



Lowest wishes,
Blossoms gay
Send I thee
For thy Birthday.

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As long as thou livest
Good Fortune attend thee
And wherever thou dwellest
Good angels defend thee!

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year about 1840

MR. AND MRS. JAMES MAY, OF DUNWICH



Highly Respected Pioneer Residents of That Township Who Are Rapidly Nearing the Century Mark; Were Born in Scotland.

**Prize-Winning Ploughman is
Now Nearing Century Mark**

**James May, Sturdy Scotch Pioneer of Dunwich, and His
Esteemed Helpmeet; Worthy Couple Still Hale and
Hearty in Honorable Old Age**

In their handsome, modern brick farmhouse on the first concession of Dunwich, situated on as fine a tract of farming land as there is in the County of Elgin, Mr. and Mrs. James May are contentedly spending the declining years of a long and active life together. None of the fast disappearing pioneer settlers of the township are more widely known nor more highly respected than James May, of whom everybody has a kindly word.

James May was born at Campbellton, Argyleshire, Scotland, so long ago that he has himself lost track of the date. He laughingly declares that he must be near a hundred, and despite the fact that he is wonderfully well preserved, it is evident from his personal knowledge of events that are now long since matters of history, he must be edging along toward the century mile post.

In 1855, Mr. May was married to Elizabeth McNeil, in Scotland, and after the birth of their sons, Donald and Alexander, came to Canada, first settling in Middlesex County.

Mr. May was for many years engaged in the raising, buying and selling of cattle, of which he was an expert judge. Later, moving to his present location, he devoted himself largely to farming and to clearing his land of the heavy timber of which a considerable acreage yet remains; what is now one of the best timbered portions of the county.

Among the most treasured posses-

sions of Mr. May are three gold medals awarded him in Scotland for being the best ploughman in as many different ploughing competitions. Despite his great age it would be a safe bet that there are few men of this generation who could plough as straight and clean a furrow as the veteran ploughman frae Auld Scotia.

Asked as to whether he used tobacco, Mr. May said he had smoked until the loss of his teeth made it difficult to hold the mouthpiece of a pipe, and he discontinued the habit. With reference to temperance, Mr. May thinks that if the treating custom could be done away with the evils of intemperance would be practically solved. He believed that if every man paid for his own drink there would be infinitely less drinking.

In politics, Mr. May is a Conservative, and has been a reader of The Times since its first issue went to press.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. May, now nearing their diamond wedding anniversary, was blessed by the birth of eleven children, all of whom, with the exception of the late Mrs. Dobie, of Campbellton, Dunwich; Mrs. William Kirkwood, Dunwich; Miss Janet C. May, Detroit; Alexander J., of Laurel, Miss.; Donald of Hyde Park, Ont.; Malcolm, at home and Daniel.

*an item cut from the
Dutton Advance
in 1911.*

B. MALCOLM 1978

Pioneer families Stories

Willey's family gave name to Thames bridge and sideroad

A few weeks ago The Advance carried an article telling how the Tait Bridge got its name. Following is an account of how another bridge over the Thames north of here - Willey's - was named. It is taken from the Glencoe Transcript and Free Press:

Brae Willey was born in New Hampshire in 1776, his father had fought in the Revolutionary War and by 1819 the family had moved to the Talbot Settlement on Back Street east of Wallace-town and were happy on their 50 acres.

Years later they were told they should have had 200. Thomas Talbot allotted his settlers 50 but kept the other 150 for himself.

Gave Talbot Rough Time

A delegation called on Talbot and gave him a rough time until he told them they could have 200 but would have to go to the Thames, or Longwood Road.

Of the family, Lot and David located on the north side and Scott on the south. The proceedings of

Middlesex for 1841 report complaints about lack of bridges between London and Chatham, many river fords being used.

Mr. Coultis, the engineer was instructed to look into this and talked to Lot and David and reported he had a stake on the north side to mark a bridge site which could be built at an estimated cost of 300 pounds of sterling.

The Willeys moved in 1833 but Moses took the Longwood Road at 20 Sideroad, all in Ekfrid. This family has interesting connections by marriage, including Betsy Ross, who made the first flag for the new U.S.A.

John Harrison who developed a vastly improved timepiece, and received a large sum had his timepiece used by Captain Cook on some of his extensive sea trips.

Bonnie Prince Charlie was also related to the Willeys.

