

# True History Of The Round Barn

I am the widow of Russell Moore, grandson of Willson McCredie who built the round barn north of Lyons. A historical landmark now demolished.

I feel it is my duty to your readers and to the memory of Willson McCredie (not McGrady) to correct the article by Bob Meharg in your August 27, 1980 issue of the Aylmer Express.

Willson McCredie was not a Scottish immigrant but was a Canadian of Scotch ancestry. His wife was Ellen Crossley, sister of Rev. H. T. Crossley of the Crossley-Hunter evangelist team. He was a devout Methodist with a faith built on a firm foundation but unfortunately his barn had an inferior foundation.

A mutilated hand attested to the fact he did operate a saw mill but his chief occupation was farming until he discovered a portion of his land was ceramic clay. Thus was developed an industry manufacturing various sizes of drainage tile and three types of brick.

He probably purchased brick to build his first kiln, but I do know he cured some brick in open sheds and baked them in rectangular rows with straw for fuel.

Building a kiln was a masterpiece especially the dome shaped crown. When Mr. McCredie was in his seventies he taught my husband the art. With the help of Clarence Tanner they started at the top of the kiln wall using clay for mortar between the bricks. As the dome became higher and circle of bricks smaller, Clarence and Russell planned a way of escape if the bricks slipped and the dome collapsed. Mr. McCredie went inside the kiln to examine the under side of the crown and at that moment it collapsed. Clarence and Russell jumped to safety. Inside the kiln was the huge mass of tumbled bricks with a straw hat at the centre. From under the straw hat came Granddad's voice "Is anybody hurt?" Joyously the boys rushed to his rescue.

His first home was located on the tile yard. Later he vacated this for his chief employee, purchased fifty acres across the road and

built his house and barn, hen house, and pump house of brick made by himself.

The round barn was an idea based on his construction of kilns and a round building he had seen on a trip to Ohio. Even the roof was constructed to resemble a kiln. Mr. McCredie was assisted by a Mr. Coleman and Mr. McTaggart in drawing the plan, constructing the marvellous framework and shingling. It was not built as an advertisement but as something unique and challenging. It was a time saver with silo in the centre, mows for hay and straw encircling the silo above and stalls for cows and horses below.

In later years Russell Moore and his father Maynard Moore dug below the brick and poured in a cement foundation.

When the farm was sold pig pens were installed and this hastened the deterioration of the brick wall.

I am sad the Round Barn at Lyons has gone but happy I was able to help preserve its history in word and pictures in the Tweedsmuir books compiled by members of Kingsmill Mapleton and Lyons Women's Institute who sacrificed time to preserve our heritage.

Mrs. Jane Moore  
10 Chestnut St.,  
Aylmer, Ont.,  
below.



The old round barn north of Lyons was demolished by bulldozers on Friday. The 70 year-old structure was demolished and the bricks were dumped in an old irrigation pond

across the highway from the barn's former site. Its final resting place is the same site where the bricks were originally made.

1980

# Richmond Resident Marks 90th Birthday, March 6

1980

Not many 90 year olds celebrate their birthday by driving their own car into town and playing a few games of snooker with the boys.

That's how John W. Morse of Richmond celebrated his 90th birthday on March 6.

Mr. Morse was born in 1890 in the house where he still lives. He was a decorator for 60 years. He had time to be treasurer of the Richmond United Church for 50 years, serve on the cemetery board for 35 years, be a trustee of the Richmond School for 18 years and he is an honorary member of the Aylmer Fair Board.

Besides that he has been active in local sports most of his life and today is an ardent fan of the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Mr. Morse has four sons: Alex lives in Stratford, Bob, Glen (Pete) and Max live in Richmond. There are eleven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, the latest, Heather Anne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Renwick (nee Mary Anne Morse) formerly of Aylmer, born on John's birthday, March 6, 1980.

A reception was held at the Richmond Church on Sunday, March 9 to celebrate the occasion.



John Morse of Richmond celebrated his 90th birthday on March 6. A reception was held in Richmond United Church on Sunday, March 9 to mark the occasion.



Marguerite and Nelson Ward of Richmond hold three mammoth naval oranges from a 15-year-old tree at their winter home in Zephyr Hills, Florida. The oranges, which range from 16½ to 18¾ inches in circumference and the largest weighing more than four pounds, grew on a branch "no bigger than a lead pencil," Mrs. Ward said.

