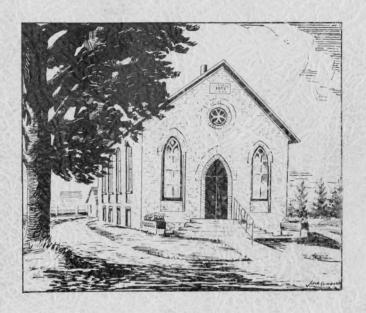
Echoes from the Past



1873

1973

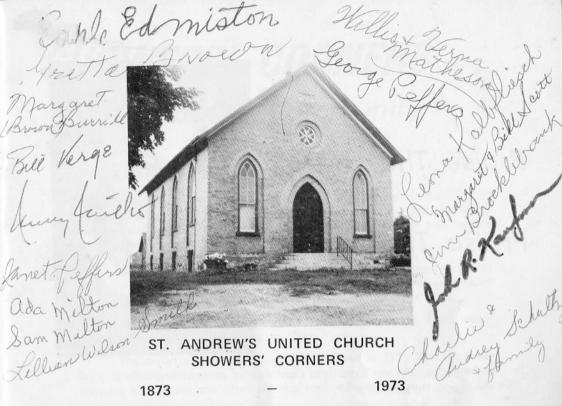
100 Years With

St. Andrew's United Church Showers' Corners

and the Community it Serves



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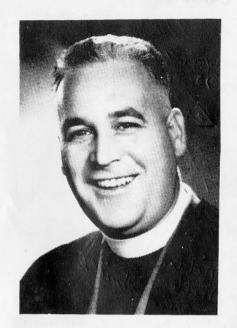
100th Anniversary

Community Centennial

This book is in no way intended to be a complete account of the history of St. Andrew's United Church, Showers' Corners, and the community it served. It is a brief review of some of the highlights of church and community life over the past years. We regret any omissions or inaccuracies which might cause any individual or family embarassment or disappointment.

The Historical Committee express their appreciation to all those who assisted with research, supplied photographs, and made personal records available to the committee.

Praise The Lord! Praise The Lord!



O Magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!—Psalm 34:3

The psalmist lifted up his voice and joyfully expressed the above words many many years ago in Israel. For the past one hundred years the 'same words and thoughts have echoed forth from the congregation of Showers' Corners in the township of Blenheim in this land of Canada.

The following pages reveal some of the highlights of the history of St. Andrew's United Church, now known as Showers' Corners. The story indicates how customs and habits change even in the act of worship but God changes not.

"Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God; FOR GOD IS LOVE."—(1 John 4:7 RSV)

The people in the community of Showers' Corners have witnessed for Christ in many ways during the last ten decades. The following pages give an interesting and fascinating narrative composed by the historical committee of the centennial group who are indeed to be congratulated.

It is difficult to predict what the future may be for the congregation of Showers' Corners but one thing for sure is that Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

With this faith sure and steadfast let us continue to witness for the Church of Jesus Christ.

In the Name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

REV. WM. C. MAXWELL, Minister.

Aproxwell (Rev)

SHOWERS' CORNERS ...

100 Years A Community

THE EARLY SETTLEMENT

It began during the winter of 1792-93. The Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, Sir John Graves Simcoe, travelled by foot from the Mohawk village, now Brantford to Fort Detroit, blazing the trail for the Governor's Road, later to become No. 2 Highway.

He extended invitations to a number of friends among the British Loyalists still remaining in the newly independent United States, to come to Upper Canada, establish settlements and populate the virgin lands.

Among these were Thomas Watson Sr. of Princeton, New Jersey, and Zacharias Burtch of Cooperstown, New York.

The American Declaration of Independence in 1779, had left those loyal to the British cause in a difficult position. They were subjected to constant humiliation and often physical torture by their former neighbours who had supported the revolution.

As the result, United Empire Loyalists, as they were known, crossed into Canada in large numbers, settling along the St. Lawrence River and along the north shores of Lakes Ontario and Erie. The areas of what is now Norfolk and parts of Brant County were settled early. Large tracts of sandy type land with relatively few trees, made these lands easier to adapt to farming, than the almost totally forested lands of Blenheim Township.

Theyendanega (Joseph Brant), the renowned Indian chieftain, had already moved the Six Nations of the Iroquois to their new home along the Grand River, for "as long as the sun shall shine and the waters flow." The village of Burford was a thriving community before 1800.

Thomas Watson Sr. felt too old to accept Governor Simcoe's invitation. Instead, he sent his son, Thomas Jr., along with his nephew Thomas Hornor, to look over the new land, and to look over the prospects of establishing a settlement. He had been promised the whole of Blenheim Township.

Hornor, then about twenty-five years of age, was already an accomplished woodsman. With Watson, he travelled to what is now Hamilton harbour, by boat, then followed the route of Governor Simcoe, west, on foot, in the summer of 1793. They found the boundaries of the Township and the first three concessions already surveyed. Hornor chose a location for a saw mill on the small creek in Lot 15, concession 1, Blenheim township. This creek has always carried his name, although until recently it was know as "Horners Creek," due to a misspelling of his name.

He returned to New York State, to come back the next year with a crew of men to build a saw mill. After several set backs, the first lumber was sawed in Oxford County, in 1797. Thomas Hornor went on to build the first grist mill in the county.

In 1799, Zacharias Burtch followed the migration to Upper Canada, stayed for a time with Hornor's Blenheim settlement, then pushed on to clear the first lands of what is now the City of Woodstock.

Thomas Hornor remained in the Princeton area for the rest of his life. He took a very active part in the development that followed, and was chosen the first member to represent the district in the Upper Canada Parliament in 1820. He died in 1834 and is buried in the Princeton cemetery.

Thomas Watson Jr. found his rights to the whole of Blenheim Township in dispute, and disillusioned, had returned to the United States many years before.

The settlement of the first three concessions of Blenheim Township moved rapidly. The 1820's and 1830's were hard years in the British Isles and Western Europe. The economy was in a depressed state following the Napoleonic wars. The common yeomen in Scotland and England were living in conditions of near poverty. In Ireland, the potato crop had failed three years in a row, and many had actually died of starvation. The prospect of building a new life and actually owning land of their own, brought a great migration to Canada.

Family after family packed their meager belongings, said good-bye to their homes and loved ones forever and commenced the long journey to an unknown land.

Most of the early settlers in the third, fourth and fifth concessions were among these immigrants from the southern part of Scotland.

The voyage, by sailing ship took from six to nine weeks, depending on weather conditions. They were crowded into ship's holds, using every bit of available space. Living conditions were far from good, and disease, especially cholera, claimed many lives, even before they sighted Canadian shores. Many bodies were committed to the deep, or buried in the cemetery at the island isolation centre, in the St. Lawrence River.

The more hardy journeyed on to Hamilton, where they disembarked, and continued the trek along the Governor's Road, by oxen and wagons or on foot.

There was lots of land available, and crown deeds could be purchased reasonably, for those who had the stamina to clear the bush and till the soil.

Small clearings, with their log and frame buildings appeared along the concession roads.

THE EARLY CHURCH

In the month of November, 1833, Rev. George Murray passed along the frontier concessions. A missionary sent out by United Associate Synod of the Presbyterian church, from Glasgow, Scotland, he visited briefly with the settling families. He promised to return when "a House afforded opportunity."

In 1834, he preached to about a dozen families and organized them into a congregation. In 1835 a chapel was built on a site just east of Princeton on the Governor's Road, on the south-west angle of lot 11, concession 1. Land was given by John Galbraith. Rev. Murray purchased the north quarter of the lot, and built a permanent residence.

In the years that followed, many Presbyterian families settled on the available lands of Blenheim and Burford. The young church prospered and grew in members. Its membership came almost equally from Blenheim and Burford Townships. It included members of several divisions within the Presbyterian family, all of whom worked harmoniously together.

In 1848, a crisis occurred within the Presbyterian church as a whole, which reached into the new congregation, and caused a division. As a result about half of the members withdrew and were eventually organized into a congregation by the Free Church Party, another Presbyterian division, in 1850.

By this time, church members were coming from as far north as the eleventh concession.

The record of Session states that Mr. Hugh McCrow gave a site for a church on the north-west angle of lot No. 12 in the third concession, on which a "House" was built in 1851.

Here, an interesting mystery develops! The brothers Hugh and Thomas McCrow had settled adjoining farms. About this time they decided to trade farms. The official deeds, examined from family records, show that Hugh McCrow did not legally own the land on which the church was built until December 1853!

In any event, one of the McCrow brothers did give a site for the new church. It was built in 1851, and services were held in Thomas McCrow's new barn until the building was completed. It was a plain, frame structure, and we may be sure that nearly all of the inner furnishings were made by local craftsmen at the site.

It was named Willis Church after Dr. Michael Willis, a prominent Presbyterian churchman. At this time, he was principal of Knox College, Toronto, and later, in 1880, was elected moderator of the Presbyterian Church.

In 1857, more differences within the United Presbyterian Church reached into the original congregation on the Governor's Road. Rev. George Murray, after a dispute with his elders, vacated the charge, and the church was closed. Most of the congregation joined with Willis Church.

The Union of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland in 1861, to form the Canada Presbyterian Church, resulted in a strong active congregation at Willis.

Ministers who served this congregation were Rev. Duncan McRuer, 1844 to 1854, Rev. John Gillespie 1855 to 1866 and Rev. Hector McQuarrie from 1866 to 1871.

Meanwhile, rapid changes were taking place. The coming of the railways, and the growing population resulted in a very rapid expansion of the villages of Drumbo and Princeton.

In 1866, Rev. Hector McQuarrie began preaching in Drumbo and Princeton on alternative Sundays, in addition to his regular services at Willis. In order to accommodate the people, new churches were built in Drumbo and Princeton during 1868-69.

In the meantime, the Willis Church building was in need of repair. Plans were discussed to build a manse, build a fence around the church and construct sheds for the horses. Money was raised for the building of a vestry and work started on the foundation.

