Celebrating 40 years of the Talbot Road Bridge Clubs are, from left, Florence Black, Marg Lyle, Gordon Lyle, Peggy Dubber and Harold Black. Mrs. Dubber is one of the "charter charter" members. Featured at the celebration were a roast beef dinner, entertainment and — naturally — bridge. (T-J Photo).

They decked the hall with card-carrying members of the area's oldest bridge club

(Editor's note: The following article was written by Dorothy Futcher on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Talbot Road Bridge Clubs. It is The Times-Journal's pleasure to print it in her own words)

By
DOROTHY FUTCHER
Special to
The Times-Journal

Last Thursday evening a special event took place in the Women's Institute Hall at Paynes Mills — but more about this gala night later. I have a story to tell first.

Back in 1927, well over 50 years ago, a certain endeavor took place on the three mile stretch of Talbot Road west from the top of the hill to the Robinson side road. Miss Verna Lyle, who worked as an accountant in The Times-Journal office, and who had learned to play bridge from her two sisters in Chicago, decided to teach her friends and neighbors how to play the game.

We knew something about cards — euchre and five hundred, but bridge, no. What a patient and courageous person she was to attempt to teach farmers and their wives the intricacies of the game of bridge. But teach us she did, to our lasting gratitude.

I'd like to tell you who the original couples were. Starting at the top of the hill and coming west: Lena and Stanley Lyle, Margaret and Verna Lyle, Peggy and Harry Dubber, Rhea and William Lyle, Bob and Dorothy Futcher, and Cora and Ross Tufford.

Edna Lyle also came home after finishing her career as a secretary at the Art Museum in Chicago. Beatrice and Hugh Duff, excellent bridge players retired here — Hugh being a former agricultural representative. These swelled the numbers of our club — not only that, but good friends often joined us — Laura and Fred Hill, Lorne Munro and Irene from Wellington Road. Susie (Hepburn) and Monty McLaws from RR 4, Molly and Clarence Pincombe from Lynhurst — to name a few.

But our families had grown up and had established homes of their own — they too liked the game and asked nearby friends to join them. For several years we had four bridge clubs flourishing on our Talbot Road.

I'll wager there isn't another rural road in Ontario that had four bridge clubs functioning at the same time.

We "originals" had grown older — night driving became a hazard — Rather than give up, we decided on afternoon bridge. The first time was at Peggy's and Harry's home, which happens to be near the road. I remember my husband Bob (who was always good at raising a laugh) saying "Peggy, please pull the drapes — I'd be ashamed if any of my neighbors drove by and saw me playing bridge in the afternoon".

It was the senior of the junior clubs (what a combination) that came up with the idea of a joint get-together at the end of the playing season; before the land was ready for spring planting.

We were all delighted with the idea. This club, which was meeting at Aileen and Don Begg's, made all the arrangements — selection of place, prizes, decorations, place cards, and entertainment, which was often a skit or take-off on some members.

We met every week in our various homes during the winter months — and no matter what the weather, we would never miss our bridge-club night. I remember once the snowdrifts were so high that Stanley Lyle met us at the foot of his long lane with a team of horses and a bobsled and back we drove to his home — partly through the fields and almost had to spend the night, the weather was so bad. Later we got the bright idea of a pre-Christmas dinner when we all helped with the food — my special task being the Christmas pudding and sauce. I remember so well our first pre-Christmas feast — it was held at Peggy Dubber's. Verna Lyle arrived with her contribution — a huge platter of fresh fruits and so attractively arranged that we all gasped and it graced the centre of the table.

The first joint evening and banquet was held at Carrie Raynor Shipp's Inn at Hill Crest, Port Stanley, a gathering of 60 friends — 15 tables of bridge-enjoying excellent food and a happy hilarious time.

Each club took it's turn in responsibility for this special occasion. We returned to Hill Crest several times, always enjoying the hospitality there. Other catering places were tried, but finally our good friends of the Women's Institute at Paynes Mills looked after us so well that we never wanted to change — we were always assured of good food and a hearty welcome.

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Later other couples settled on our stretch of Talbot Road — Dr. Neil Munro and Hazel, when he gave up his practice in Cleveland; Elva and Orville Burgess (Elva always said they bought property on Talbot Road so they could join our bridge club) who owned and operated the City Dairy; Anna Lyle finished her nursing career in New York City and retired to the family home.

