



COWAL

NEWS

1883 - 1906

HISTORY OF COWAL

Colonel Thomas Talbot arrived at a "romantic little creek" in May 1803. The nearest human habitation was 60 miles distance at Long Point. Six years later in 1809 there arrived from Pennsylvania, George Crane, John Pearce, Col. Leslie Patterson, and Mrs. Storey, descendants of whom still reside in Dunwich.

Arrival of Scottish settlers was first noted in 1817 when five or six families made the long and difficult journey from Lord Selkirk's settlement at Red River and settled in the western part of the township of Dunwich.

thIn population of Dunwich in the following years was: 1847 - 652; 1852 - 1,948; 1861 - 2,888; 1871 - 3,731.

In 1871 Cowal was a small village in the township of Southwold, county of Elgin. Distant from Longwoods, a station of the Western Railway, 9 miles. Mail weekly, population 30. John Ibbitson was a farmer, Neal McBride, postmaster, James McDougal, school teacher and Wade Francis, tavernkeeper.

In the clearing of trees in Dunwich, a huge black ash tree produced logs that sold in New York for \$3,000.00. The stump was sold for \$1.00.

In 1877 the Historical Atlas of Elgin County stated "New Montreal is in the northeast portion of the township. It is yet a small village and its streets are paved with saw dust. Its conveniences, however, of stores, post-offices, shops etc. can only be fully appreciated by those who have heretofore been obligated to go for these many muddy "long Scottish miles."

There were two general stores, one kept by James McDougall and the other by Gilmore and McNabb, a large saw mill and shingle mill, owned by Lipsey and Redmond, and a new Presbyterian church. The name of the post office is Cowal."

The following story of Lipsey and Redmond was told by J.A. Patterson: Dick Redmond and William Lipsey took out timber for the saw mill in December 1870-1. William Eaton hewed the timber. The machinery for the mill was teamed from St. Thomas on March 1st, 1871-2 by volunteer labour. The mill started operating that summer. Around 1877 Redmond sold out his interest in the mill to Lipsey and Lipsey's son, Tom, went in with him. Later Tom ran the business. Tom Lipsey was in the asylum for a few months and in 1881 disappeared for nearly a year. His brother-in-law from St. Thomas carried on the business. About the time of Tom Lipsey's return, William Lipsey committed suicide by cutting his throat and within a week one of the top sawyers was killed on a saw. Tom Griffin bought the mill in 1882.

By the census records there were 69,290 acres in Dunwich of which 56,734 acres were cleared. There were 2,437 horses, 3,359 pigs, 5,000 sheep and 6,600 cattle with a population of 3,001.

In the 1880's and 90's Cowal was a thriving community with a population of around 50. Its main industry was the saw mill which employed a quite a number of people. However, when the mill burned in 1903, it was decided not to rebuild leaving many without work which meant they pulled up stakes and moved to other communities. The buildings were either moved or torn down leaving a once thriving community a ghost town. By the early 1930's there was only one store and 3 houses left. Although the buildings and businesses were gone, the spirit of neighbourliness has always remained and today many people still affectionately call Cowal "home".

The following are the recollections of John D. Thomson, as he remembers Cowal when he lived there as a young boy.

John Thomson owned the store. Groceries, drygoods, hardware, shoes, boots etc. were sold there, also the postoffice was there. They had an apartment upstairs.

Thomas Griffin owned the saw mill and all winter farmers brought in logs for lumber or sold to be made into staves. In October, 1903, the mill burned down and all employees left Cowal. This was a big loss to the village.

Mr. Thomson sold the store to Jack McGugan of Melbourne, and moved to Essex. A few years later the store burned down and Mr. McGugan bought a store in Muirkirk. Thomas Griffin then built a new store

on the site of the sawmill. When the store burnt, the Post Office was moved to the home of Mrs. Catherine Bennett, Until in 1910 when Rural Mail Delivery was inaugurated.

The stave mill also was across the road from our home and it consisted of two long sheds. The lumber was soaked in hot water vats in the sawmill, then taken to the stave mill where machines made it into staves for barrels.

I remember going to the sawmill with my Grandfather for sawdust for bedding for the cow and seeing John Amos pulling lumber from the hot water vats.

Nancy McBride was born on the Gordon Little farm and married a Campbell from Wallacetown, but only lived with him about a year, came to Cowal, bought a house and kept three or four boarders from the sawmill.