In addition to the bridge over the Thames a sideroad in Dunwich still carries the Willey name.

Ripley-Eadie Clan holds reunion 1977

The first reunion of the Ripley-Eadie Clan was held on Sunday, September 11th at the Eagle Community Hall.

The gathering was the 32nd reunion for the Eadie clan and the 28th for the Ripley clan and due to distance and closeness of reunion dates and almost the same relatives attending each reunion it was decided to amalgamate.

Presiding over the meeting was the president of the Eadie reunion, Ralph Robinson assisted by the president of the Ripley reunion, Murray Ripley. About 50 members spent a pleasant afternoon visiting and reminiscing with a lively program of games and contests convened by Terry and Elsie Heency. During the afternoon a moments silence was held in memory of the late Mrs. Hazel Ripley and St. Clair Bobier.

The officers elected for 1978 were: Honorary president, Harold Ripley, Windsor; president, Murray Ripley, Port Stanley; 1st vice-president, Morley Newton, Windsor; 2nd vice-president, Terry Heency, Dutton; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Aleck Morrish. Program convener, Terry and Elsie Heency and Charles and Aurilia Ripley.

The reunion will be held the 2nd Sunday in September, 1978, in the Eagle Community Hall.

A bountiful smorgasbord supper finalized the afternoon.

Relatives were present from Windsor, Morpeth, St. Thomas, Dorchester, Port Stanley, Shedden, Dutton, West Lorne and Wallace-town.

McBrides One of Early Families In Cowal Neighborhood June 1957

This is another in a series of historical articles covering the Cowal district and sponsored by the Women's Institute of that place.

History of Farm Owned by John Preston McBride, Lot C, North of A

John McBride and his wife, Catherine McCallum, came to Canada in 1836 by sail boat. They had three children, Margaret, Neil and Duncan. They docked at Port Stanley and lived in that area six years. During that time their son, John, was born.

In 1842, they moved to Lot C, Con. 5, North of A., where Peter and Mary were born. This farm was bought from Talbot McBeth, consisting of 80 acres and the bill of sale was for \$800. In November, 1871, a deed was obtained from McBeth's widow giving the land to Mrs. Catherine McBride.

A log house and log barn were built on the farm on the townline of Dunwich and Southwold. A creek runs through the farm and the hills was the first land cleared and seeded so they had natural drainage. Many a mighty oak and walnut tree were cut and burned. While clearing his land a tree lodged in another tree and fell, killing John McBride in 1843, leaving the mother with six small children.

The trail from Middlesex to Port Stanley went by this farm. Many a farmer on his route stayed with Mrs. McBride and family. On his way home from getting his wheat ground, a bag of flour was left

with her.

In 1852, the oldest boy died at the age of 19 years. In 1857, Duncan died at the age of 22 years and in 1860 Peter died, 18 years old. Her early help was gone but Mrs. McBride, John and his two sisters carried on.

In the seventies, John built a log house on the west side of the creek on the 5th Concession. In 1873, a frame barn was erected and later a frame house was built and still remains.

Margaret married Peter McBride and Mary married Archie Gillis. John married Jane Preston in 1878 to which union was born six children, Alice, Katie, Margaret, May, Preston and Mary. May died when four years old with scarlet fever.

Katie married Fred Delavan and made their homes in Michigan.

Alice married Sam Waar and Margaret married William Goldrick and resided in Strathroy.

Mary married James Clark and was a widow shortly afterward. She resides with her brother, John Preston, who never married. They till the farm cleared by their grandfather, 115 years ago.

John McBride died in 1921 and his wife, Jane, in 1934. Both are buried in the cemetery on the farm.

Moe: "Watching some fellows play golf reminds me that the game is quite a bit like taxes."

Joe: "How's that?"

Moe: "You drive hard to get to get the green—and then wind up in a hole."