I feel like Ripley Believe It or Not when I tell you this gala night I mentioned first was the 40th anniversary of our get-together nights, 30 of these with our good friends at Payne's Mills Women's Institute.

But the years take their toll. We lost our dear Verna Lyle in 1961. She gave 47 years of her life to the office of the Times-Journal. Today just Peggy Dubber and myself remain of the original club. We have happy, happy memories of our good times together and the firm and lasting friendships that were established.
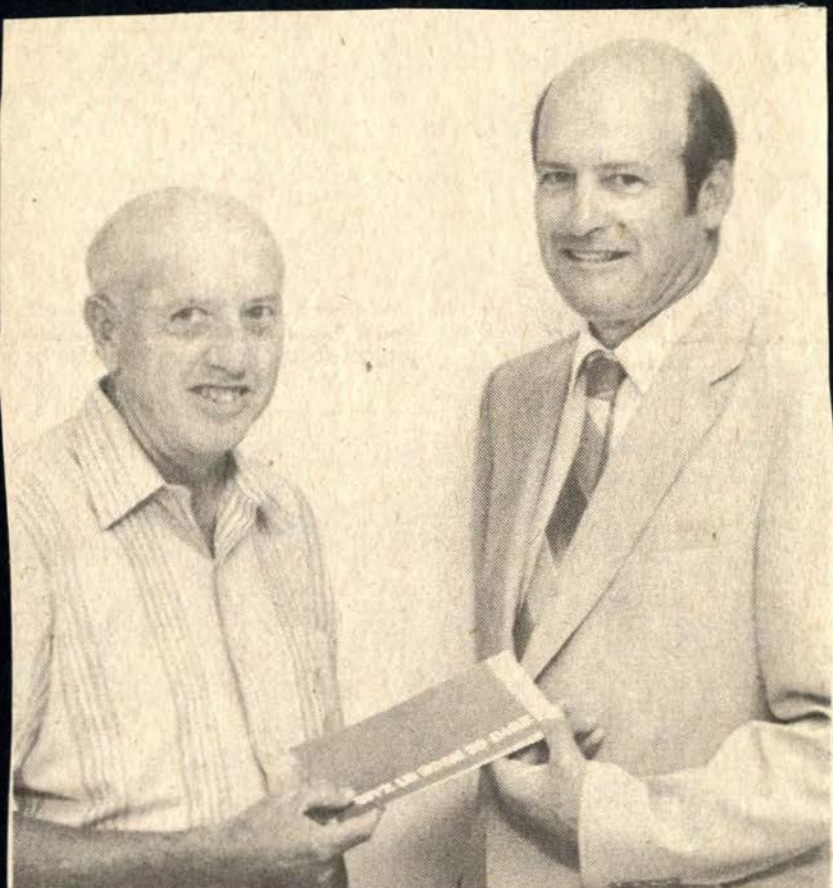
I hope you have enjoyed reminiscing with me.

I often wonder if Colonel Talbot knew of the "goings-on" on his road these many years. Would he turnover in his grave in disgust or would he smile in approval and say, "Carry on!"

(Editor's note: Unfortunately, Mrs. Futcher's health did not permit her to attend the roast beef dinner, and she was very much missed.)

Those present at the dinner, entertainment and bridge were Mrs. Peggy Dubber, Mrs. Ilene Begg, Mr. and Mrs. Mac Best, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Black, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Butler, Mrs. Ida Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Fergus Cron, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Lyle, Mr. and Mrs. Keith McLean, John McNiven, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Carroll, Mrs. Mary Futcher, Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Inch, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Lyle, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Lyle, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lyle, Mr. and Mrs. Noble Tufford, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Annett, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Curtis, Mr. and Mrs. Al Futcher, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Lyle, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Monteith, Mrs. Marie Vandenberger, Mrs. Trudy Vanderwyst.

Guests for the evening were: Ian Begg, Mrs. Nellie Begg, Mrs. Lenore Butler, Miss Jeanette Butler, Mr. and Mrs. William Cron, Mrs. Wilhelmena Jackson, Miss Edna Lyle, Mrs. Lollie Scott, Mrs. Irene Spence, Mrs. Eleanor Fair, Mrs. Cathryn Ireland, Jim Lyle, John Lyle, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Patterson, Mrs. Catherine Smith, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Spangenberg and Mrs. J. Vallis and Mrs. Louise Sifton.

Money for hospital

Harold Carroll, president of St. Thomas Duplicate Bridge Club, presents $215 toward St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital campaign to Kenneth Monteith, director of the hospital foundation. The bridge club holds six special games each year, with proceeds from one of these going toward charity. — (T-J Photo).

