

- Mar 28 Squire Hatton met with a severe accident while on his way to Dutton. As he was driving over Ross hill, near Shackleton Steet, his horse became frightened of a poster flapping in the wind. The horse turned suddenly around, throwing Mr. Hatton out, dragging him and bruising him badly. He was stunned so badly as to be unable to speak to Mr. Ross who came to assist him.  
Mr. E. Anderson, who was painfully injured by the falling of an old log building a week ago, is rapidly recovering.  
Thomas Westcott intends going to England shortly.  
William Marshman had a quantity of meat stolen from an outhouse a few nights ago.
- Apr 4 The envelope system of paying contributions in the Presbyterian church came into use in church on Sunday.  
O. Peckham was in London last week exhibiting his new buggy gear.  
Mungo McNabb's only daughter, Annie, died last Monday rather suddenly. She had been subject all her life to convulsive fits. She was only five years old.
- Apr 18 Neil McCallum of the 5th concession has disposed of his farm to his brother, Alex McCallum, Yarmouth, for the stipulated price of \$4,000. I inform your readers that Middlemiss is not as bad as its reputation, that although it has been charged with nearly every crime in the calendar, still there is more moral and intellectual worth in the place than it usually gets credit for.
- May 2 Several men left with teams to work on the new railway at North Longwoods.  
William March has the job of drawing on the 4th concession the milk route to the Currie Road cheese factory.  
Alex McBride has material ready for a brick residence.  
Alex Campbell has received 300 fruit trees.
- May 16 Work has begun on Alex McBride's house.
- Nov 4 A case of obtaining squirrel tails under false pretences was settled out of court by the defendant paying damages and costs.  
Little or no fall plowing has been done due to the dry weather.
- Dec 12 Miss Jennie Rothwell, Dutton, has been engaged to teach at No 9 for \$300.  
Thomas Griffin has started his mill again.  
Mary Salmon married Joe Hodder.

1890

- Jan 2 Our roads are at present in a deplorable condition rendering travel almost impossible.  
John Wilton is building a neat dwelling house on the farm he purchased from Neil Duncanson.  
Dan McCallum of this place has obtained a situation from R.B. Campbell, merchant at Middlemiss, as general manager.  
Thomas Watson has been attending Glencoe High School.  
Our school is making excellent progress under the teaching and management of Miss Annie Shaw and our trustees have shown their appreciation of her services by re-engaging her for the ensuing year.  
James Bennett, our energetic and pushing contractor and builder, has the contract for a large number of buildings to be completed in the summer months.  
During the violent storm that passed over this vicinity on Friday morning the smoke stack on Thomas Griffin's saw mill was blown down, doing considerable damage to the engine room.
- Mar 20 Our roads are at present in a deplorable condition owing to the long open winter.  
Peter McCallum has purchased from John Snells, Edmonton, a pure Burkish pig.  
Peter McNabb has bought a small farm of 33 acres in Middlemiss for which he paid \$1,100.  
The knowing ones tell us that a number of weddings are looming up in the future. This is as it should be, as there are all together too many empty houses to be seen in the locality.

- Mar 20 Samuel Anderson and Archie McTavish are going into the business  
cont. of moving buildings this summer.
- May 22 The principal event of last week was a barn raising at Peter McBride's.  
The captains were Alex McLauchlin and Jos. Leslie. The Leslie men  
gave their opponents a tremendous defeat.  
The Presbyterians have papered their church. It now presents a  
pleasing appearance.  
Lot 22, 1st concession, containing 170 acres was sold last week to  
Wm. Heemum of London for \$4,200. It was occupied for quite a number  
of years by Archie McGugan.  
J.H. Westcott, carriage maker, is presently lying in a very critical  
condition.
- July 24 Farmers are busy this week cutting wheat. The sample this year is  
good and the yield will be much better than anticipated.  
Angus Murray lost a valuable colt by getting fast in a tree. The  
loss is all the more on account of its being one of a matched span.  
Jamie Glover, a young lad in the employment of D.A. McNabb attempted  
to run away last Friday but with the assistance of Mr. McCallum  
he was captured and brought back and now he is a sadder and wiser boy.  
Peter McDonald had a narrow escape the other day. He was driving a  
spare team belonging to John Campbell which was attached to a mowing  
machine. The horses made a sudden spring pitching Mr. McDonald out  
of his seat, the wheel of the machine passing over him but he escaped  
without serious injury.  
A piece of heavy timber on the top of a pike pole struck Alex Patter-  
son on the head at Smith's tile yard. He was picked up unconscious  
and Dr. McKillop was speedily summoned. No bones were broken, the  
most serious being a deep cut across the forehead. So violent was  
the blow received by Mr. Patterson, that his teeth were loosened.
- Dec 18 The young people of this vicinity are organizing a literary society  
to while away the long winter evenings. With the ability Cowal has,  
lively times may be expected.  
Mr. Mann, wood merchant of London, has a large force at work on  
Lot 22, 1st concession.  
Daniel McBride has secured the Lawrence School for \$850.  
Thomas Watson another of our boys has secured a school at Thamesville  
for \$850.  
Samuel Anderson, who has the contract for building a bridge across  
the river near Middlemiss, has the same nearly completed.  
Hugh McCallum has purchased John Tolman's 100 acres for \$3,750.