On Mrs. Bennett's lot was a large crab apple tree across the road from Nancy's place, and we boys would lay in the ditch and throw apples at her house. She came out very angry, shaking her fist and saying she would have us put in jail. I don't think we ever broke any windows.

Herbert Myers was an excellent blacksmith and set a record of shoeing more horses in one day than any blacksmith in the district. He had a large frame house and one day it got on fire about noon and burnt to the ground- there were no fire engines in the rural areas. Dave and Jim Bennett, my brother, Archie, and myself watched the fire. Mr. Myers built a fine new home, but a few years later sold it to Mr. and Mrs. David Anderson and bought a blacksmith shop in Clachan. David and Mrs. Anderson lived in it for a number of years, then sold to Norman Fletcher who moved it down the road to the Fletcher farm, across the road from Bob Murray.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson bought a home on the Townline south of Middlemiss. One day driving over to Cowal to help his son Eb. Anderson, the horse ran away and he was killed.

The house at the south end of the village was Duncan Patterson's and about 1890 my Grandfather bought it from his estate. I, my brother, Archie and sister Annabelle were born there. We lived with Father and Mother there until 1913 when we moved to the farm on the fourth concession (Lot 22). We rented the house for years for one dollar a month. The taxes were about four dollars a year.

I sold it to Archie McLachlin in 1932 and one night in 1939 it caught on fire and burnt to the ground.

The Enterprise and the Dutton Advance

In 1882 a weekly newspaper was established in Dutton called the Enterprise. By 1883 we find news items under the heading of Cowal. In November, 1891, the Enterprise and the Dutton Advance amalgamated.

The following items of news were taken from both of the weekly newspapers.

1883

- Jan. 1 John Allison's horse is recovering from a paraletic stroke. The Rev Mr. Urquhart, who has been ill with typhoid fever, is able to attend his duties again in Chalmers Church. Duncan Patterson, Thomas March, and David Stride, who have been in Manitoba for over a year, have returned with lots of money. Charles Smith, of this place, had a large wood bee last Friday and got an immense pile of wood out. The bee was followed by a dance, at which everyone passed off well.
- Jan. 7 Arch McGugan had a sawing bee followed by a dance which would have passed off quietly if there hadn't been a fight. Neil McBride gave his friends Mr. and Mrs. Roger Patterson a fine supper on the 12th. Messrs Daniel and John Patterson drew 22 cords of wood to Lawrence Station in 10 loads. Beat that price \$2.10. Logs are rushing into Griffin's mill fast. John Campbell was dumped over Anderson's hill with a load of logs, but escaped without injuries. Mrs. McDougall, an old lady of 4 score years and mother of James McDougall, storemaster, is suffering from a cancerous tumor in the breast. John Watson, 1st concession is preparing to build a large barn next spring. Mr. John Battin, our enterprising merchant, will move into the store occupied at present by James McDougall where he expects to do a rushing business.
- Aug. 21 Mr. Arch McLachlin is seriously ill from dropsy. Rev. Alex Urquhart has returned from N.S. where he had been spending a few weeks for the benefit of his health. He looks quite refreshed after his trip. He will preach in Wallacetown on Sabbath next. If the young men in Cowal must shave on the first day of the week, they should pull down the blind or close up the shutters at the back and not expose themselves to the public. A few years ago Cowal was noted for its bachelors; at present there is but one and he does not intend to remain so very long if Dame Rumor tells the truth. An interesting incident occurred today at the residence of Mr. D.L. McLachlin which caused that gentleman a great deal of happiness - the occasion being Mrs. McLachlin presenting him with a big fat baby; and if anyone should ask him the cause of his joy, he will tell them he is the father of a bouncing baby boy.
- Nov. 22 John McFadyen, only son of Neil McFadyen on the 3rd concession, who left home 19 years ago to see the world has come home to die. He left home when he was about 20 and went to County Bruce, then he went to the great lone land North-West and then retraced his steps homeward. He is now confined to his bed suffering from that incurable disease consumption. The family physician visited him shortly after he arrived home, but said he could do nothing for him. Poor fellow, he has apparently but a short life to live. He says he would rather live if it might be, but if not, he is willing to go to his long home that bourne from whence no traveller returns. Mr. John Turner met with an accident that will confine him to the house for some time to come. He was assisting Alex McWilliam butcher a beef. Mr. Turner had the animal by the horns while Mr. McWilliam struck it a blow on the head to stun it. By some means the brute in falling fell on Mr. Turner and broke his leg below the knee. Dr. Cascaden was called in and dressed the fracture and left him as comfortable as the case would allow. Mr. Turner is well advanced in years and being lame in one leg before will apt be a cripple the rest of his life.
- Dec. 6 The latest novelty in Cowal is a travelling huckstress. She carries her wares in a market basket. C.A. Beardsley, carriage maker, has left us. Therefor there is an opening for a steady first-class workman. No other need apply.

