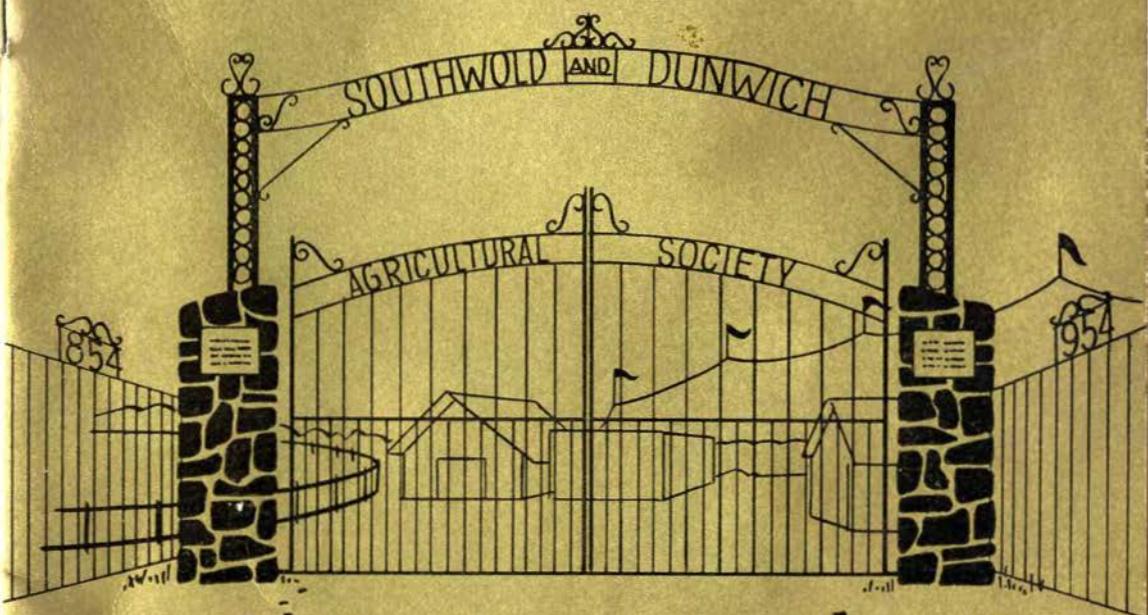


# PIONEER HISTORY



*"The Best Fair in the Heart of Elgin"*

Commemorating **100** Years of the  
Iona - Shedden Fall Fairs

## *President's Letter*

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In many countries of the world there probably is no institution which has had a longer or more intimate association with farming than has the agricultural fair. In providing a meeting place, a medium for showing and judging the results of the arts and skills of individual exhibitors, and an opportunity for farmers to acquaint themselves with developments in their industry, the fair has met and filled an inherent need of the agricultural community.

The first recorded fair in Canada was held in Windsor, Nova Scotia in 1765 just 89 years previous to Southwold and Dunwich Agricultural Society's first fair in 1854.

Over the years of development, agricultural fairs have tended to attract the interest and following of urban and rural Canadians. Most urban Canadians are not many generations removed from an agricultural background. They live geographically close to agriculture, and still provides the economic source of a large portion of urban activity. This gives to them a sentimental attachment to agriculture and to agricultural fairs - a fact upon which the fairs have been quick to seize by making them a show-window of agriculture for Canadian consumers.

The Southwold and Dunwich Agricultural Society, known to many as the Shedden Fair, is proud of the development made since 1854 and with the place the fair has made for itself as a showplace for livestock and crops throughout Elgin County. There has been a big increase in the number of classes available to an exhibitor for his entries. The assistance and attendance of junior agriculturalists and school children has greatly assisted too in the growth of our fair.

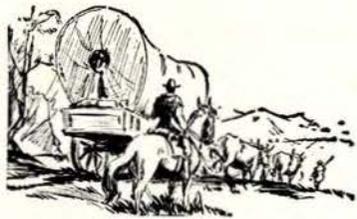
Our main thought at this time is one of determination for the future development of the fair. The Southwold and Dunwich Agricultural Society is encouraged in this thought by the magnificent co-operation and hard work of the many members of its various committees, and by the skilled assistance always given by the staff of The Department of Agriculture, St. Thomas, Ont.

With this thought in mind we are sure "The Shedden Fair" will grow to be the largest in Elgin County before the celebration of its next centennial.

