



As the years passed, Older members died, others moved away. Families moving in, belonged to other churches. The congregation became so small that on September 13th, 1965, the Church was closed with a fitting service, to which once again Dr. Ernest Crossley Hunter came from Toronto to give the message. Instead of a formal sermon, he told the story of his father's life, his conversion and evangelistic work. More than 100,000 persons made public confession for Christ during his ministry.

Rev. G.A. Shields of the Talbotville charge conducted the service and introduced Dr. Hunter. Chairman of Elgin Presbytery, Rev. William Shaver of Dutton brought greetings from Presbytery. Walter Mathews of the Crossley Hunter Church read a brief history of the church. The Springfield choir provided the music.

More than four hundred attended, many of whom had been faithful attendants in by gone days. Those who could not get into the church, could hear the service in their cars by means of a loud speaker system.



Rev. Ernest Crossley Hunter, left, is seen with Mrs. Neil Ferguson, Mrs. Roy Learn and Walter Matthews outside the Crossley-Hunter United Church

where he conducted the official closing service. Mr. Hunter's father was one of the church founders.

Dr. E. Crossley Hunter died in January, 1966 at the age of 77 years. He had served the church an uninterupted ministry of 55 years. Two of his sons, Gordon and John are ministers of The United Church of Canada. The little Crossley Hunter Church is proud and honored to have retained the interest of so great and busy a man, that twice in recent years, he has come to preach in it on memorable occasions.

Crossley Hunter Church  
(Continued from Book I, Section on 'The Church')

In June 1951, Rev R.C.Copeland retired and was succeeded by Rev. M.G.Cook for one year.

Rev G.A.Shields followed him and remained four years. Rev.G.G.Heffelfinger came next also for four years. Rev Jean Donaldson came next but in the middle of her second year, received a call to a charge in the Hamilton Conference. She departed in March 1964.

For the remainder of the year we were served by two excellent students for the ministry - John Brown and Don Parsons.

The Sunday School remained active but the attendance at the church service had dwindled to a mere dozen.

Other rural churches were experiencing the same changes. The Boards of all East Elgin United Churches were called together to discuss the situation. The result was that the charges of Springfield, Richmond and Bayham were re-arranged, to include each appointment except Fairview and Crossley Hunter. These congregations were to disperse among convenient churches. The church was closed in June 1964 and preparations were to be made for a final closing ceremony in September.

At once, steps were taken by a group of Mennonite families to secure the church. It took time for their offer to go through Presbytery and Conference sources but in 1966 their offer was accepted and they are using the church for a place of worship.

The sale price for the land, building and contents was \$ 700. The Church trustees, who closed the deal were Walter Mathews, William Wright, Ernest Jenkins, Mrs. Marion Appleford and Edith Abell.

The Young People's Union

This Society was organized in 1926 by Rev. and Mrs. R.R.Connor and was active for many years. The young people took their work seriously. They held weekly meetings with well planned and well prepared programs. This did much to develop initiative, self confidence and skill in its members. Debates on current issues was a favourite type of program. They prepared a play early in the fall and produced not only at the Crossley Hunter Church but at many surrounding churches when they received half of the admission take.

They planned garden parties, socials, concerts, food sales, had booths at games etc, chiefly as money making projects. For years they took the responsibility of \$ 100.00 of the Church's budget.

They provided shrubs and perennials and landscaped the church lawns.

They kept their society up to date by always having representatives at Y.P conferences and camps.

Their social life was active and happy while the society remained active. There were social evenings in the homes, skating parties, sleigh rides and exchange visits to other societies.

Over the years, members of the Y.P.U. have been - Elizabeth, Clara and Henry Cowell, Will, Opal and Ruby Holmes, Mary, Bill, Margaret, Louise and David Crawford, Ernest Jenkins, Jane, Glen, Beatrice and Bernice Taylor, Harold, Bob and Donald Ferguson, Florence Pettit, Dorothy Smith, Robert, Evelyn, Marion, Agnes, Ross and Edith Abell, Clara, Clarence, Leonard, Harvey, Dorothy and Alice Willsey, Marjorie Ackert, Carl and Ruby Wright, Grace and Jean Appleford, John, Jean and Dorothy Sweet, Mary, Darius, Sarah, Annie, Fred and Eva Grawburg, Frank Wiltsie, Marie Legg, Gertrude and Ross Evert, Marie Ferguson, Hazel Learn,

The Women's Missionary Society

A note on another page tell how this Society grew out of a Mission Circle. The Circle records are lost. Since it became a society to include older women, the Presidents have been -

Mrs. E.L.Sweet, Mrs. Margaret Wiltsie, Agnes Abell, Mrs. Neil Ferguson, Mrs. Roy Mc Gregor, Mrs. Fred Booker, Mrs. Roy Learn, Mrs. Harold Davies, Mrs. Sydney Bruusdon, Mrs. George Jenkins, Mrs. Roy Ketchesaw, Mrs. Stuart Phoenix, Mrs. Bruusdon.

