

Added. April- 1976:

Following research by
George Thorman - ~~Historian~~ St Thomas.

C.H.J. 30 November, 1865

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S. S. 14 opening

Wednesday Evening, the 22nd inst., was not one of the most inviting night imaginable to turn out to a Tea Meeting, but backed by the hearty invitations extended to your Reporter, he started on his journey, through mud and rain, to the new brick school house, in No. 14 section, which has lately been erected. Arriving at our destination we found the school house brightly lighted and well warmed, looking doubly welcome, for the trials of mud and rain endured in reaching it. While waiting for the arrival of the choir from St. Thomas, we had an opportunity of looking around us, and of admiring the very neat room, tastefully decorated, in which we found ourselves. The school house was commenced in June of the present year and was finished and opened at the date of this festival. It cost about \$800, which has been raised by assessment in the Section; it is a model of convenience. The choir--consisting of several ladies and gentlemen from St. Thomas, having arrived, proceedings commenced by moving John King, Esq., into the chair. After singing grace, refreshments were served and they were the best we ever saw at a Tea meeting--we grow hungry as we reflect. Now came the speaking interspersed with singing. The chairman in opening the meeting gave a very able and impressive speech, dwelling upon the liberal advantages afforded, educationally, in the present day compared to those he had enjoyed in that very section in his youth. No gift which a parent could bestow upon a child ever could equal the gift of a good education. Property might be squandered away and misimproved, but the advantages of a good

education would always last. Mr. King concluded his able remarks amidst applause. The Rev. Geo. Cuthbertson, then followed in a speech warmly and justly condemning those who would interfere with the teacher in his important duties, showing that frequently teachers were dismissed for no good reason, but simply on what 'Jimmy, Johny, or Tommy, or Harry might say.' We trust that the rev. gentleman's advocacy of the teachers rights will be remembered and attended to. After some music by the choir, the Rev. Dr. Caulfield addressed the meeting, dealing some pretty severe blows at the evils of examinations in making the teacher display his dexterity in mental cramming for a special occasion to the great detriment of true education. He dwelt upon the advantages comparatively of ours and of the American Educational System, and wisely arrived at the conclusion that our own was more thorough and better. After the usual note of thanks eliciting more jokes and speaking the meeting closed. We have much pleasure in noticing the kindness of Mr. Thomas Fitcher, who kindly opened his stables to all who had teams from a distance. We were not at all sorry that we went and hope that it may not be the last tea meeting we shall attend in the neat brick school house in No. 14 School Section, Southwold.

Mrs. William Lyle read this tribute at the presentation of a chair and hassock by the community at the 1944 school concert. Mrs Stanley Lyle, the Institute President arranged the presentation assisted by Mrs J. R. Fatcher, Mrs A. Lyle, and Mrs Frank Curtis.

Others who have been trustees of the school have been Jabel Robinson, James Fatcher, W. Wardell, John Lyle, Ed Burton, Noble Tufford, D. Smoke, C. S. Butler, and Ross Tufford. The present trustees are Mr. S. Curtis, J. Robinson Fatcher and Stanley Lyle.

Some later improvements at the school, hydro was installed in 1932 and inside toilets in 1943. Nursing service was started in 1943, chocolate milk each day in 1944.

Some of the Inspectors of the school;

1865 - Daniel S. MacCall. 1870 -
1866 - E. Sheppard.
1867 - Samuel MacCall.
1868 -
1869 -

Mr. A. F. Butler,

Mr. Welbern Atkin 1884-1916

Mr J. A. Taylor (for a time)

Mr. J. C. Smith Assisted by

Mr. Alex McCall Supervising teacher.

Mrs Frank Curtis.

Lorathy Chambers
Curtis.

S.S. 14, Southwold (cont'd)

Mr. Salathiel Curtis died in 1951. He was the oldest Secretary-Treasurer in Ontario with over 40 years of service in 1944, when an appreciative address was sent by Inspector J.C. Smith. This tribute was read and a chair and hassock presented to him by the community at the 1944 school concert. Mr. Curtis had been a trustee for 47 years.

Trustees since 1951 -

John McNiven, Kenneth Butler, Noble Tufford, Fatcher Begg, William Lyle Jr.. The trustees for 1956 are John McNiven, Fatcher ^{Begg} and William Lyle Jr..

