

The axe, the flame assail's 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)

An old man, going a lone highway,  
Came, at the evening cold and gray,  
To a chasm, deep and vast and wide.  
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,  
The sullen stream had no fears for him,  
But he turned when safe on the other side  
And built a bridge to span the tide.  
"Old Man", said a fellow pilgrim near,  
"You are wasting your strength with building here,  
Your journey will end with the ending day,  
You never again will pass this way;  
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide,  
Why build you this bridge at even tide?".  
The builder lifted his grey old head,  
"Good Friend, in the path I have come," he said  
"There followeth after me today  
A Youth, whose feet must pass this way.  
This chasm that has been naught to me,  
To that fair youth may a pit-fall be;  
He too must cross in the twilight dim,  
Good Friend, I am building this bridge for him.  
(Ahn.)

## KINGSMILL.

One of the earliest settlers in Kingsmill was William Teeple, better known as Big Teeple, who arrived from Ireland in 1840 and who was largely instrumental in the building of Kingsmill. This early pioneer also owned all the land between Orwell and the 9th concession. Their family consisted of two sons, James and Steven and a daughter Mary. James Teeple resided where Marvin Ashton now lives, while Steven Teeple who married Ella Sweet, a sister of John Sweet of the 8th concession, Malahide, located where Frank Stover now lives. Following Mary's marriage, her home was north of Orwell near the old 'flowing well' where Harold Cleaver now resides.

Many of the present generation have doubtless wondered where Kingsmill derived its name. Kingsmill was named after one of the engineers, who in 1872 built the first railroad 'Canada Southern' on a single track through Kingsmill. Later 'Canada Southern' was absorbed by the 'Michigan Central' a double track road, which was finally consumed by the 'New York Central'. When the 'Canada Southern' railway had become a reality, Kingsmill began to be a thriving place consisting of two stores, an elevator, a harness shop a saw mill, a large hotel and a grist mill, which were built during 1873.

Robert Putnam was the first store keeper who had his store where the community Hall now stands. Across the street and a little to the south, Bob Hill a little later conducted the other store right next to the harness shop, which was operated by Richard Strogher.

Apparently Richard was not only a storekeeper but a carpenter as well, because he built the house where Walter Aston now resides. Steven Teeple was the first station agent, who had his office in the elevator, which was built near the site of the Kingsmill station, built later and then removed some years ago.

Ben Knight was hotel Proprietor. Part of the hotel building was moved years later to the site where Melbourne Ashton now resides just south of the village. After Robert Putnam, the storekeeper had sold his store to the hotel proprietor, Ben Knight, many changes took place. John Robertson purchased the store, then James Mc. Cauley for a while, followed by Frank Wagner, J.E. Lloyd and finally James MC. Cauley again, who sold his business to Joe Grandy, who conducted a flourishing trade for many years. Later he sold the business to Roy Lucas, then Daniel Grossett, who sold to Charles Pettit, the last store keeper, who made arrangements to have the post office removed to his residence across the street. Eventually the store, which had once been the scene of many happy days, was converted into an up to date community hall, which is used occasionally now for Women's Institute meetings as well as social evenings and dances in the winter time.

Kingsmill in 1946 presents quite a contrast to those early days as only the community hall, a post office and a few residences constitute the once prosperous village.

The earliest pioneer to the Kingsmill district was Jacob Cline of the United Empire Loyalists, who arrived from Pennsylvania in 1827, purchasing a farm, from the crown and settled on the 11th concession, near the south east corner of his grand daughter's farm, Mrs. Bruce Beher (Agnes), whose home is now located a little farther west. When north and south Dorchester were incorporated in the London District, Jacob Cline held the honour of representing this district at the London Council, having 'Esquire' to his name. He was authorized to act as justice of the peace. During 1852 he was appointed the first reeve of South Dorchester acting in this capacity for 15 years. In 1862 he moved from his pioneer home to his new red brick residence located on the quarter road, where his grandson Robert Cline now resides almost directly across from the other grandson Charles.

This earliest pioneer lived to be over 90 years old. His great great grandson Paul Faulds and baby brother who are the sons of Wilfred and Audrey (Roher) Faulds reside on the same pioneer farm, which is quite different to those early days when the entire settlement was covered with dense forest, mostly maple, beech and some oak.

When Zedekiah Dance arrived from England in 1835 and settled where his grand son Carlton now resides between the 11th and 12th concessions, only 14 settlers inhabited what is now North and South Dorchester. Isaac and Daniel Appleford, who had travelled with the young Dance family all the way from Eddington, in Berkshire, England, travelled together up to this community. They were fifty six days on the ocean, then three months reaching this district, walking the last 80 miles from Hamilton.

