

Mapleton

Chapter I - Early Settlers.

A worn and faded illustrated atlas of Elgin County, dated 1877, reveals that the first settlers in the township of South Dorchester were Isaac Willis and Archibald Mc.Lachlin, settling in the tenth concession, north of Springfield, in 1826. They were Americans of British parentage and came from Livingstone County New York State. The next settlement was on the road, leading east from Mapleton and within a few years, this road was occupied by David Brooks, Steven Wilcox, Walter Chase, John Wismer and Robert Allen.

In 1831, Andrew Warwick, of Irish descent, also settled on this road. His son, James inherited the farm and continued in his father's purpose of making a fine home in the wilderness. Mr. and Mrs. James Warwick had no family and upon Mr. Warwick's death, a nephew and namesake, James Warwick (Jr) took over and with whom 'Aunt Celicia' as she was affectionately known in the community, lived, until her death. Gordon and Celicia (Warwick) White now own this fine old home.

In 1847 John Mc.Lachlin purchased the farm west of the Warwick home. Born in Argyleshire Scotland, in 1798, John Mc.Lachlin came to Canada, with his father and two brothers in 1836 (his mother having died in Scotland). He first settled at Arn Prior, on the Ottawa River, where he started the Mc.Lachlin Lumber Mills. Later John and his wife and two children, Isabelle and John (Jr) came farther afield and settled on the farm east of Mapleton. This farm is reported to have changed hands twice, previous to this, but no one had settled there, until Mr. Mc.Lachlin built the mud house and made it their home. They were charter members of the Disciple church and helped to build the first church, east of Mapleton. Mrs. Mc.Lachlin was an invalid and sat in her wheel chair, which her boys would carry out to the wagon and they took her, in this way to church.

This farm was later owned by William Charlton, Azel Finch, J.C. Dance, and at the time of writing, by Clare Appleford. The lovely old mud house burned some years

age and has been replaced by a modern structure.

Peter Charlton, in 1831, settled on the farm across the road from the Warwick home. Later his son, John H. and wife, Kate Brown took over this farm, which in due course, was handed down to their two daughters, Maude (Mrs. Harry Cloes) and Myrtle. It is now owned by H.M. Brown.

At the same time (1831) that Peter Charlton settled east of Mapleton, his brother William Charlton, with his bride, a New York State girl, came from Kingston and purchased land from the Crown at \$ 1.00 per acre, north of Mapleton, between Yarmouth and South Dorchester townships, cutting down trees to clear this land, for a log house and barn. There were twelve children in this family, all living to a great age. Mr. Charlton, himself lived to the age of Ninety nine years.

As the family grew up and married, William (Jr), John R. Abram and Miles settled on farms in the Mapleton district. Abram and Miles taking over the homestead.

Later Miles sold his share to Abram. Abram and his bride, Mary Barrett having settled on the north half of the homestead. In later years, upon their retirement, this farm passed to their son, Roy and his wife (Ada Allen).

Herbert Thomson, a veteran of World War I and his wife (Sarah Mc. Intyre) are the present owners (1951)

William Charlton (Jr) took over the John Mc. Lachlin place, east of Mapleton, having married their only daughter Isabell, a grand daughter of the pioneer John Mc. Lachlin.

John R. Charlton and his bride, Emily Jane Bray settled on the Daniel Mc. Gregor farm on the tenth concession of South Dorchester, just east of the townline. Later their son Ansel and wife (Edith Thomson) owned it and later, their son John A. and wife (Veda Brown) owned it. Karl Thomson was the next owner and since his death, his wife (Aleta Fowler) still lives there.

Miles Charlton, the last of the family living and his bride, Saphronia Brooks a descendent of the pioneer, David Brooks, first settled on fifty acres of the homestead and later acquired the Capt. A. Mc. Millam farm, about a mile farther north on the townline, now owned by his eldest son, Orlando and wife (Minnie Gates).