- Dec. 6 Mr. Alex McWilliam's new brick veneered residence is now completed.
cont. It is the handsomest dwelling on the street and is fitted out in the latest improvements and situated as it is on the lofty banks of the Pinery Creek, it commands a splendid view of the surrounding scenery. No doubt Sandy will give the boys a chance to trip the light fantastic when he moves in.
- We understand there are several weddings on contemplation here, one on Argyle Street and Two on the Gore Streets.
- When D.G. McTavish was proceeding towards home along Shackleton Street from Dutton, his spirited horses suddenly bolted sideways at some tile lying on the roadway. They turned completely around tipping the buggy and throwing Mr. McTavish out. They ran for four miles, demolished the buggy and were captured in Dutton.

1884

- Jan. 1 Rev. Alex Urquhart was married on Christmas Day to Miss Hannah Ellison of Port Stanley. We extend our heartiest congratulations.
- Jan. 17 We extend congratulations to Mr. A.R. Patterson on his success in being re-elected to the council board for Ward 2, as he is the only old councillor that is returned.
- Such a large quantity of logs are being hauled to the mill that the proprietor, Mr. Griffin, has to get more help to keep up with the wants of his customers.
- Jan. 21 Mr. Battin of the Post Office store has a large stock of dry goods, groceries and hardware on hand which he is selling cheap. Some of our young gentlemen who attended the ball in Dutton on the 11th had to go to St. Thomas for their best girls. They had better let up on it or they will be left out.
- FARM FOR SALE Valuable farm of 85 acres, Lot 20, Conc. 1, Dunwich, offered for sale at a bargain. 20 acres cleared, balance well timbered with maple. Sufficient quantity rail lumber to fence the land. Spring creek runs through farm. \$300 down, balance to be agreed on.
- Jan. 28 Wood bees are all the rage here. Rev. Alex Urquhart's congregation cut, split and hauled enough wood to last a year. Archie Thomson had a bee also. Archie is a bachelor and being possessed of a fair share of this world's goods and also being a good-looking fellow, and this being leap year, he had better watch out or some fair maid will capture him for sure.
- Mr. Thomas McCallum, also a young and handsome bachelor, who purchased the D.L. McLachlin estate, has the bee of the season. About 30 stalwarts of North Dunwich, with 15 saws, representing all the saw manufacturers in the Province, entered his farm from morning until night and when night came there was nothing to be seen but wood. Although several of the men imbibed too much Dutton bug juice for their good, everything passed off quietly.
- Mr. D.A. McNabb is preparing material to build himself a house next summer. That's all right D.A., but remember this is leap year.
- Feb. 5 There was a grand surprise party at Arch Thomson's one night last week, but on account of our absence we did not hear the particulars.
- D.J. Campbell is getting out a quantity of white oak for the Grand Trunk R.R. to be delivered to Lawrence Station, for which he realizes a good price.
- Feb. 14 Mr. Arch McLachlin, one of the pioneers of North Dunwich departed this life on Friday last at the age of 3 score and ten. He had a large family, six of whom have gone before him and seven sons and one daughter survive him. Six months ago he was stricken with a complication of diseases which his medical attendant could neither explain or alleviate and he daily grew worse until death put an end to his suffering. He was buried in Cowal Cemetery, the funeral being the largest ever witnessed, the procession being over a mile long.
- Mr. Philip Eaton was the recipient of a surprise and presentation last week. The surprise did not amount to much, but the presentation was a fine, fat baby by Mrs. Eaton. We wish you luck, Philip, and may you have many such.

