Lewis the grain merchant and developer built a large white mansion on the hill called "The White Hall".

A church was built and a school opened in 1855 and still occupies the same spot. Although not crowded in summer nearly 75 pupils attended this one room school in the winter time.

Socrates Hunter, an 1812 War veteran, lived here at Port Bruce, and survived to the age of 105 yrs. Dr. Wolfe, another early settler made his home here. An historic first took place here at Port Bruce. In 1761, Sir Wm. Johnson was headed for Detroit with 12 boatloads of men and supplies. Because of heavy seas he landed at Port Bruce. A messenger arrived from General Amhurst giving news of British success against the French. At this good news Sir Wm. drew up the officers and men on the beach. 3 volleys were fired and 3 cheers were given for the crown and King George. This was the first Royal salute fired in Upper Canada. Between 1850 and 1875 Port Bruce was at its height, After this Port Bruce began to slip back. The development of Port Stanley to London, the railways and roadways through the Aylmer district diverted the trade and business that would have been shipped out through Port Bruce. The decline of the lumber industry coincided with the decline of Port Bruce. We have seen several early settlements begin with great promise and then slip back and fade away - another such early community was James Town, just 3 miles upriver on the Catfish from Port Bruce. In 1835 James Chrysler, a wealthy St. Thomas merchant picked the deep valley between the hills north west of Port Bruce and built a dam across the Catfish creek. Then a sawmill and general store was built. Several shops followed as well as a school and a post office. A distillery was built and Jamestown whiskey became famous throughout Upper Canada. Jamestown reached its peak in 1850. Scows and boats came up the Catfish as far as Jamestown. Some scows were even built there. Then disaster; the distillery went broke, when one of the partners took off with all the funds. The development of Port Bruce and the better road to Aylmer took much of their trade. They were situated off the main arteries of transportation. Today nothing whatsoever remains to signify that once a small village existed here. In the rest of Malahide township settlement had begun. From Nova Scotia came the Chutes, Saxtons, McConnells, settling on the 1st Con. It became known as Nova Scotia street. People with these same names live on the farms today. East of Aylmer on Talbot road or the Street as it was called came the Laurs, Summers, Cascaddens and Benners. Also one of the early builders was John Brown. His son Hiram became a magistrate and built in Aylmer. Ira White and his son Albert took over the grist and saw mills, (Albert White married into the Davis family); at Springwater in the late 50s and added 2 more sawmills. White family operated flour mill on this property. At the same time Orwell was being established, Bayham was being settled. In 1812 Joe deFields and James Gibbons built the first log houses on the Talbot Road between 2 branches of the Otter river. Several new settlers built log houses south of the Talbot Road. Two of these were James House and Sam Howie, veterans of 1812. Howie was at Queenston Heights and the burial of Brock. Sam Howie had 5 sons. Andrew and George Dobbie and Elliots settled north of Talbot Road. In 1816 Calebaud Noah Cook settled at Richmond. A saw mill and grist mill was built. A store, tannery and ashery followed. In no time there were 3 stores, 2 tanneries, 2 hotels, and other shops. Before the 50s Richmond was larger than Aylmer. A riot took place here during a reform party convention. The Magistrate was picked up bodily by the collar and pants and thrown down stairs; Riot act and all. Richmond stagnated and never grew after midcentury due largely to the decline of the lumber trade. Timber of almost unbelievable proportions was the economy of Richmond, Bayham, Vienna and Port Burwell. In 1849 there was 30 saw mills in Bayham. Vienna sprang into being at the head of the scow navigation on the Otter river and its branches for the moving of large amounts of timber. Huge timber rafts floated down the Otter. Some timber was sawed into lumber at Vienna, some squared and sent out in the rough.

Capsule history of Elgin East

Vienna was surveyed in 1830 by Col. Burwell. By 1850 there were 16 stores doing a flourishing business; blacksmith shops, tanneries, foundries, saw mills, hotels and a woollen mill. Again we find a community going back. Declining timber trade, a fire, a disasterous flood in 1855 which swept away most of the town of Vienna and never quite recovered.

