

GORDON TURNBULL



CORINTH BASEBALL TEAM, 1910

Back row, left to right—Gord. Turnbull, Ira Ketchabaw, Mr. Morris, Grove Ketchabaw, Bert Donalson; Second row, left to right—Melvin Todd, Ernest Bancroft, Charles Turnbull; front, left to right—Earl Turnbull, Stan Evans.

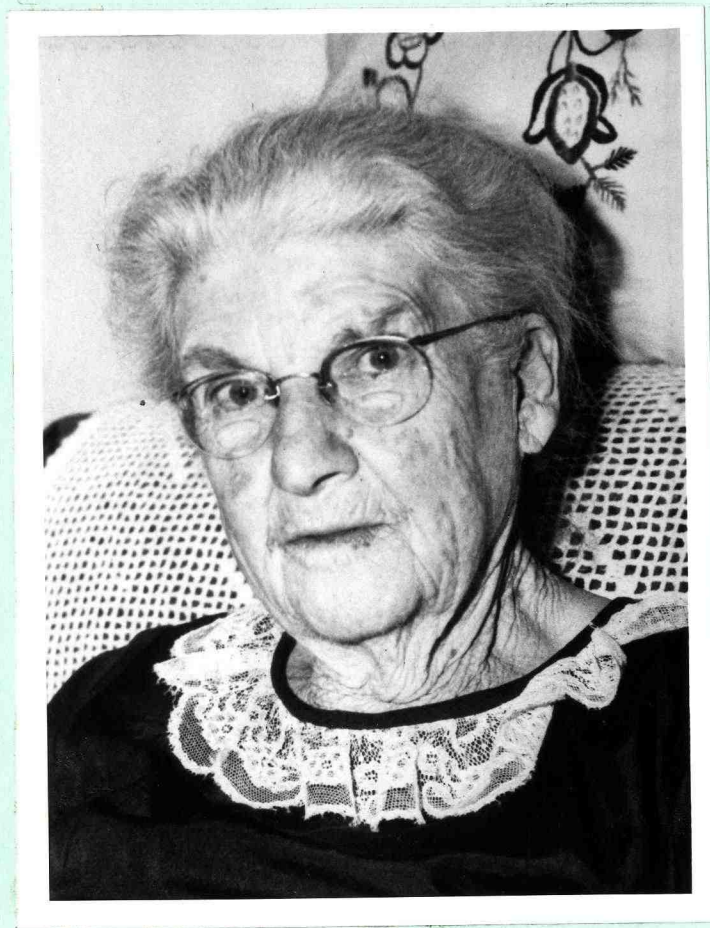
Mr. Gordon Turnbull was a distinguished resident of the Corinth area who served on the Bayham Township Council from 1936 to 1943. In 1938 he was a deputy reeve, and in 1940 and 1941 he was reeve of Bayham. In 1941 he was also warden of Elgin County. He resigned from the Bayham council in 1943 to become superintendent of the Elgin Home for the Aged. He held this position until his death.

During the time he lived at Corinth he was an active member of the Corinth United Church.



Mr. & Mrs. Don Burwell of Tillsonburg now living in British Columbia. Mrs. Burwell was formerly Margaret Turnbull, daughter of Gordon Turnbull

MRS. AGNES SILVERTHORN



Agnes May Ireland was born in Malahide Township in 1889. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Ireland. Her first husband was Stanley Smith, but he died soon after their marriage, and his young widow went to Woodstock where she found employment in a millinery shop and made her home with Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Kilmer. It was from their home that she was married to John Silverthorn about 1909. They bought a farm on the 10th concession of Bayham, west of Corinth where they farmed for many years. They had no children of their own, but they raised a boy and a girl.

John Silverthorn was an invalid for several years before his death in 1945. During this time, Mrs. Silverthorn carried on the farming as well as she could, keeping cows, pigs, and chickens. She kept a horse and buggy so she could take her husband out in the fresh air for drives along the country roads.

A few years after her husband's death she sold the farm and bought a little cottage which a relative had built on a corner of her farm. Her house and garden were not enough to keep this lively and

enthusiastic woman busy. She is an active member of the Latter Day Saints Church at Corinth. She is a valued member of the Corinth Women's Institute, and for many years was a member of its Tweedsmuir Committee, helping to compile this book.

