



Fifteenth Anniversary Meeting, February 1961, at Mrs. B. Gilbert's



Mrs. W. Kelly, Mrs. McCormick, Mrs. M. Adams, Mrs. W. Meek,
Mrs. Wes. Abbott



Mrs. K. Bawden, Mrs. S. Dawdy, Mrs. V. Pow, Mrs. W. Kelly,
Mrs. Wes Abbott, Mrs. McCormick, Mrs. Ross Berdan, Mrs. M. Adams,
Mrs. H. Eatough, Mrs. H. Lewis

GRANDMOTHER'S MEETING MARCH 1960

At the home of Mrs. Tom Blackman

Grandmothers

Mrs. John Lyle
Mrs. Wes Abbott
Mrs. Fred Bawden
Mrs. Alex Shiell
Mrs. Frank Auckland
Mrs. Garfield Smith
Mrs. Bert Marr
Mrs. Sherman Dawdy
Mrs. Flossie Dawdy
Mrs. Bill Meek

Others present.

Mrs. Claris Silcox with Bradley Blackman
Mrs. Ross Berdan
Mrs. Albert Collard
Mrs. Bill Blackman
Mrs. Albert Auckland
Mrs. Ken Bawden
Mrs. Ken Small
Diane Auckland
Mrs. Lil Abray (Norquay, Sask.)
Mrs. Bill Reid
Mrs. Morley Adams
Mrs. Harry Eatough
Barbie Oldham



MAY 1960



GRANDMOTHER'S
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Others present

Janice Auckland
Edith Auckland
Vera Meek
Hazel Bawden
Katharine Pow
Geraldine Harris
Dorothy Dawdy
Etta Eatough

Nell Reid
~~Susie~~ Smith

Fran Blackman
Essie Lewis
Winnie Auckland
Thelma Draper

Eva Small
Jessie Bawden



• Hail and Well Met--This could very well have been the theme of the day yesterday when members of five Women's Institute Branches in Essex County chartered a bus and drove to Elgin County. Here they were enthusiastically greeted by their hostesses, members of the Paynes Mills W. I. The enjoyable visit began with noon dinner, served in the Paynes Mills W. I. hall, and then a pleasant afternoon spent in the Elgin County Pioneer Museum, which Mrs. Tom Blackman, Paynes Mills W. I. president, described as "just about the nicest place we could take our guests to entertain them". The get-together all came about through a wish expressed by the Anderdon W. I. in Home and Country, the F.W.I.O. magazine, to visit a W.I. branch in another area, and compare notes on programs, projects and other items of interest to Institute members the world over. Paynes Mills immediately issued a warm invitation, and so--the wish became a reality. Shown, left to right, are Mrs. Edgar Wilcox, president of Cottam W. I.; Mrs. Irving Jones, president of Anderdon W. I.; Mrs. Ray Mole, District director and a member of North Colchester W. I.; Mrs. Ray Lee, Olinda W. I.; Mrs. L. Bondy, Public Relations officer for South Essex District, a member of Anderdon W. I.; Mrs. Norman Deslippe, president of Malden W. I.; Mrs. Albert Auckland, R.R. 7, St. Thomas, secretary Paynes Mills W. I.; and Mrs. Tom Blackman, R.R. 7 St. Thomas, president of Paynes Mills W. I.--

Times-Journal photo and write-up in the paper of March 12, 1965.

Institutes Exchange Visits

SOME TIME AGO Anderdon Women's Institute had a note published in Home and Country, saying the members would like to take a bus trip to visit another branch and exchange ideas on programs, projects and other Institute interests. Payne's Mills was the first to extend an invitation, so early in March about forty members of Anderdon, Malden, Olinda, Cottam and Colchester North Institutes chartered a sun parlor bus and went to Paynes Mills.

Mrs. Louis Bondy, P.R.O. for the district of South Essex reports that the hostess Institute members met them in their Institute hall, gave them a warm welcome and a delicious smorgasbord dinner; then they went into the auditorium for the Payne's Mills regular monthly meeting. In the afternoon the visitors continued in their bus to visit the now rather famous Elgin County Museum. Here they were served tea; then they boarded the bus for the return trip, stopping at Blenheim for an hour's shopping. Mrs. Bondy comments: "As a Public Relations Officer I would suggest we have more of these visits. You would be astonished at what a day's outing can do for you."



ANDERDON BUS TRIP TO Paynes Mills-----March 11 1965.

Family Night February 1, 1963

Program: Live A Borrowed Life.

Moderator--Murray Dawdy

Panel Members--Eldon Gilbert
Ken Bawden
Frank Auckland
Gordon Lyle

Contestants--Lois Lyle as Absalom Gilbert
Keith Bawden as Henry Berdan
Janet Small as John McGugan
Steve Blackman as Charles C. Monor
Pat Adams as John Brown

The following are the life histories that were read.

Absalom Gilbert

Absalom Gilbert was born on the Gilbert homestead north of Paynes Mills on January 28, 1846. The farm had been acquired from the crown about 1840 and is now owned by the Watt Brothers. He was the son of Jacob and Chestina Knight Gilbert.

He married Emmaline Campbell of South Delaware on June 5, 1878. They had one son--Ernest, and four daughters--Louie, who died when she was thirteen; Florence, who married the school teacher Dr. Dougal McBane; Vila, who married Dr. C. R. MacKenzie; and Lena, who married Harold Blackwell and is still living at Bradford, Ontario.

Absalom had one sister, Mrs. Hannah Couse, who was the grandmother of Leonard B. Sifton, deceased undertaker of St. Thomas.

Mr. Gilbert was in the Council from 1904 to 1911, being Deputy Reeve in 1909 and Reeve in 1910 and 1911.

