

SETTLERS AND EARLY HISTORY

Of "The Harder Settlement", or Gore of Aldborough. Reunion July 1, 1907.

1820	Amos Thomas	Lot 18.	Broken Front
	Samuel Colly	Lot 17.	Concession 1
1830-40	Elijah Sutton	Lot 21.	Broken Front
	Mr. Mulligan	Lot 19.	Concession B
	Mr. Graves	Lot 20.	Broken Front
	John Shaw	Lot 22.	Broken Front
	William Dykes	Gore.	Broken Front
1842	Adam Harder	N $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 22	Concession 2
1847	Alex MacRae	Lot Y	Broken Front
1849	Henry Dobbin	S $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 22	Concession 2
	Peter Johnson	Lot 21.	Concession A
1847	Christopher Matheson	E $\frac{1}{2}$ Gore	Concession 1
	Colin MacLennan	W $\frac{1}{2}$ Gore	Concession 1
1850	Arch. MacEachran	N $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 23	Concession 2
	Donald MacEachran	S $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 23	Concession 2
	James MacLean	S $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 21	Concession 1
	Kenneth MacLean	Lot Z	Broken Front
	D. & A. MacLean	Lot Y	Concession A
	James Stalker	S $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 23	Concession 1
1851	Peter Stewart	Lot 22.	Concession A
	Donald Currie	N $\frac{1}{2}$ 21	Concession 1
	Duncan Stalker	W $\frac{1}{2}$ 21	Concession 2
1852	Neil MacEachran	N $\frac{1}{2}$ Z.	Concession 2
	Donald MacGill	W $\frac{1}{2}$ Y.	Concession 2
	Arch. McMurchie	N $\frac{1}{2}$ Z.	Concession A
	John McMurchie	N $\frac{1}{2}$ Gore	Concession 2
	Donald Graham	S $\frac{1}{2}$ Gore	Concession 2
	Hugh MacCowan	Gore.	Concession 3
	Finlay McNabb	E $\frac{1}{2}$ Y.	Concession 2
	Arch. McKillop	Lot 22.	Concession 3
1853	William Harder	Lot 22.	Concession 4
	Dugald MacKeith	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 23.	Concession 3
	John MacLean	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 23.	Concession 3
	Hugh Calder	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Z	Concession 3
	Arch. MacCallum	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Z	Concession 3
	Peter and A. McNeil	Lot 17.	Concession 2
	Dugald MacMillan	Lot 18.	Concession 1
	Gilbert Stalker	Lot 19.	Concession 1
	Peter MacMillan	Gore.	Concession A
1854	Edward Ramsay	Lot 19.	Concession 2
	Thomas Bearan	Lot 19.	Concession 7
	Alfred Leverington	E $\frac{1}{2}$ 22	Concession 4
1855	Dugald and Arch. Sillars	N pt. Y & Z.	Concession 4
	Dugald MacCallum	S $\frac{1}{2}$ Y.	Concession 3
	John MacLellan	S $\frac{1}{2}$ 24	Concession 2
	F. Tasker	E $\frac{1}{2}$ 24	Concession 3
	Robert Jamieson	N $\frac{1}{2}$ 24	Concession 4
1856	John Cole	N $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 21	Concession 3

1856	Peter & Donald McKellar	Gore	Concession 4
	Alex. Crawford	Lot 22	Concession 1
1857	Angus & Duncan MacMillan	Lot 18	Concession 3
	John MacDonald	N ¹ / ₂ Y & Z	Concession 1
1858	Alex. & Hugh MacColl	Lot 21	Concession 7
	William Morrison	E ¹ / ₄ 17	Concession 1
1861	Duncan MacColl	S ¹ / ₂ 24	Concession 4
	Duncan MacGill	N ¹ / ₂ Y	Concession 3
	John Frank	N ¹ / ₂ 24	Concession A
	John Cook	S ¹ / ₂ 24	Concession A

The first scow was built of three canoes, fastened together by poles or scantling thirty feet long and ten feet wide and covered with plank. On this floating bridge the pioneers of this section crossed the River Thames at Mr. Sutton's sugar bush and did all their business in the village of Wardsville. Three other scows were used until 1876. A wooden bridge was erected on the Graham Road by the Counties of Elgin and Middlesex, and the iron bridge which now crosses was built in 1888.