The members from the Drumbo and Princeton areas preferred to close the present church and utilize the new churches at Drumbo and Princeton. Due to the rapid growth rate of the villages, Presbytery favoured this plan. The members in the fourth concession area wanted to retain the Willis Church.

A special meeting of the congregation was called in December, 1870, to decide the matter. The dispute had been a long one, and feelings were running high. Each member was required to walk to the front of the church and write his or her name under the yes or no heading to close the church.

The decision to close the church carried by a small majority.

A petition was presented to Presbytery signed by 69 dissenting members, praying for a continuation of central services. Presbytery set aside the petition.

On the first sabbath of March, 1871, the final service was held in Willis Church.

The new church in Drumbo took the Willis name and has carried it ever since.

The official minutes of Session record,

"On the Monday, following the service, a special final meeting was held in the church to allow the members the opportunity to settle financially with the board.

A considerable number attended and after settlement, retired to the house of Mr. Thomas McCrow, where they were hospitably entertained and subsequently deliberated on future prospects. Strong, expressive sentiments were uttered regarding the maintenance of Divine services in the locality, conferring greater facility for public worship and Sabbath school Tuition."

The statement was often heard, "We must hae a kirk of our ain!" After much discussion and persuasive argument a survey was conducted to determine how many members were interested in forming a new congregation.

An approach was made to the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the church of Scotland, which was operating separately from the Canada Presbyterian Church.

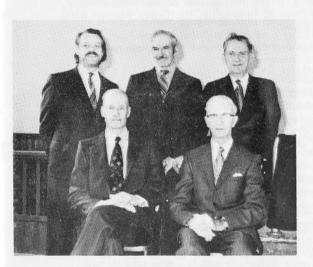
Mr. William McArthur reported to the Presbytery meeting of Presbyterian Church of Canada, held in Hamilton on April 19, 1871. He stated that 47 members had pledged \$400.00 as proof of their sincerity in the maintenance of Gospel ministrations in the locality.

The United Church of Canada





Showers' Corners United Church 1973



Members of Session

Standing:

Calvin Wilson Fred Thede Raymond Ovington

Seated:

Ralph Wilson, Honourary Elder

Gregor Ovington, Clerk of Session

Absent when photo was taken Thomas Hunter



Board of Stewards

Standing:

Bert Milton Roy Baer Alex Gal Kenneth Govier

Seated:

Harry Kreuger Mrs. Harry Kreuger, Representative of U.C.W.

Jack Kaufman, Chairman of Stewards

Absent when photo was taken Jack Magee

Showers' Corners . . . St. Andrew's Blenheim

Presbytery agreed to accept the petitioners as a congregation. Arrangements were made to use the then unoccupied Baptist church in Richwood, as a place of worship, and a new church was to be built "in the open areas to the west," near the Showers' Corners school house.

The congregation was to be known as "The congregation of the Presbyterian Church, in connection with the Church of Scotland, in the Township of Blenheim, situated at Richwood and Showers' Corners."

Religious activities had begun around the Corners some years earlier, when Jasper Goble, who operated a store at Gobles, organized a Sunday School for children of the area, which met in the school house. Later, when the Baptist church was built at Creditville, Mr. Goble worked with this church, where he was a member.

The first Elders elected and ordained were: Wm. Dickson, Archibald McArthur, John Swan and Ezra Showers.

The first Board of Trustees was elected to attend to the temporal matters of the congregation. They were: Robert McCrow, Wm. McArthur, Ezra Showers, Edward Fair, John G. Cockburn and George McKay.

The congregation having resolved to build a church at Showers' Corners, obtained subscriptions to the amount of \$1,170.00. A few members refused to subscribe; preferring to secure a minister before building.

At a congregational meeting in Richwood, doubts were expressed as to future plans, and one family formally withdrew from the body.

The committee took immediate steps to secure a minister. The result is stated in an excerpt from the official minutes of session.

"The REV. EDWARD WALLACE WAITS, lately from England, was sent to supply the pulpit—preached, and who by his instructive eloquence, burning pathos and affectionate appeals in the pulpit; and affability and urbanity in the domestic and social circles, so captivated the congregation, that the call was given to Mr. Waits by the unanimous signatures of the people."

Thus, Rev. Edward Wallace Waits was called to become the first minister of the congregation.

John Showers and his wife Zerviah deeded one half acre of land for the building of a church on the 26th of May, 1873. The sale price was \$25.00.

The document, carefully worded and duly registered, is signed on behalf of the congregation by Ezra Showers, Robert McCrow, Wm. McArthur, Wm. McCrow, Walter Scott and David Whitehead.

There is no record of the actual construction of the church building, or when the first services or official dedication were held within its walls.

The building committee consisted of Wm. McArthur, Walter Scott, Ezra Showers, Wm. Walters, James Wilson and Robert McCrow.

One report credits Archibald McArthur, as being a builder of the church.

The church was built of white brick, and carries the inscription St. Andrew's Church, 1873, high above the front door.

There was no basement in the original building. Heat was provided by two wood burning stoves. One was near the front, west of the pulpit position, with pipes going to a chimney on the south wall. The other stove, near the back, had pipes running all the way to the front of the building, to the other chimney.

There was no organ. Singing was led by the precenter, from his desk near the pulpit at the front, using his tuning fork, as in the old church.

There was no lighting for evening services or meetings, other than the dim kerosene lamps, which served until 1936. After each use these lamps had to be refilled, the chimneys cleaned and wicks trimmed, to be ready for the next service.

Early records contain no mention of the official dedication or early services. The first meeting of session within the church is recorded in 1877, however the session usually met at the home of one of the members.

REV. I. PULLAR and REV. JOHN AULL

Rev. Edward Wallace Waits continued his ministry until 1875, during which the congregation flourished. Rev. I. Pullar became minister in 1875 and Rev. John Aull in 1877. During this time many new names were added to the roll, on profession of faith, or by new families moving into the area with previous membership in the Presbyterian church.

However, the Presbyterian group meeting in Richwood disbanded about this time. Several of the original members had moved away, while others had affiliated with the more active Methodist church, in Richwood. This placed financial stress on the Showers' congregation.

BLENHEIM - EAST OXFORD PASTORAL CHARGE

Meanwhile, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in East Oxford (Muir) was seeking a new charge affiliation.

A paper, relative to union of the two churches on one pastoral charge, was endorsed by the East Oxford congregation, and presented to the Session of St. Andrew's Blenheim. Several meetings between the sessions of the two congregations were held to settle matters relative to union, and in 1878, St. Andrew's Blenheim and St. Andrew's East Oxford became one pastoral charge.

In 1881 a fine two-storey white brick manse was built in Gobles, to serve the two congregations. It served as the minister's home until 1945.

REV. DANIEL M. BEATTIE, B.A., B.D. - 1880-1893

Mr. Beattie was the first pastor to serve the new charge of St. Andrew's, Blenheim, Showers' Corners, and St. Andrew's, East Oxford, Muir. This was his only charge. He is remembered as a fine sermonizer, a faithful pastor, and a wise leader of his people. In 1882 he married Miss Catherine McLaren, who became the first mistress of the new Manse, in Gobles.

She was a talented musician. Records show that she served as the

first organist at both the Showers' Corners and Muir churches.

III health forced Mr. Beattie to seek another field of service. After a period of rest, he accepted a call to Greenwood, North Carolina, where he died after preaching only one service.

Miss Grace Beattie, one of seven children, became a missionary, serving more than forty years in Trinidad.

THE FIRST ORGAN

It was during 1886, in Mr. Beattie's term of service, that the question of purchasing an organ was brought before the congregation. At first, it was suggested for Sunday School and mid-week use only!

A vote taken, shows 22 members in favour and 7 opposed. The Session, desirous of reaching a solution satisfactory to everyone, took special efforts to interview those who had voted in opposition, and only when they were assured of the support of the vast majority, did they agree to the purchase in 1877. The move to use the organ in regular service was a logical step. This, however, did not meet with the approval of some of the staunch traditionalists. At least one family withdrew it's membership.

REV. ALEX LESLIE, M.A. - 1895-1900

Mr. Leslie was a keen student and a fluent pastor. A daughter, Miss Florence Leslie, was a teacher in Birtle Indian Mission School in Manitoba.

A TIME OF CRISIS

The record book of Session records the year 1900, as "a time of crisis in the congregation!"

The careful wording discretely conceals the nature of the difficulty. Several senior members and former members, recall a time of severe division in the congregation, generally along family lines.

During the latter months of 1900, Mr. Leslie vacated the pastorate, and the pulpit was supplied by several students of the ministry. One of these was William J. Booth. In 1901, after graduation, he was called to the charge.

REV. WILLIAM J. BOOTH, B.A. - 1901-1909

Ordained and inducted into this charge, Mr. Booth did much to promote interest and support of Mission work. Mrs. Booth gave freely of her musical talent in the service of the congregation.

Under Mr. Booth's ministry, the church entered a new period of growth and vitality.

5th concession North - Laura Cockburn, Maggie Wilson 4th concession - Eva MacArthur, Lily MacArthur 3rd concession - Alvern Wilson, Eva MacArthur South - Mrs. H. Radloff, Mrs. Harley

REV. J. FRASER CLUGSTON, B.A. - 1909-1917

Mr. Clugston was ordained and inducted into this charge. He was a popular pastor, still remembered for his stirring sermons and Sunday School teaching.

THE FIRST FURNACE INSTALLED

In an excavation under the church, a wood burning furnace was installed, about 1910, which replaced the old wood stoves in the church above.

In 1911, a new organ was purchased.

THE FIRST WEDDING

The first wedding ceremony was solemnized in the church, when Miss Lily MacArthur became the bride of Moody Wilson, January 14th, 1914

TOWARD CHURCH UNION

There was much discussion regarding the possible union of the Presbyterian and Methodist churches. A vote, taken November 14th, 1915, resulted as follows.

