



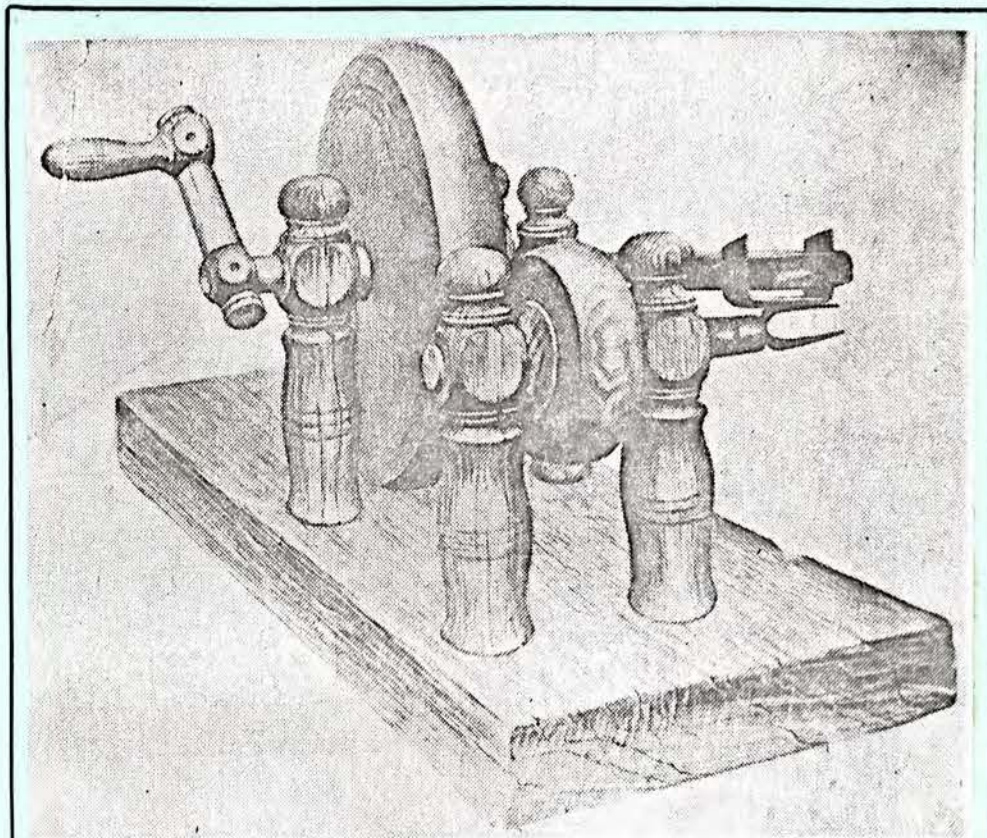
John Sloan, daughter Mabel,
son Harold, Jerusha Hamilton
Silcox and husband Oliver K.
Silcox.



Mr. James Milton, for many years
as linesman for the Southwold
and Dunwich Telephone Company.
Taken 1942.



The store which J.O. Lumley built, showing
the telephone lines for the office located
at the rear of the store.



Apple cider was a favorite food, but it took hundreds of peeled apples to make a batch. This wooden apple peeler was made in Wilmington, Del. about 1840. The apple fits on the prongs. Turn the crank and the apple is peeled and cored.

He is the only remaining member of seven of a family, his father Malcolm Graham settling with other "Gartmore" Graham's near Iona in 1828. He married Margaret McIntyre, of Wallacetown in 1845, and of this union six sons and one daughter were born, Archie, Nancy, Neil, Malcolm, James, Joe, and Sam. Neil, Nancy and Sam passed on at an early age, the four brothers getting their early education at Iona. Joe going through for a teacher, later teaching in Iona and Shedden schools.

The brothers helped their parents build up the farm and also found time to help grade the Canada Southern, now the N.Y.C. Lines, going through in 1875. Shortly after Archie came of age, he went on his own. Being a good horseman he kept horses and livery at Port Stanley and West Lorne. His best known animal was "Major Hunter." Later he married Margaret Ann Thomson, of North Dunwich, raising a family, and farming for several years. While getting out timber he received an accident and died at 40 years of age.

In 1878, James and Joe decided to go West. Malcolm taking over the farm, his father having passed on, his mother, looking after his household interests. The brothers settled near Watertown, South Dakota, acquiring land there. They married two Jones sisters, rather a co-incidence. Joe, himself a teacher married a school teacher, and later on he stepped up to Superintendent of Schools, for that district, his wife teaching under him.