ROY INCH,

*President*

21st September, 1954



## *To the Pioneers*

Whose faith in the country of their adoption and whose pride in the fact that they were, at last, possessors of land in their own right, led them to found an Agricultural Society and exhibit their stock at a community Fair, in the year Eighteen Hundred and Fifty-four.

“We whose names are subscribed hereto agree to form ourselves into a society under the provisions of the Act of the Legislature entitled ‘An Act to provide for the establishment of a Bureau of Agriculture’ and to amend and consolidate the laws relating to agriculture to be called the “Agricultural Branch Society of the Townships of Southwold and Dunwich of the Agricultural Society of the County of Elgin” and we hereby agree to pay to the treasurer yearly while we continue members of the society (any members being at liberty to retire therefrom upon giving notice in writing to the secretary at any time before the annual meeting, of his wish to do so) the sums opposite our respective names, and we further agree to conform to the rules and bylaws of the said society.

Southwold, April 1, 1854.”

Signed:-

John Horton	Arch Thompson	Henry Hamilton
Amasa Wood	Arch Patterson	Don Carmichael
John Williams	Nicol McColl	Jas. Ferguson
Moses Warner	Colin McIntyre	John Lumley
Zechariah McCallum	Elisha Best	John McPhail
Malcolm Campbell	Wm. Sells	Arch Carswell

To them, and to all those who, in the intervening years, have carried on what they began one hundred years ago, we to-day give honour and credit, and have the satisfaction of knowing that the seed they planted, like the acorn has grown to be “The Best Fair in the Heart of Elgin”.

# Centennial History

This history is written to commemorate the One Hundredth Anniversary of the First Agricultural Fair held in the Townships of Southwold and Dunwich, County of Elgin in 1854, and sponsored by the Southwold and Dunwich Agricultural Society. Unfortunately the early records of the Society are incomplete, but it is known that during its first years, the Fair was located in Iona on what is now part of Percy Whall's farm. There it appears that the Fair flourished for recorded in the report of the auditors (John Liddell and John Silcox) in 1867 is "We the undersigned auditors have pleasure in submitting our report of the Treasurer's accounts and in doing so are pleased to state that we find the accounts correct and the books kept in a business like manner, a credit to your Society. We also take this opportunity of expressing our gratification in finding that your Society is steadily progressing and in a flourishing condition. We find the numbers of members in 1865 to be 125, in 1866 to be 152 and in 1867 to be 179, showing a yearly increase of 27 members".

About 1896 the Fair was moved from Iona to Shedden - to its present location - on land rented from Mr. Dougald Brown. The Fair's growth continued there until 1922 when the property was sold to the late Nelson Bawtinheimer and the Board was faced with the

Tractors Turn  
Southwold Field  
into Fair Grounds  
1952



problem of finding a new site for their Fair. The late William Francis then rented to them, a portion of his farm northwest of the village of Shedden and next to the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. There for the next thirty years the Fair grew in exhibits, attendances and finances.

Then in 1952 a long dream came true. The Fair officials approached Wilfred and Albert Bawtinheimer, Executors of the Bawtinheimer Estate regarding the purchase of the former (and present) Fair site on No. 3 Highway, just east of the village of Shedden. Following that meeting they canvassed virtually the whole of the township within two afternoons and raised more than \$2500 - \$500 more than the purchase price of the twenty



Studying layout of new grounds are left, front row: B. Leeson, C. Chamberlain, L. Stafford, F. Nimmo, C. E. Moore; back row, D. Bogart, F. Miller, W. Adams, C. Miller.

acres. A committee from the Fair Board, which included C. E. Moore, Cecil Miller, Farnell Nimmo, Bruce Leeson, Clayton Chamberlain, Lawrence Stafford, Dean Bogart, Morley Adams, Frank Miller and Kenneth McLaughlin and a representative from the Department of Agriculture, met and laid out the grounds. Then on September 4th, farmers and businessmen from all over Southwold Township banded together and sent sixteen tractors on to the twenty-acre plot and within seven hours they plowed and leveled the large chunk of pasture land into a new area - the Southwold and Dunwich Agricultural Society Fair Grounds.

## *Inside the Grounds*

On the twenty-acre grounds are several permanent buildings. The Exhibits Building used on the William Francis fair site was moved to the new Fair Grounds, and a small building, purchased and moved from the New York Central Railroad, became the Office Building.