Daniel Appleford took up land just east of Lyons. Isaac Appleford and Zedekiah Dance hastily built a small home that would do them for the first winter on the Dance farm. The next summer they built again farther north, where the present farm buildings are today and Mr. Dance, his wife, Charlotte and infant daughter Anne moved, the Isaac Appleford family remained in the first home for a number of years, then they moved north into the Crossley-Hunter community.

Mr. Dance died when his son Charles was sixteen and was buried in the cemetery south of Aylmer. His grave was the third grave in this cemetery. There were 12 children in his family. Charles being the youngest, and the only one who remained in the Kingsmill community.

For a long time, Long Point was the nearest grist mill but in 1837 a grist mill was constructed at Pt. Stanley, where the journey took 2 days with a yoke of oxen.

Simon Hoover was another pioneer of Pennsylvania Dutch, who in 1839 purchased a farm from the ~~crowns~~<sup>no</sup> and settled where his great grandson Claude now resides

on the 12th concession. Simon Hoover first resided in the Welland district.

James Brown, another early pioneer of United Empire Loyalists was a great grand father of Herbert, Bruce and Fred Brown, Mrs. Maimie Dawson of the 11th concession. In 1800, this early pioneer journeyed from Long Island, New York and first settled at Yarmouth Centre, where he purchased 200 acres from the crown. Between 1840 and 1845 he settled where Wilfred Herbert is now located almost across from where Fred Brown now resides.

Jacob Augustine, great, great uncle of Herbert, Bruce and Fred Brown and Mrs. Maimie Dawson, travelled in 1835 with a yoke of oxen from the Welland district and settled first in the Pt. Stanley district, moving later to where Oliver and Maimie Dawson and the latter's mother, Mrs. W.H. (Hattie) Brown are located.

James Moore, another early pioneer who in 1838 travelled from Ireland to New York, then journeyed by lumber wagon to what is now New Sarum, where he purchased his farm ~~from the crown~~ on the 11th concession where his great great grandson Hugh Moore now resides.

Another pioneer was James Rogers who settled on the 10th concession of Yarmouth and whose widow now resides in Aylmer. Following the removal of this family from the community, the homestead was occupied by James Gent for over 25 years, the last tenant being Stanley Stever of Lyons.

Solomon Parks settled in those early days where the Bert Fosters are now located on the 9th concession. His home was considered one of the most attractive places on that road. Later his son Solomon Parks resided a long time where John Donalds are now located.

James Warwick, an early pioneer on the 11th concession where his great great neice Celicia and Gordon White reside. According to the early drawings, this farm was quite a model.

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The writer of this story would be very remiss if John Brooks of the 11th concession was not recorded for he really is South Dorchester's grand old man. and in fact is the oldest resident of South Dorchester in the Kingsmill district. In an enjoyable interview at his cosy residence, this grand old man related that over 60 years ago, he had travelled to British Columbia where he encountered many interesting experiences, even shooting a bear. Returning to Ontario, he located for 10 years on the John Ballah farm, 12th concession, later settled by Randall Ballah. Previously this property was owned by Leonard Cline, a pioneer. Later the late Thomas Martindale settled on this farm, which is now owned by the Donald Posters. After John Brooks had farmed for 10 years on the south section 12th concession he married and has lived for 47 years on the 11th concession where he owns a large acreage that adjoins the south farm, he formerly operated.

*The Kingsmill School*

Goldsmith  
Seminary, built 1860

Replaced in 1913



During 1857, the first school in the Kingsmill district was built of logs and was situated on the north west corner of the Gordon Kilmer farm, almost across from Herbert Browns, 11th concession. Cynthia Mc. Donald was the first teacher in the log school from 1857 to 1860. Later she was the first teacher in Goldsmith Seminary, a red brick school built in 1860, near the site of the present school

almost across from John Donalds. Some of the teachers included Mary Ann Tinlin (the late Mrs. Ansel Bray of Mapleton) Etta MC. Cready, later a missionary to South America, Angus Mc. Intyre and A.O. Brown, who later studied the medical profession, Louise Mc. Kenny (Mrs. Everett Van Patter) Leone Mc. Kenna (Mrs. Herbert White, Aylmer) the late J.A. Campbell, who later became a doctor, Clarence Laidlaw, a civil engineer, the late Edwin Bowes, Minnie Bottrill, Jean Mc. Gregor (Mrs. Henry Culham, Aylmer) Gordon Newell, Edith Meikle, Emma Cline, Julia Mc. Intyre (Mrs. Bruce Brown, Mapleton) who was the last teacher in the goldsmith Seminary. At that time the trustees included Salem Herbert, John Condon and the secretary Will Wagner, who also acted for a while in the new school built near the old site.