The Bray farm in Concession II, lots 18 and 19, Yarmouth, was obtained from the Crown in 1840 by James Lewis. He sold to Amos Jeffrey in 1848 and he to William Rogers in 1851. In 1857, J. Warwick acquired it and in 1863 sold it to T. B. Bray from the Paris district. In 1869, his son Ansel took over and upon his death, it passed to his son John, who still lives on the homestead. It is on the southern end of this farm that the village of Mapleton and the Mapleton Cemetery are located.

The very first burials in the community, were made in a plot of land on the hill, just north of the Wm. Luton home - the first recorded being that of Samuel Weir in 1824. This land however was soon found to be springy and another site was chosen on the south east corner of the Bray farm. This cemetery was non sectarian and people for miles around chose it as the last resting place of their loved ones.

Duncan and Daniel Mc. Gregor settled on the tenth concession of South Dorchester. Daniel taking the corner farm on the tenth concession and the Yarmouth-South Dorchester townline and Duncan taking the next farm east, which was later sold to W. G. Charlton and then to Hiram Peer.

Across the road from the Mc. Gregors, came an English family, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Cox. Their daughter married Frederick Carter, who had come from England with the Coxes. Mr. and Mrs. Carter succeeded on the farm, keeping it up in true English style, with its hawthorn hedges and open ditches. Their only son,

William, next came into possession and then his son J.G. Carter, who later sold it to Eardley Finch.

Jacob Augustine lived in Welland County but when the Welland Canal was started (1824 to 29) he decided that it was a poor place to raise a family so, coming west, he settled on land, on the north side of the road, opposite the Bentley and MC.Neil places. His son, Henry Augustine married Miss Brown, whose brother William Brown had moved from Yarmouth Centre and settled on the farm, just west of Augustines. William Brown married Fanny Augustine.

In 1876, Henry Augustine sold his share of the property to James Vail and moved to Michigan. James Vail sold, in turn to D.D. Finch and W.H. Brown, while L.M. Brown got the west fifty, where W. Herbert now lives.

The farm now owned by H.M. Brown was early settled by a Mr. Brickley and later by Robert A. Allen, Darius Appleford, James Brown and J.C. Legg.

Archie Thompson's farm was settled by Robert Allen, who sold to R. Waite, who sold to J.D. Thompson, father of Archie Thompson who owned it till his death in 1951.

In 1819 William Luton and his wife Mary Rye came from England, receiving their land from the Crown. Of their six sons and three daughters, John, the eldest married Amada Crane and settled on the corner farm at Crossley-Hunter, known in later years as the James Meikle Farm. William married Eliza Crane and settled on the farm, about a mile south of Mapleton on the east side of the road. Daniel and his wife (Emma Hawley) took the farm on the north west corner of the intersection of the Edgeware and Mapleton-New Sarum roads. The Lutens were active in civic affairs. In 1867, Daniel Luton was elected member of the first Legislative Assembly of Ontario. They had two sons and three daughters but on the death of their parents, they sold the farm and went to St. Thomas. Their successors on this farm have been F. Duns-

ford, then James Drake, later John Schneider and his son Lorenzo.

One of the early pioneers of the Mapleton district, was John ~~L. Learn~~^{L. Learn}. In the year,

1825, John Learn bought 100 acres of the south half of lot 18, concession 10,

Yarmouth, from Mahlon Burwell. This was located about a mile south of Mapleton,

on the east side of the road and now owned by James Moore. In the year 1845, he

also received a patent from the Crown, of 53 more acres, part of lot 19, concess-

ion 10. He and his wife, Kathrine had seven sons and one daughter (Kathrine).

His sons, Phillip and Lyman settled down as farmers on the opposite side of the

road, Lyman on the opposite south west corner from his father's farm and Phillip

on a farm about half way between the concession across the road from his father.