No other rural Church in Elgin has provided as many members for the Presbyterian Executive, for four year terms.

Miss Marjorie Ackert was Secretary for C.G.I.T. Mrs. Fred Booker for Community Friendship and later as Sectional Vice President.

Mrs. Roy Mc Gregor was Sectional Vice President 1948 to 51.

Mrs. E.L.Sweet served for Mission Circles, Christian Stewardship, Christian Citizenship and as President (1946 - 49)

Marie Ferguson was Sec. of Christian Citizenship.

Mission Band

This organization was fortunate in having Leaders who stayed in office for long terms. The first Leader was Mrs Neil Ferguson. Mrs. Fred Booker followed her and made arrangements for the meetings to be held at the school from 3 to 4, one Friday each month. This brought so many more children into it that two leaders were necessary. Mrs. E.L. Sweet assisted Mrs. Booker until the Bookers moved to London.

Mrs. Sweet and Mrs. Hugh Duncan were its Leaders until the Duncans moved to Belmont.

A W.M.S. member was appointed to be present at each Band meeting, take a treat for the children and assist the Leader.

When the Sweets moved out of the community Mrs. Neil Ferguson and Mrs. Fred Hide carried on until it disbanded in 1963.

Baby Band

This organization served the mothers of the babies, even more than the babies and under the supervision of Mrs. Clarence Willsey and Mrs. Roy Ketchshaw, they had very enjoyable meetings, often very informal because of baby chatter and activity. There was a certain amount of Mission study, particularly of children of other lands. They made crib quilts and stuffed toys for the babies. A close friendship grew up among the young mothers and they had a feeling of belonging that they might have missed in any other type of church meeting.

A concerted effort has been made at the autumn Thank offering Meeting to include every one of these groups and also to share the fellowship with groups from other churches - Belmont, Gladstone, St. James, Mapleton, Springfield, Trinity, and Lyons. An effort has always been made to bring an outstanding missionary speaker. Among them have been - Miss Minnie Pound (Burma) Rev A.J. Waterman (Newfoundland) Mrs. Robert Newman (Northern Ontario) Mrs. Loise Bailie (S. Europe) Mrs. J.T. White (Saskatchewan) Miss Edith Sparling (China & Hong Kong) Rev. George Birtch (China) Harold Hide (Africa) Rev Jean Donaldson (India).

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With the Church taken over by Mennonites, a cross was carved from a walnut spindle from the altar by Rev. Hill Hamilton, mounted on a brass base, engraved and placed in the Springfield church. It was a fitting memorial to the church, the Crossley-Hunter evangelists, and Dr Ernest Crossley Hunter, who cherished it, by his two minister sons. A brass cross also was placed in the Springfield church in memory of the same from its congregations.

### Fire Damages Crossley Hunter United Church

In September, 1959, everything was in readiness for the Church Anniversary to be held on the usual day - the second Sunday of September. The floor of the Church had been freshly painted and there were new runners in the aisles.

On Friday evening, September 11th, previous to the anniversary Sunday, Harold Stover of Lyons, passing the Church in his car, noticed smoke pouring from the roof of the entrance. He hurriedly went to the home of Marion Correy to report it. Mrs. Correy phoned the Belmont Fire Department and gave the alarm to the neighbours, all of whom responded in record time and the fire was under control before much damage had been done to the main building.

Since the fire had been confined to the loft over the Entrance hall, it is believed to have been caused by defective wiring. The E.C. Boughner Lumber Co. of Springfield restored the roof promptly, Bert Hemphill, Electric Contractor of Aylmer rewired the building and local men cleaned up debris. Three weeks later, the anniversary was held with a large congregation. Rev. Heffelfinger, the new minister on the Charge was the preacher.

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### Baby Band Graduation, June 1959.