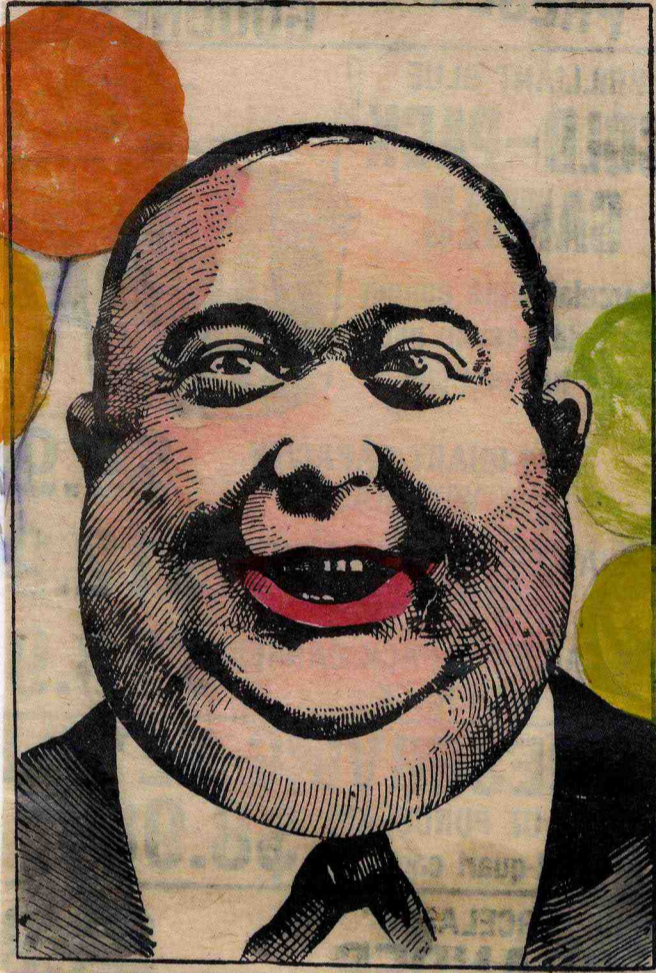
OLD FAIR CARD—Shown above are two sides of an 80-year-old card advertising the fair at Wallacetown. As may be seen the exhibition was known as West Elgin Fair at that time and by a coincidence the dates of the 1898 fair are the same as this year. The card turned up in material currently in the possession of the fair secretary, Mrs. Stan Duncanson. *Sept. 1978*