In 1889 Malcolm married Margaret Campbell, Malcom Campbell's daughter, they were a very congenial couple, and entertained a wide circle of friends and took some interesting trips to the World's Fair Chicago 1893, Buffalo Exhibition in 1900, also to visit relatives on West Coast and Western Canada. Were usually joined on those trips by Mr. and Mrs. William McLandress of Dutton.

Malcolm gradually went in for cattle. He was considered an excellent judge of cattle and was successful in getting top prices. He also had a fine maple grove supplying many with maple syrup. In 1906 his mother died.

In 1921 the Graham clan held their first reunion at Springbank Park, London, 943 being present. Rev. Dr. Angus Graham, of London, traced the various branches of the family tree. He said in addressing his fellow clansmen that the first Graham's record was given in the annals of Scotland in (AD) 420 and through the years James, 5th Duke of Montrose, was a Graham and an outstanding figure in history. Since before his time and even yet the Duke of Montrose is a Graham at Buchanan Castle, Argyleshire. Out of the House of Montrose several branches sprung up, namely the Border Grahams, the Grahams of Finty and the Gartmore Grahams the last named he said were the Iona settlers. Their were several get-together meetings of the clan thereafter and in 1928 they had the hundredth anniversary

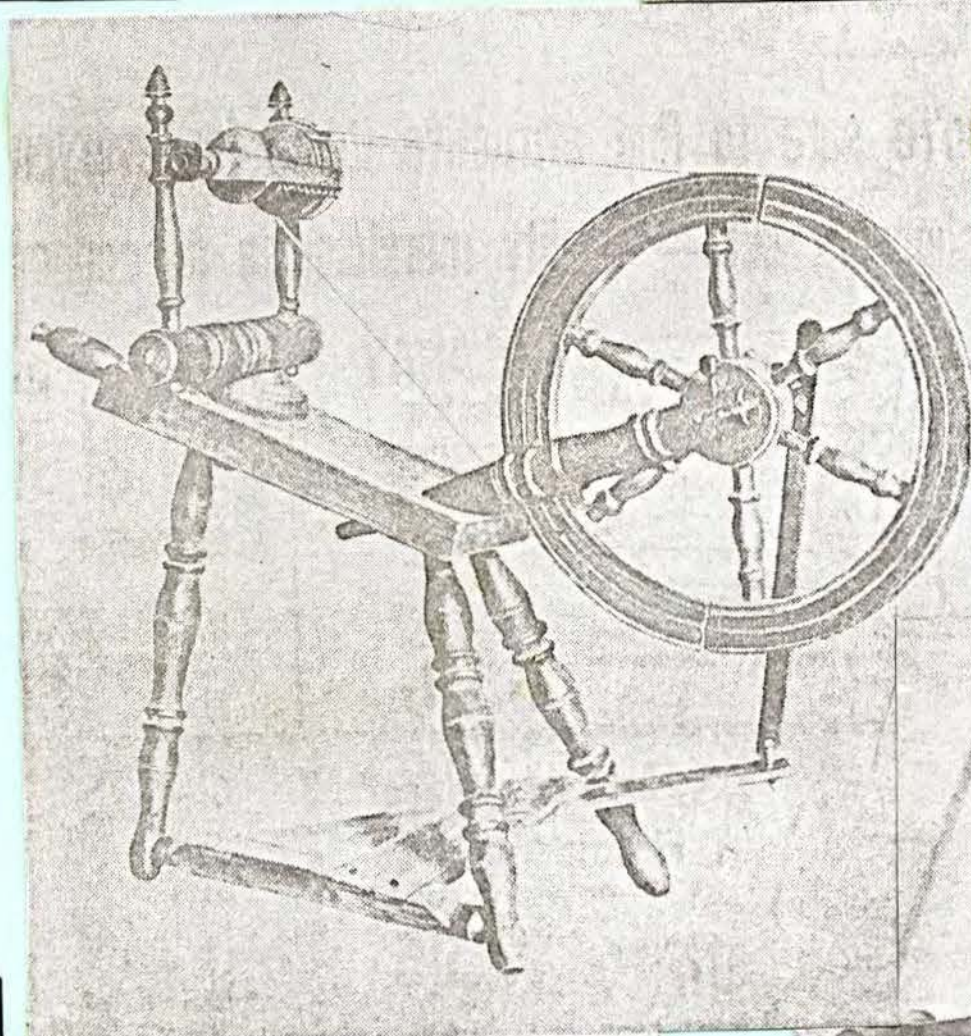
Courtesy St. Thomas Times Journal

Mr. Malcolm Graham

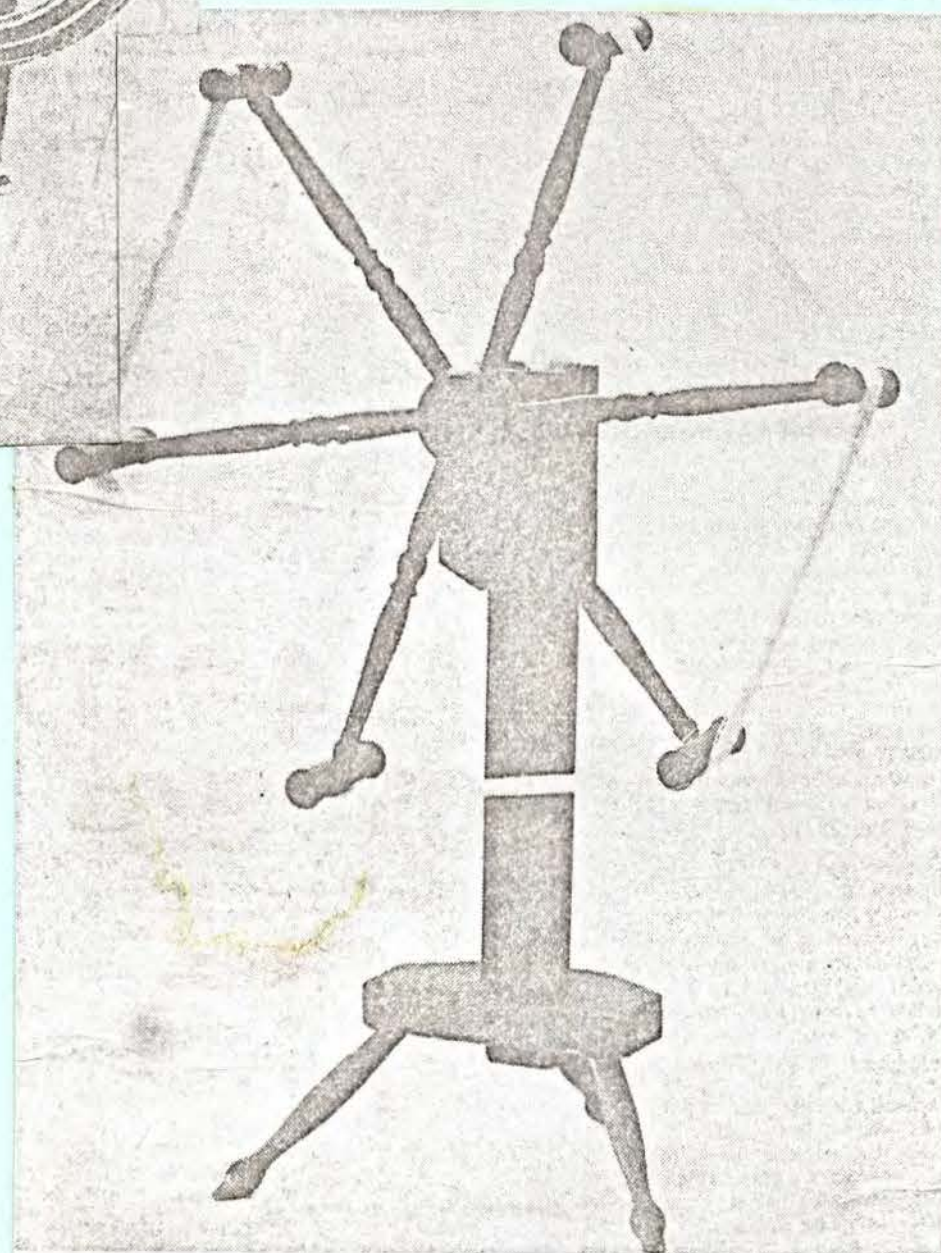
Housewife used
to 'walk treadle'

253

20 miles a day



Spinning wheels were made with either large or small wheels and each type of wheel was designed for a special use. The American wheel, above, was made of walnut about 1850 to spin flax.