Phillip's farm, at one time had a cheese factory on it. Phillip later sold his

farm to John Mc. Gregor and moved to Michigan. This farm still belongs to the

Mc. Gregor family. There was a burying ground on the north side of John Learn's

house. This land was later sold for a gravel pit and the cemetery was moved.

There had been a number of Learn grand children buried in this cemetery.

John, George, Edwin and Andrew Learn settled on farms in the Crossley-Hunter

district. John married Celesta Culver and like his father, had seven sons and

one daughter (Alma). Both father and son lost their only daughter in young woman-

hood.

Four of the sons, Andrew, Phillip, Edwin and John married half sisters, living

two miles north of Simcoe. Edwin and Phillip were married twice. Charles, the

youngest son stayed on the homestead at Mapleton. He and his wife cared for

the father, until he died.

In 1875, Charles sold ninety acres of this land to Wm. Luton and moved to St.

Thomas, taking his ailing mother. Later he set up a real estate business in

Aylmer.

John Learn with his his son Charles and his wife and three daughters moved to the fifth concession of Malahide. John lived with them until his death. His second son ,Phillip and his youngest son, Gordon also lived on farms on the fifth concession. Phillip had four sons and two daughters. Gordon had six sons and two daughters. The descendents of John and Kathrine Learn, now living in Elgin County, with the exception of Roy Learn at Crossley Hunter, having the Learn name are all sons and grandsons of Phillip and Gordon Learn.

William Luton and Wife had four sons and three daughters. George studied law and practiced in Michigan; Robert became a medical doctor and also practiced in Michigan; Daniel, who farmed just south of the Edgeware road, where Andrew Padden now lives and William F. who married Jennie, daughter of Jacob Cline of Dorchester and bought land in Yarmouth, the first farm north of his uncle Daniel Lutons. W.F. Luton was also a man with public interests and in time became Warden of the county. Later in life he moved to St. Thomas and became Governor of the County jail, which position he held until his death.

In this family there were five sons and one daughter. One of the sons, Dr. Will Luton, paid the supreme sacrifice in World War I. Another son, Dr. Robert Luton, enlisted in World War I and became a Major. Remaining in the forces, he was elevated during World War II to the status of General. William Luton Sr's farm is now owned by James Moore III.

John Luton's son Gilbert married Lynn Allen, daughter of Robert Allen and they took over the Allen place, east of the Mapleton (Disciple) Church, while the Allen family moved farther south into the Kingsmill district.

Other early settlers were Steven Tuttle, who built a home on the north side of the South Dorchester-Malahide townline, just off the Mapleton-New Sarun road.

This farm passed to his son John and then to George Tuttle, who held it until about 1900. Paul Leathers was the next owner and now J. Ericson of Danish birth.

Godfrey Mc. Taggart and his wife, Kate Gregory made their home among the hills of the Catfish Creek, east of Daniel Lutons.

Jabez Culver came north, taking the corner farm, bounded on two sides by Concession II, Yarmouth and the Dorchester-Yarmouth townline. This place passed to his son, Edwin, who lived there until his death in 1906. Melvin Claus bought this farm and later sold it to Johnson Brothers.

Thomas Finch came also in 1831 from New York State and took up land in Yarmouth, about a mile south of Mapleton. The homestead was later, about 1860, sold to T.W. Michael and again in 1900 to Thos. Penhale. It is now owned by Sam Garton. In 1840 Mr. Finch's son, David Wellington and his bride Rebecca Howse moved from the home of his father to lot 18, Concession 8, South Dorchester, which at that time, was native woods and their nearest neighbour John Deacon, two and a half miles away, by blazed trail. This couple were blessed with thirteen children, the two youngest sons returning to the Mapleton district to farm. - David Denzil and his wife, Amy Charlton, settling on the farm about a mile, east of Mapleton, purchased from John Gestick, the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Wadham.

