

WARDEN D. K. ANDREW HOST TO MEMBERS
OF
ELGIN COUNTY COUNCIL

Warden D. K. Andrew was host at the Warden's Banquet, an annual affair of festivities of the council, county council officials and ex-county officials, given Thursday evening June 12th, 1931, in the beautiful new Memorial Hall in West Lorne. Ninety-six officials were present.

Supper was served by the ladies of the West Lorne Presbyterian Church. Following the supper Kenneth W. McKay, county clerk, acted as chairman. The program included short, witty speeches and toasts. Miss Isabel Sloan, Champion girl orator of the county, and Kenneth McAlpine gave recitations and patriotic poems. Miss Mary McEachren accompanied by Mrs. Jas. McPherson sang two ^{MAZURKA} solos. Rev. De Courcey Rayner was guest speaker.

CRINAN STORE AND CHEESE FACTORY

STORE-

Built by Mr. Thomas Markham, when he became owner of the cheese factory, it was across the road from the church - north of the present Gilbert Livingstone home. It was a typical country store - sold groceries, clothing, hardware, coal-oil, etc. It also contained a barber's chair, with Mr. Dick Markham the barber. Other families operating the store in later years were - Wrights, Brydens and Cooks. There was a hall above the store where suppers (especially oyster suppers) and dances were held. The store closed its doors

CHEESE FACTORY-

The cheese factory was north of the store and a cheese-curing shed stood behind it. No one is sure of the date it was built. Earliest recollection was of the Markham family coming from Ingersoll to manage the cheese factory. They brought with them a herd of pure-bred Holstein cattle. Most of the local cattle were Durham. At first the milk was gathered from the farmers, who had a milk stand at the laneway beside the mailbox. Later, each farmer delivered his own milk, and could refill his cans with whey, which was held in a tank beside the factory. The whey was fed through a pipe from the factory to the wooden tank. The hog farmers were especially pleased to get the whey for pig feed. But, eventually the Markhams put in a large cream separator and the whey was put through it, as it contained a small amount of butter fat. Dissatisfaction grew among the farmers. Then they ran the cheese factory themselves for awhile - as a sort of co-operative. But soon the farmers began distrusting one another, and the operation ceased.

Two of the cheese makers were a Mr. Thompson and one Clarence Beckett.

FILL UP THE FLOOR
(Ken McAlpine)

It had many names "the hall", "the bunkhouse", "the summer kitchen", "the boxing ring", and "the synagogogue".

Originally a nondenominational Sunday school built by local people on the 9th con. of Dunwich Twp. about a mile east of the Dun. ald. townline on land donated by the Gilbert family. It came into disuse in the late 20's and being still in good repair was purchased by my father M.A. McAlpine in 1929 or 30.

It was moved in the winter with the help of neighbors with Phillip McCallum as foreman on four sleighs pulled by four teams of horses and after some trouble crossing thr railroad tracks finally landed at its destination on a cold day in February and put up on sturdy blocks.

It was my father's intention to amalgamate the new building with the house to provide more room for his family of four boys and two or three hired men byt the depreseion was upon us and intentions however good cost money and so it remained on its solid but temporary foundation. A low stage at the front of the byilding was removed and se someone suggested it would be a good place to hold a dance.

Mrs. John McPherson and her family Dave, Eva and Gordaon provided the music for the first of many dances. Dave was principal caller and when he announced a square dance "Fill up the Floor", six sets promptly took their places.

After each party which was held every second Friday night in the winter during the depression yeats and even later, a commitee was appointed to take care of the next dance. A fire had to be lit in the big stove, the floorswept and waxed, planks covered with horse blankets and robed forseats around the ourside and it was ready, except for the piano which was moved out of the house by the first six or eight stalwart young men to arrive. After the dance the paiano was carried back inot the house vut always seened to be heavier after the dance.

The adnission was the lunch by the ladies and 25¢ from the gentlemen, but the odd big nickle crept into the hat. Coffee and tea were made in the house.

The season usually opened in the fall with a Hallowe'en party conducted by the W.I. Box socials were special events but old tyme dancing was the main activity. Remember the square dances "Nellie Grey", "Choose Your Lady", "Ocean Wave", "GrapevineTwist", and "Change Your Lady" were some of the favorites. The round dances were "Rye Waltz", "Two Step", "Barn Dance", "Jersey" and the "Schottiche". Special dances usually by request were "The Scotch REel", "Irish Hop" and "Waltz Quadrille".

In the summer it was a grand bunkhouse for boys and hired men. We used to box, wrestle and generally raise Cain without fear of too much parental dissapproval.

My grandfather, who lived at Dutton disapproved of "Dances being held in your home", but mu father persuaded him to come to one and it wasn'tlong before he was dancing a Scottish Reel and on leaving enquired "When are you going to have the next one?"

My father died in 1935, war broke out in '39 and the old building began to fall into disrepair. The last party eas held in the early 40's.

Many of us learned to dance in theold hall, or at least had the opportunity, and I suppose in thise depression years when times were hard, ir served a great need, and many fond memories remain of the old "Hall". "Fill up the floor."