Improvements made at our school:

Sept./51 - new chimney, Apr./53 new toilets, septic tank etc.
May/54 - new fence, Oct./54 - oil furnace
Aug./55 school insulated, July/56 - new moveable desks purchased

Teachers from 1944 to 1964

Katherine M. Young (Mrs. F. Fowler) Sept./44 - June/45
Marion R. Hills (Mrs. Noble Tufford) Sept./45 to June/47
Nola Mitchell Sept./47 - June/48 and Marion P. McIntyre (Mrs. H. Mitchell Jan./47 - June/48
Margaret R. McIntyre (Mrs. Alex Turner) Sept./48 - June/49 and Margaret I. McIntyre Sept./48 to June/49
Katherine Anne Ferguson Sept./49 - June 52
Mrs. Octavia Boyer Sept./51 - June/52
Harold Wayne Paddon Sept./52 - June/54
Mrs. Carl Storms Sept./54 - June/56 and
Mrs. Marion West Sept./54 - June/58
Gary Previl Sept./58 - June/64
Gordon Sims June/64

Mr. Sims was teacher at S.S. 14 until the Southwold Area School #1 was opened in November 1964, and remained there as Principal until June 1965.

S.S. 14 school and property were bought by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Vander Linden and made into a residence.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Latham and family were the second owners and in 1970 the property was purchased by Mr. G. Mauer.



PLANT CENTENNIAL TREE—The members of the Middlemarch Women's Institute gathered at the Southwold Area School No. 1, on the Fingal Road, yesterday afternoon to plant a flowering crab tree as a Centennial project. Left to right are Mrs. Charles Wilcox, president of the WI; Mrs. J. R. Futcher, honorary president, and Mrs. C. S. Butler, first president of the organization.—(T.-J. Photo)

The Apple Grove Grange.

Apple Grove Grange Middlemarch, was organized by Stephen Wade, at that time Master of Elgin Pioneer Grange, Sparta. A meeting was held for this purpose in the school house S. S. #. 14 in April 1875, where fifteen persons were enrolled as charter members. The first regular meeting was held May 25th 1875, with the late Mr. David King as master and the late Mr. George Potticary as secretary. The place of meeting was in the school house until Dec 15th ¹⁸⁷⁹ ~~1892~~ when it was removed to the home of the late Mr & Mrs John Curtis, and preparations were made for building the Grange Hall. Mr Curtis donating the land for that purpose, and the land being a corner of an apple orchard, hence it was named Apple Grove Grange. The meetings were held in the new hall after June 16th 1880, and it was formally opened Nov 17th 1880. with the Grange dedication services and a grand supper, the hall being crowded to the doors. The Grange was independent of all government aid, undenominational and non-political. Its ritual was based upon four degrees for women and men "Unsurpassed in the English language for originality of thought, purity of sentiment, and beauty of diction", and the song book was compiled of many beautiful songs. The women shared the same privileges and exalted honors with the men. The particular offices for women were Flora-The Goddess of Flowers and of Spring, Ceres, The Goddess of Grain and Protectress of Agriculture. Pomona- The Goddess of Fruit and Gardens and Fruit Trees.

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The Grange always kept in view the advancement of its members not only in agriculture, but all questions of the day and these were ably discussed within its walls, often under the leadership of the late Francis Hunt, Jabel Robinson, and John Lyle and many young men of the community made their maiden speeches at these meetings and prominent men to-day will speak of their first speech made in Apple Grove Grange.

Never was there a meeting where women were not present and where ever her presence is seen her influence is felt and in the order she represented Faith, Hope, and Charity. Programs were arranged which could be enjoyed by seniors and juniors alike, no opportunity was lost to develop the social side of country life and the Oyster suppers, entertainments, lawn socials and Grange picnics will long be remembered as well as the interchange of social evenings spent at Forest Rose Grange on the town line and at Dufferin Grange, east of Aylmer. The president of our Women's Institute, Mrs Stanley Lyle, at the time this history was written; was a former member of Forest Rose Grange.