He farmed until he and Mrs. Gilbert moved to St. Thomas in 1917 taking up residence at 48 East Street. Their son Ernest and his wife continued to live on the farm until the spring of 1944.

Mr. and Mrs. Absalom Gilbert celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on June 6th, 1928. Mrs. Gilbert died in September 1929 and Mr. Gilbert in December 1931. At the time of his death, the Times-Journal editorial page said: "Mr. Absalom Gilbert was known as a man who never shirked a duty--the type of citizen who has meant and is meaning so much to the development of Canada into a nation of the first rank".

It is recorded that the tallest tree found in these parts was 125 feet and was found on Absalom Gilbert's farm.

The following is a summary of the Gilbert family, all of whom are well known in these parts.

David Gilbert was the first generation of Gilberts to come to this district and settled on the first farm west of *a part of* Frank Auckland's. He had five sons and six daughters. Four

Paynes Mills W. I. meeting June 14, 1962 at the hall.

Historical Research--Mrs. Wes. Abbott and Mrs. T. Blackman

"Live a Borrowed Life"

Moderator--Mrs. Albert Auckland

Panel Members--Vermont Pow

Alma Munro Flintoff

Frederica Sells

Albert Auckland

Contestants--Murray Dawdy as Mrs. Frederick John Payne

June Eatough as Enie Lyle Wyatt

Connie Adams as Reverend Robert McIntyre

John Brown as Dr. Neil Munro

The following are the life histories that were read.

Sarah Ellen Payne

Sarah Ellen Sharon was born October 16, 1831 at Frome, the daughter of Thomas Sharon and Jane Sutton who had migrated from Scotland and settled in Pennsylvania and later moved to Canada. Her father and an uncle walked from Niagara Falls to St. Thomas

At fifteen she obtained a certificate to teach school, having taken an oral examination from Judge Elliott who was County Superintendant at the time. Her first school was at Frome in 1846. Her second school was a log building on the Gardner farm (now belonging to Al Parsons) on the 4th con. one mile north of Paynes Mills in 1848. Her third school for the year 1848-1849 was S. S. # 7, Paynes Mills. Then in the summer of 1850 she taught at Widdifield's Corners between St. Thomas and Union on the Gravel Road. The Pay was nine to ten dollars a month and she boarded with the pupils in their homes.

In 1849 Sarah Ellen married Frederick John Payne at the age of 18. They held in their possession the crown deed of 200 acres of land purchased from Squire Mathews in what is now known as Paynes Mills. The mill was an afterthought but it served to give the village its name. The mill was an oatmeal mill and burned in 1889 and was not rebuilt. Mrs. Payne lived in the same house for 75 years and the homestead still remains in the Payne name.

There were four sons and three daughters born to this marriage, namely: John, George, Alfred, Sturgeon, Amelia, Clara and Julia who married the well known artist St. Thomas Smith. Mrs. Payne was always devoted to her community and stirred with memories of Col. Talbot, revolutions and Fenian raids.

She was also devoted to the church and attended Frome Methodist church and for a number of years was superintendant of Paynes Mills Sunday school conducted in the Community Hall. She had a lasting influence on the young people of the community in whom she was very much interested.

Mrs. Payne died in Feb. 1929 at her daughter's home in South Delaware and was buried in Talbotville cemetery.

of the sons left descendants remembered by many in these parts.

Isaac got land from the Crown and this was later taken over by his son David Lewis Gilbert who married Ellen Summers and they had one son and two daughters, all now living--William L. Gilbert of Vancouver, B. C. Pearl (Mrs. Platt Swindell) London, and Lottie (Mrs. George Heipleh) of Springfield. That farm is now owned by Fred Branton.

Edgar married Annie Lyle and settled on the farm now owned by Frank Auckland. He had two sons and one daughter, all now deceased--Dr. Roy Gilbert and Stanley Gilbert of St. Thomas and Cora (Mrs. Ross Tufford) of Middlemarch.

Charles married Lucy Smith and lived at Talbotville in the house now owned by Roy French. They had a son Rowley and a daughter Eenie (Mrs. George Axford) both deceased. Mrs. Ainley Baker (nee Stella Axford) of London and formerly of Littlewood is a grand-daughter of the late Charles Gilbert.

Jacob married Chestina Knight and they settled on land taken from the crown about 1840 and that farm is now owned by the Watt Brothers. They had one son, Absalom, who remained on the farm when he married, and one daughter Mrs. Hannah Couse who lived in St. Thomas.

Henry Berdan

Henry Berdan was born in Paynes Mills on the farm now owned by Richard Walters. His family moved from there to the farm now owned by Vermont Pow. He married Louisa Down from the Frome district about 1860 and moved into the farm house adjoining his father's, now owned by Alvin Williams.

Henry was a member of the Bible Christian Church in Talbotville which stood where the cemetery is now. He was instrumental in starting Sunday School in the Paynes Mills public school. When sufficient interest was shown to warrant church services, he donated a piece of land and a hall was built with the help of everyone in the community for Sunday School, preaching, social and business gatherings in 1906.

Henry and Louisa had two children--twins--Elmer and Edna. Edna is now Mrs. Milton Heidt from Frome.

On June 29, 1898, a tornado touched down on the Berdan farm and the house and half of the barn were destroyed. Pieces of the verandah were later found as far away as the creek at Port Stanley. The chimney dropped into one of the upstairs bedrooms where Mrs. Berdan had been trying to lower the windows because of the approaching storm. She was saved from death by the fact that she had taken refuge under the bed when she saw how fierce the storm was. Edna, who was 6 years old at the time, was knocked under the table in the kitchen below. A doctor was later called from