

McIntyre elected warden of Elgin

BY PATRICK BRENNAN
TIMES-JOURNAL STAFF

Jim McIntyre, a 22-year-veteran of municipal politics, was elected Tuesday as warden of the County of Elgin.

County councillors picked McIntyre, mayor of Southwold township, over Lynn Acre, mayor of Bayham and one of five rookie county councillors this year.

"We will lead when needed and follow when advantageous," McIntyre, a 55-year-old building contractor, told a packed

council chambers gallery.

In his acceptance speech, McIntyre pledged to focus council on resolving issues such as:

- completing the construction of ambulance headquarters and a sub-station;

- addressing the divestiture of Port Stanley harbour and examining the pros and cons of a proposed ferry service from Cleveland, Ohio;

- keeping an eye on the Thames Valley District School Board on the issue of rural schools; and

- making sure local hospitals and the Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit

SEE MEETING, PAGE 3

Dec. 15, 2004

Jim McIntyre, left, the new warden of Elgin county, accepts the gavel from outgoing warden Dave Rock. (T-J photo*)



Shedden W. I.
Tweddsmuir History
Dora McArthur-Curator
April, 2005

Meeting set for Thursday on Port Stanley harbour

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
receive fair treatment from the province.

McIntyre, conceding he only had one vote on council, promised to enhance the county's working relationship with the City of St. Thomas.

Earlier, McIntyre said he believed it was more important to "do what is right and not necessarily popular."

McIntyre replaces Dave Rock, mayor of Central Elgin and a platoon chief with the St. Thomas Fire Department.

In a speech before the election, McIntyre said he has demonstrated his ability to seek out the opinion of council on issues.

"If elected, I will be driving the bus," he said.

Acre, an educational assistant at Straffordville Public School, pledged to

take a year off to devote her time to the warden's job if elected.

"I'm totally committed to this position," she said.

She said she believed she had the skills to do the job, including building a



strong relationship between the county and neighbouring municipalities.

"What I lack in experience, I make up in integrity and intelligence," she said.

She compared the county to a ship "cruising into 2005."

"No doubt this crew (county council) will guide the ship," she said.

McIntyre takes the job with several issues facing council immediately. As

he referred to in his speech, the county's new ambulance headquarters on Edward Street in St. Thomas is half complete, but the county and the city are awaiting an OMB decision which will determine if a substation in the Shaw Valley subdivision can be built to serve the south end of the city and Port Stanley.

A resident there objected to the substation and voiced her position at a recent OMB hearing.

Thursday, McIntyre will be in the chair for his first meeting as warden. A key item on the agenda will be a visit by a top-ranking official with Transport Canada for a closed-door meeting on the divestiture of Port Stanley harbour.

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Shedden

It is just a little village
But unique in spite of size.
And a stranger walking round
it
Must be taken by surprise.

As he views our Bank, Post
Office
And the stores so near at hand,
He will come to the
conclusion
We have all at our command.

Then the Churches are
convenient
Where the faithful come to
pray,
And to hear the Gospel
message
As they meet each Sabbath
Day.

We must not forget our Doctor
Who is always at our call,
And in sickness, or in trouble
Brings relief to one and all.

A blessing is our Library
Mrs. Turner runs it well,
The benefits received by it
Is more than one can tell.

A word of praise I wish to add
To other helpers here,
No matter what the weather is,
They keep on year by year.

Of our Fire Service we are
proud
So prompt do they turn out,

To help those in distress who
need
Men such as these about.

Although my life was mostly
spent
So far away from here,
The people of this country
have
Become to me most dear.

I would like to pay a tribute
To the neighbours one and all,
The kindness shown to me by
them
I always will recall.

When for friendship I was
looking
And through it I meant to try,
To find some interests, so
I'm glad
I joined the W. I.

So this little place of Shedden
Though it may not be well
known,
It is something to be proud of,
Just to think it is our own.

L. Ahara.

Composed by
Miss Lillie Ahara,
a member of
Shedden Women's
Institute.

Residents of Shedden and Vicinity, All Over Seventy Years of Age



One afternoon recently a number of the older residents of Shedden and vicinity spent the afternoon at the home of Mrs. Abe Sells, Shedden, and as each one of the guests and their hostess was over the allotted span of life a group photo was taken by G. H. Sells, who at the time was at his old home on a visit from Tacoma, Wash. There are few communities anywhere that can boast of eighteen as well preserved and active people, all over seventy years of age, and all close friends, and The Times succeeded in securing permission to reproduce the photo.

Reading from left to right the names and ages of those in the group are: Mrs. John Sells, 85; Mrs. Abe Sells, 64; Mr. L. Bainard, 86; Mrs. L. Bainard, 77; Mr. David Hughes, 72; Mrs. D. Hughes, 72; Mr. Wm. Farrah, 74; Mrs. Wm. Farrah, 68; Mr. Thos. Brown, 79; Mrs. Thos. Brown, 74; Mr. Wm. Lumsden, 83; Mrs. Wm. Lumsden, 75; Mr. Wilson Warner, 77; Mrs. Wilson Warner, 67; Mr. Thos. Armstrong, 81; Mrs. Dan Turner, 77.

In the small picture to the right of the group are shown Mr. Joseph Spackman, 85, and Miss Eliza Spackman, 79. Mr. Spackman was present at the gathering at Mrs. Sells' home, but is not shown in the group photo, but he and his sister, Miss Eliza Spackman, who was unable to be present at Mrs. Sells' had their photo taken especially by Mr. Sells.

Early History of Shedden

Something About the Four Corners and Vicinity 115 or 120 Years Ago or Since

Perhaps if I were to tell some of the younger generation that 115 or 120 years ago, Shedden and vicinity was a dense woods, they would at once reply that I was trying to fool them.

But such was the case. The four corners of Shedden were first taken up by four Englishmen coming direct from England, probably about 118 years ago. Each man took up 200 acres. Peter Sutton located on the south corner, William Waugh on the east, Thomas Orchard on the north and Timothy Shaw on the west.

The obligation of each to the government was to build a log house, clear away a portion of the front in a specified time. Then the government granted a deed which gave sole ownership of the property. It might be interesting to note that each settler in those early days had to clear a strip of timber in front of his place for a public road, the opposite farmer doing the same.

To break the stillness of the lonesome nights, those pioneers were favored with "music on the air," not as we have it now over the radio, but the dismal howl of the timber wolf or the screech of the wild cat. Also the brown and black bear were quite numerous. Many other animals were to be found, such as the beaver, otter, porcupine, foxes, coons and black squirrels in abundance. Likewise, wild turkeys were numerous, as were pheasants and pigeons, which afforded the settlers plenty of fowl for the table.