	For Union	Against Union
Session	5	0
Church Members	40	4
Adherents	13	3
Total	58	7

Church Union was not to come until 10 years later.

REV. ANDREW R. McRAE, B.A. - 1917-1920

Mr. McRae had a brief pastorate. III health forced him to resign after three and a half years. He was an able preacher, a good pastor and an ardent promoter of Missionary work.

REV. JAMES A. GALE, B.A. - 1920-1921

Mr. Gale was a popular pastor, especially among the young people. Mr. and Mrs. Gale used their musical ability generously with the choir and on social occasions. After two years, he accepted a call to Arkona.

THE NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM

In 1921, after much discussion and planning it was decided to excavate a full basement under the church, and construct a suitable room for conducting Sunday School and social functions.

\$1,400 was raised by a general canvass.

L.E. Peterson, Wilbur Edmiston, Henry Buck, Rufus Moyer, Menno Thede and James D. Wilson served on the building committee. Wm. Archer,

of Gobles, did the masonry work and Rufus Moyer supervised the carpentry.'.

The men and boys of the community gathered day after day for

"work bees", to make the project possible.

At one point, while digging under the building close to the east wall, a shout of warning stopped all action! They had excavated too close to the wall, in the soft sand, and the entire building was in danger of collapse! Already, a crack had appeared in the wall, directly above.

It was decided to keep future digging back from the wall, and to construct a concrete abutment wall, which serves as a ledge around the

inside perimeter of the basement.

The Sunday School now had excellent facilities. In addition to the large assembly room, there were four classrooms, with removable partitions that could be raised to permit the entire basement to be used as one room when required.

John Sippel of Drumbo, attractively decorated the new Sunday School rooms.

The three senior classes of the Sunday School purchased a new piano. Spearheading this project, was the "Busy Bees" senior girls class, who with their teacher, Mrs. L.E. Peterson, raised \$200.

The opening and dedication was commemorated by special services,

conducted by Rev. J.A. Gale.

On the Monday evening, a football game between Showers' Corners and Princeton was followed by a program, presided over by Hugh Allan, of Drumbo.

Wilfred Cockburn auctioned off an autographed quilt, made by the ladies.

REV. JOHN SMITH - 1922-1924, 1933-1936

Mr. Smith was called to this charge from Western Canada on the recommendation of Rev. George Murray of Verschoyle, who said that "Mr. Smith was a fine, Christian gentleman." Mr. Smith was indeed endowed with all the Christian graces. His inspiring sermons, sincere prayer and kindly pastoral visitations left a lasting influence on all who knew him. In 1924 he completed his first term as pastor. When in 1933, he returned for a second time his kindly influence served to endear him more to the hearts of his people.

He retired to his home in London in 1936, where in 1952, he passed to his reward.

His son, the late Dr. Ivan Smith, was a well known cancer specialist in London.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

In 1925, part of the Presbyterian church, the Methodist and Congregationalist churches united to become the United Church of Canada. The union culminated many years of discussion and conference toward this end.

From this point, St. Andrew's Church, Showers' Corners became a part of the United Church of Canada.

As both Showers' and Muir congregations had been formerly Presbyterian, there was little immediate change in either the order of service or of the general organization.

REV. CLARENCE P. HALLIDAY, B.A., B.D. - 1925-1927

Previous to entering the ministry, Mr. Halliday served in World War I, where he was awarded the Military Cross.

He was the first minister following church union. Trained as an educationalist before entering the ministry, he was a capable preacher and teacher.

- 12 -

REV. WILLIAM T. MACKENZIE - 1928-1931

Mr. MacKenzie was a faithful pastor, fearless in proclaiming the truth, both in the pulpit and in his pastoral duties. After his term at St. Andrew's he returned to the Presbyterian church.

REV. WALTER J. RAYNER - 1931-1933

Mr. Rayner and his family were gifted in musical talents. They gave valuable assistance in the service of praise, and on social occasions.

REV. JOHN SMITH - 1933-1936

Mr. Smith returned for his second term.

REV. C. W. DOWN - 1936-1940

Mr. Down was a popular pastor. Mrs. Down contributed much with her musical talent.

REV. C. C. STRACHAN, B.A., B.D. - 1940-1945

Mr. Strachan was a devoted pastor, much loved by his people. His deep personal faith and quiet sense of humor, made a lasting impression on all who knew him. Though advanced in years when he served this charge, he is remembered as donning heavy clothes and walking through snow clogged roads, in severe winter weather, from Gobles to Showers' Corners to conduct his regular services, on several occasions.

PRINCETON PASTORAL CHARGE

In 1945, church boundaries were revised and St. Andrew's, now more generally known as Showers' Corners, became part of the Princeton Pastoral Charge, along with the churches in Princeton and Etonia.

The manse at Gobles was sold, and the long and pleasant association with the congregation of St. Andrew's East Oxford, Muir, came to an end.

In the twenty-eight years since joining the Princeton Charge, the church has been faithfully served by eight ministers.

REV. J. B. TOWNEND, B.A., B.D. - 1945-1947

Mr. Townend was a pastor who worked among his people with great energy. He is remembered as a staunch supporter of the church Young Peoples' activities and a valued advisor in sporting events.

REV. LLOYD D. GRIFFITH - 1947

Mr. Griffith preached only a few months until his death.

REV. HERBERT A. BOYD, M.A., B.D. - 1948-1953

Mr. Boyd's ministry is remembered with deep affection. A missionary returned from China, he preached with great understanding and sympathy for oppressed peoples.

REV. B. F. GREEN, B.A. - 1953-1956 Now serving at Lucknow, Ont.

REV. KEITH F. TUDOR - 1956-1959 Presently at Collingwood, Mr. Tudor has accepted a Call to Guelph.

REV. ERIC V. WARREN, B.A. - 1959-1967 Now serving at Zephyr, Ont.

REV. RONALD HUNT, B.A. - 1967-1970 Now serving at London, Ont.

REV. WILLIAM D. MAXWELL, D.F.C., B.A., B.D. - 1970-1973

The "Kirk Session"

The story of St. Andrew's Church, its life and its times, are carefully recorded in the official minutes of Church Session, or "Kirk Session" as it was known in the early Presbyterian church.

The handwritten record book covers nearly one hundred and forty

years of church life in the community.

One cannot help but be impressed by the careful phrasing and attractive handwriting, as it unfolds a story of growth and prosperity, tempered by times of crisis and disappointment, that brings us to this present day.

Throughout these times, and constantly evident, is the deep abiding Faith, the singleness of purpose, and the absolute dedication of the men and women who established this church, "for the support of public

worship and the propogation of Christian Knowledge."

The members elected to serve on "Kirk Session" were staunch, God-fearing men, carefully questioned as to their knowledge of the scriptures and their own personal faith, before they were ordained and set aside for a lifetime of service.

The Session was responsible for the oversight of the Spiritual life of the congregation. Session members accepted this responsibility with great solemnity and humility, trusting in God for the wisdom and the strength to

carry out the duties of office.

The records of Session contain glowing tributes to the service of various members, as one by one, they were called to their reward. Their fellow members, on these occasions, sought to express their deep appreciation for a life of service.

James D. Wilson is remembered as a member of Session who served for many years, not only as an elder, but also as a lay minister. He was a

graduate of the Toronto Bible College.

He served many years as teacher of the Adult Bible Class, and was active in every facet of the Temperance cause. Many persons, in this and other communities, benefited from his quiet but sincere Christian counselling.

The duties of Session have changed little during the years.

The method of electing session members has changed, in keeping with the accepted policies of the United Church.

Members of Session serving St. Andrew's since 1871 with their date of ordination are:

1871 —	William Dickson	1929 —	Wm. Ovington
	Archibald McArthur John Swan Ezra Showers	1941 —	Gordon Wilson Roy Wilson Arthur Graham
1880 —	Wm. McArthur Robert McCrow	1951 —	Charles Milton Max MacArthur
1885 —	Walter Scott Thos. Edmiston	1954 — 1955 —	S.E. Milton Thos. Baskett
1889 —	Chas. Buck	1956 — 1958 —	Lloyd Baskett Carl Rabe
	Alex. Richardson John McKay	1550	Ralph Wilson
1901 –	James Broderick James D. Wilson	1960 —	Gregor Ovington Raymond Ovington
1911 –	Thos. Graham John Dickson	1961 — 1963 —	Michael Toth Thomas Hunter
	George Blackmore	1967 -	Norman Baskett
1920 —	Wilbur G. Edmiston Wilfred A. Cockburn	1968 — 1973 —	Calvin Wilson Fred Thede

The Sacrament Sabbath

It was not the Christmas or Easter Services that were the high points of the early Presbyterian church. It was the Sacrament Sabbath, or

Communion Sunday, as it came to be known in later years.

Originally, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed four times a year. It was a period of meditation, thanksgiving and rededication. The observance covered several days, and participation on the part of all members was considered a definite obligation.

To miss Sacrament on several successive occasions brought a visit from one or more of the Session members, to find out the reasons for lack of attendance, and to determine whether or not your name should be

stricken from the membership roll!

On the Thursday before Communion, the men of the congregation gathered at the church to join in a service quite similar to the regular

service.

On the Saturday, a much larger service was held, attended by the whole congregation. There was usually a visiting minister, who brought a

message befitting the occasion.

This service was important, because this is where the "tokens" were distributed to the intending communicants. These tokens, usually made of lead, and similar to a coin, were to be returned at the Sacrament service the next day.

The people filed past the minister, down one aisle and leaving by the other. The token was placed in their outstretched hand, and received

with deep reverence.

The next day, Sacrament Sabbath, the entire membership gathered for the service. When the time came, the elders moved forward to the communion table, the communicants moved to the centre pews, while the children and others sat in the side pews. The elders, carrying the bread and wine, walked slowly down the aisles. The plates of bread were passed along the pews, and the single goblet of wine was passed fromhand to hand.