One social event remembered was a dinner served on Thanksgiving day to the cadets of the St. Thomas Collegiate Institute, under the leadership of Capt. Jones. The cadets had been out for drill in Middlemarch district and appreciated the hot dinner served on prettily flag decorated tables. Many of the boys who sat at these tables served in the last

war and in this World War.

The Grange had its commercial advantages, having stock invested in salt wells near Goderich, salt was shipped into the district and sold at a considerable saving to the farmers and many families purchased their yearly supply of groceries and dry goods from the Grange Wholesale Supply Co, of Toronto.

Many memorial services were held in the hall for deceased members, one recorded in the late Miss Robinson's historical book reads as follows for the late Josephine Wardell, "The Master of the Grange Mr. Frank Hunt, had charge of the meeting and delivered an eloquent tribute to the life and character of the deceased. The Grand Master of the Dom. Grange, Mr. Jabel Robinson, read a beautiful memorial prepared by Miss Hattie Robinson. Mr Charles Saywell of Forest Rose Grange gave an earnest address. Mr John Lyle acted as chaplain and read the services of the Grange ritual. Mrs Samuel Dubber sang two beautiful solos. The hall was suitably decorated for the occasion. Among those holding important offices for a number of years were- Masters Messers David King, Jabel Robinson, Frederick J. Payne, John Wright, Charles Joiner, J. D. Robinson, Miss Hattie Robinson. Allen Moore, Frank Hunt, W. E. Wardell, Harry Palmer and Lawrence Kruppe. *Mr. J. Travers.*

Among the Secretaries Messers George Potticary, J. Payne, Samuel Yeandle, James Fitcher, Hattie Robinson and Harry Palmer.

The late Mr. John Curtis was chaplain for 36 years.

The Grange owed its progressiveness and long life to the presence and untiring efforts of the late Miss Robinson. Few organizations in Canada have approached or equalled the Grange in contributing to rural welfare and the decline of the Grange was probably hastened by rival farm organizations, which have as yet little history to report. In the year 1928 the shareholders of the Grange presented the hall to the Women's Institute and thus it continues the centre of social life, and community activities.

Mrs A. F. McNiven.

Edith Fitch McNiven



LEADERS OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT STANDS FOR ALL THAT IS BEST IN RURAL LIFE

For nearly forty years the Dominion Grange, the only representative farmers' organization in Ontario, has fought the farmers' battles and has striven to better the conditions under which we farmers live and work. As a social centre, as a disseminator of the best agricultural knowledge, but above all, as a champion of progressive legislation, the Grange has performed a grand work for Ontario farmers, and Canadian citizenship in general. The officers herewith to be seen, elected at the recent annual meeting held in Toronto, are inspired by the same high ideals that have made the Grange a power for good. With the hearty cooperation of Ontario farmers, the Grange will more and more exert an influence that is commensurate with the importance of the industry it represents. The names of the officers illustrated herewith will be found on page nine.