George Culver and his wife, Emma Venning, on the Peter Caughill farm, one half a mile north of Mapleton, across the road from William Charlton (Sr), purchasing this farm from his brother John, in 1884. His son Eardley and wife (Anna Davies) now own and reside on this farm. Their eldest son, Donald Davies made the supreme sacrifice in World War II.

Other early settlers were J.S.Finn on the first farm, east of Mapleton, on the south side of the road. He was superseded by William Appleford, Geo. Doan, Titus and Lewis Doan, Geo. Doan's two youngest sons, H.M. Brown, M. Warwick, George Mc. Caulley and the present owner, Bruce Brown.

The farm just east of this was purchased in 1856 from Walter Chase by, Frederick White, a young man of German birth, who with his young Irish wife came up from Halton County. Mr. and Mrs. White spent the rest of their lives on this farm, building it up into one of the show places of the neighbourhood. Their son David took over this farm, on their retirement, the other sons having entered professions. Upon D.O. White's death, the farm became the property of their only child, Mabel, Mrs (Dr) M.D. Campbell.

When the Moores came to the new world from their native Ireland, they first established themselves in New Hampshire, but in a few years, they began to hear tales of the splendid country to the far west and in 1838, decided to hit the trail for Indiana. By the time they had assembled their families and their belongings, there was quite a caravan. They came with wagons and teams, crossing into Canada, at Buffalo. All went well till one of their number became very ill, and they stopped at Orwell for rest and aid. While at Orwell, they heard of land for sale a little to the north, and liking the country about them, they decided to give up their long trek and make their home in Canada. David Moore settled on the 10th concession, where four generations have held the same farm. His brother James settled east of Mapleton, between the J Mc. Lachlin and W. Chase farms. Of his two sons, Samuel became a doctor and went to the States, James the II, took over the home farm. James III, in turn carried on until his older son,

James Moore, the 3rd-left the home farm in charge of his son Hugh Moore at the age of 16 in April 1939 and took over the farm of Jno. Elgie, R.R. #3, St. Thomas, Ontario until the farm was taken

for the St. Thomas, Airport while the Dorchester farm was left to his son, Hugh Moore after his death in January, 1968.

Hugh came to manhood and took over the farm, his father moving first to Yarmouth Centre and then, in 1941, back to the Wm. Luton place, south of Mapleton.

John Wismer settled on the farm just west of the Peter Charlton farm. Mr. Wismer was very active in both church and political life, serving for many years as magistrate. In 1856, he and his neighbour, Peter Charlton both supplanted their original log holms by red brick residences. The Wismer house burned down in 1950.



Mrs. Adamson of
Stratford.
Formerly Eljiva Moore
of Mapleton.

CANADIAN CLUB SPEAKER—

Mrs. Elgiva Adamson, of Stratford, will be in St. Thomas next week, the executive of the Canadian Club having put forth an extra effort to open their new season now, to enable their members to hear Mrs. Adamson, who will speak on "Oedipus Rex" in Trinity Parish Hall, on Wednesday evening, May 26. Mrs. Adamson is a person of great drive and initiative who, when it was known that the Shakespearean Drama Festival was going to Stratford, did something about the general lack of knowledge of Shakespeare among her friends and acquaintances. Interest in what she was teaching grew until she was conducting classes for all kinds of people, five evenings a

week. Even high school students asked for a special class to help them prepare for the plays to be presented. Her fame grew until she became part of the Festival story, as it was documented by the National Film Board in "Stratford Adventure." She has published small booklets about the plays to be dramatized this summer and will probably have these with her, for those who wish to "brush up" on Shakespeare. The Canadian Club is hoping that none of its members or prospective members for next year will miss this meeting which will be the first of the promising 1954-1955 season.

Chapter - II - The Church.

Church Of Christ (Disciples)

As the early settlers began to put down roots in their newly established homes, they began to feel the need of a place to worship and on Jan 6th, 1850, a meeting was held at the home of Edmund Shepherd, formerly of Toronto, who lived in a house just back and a little to the west of the present church site, near the home of R.S. Bentley, now owned by Ralph Stover.