DOING THE WASH

"Cleanliness" is next to godliness", the old saying goes and down through the ages many home-makers have spent a good deal of their lives trying to attain this happy state.

One of the biggest chores that has faced the homemaker of any era is that of cleaning the family's clothes, "doing the wash".

What a time those pioneers must have had! Each person wore an unbelievable number of garments so that even the most rugged wife and mother must have had many a misgiving as she surveyed the mountain of clothes to be washed on Monday morning. The old wash boiler was kept steaming away on the old wood stove for hours on end as boiling the clothes was the only way to keep white things white and there were plenty of white things - long dresses and petticoats for babies and small children, huge white aprons for the ladies in the family, dish towels, bath towels, sheets, pillowcases, tablecloths bureau scarves and an endless list of articles.

Soap had also to be made. All the wood ashes were kept in a barrel. When the barrel was nearly full water was added to the ashes and the lye came out at the trough in the bottom. It was then put into the old black iron kettle that was hung over a fire and some fat put in and boiled and stirred. A piece of fat was hung over the top to keep it from boiling over. When it was thick enough it was taken off and stored in another dish. This was called "soft soap". It was yellow in colour and not hard enough to cut into a cake. Sometimes Gilletes' Lye was used instead of the lye ashes and grease mixed with it and boiled and stirred until thick enough then put in a pan. This white soap was hard enough to cut in cakes.

On many farms water was scarce and perhaps had to be hauled some distance in barrels. During a rain dishes were put out under eaves to catch nice soft water. In winter snow was melted. Mrs. Maribel (Campbell) McPherson, who lived on a river farm, often told of how Mrs. Montgomery who lived across from her on

Aldbrough-Dunwich townline Conc. I carried the washing across their farm back to the river to wash. But in most cases the washing was done by hand in the wash tub with the wash board. Later some folk had a wooden washing machine with a dolly attached to the under side of it. This would only work as long as someone stood there pushing and pulling the long handle backward and forward. This turned the dolly part way around and back swishing the clothes around in the suds and rubbing them against the corrugated interior of the tub. In time a gasoline washer came along followed by the electric machine.

In early days getting the clothes dry was a problem on rainy or winter days. In winter the kitchen or spare room was filled with frozen clothes brought in from the outside clothes line. Oh! those frost-nipped fingers. On a beautiful day in summer how sweet smelling the laundry was when brought into the house.

To-day we gather the soiled clothes, put them in the automatic machine, add soap, turn a button and go about our work while the clothes are being washed and rinsed. Then take them out of the washer, put them in the dryer and no matter what the weather is outside, the dryer will turn them out fluffy, without the hazards and drudgery in earlier days of "doing the wash".

CENTURY FARMS

1. James Andrews Farm p.54.
2. Aldred Farm p.55.
3. McColl Farm p.56.
4. Jamieson Farm p.57.
5. Stewart Farm p.58.

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THE JAMES ANDREW'S FARM

Lot 1, Concession 2 Dunwich township on the Aldborough Dunwich town-line is the "Old Homestead" farm of the Anrews.

The first settlers were Mr. and Mrs. David Andrews. Mrs. Andrews was the daughter of Euphemia McEachren and Mr. Blue, who died in Scotland.

This hundred acres was given as Crown land somewhere between 1860 and 1864. In 1852 James Andrews, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Andrews, purchased this land. Then in 1910 James Andrews son of Mr. and Mrs. James Andrews (Elizabeth McKeith) purchased the farm from the estate.

The first house was a log one with a frame part added later. In 1904 the present frame house was built by Duncan Gillies, contractor, West Lorne.

In 1915 James Andrews married Mary McMillan. They had five daughters. In 1916 the barn was raised and a cement foundation put under it. In 1967 a marker was given as a Centennial project to any farm that was in a family for 100 years. This sign appears at the gateway of the Andrew farm.

Hydro was installed in 1946, a gas furnace in 1959 and a bathroom in 1952. In 1965 the barn was painted red with white trim and the name "Old Homestead" printed on the end.

James Andrews passed away in 1961. His wife and daughter Mary, still reside on this farm. 1969



THE ALDRED FARM

The original deed dated March 10, 1864 from Sir Richard Airey to John McRae (grandfather of John Aldred) the south half of farm and to Murdock McRae, the north half of the farm. Murdock McRae bought out John McRae in 1875.

The farm was rented to people, believed named McNab from about 1873 to 1880.

Jane Aldred came into possession of the farm by Murdock McRae's will.

In 1946, John Aldred became owner upon the death of his mother in April.

THE MacCOLL FARM

In 1852, John McMurchy, his mother and nieces and nephews arrived in Elgin County from Argyleshire, Scotland, and settled on Lot X Gore, Concession Two, Aldborough Township.

One niece, Grace Graham McMillan is the mother of Mary, who is the mother of Grace MacColl, who is the mother of the present owner, Wm. Campbell MacColl. He is the sixth generation.