Realizing that one of the most important attractions at any Fair is food, the Shedden Women's Institute capitalized on the idea and promptly made a promise of \$500.00 towards the erection of a building which would take care of the serving of meals and refreshments to the fair-goers. A bee was held and a fine aluminum building, the Dining Hall, was erected during the summer of 1953. There the members of the Shedden Women's Institute and the Shedden United Church Women's Association together looked after the serving of deliciously prepared food. Their efforts proved so successful that they are to continue to work together in this very popular addition to the Fair.

Bleacher stands were erected in 1950 and were enlarged in 1952 and 1953 until they seat now approximately 300.

This year - as evidence of the further growth of the Fair - has been added a fine cement block structure of 30 x 40 feet - the Livestock Building.

Much work has been done for the past three years to finally complete what the Board believes to be one of the finest half mile race-courses. This track is wide enough to encourage the use of the new starting gate which is becoming so popular.

To commemorate the 100th Anniversary, impressive wrought iron gates and arch, mounted between field-stone posts and flanked by a white picket fence, have been erected at the entrance to the grounds. Spotlights on the lower iron posts illuminate the arch and add a distinctive touch after dark. Imbedded in the ornamental stone posts

are two bronze plaques, one of which bears the names of the 1954 Officers and the other the inscription "Southwold and Dunwich Agriculture Society, 1854 - 1954, presented by The Ontario Department of Agriculture In Recognition of One Hundred Years Service, Sept. 22, 1954". In recognition of the one hundred years' existence of the Fair, the Ontario Department of Agriculture has granted \$1,000.00 to the Society to be used for the gates.

## *Exhibits*

In the days when the Fair was held in Iona, the Old Drill shed of "B" Company of the 25th Battalion (which was trained in Iona), was used for the Crystal Palace. In it was exhibited fancy work done by many ladies in the community including the Brown sisters,



View of a section of the new Fair Grounds and First Class Dirt Track, September 1952.

Mrs. George Newton, Mrs. Jane Campbell and Essie Carswell; dairy products of butter (pound prints), rolls of butter and crocks of June packed butter, cheese, curds and eggs also appeared. It can be recalled that the cooking exhibits included home-made bread made with home-made hop yeast, salt yeast bread, buns, biscuits and bran biscuits, maple sugar cookies and ginger cookies, apple

and pumpkin pies - and the old time fruit cake. The fruit shown consisted of Russetts, Pippins (20 oz.), Northern spies, Baldwins and Tomkins apples, pears (fruit and pickled), plums and peaches of no particular variety. It is also remembered in those days size was the basis for judging vegetables - and the largest entry got the prize!

The horses were listed as general purpose, single carriage, team of carriage horses, mare, foal, yearlings, etc., saddle horses to racers. - but no harness races can be recalled. Exhibitors were Duncan and Ed. Carswell, W. Brush, McWilliams Bros. (Sandy and Jack), D. McGibbon, Alf. and Mate Clay, Austin Keillor and Jack Clark.

The cattle exhibited were Durhams by D. Brown and Sons and Angus Campbell and Sons; and Jerseys by Ed. Silcox and Sons and Hugh McPhail.

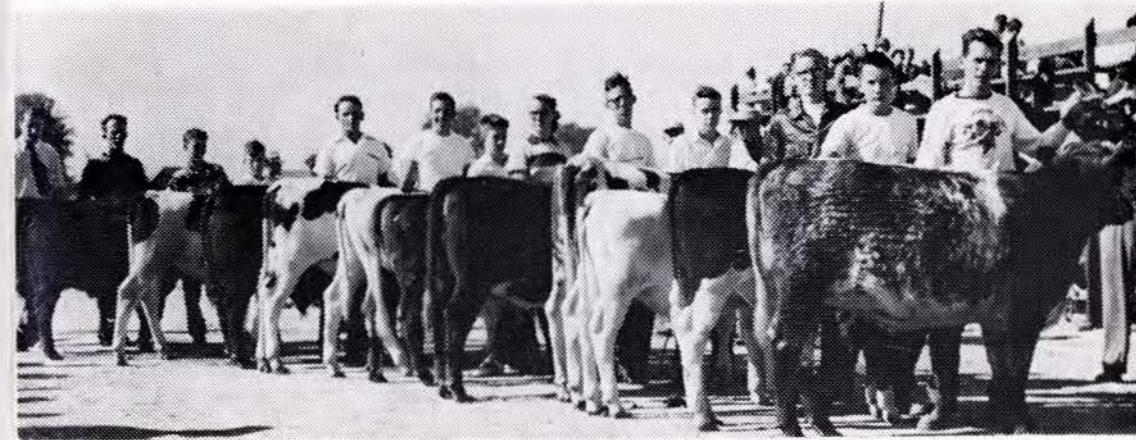
Sheep exhibitors were William Ford and George Newton.

