

BIOGRAPHY  
OF  
BRENDA JEAN (PALMER) SILCOX

It was Christmas Day in 1953, and while everyone was at home having Turkey Dinner and exchanging Christmas wishes among themselves, someone else's Christmas wish came true.

Congratulations!!!! You have a Girl!!!. She weighs 6 lbs, 4 Oz. You could have imagined how blessed Ralph and Jean Palmer felt when Brenda Jean arrived that day at St. Thomas Memorial Hospital.

Brenda Silcox is the eldest of four children. Her siblings are Leonard Palmer, Peggy Lehrbass, and Murray Palmer,

Brenda married Murray Silcox May 31, 1974 and is the mother of three. Joshua, born August 17, 1975, Janine, born January 16, 1977, and Jerry, born March 6, 1979. Brenda also holds the title of "Mother-in-law" to a young lady named Monique, who is married to her eldest son Joshua.

Brenda attended the Shedden Public School, S. S. # 9, then went on to Parkside Collegiate in St. Thomas. Following that, she attended Fanshawe College in London for 2 years, taking the Business Secretarial Course.

Many may remember Brenda's first two jobs in Shedden. One was delivering the Star Weekly and the other was sorting Pop Bottles at the store. Brenda then went on to work at Bando and Brown Insurance Company in London. This is where her son Joshua is presently working. Brenda has now returned to the Family Business.

Brenda is a member of Iona Station Baptist Church where she has been the Organist for a number of years. She teaches the Sunday School and is the President of the Ladies Aid.

With regards to the Women's Institute, Brenda has held Presidency and Secretary-Treasurer, and also as a Committee Convenor. She joined when she was at the young age of 25 on April 25, 1979.

Brenda has accomplished a lot in her life, not to mention that she has been a Volunteer in many Organizations, including Cancer, Heart & Stroke, March of Dimes, Community Centre, Neighbourhood Watch and more.

I feel the Community of Shedden is very blessed to have Brenda Jean Silcox a part of our lives.

Written by

Denise Maton

## BIOGRAPY OF

### *Connie Silcox*

Constance Jean McQuiggan was born at the St. Thomas Memorial Hospital. Her parents are Gary and Shirley McQuiggan. Connie attended public schools in St. Thomas and went to Arthur Voden Secondary School taking the 5 year Business and Commerce Course.

After highschool Connie worked at Bell Canada in London. She then did clerical work for St. Thomas Tire. Currently she is working at Canadale Nurseries in St. Thomas.

Connie is married to Currie Silcox and they have two children, Jason and Melissa. They are the proud grandparents of Brett and Trent Silcox.

Connie is a member of Frome United Church . She is treasurer of the church and helps with the church suppers and any other activities she can.

She helped to lead the "Brownies" in Shedden for 9 years and worked at the Ball booth during baseball games. She collects for the Canadian Cancer Society. Connie has held many positions in the Women's Institute, acting as president and secretary; program convenor; meeting convenor; lead short-courses; organized the Rosy Rhubarb information booth. Currently, babysitting grandchildren takes a big chunk of her spare time.

Hobbies: walking the dog, working in the flower beds and reading.

Connie was raised in the city but after marrying a country boy moved to R.R. 3 Shedden. She has adapted very well and was the country ever lucky to get her. She has participated in the community whenever she can and always does an efficient job at whatever she tackles. She is a wonderful friend and sister-in-law.

## BIOGRAPHY OF

### **Maxine Silcox**

**Maxine was born in May of 1915. She is the second daughter of the late M. D. 'Mac' and Mary B. McCormick. Her older sister is Madeline and her younger sister is Grace.**

**Maxine was raised on the home farm called 'Bonnie Doone' located on the Gore Road in Southwold Township. In June 1938, she married Clayton Silcox and they spent the first years of their married life in Frome. Four sons were borne to them; namely Ron, Don, Currie and Murray. They operated a gas station and cabins while living in Frome. In 1964, Maxine and Clayton moved to the home farm (Bonnie Doone) on the Gore Road. Maxine now resides at Elgin Manor.**

**Maxine was involved with several organizations – the Frome UCW, the Shedden Agricultural Society as well as the Shedden Women's Institute. Maxine held offices in each of these groups and was a very active member.**

**Maxine was a 'Home and Country' woman. She loved to garden and work outdoors. She loved to reap the harvest of her garden – canning, freezing and pickling until the last crop was off. She loved her sewing and proudly exhibited her work at the fair - often bringing home prize ribbons for her endeavours. Quilting was a favourite pastime and each winter would find her tackling another challenging pattern in order that each child and grandchild would receive one of her works of art as a wedding gift!**

**Maxine has been a member of the Shedden Women's Institute since 1935 and is an Honourary Life Member.**

*by: Connie Silcox*

## BIOGRAPHY OF

### PAULINE SILCOX

MEMORIAL

Pauline was born on January 3, 1932 at the St. Thomas ~~Elgin General~~ Hospital to parents George and Vi Silcox of Shedden. The family farm was located West of the Village of Shedden. This farm is now severed into two parcels of land. The main resident is now owned by Terry Humphries and the Hired Hand's house has Robert Hill as the owner. In the early 70's the Silcox's moved to the present house on Horton St. in Shedden.