Money Scarce

One of the old settlers told my father that one winter he had just \$5 to go through the winter. He said he succeeded with that amount. It is a fact worthy of note that the early pioneers, to a great extent, made their own clothing. The clothing originally came from the sheep's wool which was carded or pressed into rolls about one-half inch in diameter and about two and one-half feet long. These were spun into yarn by our mothers, and the product then put into a weaver's loom, and woven into cloth, being then made up into all kinds of wearing apparel.

In those early days sociability and contentment reigned supreme. If one neighbor lacked, the others helped him out. As time went on, larger clearings were made, more wheat and more corn was planted. It was then that the corn husking bees and famous barn dances started. The ears of corn were pulled off the stalks, hauled to the barn and husked by the men, while the ladies were preparing a sumptuous meal which consisted of - well, I can't just say, but I venture it tasted good to those young stalwarts of the by-gone days. After this the barn floor was cleared and the dance was on and, oh, boy! they had the time of their lives. The writer listens in to a barn dance program over the radio once in a while and it is a reminder of the long ago.

I may be digressing from the subject, but sometimes I think that if people, generally speaking, a few years ago, had been a little more economical, more contented and not so anxious to get rich quick through stocks, and last but not least, had made the temporal things the second consideration instead of the first, I really do not believe that the depression would have been so great.

Early Church History

Shedden's early church history is also interesting. A meeting place for the early church goers was loaned to them by Peter Sutton, the building being a log barn. Rev.

Hueston was the preacher in charge, people came from near and far. Rev. Hueston proved to be a live wire, his congregations were interested and aroused, and a wonderful revival broke out, there being about 100 converts.

It was not long before the idea of building a church was conceived. It is a well-known fact that when men and women get filled with the love of God, wonderful achievements have been accomplished. The plot of land for the church was given them by Mr. Motton and was located just east of the present cemetery. This first church was erected about the year 1837 or 1838, the size being 30 x 40. It had a gallery on each side, a full flight of stairs on both sides extending up to the pulpit.

About 25 or 30 years later, the church was remodelled at a cost of \$900, exclusive of painting. Quarterly services were held every three months, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, the presiding elder of the London Conference officiating. This church was known as the Episcopal Methodist, and after union with the Wesleyan Methodist became known merely as the Methodist church. A choir was organized in this church, G. L. Howard being the leader and Miss Amy Norton organist.

In 1886 this old landmark was disposed of and a new brick church built on the corner lot, formerly owned by T. Shaw. The contractor was James Powers, now deceased. The church was a great credit to the community at the time it was built. Extensive repairs have been added since, and we are not ashamed of it today, for a village church. The writer remembers some of the old churchmen (long since passed on) who were strong pillars of the church and who still live in the minds of a few. Some of the early preachers were Revs. Jones, Demmie, Hueston, McLean, Collins, Fansher and Webb. Other notable ministers have been on the circuit, of course, but these were among the earliest.

Seventy Years Ago

It is worthy of note and no doubt will be of interest to some to know what Shedden looked like 65 or 70 years ago. On the east corner lot there were no buildings. On the south corner was a brick school house built in 1868, the previous one being on the Waugh farm, now owned by N. Lawtenheimer. Also on this corner was a sawmill owned and operated by W. Button. The north corner had a small grocery store owned by E. Shaw, a dairy log owned by G. L. Howard, a wagon shop operated by William Orchard, a shoe shop by D. Anderson, a dwelling by D. Powers, and an achery for making poles by A. Spencer. The west corner had a harness shop operated by C. Brady, a carpenter shop owned by G. L. Howard, log blacksmith shop owned by James Wilkie, also a log dwelling. It is said the first log school house was situated about half way between the present Bank of Commerce and Mr. Munroe's up-to-date funeral home.

The writer has played baseball numerous times in the heart of the village and also witnessed the staking of lots which were sold by auction.

The writer is indebted to Mrs. R. N. Stafford for some of this early history. Mrs. Stafford, by the way, is on her 80th birthday remarkably clear of intellect, has good use of her limbs and possesses good eyesight. I cannot refrain from saying God bless the dear old mother and may she be spared to the community for many a day.

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St. Thomas Times-Journal
about 1932

Photocopy of a clipping
owned by Mrs. Fred Teetzal.
Shedden WI B. Vicary

Story of Back Street's Origin

Origin of Back Street

In its pioneer road building, Southwold Township has history that is quite unique. What was known as the North branch of the Talbot Road or Back street or the "Gore Road" is an illustration of this.

It seems that under an informal order made by Governor Gore, a road was to be laid out to connect the road through Westminster with the Talbot Road, and also a road from Southwold through to Amherstburg, and lots were to be laid out thereon.

Colonel Mahlon Burwell made the survey of the connecting road in 1811, under the direction of Colonel Talbot; but there appears to have been a disposition on the part of the officials at the government headquarters in York (now Toronto) to have matters put in more regular shape. In March, 1812, the surveyor-general, finding Governor Gore's order as to the road unconfirmed by order-in-council wrote to Colonel Talbot not to place any settlers on the lots surveyed along the road. In the following months, to quote his own language, "to his extreme surprise discovered that Mr. Burwell instead of running a line for a road from the road through Westminster to join Colonel Talbot's road, as the ground may be best suited for that purpose" had had begun his survey in the limits between Dunwich and Southwold at a distance of 200 chains in the rear of Talbot road, and had run the road since known as the North branch of the Talbot road, or the "Back street", parallel to the main Talbot road, (surveyed two years previously in 1809) through nearly the whole township of Southwold and also a road connecting both these parallel roads with the road through Westminster, at the same time laying off lots along the whole extent of these newly surveyed roads.

As Southwold Township had been particularly reserved for schools, it was pointed out that any survey or locations to be made thereon required the special interference of council.

Ten days after this mistake in surveying was discovered, on April, 20, 1812, Colonel Talbot received a letter from President Brock enclosing the report of the council at York. The President regretted that the situation was not more satisfactory and stated there was no idea of any survey having been made of the land parallel to the

Talbot Road through Southwold and that no document could be found authorizing such a survey.

President Brock added that if the Colonel by any means could make it appear that Governor Gore was privy to and sanctioned the measure, the President still had hopes of the council meeting Colonel Talbot's wishes. However premature the letter may have been, the President was satisfied the Colonel had acted from the best of motives.

