

In 1885 Woodview Methodist Church was erected with the opening of Oct. 25, 1885. The first minister was Rev. Cooper. The land was donated by the late John Killins and was formerly owned by the late William Lawrence. The first organist was Miss Ada Huntley (Mrs. A. P. Campbell), first choir leader, the late H. Watts. Sabbath School was organized by the late Rev. John Henderson in 1898 and the first superintendent was Ed. Bodkin. The church became the United Church in 1929, and the present pastor is the Rev. Bruce Guy. The parsonage, formerly the Burwell store, was built and operated by the late Neil Dewar in the early 1880's. Some merchants who were in business in this store were Battle, Burwell Bros., Ed. and Herk, O. Hacker and Son, Gib, and Mr. McKenzie and son, Chester.

In the early 80's Lawrence was a busy spot. the late Dr. F. C. Lawrence had his office at the corner. Ed. and Herk Burwell had a hardware and general store. The late Dr. Turner purchased this property in 1910 moved the store back and remodelled it into the present parsonage.

At the rear of this lot the Community Hall was built in 1882. Mr. Battle owned the property and feeling the need of a Sabbath School donated the land for the Hall. The timber was donated, also the work, thus a Community Hall was erected. A union S.S. was organized in 1883 or 1884 with Mr. Battle as superintendent. The Hall remains and is the centre of many social gatherings. One annual event is family night of the Kensington Club which was organized in 1909 by the late Mrs. Barber and daughter, Mrs. John McCormick.

The Bell Telephone came to Lawrence in 1902, and had a few subscribers. In 1906, the Southwold and Dunwich Telephone Co. built the rural line and installed many phones, principally in the homes of the shareholders, D. Crosson, George Branton, Millers, McLellans, Miltons, Ibbitsons and many others. The Lawrence central was in the rear of the late Dr. Turner's office, now Miss Edna Howe's kitchen. The operators were the late Mrs. Euphemia McLean and daughter, Miss Lillian McLean.

Hydro electric was turned on at Lawrence August 25, 1928.

Bank picture
The Home Bank opened for business in 1905 and 1906 in the store by the railroad under the direction of the late Mr. Waterbury manager of the Home Bank in St. Thomas. The first manager at Lawrence was E. W. Muir, followed by J. Richardson, A. Scott, J. A. Thompson and D. D. Crawford. The bank moved to the new building in 1917 and remained there until the Home Bank failure in 1923. The Bank of Montreal took over under the direction of the late F. B. Holtby, manager at St. Thomas. Mr. Hall later managed here and at Fingal. The building is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Dawdy.

Of the many blacksmiths only one, Alex Buchan, remains. Among former blacksmiths were Billy Martin, Dan McAlpine, Ben Wilson (first blacksmith who had a shop over the railroad and lived in the house now occupied by the late Bill Manchen), Ronald McDonald, John McKellar, Andrew and Alex Buchan, Luke Page and the Graham brothers, Norris and George.

The late John Simpson, Shoemaker and band leader, had his shop in the front part of his residence, between Buchan's Shop and the Hotel. Other shoe makers were the late Neil McLachlan, who owned the property now owned by Mrs. Branton. The shop was moved back and is now the kitchen of Mrs. Branton's home. John McKillop built the house now occupied by R. Stocking and family. Mr. McKillop had his shoe shop in the front part. Mr. Widdner later had it as a harness shop in 1898. James Smith had a harness shop just east of the store, which was destroyed by fire in the fall of 1896, and Mr. Smith moved to Fingal.

Dr. Irvine was the first doctor, followed by Dr. F. O. Lawrence, Dr. Sutherland, Dr. Cline, Dr. Quackenbush, who sold out to Dr. Charles Smith in 1896, Dr. Charles Smith sold to Dr. A. Turner in 1906, Dr. Harold Simpkins, Dr. W. W. Gregory, Dr. J. W. Snell in 1928 sold to Dr. C. W. Potter now of Washington. N. J.

The tailors in Lawrence were the late Mr. Parsons, and one other, whose name is not available. The dressmakers were Misses Mary Killins (Mrs. J. D. Campbell), Annie Turner (Mrs. Thomas Crosson). Misses Annie and Ella Ibbitson.

Of the many stores that have been in Lawrence the only one remaining is owned and conducted by Kenneth Biddle. The first store on this site was destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1880 by William Campbell (Irish Campbell)/ It has been occupied by William Campbell, Neil VanSycle, Cooper and Richards, Lew Morton and John Rourk, Mr. Finch, who sold to Joe Heatherington in 1895, and Ed. Bodkin sold to F. R. Kistle and Sons in November 1908; in 1920 they sold to Biddle Brothers, Kenneth Biddle taking over the business in the fall of 1945. *Ken to Tim Tim to Biddle*

The store of the late Harold Farrah was destroyed by fire early in 1928. It had been built by Tim Murray and was occupied as a general store by the late Charles B. Campbell. The Masonic Hall was above the store. This building had been used as a general store by C. B. Campbell, John Hacker and Son, Store and Post Office, Miss Sarah Hacker used the small room at the back of the store as a millinery shop; later Harold Farrah used it as a barber shop until it was burned in 1928. After the Home Bank had left the store, Walter Walker bought it and conducted a general store for some selling out to Harold Farrah in 1925.