## Death

### Mrs. Kathleen Abell

Mrs. Kathleen Aseneath Abell of RR 1, Aylmer died at her residence on Monday, June 21. She was 60 years of age.

Mrs. Abell was born in Malahide Township on August 30, 1915 and lived in the township for all of her life. She was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Burley Aitkin.

Mrs. Abell was a member of Aylmer Baptist Church, the Evertruce Mission Circle of the church and Bayham Women's Institute.

She is survived by one son, Leonard Abell of RR 1, Aylmer; two daughters, Mrs. Kenneth (Doreen) Ward of RR 4, Aylmer and Mrs. Warren (Dorothy) Meyer, also of RR 4, Aylmer; two brothers, Donald Aitkin of Simcoe and Carl Aitkin of Thamesford; one sister, Mrs. Rance (Edna) Myers of Woodstock and six grandchildren.

The funeral service is scheduled to be held at H.A. Kebbel Funeral Home, Aylmer at 2 p.m., Thursday, June 24. The Rev. Gordon Woodcock of Aylmer Baptist Church will officiate.

Burial will follow in Aylmer Cemetery.

*Marguerite Ward & Kathleen Abell was Bayham WI hard working members*

# Couple Honeymoon In Northern Ontario

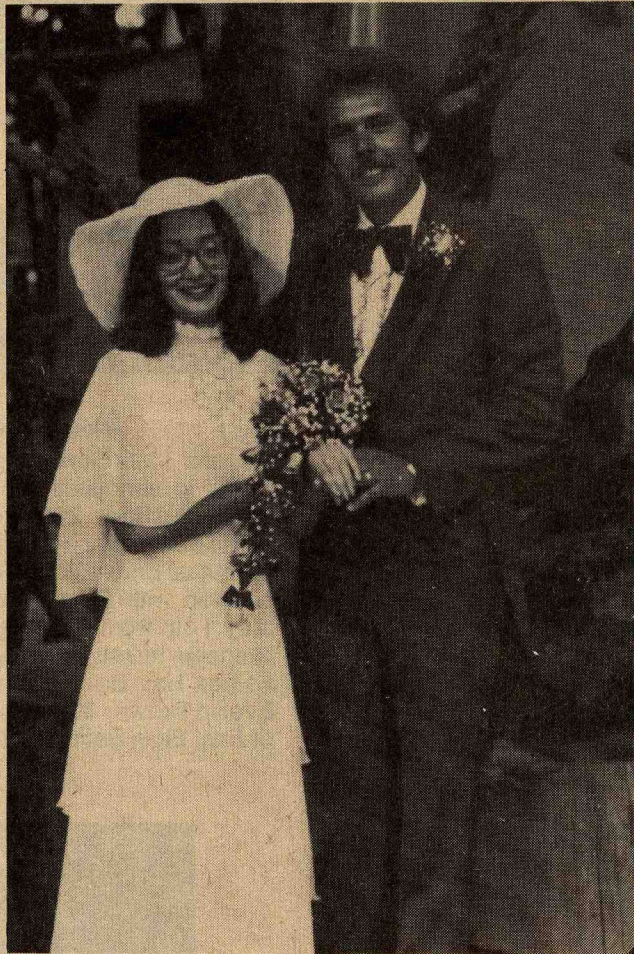
Coral gladiolus, white carnations and blue bachelor buttons decorated the altar of the Richmond United Church on Saturday, July 26, 1980 for the evening candlelight ceremony uniting Barbara Jean Morse and David Ward Mitchell.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Max Morse, R. R. 1, Aylmer and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Max Mitchell, R. R. 1, Eden.

Norman Hare was assisted in the ceremony by Rev. Tom Watson of Wawanesa, Manitoba, formerly of Straffordville. Music was provided by Garry Simpson.

The bride and groom were preceded down the aisle by the ministers, the bridal party and their parents.

The bride looked beautiful in a snow-white poly-sheer organza wedding gown. Venice lace was inserted into the bodice in the shape of a "V". The dropped shoulder draped into a ruffle and continued into cascading layered ruffles down through the



Mr. and Mrs. David W. Mitchell

Photo by John Smeulders

skirt. Completing the ensemble was an organza picture hat accented with lace and seed pearls.