Got Land Opened

Although there is no historic record to support it, the feeling has long prevailed that north branch of the Talbot road or Back Street was surveyed because neither Colonel Talbot nor Colonel Burwell wanted to see a large section of Southwold closed to settlement, and they decided that the best way to prevent this was to open a new road, with lots along it, parallel to the Talbot Road and giving better access from the more northerly parts of Southwold to Port Talbot. It was pretty much of a case of Colonel Talbot out-smarting the York officials. Today, some of the best farms in the Elgin district are along that disputed "North Branch or Back Street."

Among the very first settlers to take up those lots surveyed by Colonel Burwell were Samuel Garneby, Ira Gilbert, the Harris Brothers, John Philpott, Jacob Decow and Daniel McIntyre.

Shedden, today the largest centre of population in Southwold township, went by the name of Wilkie's Corners for many years, deriving its name from James Wilkie, the first blacksmith at the crossroads. Later when the Canada Southern railway passed through that locality in the early seventies, naming the station there Shedden, the post-office took the same name.



GEORGE E. CASEY, member of the Dominion Parliament for West Elgin from 1872 to 1900, came from the Fingal district. He was first elected M.P. when he was 21 years of age. The Casey home on the Talbot road east of Fingal was the Social Centre of Southwold for many years.

George E. Casey built the first grain elevator in Shedden next to the Canada Southern Railway tracks shortly after the railway was built through Shedden in 1871.

South of the North Branch of Talbot Road

Name	Lot
Jacob D. Couse	6
Samuel Garnsey	7
James & William VanVelsor	8
James C. Sconell	9
Obadiah Griffin	10
Gilbert	11
Elijah Gilbert	12
Nathaniel A. Holbourn	13
Rolph Stafford	14
Peter Sutton	15
William Waugh	16
Thomas McLelan	17
Anthony Silcox	18
Richard Howarth	19
Jacob Caswell	20
Jesse Crandle	21
Jacob Hunter	22
Isiah Hayes	23
Patrick Egan & McQueen	24
David Berdan	25

From the Lewis Burwell 1819 Map of the Talbot Settlement

As can be read in the article on the previous page, Colonel Talbot and Colonel Burwell were in a hurry to get the farms around Shedden on the "Back Street" NBTR settled. By 1819 this seems to have been accomplished

North of the North Branch of Talbot Road

Name	Lot
James Drury	6
Daniel Silcox	7
John Silcox	8
John Stafford	9
John Hamilton	10
John Moore	11
William Shutz	12
John Philip	13
Caleb Stafford	14
Abel Stafford	15
Thomas Orchard	16
Aaron Gregory	17
Abraham Sells	18
Ludourck Sells	19
Solomon Quick	20
Gordon Chapin	21
Jeffrey Hunter	22
Abraham Young	23
Samuel Horton	24
Jonathan Berdan	25

From the Lewis Burwell 1819 map of the
Talbot Settlement

Wilkie's Corners -Shedden of Old

by Linda Pearce

I wonder how many people passing through the village of Shedden realize it was firstly known as Wilkie's Corners. The village did not get its present name until the late 19th century with the boom of the railway.

Just before the War of 1812, Colonel Thomas Talbot, without authorization ordered Mahlon Burwell to survey a road running parallel to the Talbot Road. It was to be several miles north of Fingal.

This road resulted in an influx of settlers to "Back Street". Some came from the British Isles and some escaped the Americans entering Canada as United Empire Loyalists.

Names still common in the area were the first arrivals. In 1814, Peter Sutton a U.E.L. settled bringing with him the first horse for the virgin land. Shortly after, Thomas Orchard arrived from Devonshire, England and William Waugh from Scotland.

The village, though small differed very little from any other expanding hamlet of the early 1800's. There was a potter, a blacksmith, perhaps a mill and other small enterprises necessary in a young settlement.

By 1819 when Calvin Sutton built the first saw mill it provided much needed lumber for growth. Transportation, always a problem in early settlements was simplified in 1820 when a corduroy road was constructed to carry farm products to distant markets. The construction of the saw mill came none too soon.

Wilkie's Corners got an excellent start as an agricultural community. Associated businesses sprung up as a result.

In 1820, Mr. Schultz began a tannery on his farm and by 1835, several spike threshing machines were seen in the area.

Various other enterprises became established. Jonathan Orchard formed a cider mill and Samuel Stafford operated a planing mill by 1833.

Children, being part of any growing community needed to be educated. In 1849 the first schoolhouse was erected. By 1856, a

brick schoolhouse was built and a further "Free School" in 1870. The expenses for the latter were supplied through taxation of rateable property.

The name Wilkie's Corners was dropped in the 1860's in favour of Corseley. It may have been that the construction of the Corseley Hotel in 1868 caused the village fathers to seek a name synonymous with a village landmark.

Real growth was to come with the Canada Southern Railway through Corseley in 1871.

When developers realized that a rail line was soon to be brought through the tiny village property values rose as exploiters bought up prime land.

At this time John Shedden appeared in the village. He purchased all the land south of the railroad tracks, bound on the west by the Union Road and on the south by Back Street. He then subdivided this land into town lots - the village of "Shedden" was born.

George Casey, a local member of parliament for the area also took advantage of the situation. He built a grain elevator in Shedden next to the train tracks. As could be expected, Shedden became a centre for grain shipment. The farmers in the area at last had a fast, dependable method for shipping their labours.

Associated businesses sprang up in the new village of Shedden. John Sells established a cheese factory, William Wallis and Waugh erected the Wallis-Waugh Mill, Samuel Stafford began a window and sash factory, Robert Livingston a flax mill, Andrew and Charles Schultz became carriage makers and William Orchard opened a wagon shop.

The population rose from under 50 in 1865 to over 200 in 1875.

Alas, as with other small centres, without diversification continued growth and expansion failed to occur and the small village remained an agricultural depot only.

To this day Shedden has remained a crossroad only for local farmers and residents. Community life centres around the lively churches, the community centre and the annual fall fair.

Kettle Creek Chronical
January 1981

B. Vicary
Shedden Women's
Institute

CORSLEY



REV. JOSEPH SILCOX, early settler, named Frome after his birthplace in England, and helped establish the Frome Congregational Church, which played so prominent a part in the religious life of the community. The name Silcox is still a common one in the district.