- Feb. 14 We are going to lose one of our young ladies in the course of a
cont. week as she is going to take advantage of leap year.
There is a movement to give the minister a stipend of \$750 per
year and free manse.
- Feb. 21 Mr Augustus Wilson and Miss Sarah Palmer of Wardsville were united
in Holy bonds of matrimony on Wednesday, the 13th. After the
ceremony the couple drove to the bride's aunt, Mrs. Mary Marshman,
where they were greeted by about 20 friends. After justice had
been done to a splendid repast, a five hour dance was engaged in
with unsurpassable zeal, after which all returned home well
pleased with the evenings entertainment. J. Patterson furnished
music on his concert harmonica.
The Enterprise is increasing in favour here.
- Mar. 6 Mr. Thomas McCallum, of Argyle Street has entered into a life
partnership with Maggie E. McGugan.
Business is lively at Griffin's Sawmill with engineer S. Wilson
at the throttle and D. Stride tail Sawyer. They cut 4,000 to
8,000 feet of lumber per day.
Mr. J. Battin declares he will not be undersold for any of his
goods in his store. We understand he is going to have a partner
soon, but we have not learned the man.
Smith and Henderson, tilemakers, are going to get lots of wood
ready for next summer burning.
February 28 William March was joined in the bonds of matrimony
to Miss Kate Patterson. The presents are both numerous and costly.
James H. Westcott of Napier is opening out a carriage business.
- Mar. 20 The people of this place are about getting up a petition asking to
have her Majesty's mail tri-weekly. We live in hopes to have
it by July's term.
- Apr. 3 The fall wheat looks promising.
The roads are in very bad condition owing to the sawlogs left
on the road.
Jim Lodge, John McNeil, William Salmon, Peter McBride, and Duncan
McPhail plan to build houses.
- May 1 Our popular tilemaker, Mr. Smith, has taken himself a wife and
as a result tile are going to be made in large quantities and at
a reduced rate.
- May 15 Peter McBride's barn was raised on Friday. D.G. McTavish and James
Battin were captains, both claiming victory. It was framed by
Kerr Bros., Iona Station. After a splendid repast the ladies
and gentlemen chose dancing for the evenings entertainment which
commenced before it was quite dark and continued until near morning.
- June 7 Born, near Cowal, on the 7th inst., the wife of Mr. J.D. Campbell,
of a son - weight 13 pounds.
- Aug. 5 Wheat, peas, barley, and potatoes are most promising in yield.
Stacey Bros. are threshing with yields about 25 bushels to the
acre.
The Presbyterians are remodeling the interior of the church. John
McFarlane of Wallacetown is doing the work.
A.P. Campbell, Lawrence sold cattle at \$90 per head. Some of
the farmers in the vicinity of Pleasant Valley are behind in their
harvest. We have been informed that the reason is they play
croquet too often through the day.
- Aug. 14 Pleasant Valley
The Enterprise is a welcome paper in this part. It is read
with much interest and more particularly the Cowal correspondent.
His items are generally exceedingly spicy, especially on social
matters. But when he began to tell the readers that the farmers
of this Valley are behind with their work in the harvest because
of playing croquet too often through the day, he got off his eggs.
It is true we play a few games some days in wheat harvest but it
was after binding more grain than he is capable of doing and if he
has any doubts on that point he can just come along at his earliest
convenience and bring with him some of his whey money and some of
our croquet players will remove them to his entire satisfaction.
He will realize more freely than ever the old saying "That all work
and no play makes Jack a dull boy"
- Aug 21 I notice that our Scot Act Advocate has given my last writing
a very frank notice, for which I forgive him.