Her special interest, however, is visiting the people in Elgin Manor, the county home for the aged, east of St. Thomas. She began visiting there in 1964 and is the convenor of a group that goes every fourth Friday, taking homemade bread, donuts, and other treats for the afternoon tea which they serve to the inmates. The most important gift Mrs. Silverthorn gives these old people is her friendship and her personal interest in them. She visits those who are not able to come down to the "tea", in their rooms and always has some little treat for each one. She is older than many of the people she visits, but her energy and enthusiasm makes it impossible to think of her as old.

At the time of writing this, in the spring of 1972, she is in hospital, but is on the mend and expects to return soon to her home and her busy life.

CHAUNCEY SMITH

Mr. Chauncey Smith, the subject of this sketch, died at the homestead in Bayham, July 30, 1887, where he had lived since 1835. He was born in the village of Oakland, Brant County in the year 1810. His parents emigrated to Canada from the state of Massachusetts, about a year previous. During the war of 1812, his father took up arms as all loyal subjects did at that time, but like many others he was wounded in the campaign, and died after receiving the wound.

About three years afterwards his mother died. After the death of his mother, Chauncey went out amongst strangers and worked his own way through life unaided by friends or relatives.

In 1832 he was married to Phoebe Louisa Tupper, daughter of Elias and Anne Tupper of Windham. One son was born before they left Burford for Bayham where they resided the rest of their lives. The union was blessed with ten children, four who took up residence in the immediate vicinity. Four daughters died of diphtheria in 1848 and laid to rest only a short distance from where they were born.

The children all lived at home until they were in a position to start farming on their own. They each took farms of about 200 acres.

The names of the boys were Daniel Tupper Smith, Josiah Beckwith Smith, Joseph Henry Smith, Chauncey Eliakim Smith and Charles Sherridan Smith. Joseph Henry preferred a profession and became a very successful and well to do physician of Alnion, Nebraska. Their father came to Bayham in 1835 and settled on the farm on which he died. He brought a wagon with him to Bayham, which was the first one owned by anyone in the whole neighborhood. Having about \$100 at his command, he purchased 100 acres of land, paying the above sum as a down payment. By working early and late he managed to accumulate a fair competence and was thus enabled to take life easy during the last fifteen years of his life. He became a member of the Methodist Church, being converted under the preaching of Rev. James Bell and Rev. Edward Bailey, pioneers of the old New Connection Church. He never took an active part in municipal or parliamentary strife, but was a truly loyal subject and an honest and conscientious Reformer. He always gave largely to the church. Assisting in the later, he donated the ground on which the church was built.

stead. His health had been gradually failing for several years and in April of 1886 he received a severe shock from lightning while standing in the barn. He never fully recovered from this. At the same time he received the shock, a cow a short distance from him was killed by the lightning. This shows that his escape from instant death was a miracle.

He was buried in the Bayham cemetery

For about fifteen years he lived a retired life and his youngest son, Charles, managed all the affairs of the old home-

## THE DOBBIE FAMILY OF NORTH BAYHAM

Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Dobbie (born in 1790) and George Dobbie (born in 1795) of Linlithgow, near Glasgow, Scotland, were brothers who came out to Canada together, seeking their fortunes. Each took up from the crown 300 acres of the rich, magnificently forested lands of the 10th Concession of Bayham--lands cut by the Forge Road (now No. 3 Highway.)

After settling in Bayham, Colonel Dobbie married Miss Martha Ann Bowlby who was born near Port Dover of United Empire Loyalist parents. They were married on April 16th, 1828. Colonel Andrew Dobbie was one of the first magistrates in the county of Elgin, performing all the duties now discharged by the Division Court judges and solemnizing marriages. He was also a Lieutenant-Colonel in the militia and took an active part in the suppression of the rebellion of 1837. So high did his reputation for uprightness and good judgment stand that every person intending to settle in his section of the country was obliged by Colonel Talbot to procure a certificate of character from him before he could obtain land. Colonel and Mrs. Dobbie had two sons, Andrew and Thomas William, or T. W. as he was generally known. It was a day humming with sawmills in Bayham when the banks of the Otter were marked with frequent rollways conveying to the flood below, the giant white pine logs so coveted by the big timber markets. Andrew Dobbie Jr. was crushed in a log-drive on his father's rollway in 1857. Later, Colonel Andrew himself was killed by a falling timber at one of his barn raisings.