Pauline attended SS # 10 Southwold Public School (the school is now gone and Randy & Susan Harris reside there). Pauline and her best friend, Mary Jean Brown (Hanbury) who lived to the East of them, played a few pranks on Mary Jean's younger brother, Bud, who wanted to trail along with them. On one occasion, Bud and his friend followed Pauline and Mary Jean to the cottage in Port Stanley. The girls were extremely annoyed and gave the boys the last piece of chocolate cake to eat. The boys didn't understand the girls laughter as they ate up the chocolate cake that was previously crawling with ants.

Then onto High School in St. Thomas called STCI – this is where the Valleyview Home is. After High School Pauline went to the Business College on Talbot Street in St. Thomas.

While attending Business College, the Bank of Montreal had a request for employees but Pauline was not certain about working for a Bank. Her mother told her to give it a try and if she did not like it she could quit. She was at the Main Branch from 1950 to 1966.

Then over to Westervelt College in London for night courses on key punch for computers. This gave Pauline some experience for a transfer to the Bank of Montreal in Toronto until she retired in 1987.

Since returning to the home place, Pauline, joined the Shedden W.I. on Nov. 23, 1988. Then she took on the position of Treasurer starting in 1990 until the present time.

Pauline goes to the Bethany Church and the United Church Women's Organization. She, also, volunteers at the Elgin Manor for the W.I. and for her friend, Carol Down.

For Hobbies, Pauline, loves to Counter Cross Stitch, Knitting, Flower Gardening and looking after the birds.

Pauline likes to listen to Easy Listening Classical & Country Music. She loves to travel and take in theatre performances, whenever possible. Her dislike are for people who ignore you when you are around.

Pauline is very easy going and very busy with her dog, Muffin. You'll see her walking her little dog around the Village. She is a very good friend and neighbour.

Carol Gordon,  
April 8, 2000

BIOGRAPHY # 1

OF

MARGARET (McINTYRE) TURNER

The Women's Institute member I have many fond memories of is Margaret Turner. We had known Margaret and Alex all our lives - but when they moved next door to us in May 1975 - and we had only been in our home since December 1974, we shared many experiences together - all of us getting used to a different life off the farm.

About the first W. I meeting soon after they moved, Margaret asked me to go to Institute with her - which I did. Soon after that I joined.

Margaret was very faithful and loyal and hardly ever missed a meeting. She was made a life member and continued faithful as long as her health was good.

Written by

Ruth (Brown) Hunter  
April, 2000



BIOGRAPHY # 2  
OF  
MARGARET RUTH (McINTYRE) TURNER

Margaret was born 28th. March, 1912, the daughter of Arthur and Mary Jane (Pollard) McIntyre. She was born and raised on their farm, Lot 14, Con 5, North of Shedden and attended Shedden Public School. Her high school days were spent in Dutton where she roomed with the Carswell Sisters. In 1930 she attended London Normal School and her first teaching job was in Muirkirk. About this time, she and her sisters, Marion and Kathryn bought a car from their Uncle Jack Pollard, who had a car dealership in London. Margaret got the driving lesson which lasted 15 minutes and was a trip around the four roads that surrounded their farm. Kathryn was in the back seat observing the lesson and watching for traffic. The next day Margaret drove to Springbank Park, Byron, to the Sunday School picnic. The 4th sister, Frances, went too.

While Margaret was teaching, she spent several summers as a waitress in a large hotel in Windermere, Muskoka. She also went alone on a bus trip out west to visit relatives in Rosetown, Saskatchewan. Other summers were spent at Summer School in London.

Margaret also taught at Middlemarch and Shedden, where she ended her teaching career in 1948 when she married Alex Turner. They resided at Lots 11, 12, Con. 4 for many years before selling the farm in 1974 and retiring to their new home on # 3 highway east of Shedden.

Although they had no children of their own, Alex and Margaret had eleven nieces and nephews who enjoyed many great meals and holidays with them. One time they took Beth, Dave and Mike Turner on an overnigher to Bracebridge. The cabin we stayed in had walls that were not very high with a large space between the walls and the roof. The Turner brothers threw clothes, bedding, shoes, etc. into the other bedrooms. Little sleep was had and we weren't invited on a holiday again, at least not overnight.

Margaret Turner was very active in community life. She was a member of the Covenanted Baptist Church and Bethany United Church , Shedden. For many years Margaret was the Librarian at the Shedden Public Library, which her mother had helped to found. She was also an active director of the Shedden Fair Board. A life member of the Shedden Women's Institute, she also received a certificate of appreciation from the Ontario Government for her volunteer work at the Elgin County Pioneer Museum. She was also a member the Kensington Club, Lawrence Sta. Margaret spent many hours recording the history of Shedden and area in the Tweedsmuir History and she wrote histories of the Shedden Library and the Southwold Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

Alex and Margaret enjoyed travelling and were members of the Goodwill Tours led by Vic Langton and tours led by Roy Jewell. They visited many places in North America and Overseas.

