

at Carron, Scotland, which was founded in 1759. It was there they made munitions for the Crimean War and all wars since that time, the factory of the present day being an immense place of business. Alexander Lyle Jr. (herein mentioned) was at the time of the Crimean War about ten years of age and was the only one working in the foundry who could read. It was he who while perched on a bench read the news of the Crimean battles to all the employees.

When Mr. Lyle heard of this country and its possibilities they became discontented with their work in Scotland and it was then they decided to come to Canada. Alexander Lyle Jr. was now 36 years of age, married with a family of 6 children.

They sailed from Scotland late in May, 1873 on the St. Patrick. This family--23 in all--was comprised of Alexander Lyle Sr., his wife the former Anne Dow; one son, Alexander Jr. and his wife and 6 children; one daughter, Mrs. Nesbit whose husband was deceased, and her 2 children; one daughter--Margaret--and her husband the Rev. Lawrence, a Missionary to Africa then returned to Scotland, and their 7 children; and one son, David.

Their voyage to Canada was very rough and stormy and it was two weeks before they arrived in Montreal. On this trip all men had to sleep on one side of the boat and all women on the other. Mrs. Lyle was very seasick and suffered much discomfort--especially during the night when she had all the care of the children as her husband was not allowed on that side of the boat. During the trip a table or chair broke loose and struck one of the children who was quite badly injured.

Upon their arrival in Montreal the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Lyle Jr. (Margaret) saw a couple who had befriended them on the boat, making off with one of the smaller children but they caught up with them and so foiled an attempted kidnapping. They arrived in London during the night on a Saturday. They went to a Hotel but Mrs. Lyle, finding the beds already occupied with vermin, immediately put the 23 of them on the street to sleep--on their luggage and as best they could.

They came from London to Paynes Mills on two lumber wagons and settled in the little frame dwelling built by Mr. Payne. Mr. William Webb--to whom we are indebted for much of this information--recalls being at the home when they arrived from London, having gone there to prepare food for their evening meal. The children (15) he recalls were put in a row on the floor against the wall. The sisters and brothers of Alexander Lyle Jr. in the course of three years made locations of their own. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Jr. after their arrival in Canada, making a family of 8 children.



Mrs. Lyle Jr. died in 1908 and husband 18 years later in the year 1926 in his 90th. year. In 1912 their son John (born in Canada) married Bessie Hunter and it was he who operated the farm after his father was unable to do so. To them were born two children, one son, Gordon who now resides on the homestead with his wife, the former Margaret Fife of Talbotville, and their two children, Ronald and Lois; one daughter, Helen, who married John McNiven and are now living on the Talbot Road with their children, Carolyn and Alexander.

Ronald and Lois Lyle are the fifth generation of the Lyle family living on this farm.

#### Foot Note

All deeds mentioned herein are in possession of Mr. John Lyle. The facts for this paper were given by Mrs. John Lyle and we are indebted to Mr. William Webb for much of the information. He is now 88 years of age, blind, living with his son Mr. Roy Webb, Wellington St., St. Thomas. Mr. Webb once lived on the farm now occupied by Mr. Charles Wright and his son Reuben. This farm adjoins the Lyle Farm.

October, 1947.

#### NOTES

It was evident that people once occupied some of this land before the settlers arrived. One instance was shown on Jacob Berdan's farm---- When he settled there on one of the small hills near the creek, rows of corn or potatoe hills could be seen. The rows could be plainly seen at that time, also flint and arrow heads were found on the same ground. Maple trees two feet through had grown among these rows, which would lead one to think these trees had grown since it was cultivated.

This section was the birthplace of Colonel Payne, now of London, who served in the Northwest Re bellion.



REV. J. MORLEY COLLINGS DELIVERS MESSAGE  
FOR CENTENNIAL SERVICE



Rev. J. Morley Colling delivered the centenary sermon at Southwold Township's anniversary service at Selldon, Payne's Mills on the afternoon of Sunday, August 6th. Mr. Colling of Chatham was selected to deliver the centenary message for three reasons.

He is the only clergyman, in the last 30 years, at least, who was actually ordained in Southwold Township and preached his first sermon as an ordained minister in the Township. He is the only clergyman who is a property owner in Southwold, the Collings own a summer residence on the Southwold side of Port Stanley. Mrs. Colling is a native of West Elgin, the former Nina Clark. She attended school at Iona and lived for some years in the Talbotville area.

A veteran of the First World War, Mr. Colling took the United Church charge (then the Methodist) following his honorable discharge from the Armed Services in the spring of 1919. He was given credits for the time spent in the Armed Forces and subsequently was ordained at a service in the Talbotville church.