For some years the village we know as Shedden was known as Wilkie's Corners after a blacksmith who had his business at the four corners of the village. The name was then changed to Corsley

On the Lewis Burwell map of the Talbot Settlement of 1819, three Silcox names are listed: Daniel Silcox lot 7 NNBTR

John lot 8 NNBTR

Anthony lot 18 SNBTR

Rev. Joseph Silcox, brother of Daniel Silcox arrived a short time later.

All these Silcox families came from Corsley Parish, Somerset, England. It is believed that the many Silcox men named Corsley after the parish of their birth and Frome nearby after the village of their birth.



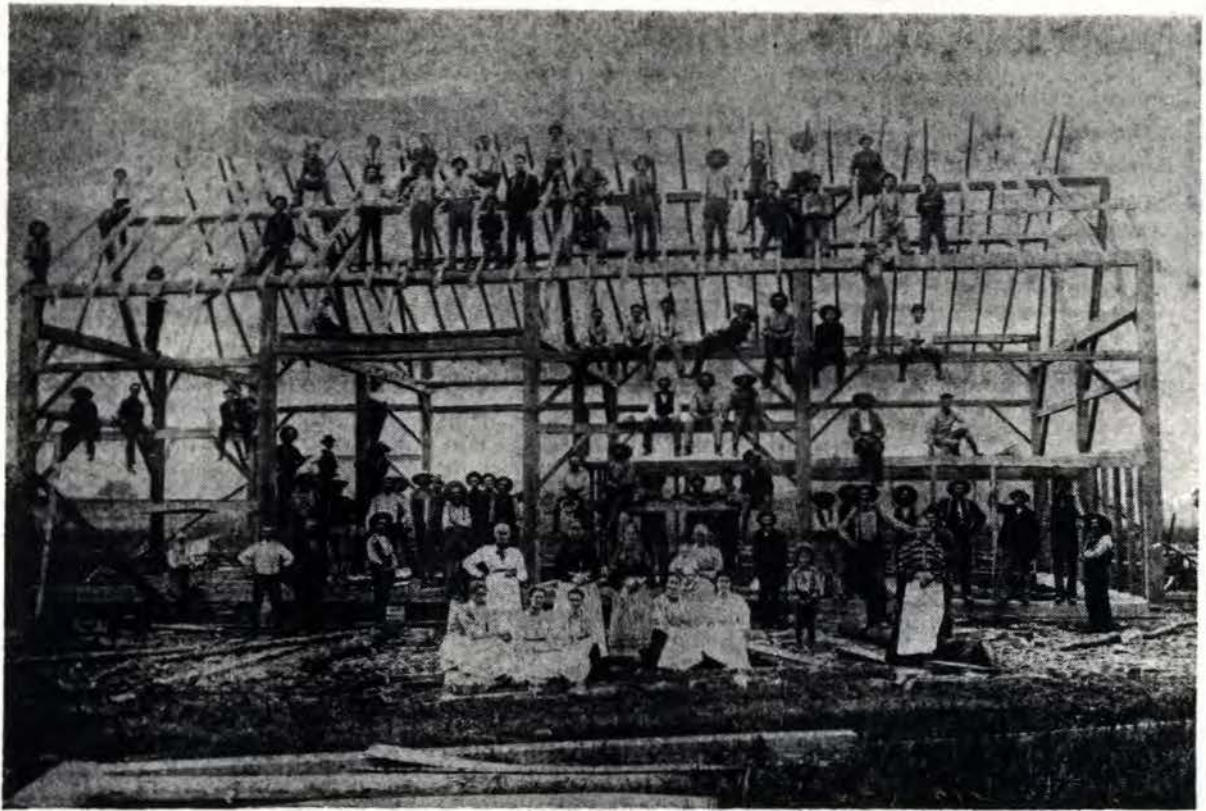
This is a photocopy of an envelope mailed in Bryanston, near London, on July 4, 1875 by Dr. John McDiarmid to his brother Alexander McDiarmid Esq., Corseley P.O., Elgin Co., Ont. In the Elgin County Atlas of 1877 the village is named Shedden but the Post Office is still called Corsley.



This photograph was taken at the Shedden Berry Box and Basket Factory about 1909. Sitting second from left is Ida Belle Wride. She married William F. Moore and was the

mother of the late Clarence and Bill Moore. Photograph contributed by Margaret M. Moore of RR 3, Shedden.

Shedden Women's Institute
Tweedsmuir History
Dora McArthur - Curator
April 1993



FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS - This photo, believed to have been taken in 1899, shows an old-fashioned barn-raising at the Lawrence Bainard farm near Shedden. Mrs. Sills is in the horizontal striped top. The child standing near the front is Roy Bainard. His grandfa-

ther, Lawrence Bainard, is standing on the log beside him. Elsewhere in the photo are Roy's father and mother, Jim and Mary Bainard, and his grandmother, Mary Bainard. (Photo submitted by Rowena Ross)

SHEDDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
Tweedsmuir History
Dora McArthur - Curator
April 1994

Shedden founder

Railways guaranteed prosperity back in the pioneer days of Ontario. They put towns on the map, made junk land into rich farms and turned pedlars into wealthy merchants.

They attracted forward-looking investors who saw an opportunity to build something worthwhile as well as land speculators who saw a fast buck to be made.

Although the historical jury still seems to be out on the founder and namesake of Shedden, just west of St. Thomas in Elgin County, there is no doubt he was a man who knew how to pick his spots.

John Shedden, who is described in early accounts as an "enterprising capitalist and stock grower," appeared on the scene rather suddenly in 1871.

His timing was impeccable. The Canada



PLACENAMES

THE STORY BEHIND THEM

by Don Murray
of The Free Press

Southern Railway was poking its iron nose into Southwold Township and anyone with a good idea of where the tracks would go and a few dollars to invest could make a fortune.

Shedden was considered something of a mystery man to the scattered residents of the area. Some felt he was an American, most just didn't know who he really was.

Anyway, Shedden bought a large chunk of property on the south side of the rail bed, had it surveyed into lots and created a village, which he named after himself.

His story then takes an odd twist, one that is compounded by an exasperating habit many 19th-century storytellers had. They assumed that everyone knew what they were talking about, forgetting that the people in the future might want to know too.

John Shedden, or "mysterious John" as some called him, died suddenly, apparently after falling under a train.

The only account of the incident that has turned up says he was killed in an accident while getting on a train in Hamilton—"under circumstances well known to everyone."

