

gave my ticket he informed me that I was on my way to Minneapolis and my best plan was to get off at the first stopping place and wait for a chance by team to Wpeg. I am in quite a large Section House where there is only a man "batching", his wife having gone to their old home in Missouri. At first I felt somewhat uneasy particularly when I saw him get a whiskey bottle from a room and take it into the kitchen. In a short time he came back with a glass of toddy for me which I declined with thanks. He is very kind and is now, I think, preparing dinner but I don't know how I am to eat it as I don't feel in first class trim to-day.

It is rather comical, however, and I rather enjoy the scene.

I think I can pass my ticket to-morrow. I have a note all ready to send with a teamster to the next Hotel two miles from here to ask the Dr. to come for me. It is so stormy few are out to-day and I am afraid I'll not get a good chance to go in with any stranger. If the Dr. hasn't found out his mistake he'll be surprised to know I am here when I should be halfway to Brandon - more of this again.

I am pleased to hear from Aleck's letter to Dr. that you are in better health than you were. Sincerely hope it will continue. Is Lizzy very poorly? I have written twice to her and will write again to-day. I think both Drs. are fairly busy. Dr. J. is I think doing the best practice just now. Dr. A's house is very nice but they are sadly tormented with smoking pipes. Mrs. Brett and I had gone to bed on New Year's Eve and Emma, Dr. and the man changed the position of the stoves and built a fire. The pipe came through our room and began to smoke worse than before. We had been asleep for a few minutes when we both awoke gasping for breath. Mrs. B. couldn't speak and I could only get air enough to shout "Dr. it's all wrong here", and which is now the common by-word when we accuse them of an attempt to murder us. Dr. and Emma were sitting coolly eating lunch in the room below. When he came up with a lamp he couldn't see across the room for smoke. He put a robe over us and opened the doors. (58 below zero) and we were sweating in a few minutes, the pipes were burning out. They intend to get another stove. Have three now. One of these is in a room occupied by two young gentlemen boarders, one a ticket agent, the other a wholesale clerk.

I have stopped and wrapped myself a good many times since I began at the sound of bells but the conveyances have so far been unsuitable. Have sent a message to the Hotel at 11:45. Hope soon to see the Dr. Am getting hungry and a little uncomfortable.

I know you must miss your mother very much but I trust she is happier than if here. What tumor did she have? I didn't get full particulars of the cause of death. Is Mrs. Nichol enjoying better health? Remember me to her please. I am about to have my dinner so wait please for the rest till I publish my book on Manitoba.

Wishing you a happy year I will stop. Let them read or hear this at home. Tell Violet I am waiting for a letter. I wish Alex would write. Perhaps it's my turn, I forget, but if I get time I'll write soon. Mr. Barr's health is very poor.

He cannot go out much, only a day now and then. I don't feel much like going out either, indeed I wouldn't be here only it seems too bad not to see Andrew for so long.

With kindest love, I am  
Your loving sister,

P.S. Please write very soon. Jessie

Monday eve. Jan. 5th

Got here alright Saturday at 3 o'clock. Dr. came out to St. James for me and I got to Wpeg at four o'clock. Had some amusement with the people who thought I was in Brandon by that time. Violet writes that Will and Lizzie are moving.

J. McD.

Jessie McDiarmid was the sixth child of Andrew and Ann McDiarmid. She attended school in Shedden and then Normal School. She taught in Muirkirk, Ontario and Winnipeg, Manitoba during the Riel Rebellion. She returned to Ontario and married Dr. James McLachlan N¼ lot 12 NNBTR. They lived in Glencoe and had three daughters.



E  $\frac{1}{4}$  Lot 17 SNBTR

On the 1819 Map of the Talbot Settlement, Thomas McLellan is listed as the owner of the 200 acre lot 17 SNBTR. Mr. McLellan had four sons and he divided lot seventeen into four parts. The S  $\frac{1}{4}$  and the E  $\frac{1}{4}$  were each fifty acres. His favourite son got 65 acres of the north half (where Gordon Cummings lives in 1986) and his youngest son received 35 acres on the west side of the north half where Harold Koyl lives (1986.)

The McLellans built a log house on the E  $\frac{1}{4}$  of lot 17 quite a distance from the road on the line between lots 17 and 18. There was a well and apple trees around it and a large tree on the line fence still stands where the house used to be. Pieces of pottery are still plowed up in this area but no trace of the house remains.