The fowl exhibited were barred rocks, red and white leghorns, turkeys (bronze and white), geese and ducks (any class).

They apparently lacked nothing in entertainment for Iona had a band (started in 1866 with Moses Lumley as leader and Dan Pineo as assistant) and it was always in attendance at the Fair. Then too there was the "Punch and Judy" show - and Jim Hannagan's (Wallacetown) show to "Hit the Coon with Balls" for a cigar. And Taffy Laury (Port Stanley) with his taffy stand - he's described as "best of all"!

Light and heavy horses, dairy and beef cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry, grains, fruits and vegetables continued to be exhibited each year. In about 1933 the exhibits were increased by the formation of the first Boys' Foal Club. This was organized by the District Agricultural Representatives and the Society, and its officers and directors included Mark Brown, Maurice Small, Franklin Small, Gilbert Caswell, William McMullan, Duncan McLaugh-

lin, Vernon Halborn, Clifford Graham, Albert Haggarty and Norman Beggs. 1940 saw the formation of the Grain Club, 1945 the Swine Club came into being, and in 1947 Frank Webster, Assistant Agricultural Representative for Elgin county, promoted the Beef Club of which James Oldham was the enthusiastic leader assisted by W. Ross. In 1950 Dairy Calf Clubs were sponsored by Morley Adams and Cecil Miller, who are still their capable leaders. These Clubs create greater interest among young people in caring for, feeding, developing and marketing of cattle. They develop too a better general knowledge of breed type, and the judging of and selection of cattle. Achievement awards are presented each year to the boys of these clubs at a social evening at which the Shedden Fair Board is host not only to the boys, but their parents as well.



1952 4-H Calf Club winners from left: R. Shelley, W. Carroll, D. Turner, M. McLaughlin, K. Howe, L. Howe, J. Agar, D. Lyle, D. Sheill, W. Whalls, W. Stafford, B. Stafford.

Field Crop Competitions were started in 1928, resumed again in 1937 and have continued since that time to be an interesting part of the Fair.

The Women's exhibits have always included baking butter, sewing, fine arts and crafts, but since 1930 a much greater interest has been taken in the exhibiting of flowers and fruits.

Following the cessation of the school fairs, during the second world war, a Public School Children's class was added to the prize list. Writing, arts and projects are stressed and the work of the young folks attracts a fair share of the attention and interest of the onlookers.

About the same time Girls' Clubs were formed, and a display of their projects, gardening, flower arrangements, sewing and baking has always been an interesting addition to the fair.

1952 saw the first colourful dress parade of the Township's school children. About 95% of the schools take part and prizes are awarded all schools participating.

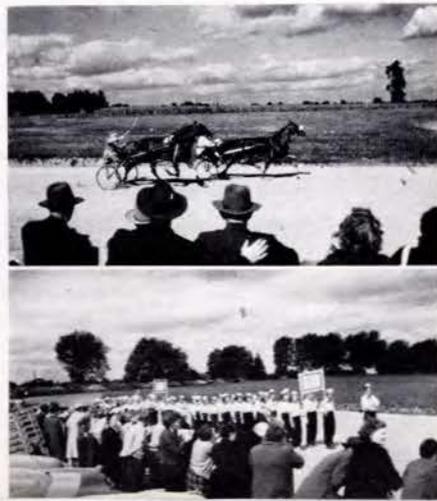
Excellent programs of racing have been held on the track each year for the enjoyment of fair-goers.

A modern innovation is the display of farm machinery, automobiles, household electrical equipment etc., which increases each year.

In the early days of the Fair, judging was done by local or district residents, but recently it has been the custom to employ trained judges. The many special prizes offered are contributed mainly by firms or manufacturers and private individuals in the surrounding district; but Eaton's of Canada have for years donated trophies for the livestock class and Simpson-Sears of Toronto have donated trophies for ladies' exhibits.