In the 19th century, a weaver would give 40 turns of the clock reel and a hank of yarn was wound. The distance around the reel was exactly 54 inches.

Credit is given to John M. McLennan, Fingal, for prize winning essays published by James S. Brierley in the Southern Counties Journal in 1896.

These essays were collected by Mr. McLennan, edited and published in the Pioneer History of Elgin County.

Courtesy is given to the following writers: J.W. Brown, Iona, School Section No. 5, Dunwich; Miss Mary Hamilton, School Section No. 10; Mr. Samuel Pearce, Iona, Mr. John M. McLennan, Fingal, School Section No. 14, Dunwich.

Curator

The very first settler in these parts was Mr. William Brooks, of New Jersey, who settled in 1805 or 1806 on what is known as the P.P.I. farm. He started in 1838, a general store on his own farm, procuring his supplies from Mr. George Elliot, east of Fingal, and failed financially a few years afterwards. About 1840 he built a saw mill a few rods north of the present site of Iona School house. Owing to the irregular supply of water by which it was run it could only be operated during a small portion of the year. This eventually caused its abandonment a few years after being built. Portions of the dam still remain and it is a favorite resort of the school children. Business difficulties caused Mr. Brooks to flee the country and he died in Illinois.

The stream referred to above, towards its head waters was dammed by beavers, possibly several centuries ago, forming above it on the farms now occupied by Robert Morris and George Waite, a veritable lake covering about seventy five acres. In the days of the earlier settlers it was navigable for boats of considerable size and in later years I.P. Stoliker recovered from its mucky depths pieces of timber resembling round cordwood sticks, on the ends of which the marks of the beavers' teeth were plainly visible. This land has since been drained and is now of the richest arable quality.

On the Brooks farm, already referred to, was born in 1838 J.C. Watson, nephew of James Watson. He afterwards became professor of physics and astronomy in the University of Michigan, and was commissioned by this university to visit China that he might observe the transit of Venus. Professor Watson was a voluminous author on works relating to the above mentioned sciences, and was building an observatory after his own idea at Madison, Wisconsin, when he died.

In 1808 the farm opposite that occupied by Brooks was settled by an American Revolutionist named Canute, who fought in the American War of Independence as one of a band known as Butler's Rangers. This man, from stories told by himself of acts perpetrated during his guerilla career, was justly regarded by his neighbors as a person of the most brutalized type. The lights and other supernatural phenomena alleged to have been seen for some time after his death emphasize the reputation of the man with his neighbors.

As might be expected he had no sympathy with Canadian politics, whilst Brooks already mentioned, possessed an exuberance of loyalty for the land of his adoption that exceeded that of the Canadians themselves, hence when it was found necessary to ask such men as Canute, during the war of 1812, to take the oath of allegiance before Colonel Talbot, Brooks was the strongest to urge by a vigorous harangue and flourish of his cane. The Colonel took the reins in his hands and shrieked an effectual threat to Canute "Come forward and take it or I will confiscate your property."

Canute occupies an unknown grave somewhere on what was then his own farm. His death is supposed to have been hastened by his wife, who afterwards married a man named Johnston employed as a laborer by Colonel Talbot.

Johnson received from the Colonel a grant of fifty acres of land, which forms a part of the farm now owned by Malcolm Graham.

Other early settlers were the Young brothers from Lower Canada in 1815, who settled on the farm now occupied by Elder Pollard, where they were buried in 1824 and 1825, but all traces of their graves have been obliterated.

The present Piper farm was settled by James Lumley from Nova Scotia, father of Ephraim Lumley. Two immense spruce trees planted by him still standing, attest the antiquity of the settlement.

As early as 1815 there was a mill, both for grinding and sawing, built by John Lumley, J.O. Lumley's great grandfather, on the farm now occupied by Robert Willson, which did good service to the community for many years. Mr. Lumley brought the stones and machinery from Nova Scotia in 1813.

A Nova Scotian named Hubbard settled on the farm afterwards owned by James Philpott, son of John Philpott, Colonel Talbot's foreman.

James Philpott was born in Colonel Talbot's house in 1814. After a long career as farmer, bailiff, J.P., and church deacon, he died a few years ago at the age of nearly eighty. His memory is gratefully preserved by a tablet in the Regular Baptist

he offered to American magazines, but it was coldly received. A British publishing house seized upon it with avidity, realizing handsomely.