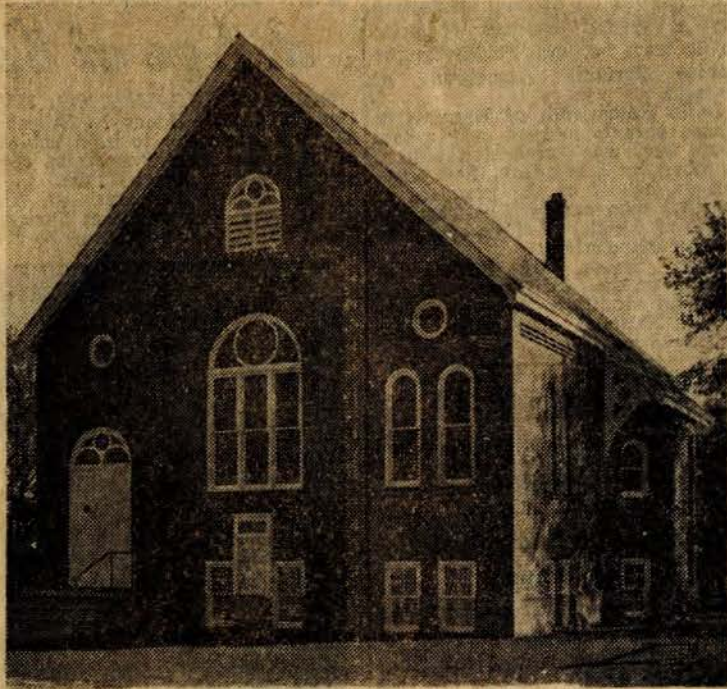
At this meeting it was decided to build a church and immediately the men began hewing out timber from their forests. R.S. Bentley gave the land for the building and the adjoining cemetery and by August of that year, the church, a frame building 18' X 30' was completed. On August 25th, it was opened for the first service with a charter membership of eleven souls.

R.S. Bentley and E. Shepherd had been elected elders and Elder Shepherd, as he was known throughout the countryside, became its first pastor. Elder Shepherd was an outstanding scholar and lecturer, as well as Superintendent of Public schools in this district. It was said of him, that he officiated at more weddings than any other minister in the County.

The Church, in a few years, outgrew the building; and a new octagonal church of white brick was erected in 1872, the original church being sold and moved to Mapleton, where it became a residence. In later years, Miss Maude Bray and her sister Mrs (Mabel) Smith occupied it.

Again the church outgrew its walls and in 1904, in Randall Ballah's pastorate was replaced by the present red brick structure.

Disciples Church at Mapleton Observes Centennial Sunday



DISCIPLES CHURCH AT MAPLETON

The centennial of the pioneer Church of Christ (Disciples) in Mapleton, formerly called the South Dorchester Church, is being observed on Sunday with special morning and evening services at which Rev. W. G. Charlton of Erin, Ont., who was pastor of the church in the early 1900's, will be the minister. There will also be special music for this important anniversary of a House of God that had a very definite part and place in the pioneer life of both South Dorchester and North Yarmouth.

A historical sketch of the old church, and its development, was prepared for The Times-Journal, from old records, by Warden A. V. Coulter and Mrs. Coulter. It is presented as follows:

"A small band of faithful men and women under the leadership of evangelists first held their meetings during the summer months in the form of camp meetings in the virgin forest and at irregular intervals during the winter months, going from home to home.

A young man, Edmund Sheppard, from the Church of the Disciples in Nottingham, England, came to Canada in 1843 and in 1849 taught school where the village of Mapleton now stands. He also preached and directed his efforts toward the formation of a church. He was aided by a number of Baptists, who joined him in his Christian efforts.