The directors have reason to be congratulated upon the quality and quantity of special entertainment provid-

Interesting Events  
at the Fair



ed on Fair days. Down through the years many bands have attended the fair. Among them have been the Shedden Band (1906 and 1916); the Oneida Band; Watford School Band; the Technical Training School (Air Force) Band (1942-43) and the St. Thomas Pipe Band. For years baseball games were a feature of the day; baby shows have had their place too. Turtle races, pet shows, square dance competitions and Moppetts the clown have all added to the wonderful times.

## *The Society*



Officers and Directors of  
the Society 1954, pictured  
in front of the Centennial  
Gates.

The Southwold and Dunwich Agricultural Society has a membership of 106. For several years now the men officers and directors have met once a month to discuss their problems and to make plans for their future advancement. The lady officers and directors meet several times a year. The Society is a member of No. 8A Western District Association; Mrs. C. E. Moore has the honour of being Chairlady of this District for 1954-55. This Society is also a member of the Ontario Fairs Association. Delegates are sent to Toronto annually to attend the Ontario Association of Agriculture Societies Convention.

## Coronation Day Ceremony

The Fair Grounds was the scene of special services on Coronation Day, June 2nd, 1953. Short addresses were given by Mrs. Lloyd Atkinson (daughter of the late D. McGibbon, a past president of the Society), Miss Eva Morrison (daughter of the late W. H. Morrison, past president), Stewart Brown, (son of the late Duncan Brown, past president) and George E. Silcox (son of the late Edgar Silcox, also a past president) Rev. Dr. M. W.



Roy Inch, President and  
Rev. Dr. M. W. Goodrich

Goodrich, pastor of Shedden United Church and Rev. J. N. Murray, pastor of the Shedden Baptist Church also spoke. The occasion was marked by the planting of two lovely red maple trees at the front of the grounds by Roy Inch, President and Farnell Nimmo, Secretary-Treasurer. The trees were the gifts of Scarlett Nursery, St. Thomas, and Charles E. Moore, Fair Manager. The children of the Shedden Public School sang several choruses.



Names which appear in the old records of the Society are:- (1854-1900) D. McPherson, D. Carpenter, D. Eccles, F. A. Tait, James Philpot, L. J. Else, John Liddell, Thomas Pearce. (Around 1900) J. D. Francis, J. R. McCallum, A.M. Bake, G. E. Norman, W. W. Farrah, D. V. Hamilton, George Wridge, Ed Carswell, R. W. Waters, John A. Orchard, John Steele, M. B. Stafford, W.M.W. Meek, Daniel Oattanach, W. H. Turner, Grant Colley, John McTavish, James Wride, L. B. Morse, B. R. Brad, Colin McPhail, Robert Carswell, F. H. Silcox, H. S. McDiarmid, Edgar Silcox, W. D. Killins, D. McGibbon, L. K. McCallum. (Around 1913) V. A. Olver, E. Nethercott, Chas. Heidt, Walter Miller, Peter Campbell, A. J. McIntyre, W. H. Morrison, W. R. Pollard, D. McGibbon. (1920-1954) M. D. McCormick, Hayvey Bainard, Charles E. Moore, Angus Turner, Frank Coutts, D. A. Brown Jr., Charles Holborn, James Oldham, Hugh McPhail, Duncan Brown J., Wm. Farrah, F. Coutts, Roy Chamberlain, Wm. Munro, Edgar Down, Farnell Nimmo, Cecil Miller, Roy Inch.

Directors have included:- Donald McLay, E. Nethercott, Ernest Gilbert, Ray Chamberlain, R.N. McLellan, George Lethbridge, P. Stanley Croft, L. Kruppe, George E. Silcox, L. Parsons, D. McGugan, Kenneth McIntyre, E. Stover, F. W. Miller, Charles Butler, H. Fordham, Jay Lumley, Herbert Parks, John Meek, George Morrow, M. A. Stafford, Milton Heidt, Kenneth Gordon, Hugh McPhail, Kenneth Bawden, Douglas W. Orchard, Don Bogart, Carl Chamberlain, Harry Palmer, Franklin Small, Ralph Heidt, A. Bawden, Kenneth McLaughlin, Bob McLellan, William McLellan, Donald Firby, Lawrence McIntyre, Ray Oldham, Jack Killens, Ronald

Hunter, Mac McIntyre, James Bogart, Clarence Bogart, Wilber Oldham, John McNaughton, A. A. Silcox, Arch McKillop, Ralph Auckland, Kenneth Firby, Ronald L. Prevett, John McNiven, Glen McLellan, George Elliott, John Dundas, Ian McLellan. Manager of the Fair since 1940 has been C. E. Moore.