This service was held in the Church with members of The W.M.S and mothers of the Baby Band members present. The little graduates are (left to right) Norman Zavitz, Gregory Correy, Lu Anne Hide and Steven Lunn. Behind them are Rev. G.A. Shields with the Baby band Superintendents, Mrs. Clarence Willsey and Mrs. Roy Ketchabaw. In front, ready to receive the graduates into the Mission Band, are the Mission Band Leaders, Mrs. Neil Ferguson and Mrs. Fred Hide.



Jim Free  
(absent  
from the  
picture)

One of the attractions at the 1959 Belmont Annual Fall Fair, was a competition among the Rural Schools of the area for floats. The float prepared by the Crossley Hunter School was most unique and was the result of splendid and happy cooperation among the community mothers of the children.

The below pictures show it as a covered wagon, drawn by a team of horses. Driver of the team is Mrs. Roy Ketchabaw and with her on the Driver's seat is Mrs. Eva Mc.Intyre, the teacher of the School. The children were all dressed in pioneer dress. Some of them rode in the wagon. The others followed behind it. There were many excellent floats in the competition, but to Crossley Hunter's covered wagon, went the first prize.



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The School  
(Continued from Book # 1)

Following Mrs. Ardath(Cline)Millard as teacher was Roy Kennedy for the year 1952 - 53 at a salary of \$ 2,200.

For the years 1953 - 55 Harley Rath taught. His salary was \$ 2,300.

Following him, Mrs. J.I.McIntyre(Eva Taylor) taught until 1963

Mrs. Lewis Helka taught until the summer of 1965.

At this time the pressure from the Department was too strong to resist any longer to establish Central consolidated schools. Since it couldnt be made ready for the fall term, arrangement was made to accomadate Grade 1 and 2 of all South Dorchester, at the Lyons school with Mrs. Cecelil Baxter as teacher, Grades 3 and 4 at Crossley Hunter school with Miss Sharon Poulton as teacher, Grades 5 and 6 at the Martin school with Mrs. Harold Davies as teacher and Grades 7 and 8 at York School with Mrs. L.Helka as teacher.

A suitable site will be selected and a new central school will be built in the near future.

A ten acre tract of land was bought from Aaron Roberts about midway between the Crossley Hunter Corner and Highway # 73 on the north side of the road and during 1966 the new school was completed with classes beginning in it in September.



The South Dorchester Township School

On October 1st, 1966, the old school went up for auction and was purchased by J. Reimer for \$ 2,100.00.

The old School Section # 5 Martin School(1909), # 6, Lyons[1872) #7, Crossley Hunter (1911), #8, Mt. Vernon (1914) and Yerk, S.S.# 10 (1867) are included in the new Township School. The children travel to and from it by buses driven by Mr. George Stratten, Mrs. H. Stratten, Mrs. F. Daniel, Mr. C.O. Daniel.



**OPEN NEW AREA SCHOOL** — The South Dorchester Township Area School, west of the round barn on 73 highway, north of Lyons, was officially opened Friday night. The new seven - room school takes in five old one - room schools. Left to right are R. E. Rawlings, Elgin inspector of public schools; Donald W. Scott, superintendent of elementary and secondary schools in Western Ontario, who was guest speaker; William Shackleton, chairman of the new school board; R. K. McNeil, MPP, Elgin, and Ronald Farrow, principal of the school.