Julia Mc. Intyre was the first teacher in the new school and was followed by Gertrude Eichenburg, Ella Cline, Ellar Mc. Kellar, later a dentist, May Teeple, Nita Pearce, Gwen Goff, Lois Parks (Mrs. Geo Jenkins, Belmont) Elaine Taylor (Mrs. John Millman, Sparta) Alex Betterley, Lila Tisdale, Selma Caverley, Roy Harvey, Ethel Pratt (Mrs. Harold Stover, Lyons) Austin Charlton, Marion Mc. Intyre, Mrs. Simon Elgie and others. Mrs. Fred Brown is the present teacher.

*Pictures p. 259  
\* in Large J. History*

*Church* Church and Sunday School were held in the old school for many years. Prominent among the preachers were the late Burton Robinson, E.I. Matthews, A.M. Stuart, S.R. Mc. Vittie, later Superintendent of the Muncey Reserve. Sunday school was conducted in the new school for a number of years. Solomon Parks was Superintendent for many years, then, Harvey Martindale. Austin Charlton and Lloyd Laidlaw who was the last superintendent, when the Sunday School disbanded, in 1920.

Early history reveals that the road past Gordon Kilmers did not always exist. Just why that road became a given road was due to the generosity of Claude Hoover's grandfather Jesse Hoover and Dan Van Cise, who lived where Lewis



Doan lived later and also a man by the name of Heniker who resided on the Gordon Kilmer farm. Each gave over a rod from their farms for this new road, thus opening a route that has been greatly appreciated by so many down through the years. History reveals that a blacksmith shop was at one time located between the school and the residence of John Condon. Colin Turner was the first person to operate the blacksmith shop, which was later sold to Thomas Condon, brother of John Condon. Later the shop was moved across the road and down to the corner and later sold to Ransom Koyle, who was the last blacksmith here.

When nearly every family of this marvelous 20th century owns an automobile, a radio, a telephone and enjoys hydro also, one little realizes that less than 50 years ago, these fantastic luxuries were unheard of and have now become indispensable in the modern age. Interesting history is that Jesse Legg, ex-councillor of Aylmer and grandson of George Legg, early pioneer, purchased in 1910 the first automobile 'McLaughlin Buick' in the Kingsmill district and also in 1922 purchased the first radio. During 1902, the first telephone line, known as the Aylmer-Mapleton Telephone Company was built by the Late L.M. Brown of the 11th concession and was financed by the farmers who purchased their own phones as well as the payment of \$5.00 fee. When the Aylmer Mapleton Co. amalgamated with the South Malahide Telephone Co., over 40 subscribers were listed on the line.

An inspiration to every home maker has been the formation of the Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute, organized in 1907, with 'Home and Country' as their lofty motto. Mrs. John Donald is the president and Mrs. Ralph Stover the secretary. An inspiration also has been the C.W.B.M. organized in 1908, a missionary organization associated with the Church of Christ Mapleton. Mrs. Claude Hoover is the president and Mrs. Charles Cartwright the secretary.

During 1932 a Literary Society was organized at the Kingsmill school which held enthusiastic programs during the winter months, for over six years.

As four residents of the Kingsmill district have passed their 80th birthdays, the writer is pleased to record their names: John Sweet of the 8th concession, Malahide has the honour of being the oldest resident in that township in the Kingsmill district, having celebrated his 85th birthday, while his wife, Mrs. John (Rose) Sweet has celebrated her 82nd birthday. At this juncture, tribute should be recorded to John Sweet and his wife, whom the writer interviewed at their attractive home, when vivid reminiscences of the early pioneers of Kingsmill were splendidly related for this pioneer story. John Brooks, who has been reported by the writer has celebrated his 84th birthday and lives with his daughter Mrs. Ivan (Gladys) Warren. Mrs. W.H. (Hattie) Brown of the 11th concession has celebrated her 81st birthday and resides with her daughter Mrs. Oliver (Maimie) Dawson. A few years ago, Mrs. Brown became a life member of C.W.B.M. of the Church of Christ and has lived a life, worthy of emulation.