ALL IN THE FAMILY — The Lyle family has made its mark in the local farming industry with more than 70 years of agricultural experience. Since its inception in the late 1970s one family project, known as Fovant Farms, has prospered and this year its owners/operators were named Pork Producer of the Year by the local pork producer board. From left are this year's award winners, Brian, Bruce, Hugh and Sandy Lyle. (Staff)

And the winner is ...
Fovant Farms top pork producer for contribution to industry

By LORI RIEGER
Staff Reporter

Fovant Farms has won agriculture's equivalent to an Oscar.

The family-run operation was chosen out of 173 pork producers in Elgin County to receive this year's Pork Producer of the Year, an award that goes to top contributors in the pork industry who are also active in various boards and related organizations.

Sandy Lyle, who runs the hog operation on the farm, said farming is a way of life for the family members who have worked the land for more than

70 years. The first farm was purchased by Alex Lyle in 1918 and the current operation (Fovant Farms) was started in 1978 with the purchase of a 100-acre farm and the erection of a hog barn.

Mr. Lyle said the farm is a diverse operation with both cattle and hogs. They also grow corn, soybeans, wheat and hay. The farm duties are divided between Sandy, his cousin Brian (livestock) and their semi-retired fathers, Hugh and Bruce Lyle.

Peter DeKraker, head of the Elgin Pork Producers Board, said the award is presented to a farmer selected by the

membership (and approved by the board) every year. It is a one-time honor and therefore is never given to the same operation twice.

Mr. Lyle has been a member of the local pork producers board since 1979 and has been actively involved in the industry.

This is the first time the farm has received the award and Mr. Lyle said the family was pleased to be the 1993 recipient.

"It is satisfying," he said. "It's nice to know you're appreciated."

His father Hugh agreed.

"I'm very pleased," he said. "I guess you have to be proud, don't you?"

Jabel Robinson brought needed change to area

Jabel Robinson, who brought needed social change to St. Thomas in the mid-19th Century, was a man of great character, striking appearance, and many outstanding qualities.

Jabel (pronounced as Jay-Bell) Robinson is most famous as the man who defeated George Casey, the Liberal incumbant of West Elgin from 1872 to 1900. In the 1900 Federal election, Robinson ran as an Independent supported by district farmers. He soundly whipped Casey as well as his Tory opponent, McGugan. Both Casey and McGugan were his neighbors on the Talbot Road.

Robinson was extremely popular in Southwold. He had moved from St. Thomas to a 200-acre farm, Lot 29, on the south side of the Fingal Road, a few miles west of Middlemarch in 1871.

His farm and that of his neighbors were under water for much of the year because of the flooding of the ditch which became Talbot Creek which traversed their properties. However, the government built a large drain at that time and Robinson's farm became valuable farm land. He and his wife built a fine home and they called their property Linslade, which means small village.

Robinson and his neighbor, David King, developed a grange or farm organization in the Middlemarch area called the Apple Grove Grange. A grange was a

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By WAYNE PADDON

rural community centre and forum which discussed the affairs of local farmers and provided social activities for them and their wives. Apple Grove Grange was famous for its oyster evenings.

Robinson was always a principal speaker. He was very entertaining and popular. Robinson was a very important person in the grange movement and was a Dominion Grange Master. The Grange building was used for several years by the Middlemarch Women's Institute but was torn down a few years ago.

The respect that people of Elgin had for Robinson went back to the days when he first came to St. Thomas in 1856. Since he was trained to be a carpenter his first business in St. Thomas was to build many elegant homes

In the mid-1860s he campaigned and was appointed as a St. Thomas police constable and tavern inspector determined to rid the city of much of its unruly frontier aspects. He was a tough lawman but he had to face juvenile offenders, gamblers, drunkards, revellers and evil-doers.

