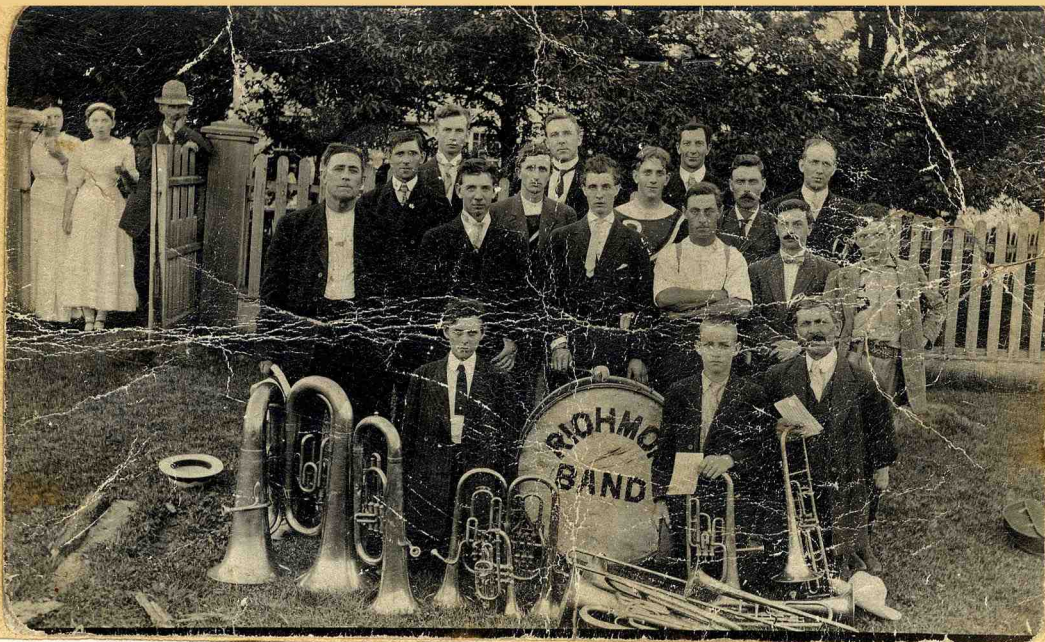


Fairview United Church, built in 1870, was recently moved about ten miles to a location next to Richmond United Church. The building will be used for various congregational purposes, including Sunday School. The Fairview, Richmond and Mount Salem congregations were recently united into one charge. Norman Brooks, R.R. 4, Aylmer, did the moving job.



RICHMOND BAND.

Kneeling- left to right.

Solomen Moore, Bruce Morse, Ben. Haines.

Standing- left to right.

Hiram K. Morse, Leslie High, N.H. McConkey, Fred Procunier,
H.L. Godwin, Frank Benner, Elmer Roloson, Frank Green, Bert. Green,
Len. Morse, John Johnson, Phil. Pressey, Lorne Laing.

Now the home of Nelson Ward.



RESIDENCE OF DR. A. B. RIDDELL
RICHMOND, ONT.

Mar. 6th 1959

THE ST. THOMAS TIMES-JOURNAL

Aylmer and District News

From The Times-Journal's Aylmer Bureau, 73 John Street South, Aylmer

LLOYD G. BIBBY, News Representative, Phone 321



RICHMOND LANDMARK DISAPPEARS—What is thought to be one of the oldest buildings in Elgin County, the former Richmond Hotel, located southeast of Aylmer at the top of the Richmond hill, is being torn down for salvage. The frame building, thought to be 160 years old, was recently condemned as unsafe. Many years ago, the hotel was one of three in operation in what

was at that time a thriving centre, larger than Aylmer. It was still operated as a hotel up until shortly after World War I. The building is owned by Mrs. Harry Smuck, Toronto, whose father-in-law, William Smuck was the last to maintain it as a hotel. J. L. Hughes, of Mount Elgin, has the contract to remove the well-known building shown above in a Times-Journal photo taken Saturday.



RICHMOND HOTEL ONCE A BUSY SPOT—In the halcyon days of the turn of the century, the Richmond Hotel played an important part in the life of the community. The photo above shows the hotel as it looked about 1905 when it was, even then, about 100 years old. At one time a balcony used to run all the way around the main front section, and the entire front upstairs portion contained a plush ballroom. From 12 to 15 rooms were available for rental to travellers. Harry Godwin, for many years reeve of Bayham

Township and roads superintendent, who still lives at Richmond, may be seen with the wagon and team near the hitching rail at the right of the photo. Others identified in the picture are the late Washington Mills, well known Richmond farmer whose son, Armond Mills, resides in St. Thomas; the late William Smuck, who operated the hotel at that time and the late Lloyd and Harry Smuck, his sons. The photo is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Odber McGregor, of Aylmer, former Richmond residents.