Mr. Barr was home visiting his parents last summer, with his family.

When Robert was a boy of twelve his little brother was accidentally drowned, in a shallow pool near the old Cowal school house, which his father was building.

Mr. Barr was highly esteemed by his fellow-literateurs, and the writer has just perused a highly laudatory letter from the pen of Julian Ralph, editor of Scribner.

Among the physicians of the village were Drs. Barnum, Miller, Cowan, Bruce, Manson, Passmore, John Cascaden, Lawrence McLaughlin, A.V. Mitchell and William McGeadry, the sole practitioner left in the village.

The Southwold side of Iona was settled by John Axford from New Jersey in 1812. On this farm was built in 1816, the first school house of this part of the country, a few rods south of the present Regular Baptist Church, John Robinson being the first teacher. Other early teachers were Warren Rondel, Davis, Mulholland and Hanah. The first trustees were Daniel McIntyre and Robert Reed.

The books used at this time were the New Testament, Cobb's Spelling Book and English Readers; the pens were made by the teacher from quills.

Farther west, on the Back Street, in Dunwich, some of the farms set aside by Colonel Talbot were not settled till a much later date. Among those may be mentioned that of Johah Clark, who came from Nova Scotia about 1830, and settled on the farm now occupied by his son Herman, and that of John Carswell, who came from Aldborough with his father Archibald in 1835 and purchased a farm on the south side of the street from Elliot Young. In the same year John Carswell rented the opposite farm from George McBeth at \$20 a year for ten years, after which he purchased it, and is residing on it at the present time.

On the back part of this farm resided in a log house for a number of years one of Dunwich's early school teachers, Thomas Benson, who taught for a number of years in the adjoining section, No.4. Mr. Benson afterwards died in Prince Edward county.

The original school house of the section, a log building, was erected in 1844 on Jonah Clark's hill, overlooking the Hollow, and was used till 1860, when the present house was built. It was also used for Sunday School and meeting purposes. The size of the building was 20X22. It was provided with desks, had a library of over one hundred volumes, ten maps, blackboard was used, visitors' book kept and Journal of Education was taken. There was also an extensive play ground attached.

The first teacher was Alexander Salmon, who afterwards became insane. He was succeeded by William Moore. He was succeeded by J. Keillor; afterwards by William Harris, hereafter alluded to, who subsequently became one of the principal men of the village. Other teachers after this were Matthew Lodge, who became a well-to-do farmer, and died in the section, and Daniel Sinclair, afterwards M.D. of Melbourne and Toronto.

At this time the books used were the National Readers, Irish Arithmetic, Morse's Geography, Jackson's Book-keeping, National Treatise on Mensuration, Davies' Algebra and Simpson's Euclid.

This school, as well as those of adjoining sections, was inspected in 1844 or 1845, by John Wilson, barrister, of London, afterwards a superior Court judge, who did the work without remuneration. Mr. Wilson was accompanied in his visits by Squire Philpott herinbefore mentioned.

The total number of pupils on the roll in 1851 was 112. The then teacher, William Harris, received £6 per month for actual time taught, and was obliged to furnish stationery and books.

On February 16th, 1852, the municipal council passed a by-law dividing this section by a line running throu the middle of the 9th concession to the centre of lot 23, and established a new school section to be designated as school section No. 11.

Section No. 5, Dunwich, as it is now, faces the Southwold-Dunwich townline eastwardly, and also extends into Southwold, taking in the south half of lot No. 1, Westerly it is bounded by a line drawn parallel to the townline between lots numbered 22 and 21; northerly by Clay street, also taking in north of Clay street SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of lot 24, S. $\frac{1}{2}$ A, and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of B, whilst the southerly boundary is as it was fixed by the before mentioned municipal council, with the exception of N $\frac{1}{2}$ 22 and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 23, which have since been placed in school section No. 11.

In 1856 the change was made in the section's minute book from the old to the decimal currency, the total moneys received that year being \$349.15.

At the annual meeting held on the 8th of January, 1862, by resolution there and then adopted, this was created a free school.