1891

- Feb 10 Our literary society is in a flourishing condition. We have the best  
society in the township. A number of leading questions have already  
been settled. Free trade is better for the County than protection.  
At our last meeting we discussed a question "Resolved that the press  
is more beneficial to mankind than the pulpit" Jim Graham, chairman,  
gave his decision in favour of the press. We expect to discuss the  
advisability of abolishing the Dutton High School, in the near future  
and would advise the trustees to move cautiously in the matter of  
engaging a fourth teacher until we decide upon the matter.  
The people of this place have decided to build a public hall. Subsc-  
ription lists have been sent through the neighbourhood and a sufficient  
amount realized to justify the undertaking. An energetic building  
committee is composed of Daniel McPherson, D.R. Thomson. P.C. McBride,  
John McTavish, A. Murray, Archie Thomson, and Joseph Leslie, with  
power to add names.  
Mr. Westcott is still in very critical condition with little  
hope of recovery.
- Mar 12 Rev. Mr. Urquhart, who has been the paster at Chalmers and Duff's,  
Largie, will preach his farewell sermon next Sabbath.
- Apr 9 Rev. Urquhart has gone to Chatham and he will be keenly missed by all.  
Annie McTavish married Duncan Ferguson, of Yarmouth and will make  
their new home in Yarmouth.

- Apr 16 The literary society has been brought to a close for the season and will meet in the new hall next winter.  
Mungo McFarlane has rented the North  $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 21, Conc. 2 and will move there shortly.  
Jim Bennett has commenced with his usual energy at Mr. Marshman's where he will raise a fine barn.  
Peter Salmon is also building a large shed and drive barn.  
D.J. Campbell and Mungo McFarlane are making additions to their barns. These, along with the new hall, will keep Jamie's spare time well occupied.  
Alex Smith has a full gang engaged for the summer to make brick and tile. He is making extensive improvements this spring by putting in a large boiler. He is going to build a new brick kiln in addition to the one he built last fall.  
The Southwold wing of Chalmers Presbyterian church are making a strong effort to build a church at Lawrence. If they succeed there will probably be a reconstruction of the present congregational area.

1892

- Mar 17 People in this vicinity have generally recovered from La gripe. Rev. Dr. McKay has gone to Guelph this week to visit his family. Jim Bennett was awarded the contract to build the bridge at Cowal, his being the lowest tender.
- Mar 24 George Carty's little girl was terribly scalded one day last week and now lies in critical condition.  
Alex McWilliam's oldest daughter, Maggie, is having serious trouble to one of her eyes supposed to be from the effects of measles which she had nearly a year ago. She is in London consulting one of the best opticians there and the prospects are that it will be alright.  
The boys around here are engaged for the summer. Dougald Clark goes to John Fletcher's, then he plans to go to the North West, Will McCallum has hired with Archie McWilliam.  
The building committee for veneering the manse at Cowal had a meeting Monday evening to secure tenders. The contract was awarded to Edward Small of Wallacetown. The response made by the congregation in this matter is highly commendable as evidenced by the fact that all or nearly all the funds required for the veneering are already provided by subscription which in large measure is due to the high esteem their new pastor, Rev. Dr. McKay is held by the congregation.
- Apr 14 H. Crites, merchant of this place, has disposed of his stock and goodwill to Mr. Forsyth, of Delaware Station, a young man of considerable business ability who is likely to do a good trade.  
Sam Anderson's bridge, as it is commonly termed, has been badly wrecked with the last freshet, a large part being carried away by the flood. As it affects very considerably the commercial interests in Middlemiss, plans are being made to have it repaired and put in condition to travel again.  
The Indians are having trouble with logs which they delivered at the Riverhurst Sale. The government agent demanded \$2 per thousand feet which they refused to pay. The dues they considered excessive. Some of them are lamenting the demise of old Sir John A., for if he were living their troubles would easily be adjusted.  
Alex McLauchlin brought home his young bride on Friday night and settled down for a quiet life on the old McAlpine homestead.  
Robert Clarke and Robert McMillan each sold a house recently for \$120.  
John Campbell, who sold his farm some time ago has bought a house and lot in Middlemiss.
- Aug 25 The woodwork of the Presbyterian manse, Cowal, has been given to A. Gordon, Dutton, who will commence operations at once.  
James Bennett threshed 428 bushels of his favourite variety of wheat, American Bronze, averaging 30 bushel to the acre.  
Large congregations gather every Sabbath to listen to Rev. Dr. McKay who is getting very popular in this part of the charge.  
Dougald Clarke and Alex McMillan have gone West on a prospecting trip.  
Alex Smith is making large quantities of brick and tile this season, his purpose is erecting a brick residence in the fall.
- Oct 20 The trustees of No 9 have purchased 1 acre of ground from Archie Campbell and have proposed moving the schoolhouse thereon as soon as possible.