- Aug .21 Farmers are through cutting their oats, with some finished harvest. Quite a number were on the excursion to the Falls. Ross and McNeil, proprietors of the Erie cheese factory, sold 150 boxes of July make for 10¢ per pound.
- Sept.25 Farmers are through seeding the Scott and Democrat varieties of wheat. Mr. Battin has put in new boxes and had them lettered, which adds much to the convenience of the Post Office. Katie, the little daughter of Alex Campbell of Southwold, who died Saturday, was buried today at Cowal Cemetery. The funeral service was held at 12 o'clock by Rev. Urquhart. Mr. Duncan McPhail of the 3rd concession was in the village with his fine team of general horses, practising for the local fairs.
- Oct. 2 It became our sad duty to report three deaths. Mrs. Isabella McLean, wife of Malcolm McLean, departed this life on Sunday last at the patriarchal age of 74 years. She was buried today at Cowal Cemetery (Sept. 30). The family services were conducted at the family residence on Shackleton Street. Mr. David Eaton died on Sunday. He was buried in Cowal today. Mary, little daughter of William Clark, died on Sunday evening, being buried at Cowal Cemetery, making three funerals in the cemetery, nearly all meeting at the same time. Ross and McNeil have closed their cheese factory because of the small quantity of milk being received. Quite a number were at Western Fair. They speak of it being a splendid exhibition.
- Oct. 9 Stacey Bros. have purchased a new engine to run their threshing machine. It is a Sectional Champion, manufactured in Brantford and the first of its kind in these parts. Masons and painters are at work on Jno. Patterson's new house. Jas. and Wm. Ellwood, StThomas are contractors.
- Oct.23 John McNeil has sold his interest in the cheese factory to James Jewell, of Tyrconnel. Logging and husking bees and dancing are the principal amusements these days and nights here. Mr. James McKenzie has had the building which he purchased from Mr. McDougall of Dutton, moved to his lot and is fitting it up for a residence. Mr. Battin is remodeling his store. Farmers are teaming their wheat at present to Lawrence Station as it is a leading market place. Prices 71 - 73¢. There were three law suits at Squire Hatton's last Wednesday, all parties hailing from Dutton. Two whiskies and one assault.
- Nov.20 Clara, eldest daughter of Ezra Wilson is recovering from a severe attack of typhoid fever. Thomas Griffin is refitting his saw mill and is talking of putting in a grain crusher which will be very valuable to farmers around here. Several of the Dutton ladies Sundayed in and about the village.
- Dec. 9 Squire Hatton met with a very painful accident while chopping in the woods, a sliver striking him in the eye, bruising the ball. It was first thought he might lose his sight but he is now recovering. Mr. Griffin has his grain crusher in working order now and is preparing to do grinding on short notice. He will start his saw mill in a few days. Mr. Wilson is slowly recovering from lung congestion. David March left today for the West where he has two brothers living.
- Dec.23 A scot lecture was delivered here on Tuesday night. A pleasant time was had at the residence of Mrs. McNabb, the occasion being a surprise party and presentation to Mr. McNabb for his services as precentor in the Presbyterian church, the present being a silver watch and photograph album valued at \$30. George Campbell has resigned from No. 9.

1885

- Jan. 8 Mr. McIntyre of Wardsville will teach at No. 9 for the present year.
- Feb. 5 Arch McGugan had his feet badly frozen.
Duncan Thomson had teams hauling lumber to Lawrence Station -about 50 cords a day - sent to a London wood yard.
Smith and Henderson are hauling sand from near the river and are making plans for the coming season.
Quite a number attended Baptist Quarterly meeting at Duart on Saturday and Sunday.
- Feb. 26 The mortal remains of Mr. Angus McWilliam were interred in Cowal on Friday.
On Friday the Middlemiss flour mills burned.
Mr. McIntyre who was hired to teach our school, left. It is said that he has gone to the Salvation Army. Go it, Mac!
Thomas Griffin had the end of one finger taken off with his grain crusher on Saturday eve.
- Mar. 5 Messrs J. Tolman, A. McCallum, and N. McCallum are making preparations to build new houses next summer.
Our school has been without a teacher for two weeks.
The same old prank has been adopted of late in our village by some parties dumping saw logs on the road. These parties should look sharp or they might get sharpened.
- Mar. 30 Our village is growing rapidly.
Norton Pickard of Largie has rented McKenzie's foundry and has opened a backsmith shop.
R.M. March is building a carriage shop, S. Anderson of Oil City to do wood work. Then we will have two carriage shops.
As the Scot Act preaching has come to a close, there is talk of building a temperance house.
Mr. Griffin's mill sawed 3500 feet of lumber in less than 4 hours with three men doing the work. He is doing a rushing business with his grain crusher.
School has begun again, Miss Rillie of Wardsville being hired for the rest of the year.
Wood bees are raging at present. Some of the Scot Act men showed a very bad example, bug juice being freely used.
- Apr. 20 R.M. March has his carriage shop finished.
The lifeless remains of Mrs. McCormick, near Largie were interred today in the family burying grounds at Cowal.
- May 5 The first raising of the season in our midst came off at John McCallum's yesterday afternoon, a large barn 36 x 56, framed by D. McIntyre, Largie.
Sidney Wilson is building an addition to his house on the corner of Main and 4th street.
As W. March was engaging in tying his cattle, one of the animals turned around in the stall crowding him out when his hand caught in the snap of the chain which tore the flesh to the palm of the hand and finger, making an ugly wound which was dressed by Dr. Cascaden.
Mrs. A. McLachlin is very ill.
Duncan Thomson has purchased a pair of Standard scales that will weigh four tons.
- May 26 The Free Methodist of the Thames River have their new church about finished.
Norton Peckham has begun work in his new shop west of Main Street.
- June 23 March and Anderson have turned out five new rigs since 20th April; still more to follow.
Anderson is making a new pump for a new grist mill in Iona Station that will throw three gallons of water at each stroke.
- July 7 Jno. Tolman's new residence will be frame with a stone foundation.
M.R. Chapman, of Dutton, is starting a boot and shoe store in our village.
N. McCallum has purchased a St. Thomas self-binding harvester.
Farmers are haying.