Recording the names of seven residents of the district who have passed their 75th birthdays is also a pleasure. Salem Herbert of the 12th concession has celebrated his 77th birthday, while his wife Mrs. Salem (Carrie) Herbert has attained her 76th birthday. John Condon of the 12th concession recently celebrated his 77th birthday. Mrs. Edward (Mary) Holmes of the 9th concession, Malahide, who resides with her daughter, Mrs. Robin (Alta) Dobbie, has celebrated her 76th birthday. Three residents who have celebrated their 75th birthdays, are Mrs. John (Selina) Brooks, of the 11th concession; Mrs. Walter (Phoebe) Ashton of Kingsmill and Mrs. Linda Mc. Neil, who resides with her daughter, Mrs. Walter (Vera) More of the 10th concession.

During World War I (1914 - 1918) and also World War II (1939 - 1945) many young men have enlisted from the Kingsmill district - in fact a number have

sacrificed their gallant lives, whose names will appear on a separate page of the Tweedsmuir Village History, which will be dedicated to their noble services.

The following addition has been provided by Mrs. Harry Carter. It had been compiled by Mrs Robin Debbie (Alta Holmes) from recollections supplied by her mother (Mrs. Edward Holmes)

Beginning at the school house and travelling east on the ninth concession of Malahide, the first farm is owned by Myron Ashford. Before him, his father (Alf.) Ashford and his mother lived here and raised their family. Before them John Carter and his wife (Mary Cox) lived here for many years, raising a family of eight children.

Across the road and a quarter of a mile east was the home of Joe Stevens, his wife and step daughter, Kate Livingstone. After the old people died, Kate lived on here alone for many years. She cultivated beautiful flowers and loved her dogs - four little black spaniels and a big golden collie, but did not mingle with her neighbours. After her death, Andrew Davis bought the farm. Karl Wright of Crossley-Hunter bought the house and moved it to his farm to replace one that had burned. There are no buildings there now. It is merely a pasture farm.

Across the creek, on the south side, lived the family of the late Solomon Parks. There were four children, Mary who married Richard Allen, and they were early residents on the farm now owned by Gordon Kilmer. They lived here till age

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and infirmity forced them to retire to a home in Orwell. A son, Solomon built the white brick house at the end of the road opposite the school and lived here, till he too was forced to retire because of failing health and strength. There were two other daughters, Nellie and Jessie. The Parks' farm was sold to Charles Stuart then to Andrew Mills and Bert Foster.

The pioneer family on the farm across the road, a little to the east were Tozers. Next Troughton, then Charles King, who lived there many years, then J.M. Howse and now Harry Carter.

Across the road, a little to the east. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Mc. Kenny lived for fifty three years. Mrs. Mc. Kenny was Belle Norton, whose father was a harness maker in Orwell in its earliest days. Lewis Mc. Kenny was one of 13 children of Hamilton Mc. Kenny who received his land from the crown, (the farm where John Sweet lives) Mrs. Sweet is a sister of Lewis Mc. Kenny. The Mc. Kenny farm was sold to John Johnson, later to Stanley Pake and now is owned by Andrew Davis.

On the corner just east of the Mc. Kenny farm, the 'Northwood Cheese Factory' was for many years, a flourishing business, operated first by a syndicate of farmers then by John Winder, then by Frank Boyes, then by D. Doan of St. Thomas. The factory was then rebuilt into a cement brick structure and operated by G.G. Hopkins. Later Wallace Baker purchased it and employed Harvey Dalton (son of Warren Dalton) as cheese maker.

After the <sup>2</sup>Crnation plant got in operation in Aylmer, Cheese factories found it harder and harder to keep going. Northwood finally gave it up. J.C. Dance bought it and tore it down, leaving the east end intact, which he made into a dwelling house. The bricks and lumber were sold and removed. Andrew Davis now owns this little property. The farm on the opposite corner has been in the Davis family for many years. Andrew Davis and his family are the present occupants.

About 1898 Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Holmes (Mary Evert) and three little daughters came to the farm across from the Davis farm. Another little daughter was born to them here. At present Mr and Mrs. Robin Dobbie (Alta Holmes) and their daughter, Mary Margaret live on this farm. Mrs. Holmes' Father, John Evert had lived here before them, so that Mary Margaret makes four generations of the same family to live here.

East of the Davis property on the north side, the family of the late Heil Wood resided for sixty years. John Thompson bought it and lived there but a few months when it was purchased by George Lapham and at their death Mr. and Mrs. Roy Britton fell heir to it, later selling it to Clifford Pake, who still resides there.

Across the road, close to the M.C.R. there are two houses on the farm owned by William Cox and now by John Widner. *Widner.*

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