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- Oct 20 Quite a large amount of money has been subscribed to repair the Sam Anderson bridge in Pleasant Valley. Jim Bennett is building a drive shed for Peter McNabb in Middlemiss. Edward Small has completed the brick work on the manse. Some of our boys were hit with fakerism at Wallacetown Fair. A severe winter is predicted by our local sportsmen owing to the unusual length of the fur on the animals.
- Nov 3 A meeting was held at Chalmers Church last Wednesday to consider the resignation of Rev. Dr. McKay which has been in the hands of presbytery for some time. His request to be released from the charge was so urgent that, although many went to the meeting to oppose the dissolution, they finally concluded to place no obstacle in the way of the resignation taking effect. Education matters are getting interesting at No 9. The trustees have decided to carry the matter of where to locate the school to arbitration. D.J. Campbell's sale on Saturday was poorly attended owing to the rough weather. However fair prices were realized. Miss Shaw has been engaged to teach at No 9.
- Dec 15 The young people of this place are making great preparations for having a grand time at their Christmas tree entertainment.
- Dec 22 The Literary Society, which has been organized here is progressing splendidly. The subject "Resolved that Napoleon was a greater general than Wellington" was so well debated that the affirmative side was the winner. Jessie Fletcher was united in marriage to William Little.
- 1893
- Feb 22 Wm. Dawson, agent for the Independant Order of Good Templers, is organizing a lodge in this place. Archie McLachlin has purchased the farm of the late Duncan Patterson containing 50 acres for the sum of \$1,550. As Archie is a pushing young man we are glad to have him locate in our midst. Dougald Morrison has purchased the house and lot in the village belonging to the estate of Mr. D. Patterson, the consideration being \$300. Mr. Hugh McCallum and John Fletcher are going to put brick foundations under their barns. Mungo McFarlane and Joel Leslie are dissolving partnership. Mungo will carry on the business himself.
- Mar 6 Archie McLachlin is building a neat frame house on the farm he recently purchased. Mrs. Andrew McFarlane has had a severe attack of inflammation to the bowels. It has been checked and now she is on a fair way to recovery. The measles were a common visitor this spring. Bob Clarke has taken possession of John A. McKay's farm, and being strong handed, will carry on farming on a more extensive scale. James Bennett, who purchased the Eaton farm last year, has limited his building operations, however he has contracted for barns for Thomas Salmon, Archie McVanell, and Mrs. Hood.
- Apr 1 Mr. Forsyth, our popular merchant is selling off at cost and leaving. Peter McKenzie who is doing a very successful blacksmithing trade is going to the North- West. Alex Smith is running his brickyard at full blast. He has strong intentions of making another test of his gas well this year. A large barn raising took place at Daniel McNabb's, Townline, Southwold.
- Aug 17 Doctors Ruthven and McKillop performed an operation last Thursday on Archie McWilliam's leg on which they extracted considerable decayed bone. The school house has been moved 30 rods west and is being veneered and otherwise improved by Beech Bros. of Middlemiss. It now presents a respectable appearance and much credit is due to the trustees for the energy they have shown in providing so magnanimously for the safety and comfort of our children.