Robinson was up to the task and the chief, as he was called in the

local newspaper, soon rid the town of many of its irritating social problems and rowdiness.
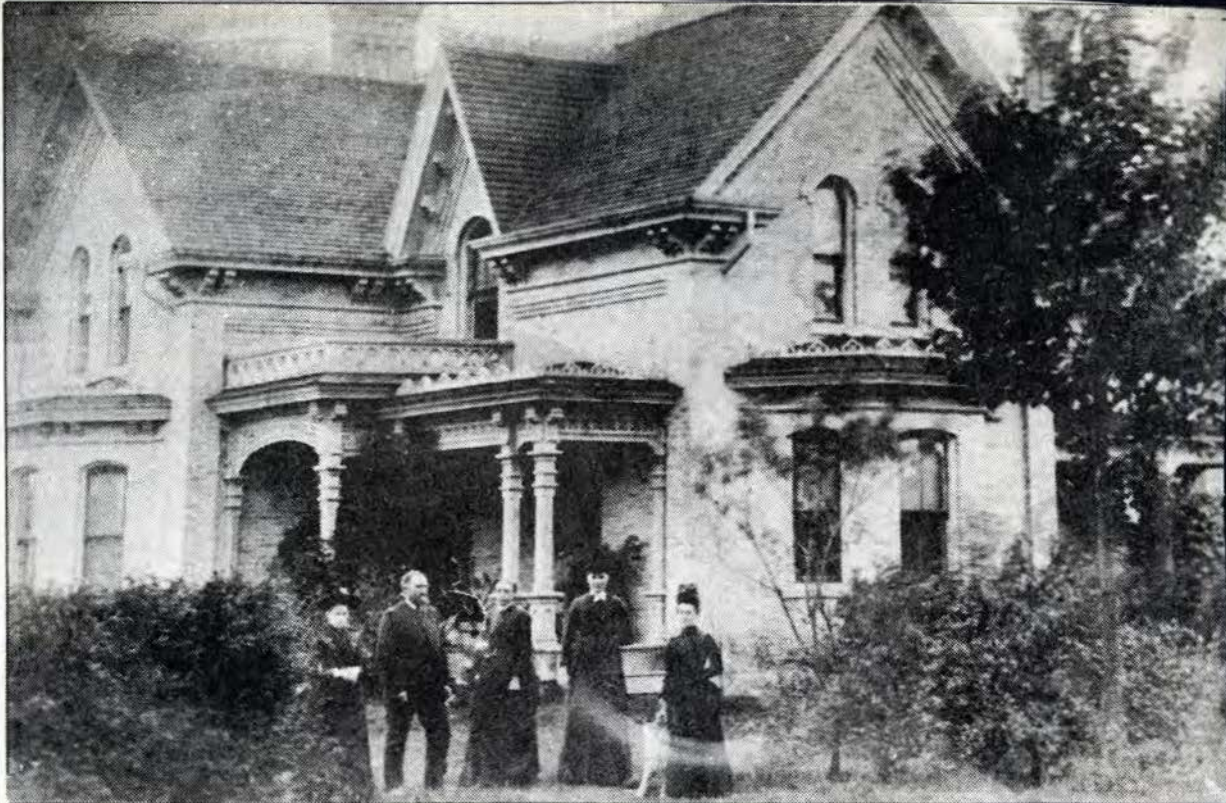
Born in Surrey, England, Robinson met and married his first wife Caroline there. The Robinsons had four boys and three girls; William, Charles, Jesse, Frank, Hattie, Sara and Kate. Caroline died suddenly after the family's move to Middlemarch. Jabel remarried many years later.

His daughter, Hattie, taught at SS number 14, Southwold (Middlemarch) where she and her brothers and sisters had attended. Hattie could handle the "raw hide" and had excellent discipline. No doubt she inherited the trait from her dad.

Hattie moved to St. Thomas to teach but after her parents died she sold her St. Thomas home and lived at Linslade until her death in 1936. She drove a surrey daily to St. Thomas to teach school.

Kate Robinson married John Henry Futcher in 1890. They also lived along the Fingal Road and had several children. Linslade was purchased in 1936 by one of their sons, John Robinson Futcher, who renovated the home and rented out the farm until recent times when one of his sons, Al Futcher, became the present owner of Linslade, the old Robinson farm.

The Futcher name is still well known along the Fingal Road.

LINSDALE — In front of Linsdale, circa 1910, are from left Sarah Barnwell, cousin of Jabel Robinson, Mr. Robinson, Mary Mines, Mr. Robinson's second wife, Agnes Robinson, Mr. Robinson's daughter-in-law (married Jesse) and Hattie Robinson, Mr. Robinson's daughter. — (Contributed)

Even tiny Middlemarch was scene for a murder

By LORI RIEGER
Staff Writer

The sleepy settlement known as Middlemarch was the scene of a murder in 1894.

Villager John Hendershott had become extremely frustrated with the limitations of poverty and life in general.