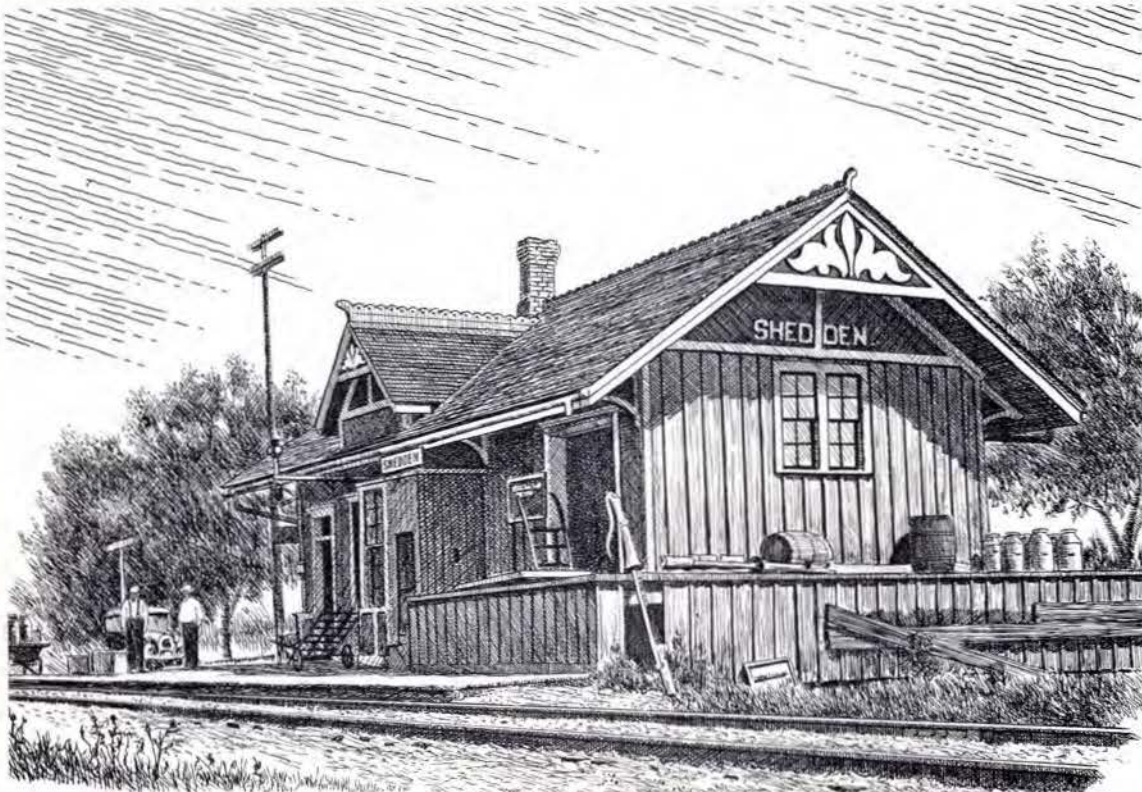
Kind of leaves you hanging, doesn't it?

was mystery man

London Free Press 1984

B. Vicary

Shedden Women's Institute



THE PERE MARQUETTE STATION, 1923
SHEDDEN, SOUTHWOLD TOWNSHIP

T-570
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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MAY 24, 1873.

*John Shedden
- after whom
Shedden, Ontario
received its name.*



THE LATE JOHN SHEDDEN.

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY NOTMAN.

Dora McArthur - Grand
Shedden WI
Tweedsmuir History
1998



SHEDDEN, JOHN, cartage agent, contractor, and railway promoter; b. 4 Nov. 1825, at Kilbirnie, Ayrshire, Scotland, son of John Shedden and Jean Wyllie; d. unmarried 16 May 1873, at Cannington, Ont.

John Shedden studied at the Irvine Academy in Irvine, Ayrshire, and worked on the Glasgow and South Western Railway before emigrating to Virginia in the United States where he became a railway contractor. In 1855 he came to Canada and entered into a partnership with William Hendrie of Hamilton to form the cartage firm of Hendrie and Shedden. They were the cartage agents for the Great Western Railway and later became the agents for the Grand Trunk after its line from Montreal to Toronto was completed in late 1856. The firm introduced in Canada some of the features of cartage firms in England, such as making facilities available in several cities (in 1857 the firm had offices in Toronto, Hamilton, and

the mail

portant forms used by the railways in moving freight. Nonetheless, the monopoly position of the firm inevitably led to complaints. A riot is said to have occurred in Montreal after meetings held to protest this monopoly, and the firm's barns were burned on two occasions.

Hendrie and Shedden dissolved their partnership in 1859 or 1860, and the latter retained the contract with the Grand Trunk. He continued to expand his company's facilities, and by 1870 he had offices in Montreal, Toronto, London, and Detroit, and owned about 400 horses. He was, however, developing other interests, particularly as a contractor and as a railway promoter.

Shedden became associated with a group of prominent Toronto businessmen, including George Laidlaw* and J. G. Worts*, who were actively promoting the construction to the areas north of Toronto of narrow-gauge railways which, it was believed, could be built more cheaply and quickly than railways with a wider gauge. Shedden had already been a contractor for several buildings in Toronto, including the Grand Trunk grain elevator, opened in 1863, and Union Station, completed in July 1873. He now became a railway contractor, in partnership with William James Mackenzie, on the narrow-gauge Toronto, Grey, and Bruce Railway, chartered in 1868 and completed from Toronto to Owen Sound in June 1873. He was also an important stockholder in the railway, and in 1870 became a director. Another narrow-gauge railway was the Toronto and Nipissing, completed as far as Coboconk in November 1872. Shedden was elected its president in 1870 and was an important stock and bondholder in the company.

Shedden did not participate actively in politics but he had close associations with the Conservative party and Sir John A. Macdonald*. He had been a director of the Toronto *Daily Telegraph* (and probably lost some money when it was discontinued in 1872), and he and C. J. Campbell signed in 1872 a note for \$10,000 to Macdonald "to enable him to supply funds to the several constituencies which he hopes to carry." He had been included in 1872 in the Intercolonial Railway Company headed by David Lewis Macpherson*, which Macdonald failed to amalgamate with Sir Hugh Allan*'s Canada Pacific Railway Company. Macdonald then tried to persuade Shedden to enter a company that was being formed. Shedden was disappointed in not receiving the vice-presidency of the company and, although he "could have managed the financial part of it," he refused Macdonald's offer at the last moment

of directors of the St Lawrence Bank in 1872, and he was a director in a number of other firms. He died as a result of an accident at Cannington on 16 May 1873 when he was crushed between moving cars on the Toronto and Nipissing Railway line and the station platform.