A deep silence, and feeling of reverence pervaded the entire scene.

Children sat in silence, with the feeling that they were witnessing something very Holy, and very special, but which they could not completely understand. The full membership in the church had a very special meaning, and this observance of the Sacrament, with its feeling of warmth and fellowship influenced many decisions to come into full church membership.

The first communion service was held on December 7th, 1872, before the church was built. There is no record of the location, but it was

probably in the home of one of the members.

At a meeting of Session, on Nov. 25th, 1872, William McArthur was appointed to procure one hundred communion tokens, in oval form. They were to bear the inscription "Congregation of Richwood and Showers" Corners" on one side, and on the other, "Do This in Remembrance of Me."

He was to purchase communion vessels, namely a wine flagon, two distributing cups and two bread plates. Also to be purchased were three blank books, to be used namely as The Session Record, Baptismal Record and Communion Roll.

In keeping with their typical Scottish frugality, it was specified that the total cost was not to exceed fifteen dollars.

John Swan was appointed to purchase one quarter loaf of bread and

one half gallon of Sacramental wine for the Communion Service.

It is from this original Session Record book, purchased by Mr. McArthur, that much of the information for this historical record was obtained.

Changing Customs

The church has seen many changes during the one hundred and forty years recorded, both in the order of service and in the organizational and financing structure.

John Spears, who lived on the fifth concession, described the first service he attended as a boy, in the early church on the Governor's Road.

"This church, my parents attended some eight or ten years before I was born," wrote Mr. Spears, "then, when we moved from the third to the fifth concession, we still attended that church. Here, I would like to give you a snapshot of the first Sunday I attended.

"It was a beautiful autumn morning and we were up early to get ready for that five mile walk on foot. We were joined on every concession corner by neighbours, and when we reached a certain log, which was close to the meeting house, the ladies put on their stockings and shoes, which they had been carrying, let down their skirts, everyone arriving at the

service in proper attire.

"Now you may think that these early settlers would be rather a shabby, gentil squad-not a bit of it. No man or woman ever left Scotland without their "Sabbath Claes," which consisted of a beaver plug hat and a blue black suit with a quilted Scotch collar, which I have never seen surpassed in my time. Then, with regard to the ladies, they were equally well dressed, and as I cannot remember the fashions of the day, I shall just

sum it up in "Bonnie," which means everything in Scottish.

"When we got there, it was Sacrament Sunday and we had a very long sermon, to me at least, but recess came at last, and with lunch and a drink out of the old oaken bucket which swung in the well, and an apple from Miss Galbraith (the first I had ever seen), my spirits revived. Then we were called in again and had a very, very long sermon, for the old gentleman never stopped short of fourthly and generally "still further." I arrived home at last, a tired and sleepy boy. I have often wondered since, if we were asked to take that journey today, how many of us would be in church. Not many!"

This excerpt is reprinted from the historical record of Willis United Church, Drumbo, where Mr. Spears served for many years.

The European custom of standing for the prayers and sitting for the hymns was carried on in the early church. Years later, when this custom was reversed, some of the older members still held to the old practice.

The Communion Service was held three times a year, instead of four. Only one preparatory service was considered necessary, usually held on the Thursday evening before the service.

The communion tokens were replaced by communion cards.

The financing of the church, in earlier days, was accomplished in two ways. Members paid an annual "pew rent" which was used to provide ministerial services. Weekly offerings were used to meet current expenses. Any major renovations or construction required a general membership canvass. Missionary Funds were raised by this manner also.

There was a strong division of opinion when the question of purchasing an organ came before the congregation. The traditionalists maintained there was no place for "artificial music" in the worship of God.

However, again, the old customs gave way to the new. With the coming of church union, in 1925, some of the customs and practices of the former Methodist and Congregationalist churches were gradually introduced into this former Presbyterian environment.

At the present time, with discussions under way toward the

eventual union of United and Anglican churches, more new ideas are being featured.

The new Hymn Book, produced jointly by United and Anglican churches, has come into regular use in the service. It contains 150 new hymns, many of which were written and composed by Canadians. In addition, it includes most of the older, well loved selections that have been a traditional part of the service of praise.

The Pulpit Bible

The pulpit Bible was presented to Showers' Corners United Church by the late L.E. Peterson and carries this inscription

IN MEMORIAM

Presented to Showers' Corners United Church by L.E. Peterson, in loving memory of his beloved wife, Margaret A. Wilson, who departed this life Sept. 4th, 1930.

Bequests and Memorials

Over the years, St. Andrew's Church has been the recipient of a number of generous bequests and memorial gifts. These have assisted greatly in maintaining the church as a suitable sanctuary for the worship of God.

Rev. August Meacham, M.M., B.A., B.D.

Rev. August Meacham, M.M., B.A., B.D., is one member of the Showers' Corners congregation who entered the full time service of the Church.

Born and raised in the community, he attended Springhill school and was active in church, Sunday School and community activities.

During World War II, he served overseas with the Canadian army and was awarded the Military Medal in Italy.

Following his discharge, he attended University of Toronto. He was ordained into the ministry of the United Church in Woodstock in 1953. He has served charges at Wawa, Northern Ontario; Thamesford and Blenheim.



In 1968 and 1969 he was president of the London Conference of

the United Church. His wise counsel has made a valued contribution on several committees of the church head office.

August has recently accepted a new position in the London Conference. He will serve as a minister to ministers, a newly created position similar to the office of Bishop in the Anglican Church.

He and his wife, the former Geraldine Monk, will be moving to

London, Ontario.

Music in The Church Service

The service of praise has always been a vital part of the Christian Church worship service.

In the early Presbyterian church, there was no organ or other musical instrument allowed. The leader of the singing was the precentor,

who found his pitch with the aid of a tuning fork.

The precentor, always a man, was chosen from among the congregation, only after he had demonstrated his ability, by standing before the congregation and leading the singing on several successive Sundays. He was usually paid a small fee by the congregation for his services. He stood behind the small precentor's desk, near the pulpit.

Only Psalms and Paraphrases were sung, until the Presbyterian Book

of Praise was published in 1897.

The first organ was purchased in 1887. At first it was to be used for Young People's meetings and midweek activities. Even so, there was opposition from those who preferred to retain the established old customs. However, the more progressive thinking won out, and the organ became a part of the divine service. It is believed that the choir was organized shortly after.

The present organ was acquired in 1911. The purchase was assisted by a bequest from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. Andrew Carnegie was a Scottish lad who had arrived penniless in the United States, and became a multi-millionaire industrialist. His foundation financially assisted many churches and libraries.

The St. Andrew's choir was recognized throughout the area, for many years, as a choir of outstanding ability and versatility. In addition to leading the service of praise at regular and special services, they presented

concerts which were very well received.

In 1921, a piano was purchased for Sunday School use. Years later, a hoist mechanism was constructed by Robert Telfer, which enables the piano to be raised to the church auditorium, for use on special occasions, with the organ.

In recent years, the adult choir has been replaced by a junior choir,

who give leadership in the regular service.

Choir leaders who have served over the years are:

Robert McCrow James MacArthur Archibald Harley George Blackmore Harry Cline Wilfred A. Cockburn Arthur Graham Roy Milton

Mrs. Charles Schultz

Organists have included:

Mrs. (Rev.) D.M. Beattie

Miss Una Rorison (Mrs. Wm. Buck)

Miss Lilian MacArthur (Mrs. Moody Wilson)

Miss Pearl Wiltshire (Mrs. Leo Ranger)

Miss Ada Blackmore (Mrs. S.E. Milton)

Mrs. Lawrence Tottle Hugh Wilson Mrs. Roy H. Wilson James Graham Miss Irma Milton (Mrs. C.W. Crumback) Miss Helen Shoemaker (Mrs. A. Laird) Miss Irene Wilson (Mrs. Lloyd Baskett)

Miss Doris Ovington (Mrs. E. Savage) Roy Milton, who served for 17 years Miss Joyce Piggott (Mrs. K. Govier)

Miss Beatrice Irving (Mrs. Chas. McConkey) assisted temporarily on several occasions.

Currently, Mrs. Charles Schultz leads the Junior Choir. Mrs. K. Govier and Mrs. L. Tottle serve as organists.

Anniversaries

Anniversaries at Showers' Corners have traditionally been a time of rededication and inspiration, as well as a time of happy reunion, with friends of former years.

The first major anniversary recorded, is the thirty-fifth, held in

June, 1908.

Rev. Mr. Barber, of Embro, was guest minister for both morning and evening services. The choir, under the direction of James MacArthur, presented several anthems, assisted by Mrs. Booth soprano soloist, Miss Allen contralto soloist, E.W. Johnson, cornetist, and Mr. F.P. Hall of Drumbo.

On Monday evening, a splendid concert was given in the church, under auspices of the choir, assisted by the Manchester Male Quartette of Galt. James MacArthur was chairman for the occasion, with Miss Lily MacArthur as accompanist.

FIFTY YEARS

The Golden Jubilee Anniversary and Reunion was celebrated in 1923

Rev. D.N. McLachlan, secretary of Home Missions and Social Service of the Presbyterian Church, preached at both services. The choir, under direction of Harry Cline, was assisted by soloists Miss R. Newton of Stratford, Mr. Campkin and Miss Fullerton of Brampton. Also assisting with the music, were Mrs. Gillespie and Mrs. Callan of Innerkip, Mrs. C. Radloff of Princeton and Mrs. Brompton of Gobles. Mrs. Lawrence Tottle was organist, accompanied by Miss Alma Lawrence on piano and Robert Peterson on violin. Rev. J.A. Gale participated in the evening service.

On Monday evening, a Garden Party was enjoyed by a large audience. The programme was produced by Miss Jessie McGregor of Caledonia, a popular entertainer of the day, and featured the comedy of Walter Edwards.

On Tuesday evening, a Missionary Rally was held, with Rev. J.T. Taylor, a missionary from India, as principa! speaker. Others taking part were Rev. John Smith, Rev. Andrew Lane and J.D. Wilson.