In desperation, John decided he could make some quick cash by killing someone who was heavily insured.

After his first intended victim couldn't get an insurance policy, John convinced his nephew, William Hendershott, to take out a policy on his life.

Then he contacted a friend, William Welter about helping him commit the murder.

On Dec. 14, 1894 John went to Aylmer and Eden on business while Mr. Welter took his nephew into the woods to fell trees.

As they worked, Mr. Hendershott (nephew) felt thirsty and knelt at a nearby brook for refreshment. It was then that Mr. Welter struck him, missing his head. Mr. Hendershott staggered from the blow while Mr. Welter continued to beat him.

Soon Mr. Hendershott was dead. Mr. Welter placed the body under a fallen tree and went for help. He told everyone that they had chopped and sawn a tree and just as the tree was about to fall, Mr. Hendershott had ran to save his possessions. Mr. Welter said this was when the victim was struck.

The story was believed by most people until a group of men went into the woods and found blood splattered everywhere. The insurance policy on Mr. Hendershott's life was also noticed.

After evidence was presented Mr. Welter was arrested for murder and the uncle, John Hendershott was charged with being an accessory. The pair hanged on June 18, 1895.

This was not the first death in the woods surrounding Middlemarch. In 1864 villager Patrick O'Donnel was killed by a falling tree during a logging bee.

It was rumored that Patrick's wife had a premonition that something terrible was going to him and had begged him not to go. Patrick's refusal to listen cost him his life.

Middlemarch wasn't always known by this name. In fact, the village was called Hatherley before 1876 but the name was dropped because there was already an Atherley in Ontario.

The corners were called Smoak's Corners before the name Hatherley emerged, after villagers Peter and Caleb Smoak (also spelled Smoke).

Settler Jabel Robinson chose the current name from a book entitled Middlemarch by George Eliot. He was instrumental in getting a post office established on the corners in 1876.

Jabel was born in Linsdale, Buckinghamshire, England in 1831. He moved to Canada in 1856 after experiencing difficulties finding work as a carpenter.

He first moved to St. Thomas in 1856 but settled on the old Isaac Welter and James McIntosh farms in 1870. Situated at the southeast corner lot of County Road 16 and Southwold Mill Road the farm was called "Linsdale". Salathiel Curtis and his wife Mary Ann

Without this sign, there would be no way of knowing you're passing through Middlemarch as there are no businesses of any kind in the tiny village, which still has an interesting history.

moved to Southwold Township in 1841. Originally from Holsworthy, Devonshire, the settlers started a farm on their lot south of the corners.

They had a son John in 1844 who later became a farmer and blacksmith.

Another early settler was Joshua Wardell, a United Empire Loyalist from New York State.

After the War of 1812 (which he had took part) Joshua received a land grant which he used to settle on the south side of the Talbot Road.

It was here that he erected a wood-turning mill. At this time the lot was covered by a dense forest, the same woods where William Hendershott was murdered years later.

Salathiel Curtis bought the southern half of the lot in 1841.

Captain Neil McAlpine and his wife Mary came to Canada from Scotland in 1830. After landing at Port Stanley they were given shelter at the home of John Currie.

Later the McAlpines purchased three lots on the north side of Talbot Road in Southwold Township.

Capt. McAlpine served as a justice of the peace for years and was instrumental in the construction of the first Presbyterian Church in St. Thomas.

He is credited with saving the settlement from famine and poverty in 1859. On June 25 of that year a deadly frost struck the area, destroying all the local grain crops.

Capt. McAlpine was fortunate to have 3,000 bushels in his grainaries that year. He was approached by a miller about selling the wheat but the captain declined when he found out the man was going to sell it at inflated prices to the settlers.

Instead, he offered every pioneer at church the next day a bushel of grain in return for a bushel from the next harvest.

The captain's actions saved the day and earned him acclaim as a hero throughout the settlement.

At its peak Middlemarch consisted of a Methodist church, school, general store, post office, blacksmith shop, wagonmaker's shop, railway station and hotel.

The first church called the Bible Christian Church was built in 1879. Before that, the Bible Christian Readers had to meet in the old school and at various homes. It later became a Methodist church which was affiliated with Fingal.

In 1907 a tornado blew both ends of the church away, but it was rebuilt the same year.

By 1954 the congregation had dwindled to nothing and the church was closed and sold. It was later converted to a chicken hatchery.

Noble Tufford has lived in Middlemarch all his life. He says the village hasn't changed much over the years.