HENRI PILON

General Register Office (Edinburgh), Register of births and baptisms for the parish of Kilbirnie. PAC, MG 26, A (Macdonald papers), 123, Shedden to Macdonald, 16 Dec. 1872; Alexander Campbell to Macdonald, 17 Dec. 1872; Shedden to Macdonald, 18 Dec. 1872; 125, Shedden to Macdonald, 29 Jan. 1873; letter book 17, Macdonald to C. J. Brydges, 16 Feb. 1872; letter book 19, Macdonald to Shedden, 9 Dec. 1872. PAO, Sir Alexander Campbell papers, C. J. Campbell to Alexander Campbell, 28, 30 Aug. 1872; RG 8, 1-7-b-3, Toronto and Nipissing Railway, box 7; Toronto, Grey, and Bruce Railway, box 9; Toronto City Council papers, 1857, S. P. Bidder to John Hutchison, 26 Aug. 1857. York County Surrogate Court (Toronto), will of John Shedden. *Globe* (Toronto), 19 May 1873. *Mail* (Toronto), 17, 19 May 1873. *Standard dict. of Can. biog.* (Roberts and Tunnell), II, 398.

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John Shedden - Cartage
Shedden WI
Tweedmouth History
1998

Reflections of the past... 'AN EARLY GLIMPSE OF SHEDDEN'

During the early 1800's a man named James Wilkie opened a small Blacksmith Shop at the corners of Union and Back Streets to serve a group of settlers with their Blacksmithing needs. That tiny settlement became known as Wilke's Corners.

This tiny hamlet grew steadily over the years and with the advent of the railroad the town changed its name to Shedden from Wilke's Corners.

Shedden derived its name from an early Railway contractor for the Great Western Railway John Shedden.

John Shedden was famous for his building of the Union Station and the Grand Trunk elevator in Toronto. He was also instrumental in streamlining and making the early transportation of goods from point to point easier for merchants with his improved wagons for moving merchandise. These early wagons were built to withstand the rugged roads and came equipped with tarps to cover the heavy loads. Together with a man named Hendrie they started a cartage company from Windsor to Montreal.

Shedden was also instrumental for bringing forth a uniform bill of lading form for merchants to use which replaced the odd scraps of paper that

merchants used before.

During those early days of Shedden's history the Main Street was nothing more than a muddy quagmire at the intersection of Union and Talbot Roads. The road was later corduroyed and coated with wood shavings.

The first frame building in Shedden was built by Lang Anderson, a contractor who built many buildings in the area. As time passed the use of bricks became commonplace in the building of structures and those bricks were made at Shaw and William Telford's brickyards. The brick company at that time had an annual output of over 10,000 bricks.

By 1871 the village received its first store which later became Wilkie's Blacksmith Shop. The town continued to grow and soon more merchants and businesses sprang up. Some of those early businesses included George Silcox's General Store, a Flax Mill operated by Peter Livingstone and a saw mill operated by William Sutton.

Shedden's first Hotel was built by Jacob Beedle and he named it the Shedden House after the name of the railway station that was located on the Canada Southern Railway. The Hotel was later sold by Beedle to a

man named Thomas Oliver who changed the name to the Oliver House. Oliver operated the Hotel until it was burned to the ground in 1875.

By this time Shedden had grown to include a foundry, two blacksmith shops, hardware stores, general stores, wagon and carriage shops, a sawmill and two tailor shops. The town even had its own harness shop, doctor's office, a funeral parlour and a lockup for those who got a little unruly.

Like most small communities of its day Shedden was prone to fire and in 1885 a major fire broke out and by the time it was extinguished by the bucket brigades several businesses were lost.

The village slowly recovered from the fire of 1885 and in 1891 Shedden received its first library when George Norman started it with the first librarian being Reverend Claris.

Shedden's first Bank was the Standard Bank of Canada which was later taken over by the Sterling Bank of Canada which was eventually taken over by the Bank of Commerce which still operates in the village today.

Today Shedden is not unlike any other small rural town but it had its heyday like every other small town in Elgin.

SHEDDEN

Residents of Shedden are proud of their village and many community service and organizations have been established through their co-operative efforts, both among themselves and with people of the surrounding area.

The village is the only one in Southwold Township and although small in size it attracts book-lovers from the district each Saturday afternoon and weekday evenings. In addition to its own book supply readers' needs are supplemented byreg-book changes supply by the Elgin County Bookmobile.

Two music teachers in Shedden are kept busy during the school year preparing students for examinations from the Western and Toronto Conservatories of Music.

The Odd Fellows Lodge building in the village is headquarters for Odd Fellows and Wabuno Rebekah Lodge meetings. The Eastern Star and the Women's Institute branch also hold regular meetings and other special events in this hall.

Two village churches draw many adherents from Shedden and surrounding area. The Baptist Church has Sunday worship services, morning and evening in addition to special week-day events. The United Church has regular worship services each Sunday as well as Christian Education activities. Several special programs are sponsored throughout the year by the United Church Women.

Southwold Township's only fair grounds are located at the eastern limits of Shedden consisting of a number of buildings for exhibits, livestock stabling, and race horses. An excellent dining room is located at the Country Club on the fair grounds and dances are held here every Saturday night the year round. One of the barns is used for year-round stabling of horses and the race track is in regular use for training and exercising of the animals.

The main branch of the Southwold Volunteer Fire Department is located in Shedden. Its equipment includes a pumper, water truck and service vehicle.

Softball fans of Shedden and district are attracted in large numbers during the summer season to the village ball diamond which is one of the finest in Western Ontario. Thirty-two 1,500-watt floodlights enable night ball games which bring local and many outside teams here for league games.

Since the Bell Telephone Company purchased the local phone company in 1964 much underground cable has been laid and a new dial exchange building has been constructed and went into operation on January 9 of this year.

The Shedden Post Office also operates as a Civil Service Office in the building leased by the Department of Public Works.

SHEDDEN HAS GOOD SHOPPING AREA

The Village of Shedden offers residents of Southwold Township complete shopping facilities with businesses and services conveniently located in the central business section along Highway 3 and Union Road.

The only bank in the township, a branch of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, operates on a full-time basis serving residents of the municipality with all banking services. Manager is A. H. Perry.