Am I Going? Well I Should Giggle!
I'm going to take Lena Long to the

FAIR AT

WALLACETOWN,

SEPT. 29 & 30



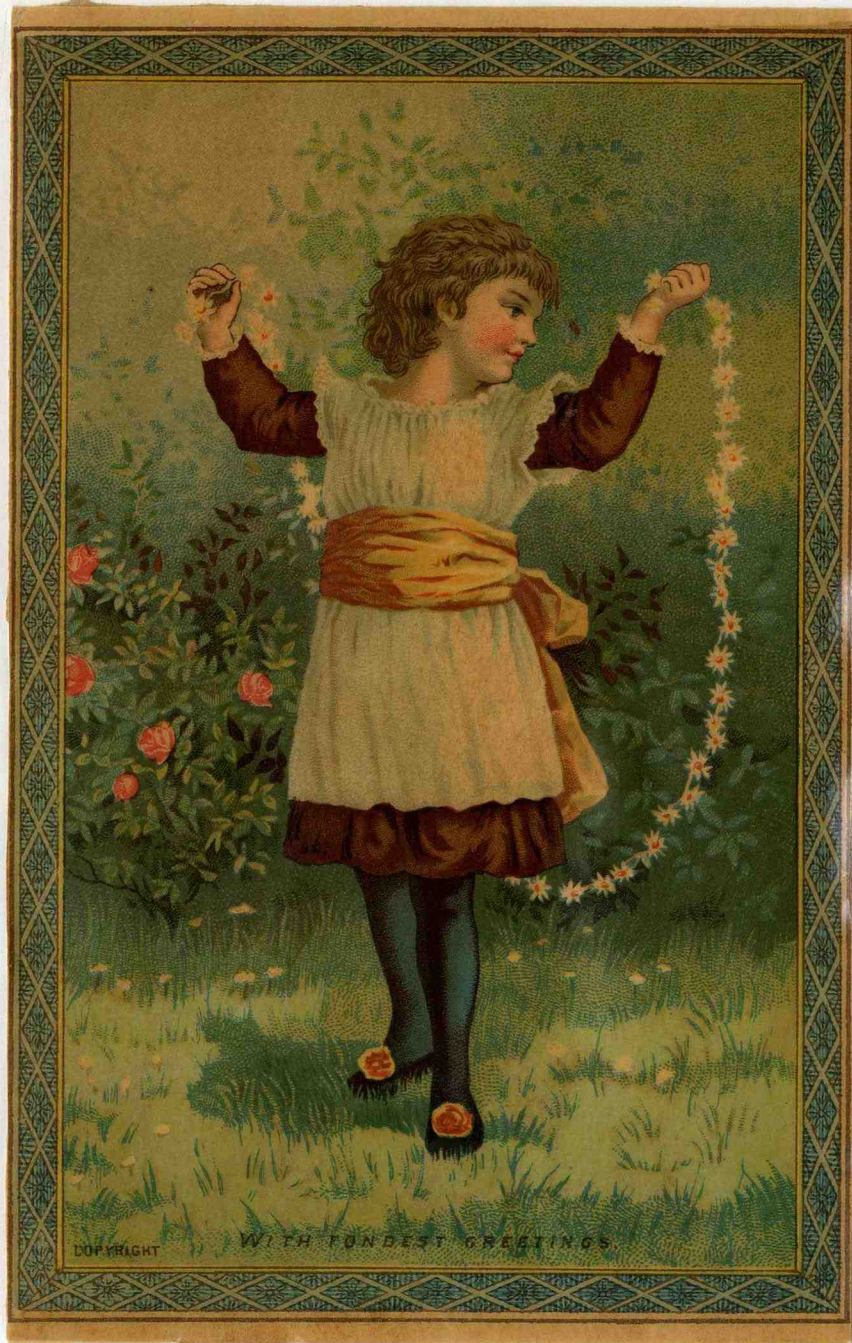
I'm going with Charlie McPhatt to the



WEST ELGIN FAIR,
SEPTEMBER 29th and 30th, 1898.

ALEX. CRANE, President DANIEL McCALLUM, Secretary.

1840



CHRISTMAS CARDS



Education Department, Ontario.

DECEMBER EXAMINATION, 1883.

ADMISSION TO HIGH SCHOOLS.

ENGLISH HISTORY.

Twelve marks for each question.

1. Who were the Saxons? What changes did their invasion make in England? What changes did the Norman conquest make?
2. Name a good king of England and also a bad one, and tell some things the former did that were good for the people, and some the latter did that were bad for them.
3. What were the chief events in the reign of Henry VIII?
4. What were the causes that led to the setting up of the Commonwealth?
5. What have been the chief events in the reign of Victoria?
6. Write short notes on any *four* of the following:—Magna Charta, Court of the Star Chamber, The Petition of Right, The Habeas Corpus Act, The Declaration of Rights, The Reform Bill.

Education Department, Ontario.

DECEMBER EXAMINATION, 1883.

ADMISSION TO HIGH SCHOOLS.

SPELLING AND FOURTH BOOK.

NOTE—All Candidates must take questions 1 and 2 of the paper on Spelling and Fourth Book; and as regards questions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, each must select the series on which he will be examined, and confine himself to the set of questions based on the Fourth Book of that series. No answers can be considered that may be given on either of the series other than the one selected by the Candidate for the examination.

Values.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| / 7 | 1. Distinguish—hail, hale; whine, wine; ascent, assent; e'er, ere, air; wax, whacks; tracks, tracts; wail, whale. |
| / 8 | 2. Accent the following words, and correct any errors in spelling:—secede, succede, decieve, wooddin, posthumous, ballance, allarm, combine. |
| ONTARIO READERS. | |
| / 20 | 3. Give the substance of the lesson entitled "The Voyage of the Golden Hind." |
| + 15 | 4. Xerxes, having lost in his last fight, together with 20,000 other soldiers and captains, two of his own brethren, began to doubt what inconvenience might befall him, by the virtue of such as had not been present at these battles, with whom he knew that he was shortly to deal. Especially of the Spartans he stood in great fear, whose manhood had appeared singular in this trial, which caused him very carefully to inquire what numbers they could bring into the field. It is reported of Dieneces, the Spartan, that when one thought to have terrified him by saying that the flight of the Persian arrows was so thick as to hide the sun, he answered thus: "It is very good news, for then shall we fight in the cool shade."
Explain — <i>captain, brethren, befall, virtue, he was shortly to deal, singular, bring into the field, thought to have terrified, flight of the Persian arrows.</i> |
| 4 | 5. What is the subject of the lesson from which this passage is taken, and what is the name of its author? |

[OVER.]