Early citizens were the Edisons, Youell, and Wrongs. Like Vienna, Port Burwell was also surveyed in 1830 by Col. Mahlon Burwell. A United Empire Loyalist from New Jersey was a great surveyor of Malahide, Bayham Port Burwell, Vienna and London. At the time of survey there were 2 houses in Port Burwell. Six years later in 1836 there were 200 inhabittations and by 1870 there was 600. Like Vienna again, the timber and lumber trade was unbelievable - oak and pine. There was 4 large saw mills located at Port Burwell. Col. Burwell organized a harbour commission. A light house was built in 1840 and it is still a land mark today. Burwell also built an Episcopal Church in 1836. Archbishop Strachan later bishop of Toronto gave the first service. This church is still in use today. 3 large shipyards were in existence. Each time a ship was launched, the whole town turned out. The school was closed, a band and all village dignataries took part in the ceremony. In 1850 the Hamilton saw mill blew the first steam whistle heard in these parts. Logs were so thick in the Otter River, the school children could run across the river without getting their feet wet. Thomas Edison was one of these as he spent his summers with his grandparents at Vienna. Thomas Edison was not born in Vienna as some people suppose, because his father supported the rebellion of 1837, he had to leave the country and Thomas was born in the States. In the harbour, 10 schooners could be seen at one time loading grain and timber. Over a period of time, over 400 vessels had shipped out of Port Burwell harbour. Much timber was rafted out. Shipbuilding was at its height between 1834 and 1846. In 12 years over 50 ships were built and launched. In 1851 a plank road was built to Ingersoll. Tillsonburg at this time was mostly trees. At this time Port Burwell was a terminal for grain shipping and corn was even dried in kilns and sent to outside market. Wagon loads of grain lined the roads and flour and grist mills ran all night and day. At one time 25 lake captains lived in Port Burwell, and the population in 1875 was 700.

The last township in East Elgin to be settled was South Dorchester. The first settlers came around 1825 on the 10th Concession, 2 miles north of Springfield, They being Willis and McLachlan coming from U.S.A. The Willis farm is now owned by Fred Charlton, E½ lot of 10th Con; at the same 1825, John Learn came to the Mapleton district also the Moores, Brooks, Wilcox, Dance, Clunas, Woolley, Cline, McCready, and Fullerton. In 1831, Peter Charlton settled east of Mapleton. His brother, William Charlton came from New York State and purchased land from the crown. ($100 per acre). Wm. Charlton lived to be 99 yrs. old. His 12 children lived to a good age. He is the great great grandfather of Fred Charlton, a member of this class. The farm on the 12th Concession settled by Zebectiah Dance in 1837 is still in the family and is farmed by his great grandson Raymond Dance. The first church around Mapleton was built in 1850. A school was built called the Blue school. One teacher here was W. A. Galbraith, father of Ken Galbraith, author of "The Scotch". In 1859, Wm. Appleford built the first Cheese factory in the district. Dairy farming became the basic industry of this community. Lyons originally was only a tavern. Winder and Baker built the first store. P.J. Putnam stated a pump factory and Putnam pumps were sold through the district. Bob Putnam still carries on a plumbing business at Lyons. A church was built in 1866. The most strong and active Methodist church in the London Conference, (has been closed for many years.) A tile factory was established by McCready a mile north across from the Round Barn. The first school was of logs and was south of the village. The first historical society of Ontario was organized here. A cheese factory was opened in 1870. Dr. Toots and Dr. Clark were early doctors here. In 1860 Lyons had a general store, tavern, pump factory, wagon shop, blacksmith shop. An Agricultural Society was also started in 1859.

Springfield was actually begun out in South Dorchester and moved into the
4 corners on the town line between S. Dorchester and Malahide. The first
school, a log one was built in 1837, north of the corner and called
Burn"s school. It also served as a church and an old cemetery is located
near the site of this old school. Capt. Archie Clunas came to Springfield
in 1851. He kept the first Post Office located ½ mile north of the corner.
The first hotel, the Burgess hotel, on the northwest corner burned down.
When rebuilt in 1855, the Post Office was moved here and Mr. Chandler be-
came post Master. The first mill was built that year and was called the
Red Mill. A later mill was called the White Mill. The first Episcopal
Methodist church was built in 1850. A Baptist church moved in from 2
miles north, became a Presbyterian church. The first Methodist minister
was Rev. Pettys and is buried in the old cemetery. He donated the land
where the present United Church is situated. When the Canada Southern
Railway was built through Springfield, in 1870, and things really boomed,
3 new mills went up, warehouse, Nichols Hax Mill, Bell's carriage shop,
MacDonalds New Blacksmith Shop, and in 1875 a cheese factory, a butter
factory; Barrel factory followed later.