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- Aug 17 Harvesting has been rather inferior, however James Bennett has threshed  
cont. 940 bushels with more to thresh. The red Clawson takes the lead  
in yields.  
Alex Salmon who has been ailing all summer is seriously indisposed  
with little hope of recovery.
- Aug 31 Alex Salmon passed away at the age of 57 from cancer. He lived  
east of the village and was a bachelor.
- Sept 21 Bill March, John Patterson, and John Milton are in Chicago this  
week attending the World's Fair.  
Alex Smith is building a beautiful brick residence this fall.  
Joe McMullen is also building a frame house.  
John Turner is also building a two storey cottage which will be  
a neat commodious residence.  
Alex Campbell's young orchard which is the largest and finest in these  
parts is making splendid progress reflecting no low credit to  
Mr. Campbell's husbandry.  
Among the sick are Mrs. A. McLauchlin, John M. McCallum, Maggie  
Fisher and A.P. Campbell's youngest child.
- Dec 7 Miss Annie Shaw has resigned as teacher at No 9 and her sister, Flora,  
will in all probability be engaged in her place. Salaries are  
running around \$350.  
The young people are making preparations for their Christmas tree  
entertainment.  
Donald McCallum is going to build a large bank barn this coming  
season. He has let the contract out to James Bennett.  
Alex Smith has bought the milling business of Mr. Cameron in  
Glencoe and is busily setting it up. He will be ready to grind  
in a few weeks for either toll or commission.
- Dec 21 Things are booming around Cowal. The most auspicious event of the  
present time is the marriage of Mr. James McMullen to Miss Blake  
of Ekfrid.  
John Patterson Sr., an old resident of this place, is in very feeble  
condition with little hope of recovering.

1894

- Jan 11 It is our sad duty to chronicle the sad death of Mrs. Archie Campbell.  
Her remains were taken to Mosa Township.  
It is reported that a general store will soon be opening in this place.  
It is something that is much needed.  
Angus McCallum, who has been in B.C. for the past 12 months, is  
home again and will spend the winter with his friends. It is reported  
that Angus is as fat as a butcher and tells some big yarns about B.C.
- Mar 1 The managers of Cowal church have decided to have a tea meeting on March  
15 the day Rev. McNeil will be inducted.  
The funeral of the late John Patterson took place on Monday. The  
Rev. Thomas Willson conducted the service. Over 100 vehicles  
followed the remains to their last resting place.  
David Forsyth has opened out in Cowal with a stock of groceries.  
A general blacksmith is much needed in this place, as McKenzie Bros.  
have given up and moved to London.
- Mar 15 Rev. John McNeil will preach his inaugural sermon next Sunday at  
Cowal and Duff's, Largie.  
Angus McCallum leaves this week for B.C. to resume his occupation  
of lumbering.
- Mar 22 There are very few buildings going up this year.
- May 10 Bill Little has bought the Nelson farm West  $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 22, Conc 4 for  
~~\$3,500~~ \$3,500.

- May 10 Business is booming in Cowal. Two blacksmiths, one from Aylmer, the other from London, have decided to locate here. John Thomson, who was formerly a merchant and post master in this place has come back to resume business here again. Scarlet fever, which was prevalent here for some time and which alarmed the people has, under the care of Dr. Cascaden, been pretty well stamped out. Alex Smith is resuming the manufacture of tile and brick.
- Sept 13 The young people are proposing to organize a Christian Endeavour Society. Joe McMullen, who was injured some time ago by being thrown from his buggy, lies in critical condition without much hope of recovery. McBride Bros. have purchased South  $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 16, Conc. 4 from Robert Kerr for \$2,600. Mr. Friar, Muskoka, has purchased South  $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot B, Conc. 4 for \$2,200. The good people of Cowal have suffered rather severely from fires this year. Their feelings and sympathies had scarcely recovered from the loss sustained by Mrs. M. Campbell and Donald McCrea, her tenant, when the news came again that Robert J. Gilbert's buildings with all his season's crops are in ashes. Mr. Gilbert's loss will be severely felt as his insurance is light. The fire was caused by lightning.
- Oct 4 Mr. R.J. Gilbert whose barns were burnt has already given a contract to James Bennett to build a bank building to be completed this fall. Charles Smith is doing a rush business this fall manufacturing sorghum.

1895

- Jan 31 There is an effort being made to have daily mail here.
- May 30 A contribution of \$70 as an expression of sympathy was sent to Mrs. Urquhart following the death of her husband who was pastor here for 14 years. Peter McBride is visiting relatives. He is spry at 82 years old. Mr. John McCallum of the 5th concession, one of our most progressive farmers, has concluded it is not good for man to live alone and has become a benedict. He was united in marriage to Miss French, Shackleton Street. Neil Campbell has let the contract for his barn basement to Fred Allan of Iona. Duncan McLean arrived this week to buy sheep.
- June 7 James Bennett has the contract for building a bridge on the 2nd conc. Mr. McBride, Southwold, has purchased the westerly part Lot 20, 1st concession, 49 acres. James Duncanson who consigned a valuable team of horses to the old country for sale has met with a heavy loss. One of them took sick and died and the expense incurred absorbed nearly all the profit.
- July 11 Severe frost did much damage. Peas, corn, etc. are lying black in the gardens. There were high temperatures the day before and then they went down to freezing on Tuesday night.
- Aug 8 James E. Graham has built a foot bridge of page wire fencing across the river Thames, across from Lot 24 to give access to the people to get to Middlemiss. The people of this community are rejoicing in the prospect of having daily mail which will likely effectuate about October 1.
- Sept 5 Tenders are now being received for the erection of the Deadfall Bridge. Threshing is in full force with yields of 40-80 bushel to the acre.
- Nov 6 Work on the Deadfall Bridge is progressing favourably and will be ready for travel before long.