In 1840 there was a sleigh track going to the southwest of the large marsh, used by the Mosa settlers to go after shingle bolts and known as "Pinery Road". In 1854 the concessions and sideroads were partly cleared and hills graded, bridges built and corduroy roads made over the swamps.

The Crinan Postoffice was opened in May, 1858, by Mr. Duncan McIntyre, in a building formerly occupied by one Mr. Paups, who kept a small grocery, but failed. The mail was carried on horseback or on foot between here and Wardsville once a week until 1875, when it was carried three times a week to Dutton.

In 1853 an attempt was made to build a schoolhouse on Lot 21, Con. A, but after building four rounds high, the trustees disagreed, and concluded to build on the corner of south half Lot 21, Concession 1, the size being 18X24 feet. The seats were made of split basswood with four round pins for legs. The desks were built along both sides, where the large pupils sat and the smaller ones sat in the centre. The master sat at the north end, where there was a window, and two small windows were on each side of the door, the door being at the south end. From this small academy more students of different professions have gone out than from any other country school in the province.

School opened in 1855. The following is a list of the teachers:- Jane Grant, R. Smith, D. M. Johnson, R. Matheson, Thos. Strachan, Rev. A. McLean, Blyth; John Blower, T. Froude, Mr. Watson, D. S. McColl, D. McKenzie, D. Johnson, Margaret Stalker, D. Johnson, D. C. Johnson, Alex. McDonald, Donald MacMillan, Rev. Dugald Currie. And after the section was divided:- Angus McBride, Miss Norton, Wm. Graham, Alex. McKillop, M.D., Daniel Stalker, Arch. Carmichael, Daniel McLean, J. Johnson, A. Milloy, D.S., Maggie MacMillan, John Bayne. Alex Thomson, David Andrews, Miss Dobie, D.B. Johnson, engaged for 1907.

The first Presbyterian missionary was Arch. Currie, who died at Duart a few years ago, holding service in Elder Johnson's house until the schoolhouse was finished in 1855.

In 1861 a frame church was built and in 1884 it was remodelled.

The first pastor was Rev. Neil McKinnon, between Wardsville and Crinan, 1861 to 1871.

In November, 1871, a call to Rev. John Milloy was given and shortly after a church being built in West Lorne the two congregations were united.

The doctors who got their first education in this wonderful section, No. 9, are Dr. Murdock Matheson, of Waverly, N.S.W., who holds a responsible government position; Dr. John Stalker, formerly of Ridgetown, who was also a very successful doctor; Dr. Alex. Matheson, Daniel McEachren, Arch. McEachren, Neil McEachren, druggist, Buffalo, and A. Milloy, D.S.

The ministers who received education in this school are:- Rev. D.C. Johnson, H. Currie, B.A., of Thedford; D. Currie, B.A. of Perth; Elias Battel, Daniel Stalker, B.A., of Calumet, Mich.; A. McLean, of Ohio, and John McMillan, Ph. D.

J.J. Stalker, lawyer, of Indianapolis, Indiana, and John A. Matheson, of Barnum's law office, Dutton, attended this school also.

Mr. D. B. Johnson, B.A., of the Vancouver, B.C. high school; Mr. D. Andrews, B.A., principal of the Elora high school, and Alex. McIntyre, of the Winnipeg Normal school, received their early education in the settlement.

In 1872 Section No. 9 was divided in two halves and No. 12 was formed, taking the south half of the second concession from the division line in the townline between Aldborough and Dunwich, and as far south as the N¹/₂ Con. 7, No. 12. School opened in 1872 in Mr. Wm. Harder's old house. In the same year a frame schoolhouse was erected on southwest corner of Lot 22, Con. 3, by Geo. McKellar, where school was taught until 1890, when a brick building was erected costing \$1,100. The following is a list of teachers: Miss Henry, Miss Rutherford, J. B. Campbell, A. McKillop, Wm. Graham, Miss Lugsdin, J. Chute, Miss V. Campbell, Alex. McIntyre, Wm. Jamieson, Miss A. Moir, J. Emery, M. Munroe, Miss Mary McColl.