A condensed milk factory of a large size came a little later and also
a canning factory. Milk was teamed into Springfield from all over. The
big general store on the corner owned by Warren Henry opened at 6 o'clock
in the morning. Eggs, butter, poultry and other farm produce was traded
for goods by the farmers bringhg in milk to the Condenser. By 1877 the
population of Springfield was 800 and incorporated as a village. Dr.Mills
was the first Reeve. In 1878 a Horticultural Society was formed for
runners of Springfield Fair. First Presidents were Dr. Franklin and Peter
Charlton. There were 5 hotels in Springfield at this time. 5 lodges,
3 doctors, 2 livery stables, lumber and saw mills, flour mills, oatmeal
mills, carriage works, 4 churches and many stores and shops.

In 1810 John Van Patter had settled on the land of the north west cor-
ner of Aylmer, and built a log house just over the creek. The south west
corner belonged to a widow Van Patter. Sam York built a log house,
where the town hall now stands. The southwest corner belonged to a
Mr. Dakins and the northeast corner was bought by Noah Davis. In 1817
Andreas Davis and John Brown built a grist mill and saw mill on the Cat-
fish and a tannery was built north of the creek. The first school in
Aylmer was established in 1818, just east of where the Imperial Bank is
and there were 22 pupils. In 1830 the first store was built. The first
merchants were Hodgkinson and Keith. In 1833 James Adam's started a
tailor shop and the first frame hotel was built on the corner in 1834.
This was later rebuilt by Hiram Brown and called the Brown House. A
POST OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1836 AND BY THE YEAR 1846 Aylmer dis-
trict was built;was built in 1853. It is now the home of Vic Bardawill.

Aylmer in 1846 had 3 taverns, 2 tanneries, 3 stores, 1 ashery, 1 watch-
maker, 2 cabinet makers, 2 saddlers, 4 blacksmiths, 3 wagon makers, 1
tinsmith, 4 tailors, 3 shoemakers and 1 doctor. Dr. Edward Dancey from
Ireland was one of Aylmer's first doctors; Ancestor of Dr. Jack Dancey
east of town and of course Dr. Peter Melay was another well known
doctor in earlier times. Due to the efforts of Thomas Nairn, a leading
citizen, merchant and grain buyer, the Grand Trunk Air Line Railway
was built in 1870. This railway helped Aylmer's economy. A new public
school was built in 1870 on John street south and in 1871, with a popu-
lation of 800, Aylmer was incorporated as a village with Thomas Nairn as
the first reeve. In 1873 a high school was established and Clutton
Woollen mill was hiring at least 20 hands. At this time 3 new churches
were in the process of being built and they are still to be seen today.
There were 4 hotels, The Brown house, Mansion House, City Hotel and a
hotel near the Grand Trunk station. A Pork packing house, operated by
Enos Scott stood at St. Andrews and South and employed 30 people, ship-
ping 160 freight car loads per year. Near the Dingle St. Bridge, was
a dam and flour mill and a mill pond. Goodfellow mill pond provided lots
of recreation. Swimming in the summer and skating and hockey in the
winter. Some of the early business men were Farthing, Walker, Glover,
White, Marshall, Wright, Youell, Hambidge, Wrong, Bingham, Arkells, Nairn
and Mann. Moses Leeson ran a carriage shop, which was very busy, as
Malahide and Aylmer had more pleasure carriages than everywhere. The
Aylmer Canning Co. started business at South and 4th Avenue in 1879,
headed by local business men whowere David Marshall, M.P., and T. M.Nairn.