Wednesday evening featured an Old Boys banquet in the church. Robert McCrow gave a history of the church. Thomas Edmiston and Roy H. Wilson welcomed the visitors.

Old boys who spoke were, Thomas Cockburn, Hartley Laycock, Ken MacArthur, John W. Cockburn, Sandford Laycock, Alex Edmiston of Kincardine, and Mrs. Motherspaw, (Agnes Scott) of California. Musical numbers were presented by Mrs. Callan, Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. J.O. Reid and Mr. and Mrs. Burleigh Wilson.

Rev. A.E. Armstrong D.D., Secretary of the Board of Overseas Missions, of the United Church of Canada preached at special services marking the seventy-fifth Anniversary in 1948. The choir was assisted by a Male Quartette from Norwich, and Mr. and Mrs. Allan Gilmour of Burgessville. The church was newly redecorated and an overflow

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Some of the Ministers who have served The



REV. DANIEL M. BEATTIE B.A., B.D.



REV. ALEX LESLIE, M.A.



REV. WM. J. BOOTH, B.A.



REV. J. F. CLUGSTON, B.A.



REV. A. R. McRAE, B.A.



REV. J. A. GALE, B.A.



REV. JOHN SMITH



REV. C. P. HALLIDAY B.A., B.D. — 20 —



REV. W. T. MacKENZIE

St. Andrew's Congregation Over the Years



REV. W. J. RAYNER



REV. C. W. DOWN



REV. C. C. STRACHAN B.A., B.D.



REV. J. B. TOWNEND B.A., B.D.



REV. H. A. BOYD, M.A., B.D.



REV. B. F. GREEN, B.A.



REV. K. F. TUDOR



REV. E. V. WARREN, B.A.



REV. R. T. HUNT, B.A.

congregation was accommodated in the Sunday School room.

At the Monday evening garden party, the guest speaker was the Moderator of the United Church, the Rt. Rev. T.W. Jones. Taking part in the programme were W.A. Cockburn, L.E. Peterson, Harry Cline, of Kitchener, and T.A. Cockburn. Roy H. Wilson read messages from former residents, unable to attend.

Lawrence and James Wilson entertained with musical numbers, as did Miss Margaret Booth, George Blackmore and Mrs. Callan.

An old Boys Banquet and Field Day completed the reunion.

The Sabbath School

From the very beginning, Christian Education was a vital concern of the founders of this congregation. Even before the church was built Sunday school classes had been conducted in the school. Rev. E.W. Waits organized a Bible class in 1872, before the church was built.

There is no complete record of the many devoted persons, who by their personal example and the unselfish giving of their time and talents, imparted a sound knowledge of Christian teachings and deep abiding faith on impressive young minds.

The results of their labour is evident in the succeeding generations who have maintained and upheld the active church in this community.

Until 1921, classes were conducted in the church, with small areas being curtained off to provide some privacy and keep young minds from being distracted by activities going on around them.

The building of the new Sunday School room in the church basement, in 1921, brought interest and activity to a new high. During the 1930's weekly attendance was often over the 100 mark.

THE "BUSY BEES" AND "HUSTLERS"

Busy Bees was the name chosen by the senior girls class. It was active for many years, under the teaching and guidance of Mrs. L.E. Peterson. She was succeeded in later years by other teachers.

The "Hustlers" were the senior boys class. George Blackmore was one of several who taught this class.

In addition to their regular Sunday classes, the Busy Bees and Hustlers took the lead in organizing social activities in the Community as well as raising funds for many worthwhile projects.

Newspaper clippings from the 1920's tell of banquets held in the church basement, with full toast lists and musical programmes that involved a great many of the local young people and outside quests.

They were reported as "well organized and eagerly looked forward to by the whole community."

THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The annual Christmas concert, organized in co-operation with the school, was the one event every child looked forward to. Weeks of training and practising were climaxed on the big night when everyone had a chance to take part in the recitations, songs, drills, plays and exercises.

With parents and friends filling the church auditorium, excitement ran high, and lines were sometimes forgotten. All mistakes and stage fright were forgiven, however, when Santa Claus made his noisy entrance, and began distributing gifts from the well laden Christmas tree.

Annual Sunday School picnics and Hallowe'en parties were popular social events with the young people.



SHOWERS' CORNERS CHOIR - ABOUT 1899

Back row (left to right) Mrs. John Scott, John Allison, Miss Margaret Scott (Mrs. David Langley), John Scott, Mrs. David Anderson, George Blackmore, Middle row (left to right) Archibald Harley, Miss Janet MacArthur, James MacArthur (choir leader), Mrs. (Rev.) D. M. Beattle (organist), Miss Language (Mrs. Wrs. Buddle Control of the Wr Una Rorison (Mrs. Wm. Buck). Front - Miss Helen Scott (Mrs. Palmer) and Miss Margaret Wilson (Mrs. L. E. Peterson).



SHOWERS' CORNERS CHOIR - ABOUT 1904

Back row (left to right) Archibald Harley, Mrs. John Dickson, John Dickson, Mrs. F. Corrigan. Front row (left to right) Alfred Laycock, Miss Ella Mae Edmiston (Mrs. Bert Radloff), Mrs. John Allison, Mrs. L. E. Peterson, James MacArthur (leader), Miss Lily MacArthur (Mrs. Moody Wilson) (organist), Miss Alvern Wilson.

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Among those who served as superintendents during the first fifty years were: Archibald McArthur, William McArthur, Thomas Edmiston, Charles Buck, George Blackmore, Roy Wilson and Wilfred Cockburn.

Women's Missionary Society

The Showers' Corners auxiliary of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society is believed to have been first organized in 1899. Mrs. (Rev.) D.M. Beattie and Miss Bessie Taylor, who was teaching at the school at that time, are credited with getting the little group of dedicated ladies organized, for the purpose of prayer, study and the raising of funds to support the missionary outreach of the church. Miss Taylor is thought to have been the first president. There is no complete record of the charter members.

A report of 1894 shows Mrs. J. McKay as president, with Mrs. Thomas Edmiston, Mrs. George Wilson and Mrs. W. Buck as vice-presidents. Miss Margaret Wilson was treasurer and Miss Tillie McKay, secretary. There was a total membership of twenty-one, and through the holding of four teas, and other contributions, \$27.00 was raised after expenses. Clothing to

the value of \$17.60 was sent to the "North-West."

Some years later, a Home Mission Branch was organized in the Presbyterian Church. In 1915 the Home and Foreign Mission Branches were

joined to form the Women's Missionary Society.

The W.M.S., as it was known, provided strong support for the Missionary service of the church for many years. Through study topics, speakers, and a monthly publication, The Missionary Monthly, they kept informed on the work being conducted in the various Mission fields. By raising money, packing clothing bales, and supporting the overall missionary programme, they made their practical contribution.

There is no complete record of the many ladies who have given unstinting service to the Women's Missionary Society. The list of those who served as president, is also probably not complete, nor are they necessarily in order, as to their term of office. It is known that several of these ladies served on more than one occasion, which is testimony to their ability and devotion.

Among those who have served as Presidents were:

Miss Bessie Taylor Mrs. J. McKav

Mrs. Thomas Edmiston

Mrs. John Bonham

Mrs. (Rev.) A. Leslie

Mrs. Lewis E. Peterson

Mrs. (Rev.) W.J. Booth

Mrs. Thos. Graham

Mrs. Jas. D. Wilson

Mrs. John Dickson

Mrs. Wm. Thompson

Mrs. George Blackmore

Mrs. Jacob Rabb

Mrs. Rufus Mover Mrs. Wm. Ovington

Mrs. Fred Pruss

Mrs. Wilfred Cockburn Miss Wynnie MacArthur

Mrs. Margaret Brown

Mrs. Harry Watters

Mrs. Roy H. Wilson

Mrs. Robert Peterson

Mrs. S.E. Milton

Mrs. Norman Baskett

Mrs. Llovd Baskett

The Women's Association

Throughout the years, the women of Showers' Corners congregation have contributed much in material aid and financial assistance toward the

upkeep of the church.

The Women's Association, or Ladies Aid as it was once known, has not been in continuous existence. It is known that a Ladies Aid was operating in 1915.

The organization was active during the 1920's and 1930's. Mrs. James Wood served as president for several years.

Dinners were served, concerts and plays sponsored and quilts made

as part of their money raising activities.

In 1948, the Women's Association was organized, with Mrs. Robert McCrow as president and Mrs. Lawrence Tottle as secretary-treasurer. Mrs. McCrow served continuously for ten years as president. She was succeeded in 1958 by Mrs. Norman Baskett followed by Mrs. Lloyd Baskett in 1960. Mrs. Tottle served twelve years as secretary-treasurer.

During these years, the Women's Association gave strong and active

support to the church and community.

The United Church Women

In 1961, the Women's Missionary Society and Women's Association united to become the United Church Women (U.C.W.).

This single organization, in keeping with the nation wide United Church policy, became the working force of the ladies of the congregation, both in supporting the needs of the local church and in promoting the Missionary outreach. The United Church Women continue to serve in this capacity.

The first president, Mrs. Roy Milton, took office in January, 1962. Others who have served as president are Mrs. Frank Gibbons, Mrs. Frank Lancaster, Mrs. Chas. Schultz, Mrs. Patrick Magee and Mrs. Fred Thede.

The officers serving in 1973 are:

President, Mrs. Fred Thede; vice-president, Mrs. Frank Lancaster; secretary, Mrs. Frank Gibbons; treasurer, Mrs. Allan Wilson.

Programme committee: Mrs. Chas. Schultz, Mrs. P. Magee and Mrs.

Roy Baer.

Supply committee: Mrs. Patrick Magee, Mrs. Frank Gibbons.

Social committee: Mrs. Earle Shoemaker, Mrs. Gregor Ovington, Mrs. Horace Kamp.

Cards and Flower convener: Mrs. Harry Kreuger.