Shedden's largest store — Palmer's Red and White Supermarket — is also the largest store of this chain in the London area served by National Grocers Co. Ltd. In addition to regular grocery and meat departments this store features a complete footwear department, toys, dry goods, greeting cards and school supplies. L. D. Palmer and Sons operate the business at the village's main intersection.

Just across the street is the Shedden Food Market and Variety Store operated by Clare A. Smith. Here you find a personalized service and a wide variety of groceries, meats and produce

and items from drugs to dry goods in the general store line.

The only barbershop in Southwold Township operating on full-time basis is operated by Wallace Hepburn on Union Road. A billiard parlor is operated in conjunction with the barbershop. Next door to the south is Mary's Beauty Salon, operated by Mary Bouma three days a week.

Ralph Mercer's Hardware store, associated with the PRO hardware group, is as modern as you'll find anywhere. Here you find a full line of hardware as well as special hardware for the farmers. Housewares, gifts and General Electric appliances are featured. The L. and H. TV and Radio Service operated in the rear of the hardware store specializing in repairs to all makes as well as sales and service for car radios.

Mrs. Charles Mabec operates the only frozen food locker storage in the township with 440 lockers and open every day of the year.

Two insurance agencies serve Shedden and district. Mrs. E. Sells represents Southwold Farmers' Mutual and L. Stafford is your Waterloo Mutual man.

These people are your neighbors and welcome you to their business establishments whether it is on business or just to drop in and say hello.

Shedden W. I.
Tweedsmuir History
Dora McArthur - Curator
April 2005

Southwold - Shedden Village Didn't Exist Prior to Confederation; Today a Thriving, Happy Community

Shedden, thriving community centre on No. 3 Highway, ten miles west of St. Thomas, didn't exist prior to Confederation. There were no railroads and of course no concrete roads. The junction of the roads east and west and north and south was designated Wilkie's Corners; logs laid crosswise kept the wagons with their heavy loads from sinking axle deep in the mud of the hollows. A corduroy road meant more to the settlers in those days than do the concrete speedways to the farmers of today.

Forming the four corners were the farm properties of Thomas Orchard, Billy Waugh, Peter Sutton and Timothy Shaw. Peter Sutton, a U.E. Loyalist, was one of the first, if not the first settler, and it is stated that he walked the entire distance from Hamilton in the year 1841, he having gone to Hamilton after

crossing the frontier. In the same year Thomas Orchard migrated from England to Upper Canada and coming to Wilkie's Corners settled on the block of land where the east side of John street now is. Waugh came to this country from Scotland.

After the Canada Southern railroad was built a postoffice was opened, the name of the village then being changed to Corseley. The name of the railway station was Shedden, after a man who purchased a tract of land from Thomas Orchard, divided it into lots and auctioned them off. Later Shedden was also adopted as the name of the postoffice.

Shedden today is a thriving village, with police trustees government and made active organizations and its annual fall fair is outstanding. 'will be more so this year with its new grounds, located at the western entrance and on No. 3 Highway.

First Congregational Church in Upper Canada at Frome

Giant Cattle on Johnson Farm at Shedden Caused Interest Many Years Ago

Irish Beef Raiser Had Steer That Was Larger Than Those
In P. T. Barnum's Circus; Owner Wept When Big
Animal Buried In Lined Grave

How many folk who live or lived in the Shedden district remember William Johnson and his giant cattle?

A person's memory has to go back over 60 years to recall the big Irishman, who operated a 100 acre farm on the south side of what is now Queen's Highway No. 3, just west of the village of Shedden. The Johnson farm was the second farm west.

Johnson raised beef cattle that were the marvel of the countryside. The giant of giants in his herd was a steer reputed to weigh approximately two and one-quarter tons and so tall that a special trap door had to be built for it above the ordinary door leading into the stable. That door was large enough for Johnson, a six-footer, to go through without stooping.

One man who remembers William Johnson and his giant cattle is Ed C. (Dinny) Moore now with Elgin Co-Operative Services. He was a boy when Johnson's giant steer died at the age of about 13 years, and he saw the

great carcass buried in a grave dug and prepared by Johnson himself.

"Johnson loved those cattle and he was grief-stricken when the Big Fellow passed away," Mr. Moore related. "After digging the immense hole in the ground, he lined the grave with pea straw and even made a pillow for the dead steer's head. Then he had the carcass carefully lowered into the grave with pulley and chains so that no bones would be broken. He stood there with tears running down his cheeks while the steer's body was lowered and the hole was filled in."

Mr. Moore said that he had several giant cattle in his herd and he refrained from selling any of them until he quit farming and moved into Shedden. That was well over 60 years ago. He died within a year or two. He took with him the secret of his giant cattle; but scientific heavy feeding is said to have caused their abnormal growth.

What particularly attracted interest to Johnson's giant cattle

was that P. T. Barnum was featuring a herd of big steers in his circus, some years before the accidental death of Jumbo, called the world's largest elephant, in St. Thomas. As usual, Barnum made a lot of claims about his cattle being the largest in the world.

"We found out how large Barnum's cattle were and we learned they couldn't match Johnson's for size," Mr. Moore said. "We estimated the weight of the Big Fellow at around 4,000 pounds. It was a giant in every particular. Its horns had a spread of about three feet.

"Johnson was very proud also of his little heifer," Mr. Moore added. "The little heifer was something to see. The lumps on either side of her tail were the size of pumpkins while her brisket was the size of a large wash-tub. And Johnson called her his little heifer."

Johnson is said to have settled on the farm west of Shedden after immigrating from Ireland. Nobody knew too much about him except that he certainly understood the secret of raising outsize beef cattle.

"He had a dozen or more of those big cattle when he gave up farming," Mr. Moore related. "He sold the cattle to Dick Cusick. I was always told that they weren't very edible."

Undoubtedly if Mr. Johnson had been inclined to part with his cattle before he quit the farm he could have sold some of them at a fancy price to Barnum or some other showman, especially the Big

Shedden W. I.
Tweedsmuir History
Dora McArthur
April, 2002



ROADWORK:

Oct. 2001

Construction crews work at rebuilding the road surface Monday on the Union Road, just north of the Talbot Line Intersection in Shedden. The work, which was contracted by Elgin county, did not interrupt traffic on Talbot Line, thanks to the work of a flagman. (T-J photo)

Shedden W. I.
Tweedsmuir History
Dora McArthur - Curator
April, 2002

ADVICE

2007



TIMES-JOURNAL

**BYGONE
DAYS**

This photo was taken sometime during the 1930s of the Michigan Central Railroad crossing at Shedden. (Photo from the Scott-Sefton Collection courtesy of the Elgin County Archives. Anyone with information, questions about the photo or seeking reprints, please call the archives at 519-631-1460, ext. 154.)