The bride carried a bouquet of coral sweetheart roses, ivy, Boston fern, and baby's breath.

Maid of honour was Miss Jeannie Morse, cousin of the bride. Bridesmaids were Mrs. Margaret Morse, sister of the groom, and Mrs. JoAnne Mitchell, sister-in-law of the groom. The bridesmaids were dressed alike in a summer shade of coral. The sleeves were short and slit over the shoulder. The bodice, draping from the scooped neckline of chiffon fabric, gathered in at the waistline forming a blouson bodice and peplum over the hipline. The skirt of the gown flowed from the waistline down. Their bouquets were nosegays of coral carnations, white daisy mums, blue bachelor buttons, Boston fern and baby's breath. In their hair, they wore matching combs of baby's breath.

The groom wore formal tails of mid-blue with matching vest and bow tie. On his lapel was a coral rose surrounded by baby's breath. Bestman was Jim Mitchell, brother of the groom. Ushers were Larry Morse, brother-in-law of the groom, and Bob Morse, brother of the bride. They all wore mid-blue tuxedos.

Following the ceremony, a reception-dance and buffet was held at the Straffordville Community Centre. Music was provided by "Versatility" of Tillsonburg.

For receiving guests, the bride's mother chose a floorlength, sleeveless gown of powder-blue chiffon with a matching cape and white accessories. Her corsage was of pink sweetheart roses, and carnations surrounded by

baby's breath.

The groom's mother chose a long-sleeved floorlength gown of dusty-mint Quanta with a scooped neck, accented with a lace insert. Her accessories were white and her corsage was of pink carnations and sweetheart roses, surrounded with baby's breath.

For a honeymoon in Northern Ontario the bride changed into a brown and white Swiss dotted sundress with a matching white jacket and white accessories. Her corsage was of burnt orange sweetheart roses and baby's breath.

The groom's parents entertained at a rehearsal party held in their home on the evening prior to the wedding. The bride presented her attendants with "Bridesmaids Plates" while the groom's gift to his bestman and ushers was engraved wallets.

Prior to the wedding, the bride was honoured at a kitchen shower held by the bridesmaids and a miscellaneous shower held by the teachers of McGregor Public School. A community shower and card party was also held prior to the wedding.

The couple is now residing at R. R. 1, Aylmer.

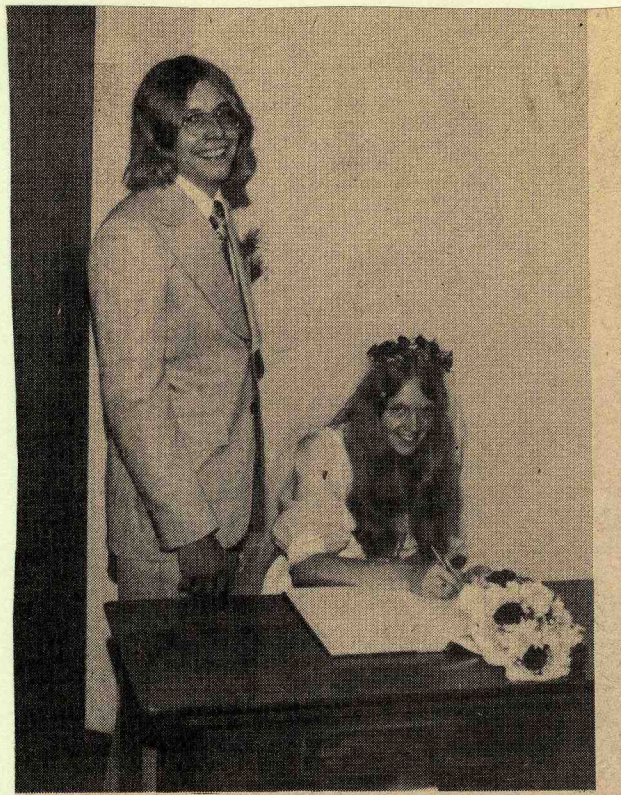


Photo by Karen Gillespie  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Benner

## Area Couple Reside In Aylmer

Baskets of giant white chrysanthemums, yellow daisies and blue tinted pom pom chrysanthemums decorated the altar of Aylmer Baptist Church when Deborah Lynne Pinch and Thomas Murray Benner exchanged marriage vows.

The Rev. Gordon Woodcock officiated at the 4 p.m., June 26, 1976 double ring ceremony.