# Capsule history of Elgin east

It became Dominion Canners with a branch in Hamilton. They located on Myrtle Street and became Canadian Canners Ltd., with Marshall as president. Two other plants in Simcoe and Strathroy were taken over and they canned everything you could name and the famous Aylmer brand canned goods was born here, as this became the number one plant of Canadian Canners Ltd. hiring up to 400 employees in the busy season. Aylmer Condensed Milk Co. built the present plant in 1907 with David Marshall building as the Carnation Co took these over in 1916. They also had a plant in Springfield. They hired 65 hands and paid $1.40 per cwt. for milk. A packing plant was located on the railroad in 1907, where the Hambidge building is now. There was an iron works at this time, a Brandon Shoe Co., a business college and a steam laundry. There were 16 lodges and fraternal societies located in Aylmer. In 1887, with a population Of 2000, it became a town. Aylmer and East Elgin Fair started in 1840 and was chartered in 1853. The first property was bought in 1882 from H. Brown. This became known as Recreation Park. Old drill sheds were used for an exhibit building.

In 1905 the fair was a 5 day event, with the grounds all landscaped with flower beds. At one time the mortgage was foreclosed and the fair had to close down for a year or two until some citizens gave them financial backing. An ad in the old Springfield Argus of 1885 reads "Malahide Agricultural Fair Sept. 18, 19 Springfield Fair Oct. 3 Concert Friday next - grounds beautifully illuminated, secretary Nairn." Another ad reads as follows "Springfield Fair Oct. 3, 1885" Some of the early newspapers were The Aylmer Warden (1859), The Aylmer Enterprise, (1869) Springfield Argus (1885), Springfield Star (1891), and Springfield Echo (1898). Place names: Elgin County was named after Lord Elgin. The Governor General's family's name was Bruce, hence Port Bruce. An Indian trail stretched the length of the county. Over this trail travelled Governor Simcoe and Thomas Talbot. It became known as the Talbot Road or Talbot Street. It was the backbone of settlement in Elgin county. Yarmouth was named after the Earl of Yarmouth, and Bayham after Viscount Bayham, a friend of Col. Talbot. Malahide was named after Malahide Castle, birth place of Tom Talbot in Ireland. Richmond was named after Lord Richmond, a governor-general; as there were other Richmonds, it was called Bayham Centre or Bayham Post Office. Port Burwell was named after its founder Col. Mahlon Burwell. Centreville, the centre of Malahide Township became Luton after Daniel Luton, the local member of Parliament. Hamburg named by German settlers there because of their city, Hamburg, Germany was changed to Mount Salem by the local post master. Copenhagen named by the Danish hotel keeper for his native capital in Denmark. Grovesend explains itself. Reilleys Corners was changed by a Scottish post master to Glencolin. Silver Creek was because of the sparkling water. Shrewsbury, named after Shrewsbury, England, was changed to Vienna for the Edison family, who originated in Austria near Vienna. Eden was so named from the Garden of Eden, because the landscape was so impressive. The French explorer Charlevoix, in 1721 named the river he saw River "Bardu". This was anglicized to Catfish Creek; Springfield was originally called Burns Creek after the Little Creek. The name was changed to Clunas after the local post master, Capt. Clunas. When the village began to develop at the 4 corners, Susan Yoder suggested the name Springfield because the land on which the village developed had many fresh water springs and her family had always called that particular field the Spring field. Lyons was first called Pokeys Corners, because a poke had been found, there.

Then Hales Corners, after the local tavern keeper, Wm. Hale, Over the tavern, was a sign with a green lion on it and it became known as Lyons Green and then just Lyons. Orwell was Catfish Corners. The name was changed to Temperanceville, but not because the people were that temperance minded, not with 5 hotels, but after either Temperance Teeple or Temperance Davis, daughters of the first settlers. Some people thought Orwell Creek sounded more dignified than Catfish and the place finally ended up being called Orwell. Mapleton so named because of great beautiful maple trees. Sparta so named because of Quakers that lead a

# Capsule history of Elgin east

very Spartan life.  Aylmer started out as Hodgkinson's Corner after the
first storekeeper on the corner.  Many of the first Aylmer citizens came
from the state of New York and they began calling it Troy.  Some other
citizens thought this name was too American. They wanted it called Aylmer
after the retiring governor general Lord Aylmer.  Feelings ran rather high.
A meeting was held in Caswell's Wagon Shop to decide the issue.  The
Troy supporters won by a small margin.  The Aylmer supporters accused the
Troyites of stacking the meeting with young people.  The Aylmerites
immediately notified Ottawa that they had decided to call the place
Aylmer.  This was accepted before the Troy supporters got around to notify
Ottawa.  So Aylmer it is today.