

Neil, eleven, went with a horse and cutter. John and older son drove a horse and buggy, taking with him a girl friend of Jennie's. Duncan Taylor, Jennie's fiance, went with a horse and cutter to bring Jennie home after the entertainment.

When the entertainment was over, Mrs. Ferguson and the two young boys, left for home immediately, for the night was dark and the roads as dangerous as they could be.

During the evening an uprooted tree had washed down stream and had lodged against the bridge, south of Crossley-Hunter. Other rubbish soon collected and with the natural channel choked, the water rose very rapidly. By the time Mrs. Ferguson and the boys got to this spot, a torrent of water was going over the road on each side of the bridge. Their horse walked right out into it. The swift current caught the cutter and turned it over, dumping its three occupants into the angry, icy waters, that at once bore them off down stream.

Robert could swim. Mrs. Ferguson's heavy coat helped to keep her afloat and they clung together. By a miracle, after a long struggle in the inky darkness they were washed against a fallen tree on the north bank, in James Meikle's flats. They managed to pull themselves up into its branches and then to wade out to safety.

Although at the point of collapse, they were able to make their way up to the Meikle home and arouse the family, who took them in and did everything possible to restore them.

Mr. Meikle went to Henry Brown's up at the corner and with lanterns, they went down to the bridge, to warn the others and to try to find the horse. In the meantime, both John Ferguson and Duncan Taylor had reached the place, when their horses refused to go into the water, they had turned back and

went home by way of the 10th concession, thinking that Mrs. Ferguson must have done the same.

The two young men decided to stop at Charlie Legg's to see if Mrs. Ferguson had stopped there. They of course, knew nothing of them. The girls stayed there and the men, with lanterns, went back to the bridge. By this time the other men on the north side were there with their lanterns and above the roar of the flood, they were able to make the young men understand that Mrs. Ferguson and the boys were safe.

The following morning, when it got daylight, they found the horse, covered with ice, with only its head above water. It had to be drawn up to the Meikle barn on a stone boat but even the horse survived that terrible experience.

In 1936, another freshet washed out rods of the road bed on the ninth concession. Since a great deal of repair work was necessary anyway, they decided to do a reconversion job.

As it was, there was a narrow bridge over the creek, at the bottom of a short steep hill, and there had been several near accidents here. It had been safe enough in the horse and buggy days, but since automobiles had reached a cruising speed of 50 miles per hour, an unexpected hill with a narrow bridge at the bottom of it, was a death trap.

The reconversion job took a whole summer. The course of the creek was changed. A new channel made, so that the creek would cross the road twenty rods farther east. The top of the hill cut down and the entire road bed built up. A fine new cement arch bridge was built.

Mrs. Rachael Ackert, ninety-seven years old at the time, watched from her home this work, with keen interest. She could remember four former bridges, across this part of the creek, that had served their day. When the day of the official opening came, the Ackert family were all present and Mrs. Rachael Ackert cut the ribbon, with a pair of scissors, that had been her mothers more than 100 years before.

The axe, the flame assail'd the
trembling glade—
The cottage rose, on disen-
cumbered ground,
Mid lands, new ravished from the
forest's shade,
The winding wormfence stole
its simple bound ;
Deep bosomed in th' embowering
woods' embrace,
His store increasing mark'd
the flight of time ;
And fondly there, he reared his
youthful race
From childhood's blush to man-
hood's blooming prime.
And reaped the fertile field and
bless'd the generous clime.
(Charles S. Buck)

Chapter VI - The People.

Crossley-Hunter has always been a closely knit community. In the early days, people didn't travel far from home, and young men and young women didn't look far for a mate. Consequently the pioneer stock became so linked up from intermarriage that even today the majority of the families are related to several other families.

Robert
Brown

Most typical of this is the Brown and Appleford families. Of the five 'Brown' daughters, Barbara married Andrew Roberts and settled where Karl Wright now lives. Mary married Charles Emery and lived where Clayton Wood now lives. Elizabeth married Darius Appleford and after living a few years on the tenth concession, spent the rest of their lives where their son and grandson James and McIver, respectively still live. Margaret married Duncan Ferguson and lived for a number of years north on the seventh concession. In 1884, they bought the George Emery place and spent the rest of their lives here. Their son Neil still lives there.