CALEB COOK.

Caleb Cook came with his father and mother (Noah Cook and wife) from England when just a small boy, they first settled in the state of Pennsylvania coming from there during the American Revolution, they then settled on the Niagara Peninsula.

On Talbot Road near the big Otter at Bayham possesses some historic interest as one of the oldest villages in the County much older than Pt. Burwell, Vienna or Aylmer.

In the year 1815 Caleb Cook settled here with his wife and two children, the four of them arrived on the back of the same horse, at what is known as the Richmond Hill, the horse tired out on them, it was almost night so they built a hut of brush and spent their first night in Bayham township, The next morning they began clearing and in a few weeks they had erected a log house in Bayham on the farm now occupied by H.L. Godwin. Soon after Noah Cook erected a saw and grist mill on the little Otter.

Caleb Cook was a veteran of the battle of Queenston Heights, he also gave a deed for the first Church for which was to be undenominational for some time.

He (Caleb Cook) was the father of eighteen children, to the first union, there were eight, four girls also four boys, for his second wife he married Melinda Orton, to this union was born ten children of which there were six girls also four boys. Very few of the descendants are still living. He passed away November the tenth, 1873.

GODWIN FAMILY HISTORY

Thomas Godwin, his wife Ester and two children Thomas and Mary Ann settled on a farm just east of Richmond in 1821. He obtained a Crown Deed for his farm which is still in the family, being in the possession of his great granddaughter Addie Caldwell of New Toronto.

His son later married and the daughter married Amos High. Thomas Godwin Jr. at one time had a store in a log house just across the road from his father's house.

Mrs. Ester Godwin died February 7th, 1848 and in 1849 Thomas Godwin married Isobella Medcalf of Bayham Township. She was a sister of Francis H. Medcalf a former Mayor of Toronto during the year 1875.

Three children were born to Thomas and Isobella Godwin namely, Thomas Henry, William and Edward.

Mr. Godwin Sr. died January 1st, 1855 and Mrs. Godwin was left with three small children to care for and a farm to run. Mrs. Godwin died March 21st, 1894.

William Godwin became a minister and married Martha Wigle of Kingsville. He was at one time minister at Grace Church in St. Thomas. Mr. Godwin died in 1917.

Edward Godwin married Libbie Cheesman and moved to Wisconsin to live. He also died in 1917.

Henry Godwin stayed on the home farm with his mother. In 1881 he married Ida May Buchner, daughter of Ebenezer and Adeline Buchner of Eden. Henry Godwin was a man of generous character and of great ability. He was an excellent speaker and was often called upon to act as chairman of public meetings in the community. He was the first President of the Bayham Telephone Company. He was Reeve of Bayham and Warden of Elgin County. Mr. Godwin sat as Conservative member for East Elgin in the Ontario Legislature from 1890 to 1894. Mr. Godwin died April 11th, 1918 and Mrs. Ida Godwin died October 13th, 1954.

They had one son, Harry Lee Godwin, born August 4th, 1886. Harry Godwin has served several years in the Council of Bayham as Councillor, Deputy Reeve and Reeve and since has been Road Superintendent for several years, and still is in 1955.

In 1908 he married Bertha Knott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Knott of Aylmer. They have two daughters, Zita Mildred and Addie Bernice.

Zita married James A. Fuller of Malahide. They have three children, James Godwin, Douglas Lindsay and Alda Marie.

Addie Godwin married Martin Caldwell of Wallaceburg who is now Principal of Twentieth Street School in New Toronto. They have no children.

RIDDELL FAMILY HISTORY

Andrew Barrisdale Riddell was born in King, Ontario. He attended Hope Public School in Vaughan Township and Richmond Hill High School. He took his medical training at the University of Toronto, from which he was graduated in 1886.

Because of an acquaintance whose home was somewhere near Bayham he became interested in that section of the country and went there to practise medicine soon after he was graduated.

His first office was a frame building part way up the Richmond Hill. From there he moved to the home built on the property purchased from William A. Morse in 1891, where he was accompanied by his sister Lettie. In 1905 he married Susie Ford.

They had three children. Fenton Riddell, Letitia Gwen Riddell and Margaret Elizabeth Riddell.

He died on July 23rd, 1923.