The bride's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Barry Pinch of 180 Rutherford Avenue, Aylmer and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Murray Benner of RR 1, Aylmer.

Entering the church on the arm of her father, the bride chose a floorlength white polyester satin empire styled gown with lace trimming the full length of the gown. The empire waistline was accented by a band of yellow ribbon. The elbow length sleeves were of organza and her lace trimmed veil was held by a headpiece of red roses and baby's breath. She carried a bouquet of red roses, blue tinted daisies, yellow carnations, baby's breath with lace trim.

Matron of honour was Mrs. Renate Laidlaw, friend of the bride and bridesmaids were Mrs. Wendy Hines and Miss Cindy-Jo Pinch, sisters of the bride. The matron of honour's gown was of yellow flowered polyester crepe accented by puffed sleeves and a ruffled hemline. The bridesmaids gowns were identical to the matron of honour's only in blue flowered polyester crepe. The bridal attendants wore wide brimmed floppy hats and carried bouquets of yellow carnations, blue tinted daisies and baby's breath.

Dwight Laing, friend of the groom was best man and guests were ushered by Dougal Hines, brother-in-law of the bride and John Morse, friend of the groom.

Wayne Carroll played the selected wedding music.

A reception for 150 guests was held at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall, Aylmer, where the bride's mother received guests wearing a floorlength yellow chiffon gown accented by a matching cape and a corsage of pink sweetheart roses. She was assisted by the groom's

mother who wore a floorlength pink flowered sleeveless gown with matching jacket in polyester satin and a corsage of yellow sweetheart roses.

For a honeymoon trip to Northern Ontario the bride changed to blue patterned wrap-around floorlength halter dress with white shawl and a corsage of peach coloured carnations.

Prior to her marriage the bride was feted at several showers. A miscellaneous shower was given in Aylmer by Mrs. Norine Parker and Mrs. Maryann Campbell at the home of Mrs. Parker; a Jack and Jill shower was given by Mrs. Renate Laidlaw and Mrs. Lorraine Grey at the Orwell Community Centre; a shower was given by Mrs. Betty Campbell and Mrs. Faye Gillespie at the home of Mrs. Campbell; a shower given by Mrs. Joanne Mitchell and Mrs. Margi Morse at the home of Mrs. Annie Benner and a community shower in Richmond.

The bride and groom elect were entertained at the Hillcrest Restaurant in Tillsonburg by the groom's grandmother, Mrs. Ila Soper and a rehearsal party was held at the home of the groom's aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Max Mitchell.

# Couple Exchange Wedding Vows

White pew markers and white chrysanthemums decorated the Richmond United Church on September 11, 1976 for the wedding of Irmgard Diethild Lucie Hempler to Max William Parker.

The Rev. Robert W. Scott officiated at the 2:30 p.m. ceremony

Gary Simpson, organist played the selected wedding music.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Siegfried Hempler of 22 Lawrence Crescent, Aylmer and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Parker of RR 1, Aylmer.

Given in marriage by her parents the bride chose a floorlength gown of polyester linen with a sweetheart neckline and cape sleeves. A rose cluster headpiece held her full-length veil in place. She carried a bouquet of red and white roses and baby's breath.

Miss Judy Nelson of Aylmer, friend of the bride and groom was maid of honour. She wore a red floorlength gown of polyester crepe accented by a white cape with small red roses. She wore a large white hat with a big red rose and carried a bouquet of red roses and white carnations. Mrs. Mary-Lynne Wilcox of London, friend of the bride and groom was bridesmaid and her gown was the same as the maid of honour's.

Jack Parker, brother of the groom was best man and Larry Parker, brother of the groom was an usher.

A reception for 100 guests was held at the Sheridan Inn, St. Thomas.



Photo by Mudge  
**Mr. and Mrs. Max W. Parker**

For a honeymoon trip to Manitoulin Island and Sudbury the bride changed to an off-white pant suit with brown polka dot trim.

The couple reside in Aylmer.

Out of town guests were present from England, Manitoulin Island, St. Thomas, Port Stanley and surrounding district.

Prior to her marriage the bride was feted at several showers given for her by Miss Elizabeth Mueller of RR 4, Aylmer; Mrs. Jean Morton, St. Thomas, sister of the groom and a community shower at the Richmond United Church.

1976