The late Alfred Widdieff did more for the promotion of Lawrence than any other man. After buying the hotel from Mr. Lawrence he remodelled and enlarged it making a fine commodious brick building.

He also erected the roller skating rink, 140 feet long, in 1880's and it was the scene of many carnivals and racing contests. However the novelty faded and the rink was leased to the late Neil and Edward VanSycle, operated a hoop and stave mill. After a few years, owing to the scarcity of timber, they gave up business both in the mill and store and left both vacant. John A. Turnbull purchased the rink from Mr. Widdifield the spring of 1894 and used the front part as a carriage shop until 1905, then he tore it down and shipped the material to St. Thomas where he built three houses. John McCormick bought the empty lot and erected the house which is now Dave Crosson's home.

Mr. Widdifield also built a large two storey frame house, the Elm House, the home and office of the late Dr. Quackenbush. Mr. Widdifield sold out the Hotel in 1900 and lived in part of the Elm House, the section foreman, the late John Haves and family taking the other half. It was razed in 1916 and the concrete building now stands there. Mr. Widdifield also built the frame store and managed it for some time, selling out to the late S. H. Weldon. Failing health forced Mr. Weldon to retire in 1916 and he sold to Crosson and Crawford who sold to Elgin Biddle in 1919.

Picture of mill

The first saw mill was built by a Mr. Gamble and S. H. Weldon operated the saw. Mr. Weldon erected a mill in 1873 sold out to John McCormick who in turn sold out to A. C. Campbell. Later it was razed and shipped away. *Only the cement smoke stack remains.*

Organization

The Masonic Lodge No. 171, Prince of Wales A.F. and A.M. was organized in Iona on March 17, 1865. In 1890 the membership fell off some and some thought it might improve matters if it were moved to Lawrence Station. The lodge rooms were located on the second floor of the Brick Store by the R.R., but owing to the store being burned in 1928 and most of the records lost, exact dates are not available. The Lodge was reorganized in 1896 or 1897. Some of the members who took a prominent part in the Lodge were S. H. Weldon, William Lawrence, who joined in Iona in 1877, D. D. Campbell, H. J. Watts, A. Widdifield, Dr. Lawrence, J. W. Brown, Iona, who joined in 1889, John A. McIntyre, Alex Turner, W. D. Killins, Neil McLachlan, Dougald Turner, Dr. Quackenbush, Charles H. Branton, Alex McIntyre, Malcolm McIntyre, Dr. Charles Smith, A. Crosson, Archie McDougald, Dr. Turner, Robt. Turner and J. A. Turnbull. Others members were D. D. Crawford, J. A. Murray, J. A. Pollock, T. B. Gardiner, and many others. John A. McIntyre had the distinction of being a member over 50 years and received his medal at the time T. B. Gardiner was secretary and station agent here in 1920. The store and lodge rooms were burned in 1928 and the Lodge lost all equipment and most of the records after futile efforts to obtain a suitable lodge room in Lawrence Station, an application was made to move the lodge to a more central location in Iona Station. This was a great loss to the village and district.

50 yrs Jewel

Willaim Lawrence came to this district when there were very few people. He settled on the land where the church now stands; it was all woods then, no roads, only a trail through the woods to Fingal. His wife was the former Margaret Burwell, daughter of Samuel Burwell, one of the pioneer families in the Fingal district. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence built their home from logs cut on the farm, also slabbbed the logs for the roof and the floor was made with a broadaxe. Their older son, Sam, age 24, was killed in S. H. Weldon's saw mill on May 17, 1875, leaving a wife and baby daughter, Margaret, 5 months old. The daughter Margaret, is now Mrs. Walter Squire, Glencoe, and her daughter, Mrs. Thompson Howe, resides near Lawrence Station. Mr. Robert Cook, Farley Place, St. Thomas is also a great granddaughter of the late William Lawrence.

niece

Lawrence Station's young people who served in the First World War were; James Lawrence, Billy Killins, who made the supreme sacrifice; Roy Killins, Earl Turnbull, Clarence Kestle, and Dan A. McLellan in the U. S. Army.

In the Second World War were Orrie Bodkin, U. S. Coast Guard; Kenneth Buchan, who made the supreme sacrifice, in Germany; Jack Crosson, Russel Down, Bob McNaughton, Murray Chamberlain, Ross McLellan, Eugene McLellan, all three making the supreme sacrifice.

Teachers who ^{were taught} (served) in Lawrence Station school were Misses Alice Campbell, Reba Crosson, Hazel Bodkin, Corinne Howe, Catherine Lawrence, Edith Miller, Minnie Miller, (Pearl Kestle), Frederica Beecroft, Evelyn Oldham, Betty Reichheld; Wilfred Miller, electrical engineering. *Ronald Beecroft Kathleen Firby Jane Campbell Mary Ruth Howe.*

Lewis McLachlan was a missionary in China. *Mary Campbell*

Registered nurses were Misses Dorothy Buchan, Catherine Buchan, Katie Campbell, Doris Campbell, Catherine Lawrence, Effie Killins, Lou Miller, Janet McNaughton, Ann Campbell, Edith Beecroft, Crystal Oldham, Irene Reichheld, Catharine Turner. *Jean Killins.*

Ruth Livingstone. Jean Chamberlain

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LAWRENCE STATION cont'd.