The other son, T. W. Dobbie, obtained the degree of Provincial Land Surveyor in London. He surveyed the first line for the Canada Souther Railway (now the New York Central) from Detroit to Niagara, and many of the earliest surveys of the town of Tillsonburg were made by him. He always took an active interest in public affairs and was elected Reeve of the Township of Bayham in 1859 and again in 1863. He continued Reeve of Bayham until 1867 which was the year of Confederation, when he was elected Member of Parliament for East Elgin in the Dominion House. He was the first Conservative member elected in East Elgin.

Mr. Dobbie was a Member of Parliament when D'Arcy Magee was shot by an assassin. On the evening of the tragedy, Mr. Dobbie and another member had ordered supper at a restaurant when D'Arcy Magee came in. As he was to make an important speech that evening, he was in somewhat of a hurry, and Mr. Dobbie directed the waiter to give Mr. Magee the supper he had ordered

for himself so that Mr. Magee might get away sooner. This was done and the two chatted together until Mr. Magee had finished his meal. He left for the Parliament buildings and a few hours later was killed.

Mr. Dobbie took part in framing the famous National Policy, which caused such wide debate throughout the country.

After serving as a Member of Parliament for five years, T. W. Dobbie retired because his interest in the lumber business demanded his attention. At that time he owned a sawmill at Angus, near Barrie.

T. W. Dobbie's first wife was Miss Susan Jones, a lady born in Dublin, Ireland, but who resided at Bowmanville at the time of her marriage. They had one daughter, Miss Margaret Dobbie who later lived in Toronto. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Dobbie, in 1891 married Miss Mary Hodgson of Delmer, who survived him.

George Dobbie, the younger of the two brothers who came from Scotland, took a load of wheat to Otterville one day and met Miss Ann Marie Allan, a young lady fresh from boarding school in Philadelphia, who was visiting in the village. It was a case of love at first sight, and the vivacious Miss Allan became Mrs. George Dobbie. It was no joy-dream for a school girl of eighteen, knowing little work, to marry a thirty year old pioneer and settle in a cabin in the wilderness. The Dobbies like most settlers, paid little attention to future roads or neighbours, but struck for running water. Their first cabins and orchards were back near the Otter. Later, when her husband was able to build her a house to suit her, he built it out near the Forge Road. It was a rambling white-walled cottage with spacious, high-ceilinged rooms. (This was the old house on the James Race farm.) Around it Mrs. Dobbie planted roses and flowering shrubs of many kinds as well as all kinds of fruits and a large vegetable garden. It became a show place in the settlement.

Of the large family resulting from this marriage, Edwin R. became the father of the Parkhill Dobbies, George O. was a butcher in London, William Allen settled near home, and Charles A., a bachelor, remained on the homestead until the death of his widowed mother, and then spent the remainder of his life in travel. The daughters were Alice (Mrs. George William Best), and Agnes (Mrs. James Elliott Sr.) of North Bayham. Agnes was the mother of George Elliott of North Bayham, whose family are the only descendants of the Dobbies still living in the North Bayham community.

BEARD FAMILY

George Ernest Beard - came to Canada when he was 8 years old. He came here with his mother Sarah Beard and his brother William. George was born in Chelmsford, England and when he arrived in Canada he lived at North Bayham and worked for Alex Scott's father before he was married.



Francis Gowers

Violet Gowers

Violet Louise Gowers came to Canada as a youngster and first lived at Mitchell and then came to Corinth and worked for Gilbert Anger. She was born in London, England. She and her twin sister were in school and they asked if anyone wanted to go to Canada. The Gowers' children raised their hands and within a short time were in Canada.



Mr. & Mrs. Geo. E. Beard  
1919 Wedding picture

George E. Beard and Violet Gowers were married in August 5, 1918. They spent their entire lives in the Corinth area. They lived for 16 years on the George Bari farm. They also lived for a time on the Anger farm and on the Acker farm south of Corinth. Then they moved to Corinth and lived in the house beside the church on the Herbert Robertson farm. George Beard Sr. died in 1954 and Mrs. Beard died in 1967. They had six children; Percy, Bessie, Mary (deceased) George, William and Ronald.

Contributed by George Beard Jr.