Rose married Henry Mc.Gregor and lived at first where Hiram Peer lives. Their seven children were all born there. Then they moved to the Brown homestead next the church, where Mrs. Mc.Gregor (Rose) had been born. They also spent the rest of their lives here. Their youngest daughter Stella is married to Roy Learn and they live across the corner on the Learn Homestead. The Browns had two sons - William went early to the north west and Henry lived on the homestead for a number of years and then moved to Springfield. Children of all these unions have, in their turn married within the community and made their homes here.

In the spring of 1835, Zedekiah Dance, his wife Charlotte and babe, and Daniel Isaac Appleford. Appleford came over from England. The small sailing vessel, on which they came, encountered stormy weather and was blown off her course. They despaired of ever reaching land. They were eight weeks and four days on the ocean.

Their supply of food and water ran low. One child was so ill, they were afraid it would die and have to be buried at sea, but it survived. At long last they arrived at Daniel Appleford's brother Isaac's place, fifteen miles from Toronto, where they stayed a short time. Then the three families came together 130 miles west and located in this neighbourhood. Daniel Appleford took his land near Lyons. Zedekiah Dance took land south on the quarter road.

Zedekiah
Dance.

His son Charles followed in possession, then a grandson, Carlton and now a great grandson, Raymond works this land.

By the time these families made the journey up here, winter was approaching, so the Isaac Appleford family went in with the Dances and they hastily built their first home of logs.

The following summer Mr. Dance built farm buildings half a mile farther north, where the present buildings stand, and Isaac Appleford and his family remained in the little home, they had built upon their arrival. The writer of this sketch, who is a grand daughter of Zedekiah Dance and was also born on this farm, can remember the ruins of the first house and has eaten apples from three scrubby little trees, the remains of a small orchard, that they had grown from seed, close to the first little home.

Three of the Isaac Appleford children were born here - Rachael, Darius and William.

In 1850, Isaac Appleford bought 72 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres off the south end of the Brown farm for £ 97. This is the farm where Robert Ferguson now lives. Isaac

Appleford's son William continued to live here, after his parent passed on, until the end of his days. William Appleford's daughter, Minnie married Robert Ferguson.

George Ackert, Grandfather of Sarah Ackert, took up the 200 acres across from

the present Ackert home, from the crown. His son Philip married Rachael Appleford. The farm where the Ackert home, is now, belonged to James Brice. Philip Ackert traded the east 100 acres of his land to Mr. Brice, because the Brice land was partly cleared and had some buildings on it. It was to this home that Philip Ackert brought his bride and where she lived to the wonderful old age of 101 years.

At the age of twenty-eight years, Philip Ackert died suddenly of a heart attack.



Mrs. Rachael Ackert
at 99 years of age.
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plish what he had, when he had destroyed it.

George Appleford, another of Isaac Appleford's sons settled on the farm, where Joe Jenkins now lives.

Mrs. Ackert's brother Shepley Appleford came and lived with her, helping her to manage the farm until her three children - Llewellyn, Dillman and Sarah were grown, ready to take over.

James Brice was deeply interested in science. He spent a great deal of time on perpetual motion. He developed an apparatus, which he thought would in time lead to a valuable discovery.

One day, just as he thought it was about perfect, some one knocked at his door. Rather than have anyone see it, before it was complete, he smashed it, and to his sorrow, he could never again accom-

George
Ackert.

Philip
Ackert.

James
Brice.

William
Luton.

In 1891, William Luton and his wife Mary Bye came from Devonshire, England, and received their land from the crown. To them were born five sons and two daughters.

John, the eldest, married Amanda Crane and settled in Dorchester, on the corner opposite the Crossley-Hunter church. To them was born seven sons and three daughters. Leonard became a doctor in St. Thomas. He married Jane Sinclair, a sister of Dr. Colin Sinclair of Aylmer.

Albert also became a doctor and practiced in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Charles and Frank settled in Colorado and engaged in gold mining.

James died while in school studying medicine. William was a farmer in Dorchester. Gilbert was a farmer in his younger days, then lived in St. Thomas for many years.

Mary remained at home and cared for the family, her mother having died comparatively young.

John Luton married a second time to Mrs. Annie Mills, grandmother of Wilson Mills Ex M.P.P. of Sparta.

Amanda Luton married Charles Learn, son of George and Margaret (Deacon) Learn. Lottie married Jacob Sherk, son of John Sherk, another pioneer family of the tenth concession.

Daniel, another son married Emily Hawley. He was elected member of the first Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

Charles O Luton was at one time reeve of the township, warden of the County. For seven years, he managed the Lyons cheese factory. He travelled for the Dairymen's Association. He was also Assessor for Dorchester.