The following have been the teachers since the new school house was built by Coughlin Lumley thirty-five years ago. Daniel Sinclair, already mentioned; Henry Harris, afterwards teacher of an English school in New York city, and at present living a retired life on the banks of the Hudson River; William G. Fraser, who afterwards carried on a brick and tile business west of Cowal; D.S. McColl, afterwards M.D. at Wallacetown, and now many years dead; Duncan McAlpine, at present a prosperous farmer adjoining the village; Daniel Galbraith, now M.D. at Dresden; Archibald McLay, at present M.D. at Woodstock; Ebenezer McColl now superintendent of Manitoba Indian Agency, Winnipeg; Peter Sinclair, who died many years ago; Richard Stafford, now farmer and J.P., Shedden; Duncan Sinclair, afterwards graduate of Toronto Military School, and at present a thriving insurance agent at Alviston; George Duncan one of the few who are still engaged in the teaching profession at present near London; Peter McDiarmid, now druggist, and chemist, Alviston; William Dodson, afterwards minister of the Gospel, Michigan; Robert McKeown, a genial Irishman at present merchant, Bay City, Michigan; Joseph Graham, who, although he has devoted a considerable amount of his time to farming interests, is still connected with school work, as district superintendent in Dakota, U.S.; N.D. Gunn, afterwards gold medalist from McGill College, graduate of John Hopkin's University, and now member of medical faculty of the first mentioned college; Duncan Taylor, afterwards farmer near Belmont village; Florence Ross, afterwards of Nebraska; H.F. Smith; Sidney Silcox, afterwards gold medalist from Toronto University, and at present science master of Collingwood College Institute; Maggie McPherson, who obtained the gold medal at Ottawa Normal School, and later on removed to Toronto; Samuel Piper, whose brief but brilliant career as a high school student is not yet forgotten. He died in the midst of his usefulness on March 12th, 1890 at the age of nineteen, and lies in the cemetery east of the village. Thomas O'Donnell, now principal of Wallaceburg separate School; Blake Miller, at present student at Aylmer Collegiate Institute; Charles Lumley now dental student, St. Thomas, and finally J.W. Brown, the present incumbent.

In looking over the trustee's books it is very noticable that each secretary has remained in office for many years; among the names might be mentioned those of William Harris, Mathew Lodge, J.B. Lowther, John Liddell and William McLandress.

Dr. Eccles, member of the medical faculty of Western University, and the well known London specialist; Dr. Douglas Decow, Montreal, Dr. Rosengrave Eccles, Blissfield, Michigan; Dr. L.E. Clark, Otsego, Michigan; as well as the following teachers were pupils of this school: Daniel Sinclair, Peter Sinclair, Duncan Sinclair, Henry Harris, Duncan McAlpine, Joseph Graham, N.D. Gunn, Samuel Piper, Charles Lumley and J.W. Brown.

Among the very earliest settlers of Iona proper or that part called Elliotts-ville were William Taylor, a Scotchman, and Mrs. Mary Gibson from Cantire, the latter of whom died but recently at the advanced age of eighty-eight. This part of Iona, situated on the Dunwich side of townline, was so called from a survey made into village lots by the late George Elliott, grandfather of George E. Casey, M.P.

Taylor introduced into business in 1846 a Mr. Grossett McKay, of Lambeth, who, so far as is known, carried on the first mercantile business in Iona. After his death his widow married Francis A. Tait, a shoe maker. They continued on business for many years, but finally yielded owing to financial depression.

Bissell and Eccles in the latter part of the forties opened a general store. The partnership lasted for some years and then was sold out to a Mr. Morrell.

In 1853 Decow and Eccles entered into a partnership as general merchants, which lasted till 1861, Decow continuing the business till 1866, when Liddell and Chisholm, his clerks, bought it out. The business returned to Decow in 1870.

Decow's career had been very successful, so in 1855 he entered into the hardware business, bought furs, hides, wool, timber and grain, and had twenty peddling wagons on the road west as far as Amherstburg. To give some idea of the extent of business done, in November 1861, the credit sales were \$1,614.87, and in April 1862, \$1,066.62, in June 1865 the cash sales were \$1,154.20. The above is a fair average of sales in the general store alone.

The wool business was on a still larger scale; in June, 1867, \$2,612.62 was paid in cash for wool, and in July of same year \$3,990.41. This wool undertaking proved very disastrous to Mr. Decow's financial standing.

His father a U.E. Loyalist came from the United States about 1815, and settled on the farm now owned by Angus Campbell on the Back street. Here Mr. Daniel Decow was born. Besides the merchantile ventures he was engaged in, he was post master, J.P. and reeve of Dunwich.