As a Southwold property owner and taxpayers, Mr. and Mrs. Colling and family have returned annually to spend their summer vacation at their cottage west of Port Stanley.



SOUTHWOLD CENTENNIAL HELD AT SELDON ON AUGUST 6th, 1950

The following is taken from the St. Thomas Times Journal's report of the Centennial celebration.

The best way that men and women of today can pay tribute to the men and women of the past is to emulate them in the things they undertook and accomplished and to adopt the four great fundamental words of their daily vocabulary, which were Work, Play, Service and Devotion, Major (the Reverend) J. Morley Colling, pastor of Park Street United Church, Chatham, told several hundred citizens and former citizens of Southwold

Township at the centennial service of remembrance held on the spacious grounds of Selldon, Payhe's Mills, Sunday afternoon.

If we are to qualify as worthy successors to our forefathers, we can do it only by emulating their virtues and by passing on to our children and our children's children the great benefits that they passed on to us", Mr. Colling said. "It is the one way we can do honor to them and to this wonderful township they founded.

Held under the giant walnut and honey locust trees which shade the wide expanse of well-kept lawn behind the 125-year-old pioneer house at Selldon, Southwold's centennial service was an impressive one - one for the younger folk who attended to remember.

Reeve Clarence Orchard was the chairman of the program, extending an official welcome to all who attended and directing the order of the program. The musical prelude was provided by the Watford Community Band, which has many young people of that town in its membership. The band also played for the singing of the hymns during the service and following the service. The call to worship was taken by Rev. Norman Morris, Anglican minister at Florence, Ont., formerly of Iona. Invocation was by Rev. J. Murray, Baptist minister at Iona; prayer of commemoration and the benediction, by Rev. J. Bright, United Church minister at Dungannon, formerly of Shedden. A welcome and extremely interesting historical talk was given by W. Scott McKay, owner of Selldon and the official host; greetings from the Province of Ontario by F. S. Thomas, Legislative representative for Elgin; greetings from Elgin County and Yarmouth Township were conveyed by Warden A. V. Coulter. Mr. Colling was introduced by Ralph Auckland, Talbotville, former warden of Elgin, while the thanks of the centennial committee to all who assisted were ably expressed by Stewart Brown of Shedden, another former warden of Elgin.

Special vocal numbers were sung during the service by the Shedden Quartette consisting of Harley Koyle, Jeston Moore, James Orchard and Bob O'Hara with Mrs. Clarence Palmer at the piano.



C. D. Coyle, P.P. Straffordville, was to have brought the greetings of the Dominion of Canda by was prevented from attending by illness.

Mr. Colling told the gathering that Work was the key word of the Southwold pioneers' vocabulary. They were not afraid of honest toil. "But it seems to be that the word 'Work' is a foreign word with too many people today," he observed. "People seem to forget that God is the greatest of all workers and if He stopped working, all of us would be dead. I think we have to recover in this day and age the dignity of work. I have an old lady in my congregation in Chatham who is 87 years old. She asked me where she could find some person who would cut the lawn of her home. She had tried in vain to find some person and she asked me: 'What is wrong with the people today - nobody wants to work'.

"Too many of our young people think that it is a sin to work and think there is something wrong with a man who wears overalls," he continued. "This township would not be what it is today if the pioneers who made it had been afraid to don overalls and to work".

The speaker remarked that the pioneers also had a finer knowledge of play or pastime than the present generations. They found recreation and pastime in their own homes, in the parlor or the yard, around the old organ in the parlor.

"Today, everything connected with play is being commercialized," he remarked. "The result is that you have a few people taking part and the others sitting on the sidelines and paying for that privilege. We may not be able to turn back the clock but I do think we can turn back and adopt the pioneers' meaning of work."

Dealing with the word, Service, in the pioneers' vocabulary, Mr. Colling said. "No man can be a citizen in this day and age without serving. Men and women must be servants to each other. The great privileges and heritages that have been handed down to us have come from the sweat, the toil and the tears of others who have served. We must work and give our children and our children's children the heritage of service. You can't build a civilization on any other basis except that service. What you are, in the final analysis, is what you have given to your fellowmen and your community.

The speaker paid tribute to such men as Rev. (Dr.) J. B. Silcox, one of the founders of Frome and an early light in the old Congregational Church at Frome.

"It is such people as Dr. Silcox who have put into Southwold its quality," he said. "You cannot forget the Christian church and hope to have a Christiana democracy. Do you forget that man is a worshipping animal and if you take away from him the right of worship, you make him a mere animal.

"We wonder why Mr. Malik, Russia's representative to the United Nations behaves so. It is because he is man who has forgotten the



Christian Church and the quality of worship. Life without worship is life minus God and the equation is nothing."