1896

- Jan 30 The question of having an organ in the church came up before the Young Peoples Society and was voted down.
- May 12 McBride Bros. are building a house on the 5th concession. John Milroy is resigning after two years at No 9. It is rumored that D.S. McMillan of Largie will fill his place.
- Nov 19 The house of Sidney Wilson was totally destroyed by fire on Saturday morning. It is supposed the fire originated from a defective chimney. Insurance \$300. Jim Bennett was in Toronto and contracted with a firm to supply them with a quantity of pressed hay for which he received \$11 a ton. The Royal Temperance League is planning an oyster supper.
- Nov 26 Threshing is the order of the day with yields of 15-30 bushel per acre. D. McNabb has started for the old country with a consignment of horses. Turner Bros, who are busy getting material together, plan to build a new brick house. They have given the contract to Mr. McKellar of Glencoe and they intend to do the carpenter work themselves. Sam McColl went on the Labour Excursion to Manitoba. He expects to be away for some time. George McCarty has leased the McKenzie property at Cowal and takes possession at once.
- Dec 18 Alex Smith is making preparations to build a new barn next spring on a brick foundation. Mr. Turner's new brick residence is nearly completed and is a handsome structure, it being the design of Dowsell of Dowsell and Smith of Dutton. The people in the vicinity were entertained by concerts put on by a medicine company.

1898

- Mar 30 There has been some move in real estate lately. Dave March has bought 25 acres from Mr. Marshman, being the North  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Lot 20, 5 South of A, the consideration being \$1,750; Marshman's have bought Dick Ellison's farm of 50 acres being South  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Lot 21, Gore Concession, price \$1,500. John McBride has laid out a new cemetery across from the Cowal Cemetery.
- June 9 Jim Bennett had a large barn raising last Tuesday with over 100 men present. After an excellent spread the remainder of the evening was spent in dancing.
- July 7 A large number attended the picnic at Port Stanley on Friday. Some of the young people missed the train and had to stay in Port.
- July 27 Some of the farmers are complaining that their cattle are being afflicted with a disease of the eyes and are likely to go blind.
- Sept 14 A number went to London Fair this week. Mrs. David Bennett is having a serious time at present in getting a silver tube removed from her eye. Drs. Cascaden and Ling performed an operation Saturday without success and on Monday an expert from London was called in but he failed to remove it. Mrs. Bennett is considerably prostrated from the effects of the operation. Mrs. Flo and Carrie Shaw have moved to Dutton where they will carry on their dress making business.

Oct 20 At the manse in Cowal last night a very quiet marriage was solemnized. The contracting couple being Mr. Peter Carruth and Miss Christena McTavish, youngest daughter of the late Mr. John McTavish of Dunwich. The ceremony was performed by Rev. J. McNeil. Mr. and Mrs. Carruth will take up residence north of Cowal.

1899

Jan 19 Mrs. Janet McCallum, assistant post master at Cowal, had the misfortune to have her house burn on Wednesday the 11th. The fire originated through a defective chimney and got such a headway before discovered that it was impossible to stop it. A number of people were present and helped to take some of the contents out but a large percentage were burnt. There is a small insurance. The office which was kept in Mrs. McCallum's house is now kept in the General Store kept by John Thomson who will act as assistant post master in the future.

Apr 1 A number are down with quinzey. Alex Smith is thinking of putting in machinery to make 10 inch tile.

July 13 The Ladies Aid have purchased an organ for the church. Farmers are busy cutting wheat and the crop is poor. W. McCallum is building himself a beautiful brick residence this summer. D. McPhedron is also building a fine brick house on the homestead. Both buildings are near each other on the 3rd concession and will improve the appearance of the locality very much. Mrs. David Bennett returned from a trip to Saginaw and Detroit.

Sept 6 The people of Cowal are greatly elated over the news of the new enterprise about to be started in the village. Mr. Atkinson, of Cashmere, has leased the Thomas Griffin saw mill for a term of three years. He will at once put in machinery for a stave mill and will employ about ten men.

Oct 19 Dave Anderson had a windmill rebuilt on his farm.