- Aug 18 Wheat is good in quantity and quality. Stacey Bros. bought a new Advance separator and are threshing grain in this area.
- Aug 25 The residence of Mrs. Duncanson, two miles south of here was burned Thursday afternoon, the fire starting from the stovepipe. Neighbours saved the barn although the roof caught fire three times. Harvesting is about finished, plowing and threshing are the order of the day.
- Sept. 8 Stacey Bros. threshed for J. Milton 40 bushels of wheat in 20 minutes and oats at the rate of 5 bushels per minute. In five and a half days they threshed 2485 bushels of wheat, 100 bushels of barley and 170 bushels of oats and moved and set up nine times.
- Oct. 22 Mrs. Angus McCallum died at her son's residence on the 4th concession. The deceased has been ailing for several years.
On Saturday evening about 8 o'clock, three men came to the house of Mr. Dugald Campbell, an old man who lives alone about one and a half miles from here. One of the party went into the house and asked for something to eat, which Mr. Campbell said he could have, and went to get it for him, when the other two men came in with a revolver in hand demanding his money or his life. The old gentleman told them where the money was, which amounted to \$35. They are supposed to be from Ekfrid, as three men were seen crossing the river about that time.
Carpenters are at work at N. McCallum's house.
A. Tolman's house has received the first coat of plaster.
A new temperance house is nearly completed.
March and Anderson are working on their 11th rig.
J. March intends leaving for Manatee County, Michigan, where he has a farm. He takes a car load of furniture, stock, and implements.
- Oct. 29 We are to have a roller skating rink. Good for Cowal.
Milch cows brought \$75 at J. Gilbert's sale.
A. Thomson is remodeling his house. This looks favourable for the ladies.
- Dec. 10 Mr. R. Thomson had a narrow escape from being killed the other day as he was assisting in killing a beef. The animal, after being shot two times in the head and having his throat cut, got up and ran at him, its horns catching his vest and tearing it off; it ran about a mile with the bullets through the brain and its jugular vein nearly severed.
The teacher, Miss Carey, is planning an exhibition at the school. A grand time is looked for.
Some in this locality have fallen victim to the notorious agent of Canada, some have settled and some have not. Our advice is to hold the fort.
- Dec. 17 Messrs Carruth and Munn had a shooting match in the village on Saturday when about 18 turkeys and geese were disposed of by shooting and raffling; everything passed off nice and quiet. Miss Carey who has been at our school for eight months has been re-engaged at a salary of \$325.

1886

- Jan. 14 J.C. Graham of Middlemiss has been engaged to teach.
- Feb. 11 D.S. Stride has purchased a saw mill at Oil City.
Mr. Robertson is taking over from Mr. Anderson who is retiring from R.M. March's carriage shop.
- Feb. 14 T. Griffin has started up his mill.
There is considerable building going on here next summer. D.J. Campbell will build a Two storey frame house, Herman Ross a frame residence, Dan McPherson a large barn 38 x 72. Kerr Bros. are the contractors. Carroll Bros. are building a shed on a brick foundation.

