

On the sideroad east of the village, south of the Payne Homestead was a farm owned by Henry Payne. There in a log house lived a Mr. William Down who's parents came to Canada from England in the year 1846. This home was sold to Alexander Lyle but in the intervening years a small frame house was built around which has been built up the spacious home which now stands there. Alexander Lyle came to Canada by sail bot in the year 1873 at the age of 37 with his wife and family of six children. They came from London to the village in a lumber wagon. After Mr. Lyle's death the farm was operated by the youngest son, John who was born in Canada. One daughter too was born in Canada. This farm is still in the Lyle family and is operated by John Lyle and his son Gordon.

Sturgeon Payne married Evylean Rapeljie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Rapeljie of Yarmouth township. To them were born six children, five sons, Floyd, Glen, Carl, Guy, and Clair; one daughter, Marion. Floyd married a Miss Merle Collins of Springfield. At the present time the other four are unmarried. The youngest son, Clair, joined the Canadian Army in October of 1942, going overseas in May of 1943. He served in Italy returning to Canada in the spring of 1946 and received his honorable discharge in March. The only daughter married in 1940, Orley Ross Berdan, son of the late Mr. Archibald Berdan, herein mentioned and Mrs. George Simpson, Frome, Ontario. Ross Berdan joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in May of 1940, serving in Canada for 3 years and in England for two and one half years, returning to Canada in July of 1945. He volunteered for duty in the Pacific theatre of war but hostilities ceased before he left Canada. He received his honorable discharge early in September of 1945.

Sturgeon Payne passed away in his seventy-third year, 1943 at the home in which he was born and his wife, Evylean but two years later in her sixty-ninth year. Both are buried in Talbotville Cemetery.

In a diary written in the year 1867 by Frederick Payne, now in the possession of his grandchildren, he begins the year with "Cash on Hand"-----"NOTHING". At the close of the year Mrs. Payne balanced the books and found they had made a profit of \$18.11 for their year's work. It is recorded there also that a Miss Fannie Silcox arranged for board with Mrs. Payne at 25 cents per day. In the back of said diary is a record of sales and butter sold at 10 cents per pound, eggs for 10 cents per dozen and one item reads: "6 1/2 pounds fresh beef -- 37 1/2 cents", approximately six cents per pound. Present day prices range from 27 to 47 cents per pound.

The facts for this were gathered from different sources in 1946 by

Marion Payne Berdan



## THE STORY OF THE LOCAL BRANCH OF THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On April 29th 1927, a group of women from Talbotville and its neighbouring community of Paynes Mills, met at the home of Mrs W.H. Sutton to consider the organization of a local branch of the Women's Institute. Mrs J.H. Sells the District President was in the chair.

The meeting was opened with the singing in unison of 'The Maple Leaf' followed by all repeating the Lord's Prayer. The election of Officers followed and while Mrs J. McCormack was elected President she declined and Mrs W.H. Sutton became the first President of this Group.

It was decided to hold the regular meeting ---one a month ---on the third Thursday and all subsequent meetings were held at the various members homes. These meetings were to begin with the singing of the 'Institute Ode';

A goodly thing it is to meet  
In friendship's circle bright  
Where nothing stains the pleasures sweet  
Nor dims the radiant light.  
No unkind words our lips shall pass  
Nor envy sour the mind,  
But each shall seek the common weal  
The good of all mankind.

The membership fees were 25cents and by July of the same year (1927) there were 25 paid up members. These meetings were conducted in much the same manner each month, with a business session followed by a short program and a social half hour following when light refreshments were served.

Money was raised in many ways---food sales; concerts; the making and selling of quilts, comforters etc. Mrs W.H. Sutton was instrumental in bringing in the first dollar for the organization when she made and sold for one dollar a loaf of salt rising bread.

These meetings were held regularly and the women of the two communities carried on jointly until February 21st, 1946 when it was decided that due to the great number of members and that the organization represented two separate school sections---two branches be formed. At the home of Mrs H.G. Lewis, Paynes Mills on February 21 1946---Mrs J.R. Fitcher of Middlemarch---Vice-regional president of the F.W.I.O. addressed the meeting and organized the separate branches to be known in future as the Talbotville Women's Institute and the Paynes Mills Women's Institute.



Money was raised in many different ways and until 1950 the funds were used mainly in making donations to all charitable organizations and in sponsoring children's activities in the school. Cards were sent to all who were sick in the community and flowers were sent to all members who were sick. During the Christmas season all sick and shut-ins in the community were remembered with a Christmas basket.