Pianists: Mrs. Lawrence Tottle and Mrs. Chas. Schultz.

During this centennial year, the ladies of the U.C.W. quilted a new autographed quilt to commemorate the occasion, which contains over six hundred names.

They also sponsored a successful fashion show which featured a display of wedding gowns worn over the past hundred years, modelled by ladies of the organization and surrounding community.

The Christian Endeavour Society

A Young Peoples group, The Christian Endeavour Society was formed in the early 1900's under the leadership of Rev. W.J. Booth. It was part of a general Youth organization, founded by Rev. Francis E. Clark.

This organization flourished for many years, conducting first mid-week, and later Sunday evening devotional meetings featuring speakers or papers on topics of interest. Support was also given to other projects of the church.

A newspaper clipping, dated 1912, lists William Ovington as



A W.M.S. GATHERING - THE YEAR ABOUT 1946

Front row - Deanna Wilson, Mrs. Andrew Cockburn, Caroline Wilson, Mrs. Thomas Graham, Mrs. O. Slaght, Ronald Shoemaker. Back row (left to right) Mrs. Robt. Peterson, Mrs. Earle Shoemaker, Mrs. W. A. Cockburn, Mrs. E. Wilson, Mrs. Carl Rabe, Mrs. F. Pruss, Mrs. Gordon Racknor, Mrs. Chas. Milton, Mrs. M. Miller, Mrs. Thos. Baskett, Mrs. R. Spicer, Mrs. A. Graham, Mrs. Wm. Ovington, Mrs. Chas. Shoemaker, Mrs. W. Edmiston, Mrs. Jas. D. Wilson.



"MANY HANDS MAKE WORK LIGHT"

A HAPPY CHURCH W.A. "CLEAN-UP" PARTY READY FOR WORK

The ladies, left to right, are Mrs. Lloyd Baskett, Mrs. Roy Milton, Mrs. R. H. Wilson, Mrs. Mae Wilson, Mrs. Gordon Wilson, Mrs. Max MacArthur, Mrs. Gregor Ovington, Mrs. W. A. Cockburn, Mrs. Norman Baskett, Mrs. Carl Rabe, Mrs. Earle Shoemaker, Mrs. Hugh Rabe. The children are Elinor Baskett, Linda Baskett and Sharon Wilson. This 1952 photo was taken by LAC Paul Smith of Centralia RCAF Station. He was guarding an RCAF training plane that had crashlanded in a nearby field.

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PHOTO TAKEN AT A W.M.S. MEETING IN 1937 AT THE HOME OF MRS. CHAS. MILTON

Back row (left to right) Mrs. W. A. Cockburn, Mrs. E. Cockburn (holding daughter Erla Jean), Mrs. Jas. Tottle, Mrs. R. Moyer, Mrs. Robt. Peterson, Mrs. Fred Pruss, Miss Mary Wilson, Mrs. Jas. Sulston, Mrs. Jas. Magee, Mrs. (Rev.) C. W. Down. Middle row (left to right) Mrs. (Dr.) Hugh Wilson, Mrs. Chas. Milton, Mrs. S. E. Milton. Front row (left to right) Mrs. Balfour, Mrs. J. Allison, Mrs. H. Irving, Mrs. J. D. Wilson, Mrs. Thos. Graham (holding Charles Graham), Mrs. Norman Sulston, Mrs. Chas. Shoemaker, Mrs. Robert Spicer.



THE UNITED CHURCH WOMEN - 1973

A GROUP PHOTOGRAPHED AT THE HOME OF MRS. HUGH LANG
Standing (left to right) Mrs. H. Kamp, Mrs. H. Kreuger, Mrs. F. Lancaster, Mrs. Alex Gal, Mrs. H.
Lang, Mrs. Roy Baer. Seated (left to right) Mrs. L. Tottle, Mrs. E. Shoemaker, Mrs. Allan Wilson,
Mrs. Fred Thede (president), and Mrs. F. Gibbons.

president, Alice Crumback, vice-president; and Pearl Wiltshire as secretary. Programme committee consisted of Laura Cockburn, Mary Wilson, Ken MacArthur and Charles Milton. Miss Lily MacArthur was organist.

While the organization was sometimes humorously referred to as a

"sparking school", records show that it was much more than that.

However, it is true that many a romance blossomed among this happy association of young people, helped along, no doubt, by the rides home in a buggy or cutter pulled by a horse that knew the roads as well as its master.



SHOWERS' CORNERS JUNIOR CHOIR - 1973
Back row (left to right) Cathy Piggott, Wendy Henry, Nancy Baer, Christine Schultz, Wayne Henry, Jeanette Baer, Mark Lang, Larry Swick. Second row (left to right) Elaine Swick, Sherry Schultz, Lori Lang, Steven Swick, Robin Henry. Front row (left to right) Mrs. Charles Schultz (choir leader), Mrs. Lawrence Tottle, and Mrs. Kenneth Govier (organists).

SHOWERS CORNERS SCHOOL ... Blenheim S.S. No. 18

There are few records available of the early history of Showers' Corners School.

It is believed that the first "log school" to serve the community was built about 1860. Schools had been established earlier at Windfall and Springhill, and it is from the records of Springhill school, that some of the early history of this locality can be learned.

The "log school" was built on one acre of land acquired from John Showers, located on the north-east angle of lot 19 concession 3. The building may have been entirely of log construction, or it may have been of a log and frame style, common in that day.

The desks, benches and whatever facilities the school had were no doubt home made. A "reader" and a slate were the pupil's main aid

to learning.

The Common School Act of 1816 allowed for the establishment of a school wherever 20 or more pupils could be assembled. It was stipulated that the teacher must be a British subject.

The school remembered by many of the present generation was built about 1875. The exact date is not known. It was built on the same location as the old school.

The building was a one room structure, built of white brick. Several generations of children received their schooling here. At times as many as fifty pupils attended, ranging from six year olds to boys of sixteen to eighteen, who attended classes in the winter. They were divided into eight or more classes, all under the supervision of one teacher.

The school desks were graduated in size, with the larger ones at the back of the room, and the small ones, for the younger pupils in front. Over the years, they received their share of carved initials and other markings, the product of jackknives in the hands of little boys whose minds were often elsewhere than on their lessons.

For years the school was administered by three trustees, elected from among the ratepayers of the community. In 1909 an improved heating system was installed and the next year a metal ceiling was added. It was not until 1936 that electric lighting was installed.

In 1941, the school won a province wide beautification contest. The school building was painted red, trees were planted and landscaping done which greatly improved the appearance of "the Corners". Miss Ruth Elvidge (Mrs. J. Richardson), a former pupil, was teacher at that time.

In January, 1945, School Section 18 became part of the South Blenheim School Area. As the number of pupils increased, bus service was introduced to move some classes to Drumbo and Princeton, where larger and newer schools were available.

In 1963, the school was officially closed, with all pupils being taken by bus to the consolidated schools. The school building was sold and while being converted into a home, caught fire and burned. A modern home now stands on the site.

An official closing reunion, for former teachers and pupils was held on June 30th, 1963, with about 300 persons attending.

Harry Kreuger presided over a short program, where Wilfred Cockburn presented a short history of the school.

Former pupils who spoke were Ernest Racknor, S.E. Milton, Mrs. J. Richardson and Floyd Milton. Greetings were read from several former



1904 - TEACHER - MISS ANNIE MACKENZIE

Back row (left to right) Eliza Magee, Clara Beemer, Olive Milton, Mary Belle Wilson, Mary Wilson, Priscilla Duncan, Alice Crumback, Evelyn Magee, Mary Rabe. Second row (left to right) John Magee, Burleigh Wilson, Wilfred Cockburn, William Wilson, Ethel Cockburn, Alice Racknor, Effie Tottle, Bessie Thompson, Ethel Milton, Pearl Wiltshire, Elaine Beemer, Olive Duncan, Miss Annie MacKenzie (teacher). Third row (left to right) Charles Milton, Harold Bayless, Carl Rabe, Harry Magee, George Lancaster, Gordon Racknor, Sam Milton, Perle Buck, Nellie Wilmot, Barbara Racknor, Margery Thompson, Minnie Rabe, Pearl Duncan, Myrtle Milton, Dora Milton, Annie Wilson. Front row (left to right) John Piggott, Ross Watters, Lawrence Tottle, Ralph Wilson, Ransom Edmunds, Lorne Wilson, Maggie Belle Radloff, Ada Blackmore, Mabel Wilson, Hazel Crumback, Stella Milton, Florence Bayless.



1909 - TEACHER - MISS MYRTLE EDMISTON

Back row (left to right) Miss Myrtle Edmiston (teacher), Clifford Sulston, George Lancaster, Charles Milton, Mabel Wilson, Minnie Rabe, Marjorie Sulston, Barbara Racknor, Perle Buck, William Wilson, Samuel Milton, Gordon Racknor, Lawrence Tottle. Second row (left to right) Florence Crumback, Hazel Piggott, Jessie Ladwig, Elsie Buck, Stella Milton, Ada Blackmore, Margery Thompson, Maggie Bell Radloff, Hazel Crumback, Rosabelle Thompson, Lizzie Pickard, Doreen Muir, Ardell Balfour. Front row (left to right) Arthur Graham, Fred Muir, Robert Peterson, Ralph Blackmore, James Graham, Norman Piggott, Ralph Wilson, Harry Racknor, Gordon Lancaster.

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ABOUT 1913 - TEACHER - MISS ELIZABETH HEATHERINGTON

Back row (left to right) Jessie Ladwig, Olive Harrison, Rosabelle Thompson, Hazel Crumback, Florence Crumback, Fred Muir, Harry Racknor, Harry Anger, Percy Church, Miss Elizabeth Heatherington (teacher). Middle row (left to right) Ardell Balfour, Hazel Piggott, Ethel Piggott, Doreen Muir, Reba Muir, Georgina Lancaster, Marguerite Balfour, Margaret Lancaster, Gladys Ladwig, Willa Thompson, Fred Anger. Front row (left to right) James Graham, Ralph Blackmore, Robert Peterson, Charles Piggott, Charles Anger, Arthur Graham, Emmerson Harrison, Lorne Milton, Stanley Wood, Harold Blackmore, Andrew Piggott.