1900

Jan 3 John Watson and John McNabb have purchased the Mann farm consisting of 100 acres, the former paying \$1,300 and the latter \$1,150. Mr. Watson paid for the west  $\frac{1}{4}$  and Mr. McNabb the east  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

Mar 28 A delegation of ministers met with the congregation of Chalmers church on Monday evening to discuss the advisability of uniting Chalmers and Lawrence Station, Southwold, into one pastoral charge. After a full discussion a resolution was carried not to disturb the present connection with Duff's, Largie. At a meeting it was decided to take the necessary steps to build a new church and a committee appointed to confer with Mr. Durrach, architect from St. Thomas with the view of securing plans for a suitable ediface to be erected where the present structure stands. Mr. Atkinson who is running the saw mill got in an immense number of logs. Building operations are booming again. Two new dwellings are being erected in the village. Thomas McCallum is putting up a barn, Duncan McBride is building a barn, Alex Turner a barn, and Duncan McPhail a brick residence. Sidney Wilson has bought the old Arch Thomson farm, 100 acres from D.M. Tait, St. Thomas, for \$3,000. Sid is a hustler. Mrs. Daniel Patterson, who has been seriously ill from congestion of the lungs is slowly improving.

May 17 Peter Salmon Sr. will likely retire from farming, as he purchased a house in Middlemiss.



- May 17 There is a good deal of dissatisfaction in Chalmers church at the prospect of being separated from Duff's, Largie, and they likely will oppose such taking effect.  
Wm. March and Peter J. McCallum are raising their barns and putting basements under them.
- June 16 Moses Lumley and Ben McIntyre, of Iona, have moved a number of buildings in these parts during the past week.  
There has been quite a loss in spring colts this year.  
Alex J. McMillan has purchased the residence of the late Wm. Goldie together with four acres of land from Mrs. Goldie for \$1,050.  
J.W. McCallum is building a two storey brick veneer cottage, built on a stone foundation, W. Caven, Dutton, carpenter, James Morrison, mason.
- Nov 11 The managers of the church decided to canvass the congregation for \$3,000 to build a new church.  
The McCallum Bridge is almost complete. It was cut down to 16 feet, the balance of 90 feet being filled in with dirt.  
Charles Smith has sold his farm to Mr. Beecroft.  
Will Hatton has purchased Sam E. Clarke's farm - S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Lot 24, Conc. 5.  
Alex J. McMillan has moved to the farm he bought from Wm. Goldie. Alex is a good citizen and will be missed.

### 1901

- Jan 17 Arch Cambell has bought the North  $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 19, 3rd concession from Samuel Maccoli for the sum of \$4,000.  
Arch McLachlin and McBride Bros. are building barns.  
C.D. Turner is building a new residence on Lot 17, 2nd concession.
- May 23 Angus Murray north of Cowal had a barn raising.  
Work has commenced on the new church at Cowal. The trustees of the Hall have kindly consented to allow the Hall to be moved to another site and the new church will be erected where the Cowal Hall now stands.  
Lachlin Currie sold his matched span of twin colts to George Carroll, Lawrence, for \$200.  
James E. Graham, couñillor, has purchased S.E. part Lot 11, 3rd Conc., 42 acres from Mrs. Goldie for \$1,750.
- Sept 5 John Marshman is building a beautiful new brick residence this year and Jas. Morrison of Dutton has the contract for the masonry.
- Nov 7 Work is being pushed on the church and it is hoped to be finished by January.  
Alex Smith has purchased a fancy breed of sheep from D.A. Campbell, Strathburn, for which he paid a long price.  
The stave and hoop mill has been turning out large quantities of staves and hoops this year.  
Mr. Atkinson is having a new dwelling erected on the lot of Mrs. G. McCallum.
- Nov 29 Angus Murray is moving his dwelling to a more convenient place on the hill farm.
- Dec 19 John Fletcher has sold the S  $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 24, 2nd Conc. to his cousin, Angus Fletcher, Ekfrid, for \$5,600.  
The session of the church have decided to introduce the organ and the Book of Praise and have appointed Miss Maggie Campbell as organist.

### 1902

- Jan 9 John M. and Will Campbell have bought from Wm. Little W $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 21, 4th Conc. for \$4,400.  
D. G. McTavish is preparing to build a bak barn 40 x 60 on a concrete foundation.
- Feb 13 Neil McFayden died at 81 years of age and was buried in Ekfrid Cemetary.