- Mar. 25 Farmers are busy syrup making.
Richard Allison and James McMullen are slowly improving from severe rheumatism.
Jonathon Kindree is going to build a frame residence on the farm east of the village. Aaron Crossley is the contractor.
Miss Nancy McBride, who had a large tumor removed by Dr. Eccles of London, which weighed 26 pounds, about six weeks ago, has so far recovered as to be able to come home last Saturday.
Cowal is petitioning the Post Office to have tri-weekly mail delivered.
- Apr. 29 Fred Doggett has erected a granite monument in Cowal Cemetery for D. McLean for his grandparents. It is 14 feet high and is said to weigh 3,800 pounds; the block of stone was cut from the largest ever shipped to St. Thomas and it contained 22 cubic feet.
Herman Ross and Mungo McFarlane are the milk drawers for the locality.
- May 6 Mr. J. Battin has sold his general store.
Our inventor, Orton Peckham, is now on work on a windmill.
T. Griffin built a verandah on his house.
- May 27 J. Thomson who purchased the Post office store is putting in a large supply of goods.
Mr. Malcomes, Iona Station, has opened out a boot and shoe shop on the east side of Main Street.
Dave Crossan bought Lot 22, Concession 4 for \$5,000.
- June 24 An exciting raising came off at Carroll Bros. farm on the river bank when a large shed 32 x 60 with brick foundation 10 feet high, to be used as stabling, and the other 22 x 40 to be used as an implement store shed, were raised.
- Apr. 28 A number of our young ladies and gentlemen enjoyed themselves at a pleasant social hop in the new carriage shop. It was attended by parties from Iona, Wallacetown, and Dutton. The party dispersed at 3 a.m. when the gentlemen saw their fair ones to their parental homes.
Peter Carruth has rented the farm of Arch McTavish, near the dead fall hill.
Norton Peckham is getting material ready for a new blacksmith shop.
J. Patterson, who bruised his leg badly several weeks ago, is not able to be around yet.
George Roberts, cooper of this place, has moved to Lawrence Station.
- April 22 Several farmers who purchased self-binders are Alex McBride, Carroll Bros, James Graham, and Robert Fletcher.
Herman Ross has the frame up for his residence.
D.J. Campbell's residence is to be a two storey brick, instead of frame as we mentioned before. The main building is 26 x 30, the kitchen is 18 x 26.
William Salmon is getting out material for a house.
- July 22 Miss Nancy McBride, who had a large tumor removed, is seriously ill.
- July 29 Nancy McBride died Thursday morning, the funeral procession a long one with over 70 vehicles in attendance.
A heavy storm passed over on Sunday afternoon. Several trees and fences were blown down, besides the wheel of Mr. Peckham's windmill. Had the wheel not given way, the whole derrick would have blown down.
Malcolm Campbell died at the age of 42 years.
- Sept. 9 The infant child of Peter Carruth died on Saturday.
Mrs. Robert March is very ill.
A large number attended the circus.
Seeding is the order of the day, the kind chiefly sown is Democrat.
- Oct. 26 O. Peckham has moved into the shop he purchased from R.M. Martin.
- Nov. 30 Miss Minnie Geddes has been engaged to teach at No. 9.
A couple of weddings are to come off shortly in this section.
- Dec. 30 A happy occasion occurred at the residence of John Campbell on the river banks, the event being the marriage of his daughter, Lizzie to William Carroll.