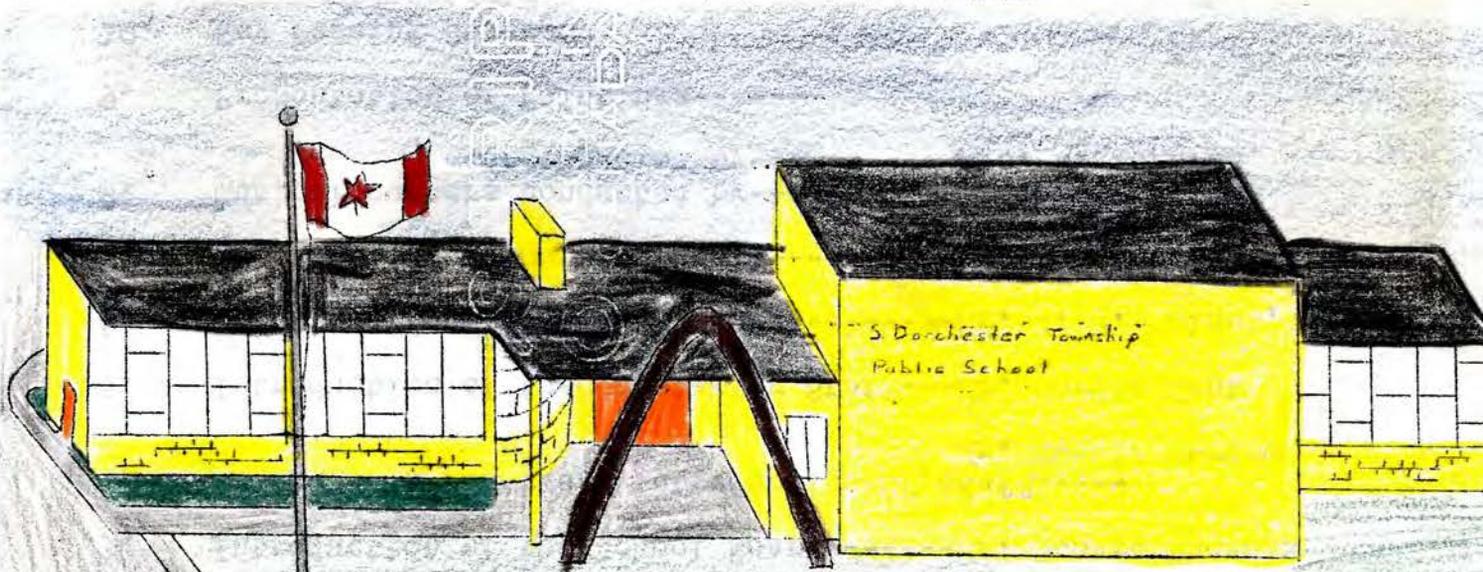
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Members of the staff were :-  
 Mr. R. Farrow (Principal)  
 Mrs. M. Helka  
 Mrs. Gertrude Davies  
 Miss S. Poulton  
 Miss G. Exlay  
 Mrs I. Coleman  
 Mrs E. Baxter  
 Mrs. A Jenkins (Principal's Relief)  
 Mrs. H. Terayik (Music)  
 Mr. & Mrs. S. Bruasden (Caretakers)

Members of the School Board.  
 William Shackleton (Chairman)  
 Gordon Gent  
 Harold Nigh  
 Stuart Phoenix  
 Ken Shackleton  
 C.O. Daniel (Secretary-Treasurer)

On the evening of October 28th, 1966, Open House was held when parents and interested friends came to look over the new school and see some of the pupil's work. The following is a program of the evening, hand done by the pupils.

OFFICIAL OPENING  
 of  
 THE SOUTH DORCHESTER TOWNSHIP  
 PUBLIC SCHOOL



OCTOBER 28<sup>th</sup>, 1966

(over)



July 14, 1966.  
Box 833,  
Aylmer, Ontario.

Dear Pals and Friends  
of S. S. # 7, South Dorchester.

You are invited to attend  
Reunion of Crossley-Hunter School Pals,  
Students, teachers and friends of the  
community of S. S. # 7. South Dorchester,  
prior to the closing of the school.

WHERE - Crossley Hunter School  
WHEN - Sunday, July 31st, 1966  
REGISTRATION at 11.00 a .m.  
DINNER - 12.30 o'clock  
SUPPER - ? ? ?

Come and revive old memories with young and  
old (alike).

BRING - picnic lunch for your carload, cutlery, lawn  
chairs and any school pictures you have.

Beverage, ice cream, plates and cups will be  
supplied.

Yours for a pleasant day,  
Gertrude (Evert) Holmes,  
secretary.

