

solid as when it was finished, a perpetual monument to Isaac Chase, Quaker gentleman and friend of all."

"During the latter half of the previous century, Sparta was a flourishing village, boasting several small factories, a number of hotels and stores, and a good-sized population. With the exception of two Irish Catholics, the residents were Hicksite Quakers and dressed in the customary garb of the sect. The weekly meetings of the Friends, as they were called, were always largely attended, but the yearly and half-yearly assemblages brought scores of Quakers from all sections of the country, from New York State and from Pennsylvania, prominent Friends from Boston and New York City frequently addressed the gatherings.

When the yearly meetings were in progress the guests attending from a distance always found food and shelter at the homes of the Sparta residents. On this account, Quaker residences were large structures, special attention in regard to size being paid to the dining room and kitchen. Isaac Chase on one occasion had 300 guests for a meal at his residence. There are more than a dozen rooms in the old stone house, most of them being designated as the "Blue Room", "Red Room", and so on, nearly every colour being used.

No wallpaper was tolerated by the Quakers, and so the walls and ceilings were painted. It is said that Isaac Chase never turned a traveller from his door, and all were assured

of a hearty welcome and hospitality as long as they cared to remain.

No reference to Sparta Quakers would be complete without the mention of Uncle Sammy Haight and his sainted wife Aunt Phoebe. Their lives go down in history as a legend. And there was that great woman, Sarah Wright Haight, who was the first gospel minister in South Yarmouth and who preached the funeral service over Joshua Doan's grave in the old Quaker cemetery.

Then there was the Minards, --there was Grandma Minard, who passed the century mark and was felicitated by more than 1000 friends on her 100th birthday. There was Mrs. John Minard, a New York Quaker, whose portrait in a Quaker bonnet won her the title of "The most beautiful grandmother in America." There was such serene beauty to her countenance that people actually walked around the block in order to look at her again, when she visited St. Thomas in her staid Quaker raiment.

The writer recalls many visits to the old Quaker meeting house nestled among the trees. It had high-backed wooden pews, women on one side, men on the other, no music. Just a dead silence, then some soul would speak, and take their seat to be followed by another.

How curious the ladies looked in their little bonnets and sombre attire.

After meeting, we had many a basket picnic in the shade of those lofty trees.

Grand old folk, those pioneers, whose charm was enhanced by their daily use of thee and thou.

Yes, they were truly the salt of the earth.

AN EXPLANATION TO THE FOLLOWING

A copy of an item printed by the "Lockett Loose Leaf Ltd." of Toronto in their June issue of a periodical, "The Leaflet," was sent to Mr. Charles Rainbow in 1962 just prior to Mr. Rainbow's death in July of the same year.

Mr. Rainbow was the Grandfather of Jeanette Campbell Walters (Mrs. W. Robert Walters) of Central Yarmouth.

Mr. Rainbow's "Book Store" in Medicine Hat was opened in 1913 so it was not until 10 years later that he moved to St. Thomas and purchased the "McLachlin Book Store" at 349 Talbot St.

"The Lockett Loose Leaf Ltd." seller of "Devices and Supplies" had sold supplies to Mr. Rainbow for 47 years continuously--a record.

After 1962 ^{the store} it changed hands and became "Campbell's" and then "Turner's Book Store". After being vacant for some time it was taken over by "Polka-Dot Ltd." -- an up to date fabric shop.

May 29th, 1962.

CANADA'S OLDEST BOOK STORE

What is reported to be the oldest book store in Canada has recently changed hands. The store was founded by the Late Archibald McLachlin, who was a pioneer publisher in St. Thomas, Ontario. This was in the year 1855 or 1857.

About the year 1880, the store was taken over by Mr. McLachlin's two sons, Robert and James.

After seventy years in the family the store was sold to Mr. Charles W. Rainbow, formerly of Medicine Hat, Alberta. The store was operated by Mr. Charles Rainbow and his son until this year 1962, when again the store has a new owner and will be operated by Mr. William J. Campbell under his name of Campbell's Book Store.

Our records show that we first had the pleasure of selling Mr. Rainbow in Medicine Hat in 1915, which was the first year that we operated. Our first sale to Mr. McLachlin was in 1917 and has continued up until now.

Mr. Rainbow therefore was one of our first customers, with the account being opened by J. S. Lockett Sr., on his first trip in the Fall of 1915.

Our contact therefore has been continuously with the McLachlins and the Rainbows all through our business experience.

These reminiscences are extremely interesting and it is rather rare we believe for the same store to be owned and operated for approximately 105 or 107 years, having changed the family name only once during that period. Naturally we extend to Mr. Campbell every wish for success.

We understand that the original safe that was bought at the time the store was opened is still in the store and in daily use.

EARLY HISTORY OF ELGIN COUNTY (1846)

ALDBOROUGH TOWNSHIP (1842)

Aldborough is bounded on the north-west by the River Thames. There are 15,593 A. taken up and only 3,519 A. are under cultivation. The south of the township contains some good land, but the north is very hilly and broken. There are many wet patches in it and much of the timber is swamp elm. Most of the settlers are poor and are mainly of Highland Scotch descent.

A road called Turmal's Road is cut through the Township from Lake Erie to River Thames.

There are four saw mills; Population 737.