"It's still the same," he says. "It's still a nice little town."

A railway station and passenger train through Middlemarch now only exists in the minds of long-time residents. Noble recalls that catching a train ride in those days was taken literally.

"If you wanted to stop a passenger train you would grab a red flag and flag it down," he says. In the evening a red lantern was used.

Passenger trains stopped running through Middlemarch by the 1930s.

He says the sale and conversion of the Methodist church into a chicken hatchery resulted in a new legislation being passed by the provincial government. It said that no religious edifaces could be used for anything but its original purpose.

Currently, there is no church in the village.

The fairly common knowledge that Elgin County was named for the Earl of Elgin, governor general of Canada from 1847 to 1854, and that St. Thomas was named as a compliment to Colonel Thomas Talbot, but how many persons knew that Springfield was named for a large spring of water over which a pioneer grist mill was built. There were several fresh-water springs in the mill area. In other words it was a "springy field". The village was actually Clunas, as a post office, and it remained Clunas until the post office was moved a mile south and given the name of Springfield.

In its early days, Aylmer had two names. Before it took on village proportions, it was known as Hodgkinson's Corners, after the Hodgkinson family who operated the first pioneer store on the main corner. Then for a number of years, Aylmer answered to two names, Hodgkinson's Corners and also to Troy. Troy remained the official name until events moving toward the Rebellion of 1837; then criticism arose of the name. Early settlers from around Troy, New York, had given the village its name. A meeting of the burghers was held in Caswell's wagon shop to decide on changing the name. Although it is on record that those attending the meeting favored retaining Troy as the name, some Yankee-hating patriot evidently put over a fast one for the name of Aylmer was sent to the Upper Canada post office department. And so the village was named for Lord Aylmer, who was governor-general of Canada at the time.

Wonder if the name of Troy would have been carried around the world on the labels of canned fruits and vegetables if the name Aylmer had not been adopted..

VILLAGE OF SHREWSBERRY

Had Colonel Mahlon Burwell had his way, Vienna would never have had that name. Vienna would be Shrewsbury or Shrewsberry. That was the name that Colonel Burwell gave this pioneer village on the winding Otter. The Edison family changed the name in honor of Vienna, Austria. The influence of Thomas Alva Edison's paternal grandfather, Captain Samuel Edison, and other members of the family, is indicated in this changing of the name of a place that a man of the prominence and status of Colonel Burwell named.

Of course it is quite obvious that Port Burwell was named for Colonel Burwell or his family. Port Stanley was named for lord Stanley when he was visiting Colonel Talbot.

Subsequently, Lord Stanley became the Earl of Derby, but Port Stanley's name was not changed to Port Derby.

Just north of Port Stanley was Selborne, another of the last villages of the pioneer past, which like Tyrconnell and also New Sarum had visions of municipal greatness.

Selborne, which many early settlers insisted on calling "Suckertown", was a picturesque hamlet nestling along Kettle Creek, surrounded by wooded hills. The year that Elgin became a county in its own right, Selborne had a grist mill, a foundry, two highly productive distilleries and a variety of shops. Lake boats sailed or were towed up the river from the harbor for dockage at Selborne, well sheltered from storms and heavy seas.

For several years Selborne continued to grow and thrive. The products of the grist mill were noted for their excellence. Even the mineral well in the flats off the old

London and Port Stanley Gravel Road were regarded as having great medicinal value and curative powers and many plans were made to make Selborne a place of healing waters comparable to Mount Clemens in Michigan. But the curative powers of the sulphur well were never commercialized and the smell of the water is credited with being one of the causes of the gradual depopulation of Selborne. The name was given this village of yesterday in honor of Lord Selborne, while the homelier "Suckertown" was applied because of the swarms of suckers that were found in its backwaters in the spring.

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

If the first survey made in 1796 had retained the nomenclature that went with it, West Elgin would be in the county of Suffolk.

That was the first name given the area and townships were named for places in Suffolk County in England. Aldborough Township was named for a town in Suffolk, England; Southwold after a seaport in Suffolk; Yarmouth Township for the seaport of Yarmouth in Norfolk

County on the boundary of Suffolk in England; also as a compliment to Francis Seymour or Lord Carnway, who in 1793 was made the Earl of Yarmouth.

Dunwich Township also represents a double compliment. It was named for Dunwich in Suffolk, England, and also for the Earl of Stradbroke, who was called Viscount Dunwich and whose family name was Rous.

