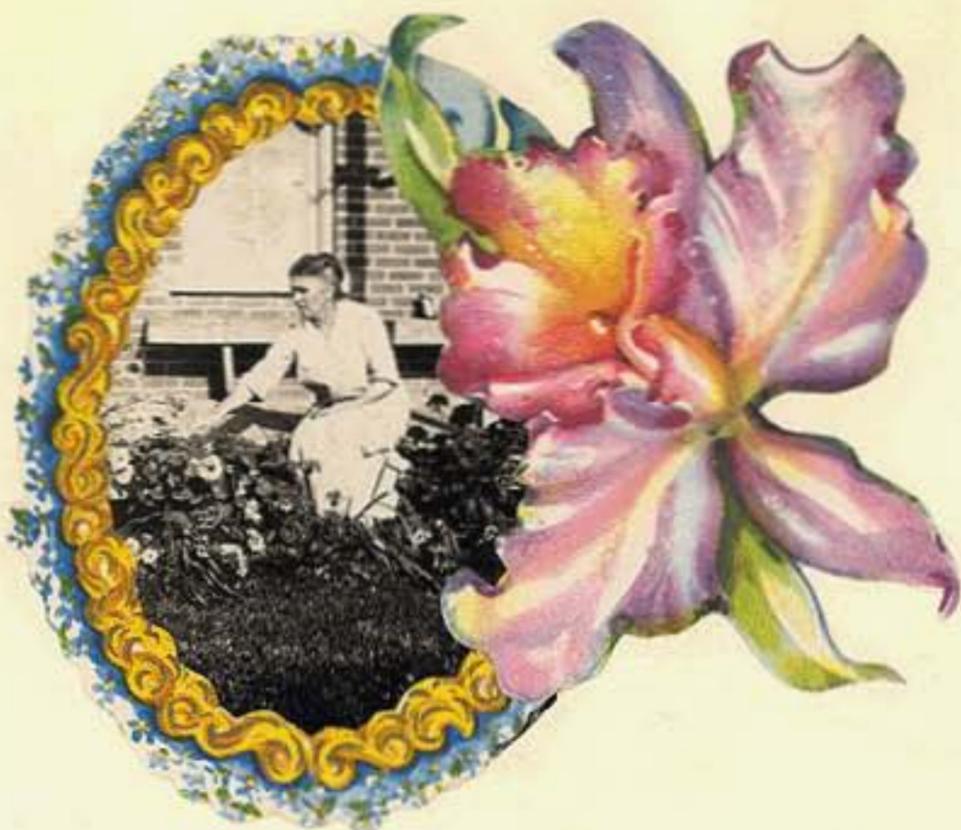


I am very pleased to have been asked by the Curator of the Tweedsmuir History, to write a story of my life, to be included in this beautiful book. I first saw the light of day on a farm in the Township of Brock in Ontario County, near the village of Cannington. I was the youngest of a family of four 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. GEORGE (CATHERINE ANN) ATKINSON



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."

- Contributed by her daughter
Miss Gertrude Atkinson.

Mr. and Mrs. David Archibald

1957



This picture was taken on the occasion of their Fiftieth Wedding 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 its 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

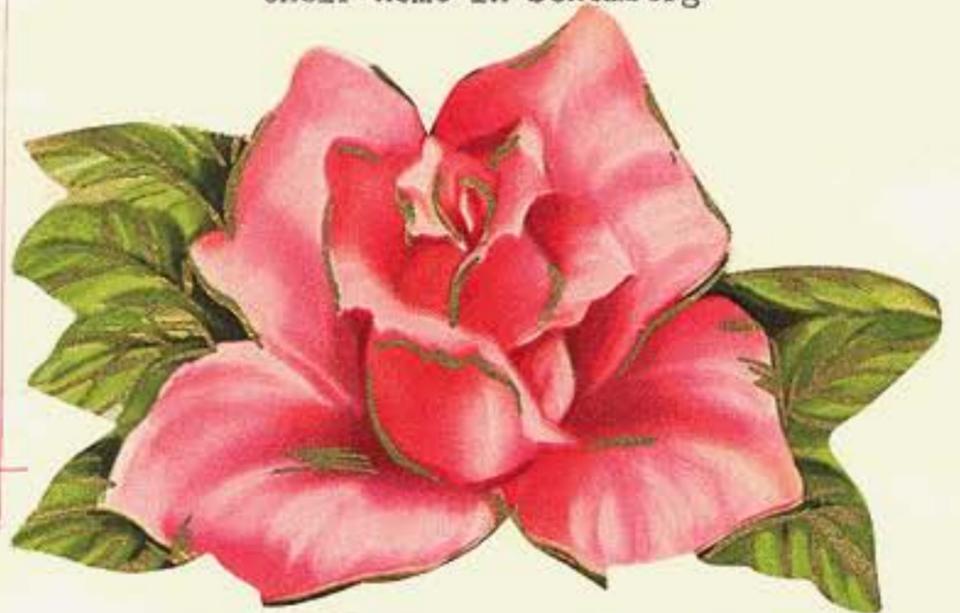


1963

MRS. FRED (MARGARET) BAGULEY



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 their 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.