DUNWICH TOWNSHIP (1842)

There are 28,563 A. taken up, with about 3,193 A. under cultivation. Some farms are good with clearings in the south but the houses and farm buildings are generally poor. The settlers are principally Irish. A large swamp is situated on the west side of the township and a foot path has been cut through the township from Talbot Road to the River Thames.

There are 2 grist and 2 saw mills; Population 712

SOUTHWOLD TOWNSHIP (1842)

There are 51,853 A. taken up, 15,894 A. of which are under cultivation. This is a well settled township containing many thoroughly cleared and well cultivated farms. It is watered by Thames River in north-west corner and by branches of Kettle Creek. In the north the timber is

principally hardwood and in the centre and south it is mostly pine. The village of Fingal and Selbourne are in the township.

There are 2 grist and 3 sawmills; Population 2,890 principally Scotch

PORT STANLEY (1946)

This is a village on Lake Erie at the mouth of Kettle Creek situated partly in Southwold and partly in Yarmouth being divided by Kettle Creek. A plank road was built between Port Stanley and London.

Port Stanley is beautifully situated being in a valley surrounded by high and picturesque hills, and its harbour is well protected.

Churches - 2 - Episcopal and Congregational;
Population - 500

SELBOURNE OR TALBOT MILLS (Union to-day)

Like Port Stanley this village is situated in townships of Southwold and Yarmouth on Kettle Creek close to the plank road.

YARMOUTH TOWNSHIP (1842)

In Yarmouth approximately 70,000 A. are taken up, 22,350 A. of which are under cultivation. It is watered by Catfish Creek and Kettle Creek - both of which are good mill streams. The land generally is of excellent quality and most of it is rolling. The township has many fine farms, well cultivated with good orchards. The north is settled by Highland Scotch principally, and the south mostly by Quakers.

There are 5 grist mills and 10 saw mills from which great quantities of sawed lumber are exported, much of the timber along the creek being pine.

Population 1,239.

ST. THOMAS (1846)

St. Thomas is a large village in the township of Yarmouth. It is surrounded by a succession of hills and dales and in the midst of a fine well cultivated country. It was laid out in 1816 and in 1846 contained 800 inhabitants. It is a place of considerable business. The plank road runs from London to Port Stanley through St. Thomas north and south and the Talbot Road east and west. Stages from London to Port Stanley pass through the village daily. A weekly newspaper is published here - the "St. Thomas Standard."

In 1846 there were 6 churches, 4 physicians and surgeons, 3 lawyers, 1 grist mill, 1 saw mill, 1 carding machine, 1 cloth factory, 2 foundries, 2 breweries, 2 distilleries, 10 stores, 6 groceries, 4 taverns, 1 temperance house, 2 druggists, 1 printer, 4 saddlers (harness makers) 1 baker, 2 butchers, 1 watch maker, 4 coopers (Barrel makers) 8 blacksmiths, 3 wagon makers, 5 tailors, 4 showmakers, 1 painter and glazier, 1 tinsmith, 1 surveyor, 2 banks "Montreal" and "Gore "

Principal Tavern "Ivor's"

SPARTA (1846)

Sparta is a settlement in Yarmouth township - 6 miles east from the plank road. It contains 60 inhabitants, 2 stores 1 tavern, 1 chair factory, 1 blacksmith. There is a Quaker meeting house and a Baptist Chape,

RICHMOND (1842)

The settlement of Richmond is situated in Bayham township on Talbot Street. It has 80 Inhabitants.

VIENNA (1836)

Vienna in township of Bayham on Otter Creek is situated in midst of hilly country.

The lumber trade is the principal support of the village. There are about 300 inhabitants.

The principal tavern - "Red Lion".

SOUTH DORCHESTER (1842)

Here 8,505 A. are taken up, 1,098 of which are under cultivation. There are 3 large swamps on the east side of the township. It is at present little settled and there are 150 A. of Crown Lands open for sale at 8 Shillings per A.

There are 3 grist and 3 saw mills; Population 418.

ELGIN COUNTY ROAD # 45

The new County Road 45 joins what was already constructed east of Jaffa, then joining no. 40 for 1 mile south to Mt. Salem, then east to the County of Norfolk.

The new road eliminated the old winding road on the Catfish Hill. Disposing of the old iron bridge a new modern cement structure was erected on line with County Road 45 which removed the dangerous curves.

Work then began on Concession 5, Yarmouth. First of all trees on either side of this gravel road were cut, uprooted, and buried in deep ditches beside the new elevated road. Top soil was piled and stored at regular intervals along the roadside until needed. They say this is progress but most of us were rather sad to lose our trees - especially the grand old maples.

Bulldozers, graders and dump trucks seemed to be everywhere. County Road #45 took 17 feet from each side of the road to make the new road the correct width.

Finally the road began to take shape with the fill, gravel and continuous grading. The cold pack surface was added and it seemed to us, who had been used to Concession 5 gravel road, to resemble a super highway - even though it had only two lanes.

The top-soil was trucked from the storage piles to the shoulders of the road and the lawns. Here it was levelled and graded after the culverts had been placed under lane-ways and lawns. The last step was seeding. It didn't seem long until our lawns had taken on a velvety texture and were ready for the mower and looked better than before.

County Road # 45 extends to the west into Southwold and connects on the improved Talbot Road.