### Farewell to Cressley Hunter School

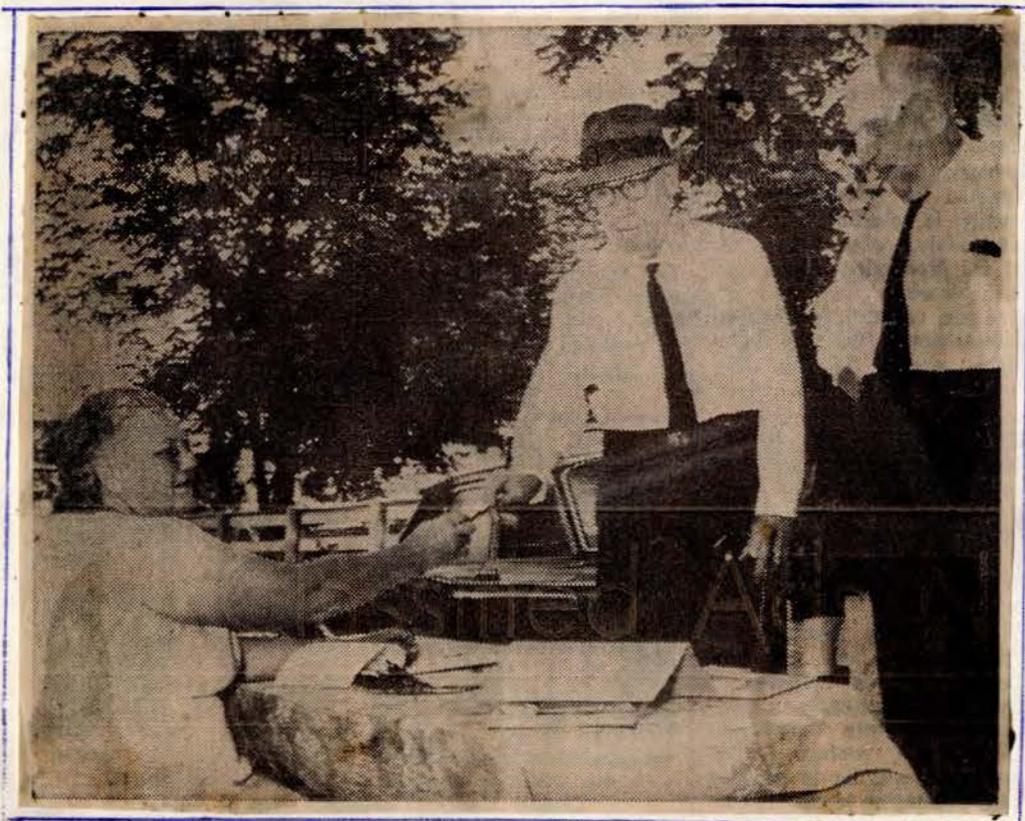
More than three hundred former students of Cressley Hunter School travelled from their homes in Detroit, Toronto, London, Woodstock and other points to attend a reunion at the school on Sunday, July 31st, 1966. A fine new area school is being completed a mile east of the old school and all Dorchester Township students will begin classes there in the fall.

This event was arranged by the 'Pals', an organization of former students that has been holding annual meetings for years. Following a tour of the school house where many pictures were on display, Mrs. Grey Fuller (Beatrice Taylor) read a history of the school of Cressley Hunter, this one being the third building. Letters from two former teachers were read, one from Mrs. Myrtle (Brown) Newell of Springfield and one from Mrs. Tina (Noble) McVicar of Toronto, a teacher in 1898 and who is now ninety three years old.

Prizes to the oldest students present went to Mrs. Henry Culham of Aylmer and Mr. Walter Roberts of Toronto.

Mr and Mrs. Russell Martin, presidents of Pals, acted as chairmen Mr and Mrs. Bob Helms of Owen Sound conducted a program of sports for the children.

A fine picnic lunch was served at noon and many, reluctant to leave, stayed for another picnic meal in the evening.



Shown here, registering (left to right) Mrs. Harry Swance of Woodstock (Opal Helms) a 1924 student, Walter Roberts (81) of Toronto, a 1889 student, his brother Eric Roberts (74) of Trenton.



Viewing old class pictures during the Reunion are old schoolmates. From left to right - Mrs. Gerald Cripps, Ilderten (Eva Grawburg), Mrs. Andrew McGregor, Tillsenburg (Elizabeth Cowell), R. West Giese, Londen and Mrs. Fred Becker, Londen (Sarah Grawburg)



The Crossley - Hunter School about 1895. The teacher  
(centre front) is Miss Bessie Crawford.

(96)



A 1910 picture of the same school. The teacher on the left is Miss Isobel Mitten, the last teacher in the old school. At the end of the term, the school was torn down and the new red brick one built.

Front row - May Johnson, Fred Grawburg, Henry Legg, Jim Jenkins, Clare Appleford, Albert Ashton, Thurman Legg, George Jenkins, Clarence Rogers, Aaron Roberts.

2nd row - Irene Betterley, Marjorie Ackert, Laura Jenkins, Grace Ashton, Cora Bagnall, Grace Appleford, Lillie Betterley.

3rd row - Isobel Mitton (Teacher), Ethel Betterley, Edith Johnson, Mary Grawburg, Theresa Roberts, Alma Wright, Beatrice Ashton, Pearl Betterley, Jean Appleford, Ruby Wright, Edith Bagnall, Adrian Ashton, Allen Grawburg, Milton Roberts, Fred Weed.