- Feb 27 On Sunday the first service was held in the new church which is capable of holding 400 people. The building cost \$4,000. John and Dougald Campbell are building a barn, John Carroll a new brick residence, and Angus Murray is veneering and improving his house. Alex and John Clark have moved to Campbellton. A quiet wedding took place at the home of Mungo McFarlane February 26 when his eldest sister, Jessie, became the bride of William Fallick of Ekfrid. Margaret Campbell married Dougald McTavish.
- Apr 3 Mr. and Mrs. Dougald McTavish were honoured on their marriage and presented with a silver tea service. Wm. Whitelock has rented from Alex Smith, Sam T. McColl's house and a few acres of land and will move his family there soon. William Little has moved to Southwold.
- Apr 17 Daniel Patterson has bought the old Presbyterian church and will move it on his farm soon. Wm. McRae has the milk route to the Cranston's cheese factory.
- July 20 William Little, who bought a farm in Southwold, has sold it and bought a farm here from Angus Fletcher for \$5,700.
- Oct 10 William Little, who recently bought the Crosson farm, has bought a dwelling from Peter Campbell, Lawrence, and is having it moved here. Mr. Coates of Ridgetown, who purchased the stave and hoop factory, is making extensive alterations. Duncan McCallum is veneering his house.
- Dec 19 Several new dwelling houses are being erected in Cowal. They are being erected for the workmen at the stave mill. The managers of the church are arranging the seating of the new church so that every family will have their own seat.

1903

- Jan 1 Mr. Clifton Griffin married Miss T. Everingham, Cashmere. He is working at the stave mill.
- Feb 8 The church managers have decided to build 100 feet more sheds, to plant trees and to build a platform from the door to the road.
- Mar 26 Peter Salmon sold his farm and is moving to Dutton. The people of this vicinity have emerged from the greatest seige of mud in a quarter of a century, although in most cases "skin hale and scart free." Wm. March has purchased the D. March farm being N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Lot 18, 5 N of A.
- Apr 10 Wm. Whitelock has moved to the Philip Eaton farm. D.J. Campbell is erecting a large barn. D.T. McCallum has the contract for drawing milk to Cranston's factory.
- Apr 23 The church has changed to evening services at 7:30.
- May 14 Anna Ibbitson married David Crosson, Southwold, and will live at Lawrence Station.
- June 4 McPhedain Bros. have purchased from Alex McBride, of Southwold, S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Lot 2, Conc. 2, 50 acres.
- June 18 James Bennett, 16 years old, died, the youngest son of David Bennett. He has four brothers and two sisters.
- Aug 26 Ellen Milton married William McCallum. Herb Myers new house in Cowal is near completion.
- Oct 15 D.H. McCallum has been appointed to the General Conference of the Free Methodist Church with two appointments in the Northwest, near Indian Head.

OCTOBER 22, 1903

STAVE MILL AT COWAL BURNS

A disastrous fire occurred at Cowal on Saturday night, by which Mr. Coates stave and heading mill was destroyed. The fire was discovered about 11 o'clock, when it was noticed breaking through the roof. Willing workers were quickly on the scene, but the flames had made such headway that it was impossible to save the building.

The origin of the fire is a mystery. The mill closed down at the usual hour, and everything was left by the employees, apparently in safe condition. The building was owned by Thomas Griffin and was used as a saw mill until converted into a stave mill a few years ago. It contained machinery to the value of \$4,000 which was considerably damaged. Mr. Coates places his loss on property at between \$3,000 and \$4,000, besides the loss sustained in being unable to furnish barrel material, for which there is an unusual demand. The insurance is \$1,000 in London Mutual.

Mr. Coates, who was in Dutton on Tuesday, stated that he did not know whether the mill would be rebuilt, but that the probabilities were that it would not.

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Dec 24 Ida McCallum, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald McCallum married Duncan G. McCallum.

1904

Jan 14 A.C. Turner has purchased from J.B. Coates, of Ridgetown, the farm formerly owned by Mr. Turner containing 100 acres for \$3,700.

Feb 24 Mrs. Ellen McCallum, wife of William McCallum, died 23 years of age, the daughter of Joseph Milton, and leaves two brothers and three sisters.

Mar 3 Wm. Marshman lost his barn and lean-to in an unusual February lightning storm, the loss at \$1,200. Angus McLachlin died, age 92 years. He was a native of Knapdale, Scotland emigrating with his parents in 1831 and settled in Ekfrid, then living in Dunwich for 39 years. The farmers in Pleasant Valley are building a low-water bridge across the Thames, a short distance from the Cowal Sideroad. Arch. Campbell purchased from J. and W. Campbell S  $\frac{1}{4}$  Lot 19, Conc 2, for \$1,700. Mr. Campbell now has almost a solid block of 250 acres.

Mar 17 James Ross disposed of S  $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 21, 5 N. of A to John Carroll for \$2,800. David Anderson has purchased from James Ross S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Lot B, Conc. 5 N of A, 50 acres for \$750. Wm. McCallum intends giving up farming and is going into the telephone service. He is leasing his land to his brother, John A. McCallum. Arch Whitelock has secured the milk route to Cranston's cheese factory.

April Dutton News states "The work on J.B. Coates veneer, stave and heading mill is rapidly pushing forward. Already 38 men are employed and before long this force will be increased to 100."