1887

- Jan. 20 Mr. Thomas Griffin and Miss Jane Stacey were joined in holy bonds of matrimony on Thursday last.
A number of headstones and markers have been erected in the cemetery by Hutchison and Millar.
In spite of hard times quite a number of farmers are getting out material for building this summer.
A gentleman in this vicinity has been taken in by a harness swindler and we have heard of others in the township.
- Jan 14 J.C. Graham has been engaged to teach our school.
- Jan 24 Two young ladies of the village took it in their heads to have a sleigh ride the other day and took a horse and cutter belonging to a young farmer and drove into the village. The horse became frightened and turned everything upside down. Nothing serious occurred.
- Jan 27 Mr. Gilbert McCallum has secured the contract for carrying Her Majesties mail from Iona Station at a salary of \$79, his duties begin April 1st.
Mr. and Mrs. T. Griffin had a grand party last Wednesday to celebrate their marriage. The assembly was composed of 40 friends.
- Apr. 7 A number of buildings are to be erected this summer; W.M. Carroll a residence, Thomas McCallum a residence, Joseph McMillan a barn 36 x 66', D. Bennett a shed 40 x 72, M. McFarlane an implement shed, Jno. McCallum a bunk silo, Jno. McFarlane a barn 36 x 56, the public school is to be repaired and moved south west of the old site.
Our new mail carrier, Mr. McCallum, commenced his duties on April 1st Mr. McFarlane's time expiring.
William Marshman purchased a Bell organ from J.M. Jackson.
- ~~April~~ 21 Duncan R. Thomson's barn was discovered to be on fire. An adjoining barn and stable could not be saved. People gathered from far and near. Fences a hundred rods away caught fire, and it is reported burnt shingles were carried as far away as Largie, four miles. As the buildings were near the bush, it is believed that a tramp started the fire. Loss \$2,500.
- May 5 D. Thomson has decided to build a barn 45x80 with a stone cellar in place of the building burnt by fire.
At a ratepayers meeting it was decided not to repair the school house but to build a new one next year.
- May 12 Chauncey Peckham has opened out a temperance house on the corner of the 4th concession and Main Street.
- June 9 Daniel Thomson, one of the many old bachelors in this section, passed quietly over to the state of matrimony Wednesday last. He was married to Miss Crawford, Mosa, and we suggest that Dan's friends follow his example at once.
Gilbert McCallum has rented the house and lot of the Leipsey estate. A petition is being circulated by the stubborn ratepayers asking arbitrators to reconsider their award and give them a school at their door. It is too bad that a laird and a saint could not have his own way.
- Sept 15 A group of young men were returning from the evening service of the opening of the Methodist Church in Middlemiss and while crossing the river in a small skiff from Middlemiss to Pleasant Valley, the boat overturned from carrying too many, all were thrown into the stream. They waded to shore, badly scared and their holiday clothes badly damaged.

1888

- Mar 10 The concert given Friday evening by the musical union of this place under the management of Professor J.H. Le Blonde, was a decided success. The programme, which consisted of anthems, trios, quartettes, duets, solos and choruses, secular and sentimental, was one of the best ever disposed of in this place. At the close Mr. John Fletcher read an address and presided over the presentation of it to Mr. Le Blonde. It was signed on behalf of the music class who are : Jno. Fletcher, Maggie McFarlane, Christie Patterson, Duncan McNabb, Daniel Thomson and J. McTavish.
- Apr 17 Prof. J.H. Le Blonde will teach instrumental music to a large class this summer as he has proven himself successful in vocal teaching.
- Oct 31 Chicken thieves have been operating in this vicinity for some time. F. McCallum's new house is receiving a second coat of paint. Prof. Le Blonde will be in Cowal on Friday eve. to organize a vocal music class.
- Oct 27 A large number of ladies and gentlemen assembled at T. McCallum's on Monday afternoon, the event being a quilting and husking bee. After the day's work was done and tea over, all repaired to his new dwelling and tipped the "light fantastic" to the excellent music performed by Chauncey Peckham.

1889

- Jan 3 Mr. N.A. Campbell has been engaged to teach at Cowal for \$360. Mr. John Thomson, merchant, has been appointed postmaster as J. Patton is resigning. E. Anderson is preparing material for a large implement shed which he plans to erect in the spring.
- Jan 10 Dougald Murray of Ekfrid had John Campbell before Squires Hatton and Thomson on Thursday for assault and battery. On Christmas Day, Murray, who owns a farm in Dunwich just west of Campbell's, to which there is no road, went to open Campbell's fence and drive through his land when he was forbidden by Campbell and so Murray says he struck his head with a stick. Murray claims there was a road allowance left when the land was surveyed years ago; but Campbell does not agree. The squires would not give a decision until they consulted with the Crown Attorney. Campbell was fined \$1, with each paying a portion of the (fine) cost. While Mrs. John McCallum was in her house a bullet crashed through the door and struck the wall on the opposite side of the room. More care should be taken when rifle practising.
- Jan 24 W.M.S. was formed in connection with the Presbyterian Church. Last Thursday Arch Stacey had his goat-skin robe stolen. Two men were observed passing the village from Middlemiss, so Arch has a warrant out for their arrest. He and Detective Miller went to their house at midnight and found the robe upstairs. They were taken to St. Thomas court.
- Jan 31 Jno. Campbell had Dougald Murray before Squire Hatton for carrying a revolver. He was fined \$10. Duncan McCallum, east of the village, had his feet badly bruised while working in the Michigan lumber woods. The marriage of Sarah Marshman and George Milligan took place at the bride's parents.
- Feb 28 Forty relatives and friends gathered to honour Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McCallum on their 50th wedding anniversary. They were quite surprised but soon made everyone feel at home.