Richmond, which antedates Port Burwell, Vienna and Aylmer in age by nearly 15 years was named after Lord Richmond, another early governor-general.

Orwell, like New Sarum, had certain visions of greatness, being a serious rival of Aylmer until 1837 when Aylmer got the post office that had been in Orwell for several years.

Orwell probably has had more names than any other Elgin community. One of its first names was Catfish Corners, because of its proximity to Catfish Creek; then for some years it entered a state of strict sobriety in nomenclature and was known as Temperanceville. The application of the name Orwell about 100 years ago has its amusing aspects, for Orwell was the name certain refined pioneers attempted to give to Catfish Creek. The name failed to stick to the creek, so it was applied to the village.

The French explorer Charlevoix, in 1721, named the creek River Barbu. It did not take the early settlers long to anglicize the name into the more readily understood Catfish Creek.

THE NEW MANCHESTER

New Sarum remains on Queen's Highway No. 3, five miles west of Aylmer, as a pretty little hamlet. A century or more ago an ambitious newcomer to the district named Heathcote had a vision of making New Sarum the Manchester of Upper Canada. Heathcote spent, between $150,000 and $200,000 in industrializing New Sarum (a large sum for those days). Between 1836 and about 1850, New Sarum had a match factory, sawmill, gristmill, distillery, lumber yards, blacksmith and wheelwright shop, a brickyard with kilns, a machine shop, a gunsmith shop and its complement of tradesmen. The Niagara and Detroit River Railway was expected to be built right through the centre of New Sarum.

But with Heathcote's death, New Sarum started to decline, and one by one the industries were closed or moved elsewhere. Heathcote was buried on the brow of the hill immediately east of New Sarum, overlooking the magnificent panorama of valley lands and rolling hills beyond. Little remains in memory of this man of the pioneer past who invested a fortune in an ambitious dream. New Sarum was named for the old town of Sarum in the Old Land.

Bayham Township gets its name from Lord Camden, who was Viscount Bayham and was secretary-of-war and colonies in the British cabinet in 1804, and Lord President of the Council, 1805-07.

Malahide Township was named for Malahide Castle, Colonel Talbot's ancestral home in Ireland.

South Dorchester Township was so called as a compliment to Sir Guy Carleton, who was three times appointed governor-general of Canada, serving from 1766 to 1796. For these services he was made a peer of the realm and given the title of Lord Dorchester.

RIVALRY IN NAMES

It is quite obvious where New Glasgow gets its name, in view of the fact that it was more or less the centre of early Scottish settlement.

At the outset it was Port Glasgow, and Port Glasgow still exists, in a sense, a mile south of New Glasgow. It was not always New Glasgow. For a time we are told, the settlement was called Airey for Colonel (Lord) Airey, one of the several Aireys who figured in the early history of West Elgin, being related to Colonel Thomas Talbot.

A rivalry in nomenclature prevailed for a few years in West Lorne, which was originally Bismarck, a name that connoted the influx of thrifty German settlers in that part of Aldborough.

They were good citizens, those German settlers, and when the move was made to bestow the title of West Lorne to the community, in honor of the Marquis of Lorne, another Governor General of Canada, some of the good burghers resented the change. The result was that the community had two names. The railroad side continued to be called Bismarck; the post office side was West Lorne. Eventually, with the post office more or less predominating the situation, the entire community was called West Lorne.

Long before the town fathers and the post office department delved into British history again and selected the name of a naval hero for a name, Rodney was Centreville.

Centreville was the logical name to bestow on the original settlement, because it was almost in the exact centre of Yarmouth Township. It was an early lumbering centre, had a popular inn where the early meetings of the Aldborough councillors were held.

Wardsville was named for a pioneer innkeeper. Ward's Tavern was well known to early travelers to Detroit, for stagecoaches changed horses there.

Back in East Elgin again, we have Straffordville, named for the Strafford family, but long before it received that title, called Sandy Town, for the sandy nature of the land throughout the district. Sandy Town became quite an important centre a century ago when the first improved corduroy road to Vienna and Port Burwell was built through there from the north.

Talbotville, just north of St. Thomas, reflects the Colonel Talbot influence again, but it also had a different pioneer name. It was called Five Stakes, for the junction of what are now Queen's Highways No. 3 and No. 4. The engineers who surveyed those old roads are said to have put up five stakes as survey markers, and practical-minded settlers decided that was a good name for the little community.