ABOUT 1928 - TEACHER - MISS IDA SCHELL

Back row (left to right) Miss Ida Schell (teacher), Helen Shoemaker, Eva Sawdon, Verna Milton, Pearl Hunter, Jean Rupert, Thomas Hunter, Earl Buck, Garfield Milton, Earl Hunter. Second row (left to right) Ruth Elvidge, Edith Milton, Mabel Hunter, Irma Milton, Allan Wilson, Allison Magee, Harry Rupert, Hugh Rabe. Front row (left to right) Lillian Wilson, Doris Ovington, Marion Wood, Raymond Ovington, Edwin Rupert, Ward Sulston, Earle Shoemaker, Bert Milton, Jim Sulston.



1933 – TEACHER – MISS OLIVE YEO
Back row (left to right) Reg Baskett, Willard Tottle, Olga Hanchiruk, Helen Sulston, Lillian Graham, Miss Olive Yeo (teacher), Doris Ovington, Alice Hart, Ariel Rupert, Lillian Wilson. Second row (left to right) Hazel Kreuger, Agnes Kreuger, Irene Magee, Laurine Spicer, Rosie Hart, Stella Hanchiruk, Jean Magee, Marguerite Rupert, Rosie Hanchiruk, Margaret Cockburn, Lorne Spicer. Third row (left to right) Arthur Johnson, West Spicer, Harry Kreuger, Ross Milton, Stanley Racknor, Edwin Rupert, Bert Milton, Jim Sulston, Noble Baskett, Gordon Tottle. Front row (left to right) Charles Hart, Edwin Rupert, Donald Racknor, John Hanchiruk, Norman Baskett, Roy Milton, Allan Sulston, Bobby Spicer, Jack Magee.



1938 - TEACHER - MISS PATRICIA YEO

Back row (left to right) Roy Milton, Charlie Hart, Norman Baskett. Second row (left to right) Jean Magee, Miss Patricia Yeo (teacher), Marguerite Rupert, Agnes Kreuger, Gordon Tottle, Edwin Tottle, Jack Magee, Lorne Spicer, Bob Spicer. Third row (left to right) Margaret Cockburn, Hazel Kreuger, Frances Rabe, Stella Hanchiruk, Rosie Hanchiruk, Irene Rabe, Elsie Piggott, Margaret Wilson, Edith Spicer. Front row (left to right) Harvey Racknor, Lewis Peterson, Alfred Staels, Pat Magee, Earl Sawdon, Joseph Staels, Harold Sawdon, Jerrold Spicer, Roy Baer.



1941 - TEACHER - MISS RUTH ELVIDGE

Back row (left to right) Miss Ruth Flyidge (teacher), Edith Spicer, Frances Rabe, Dorothy Hart, Irene Rabe, Stella Hanchiruk, Margaret Wilson, Mary Horvath, Roy Baer, Jack Magee, Second row (left to right) Harold Sawdon, Joseph Staels, Basil Persyn, Jerrold Spicer, Pat Magee, Alfred Staels, Roger Persyn, Robert Graham, Harvey Racknor, Lewis Peterson, Front row (left to right) Earl Sawdon, John Van Boven, Bob Dias, Bruce Magee, Shirley Dias, Elsie Piggott, Betty Spicer, Hilda Piggott, Gladys McLellan, Dorothy Sawdon, Marie Spicer.



1947 - TEACHER - LLOYD A. STRAHM

Back row (left to right) Hilda Piggott, Beatrice Graham, Norma Tottle, Lloyd A. Strahm (teacher), Robert Graham. Middle row (left to right) Elizabeth Nagy, Joyce Piggott, Shirley Dias, Patsy DeSloovere, Leona Dias. Front row (left to right) Ronald Noble, John Van Boven, Bruce Magee, Charles Graham, Bob Dias, Tommy Shields.



SHOWERS' CORNERS SCHOOL, WITH CHURCH IN BACKGROUND as they appeared about 1885. Miss Bessie Taylor is the teacher standing in the school doorway. The only pupils identified are Lewis E. Peterson and Una Rorison, standing at the pump, at far left.





ABOVE – The School as it appeared in 1941. At that time it was awarded first prize in a Province wide Beautification Competition.

AT LEFT - A Championship Debating Team . . .
The year, 1921, Team members were, (left to right) James D. Wilson, Robert Easton, Roy H. Wilson, Wilfred A. Cockburn.

teachers and pupils unable to attend. Old school pictures and school books were on display.

The Showers' Corners School served for many years as a Community meeting place. The Farmers Club, the Literary Society and Young Peoples Groups used its facilities. It was the scene of many tea meetings and other social functions before the church basement was completed in 1921.

The influence of the little school at Showers' Corners reached far and wide. Members of its alumni have entered nearly every walk of life, many as recognized leaders in their chosen field.

Any attempt to recognize the achievements of individual persons would fill several books such as this.

We can only conclude that this little one room school "served its community well!"

The following teachers were among those who served at S.S. No. 18. Due to lack of records, this list may not be complete, nor in correct order.

Miss Bessie Taylor Mr. Frank Chalmers Miss McDougall Miss Pengelly Miss Sprague Mr. Thomas Cockburn Miss Annie Mackenzie Miss Margaret Lawrence Miss Myrtle Edmiston Miss Jean Prentice Mr. Thomas Codlin Miss McKellar Mr. William Robertson Miss Elizabeth Heatherington Mr. Wilson Miss Hott Miss Florence Malcolm Miss Gladys Cole Miss Annie Wood Miss Emily Watson

Miss Jean Walton Miss Lena Wilkins Miss Ida Schell Mr. Clifford W. Crumback Miss Olive Yeo Mr. Homer Wilson Miss Patricia Yeo Mr. Andrew Bean Miss Ruth Elvidge Miss Mary Leggett Miss Kathleen Snider Mrs. Margaret Brown Miss Beverley Curran Mr. Lloyd A. Strahm Miss Doreen Dyment Mr. Lawrence Haisell Mrs. Evelyn Barker Mr. Almon Willsie Mr. Stuart Little Miss Alma Dutton

The Literary Society

The Literary Society holds a special place in any history of Showers' Corners.

Organized by the young people in the early 1900's as a study group, it provided an opportunity for extending their education, which was not so easy in those days, and for the development of their own skills.

Works of Literature and Music were studied and discussed. Matters of government and topics of current interest, were the subject of papers and debates by the members and guest speakers.

The Literary Society was a participation group, and the abilities in public speaking, debating, and self expression developed in its members were very evident, through the years that followed.

A newspaper clipping of 1912 lists Kenneth MacArthur as president and Roy H. Wilson as vice-president. Meetings were held in the homes or in the school.

Literary societies were active in other communities and an

interchange of ideas, and competitive debates added interest to the activities.

The Literary Society was instrumental in developing qualities of leadership and organizational ability that strongly influenced the life of this community for many years.

Garden Parties

The first of July was traditionally the time for the Annual Garden Party. It was one occasion during the year when a concert, produced by professional entertainers, could be enjoyed.

These programmes, planned well in advance, and well advertised, drew people from miles around, in horse and buggy days, and during the

infancy of the automobile.

The concerts, consisting of musical presentations, always with some Scottish songs; comedy acts, usually with some local names and incidents added to fit the occasion; and other variety numbers. The magician was the favourite with the younger members of the audience.

The performances of Miss Jessie McGregor and her troupe from Caledonia, of Miss Gladys Cornell and her Favourite Four Quartette of London were always popular, as was the comedy of Jimmy Fax and Bob

Wilson, of Toronto.

To produce this type of programme, in the large field at the Corners, was no easy task. A stage had to be improvised, usually from two or more hay wagons, with some reinforcing to stand the rigors of the performance.

There was no Hydro power prior to 1936, and lighting for the evening programme was a problem. On several occasions it was provided by James Isbister of Innerkip with his "Delco System." This was a series of electric lights erected for the occasion, and powered by an engine driven generator.

Of course no garden party could be complete without a refreshment booth operated by the ladies. Homemade ice-cream, pies, lemonade and

other good things, were served in abundance.

In those days, before television, radio and other modern entertainment media, the garden party was something to look forward to.

Sports Events at Showers' Corners

All of the energies of the young people of the community were not spent in the many hours of labour required to convert the virgin lands into prosperous farms. Sports events were a popular form of recreation. We may be sure that the cows were often milked early, and that last load of hay or grain left in the field, in order that the local boys could get to play against one of the rival teams.

For many years football (soccer) was the popular sport.

One of the most popular of local school teachers around the turn of the century was Frank Chalmers. He was also a skilled football player, and under his coaching Showers' Corners developed a team that provided strong competition for any opposition for miles around.

Among the names of those who played over several years were Lewis Buck, Jack Milton, Wilbur Edmiston, James D. Wilson, Moody Wilson, Will Buck, John Cockburn, Charles Shoemaker, James Magee and Wilfred Cockburn.

Charles Shoemaker was well known as a long distance runner. He

won several awards at events held in Woodstock, Brantford and other centres.

A newspaper clipping, dated 1924, records the results of a field day, held in the field across the road, due north of the Church and School. This apparently was an annual event for several years.

Norman Sulston, Roy Wilson and Floyd Milton were the committee in charge, with Wilbur Edmiston in charge of the refreshment booth, assisted by "several of the ladies."

Among the winners of the various events were Irma Milton, Queenie Wilson, Duff Wilson, Garfield Milton, Margaret Wilson, Doris Pruss, Floyd Cockburn, Arnold Wilson, Verna Milton, Mabel Peterson, Harold Blackmore, Murray Edmiston, Doris Woods, Anna Easton, Clifford Crumback Margaret Lancaster, Jim Graham, Mrs. N. Sulston, Mrs. Robt. Telfer, Charles Shoemaker, Norman Sulston, Thelma Weeks, James Magee, Robert Peterson and Andrew Cockburn.