LOOKING EAST

Shedden W. I.
Tweedsmuir History Curator
Dora McArthur
April, 2008

EARLY SHEDDEN RESIDENTS



Miss Eliza Spackman and Mr. Joseph Spackman.
They opened the Mercantile Bank in Shedden, the first
bank in the village.



Front row: Elizabeth Milton, Sally Brown, Margaret
Sells, Joseph Milton.
Back row: Jim and Annie Hamilton, Bob and Amy March

RESIDENTS OF SHEDDEN

Street & no.	1976	1981	1985
Brook St.			
116	Mrs. Vera Ballam	Chas. Judge	Chas. Judge
119	Ray Lunn	Ray Lunn	Ray Lunn
120	Murray Silcox	Murray Silcox	A. D. Murphy
122	W. Blaxall	Robt. Carr	Robt. Carr
123	John Searay	John Searay	John Searay
Courtney St.			
139	F. Jewell	F. Jewell	F. Jewell
Frances St.			
137	Arthur Beharrell	A. Beharrell	A. Beharrell
138		Gary Stafford	T. Stone
140	Gene Glover	G. Glover	G. Glover
141	F. Juhasz	F. Juhasz	F. Juhasz
143	Rev. T. Mitchell	Rev. Bert Loree	Rev. Loree
144	H. Tansley		C. Mazak
146	R. Chinnery	R. Chinnery	R. Chinnery
149	Jim Honsinger		Frank Walton
162	Ralph Mercer	Ralph Mercer	Fred Abel
167	Bertram Baird	Alan Ramsay	P. Kirby
176	Mrs. Leonard Moore	James Lunn	James Lunn
180	Ken Howe	Ken Howe	Ken Howe
184	James Rapelje	J. Rapelje	A. Lunn & W. Houghton
185	John Berdan	J. Berdan	J. Berdan
188	Asa Berdan	A. Berdan	A. Berdan
178	Herb Eccles	H. Eccles	Jim Gaudio
190	Powers Construction	Powers Const.	Blacksmith, Welder
190A		Shedden Tire Service	
192	R. Sanders	R. Sanders	R. Sanders
195	Scotch Fertilizer	Cyanamid Farm Supply	
Hall St.			
122	Rick DuChene	Andy Grolman	Abe Klassen
Horton St.			
150	David Mills	D. Mills	D. J. Thompson
154	Robert Stunden	R. Stunden	R. Stunden
156	Mrs. Angus McKillop	Mrs. McKillop	Miss L. McKillop
160	G. A. Lynch	Jim Kuzler	Wm. Coutts
163	George Silcox	George Silcox	Mrs. Geo. Silcox
169	Louis Fodor	L. Fodor	T. Riley
170	Ken Bogart	K. Bogart	Ronald Gordon
John St.			
140	Ralph Palmer	R. Palmer	R. Palmer
143	Barry Bogart	B. Bogart	J. Baresich
146A	Wm. Brown	W. Brown	W. Brown
146B	Jean Carr	B. Walker	Dale Renout
147	P. Bromley	Boyd Powell	B. Powell
148	Mrs. Bessie Clements	B. Clements	B. Clements
Shedden Women's Institute			B. Vicary

John St. Cont.	1976	1981	1985
151	James Hathaway	J. Hathaway	Allan Parker
152	K. D. Palmer	K.D. Palmer	
153	P. Brechin	John Burrows	J. Burrows
155	Mrs. Sydney Orchard	Mrs. Orchard	Mrs. Orchard
156	E.J. Perry	E. J. Perry	J. N. Youde
	Bob Corcoran	Ken Baughman	
161	Lloyd Clinton	Lloyd Clinton	A. Chrisjohn
	Lois Evans	Lois Evans	
162		P. Bathurst	P. Bathurst
167A	James Lunn		Helen Hepburn
167B	J.S. MacPherson	J. MacPherson	J. MacPherson
166	Mrs. Eva Small	Mrs. Small	Mrs. Small
170	Mrs. Ivy Stafford	Mark Hewitt	David Mills
175	Fred DuChene		D.J. Chapman
176	J. Vail	J.H. McComb	Bob Jones
180	Miss Eva Morrison	Miss Morrison	Doug Ouimette
187	Steve Timewell	Leonard Palmer	L. Palmer
190	Currie Oldham	C. Oldham	C. Oldham
204	Mrs. Bessie Barrett	Mrs. Barrett	Mrs. Barrett
208	David Garrow	David Garrow	D. Garrow
218	Joseph Addley	J. Addley	J. Addley
224	J. D. Garrow	Randy Harris	A. Visscher
249	Chester Carr	C. Carr	C. Carr
Orchard St.			
116	Lawrence Bogart	Steve Timewell	K.D. Palmer
116 lower			James Hathaway
119	Stanley Lidster	S. Lidster	S. Lidster
121	Ron Gordon	R. Gordon	J. Daniels
122	Murray Pyatt	M. Pyatt	Madeline Parks
Talbot St. (NO. 3 Highway)			
60	J.W. Branton	J. Branton	J. Branton
		John Cummings	John Cummings
		Mark Cummings	Mark Cummings
	Mrs. Edna Sells	Mrs. Sells	Tom O'Connor
	Gordon Cummings	G. Cummings	G. Cummings
	Alex Turner	A. Turner	A. Turner
	Clarence Hunter	C. Hunter	C. Hunter
98	Harold Koyl	H. Koyl	H. Koyl
97		Wm. Orchard	Wm. Orchard
99	Douglas Orchard	D. Orchard	D. Orchard
102	Joseph Toth		Leonard Lynch
103	Duncan G. Brown	D. Brown	D. Brown
109	Dr. Colin Brown	B. Golem	Carl Chamberlain
111			L. Reeb
112	Shedden Country Club & Fair Grounds		Country Club
113	Albert Orchard	Tim Vollbrecht	Robt. Slee
115	Hugh Orchard	H. Orchard	H. Orchard
117 Upper	Mrs. Purcell Willson	Mrs. Willson	Mrs. Willson
117 lower	Wm. Orchard	Mrs. Elsie Imlay	Malcolm Key
122	Wm. Bogart	W. Bogart	W. Bogart
123	Dan O'Connor	D. O'Connor	D. O'Connor
	Shedden Baptist Church		Baptist Church
126	Harry Killins	H. Killins	H. Killins