C.O. Luton was a grandson of John Luton. He died in 1936.

William F. Luton, son of William (Sr) farmed south of Mapleton. He had five sons and one daughter. One son, Dr. Will Luton died of Influenza at the close of World war #I. Dr. Robert served in both wars. He served 35 years in Canada's militia and became Deputy Director of Medical Service. He died in Ottawa in 1950. Another son Mahlon was a dentist, He practiced in Detroit.

William F. was a Warden of Elgin and for the later years of his life, was Governor of the county jail.

The John Luton and William Luton families were pioneer members of the Church of Christ, Mapleton.

Heil
Wood.

Heil Wood was born in 1835 in Walpole township, Haldimand County. He lived where George Jenkins now lived for a time and also where Robert Abell lives. He was an ordained Methodist minister, but also farmed. He assisted with the notable camp meeting here and played an important part in the building of the church.

Heil
Wood

His first wife and the mother of his children was Elmira Hodge of Haldimand County. To them were born seven daughters and two sons :-

Mary (Mrs. Sam Thompson)

George (Died in infancy)

Jane (Mrs G.P. Winters)

Nancy Ann (Mrs. Jim Stewart)

Rachael (Mrs. Sam Lamb)

Dressa (Mrs. Albert Hoover)

Emma (Mrs. Bristol Smith)

Rebecca (Mrs. Tom Jeffrey) Mrs. Jeffrey's funeral was the first funeral to be held in Crossley-Hunter church.

David who married Lizzie Emery.

In 1901, he married his brother's widow, Eliza Cridland Wood. He died at the age of 99 years. He will be long remembered for his Godly personality. He was an eloquent and fluent preacher and although for many years was not on a definite charge, he was in constant demand as a guest or supply preacher.

'Par and
Mat'
Deacon.

Par and Mar Deacon came from New York State in 1823. First they took up 100 acres of land near Brampton, went through all the toil and hardship of clearing land and building a home. In 1839 they decided to come up here, plunging a second time into virgin forest, clearing it and building a home. Their son Daniel was nearly a man when they moved. A neighbour died and the young wife wanted to get word to her people in Toronto so Daniel walked with a note from her to her people all the way to Toronto, following a blazed trail.

Their other children were Frank, who farmed near Alvinston. His daughter Margaret taught in this school and Rosie, Now Mrs. Bennett.

Many of these pioneers although they had no opportunity for education, were talented and cultured. Daniel Deacon was quite a poet. One of his poems has been submitted :-

This wilderness was our abode,	Our path was through the winding wood.
Full eighty years ago.	Where oft the savage trod
And if good meat, we wished to eat	It was not wide, we had no guide.
We shot the buck or doe.	But trusted in our God.
For fish, we used the hook and line.	Our house was built of logs of wood
We pounded corn to make it fine.	Rolled up in squares and caulked with mud.
On Johnny cake, our ladies dined	If the bark was tight, the roof was good
In this new country.	In this new country.

With axes good, we chopped our wood,
 For well we all knew how.
 We cleared our lands with willing hands,
 To fit it for the plough.
 We sowed our lands with rye and wheat,
 For strangers and ourselves to eat.
 From the maple tree, we drew our sweet
 In this new country.

With deer skins, we made moccasins
 To wear upon our feet.
 The checkered shirt, we thought no hurt,
 Your company to keep.
 And if a visit we wished to pay
 On a winter night or a winter day,
 The oxen drew our lady's sleigh,
 In this new country.

We lived in social harmony;
 And drank the purling stream.
 No preacher, lawyer, doctor, there
 scarce ever to be seen.
 Our health, it needed no repair
 No pious man forgot his prayer.
 And who could fee a lawyer, there ?
 In this new country.

The Indian oft times made us fear
 That there was danger nigh;
 The shaggy bear was also there,
 The pig was in the sty.
 And oft our fearful mother said
 The rattle snake, our children dread,
 Some beast of prey will take our babe
 In this new country.

The little thorn, grew apples on,
 When mandrakes all were gone.
 The sour grapes, we used to take
 When frosty nights came on.
 For wintergreens, our girls would stray.
 For butternuts, boys climbed the tree.
 The Avon root, our lady's tea,
 In this new country.

John Learn came to Canada in the early '30's, from United States, settling

John
 Learn

first south of Mapleton, where the old cheese factory now stands. He built the
 first cheese factory there and operated it. It was known as the 'Learn' Cheese
 factory. As his family grew, his son George took up the 200 acres of land, on

the corner of which, the school now stands. His grandson Roy Learn has in his possession, the crown deed of this land, as has a number of residents of their land.