Lady Directors have included:- (1906) Miss A. Casey, Mrs. William Stevenson, Miss Katie McAlpine, Miss Margaret Orchard. (1907) Miss Jerusha Hamilton, (1908) Mrs. Samuel Down, Mrs. Duncan Brown, (1909) Miss Hattie Robinson, (1911) Miss Clara Horton, Miss Clara Humphries, (1912) Mrs. Dugald Lumley, (1921) Mrs. J. H. Sells, Mrs. W. H. Turner, Mrs. N. L. Campbell, Mrs. Nellie Sells, Mrs. A. E. Orchard, Mrs. J. C. Telford, Mrs. Ralph Stevenson, Mrs. Kenneth Firby, Mrs. J. P. Telford.

Service Certificates have been presented to Mrs. W. H. Turner (1949), and to Mrs. W. Ross (1953) and it has been moved this year to present one to Mrs. James Oldham.

The Union Jack still in use by the Society, was presented to them by Mrs. D. McGibbon in 1931.



Ladies Division,  
1954

From left; Mesdames E. L. McCall, E. S. Down, W. E. Sells, Lloyd Atkinson, M. Robbins, J. Oldham, Roy Inch, Alex. Turner (Secretary), W. H. Turner, C. E. Moore (President), W. Ross, H. Kendall, D. Bogart, F. Nimmo, E. L. Baker, S. A. Brown, N. L. Campbell, Ken McLaughlin. Missing when photo taken were Mesdames H. Parks, R. Auckland, B. Leeson, C. J. Orchard, M. W. Goodrich, A. McKillop.

The 1953 Fair - Shedden's first two-day Fair - blessed with clear skies and ideal weather, was the greatest in its history surpassing all fairs before it! Excellent exhibits, a good entry in all events and many children, swelled attendance until the gate receipts financial figures more than doubled those of 1952. Now the officials look forward to this year 1954 - the Fair's 100th Birthday - to be its biggest and finest yet!

The story has now come to an end, though it is far from being all told. One must read between the lines to understand all the work and worry that being responsible for such an organization entails. Nothing is said of all the number of meetings attended each year; of all the hours spent on society business; of all the work done free of charge. Then when the summer is past and the work of the year culminates in the "Fair Days" the reward is found in the knowledge that this year, like all others, has been "the most successful in the history of the Society."



Mrs. W. Ross, Mrs. J. Oldham, and Mrs. C. E. Moore have taken pleasure and pride in preparing the history.

## *Southwold and Dunwich Agricultural Society, 1954*

Past President, Cecil Miller .....	Iona Station
President, Roy Inch .....	St. Thomas
First Vice-President, Bruce Leeson .....	Shedden
Second Vice-President, Kenneth McLaughlin .....	Southwold Station
Manager, C. E. Moore .....	Shedden
Secretary-Treasurer, Farnell Nimmo .....	Southwold Station

### HONORARY DIRECTORS

Robert Carswell, F. W. Miller

### DIRECTORS

E. S. Down	Almer Lunn	Harvey Kendall
Clayton Chamberlain	Max Emery	Dean Bogart
Carl Chamberlain	Frank Miller	Marwood Robbins
Lloyd Rankin	Morley Adams	Urquhart Welch
Claybourne Gordon	Dr. D. A. Montieth	James McCloy
Clarence Palmer	Lawrence Silcox	Stewart J. Brown
Lawrence Stafford	Wallace Lockhart	Milton Heidt
Louis Rankin	Douglas Orchard	Floyd Brown
E. L. McColl	Albert Orchard	Jeston Moore
Matthew A'Hara	Mark Brown	Donald Shiell
Don Vicary	D. C. Turner	R. Auckland
Donald Travers		Don McArthur

### WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

#### Lady Officers

Chairman .....	Mrs. C. E. Moore
1st Vice-Chairman .....	Mrs. Roy Inch
2nd Vice-Chairman .....	Mrs. E. L. McCall
Secretary .....	Mrs. A. Turner