In March 1953, the C. N. R. Station was closed and the agent, Mr. Donald Graham, was moved to Granton. At this time the stock yards were also removed, ending years of service to the farmers in the district.

As mentioned in the previous pages, Elgin and Lewis Biddle bought out the present store from Harold Kestle. A year earlier, Elgin Biddle had started business in the frame store which has since been torn down. This property along with the former bank building is now owned by Adrian Braam.

About 1951 Kenneth Biddle sold the store to Charles Richardson who had come from England with Mrs. Richardson, and two daughters, Joy and Jill. *Denechuk Socholotnik.*

In the fall of 1955, Lewis Biddle, who had been living in Rondeau for several years, sold his house to Ward Willson. Mr. Willson died the following spring, Mrs. Willson and Joanne are still living in the house.

William Manchen's house was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Joyce, Sr. parents of Louis Joyce who had previously bought the property by the station. *In 1958 it was again sold to Mrs Arthur Boyart who has made many improvements*

Thos D. M. 1965
In 1949 Rev. T. C. Wilkinson moved to Belmont and was succeeded by Rev. Bruce Guy. Mr. Guy was succeeded in 1953 by Rev. J. Harrower who retired from the ministry in 1957. Mr. A.G. Pease and family occupied the manse from August 1957 to July 1958, when Rev. and Mrs. C. Badger came to Lawrence Charge from Saskatchewan. In July 1960 Earl Burr, a student at Emmanuel College became the minister.

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EVENTS OF S.S. NO. 3, 17, & 20 SOUTHWOLD

FROM 1948-----1958.

Lot 9, Con. 1. Donald McLellan sold to P. Van Vaerenberg, who had 2 sons and 3 daughters. Since coming to our community their family has been increased by 2 girls and a boy. At London Fair time 1957, at the junction of the Middlesex-Elgin townline and No. 4 Highway, James Van Vaerenberg was killed in an automobile accident involving a transport truck and the car of Charles Richardson, merchant, of Lawrence Ststion. Mr. Richardson, his wife and family, and the truck driver all escaped injury.

W¹₂L10, L11, Con. 1 & N¹₂L11, Con. 2. were owned by F. H. Miller in 1948 and on his death passed to his sister and family. His nephew Wilbur Oldham is living on L11, Con.2.

W¹₂L12, Con.1. Biddle Brothers sold this farm to Jack Evans, a grandson of Matthew Campbell.

E¹₂L13, Con.1. The north 75 acres of this lot, which belonged to Michael Halpin, was sold to A.J.Plain after Mr. Halpin's death.

W¹₂L13, Con.1. owned by Neil Walker, was sold in 1958 to

Graeme Van Overbeke

L14, Con.1. The David Crosson farm has been purchased by Donald and Malcolm McArthur.

L15, Con. 1. Owned by Biddle Brothers in 1948 has been sold to Roy Warwick.

N¹₂L17, Con.1. George Richter, son-in-law of James Milton, lived on this farm with his wife and family until his death in 1957. He died very suddenly at his work in the fields. The farm has been purchased by Lorne Battin and Son.

S¹L15, Con.2. Nothing is known about the earlier owners of this place. Mr. A. J. McAlpine had this place in 1900, and sold it several years later to M. C. Campbell when he bought Lot 13 from Neil McLachlan. On Mr. Campbell's death Thompson, Howe purchased the place, and sold the house and barn which were moved away.

S¹L16&17, Con.2. These places were first owned by the McBride family. In later years, Dan McBride lived on Lot 16, then sold to John Carroll and moved to a store in Iona Station. After the barn burned, Mr. Carroll sold the farm to Gordon Little. Later the house was moved to a location near McBrides church.

Alex McBride lived on lot 17. Two of his sons were killed at the Iona Station railroad crossing on a winter Sunday evening. They were visiting at a home south of the railroad, and when they were leaving for home saw a train coming and wondered if they could cross the tracks ahead of the train. The people watched and after it passed saw the horse going down the road. In the morning Mr. McBride found the horse in the yard still hitched to the shafts of the cutter. The boys were found wrapped in the robe beside the tracks. The train had evidently hit the cutter. Gordon Little bought this farm and lives on it. *The Cowal Post Office was in the house on this farm about the time the West Magdala P.O. was used.*

N¹L9, Con.3. Mr. McNichol, who first settled this place, sold out to A.P.Campbell and moved out west. One of his daughters was Reba Crosson's grandmother. After A.P.Campbell bought the place, John Manchen and family lived in the house and the farm was used for pasture. M. P. Campbell may have owned it later. Ernest Saunders of Middlemarch, a brother of Mrs. Charles Joiner, bought the place from Mr. Campbell. Mr. Saunders sold to his nephew, Vern