After McLellan's <sup>son</sup> moved out a Sutton married to a Sells lived for a short time in the log house. In 1851 Andrew McDiarmid purchased the quarter and in 1852 he moved with his wife Ann and children, John Alex and Elizabeth, from lot 12 NEBTR to the log house.

In 1854 Mr. McDiarmid purchased the S  $\frac{1}{4}$  as well and moved his family to the log house there. There have been no buildings on the S  $\frac{1}{4}$  since then.

When Andrew McDiarmid died in 1890 he left this quarter to his son Alexander. In 1925 Alexander McDiarmid died and left the property to his daughter, Alice Vicary. Her son, Donald Vicary, became the owner of this quarter in 1953 and continues to farm it to-day growing alfalfa and a small amount of corn on it. There is an eight acre woodlot at the rear of this quarter and a large gully where Big Creek runs through it.





St. Thomas Bureau

Marion Facey, a visitor to the Elgin County Pioneer Museum, examines a honeycomb with apiarist Elgin Wells.

The home-made honey extractor shown in front of Elgin Wells in this picture is over one hundred years old and was made by Alexander McDiarmid who kept bees on his farm near Shedden. The extractor was donated to the Elgin County Pioneer Museum by Mr. McDiarmid's grandson, Donald Vicary, who lives on his grandfather's farm.

S $\frac{1}{2}$  LOT 18 SNBTR

On the 1819 Lewis Burwell map of the Talbot Settlement, the entire 200 acre lot 18 was owned by Anthony Silcox. On the 1864 Tremaine map the S $\frac{1}{2}$  lot 18 is owned by John Crosby and in the Elgin County Atlas of 1877 it is owned by A. Crosby.

The Crosbys were devout Baptists. Their teen-aged daughter was terminally ill with tuberculosis and she had never been baptized. A large creek runs through the centre of the farm and the Crosbys cut a hole in the ice large enough for the minister to immerse the girl. (It was mid winter.) They drove her to the creek in a sleigh, the minister performed the immersion and she was rushed back to the house wrapped in blankets and buffalo robes. She died two days later.

The Crosbys sold the farm to Dick Sharon who farmed there until 1937. Bill Sharon moved in with his sister, Mrs. Milan Atkinson (the former Sara Sharon) who lived at 123 Talbot St. Shedden just east of the Baptist Church. Mr. Sharon worked in Ed Down's feed mill on the Union Road and operated a threshing machine for many years with Mr. Down. Later Mr. Sharon worked Shedden Women's Institute

B. Vicary



on the greens at the St. Thomas Golf and Country Club. A sister Mrs. Ethel Bowlby lives in St. Thomas.

In 1940 Art Robson of Union bought the farm. He was burning brush in the front field one day and the fire got away, burning the house in 1942.

Between the Sharons and Art Robson, John Lunn rented the farm. Roy and Leslie Lunn as young single men lived in the house the summer of 1939 and were the last people to live in the house. They milked a few cows and sold the milk to the Carnation Condensery in Aylmer. Roy Lidster of Fingal trucked the milk to Aylmer in his Maple Leaf GM truck. Roy and Les grew hay, wheat and oats and their main transportation was a saddle horse. Donald Vicary, who lived on the next farm remembers hearing Roy playing his violin in the quiet evening air.

Art Robson sold the farm to Stewart Brown who kept the farm in pasture and kept beef cattle on it. In 1958 Mr. Brown sold the farm to Ross F. Gregory who still owns it. He tore down the barn in the 1960's. The Gregorys grew potatoes and had beef cattle on the farm for a few years. They presently grow beans and corn.

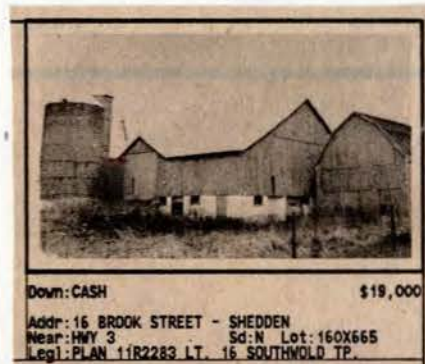
Information from Alice &  
Donald Vicary and Roy Lunn

# SHEDDEN AREA FARM BUILDINGS



18. William Stafford House west of Shedden.  
Built 1864-65. Gothic Revival.

SW $\frac{1}{4}$  LOT 9 NNBTR



E $\frac{1}{4}$  LOT 16 NNBTR Albert Orchard Farm, Bill Orchard, Owner



41. 2 Central Ontario Barns with  
additional sheds.

N PARTS LOTS 16 & 17 NEBTR Herbert Parks Farm  
Ross Gregory present owner