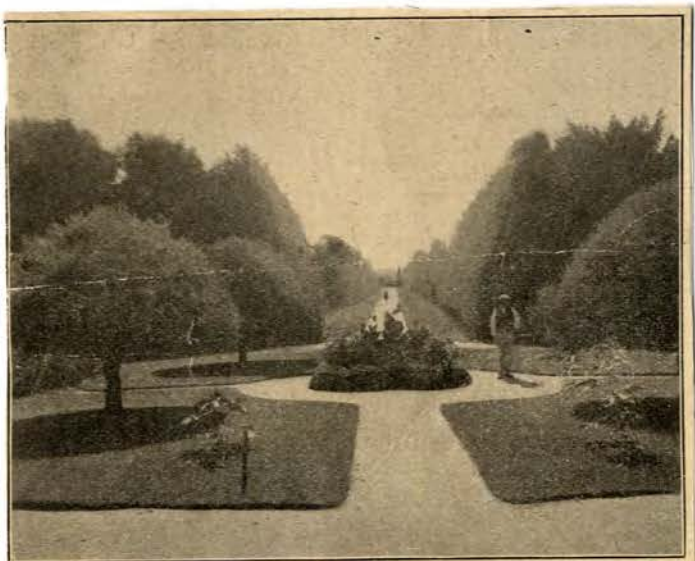
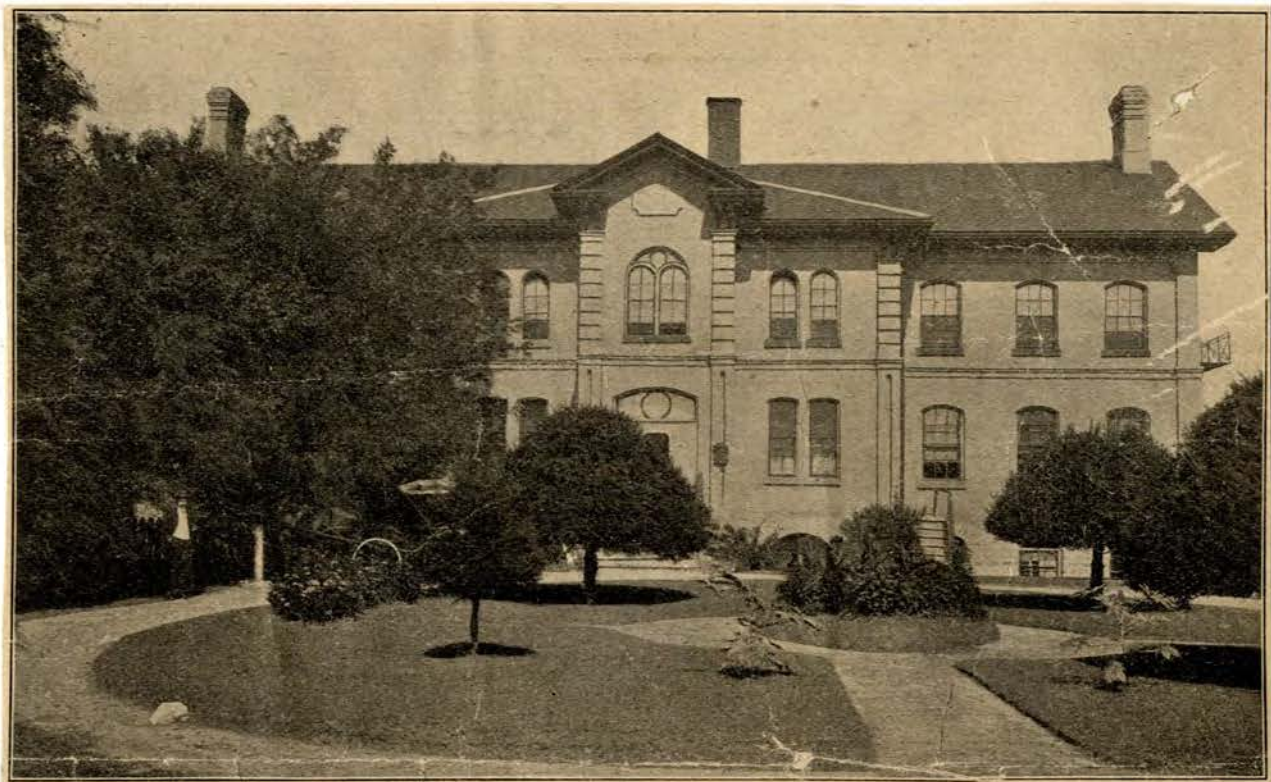
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L.
Grange
only

St. Thomas, Ont.

* MISS HATTIE RUBINSON
* MISS EVA WARDELL
APPLE GROVE GRANGE - Elgin Co.

House of Industry and Refuge County of Elgin

From the Municipal World for September, 1904.



ENTRANCE AVENUE.



Social, family services minister opens new wing at Elgin Manor

"Let me praise the Board of the Elgin Manor Home for the Aged, and the County of Elgin for it is the local community that best sees a need and initiates response . . ."

These were the words of John Yaremko, Minister of Social and Family Services, as he spoke to approximately 100 citizens and officials gathered for the official opening of Elgin Manor's new 60-bed wing Wednesday afternoon.

The new \$525,189 addition assists in providing space for 143 residents. (There are 112 residents at present.)

In addition to Elgin Manor, Mr. Yaremko made reference to the new Valleyview home on Pearl Street. When filled to capacity it will serve the needs of 142 elderly persons.

