greatest improvements to the village and vicinity. Sunday cars which started on April 24, 1910, were soon discontinued, though many are wishing for them soon to start again.

Traction line discontinued, October, 1918.

Mentioning Payne's Mills, I might give the date when the grist mill at that place was burned down, on January 25, 1890. One June 4, the same year, there was a heavy storm, and many bridges crippled. Milk could not go from the village to Payne's cheese factory. The following day the electors came out and voted for Mr. McColl, and elected him member of Parliament.

The Scott Act came in force on May 1, 1886.

In 1909 seeding was started on May 24. Poor crops in 1910. Started seeding on March 28, and good crops. In 1912, the wettest season in years there were fair crops.

This year the farmers are not going to grumble much, but they have a lot of extra work to do that should have been done last fall-- acres and acres to plough this spring, which generally means poor crops, for spring ploughing is not good for oats. The clover, where seed was cut last fall, is very badly heaved with the frost, but the new clover is looking fine, and the fall wheat is looking good so far this spring, although there was very little wheat sown last fall on account of the wet weather.

Many large farmers have not got any fall wheat at all. This will mean more acres of spring wheat.

INGENIOUS ELGIN SETTLERS WHO MADE OWN MILL STONES

Highland Scottish Families Who Lived in Midst of Dense Forest in What Is Now Aldborough Township

Two stones lying in the entrance of the county buildings in Hamilton in February, 1878, attracted the attention of some visitors and thereby left recorded the story of the early settlement in Western Ontario. They were mill stones and had been brought in by Archibald McKellar, sheriff of Wentworth County, who told the story of their early use.

A. E. Byerley, D.O., writes in the London Free Press that in 1817, Peter McKellar, father of Sheriff McKellar, and a few more Highland Scottish families settled in that part of the country now know as the Township of Aldborough, in the County of Elgin. It was then a dense wilderness and those daring people settled away in the heart of the forest, through which it was impossible to drive a wagon without first cutting out a road.

Among the many privations, which the settlers had to endure was the want of a mill for grinding grain, the nearest being about fifty miles away on Kettle Creek, east of St. Thomas. Owing to the total absence of roads,if, of course, did not pay to take a grist all that distance, so Peter McKellar, with the assistance of Mr. Minzie, and old stone mason, set to work and constructed a hand mill.

They took two hard-heads (granite boulders) and with grest difficulty for they had but a few inefficient tools, managed to hew these stones into the desired shape.

Having accomplished this they took a section of a hollow tree and fastened the nether mill stone securely in it. Then the upper one was placed upon this and held in place by an iron axle running up from below, and which had a cross piece to allow the upper stone being lifted. A beam was then made fast across the house walls, and into it a long piece of wood was fastened with a swivel joint. The bottom end of this stick fitted into a hole in the top of the stone near the side, and completed the primitive machine.

It was operated by two men who took hold of the bottom of the crank, or lever, and whirled the stone around while a third person fed the grain.

The sheriff could just remember the men coming in, after an arduous day's logging or chopping and seeing them working away at the mill which stood about breast high on the floor of the log house, while the huge log fire blazed and crackled cheerily in the large square fire place. The settlers would come in night after night, and grind enough grain to last them a day or two.

The settlement of these early Scotch settlers rapidly prosper-ed, roads were built, and Peter McKellar erected a water mill on the sixteen-mile creek. This threw the old hand mill out of work, so it was again transported, this time into the heart of Middlesex, where it was used for some years longer, when it once more fell into disuse and was laid aside, and had remained quiescent ever

since.

The stones were sent to the sheriff from a namesake of his in the Township of Mosa, County of Middlesex, and for the first time in fifty years he beheld them again.

Such was the history of the stones and they again gave evidence of the cleverness of our ancestors in the early days of settlement in Canada.

Rev & Mrs John Holmes
and Miss Luella Holmes
Talbotville Parsonage

EARLY HISTORY OF ELGIN COUNTY
1920.

The following early history of Elgin county, prepared and read by Ella McLean, of the Frome School, S. S. No. 8, was awarded first prize at the school fair held at Frome on Tuesday.

One of the first early settlements in Elgin was started by Colonel Talbot. He applied for a grant of five thousand acres of land in the township of Yarmouth, but it was found that it could be granted to him in the township of Dunwich. Grants had already been made in Yarmouth by the "Baby Family" and the "Canada Company".

On the 7th of May, 1804, Colonel Talbot received his patents for his land. Many settlers came from the United States. In 1837, the acres settled by his numbered 650,000, of which 98,700 were cleared and cultivated, while the population was 50,000. The conditions were that each settler was to clear and seed ten acres of land, build a house and clear one half of the road in front of his farm. If he did this inside of three years he would get fifty acres free, and one hundred and fifty acres at three dollars and acre, and another hundred acres at a very cheap price.