#### Lady Directors

Mrs. H. Parks	Mrs. H. Kendall	Mrs. Wilfred Sells
Mrs. Stewart Brown	Mrs. E. S. Down	Mrs. James Oldham
Mrs. Ernest Baker	Mrs. R. Auckland	Mrs. W. Ross
Mrs. Lloyd Atkinson	Mrs. Dean Bogart	Mrs. K. McLaughlin
Assistants in Ladies' Section—Louis Rankin, Ernest Baker		

### SUPERINTENDENTS

Horses .....	Bruce Leeson, Floyd Brown, Carl Chamberlain and Donald McArthur.
Cattle .....	Donald Vicary, Lorne Stafford
Hogs .....	Almer Lunn, Wray Oldham
Sheep .....	Morley Stafford
Poultry .....	Almer Lunn

SOUTHWOLD & DUNWICH  
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

CENTENNIAL  
SERVICE



SHEDDEN FAIR GROUNDS  
SUNDAY SEPT. 19-1954  
2.30 P.M.

REV. DR. M.W. GOODRICH SHEDDEN PRESIDING

GUEST SPEAKER - REV. NORMAN MORRIS

MUSIC BY

ST. THOMAS SALVATION ARMY BAND

RODNEY KWANIS CLUB'S BOYS & GIRLS BAND

MASSED CHOIR FROM SOUTH OLD TOWNSHIP

SHEDDEN FAIR QUARTETTE

MRS. C.F. PALLER PIANIST

ORDER OF SERVICE

DEDICATORY SERVICE AT THE GATES - ROY INCH PRESIDING

REMARKS - Hon. F. S. Thomas  
A. V. Langton - Elgin Agricultural Representative  
Kenneth Williamson - Warden of Elgin

Prayer - Rev. S. Hirtle Fingal

Service at Bleachers

CALL TO WORSHIP - Rev. Dr. M. W. Goodrich

DOXOLOGY - (Standing)

INVOCATION & PRAYER - Rev. J. N. Murray

Hymn - Rise up O Men of God

ANTHEM I will lift up my eyes

SCRIPTURE LESSON - Rev. J. Harrower Lawrence Sta.

OFFERING

SHEDDEN MALE QUARTETTE - On the Jericho Road

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER - F. H. Silcox Iona

SERMON - Rev. Norman Morris

ANTHEM - How beautiful upon the mountains

Hymn - Faith of our fathers

BENEDICTION - D. Fitchett Shedden Baptist Church

RISE UP O MEN OF GOD

Rise up, O men of God  
Have done with lesser things;  
Give heart and soul and mind and strength  
To serve the King of Kings.

Rise up, O men of God  
His kingdom tarries long;  
Bring in the day of brotherhood  
And end the night of wrong.

Rise up, O men of God  
The church for you doth wait  
Her strength unequal to her  
task;  
Rise up and make her great.

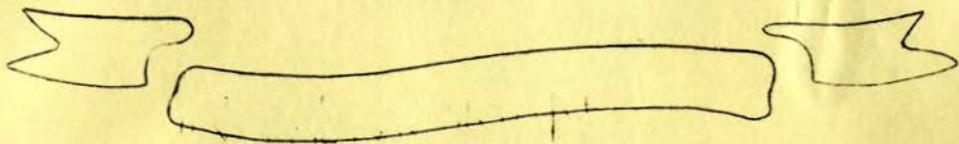
Lift high the Cross of  
Christ  
Tread where His feet have  
trod;  
As brothers of the Son of  
Man  
Rise up, O men of God.

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

Faith of our fathers living still  
In spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;  
O how our hearts beat high with joy  
Whene'er we hear that glorious word;  
Faith of our fathers, holy faith,  
We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers God's great power  
Shall soon all nations win for thee  
And through the truth that comes from God  
Mankind shall then be truly free.  
Faith of our fathers, holy faith,  
We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers we will love  
Both friend and foe in all our strife,  
And preach thee too, as love knows how,  
By kindly words and virtuous life.  
Faith of our fathers, holy faith,  
We will be true to thee till death.



IN MEMORIAM

OF ALL THOSE DURING THE  
PAST ONE HUNDRED YEARS  
WHO HAVE GIVEN FREELY  
OF THEIR TIME AND MONEY  
AND WHO HAVE PASSED  
ON TO THEIR REWARD  
1854 - 1954

IN MEMORIAM