May 19 John Fletcher is moving back on his old farm which he repurchased for \$5,600. Quite a number of farmers have bought cream separators and will be sending milk and cream to the new Dutton Creamery.

Sept 15 Doctor Cascaden died. A new bridge is being built across the creek opposite Mr. Anderson's farm, John D. Black overseeing the work. Mrs. Andrew McMillan, 25 years of age, daughter of Malcolm McIntyre, died. Herb Myers, blacksmith, owing to ill health, has given up blacksmithing. David Bennett intends going west in the spring and is disposing of his purebred horses and sheep.

- Oct 20 Duncan Black Jr. is having a beautiful brick building erected on his farm on the 3rd concession.
- Dec 9 Angus Fletcher purchased Malcolm Campbell's homestead, Ekfrid, for \$5,300, including implements, household furnishings, provided a relative would buy the farm.  
Peter Bennett and his bride have settled on Lot 18, Conc. 4.

### 1905

- Jan 12 Thomas Griffin has given up all thoughts of rebuilding his saw mill and plans on going into the poultry business.  
John D. Black is building a 40 x 65 basement barn.  
Alex Kindree has left to work in Hamilton with the Deering Co.  
A map of the cemetery is to be drawn up. There are 30 good plots left yet.
- Feb 2 Neil McCallum disposed of his farm N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Lot A, 3rd Conc. to Peter McBride for \$2,200.  
Duncan G. McCallum is moving to Dutton, having bought Mr. Black's Dray business.
- Mar 17 The ten month old son of Angus Murray died.  
Peter Bennett is giving up farming and leaving town.
- July 21 Alex C. Turner is building a new residence.  
Malcolm Murray bought from John Murray Lot 22, B.F.A. for \$1,500.  
David Anderson has purchased the residence of Herb Myers, Mr. Anderson will probably give up farming.
- Sept 1 Herb Myers has moved to Frome.
- Mrs. Alex Urquhart has located in Cowal and is teaching music, having 20 pupils.
- Nov. 16 Scarlet fever has made an appearance.

### 1906

- Jan 25 John Thomson, who is post master and general store merchant, has disposed of his business to Mr. Morrison, London, who will take possession in the spring. Mr. Thomson expects to move to his fruit farm north of Leamington.
- Feb 15 Mrs. Wm. Salmon died, 64 years. She resided over 50 years in Dunwich. She is survived by her husband, Daughters Mrs. J.H. Hodder, Dutton, Mrs. C. Dicker, Dunwich, and son Peter at home. Burial Cowal.
- Alex Campbell is building a large barn.  
John Carroll purchased from Bray McLellan 150 acres for \$6,200. Mr. Carroll now has 400 acres.
- Feb 22 Wm. Salmon has given up farming and has gone to live with his son, Thomas at Bennett's Corner.  
The low-water bridge at Cowal was damaged by flooding and there is no thoroughfare at present.
- Apr 12 John Thomson has left.
- June 1 M. McFarlane has been awarded the contract for four years to convey the daily mail from Cowal to Iona Station.  
Arch and Duncan Black have exchanged farms and taken possession.

August 16, 1906

Cowal was visited by a disastrous fire on Thursday at noon when the Post Office and general store of J.A. McGugan burned. The fire originated upstairs where a quantity of goods were stored and its cause is a mystery. The building was a wooden structure and the fire spread rapidly, thus permitting only a small portion of the contents to be removed and in a damaged condition. Adjoining the store was the dwelling house and it was also destroyed, together with its contents, which included a number of articles belonging to Mrs. Urquhart. A small quantity of mail matter burned, including one registered letter. The building was owned by J. Thomson and was insured for \$800. Mr. McGugan's loss is \$2,000, being partly insured.

- Sept 7 The new store in Cowal is in the course of erection and will soon be open for trade.
- Oct 11 Mr. R. Adams, our village blacksmith has decided to locate permanently here. He has purchased the corner lot owned by Sidney Wilson and is getting material on the ground for a dwelling. He is fixing up a temporary shop which will be ready in a few days.
- Nov 22 Thomas Griffin has completed a neat little store and will open out shortly for business with a full line of general merchandise.
- June Middlesex County is considering constructing a bridge across the Thames River between Ekfrid and Dunwich, opposite Lot 14, Ekfrid. It is to be a concrete and steel structure.

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After the stove mill burned most of the mill workers left Cowal, their homes were moved to other locations and Cowal's population steadily fell from 50 people to a very few. Griffin's Store and one or two houses remained. Then in the early 1940's the store closed, leaving only Chalmers church and the Communiy Hall and one or two dwellings. Although there are few buildings in Cowal today, the community spirit remains strong and " Home is where the heart belongs."