Elgin and Middlesex were known in the early days as the district of London, and not until August, 1846, was there a county of Elgin (the county being named Elgin after Lord Elgin). The counties of Middlesex and Elgin were to be united for municipal, judicial and other purposes. However, the first council of Elgin county met in the town hall in St. Thomas, at twelve o'clock, noon, 1852. At once county buildings were begun, on a block of land donated to the county of Elgin by Benjamin Drake, in September, 1853. Then in accordance with the proclamation dissolving the union of the united counties of Middlesex and London, published in the county council, the council of Elgin was held in the county building, St. Thomas, on Tuesday, the 8th day of November, 1853. Thomas Locker, was warden at this time. Aldborough, so-called after the town in the county of Suffolk, England.

Dunwich, so-called in honor of Viscount Dunwich.

Southwold, was called after a seaport in Suffolk, England.

Yarmouth, after a seaport town in the county of Norfolk, England.

Malahide owes the origin of its name to Malahide Castle, the home of Richard Talbot, father of Colonel Talbot.

Bayham was so-called as a compliment to Lord Camden(Viscount Bayham).

Dorchester, so-called as a compliment to Guy Carleton, who was three times appointed governor-general, and who for his services was made a peer of the realm under the title of Lord Dorchester.

Yarmouth and Dunwich commenced settling in 1803, Southwold and

Malahide in 1811. The remaining townships of Elgin have settled at later date, Bayham in 1813.

The Otter Creek was the principal stream in the county, and having on its banks a large quantity of pine timber, afforded a profitable source of revenue to the settlers in this neighborhood.

Kettle Creek also was an excellent mill stream.

In 1811 and 1817 bricks were worth thirty shillings a thousand; butter and cheese one shilling a pound.

At the first settlement land was worth five shillings an acre. In 1817 twenty shillings an acre.

Six miles from London was the junction of the Chatham road with the Port Stanley road, (now Lambeth. Ont). a small settlement containing about one hundred inhabitants. Eight miles from the junction was Five Stakes (Talbotville) containing one hundred and fifty inhabitants. The road from London to Port Stanley had been planked, but being considerably out of repair, portions of it were gravelled.

St. Thomas contained about twelve hundred inhabitants, six churches; an Episcopal, two Methodist, Presbyterian, Free church, Baptist, and Roman Catholic; a grammar school and common school; an extensive foundry, and in the immediate vicinity of the town were two grist mills, two breweries, two distilleries, two tanneries, and a printing office.

From St. Thomas to Port Stanley you pass the St. Thomas and New England mills, the former having four runs of stones, with distillery attached. Then we come to a small settlement of Union-ville, where are two cloth factories, and axe factory, distillery, etc.

The whole district was well settled with excellent farms. Most of the timber was oak.

A mile and a half before reaching Port Stanley was the village of Selborne. Here were a grist mill, a foundry and two distilleries. entirely disappeared, long ago.
On reaching Port Stanley you pass under an aqueduct which had been carried across the road to supply the Port Stanley mills. Port Stanley contained about six hundred inhabitants. There were two churches, and Episcopal and Congregational; two grist mills, two distilleries, one tannery and a collector of customs and harbor master.

The village of Fingal contained about two hundred inhabitants, who have built a hall, two churches, a large foundry, a tannery and a post office.

The village of Iona, a new and small settlement, contained about eighty inhabitants.
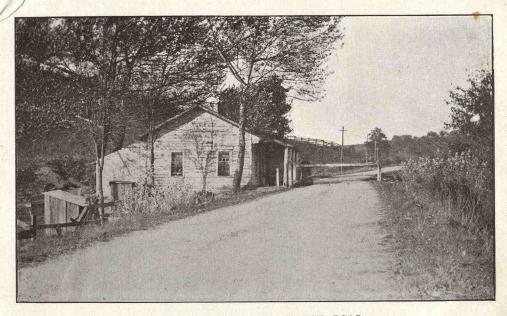
Frome was settled very early, being named after Frome, Somerset county, England. In 1819, the first Congregational church in this neighborhood was erected. It is the oldest in Ontario and last year celebrated its centennial.

In 1803, Elgin county was almost a wilderness, without railroads, few roads, and these merely trails.

The settlers, in case of sickness, had to go miles on horseback for a doctor. Hospitals were not even thought of.

In 1920, we have beautiful cities, towns, villages, doctors, nurses, hospitals and schools. Here are some of the finest farms in Ontario; grand roads, railroads, hydro, telephones, rural mail routes, and natural gas.

In fact, Elgin county if one of the finest on the globe.

TOLL GATE ON THE LONDON ROAD