In 1950 this branch acquired a hall at Paynes Mills and since that time a considerable amount of what is made is used to improve and maintain this building. A new roof, a new furnace and a kitchen were added to name but a few of the necessary improvements.

A turkey supper held in the hall became a very popular annual event attracting over 400 people from the cities and the surrounding neighbourhoods. An annual tea held either in the spring or in the fall and neighbouring women's groups were invited. The teas are still held annually but the turkey supper was replaced in 1956 by a Chicken Barbecue in August in the school yard at first but now in our own back yard and it is enjoyed by all. For the last ten years, we have held an Oyster Supper in February or March and this too is much enjoyed and a financial success.

For a number of years we have catered to the Kiwanis and the Rotary clubs of St. Thomas on the invitation of Scott McKay, Q. C. when he entertains these groups on the lawn of his ancestral home, Selldon.

On February 19, 1947, at a regular meeting, this branch celebrated the Fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Women's Institute as did many others across the continent and around the world. During the afternoon the radio broadcast commemorating the founding of the Women's Institute at Stoney Creek was heard with Mrs. Cameron Down then National President, as guest speaker.

On August 20, 1947, at a regular meeting, this branch was very happy to present Life Membership pins to two of our Charter members--Mrs. W. H. Sutton and Mrs. E. C. Gilbert. Mrs. W. Kelly presented the pins and Mrs. R. Berdan read the Address. Mrs. Sutton was the first President twenty years before and Mrs. Gilbert was first-vice-president and later became president, remaining in the office for 6 years. These ladies have both shown great ability through the years in leadership and in every phase of Institute work. They remained steadfast and loyal and contributed so willingly to the welfare of the organization and the community as well. In April, 1956, at the annual meeting in the hall Mrs. Flossie Dawdy was presented with a Life Membership certificate and pin in recognition of her long and faithful service to this branch of the Women's Institute. Mrs. G. Lyle read the address and Mrs. W. Meek made the presentation.



In November 1956, at the regular meeting in the home of Mrs. Tom Blackman, a similar honor was bestowed on Mrs. Anna Kelly with Mrs. Morley Adams reading the address and Mrs. W. Meek making the presentation. On December 5, 1957 at the Christmas meeting at the Y.W.C.A., another charter member was granted Life Membership and a W. I. pin. Mrs. Morley Adams was the recipient and Mrs. Anna Kelly read the address with Mrs. Gordon Lyle making the presentation.

At one of the regular meetings it was decided by motion to change the regular opening to the Mary Stewart Collect, to be repeated in unison. In 1948 the membership fee was raised to 50 cents per person per year.

In 1952 this branch celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary and a pleasant afternoon was enjoyed at the W.I. hall. Talbotville W.I., Shedden W.I., and the Kensington Club were special guests and were welcomed by Mrs. Morley Adams, the president. During the afternoon a musical program was enjoyed. Just previous to the tea hour Mrs. Sutton, the first president, cut the three tiered anniversary cake which centred the tea table. Mrs. Anna Kelly and Mrs. E. C. Gilbert, both past presidents, presided at the tea table and a social hour was enjoyed. The program committee each year tries to arrange interesting and informative meetings and almost 100% take part in the roll call. Many of the meetings are now held in the hall. As many members as possible, with delegates appointed, try to attend the District Convention in London, the District Annual meeting and the Winter Picnic each year.

Each year the committee arranges to have the District Executive as guests at a regular meeting and one meeting is devoted to entertaining the Grandmothers of the community.

Of late years, when newcomers from lands across the seas are settling amongst us, this branch tries to make them very welcome at our meetings and sometimes call on them to bring news and customs of their land to us.

At the end of each school year the W.I. helps the school board and the teacher with a community picnic especially for the school age and pre-school children. When the Public Speaking Competition was started in the schools this branch recognized all for their efforts and the winner is sent forth with all good wishes to challenge contestants from other schools.

Each year the Women's Institute arranges a Family Night at the hall. This includes the entire community and begins with a pot luck supper followed by a program. One year the program was fashioned after the T V presentation "Live A Borrowed Life" and four young people read up on a pioneer settler and prepared a paper on his or her life and tried to stump a panel who were trying to guess the name of the pioneer. This was very much enjoyed.

We sponsor a 4H Homemaking club twice each year for girls between the ages of 12 and 26 and they have the use of the hall for their meetings if they want it.