"Success," he went on to say, "is seeing the faces of the people here today. It's remembering one person who blossomed knowing he was with people who cared, one

person who shared a laugh over a party, one person who found a new "family" at the home. As I look around at the happy faces today I can say for sure that Elgin Manor has met the challenge of growth and this is why I am genuinely proud that I can play a part in Elgin Manor's new addition and new dreams."

Brisk winds and overcast skies did not dampen the high spirits of everyone concerned with the opening ceremony. Other warm, congratulatory speeches were given by John Wise, Warden of Elgin County; Mrs. Curtis Campbell, President of Elgin Manor Ladies' Auxiliary; Mayor E. O. Fanjoy; Harold Stafford, MP for Elgin County; Jack Spence, MPP for East Kent; Ron McNeil, MPP for Elgin County and Lawrence Crawford, director for the Homes for the Aged.

Opening and dedication prayers were offered by Fa-

ther Ernest Deslippe, chaplain of St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital and Rev. Alvin Beukema, President of the Elgin County Ministerial Association respectively.

The keys to the new addition were presented to Robert B. Himpfen, administrator of the manor by H. D. Harper, president of Haramac Construction Co., Ltd. and G. Duncan Black, president of the engineering firm of G. Duncan Black Ltd.

The St. Thomas firms were responsible for the planning and construction of the new wing.

The official ribbon cutting duties were shared by Mr. Yaremko and Miss Margaret Lyle, RR 1, St. Thomas. Miss Lyle was thanked repeatedly throughout the afternoon's speeches for her generous contribution of \$5,400 worth of landscaping for Elgin Manor.

An inspection of the Home and a reception for visitors was held following the ceremonies.

The House of Industry

The House of Industry and Refuge as it was called when the Institution was first established, was built in the year 1875 when there were not more than 2 or 3 similar Institutions in the Province. A by-law was passed by the County Council in Dec. 1875 to authorize and provide for the appointment, payment and duties of an inspector, keeper, matron and physician to superintend, care and manage the House of Industry and Refuge of the County of Elgin, to prescribe rules and regulations for the Governing thereof.

Besides Indigents-children were also received and given out to homes in the County.

A burial ground on the House of Industry farm was selected. The Institution is situated about two miles west of the City of St. Thomas on the Talbot Road in the Township of Southwold. It first consisted of 50 acres east part of lot 39, bought from a Mr. Nicol for \$3000.00. The farm was first settled by a Mr. Cusort who obtained it from Col. Talbot as a reward for carrying messages for him. The west part of Lot 39 also belonged to Mr. Nicol and this land was bought by Mr. John Lyle who lived there many years selling it to his son-in-law Mr. Charles Butler who with his son Kenneth are the present owners.

The Institution was officially opened Feb 11, 1876 by Mr. Alex McBride of Vienna who was then the Warden of the County.

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The first keeper and matron were Mr & Mrs Michael Honsburger and by records did an excellent job of managing the Institution. During the first year there were 59 persons admitted including 15 from Southwold. Mr. Honsburger was Mrs. ^{GEORGE} Potticary's father, who with her husband owned the farm now owned by Mr. George Carroll. Mr & Mrs Potticary had two daughters Ethel & Muriel, who received their public school education at S. S. #. 14. Ethel became teacher and later moved to Sask. They lived at a place called Ethmiur, a place named for the two daughters and where Mr. Potticary was post master. Miss Alberta Honsburger another daughter of Mr. Honsburger was connected with the Y.W.C.A. of St. Thomas and London, then went West to live with her nieces. After a 12 year term Mr. Honsburger had to resign on account of ill health, then moving to St. Thomas.

The second keeper and matron, Mr and Mrs Aldritt were appointed Jan 27 1888. They had one daughter Nettie. They faithfully filled ~~there~~ office for 12 years, Then retiring^{ed} to Springwater where they built a comfortable home.

In 1900 Jan 27th, Mr & Mrs David Gooding became keeper and matron holding office for almost 27 years. From a diary kept by Mr Gooding many facts have been obtained. During their term of office the County Council did extensive repairs to buildings, namely building furnace room, boring well, rebuilding cottages, installing refrigerator, (ice) two large cook stoves, building fire escapes, chimney and cement front porch, which people.