From Early Record

"In an early record of those formative years, we read:

"The congregation of South Dorchester, under the auspices of a providing and indulgent God, first met at the home of Brother Ed Sheppard on the Lord's Day, January 6, 1850. Here the candlestick was set up. May it never be removed until the world and all earthly churches shall be no more. Amen. Randall Bentley and Edmund Sheppard."

"At this meeting plans were made for a house of worship. The necessary timbers were obtained from various properties and everyone who could, helped with the task. By Aug. 25, 1850, the church was completed and dedicated by Elder Dugald Sinclair. It served the community twenty-two years. Names of the eleven charter members recorded are: Randall Bentley, Helen Bentley, William Bentley, John Inglis, Lavinia Inglis, Edmund Sheppard, Nancy Sheppard, John Mc-

Laughlin, Isabella McLaughlin, Benjamin McBeath, Mrs. McBeath.

"The earliest list of baptisms dated May 19, 1850, include Amanda Learn, S. Whitmore, Betsy Whitmore, Mr. and Mrs. Irvin, Eliza Cline, Peter McNeil.

"In February, 1851, Benjamin and Priscilla Sherk, and on March 16, Christina Scott, William Little, John Ballah and Donald Turner.

"By the tenth year, the church had 159 members. The next decade brought in children from the founders and others, the Putnams, Fowlers, Hugheses, Jacksons and Coopers.

The Second Church

"In 1872 a second building was erected on the same site, of white brick and octagon shaped. During this year the membership was 274. After forty years the membership was 478 received or baptized. After eighty years, the number who had received Christian recognition had been increased to 600.

"In 1904 the octagon-shaped building was replaced by the present red brick church under the guidance of a beloved minister, Randall W. Ballah. Other ministers who have served since 1893 are: Edward R. Black, N. H. Stephens, W. G. Charlton, W. N. Arnold, J. G. Wheeler, D. McCall, S. W. Fay, S. R. Aldrich, D. T. Stanley, Thomas W. Bradt, H. K. Franks, J. D. Stephen, Angus Butler, Carlton Wells, F. R. James and William Firmer, the present minister.

"Various societies affiliated with the church have been organized. The Sunday School, Christian Endeavor and the Women's Missionary Society have played a very important part in the life of the church and community. Missionary teaching has been encouraged and financial assistance given to organized missions. The church's influence has been felt in China, Japan, Tibet, Mexico and the islands of the sea.

"Surely this was in the minds of those charter members as they gathered at the home of Brother E. Sheppard one hundred years ago."

This event was

celebrated

October 22nd, 1950.

The Choir of The Disciple Church
About 1912.



Back row :-

Warren Brown, John Mc.Cauley, Jesse Legg, John Connell,
Rev. Wheeler, Claude Hoover.

Middle row :-

Katie Charlton, Hildred Mc.Cauley, Estelle Warwick, Mabel White,
Maimie Brown.

Front row :-

Clara Wismer, Mabel Bancroft, Eva Warwick, Mildred Mc.Cauley,
Lulu Finch, Stella Charlton.

A Meeting of The C.W.B.M. of The Disciple Church
at the home of Mrs. D.O.White's in 1918.



Back row, left to Right:-

Mrs.D.D.Finch, Mrs.Mc.Dougal, Mrs Ansel Charlton, Maimie Brown,
Mrs.Bruce Brown, Myrl Condon, Gertrude Parkes,Veda Brown,
Margaret Bradt,Mrs.Thompson, Ruth Charlton, Mary Mc.Dougal.

Middle row:-

Mrs.H.Tanner, Mrs.May Wolfer, Mabel White, Mrs.James Moore and
Baby Lela, Jean Lenentine, Mrs.J.Johnson,Mrs.Cecil Legg,
Mrs.D.O.White.

Front row :-

Janet Wolfer, Douglas Legg, Florence Charlton, Clara Finch,
Mrs.Tanner's sister.