Crinan congregation was organized in 1861. Rev. Neil McKinnon, pastor. Elders, Peter Johnson, F. McRae, Gilbert Stalker. Deacons, Duncan Stalker, Jas. Stalker, Donald Currie, James McLean.

Nov., 1871, Rev. John Milloy was pastor. Elders, James McLean, Duncan Campbell, John Johnson, Dugald Stewart.

Nov., 1901, Rev. A.H. Kippen was pastor. Elders, John McLean, John G. Stalker, D. McEachren.

1905, Rev. A. J. Mann, B.A., became pastor.

DUGALD MACKETH.
J. G. STALKER.

THE STORY OF THE CRINAN MAIL

The coming of the mail each day is a very pleasant interest in our daily routine. The newspaper brings the outside into our homes and the friendly letters or parcels that we find remind us of our friends' interests and thoughts of us. Imagine the delight the first settlers in the forests of East Aldborough when they got news from the friends they had left in the homeland. It is recalled that some of these settlers had used their last shilling to send a letter home.

As Wardsville was the nearest village to the Crinan Settlement, the people went there for their mail in the early 1850's. When the district became more organized the Crinan Post Office was opened on June 4th, 1859 with Mr. Duncan McIntyre as postmaster. The following is a copy of the original document appointing him as postmaster.

Letter of Appointment to postmastership

Post Office Department,
Toronto, 4th June, 1959.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to appoint you to be Postmaster of

Crinan in the Electoral
County of Elgin in this Province

You are therefore hereby authorized to exercise all the functions and discharge all the duties appertaining to the said, Office, according to Law.

I am, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

Sidney Smith,

Postmaster General.



To - Mr. Duncan McIntyre

Crinan

County Elgin.



CRINAN POSTMASTER AND COURIER

Mrs. Stewart McIntyre and Mr. McIntyre, will be relieved of their duties the end of the month, after the Post Office and route have been operated by the McIntyre family since it was first organized on June 4th, 1859. Here they stand by their little "post office", which

is in one corner of their kitchen. After the 1st of July Post Office Dept. officials will pick up three sets of scales and other post office equipment. Commencing the first week in July the Crinan route will be included in West Lorne route one.

— Mercury-Sun photo.

Started June 4, 1859

Crinan Post Office operated 108 years by three McIntyre families

By Martin McGee

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The post-office was in a building (situated on what is now the Graham Road) formerly occupied by a Mr. Paups, who kept a small grocery but failed.

The mail was carried by horseback or on foot between here and Wardsville once a week. As there was no bridge over the Thames at that time a scow was used for crossing the river. The first scow was built of three canoes fastened together by poles and covered with plank. The floating bridge, which all the pioneers of this section used was at Mr. Sutton's sugar-bush (lot 21, broken front).

The news in the weekly paper was eagerly read and discussed by the grown-ups when they met for an evening visit. The paper was passed on from one home to another and perhaps the early settlers were more conversant with world events than many to-day who hear the news every hour. The news came late but it was studied.

The late Neil McEachran, of Buffalo, often walked to Wardsville to get the mail for Mr. McIntyre.

In 1872 when the Canada Southern Railway was built some miles south of Crinan, arrangements were made to have the mail brought from Dutton three times a week. Mr. John McIntyre and Mr. Neil Currie were two of the men who made this trip.

After Mr. McIntyre's death his son, John, succeeded him as postmaster, and the office was moved to a building on his farm at S. W. one quarter of Lot 24, Concession 1, where it still is.

Shortly before World War 1 the rural daily mail began from West Lorne with Mr. Chris. Frank as courier. He now brought the mail as far as the Crinan Post Office where it was sorted. A few months later the rural daily mail began from this office too. John McIntyre delivered mail until his death in 1916. Mrs. Jessie McIntyre then took charge of the Post Office, till her death in 1942 when Mrs. Stewart McIntyre, was appointed making one hundred and four years (in 1963) that the postmastership of this office has been in charge of the same family.

Stewart, who has delivered mail for the past 51 years (in 1963) still delivers the mail from Crinan to the river roads. Now this is done by motor-car, a far-cry from the hardships of the early pioneers.

by Marion McCallum