Iona in 1863 had a population of about 600 persons, five general stores, one hardware store and tin shop, two hotels, one restaurant, one livery stable, four black smith and carriage shops, one plough manufactory, two shoe shops, one merchant tailor shop, two furniture shops, two turning factories, one saw and grist mill, a Division Clerk's office, a Temperance Hall, a Masonic Hall and three churches.

Barnum's circus, about this time, made regular visits to the village, the tents usually being pitched near the present site of Iona Fair Grounds.

Iona was also the head quarters of the stage route between St. Thomas and Chatham, John Decow being proprietor.

About this time there appeared in the village one William Harris, of Annapolis, Nova Scotia, a civil engineer by education, whose first vocation that of school teacher in these parts. He afterwards entered into partnership with John T. McColl, son of Elder McColl, near Wallacetown, to conduct a general store. He was appointed in 1853 by Judge Hughes, clerk of the fourth division court. He was the first postmaster of Iona and did a large conveyancing business. People who knew him speak of him as a sincere friend, of a candid and reticent disposition, but commanding ability and wide attainment.

When in a proper position to do so, he returned to Nova Scotia and took a young wife to his western home. After a few years of wedded life she died. Her sudden demise, far away from friends and kindred, so preyed upon him that his mind became partially unhinged, and his tragic death in the woods near Middlemarch will be still remembered by the older readers of THE JOURNAL.

He had fled, not knowing whither, in an easterly direction across the ravine, adjoining the village and was searched for during several days by groups of men from different parts of the township, and was finally found in a recumbent position near a small stream on the Anderson farm, as if in the act of stooping for a drink.

Himself and wife lie in the Episcopal Cemetery at Tryconnel.

Two of his children shortly afterwards died, but the youngest, a son, is still alive in his parents' native home. John Harris, near the village, and Henry Harris of St. Thomas, are his cousins, which accounts for his settling in this new land.

Amongst others who conducted a mercantile business in the village were John A. Philpott, son of the late Squire Philpott; Duncan Black, grocer; afterwards succeeded by John E. Black, now a commercial traveller; William Burgess, of Port Stanley; Henry Cole, now many years dead; Benoni McIntyre, at present farmer east of the village; Duncan Sinclair, already referred to as a public school teacher; William Bride, now merchant at Glenwalker on the M.C.R.; Harry Watts, and at present J.O. Lumley, who is the sole representative of the once flourishing mercantile centre.

Martin Gaylor started an ashery in 1851, on the southeast corner of the celebrated Brooks' farm, where he manufactured great quantities of crude potash. After a few years the business was disposed of to Francis A. Tait, a merchant heretofore mentioned, who conducted it untill the year 1855, when it was closed, owing to dullness of the market.

IONA MILLS

The flouring and saw mills now in Iona were formerly represented by Jonah Clark and Coughlin Lumley's mills which were situated for a number of years at what is known as Clark's Hollow, one mile directly south of the village. This Hollow, it may be mentioned, was at that time quite a hamlet; among the residents were T.A. Silcox, Coughlin Lumley, Junius Clark, Elijah Clark and Jonah Clark.

In 1863 these mills were purchased by Joseph Britton of Port Stanley. In 1864 they were destroyed by fire and in the following year were rebuilt on improved plans, and shortly after were removed to their present site at Iona. They were thoroughly refitted in 1889 with up-to-date machinery, costing several thousand dollars. Since this time they have been conducted under the firm name of "Joseph Britton & Son."

In the early fifties George Brown, the well known veterinary surgeon, moved into the village and carried on business as a cabinet maker, and a few years afterwards abandoned it and devoted himself exclusively to veterinary practice. For many years there was a practitioner in St. Thomas, one in Glencoe, and perhaps another in Ridgetown, and all that vast tract of country between those points and Lake Erie had to be frequently travelled over by him. He came from Nova Scotia about sixty years ago, and settled in Yarmouth, and afterwards removed to where Shedden now stands. He distinctly remembered being in Port Stanley when the Oneida Indians landed there, from New York State, to settle in their present location on the Thames River. Mr. Brown was a great lover of horses, and owned some of the fastest ones in the Province. He died about two years ago at the age of seventy-four.

A short time after George O. Lumley, better known as Owen Lumley, took up his residence here, where he still remains. His well-known versatile genius in the various mechanical arts supplied the precise requirements of a new country. His brother is Dr. Lumley of Glencoe; one son, the M.C.R. station agent, Tilbury, and another the well known merchant of the village.