Margaret enjoyed having meetings in her home and for several years was a member of the Dutton Bridge Club. The most memorable meeting would have to be of the Kensington Club in the farm house, when a very large garter snake slowly made its way across the living room carpet. The meeting quickly came to a close.

Alex Turner died November 3, 1985. Margaret continued her many community activities for several years, then she moved to Caressant Care in St. Thomas, where she died September 20, 1997. Always thinking of her community, she left bequests to Bethany Church, Shedden, Pearce Williams Christian Centre, Elgin Pioneer Museum, St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital and the Salvation Army.

Written by

Beth (Turner) Vicary  
with information from Margaret's sister  
Kathryn (McIntyre) Churchill



BIOGRAPHY  
OF  
MARY ELIZABETH ANN (TURNER) VICARY

Beth was born May 21, 1934 to Sylvia (Campbell) and Duncan Turner on their farm, Gore road, Southwold.

Beth attended Lawrence Station Public School and St. Thomas Collegiate Institute, where she graduated in 1952. Following graduation, she accepted a position as Claims Clerk in Head Office of London Life.

On April 4, 1953 she married Donald Vicary and went to live on his farm, Lots 16, 17 SNBTR Southwold, continuing to work at London Life until daughter Alison was born in 1956. Three sons followed in quick succession - Jamie, Glenn and Leigh.

When Beth's youngest son was twelve, and she was forty, she went to Fanshawe College for two years and graduated with an accounting diploma.

Upon receiving her accounting diploma she joined the Luxton accounting firm in St. Thomas, where she stayed for three years. She then worked in the office of Tuck Aluminum, St. Thomas for 9 years. In 1987 she was hired by the Ontario Dairy Herd Improvement Corporation as a milk tester for West Elgin, South Middlesex and East Kent Counties. She stayed with this company until retirement, and while with ODHIC she was on the Health and Safety committee, the Employee Pension Investment committee, the Pay Equity committee, was a union steward and a union negotiator for OPSEU on employee contracts.

Beth was introduced to the Women's Institute by the late Madeline Parks of Shedden. She has been attending ever since. She has held many offices within the Institute. Beth has been Branch President, Treasurer, Convenor, Pianist, Tweedsmuir History Curator for Shedden Branch for six years, for Elgin West District for 6 years, and for London Area Assistant Curator for four years.

She was a 4H homemaking club leader for several years, starting in 1968. She was appointed by Elgin County Council to the Board of the Elgin County Pioneer Museum as the Women's Institute representative. She also was treasurer of the board and museum for seven years, while the military museum was installed next door to the Pioneer Museum. Beth is a Life Member of the Shedden Women's Institute.

She enjoys her three granddaughters, travel, church choir, West Elgin Choral Society, collecting stamps, accumulating CD's, mostly classical, and is a forty year member of Golden Acres Order of Eastern Star.

Overall, I would say Beth has had a very full and rounded life.

Written by

Pauline Silcox

BIOGRAPHY  
OF  
SHARON WELCH

Sharon Welch was born on December 8, 1947 in Armstrong, British Columbia. Her family moved to London, Ont. where she attended Lorne Ave., Kindergarten from September to March, then the family moved to Melbourne, Ont. She attended S. S. # 3, #Ekfrid Public School. After graduating from public school, she attended Glencoe District High School. Graduating from high school, she attended Wells Academy in London, where she took a secretarial course. She also has taken four or five University Courses, however she never completed them.

Sharon's first job was as an accountant with John Oram Ltd. She worked there for about a year, then worked for Canadian Tire in Strathroy, and on to Downham Nursery in Strathroy as an inventory clerk. Sharon then moved on to the printing trade. She held a job as a typesetter and Graphic Artist in London. She then went into partnership and formed a company called "Paper Works", which consisted of Graphics and Typesetting. The Company went out of business when the computer industry took over. Then Sharon decided to retire.

Sharon is the daughter of George Edwin Welch and Norma Jean Margarite (McCauley) Welch. She had an older Half-brother Lynden Albert Arthur, who died in 1990. She has one brother Martin George Welch, fifteen months older than Sharon, and one younger sister Susan Marie Welch.

Many hobbies keep Sharon busy. She enjoys sewing, needlework, quilting, many crafts, reading and golfing.

Volunteering is also one of Sharon's loves. She is in her third year as President of the Shedden Women's Institute. Earlier in life

she was a co-ordinator for Sydenham Beavers, consisting of setting up new groups of Beavers. She also has been a Big Sister.

She lived in London for ten to fifteen years. Sharon moved to Shedden In July of 1989.

Sharon and Herb have two four-legged children called Beau and Bubba (Pugs).

Herein lies the end of the tale.

Written by

Pauline Silcox  
April 26, 2000