The report states that "at the close of the day there was rumor of the possible buying of the grounds, and having them fitted as a permanent recreational grounds." This was never done.

Softball became popular as a summer sport, and here again local boys competed against teams from the neighbouring communities.

The field, directly north of the church and across the road, was the sight of many a game, usually played during early evening.

Through the years, the team rosters carried the names of most of the boys who grew up in the community, as well as those of young men who worked as "hired men" on farms in the area.

Stanley Woods, Earle Shoemaker and Lloyd Baskett are remembered as pitchers on local teams, while Noble Baskett was recognized as one of the best catchers in the area.

One cannot recall sports events of this era without remembering the enthusiastic support given local teams by Thomas Baskett. Always an advocate of good sportsmanship and clean play, Tom exerted a strong influence toward the success of many a hard fought competition.

Hockey, too, held its sway during the winter months, with Showers' Corners teams competing in community leagues at Drumbo and Paris arenas. Showers' Corners was represented in the professional hockey ranks by Gordon Tottle, who played with Springfield Indians of the old American Hockey League during the 1940's and '50's. Gordon also played on U.S. National teams.



SHOWERS' CORNERS HOCKEY TEAM – Drumbo Community League Champions – 1940-41

Back row (left to right) Allison Magee, Jim Sulston, Carman Wilson, Jack Cockburn, Ross Milton, August Meacham. Front row (left to right) Roy Milton, Earle Shoemaker, Earl Mower, Homer Meacham, Howard Wilson.

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ROLL OF HONOUR

Young men from the community served their country in two world wars.

1914 - 1918

Lieut, Wm. Wilson — killed in France, Oct. 25th, 1916. Kenneth MacArthur

1939 - 1945

Reginald Baskett - died of wounds at Caen, France, August 17th, 1944

Noble Baskett Douglas Thompson

J. Ward Sulston Fred Nye
August Meacham Lloyd Baskett
Alex Laird James B. Wilson
Edwin Rupert Charles Hart
Harry Rupert Oscar Slaght
Albert Prout Harry Kreuger

August Meacham and Douglas Thompson were awarded the Military Medal during the Italian campaign.

Caledon Pioneer Cemetery

A small plot of land on the south-east angle of lot 7, concession 4, on the farm of the Dickson Family, was chosen as the pioneer burial ground.

In 1842 this plot was deeded over and dedicated as a cemetery. It was named Caledon, after the Scottish hills so familiar as the childhood home of those now laid to rest.

Among the names on the older gravestones, are McArthur, McCrow, Fair, Wilson, Whitehead, Allison, Spears (also spelled Speirs and Spiers) Dickson, McGaw, Cockburn, Sparks, Swan, Hardie, Scott, Graham, Hamilton, Anderson, Murray, Smith and Paton.

The aging stones bear silent witness to tragedies of days long gone. A cholera epidemic in 1850 took many lives among the children and young people. The Wm. Hardie memorial lists the death of three members of his family, Agnes 12, John 5, and Mary 3, all during the month of August 1850.

A second epidemic appears about 1875, to take its toll. Diphtheria, Cholera, Smallpox and Influenza were among the dreaded diseases that swept from home to home.

There were other tragedies too. Wm. McCall died as the result of an accident while building the Buffalo, Brantford and Goderich railway, in 1853. Joseph Whyte died in 1867, after returning home from the United States. He had been held prisoner of war by the Confederate army, during the U.S. Civil War.

The mother of Rev. John Gillespie is buried here.

The Methodists of the area established their own cemetery at Richwood, while the Baptists had their cemetery east of Richwood, near the Nith River.

As time went on, families came into the community with family

connections in other cemeteries, principally Drumbo, Windfall, Princeton and Paris.

In 1965, Mrs. Kenneth MacArthur, in memory of her husband,

donated a new gate and entrance pillars.

The Caledon Cemetery is attractively maintained as a fitting memorial to the pioneer settlers of this area. The present trustees are Ralph J. Sparks, William Dickson and Allan D. Scott, all descendents of the early pioneers, and living on lands cleared by their forbearers.

The Changing Community

Showers' Corners, during the past 100 years, has seen many changes. Events, both local and world-wide, have left their mark on this tiny community.

In the earliest days, hardy pioneers, with great physical strength and singleness of purpose, faced the tremendous task of converting the wild bush land into productive farms, that could nourish and sustain a growing

country.

The great forests gave way. Log cabins were built to provide shelter. Fields of grain appeared, along with more substantial houses, barns and herds of livestock. Slashed trails became roads, creeks and streams were spanned by bridges.

Churches and schools were built, insuring that Christian worship was not neglected, and that the advantages of education were available to the

children.

The families were often large, with the children, as they grew up,

taking their part in improving the farm holdings.

New communities were springing up. At first these were along the creeks and streams, because of the dependence on water power. A grist mill was operated for many years on Hornors Creek at the third concession bridge. Around the turn of the century it was operated by Alfred Laycock, and for a time by Edward Squires.

Milton Brothers operated a sawmill farther upstream on the creek,

in the fourth or fifth concession.

Blacksmiths, storekeepers, stone and brick masons, carpenters and framers were in demand, and tradesmen were setting up shop wherever opportunity afforded. The Buck brothers, Charles, William and Henry, were masons, who helped to build many of the houses in this area.

Because of their access to water power, Canning, Paris and Warsaw

(Wolverton) were thriving communities during the 1830's and 1840's.

This must certainly have been an exciting time to be living. In 1820 the population of Blenheim Township was listed in the Shenstone Gazette as 317 persons. By 1830 it was 498 and by 1840 had increased to 1707. In 1850 it is listed 4323 and in 1852 the population had increased to 4,995.

The Page and Smith historical atlas of 1875 records a Township population of 5,228 persons. They owned 3,097 cattle, 6,933 sheep, 2,062

hogs, 1,734 horses and 495 dogs!

In these days before radio, television or daily newspapers, we can readily imagine the gathering of neighbours at the church, school, general store or mill, as they exchanged news of the latest settlers to arrive, and the events taking place.

In the 1850's came steam power and the railroads. The emphasis in

location of villages now shifted to the railway centres.

Drumbo and Princeton enjoyed a period of very rapid growth. Each village soon had several hotels, each with livery stables which supplied horses and buggies, or wagons for rent. Harnessmakers, blacksmiths, machinery dealers, carpenters and tradesmen of all kinds set up shop.

Doctors established local practices and even photographers and printers were in business. The ladies were not forgotten as millinery and dressmakers' shops appeared.

The Crimean War, in Europe and the American Civil War brought a period of prosperity. The settlers found a ready market for their produce

and livestock.

Around the turn of the century, a new horizon opened up. Great crops of wheat and other grains were being produced in Western Canada. The local young men eagerly looked forward to travelling west on the Annual Harvester excursion, where they helped with the harvesting of the crop.

Several of these men returned west, to establish their own homesteads, some with local girls as their brides. They were a new

generation of pioneers.

The military played an important role in the early community. Most villages had a Militia unit, consisting of local men who were trained and drilled, and on call to defend the country, should the need arise. These units took part in the war of 1812-14, the Fenian Raids of 1866 and were especially active following the American Civil War, when an attack on Canada was feared.

Capt. John T. Cockburn commanded the Drumbo Company of the

Brant Dragoons for many years. He was a veteran of the Fenian raids.

Prior to World War I many of the local men belonged to the Princeton Company of Grey's Horse, a mounted infantry regiment, trained as shock troops, in the war tactics of that day.

They held regular training drills, and attended military camp at

Niagara, London or Goderich for two weeks each summer.

Their dress uniforms featured scarlet tunics, similar to the R.C.M.P. Crowds often gathered at Princeton or Drumbo railway yards when the troops were assembled to load their horses for the trip to camp.

In World War I and World War II, local lads served with distinction overseas.

Community life, centred around the church and school, was very active during the 1920's. This activity continued into the 1930's, although it was a time of severe economic depression, and many farms were changing ownership.

Automobiles, trucks and electric power were changing the day to day life style.

About 1935, the tobacco industry came to the area. It brought many changes. Farms changed hands and new families moved in, from the Southern United States, and from Belgium, Hungary and other European countries.

Many of these families were of the Roman Catholic faith, and attended the Princeton Roman Catholic Church. Others, of Baptist and Presbyterian faith affiliated with the local church.

One of the first of the tobacco growers was Luther B. Moss, of Danville, Virginia. Mr. Moss, with his family, was a popular figure in the community for many years.

The Showers' Corners of 1973 bears little resemblance to the community of 100 years ago. From it's staunch Scottish Presbyterian origin it has nonetheless accepted many persons of varying race and creed, each of whom has made his or her own contribution to the community.

The challenge of 1873 has been met. A new challenge lies ahead.

Jeny Garca Don Walson * marquente Baskell Robert W. Piterson Charles milton Frank Scott alex Land CORNERS Shazel Pak Gordin Tottle Ted Rupert SHOWERS' CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE Donathy McCinco Felles M. D. Hostin J. Le arthur R Bond Jack Kaufman allan (Dech) Wilson Murray necol Mrs. Chas. Schultz

Raymond Ovington

Mrs. Fred Thede Charles Grace Ju Mrs. Fred Thede Charles & Gurney Illem Grundskanh and Mrs. Wm. D. Maxwell Ward Sulston Wan Trover Calvin Wilson
Rely Mrs. Lawrence Tottle
Wilhamsor of own Baskett Carman Wilson Gonald Kackerse Elvise Shelle Historical Editing and Illustrating,
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E. Rackner — William Magger mary Edmiston Jean Kackner * Jan Wilson Lloyd Baskell anes Graham Carle Shoemaker Leone a Walter Brown Ross millon