Of this George Learn family, one son, Charles married Amanda Luton and lived half a mile west of the corner, which is also west of his father's home, where the farm buildings are today. Their family consisted of Edith, who married Dillman Ackert, Candace, Arthur, Three young children all of whom died within a few days of diphtheria, during an epidemic which took the lives of many children at that time. The next son was Austin, then Hobart and Clarence and Pearl. Pearl married John Holmes. While the children were small, this family moved back to the eighth concession and lived on the back end of this farm until after the death of the father (Charles) The mother and the younger children then moved to Aylmer.

Another son of George Learn was John, always known as 'Little John' They lived a mile and a half north of the corners. His son Victor succeeded him in working the farm. Both Little John and Victor died here.

A daughter, Ann married George Emery. There was another daughter, Helen. Another son Frank and George.

The mother of this family was a daughter of 'Par' Deacon'

When the son, George married, he chose Hannah, daughter of Daniel Appleford of Lyons. For a time, they lived in the west house and Frank lived on the homestead. Later when Frank moved away, George and Hannah moved up the road to the homestead and spent the rest of their lives there. Their only child, Roy lives there at the time of writing.

Frank later returned to the community and lived in the west house until the end of his days.

William Faucett was the pioneer on the farm, wher Ross Evert lives now.

His son George married a daughter of David Wellington Finch in 1860.

Donald
Mc.Gregor

To the farm across from this property, came the Mc.Gregors, from Argyle-shire, Scotland. They took up 400 acres. A great grandson, Roy lives on it now.

One of the family treasures is a wool shawl of the Mc.Gregor plaid, of exquisitely fine wool, which came from Scotland, with the family.

When Donald Mc.Gregor's son Tom was married, they bought another fifty acres adjoining on the east, from John Howse. The payment for this land was made in £'s and shillings. The present set of farm buildings are on this east fifty acres.

Duncan Mc.Gregor, a brother of Donald, lived back on the tenth concession.

He had a close neighbour, Fred Carter. Whenever there was an election, everyone went to the Crossley-Hunter corner to vote at the school. These two men always went together. They would walk across the Donald Mc.Gregor farm and up the road from the west, to the corner, a walk of between two and three miles. Even after they were old men and walked with canes, they kept up this custom. One voted conservative and the other, Liberal. One election, Duncan was sick and not able to go to vote. They were such staunch friends that Mr. Carter stayed away from voting that day too.

Donald's son Tom was a cripple, from a very young man, but he managed his business from a wheel chair and was a successful farmer. He sent his son, Jim to Ann Arbor, to study medicine, his daughter Violet was educated for a teacher. Another daughter, Louise married Ed. Moore and moved to Greton, S. Dakots.

Another daughter Mary Jane died in her teens. A son Henry married Rose Brown and settled where Hiram Peer now lives; another son, Tom married Sarah Holbern. The holberns lived across the road on the 'Deacon' farm. This latter couple continued to work the home place. Their son Roy is still there.

Probably the most shocking thing that ever struck this community, was when Roy was eight months old. His father had been drawing up logs in the afternoon. After supper, he went to the barn to tend to his horses. They were a 'lifer' team and he took good care of them. While he was out at the barn, Duncan Ferguson and his wife came down to spend the evening. Mr. Mc.Gregor was so long, coming to the house, that Mr. Ferguson went to the barn to see what could be keeping him. He found him, under one of his horses, trampled to death. Tom Mc.Gregor had two children, Edna who married Skene, a son of David Smith and Roy, still on the homestead, who married Florence, a daughter of Culver Finch, a grand daughter of David Wellington Finch.

James
Smith

A little east of the same side of the road is the property to which James Smith came, from United States, in 1837. They had two sons - David, who remained on the homestead and William who settled on the farm, a mile east of the corner, where Syd. Brunson now lives.

When William Smith bought this farm, he walked to London and carried home in a sack, on his shoulder \$ 500.00 in silver coin to make the down payment. David Smith had two children, Ann, who married G.L. Ackert and Skene, who married Edna Mc.Gregor. The latter remained on the homestead, until they moved to Aylmer in 1930.

John
Taylor

John Taylor took up the land now owned by Roy Ketchabaw. John Taylor's son Duncan got his wife just across the road - Jennie Ferguson, daughter of Duncan Ferguson. They raised their family of a son and four daughters and lived out their lives here.