Bus

FIRST MEMBERS TO JOIN W.I. FROM PAYNE'S MILLS.

|                          |         |      |
|--------------------------|---------|------|
| MRS WESLEY ABBOTT-----   | JULY 21 | 1927 |
| MRS J. BILLINGTON-----   | JULY 21 | 1927 |
| MRS E. C. GILBERT-----   | JULY 21 | 1927 |
| MISS ILENE GILBERT-----  | JULY 21 | 1927 |
| MRS W. D. MUNRO-----     | JULY 21 | 1927 |
| MISS MARGARET MUNRO----- | JULY 21 | 1927 |
| MRS FRANK GRAHAM-----    | July 21 | 1927 |
| MRS W. KELLY-----        | JULY 21 | 1927 |
| MRS CHARLIE MUNRO-----   | JULY 21 | 1927 |
| MRS JOHN Mc GUGAN-----   | JULY 21 | 1927 |
| MRS W. H. SUTTON-----    | JULY 21 | 1927 |

|                              |                    |      |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------|
| MRS ROY DUNNING-----         | MARCH 15           | 1928 |
| MRS HEDLEY POW-----          | <del>JULY 21</del> | 1928 |
| MISS MARY ORR-----           | JULY 19            | 1928 |
| MRS WILL MEEK(deceased)----- | SEPTEMBER 22       | 1928 |
| MRS A. OLSEN-----            | APRIL 18           | 1929 |

FIRST MEMBERS TO JOIN THE PAYNE'S MILLS W.I. IN 1946.

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| MRS W. KELLY     | MRS R. BERDAN     |
| MRS P. DAWDY     | MRS E. C. GILBERT |
| MISS M. ORR      | MRS A. SHIELL     |
| MRS W. H. SUTTON | MRS D. PALMER     |
| MRS H. G. LEWIS  | MRS A. ABBOTT     |
| MRS M. ADAMS     | MRS D. JACQUES    |
| MRS S. DAWDY     | MRS M. McDOWELL   |



PRESIDENTS OF OUR INSTITUTE.



BACK ROW

Mrs H.G. Lewis---I948  
Mrs W.Kelly-----I942--I943  
Mrs Ross Berdan-I949--I950--I95I

FRONT ROW

Mrs W.H. Sutton--I927--I928--I929---I946--I947  
Mrs E.C. Gilbert--I930--I93I--I932--I933 --I934 --I94I

Paynes Mills W. I. Presidents .

|            |                                |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| 1946       | Mrs. W. H. Sutton              |
| 1947       | " " " "                        |
| 1948       | Mrs. H. G. Lewis               |
| 1949       | Mrs. Ross Berdan               |
| 1950       | " " "                          |
| 1951       | " " "                          |
| 1952       | Mrs. Morley Adams              |
| 1953       | " " "                          |
| 1954       | Mrs. Gordon Lyle               |
| 1955       | " " "                          |
| 1956       | Mrs. Vermont Pow               |
| 1957       | " " "                          |
| 1958       | Mrs. Ken Bawden                |
| 1959       | " " "                          |
| 1960       | Mrs. W. Meek                   |
| 1961       | " " "                          |
| 1962       | " " "                          |
| 1963       | Mrs. Tom Blackman              |
| 1964       | " " "                          |
| 1965       | Mrs. Garfield Smith            |
| 1966       | " " " (deceased June 22, 1966) |
| July, 1966 | Mrs. Vermont Pow               |
| 1967       | Mrs. Vermont Pow               |
| 1968       | Mrs. Albert Auckland           |
| 1969       | Mrs. Albert Auckland           |
| 1970       | Mrs. Vera Meek                 |
| 1971       | Mrs. Vera Meek                 |
| 1972       | Mrs. Vera Meek                 |
| 1973       | Mrs. Vera Meek                 |
| 1974       | Mrs. Irene Auckland            |
| 1975       | Mrs. Irene Auckland            |
| 1976       | Mrs. Irene Auckland            |
| 1977       | Mrs. Irene Auckland            |
| 1978       | Mrs. Francis Blackman          |
| 1979       | Mrs. Francis Blackman          |
| 1980       | Mrs. Francis Blackman          |
| 1981       | Mrs. Francis Blackman          |
| 1982       | Mrs. Patricia Nichols          |



Some Paynes Mills Past Presidents.

Front row-----Mrs Albert Auckland-----1968--69

Mrs Vera Meek-----

Mrs Margaret Adams-----

Mrs Gordon Lyle-----

Back Row-----Mrs Vermont Pow-----

Mrs Frances Blackman-----

Mrs Marion Berdan-----

Mrs Ken Bawden-----