Introductorily, Mr. Colling told of the pride he had of having been a citizen of Southwold and of still owing property in the township where he was ordained into the ministry and found his lifemate. He told of a touching incident in the Second World War, while he was on chaplain duty with Canadian forces in Italy. A nursing sister called him into the hospital one evening to the bedside of a dying soldier. He learned that the lad had been working on a farm near St. Thomas before he enlisted. He asked Mr. Colling when he learned that the chaplain knew St. Thomas: "Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could go down Talbot Street?"

Mr. Colling left the soldier without learning his name or where he had worked. When he returned an hour later, it was too late. The soldier had died and "we buried him out there in Italy in the moonlight that night," Mr. Colling reported.

"Whoever that boy was, he was proud of his Elgin citizenry," he said. "That is a sample of the type of men who have preserved our democratic way of life through two world wars. May God prevent us from going through a third world war. I do not like the Korean situation and my heart goes out to the young American lads who are fighting and dying over there. As we sit here in this beautiful spot this afternoon, I wonder if we appreciate what those American boys are doing for us over there.... They are giving their bodies and blood in order that we may continue to enjoy the democratic way of life."

Mr. Colling said he thought of the first American lad to be shot in the back, with his hands tied behind his back, by North Koreans. He was a Detroit boy who had worked as a soda clerk - a lad who had hosts of friends and not a hate in his heart for anyone.

Mr. McKay in his address, gave some interesting highlights on Southwold's history which recent research had revealed. He found from searching in the Elgin registry office that the earliest registration of property in the township appeared to have been made in August, 1800, when Eban Evans, a tailor of Queenston, transferred Lot 11, Concession 4, 200 acres, in the township of Southwold, County of Suffolk, to one Robert Hamilton, merchant of Queenston. The next record of sale was on July 29, 1801, and referred to Southwold as being in the county of Suffolk, Western District, "but now called the county of Middlesex and District of London."

It was interesting to note that the name Southwold was first used in 1792 when it was in one of 19 counties in Upper Canada decreed by Governor John Graves Simcoe. One county, comprising Southwold, Dunwich and Aldborough townships were called Suffolk for the county in England; while all the East Elgin was then in



Norfolk County. The west of Elgin remained Suffolk until 1798 when Elgin became part of Middlesex County.

Mr. McKay's research revealed that the first patent or grant of lands was on January 13, 1796, being 1,400 acres, Lots 11 to 17, the broken Front Concession, to Colonel John Simcoe. That land was near the 10th Concession, where the first survey was made in 1797. Colonel Thomas Talbot came in 1803 and in 1804 the Talbot Road was blazed through the virgin forest. In 1811, Back Street, or what is King's Highway No. 3 through Southwold was surveyed, Mr. McKay explained.

Probably the earliest white settlers came to Southwold in 1808-12. The Watson and Barber families appeared to be the first. For the former, Watson's Corner was named. James Mandeville came about the same time from Long Point to settle on the Southwold side of Talbot street hill, before St. Thomas was even thought of. William Sells settled on the land where the centennial service was held in 1818.

"We're not actually celebrating Southwold as a geographic unit. but rather the 100th anniversary of its incorporation as a separate municipality," Mr. McKay explained.

He reviewed the long struggle for responsible government from 1793 until 1849 when the Baldwin Act or the Municipal Act, which is the basis for local government of today, came into existence. That legislation, for which Hon. Robert Baldwin and others had struggled so long and so hard had been rightly called "the Magna Charta of local government in Ontario."

"Baldwin and his associates gave us perhaps as great a measure of freedom of local government as is enjoyed anywhere in the world," said Mr. McKay. "We must couple with the name of Baldwin, that of Lord Elgin, who was Governor General of Canada, and without whose assent the Municipal Act could not have become law."

Among the old documents Mr. McKay carried to the gathering was the first minute books of Southwold's first councils. The first resolution passed on February 5, 1850, authorized the clerk to get prices on a township hall. Other resolutions defined the size of the hall to be 40 by 30 feet, with 14 feet ceilings, and with two rooms off one end, one for a lockup, the other for the clerk's office. On April 30, 1850, with Levi Fowler of Fingal, as reeve, the purchase of the Casey site at Fingal for 20 pounds, as the township hall site, was recorded. The hall still stands on that pioneer site.

On January 5, 1852, when Elgin County was separated, the old minute book recorded that Messrs. Fowler and McCall moved for Port Stanley as the seat of county council; but they were defeated in an amendment which selected St. Thomas, incorporated as a village in 1852

Mr. McKay paid tribute to some of the outstanding men and women