Some might think that the little community of Eden, in the northwest part of Bayham, was named for the Biblical mundane paradise, before the expulsion but actually the Eden family were early settlers there.

Iona was named by George Munro, to perpetuate the name of Iona's Isle. Iona was another bustling place a century ago, with a number of business enterprises. The Decow Brothers carried on extensive business operations. Duncan McCormick employed George Munro in 1848 to do the conveyancing of some village lots on his farm and also to name the village. It was an opportunity this man from the Land of the Heather welcomed.

Lawrence Station was named for William Lawrence, on whose farm it was located.

Frome got its name from Frome, England. Midway between Frome and Talbotville, Payne's Mill was located — thus the community of Payne's Mill.

Southwold Township was called the Keystone Township of Elgin because of its resemblance of the Keystone in a masonry arch. The name is derived from the Anglo Saxon word for "wold," a forest or open country.

Shedden gets its name from John Shedden, a capitalist and stock raiser of 80 years ago, who was accidentally killed while boarding a train at Hamilton. Before the village became Shedden, it was called Carsley.

Back when the streets of the Dunwich village of Cowal were paved with sawdust from the large sawmill and shingle mill operated by Gilmore and McNabb, it had the pretentious name of New Montreal. The name was changed to the more convenient Cowal when the post office was established.

ANTEDATES AYLMER

Like Richmond, Orwell antedates Aylmer. It was a well-settled village long before Aylmer came into existence. The Davis sawmill in Orwell was one of the oldest in the entire district, being started in 1817 and continuing for nearly 70 years. Under the joint ownership of Turnbull and Wickett it became an important industry.

Orwell's first settlers were the Davis brothers — William, Andrus, Simeon and Joel. In 1811, Simeon Davis built a large frame house on his farm just east of Orwell which he soon converted into a wayside inn. All through the virgin land, Davis Inn was noted for its hospitable atmosphere and the jolly gathering that took place there. Other first settlers in the Orwell area were the Teeples, Leeks, McKinneys, Ostranders and Bradleys. The pioneer general merchant, a man esteemed for his honesty and integrity, was David Sutherland. previously he was in business with the celebrated Deacon Peter Clayton in Aylmer.

Up in West Elgin, the village of Dutton gets its name from one of the leading men responsible for the building of the Canada Southern Railway (now the Michigan Central Railroad-New York Central System) through Elgin and St. Thomas. But long before Dutton was Dutton, it was called Monkey Run. There have been various versions about where such a name originated, some of them not too complimentary, but long after Dutton was named officially, old-timers continued to refer to it as Monkey Run.

And before Wallacetown received its present name, it was known as Frogtown, because of the swampy land and the numerous frogs that inhabited the swamps.

The village of Eagle (another place that was a hive of pioneer industry a century or less ago) is said to have been named for the eagle that returned year after year to nest in a tall pine off Lake Erie's north shore.

FAMILY ON HAND — The entire family was on hand help to share in the joy of victory with Elgin's new Member of Parlia- ment, Ken Monteith, centre. With Mr. Monteith are son Paul, 20, daughter Janet, 18, wife Luella, and son Ken Jr., 22.

NOV. 22, 1988

-(T-J Photo).

Victorious Monteith had no time for nerves

By STUART LAIDLAW
T-J Staff Reporter

Though he expected to be in a tough race to keep the Elgin riding Conservative, Ken Monteith said he did not get a chance to be nervous on election day Monday.

"We were too busy," Mr. Monteith said.

He and his wife, Luella, spent the day visiting polls throughout the riding. By the time he made it to his campaign headquarters in St. Thomas, the polls had been closed for an hour and Mr. Monteith had taken a comfortable lead over Liberal Tony Csinos. About 75 party supporters cheered Mr. Monteith as he walked into the headquarters.

Mr. Monteith captured 16,655 votes (39.7 per cent) to 14,260 (34 per cent) for Mr. Csinos, 8,574 (20.4 per cent) for New Democrat Bob Habkirk and 2,493 (5.9 per cent) for Christian Heritage Party candidate Will Wymenga.

That was enough to give Mr. Monteith a 2,395 margin over Mr. Csinos. He described his lead as "comfortable," saying the results were about what he expected.

The results were nothing like the results of the 1984 election in which retiring Elgin Conservative MP John Wise won the riding with a very comfortable 16,722 vote margin, capturing 67.4 per cent of the vote. Mr. Wise announced in September he would not seek re-election.