James McLandress lived here at a date much anterior to either of the preceding, having come from New Brunswick in 1845. He married a Miss Gow, who still survives, but the husband died about ten years ago. Mr. McLandress had a brother in the military service of the Honorable East India Company, who died many years ago, leaving him a small legacy, which in consequence of some informality could never be properly claimed. It was transferred to the keeping of the British Government where it still remains. One son named John was recently killed on the M.C.R. at St. Thomas, and the other is William, the well known stock merchant.

James B. Lowther, another Nova Scotian, came here in 1855 and started a blacksmith and carriage shop, which he conducted for many years. He afterwards removed to California, where he remained five years, and then returned to the village where he still resides. Mr. Lowther is a prominent member of the Methodist church, being class leader as well as superintendent of the Sunday school.

Another very old resident was the late Peter Sinclair, Sr., who came from Scotland in 1850 and started a tailoring business in the village, where he died many years ago. His sons are Dr. Sinclair, late of Melbourne, and Duncan Sinclair, of Alvinston, already mentioned. His son Peter died some years ago.

HOTELS

Iona in its palmy days has been especially favoured as regards number and variety of hotels. Among the most prominent characters as landlords we find the names of John Mills, Ephraim Lumley, John Decow and George Penwarden.

In 1842 John Decow built the first hotel in Iona on the Southwold side. This hotel passed through different hands till 1855 when John Mills came into possession. In 1862 it was removed and remodelled into a dwelling house, and is at present occupied at Iona Station by Mr. Eli Miller.

In the same year John Mills erected the "Commercial Hotel" on the site of the old one, where in 1892 it was destroyed by fire, James Waddell being at that time proprietor.

The "Travellers Home" was built on the opposite corner in 1848, and passed through the hands of John Decow, R. Bodman, Ephraim Lumley, John Mills, George Penwarden, Andrew Bradt, Sales and others untill it was destroyed by fire in 1876.

R. Bodman ran the "Tait Hotel" on the Southwold side from 1860 to 1863; part of this building is occupied by Andrew Liddell as a residence near the old site. The remainder was removed, and is now used by Robert Morris as a dwelling house. (Later demolished and replaced by present home.)

These were the days of whisky galore which retailed at penny, ha'-penny a glass.

TEMPERANCE HALL

In 1850 a Sons of Temperance Lodge consisting of about twelve members was organized. Their first lodge was over Charles Harris' cabinet shop, the site of which is now occupied by John Liddell's dwelling. This society prospered, and in 1853 they were enabled to erect a hall in which to hold their meetings. The organization flourished for about twenty years, then it gradually decayed until the final dissolution about five years later. The Royal Templars of Temperance succeed them, but ran a brief career. The original lodge was the means of doing a vast amount of good in the community. Many old men testify at the present day to its influence in guarding them from a life of drinking.

The Grangers during their ephemeral life also met here for business, and the division court was held in the same building from 1853 till about 1870.

MASONIC LODGE

On the evening of November 18th, 1864 in the "Travellers Home" then kept by R. Bodman, Benjamin Thompson, school teacher, John Cascaden, M.D., Daniel Decow, general merchant, John Edgecombe, carriage maker, William Chisholm, merchant, I.P. Stoliker, Ephraim Lumley, James McLandress, R. McCullough, C.A. Brown, James C. Lumley, and James Mitchell, all members of Warren Lodge, Fingal, met for the purpose of forming a Masonic Lodge at Iona. Benjamin Thompson was chosen as Chairman and John Cascaden as secretary of this meeting.

The proposed lodge was given the name it now bears "Prince of Wales." The following officers John Cascaden, W.M.; John Edgecombe, S.W.; William Chisholm, J.W.; James McLandress, treasurer; James T.C. Finlay, secretary; Ephraim Lumley, S.D.; John A. Philpott, J.D.; William Simpkins, I.G.; I.P. Stoliker, Tyler, being elected, it was decided to request a charter from the Grand Lodge.

On February of the next year a dispensation was obtained under which the lodge was conducted untill the following July, when a charter was duly granted.

The first regular meeting was held on March 17th, 1865 in their lodgeroom over Burgess' store. Soon after this as there was no organization of this kind for many miles west, a goodly number of prominent persons came from the different parts