

EARLY DUTTON

Dutton was named after one of the engineers putting the Canada Southern Railway through in 1871. The land was marshy and low, and greatly differing from what it is now. The stretch of road between Detroit and Buffalo is considered one of the best road beds in America.

The first industry was the saw mill by Mr. McKee west of where the creamery stands. The first flour mill, run by A. McEachern, was purchased by Henry Hollingshead in 1886, who made it full roller process. The milling was afterwards carried on by his son William Hollingshead, who a few years ago sold to Mr. J. Davies, who carries on a thriving business. William Hollingshead introduced Hydro as a power factor. Date?

The Baptist Church was first built in 1877 and rebuilt in 1900 on its present site. The Methodist Church was built in 1879 on the present town hall site. It was burned down, and the present United. (formerly Methodist) was erected about 1899 on the corner of Mary and Nancy Streets. The Presbyterians held services in the Public School, then met in the Baptist Church. The minister was Mr. Stewart of Wallacetown. The Presbyterian Church was built in 1883 and rebuilt on the same site in 1920. The Anglican Church had their services in the Presbyterian Church for some years, and built their present church in 1886. The Salvation Army began their services in 1887 having their hall in the Brown Block, now owned by J.B. Crawford Estate, afterwards in their own hall where Bennett's Garage now is.

The First School, No. 11 Dunwich, stood on the site of the present school, and was the first meeting place for the local churches, Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian. Date

The first stores were Griffin and Graham's groceries where Dr. Arthur Graham's office and residence now is. The Post Office and store kept by A.J. Leitch was south of Dunwich Township Office. A dry goods store was kept by A.M. McIntyre where the Advance building now is, and the residence was upstairs. Angus McPherson

kept a hardware store and groceries on the Royal Bank Building site. The first planing mill, sash and door factory, and stave mill was run by F. Humpidge, and stood where Mr. Davies' P.M. Elevator & Chopping Mill now is on Shackleton St. West. Donald Dinine was the first shoemaker and was located at the turn Main St. north.

The first bank was owned locally by Mr. A.M. McIntyre, and was where the Township office is now. The first drug store, kept by Robert A. Kirkland, was where Hales' butcher shop now is, and the Enterprise, the first newspaper, was edited by Mr. W.F. Phelps in 1881, and printed in the Town Hall opposite Law's Garage, which at that time was a machine shop operated by Wm. Minini. Where Dr. McKishnie's house now is, stood the furniture and undertaking business carried on by B.J. Schultz and his father. Saunders and Cavers had a planing mill on Main Street between the M.C.R. and P.M. tracks. A livery stable was kept by Colin McGregor south of the track and later where Wm. Richardson's property now is. James Wilkie had the first blacksmith shop, which stood south of Law's Garage. Charles Hodder was the first baker and was located on the Molsons Bank stand.

Dr. Reilly was the first doctor, and he was followed by Dr. Mills; the first dentist was Dr. Shannon, who afterwards moved to Sault Ste. Marie.

EARLY BUSINESS MEN ✓

In 1886 Thomas Hockin came to Dutton and started a general store. He took in Mr. James Poole as partner soon after. Mr. Poole later withdrew from the partnership and moved to British Columbia about 1902. Thomas Hockin was afterwards joined by his two brothers, Joseph, who was head of the dry goods department, and Will, who had the management of the boot and shoe department. The latter subsequently moved to Wallaceburg where he opened a boot and shoe store. The older Hockin brothers are now all dead, but the business is carried on by Eugene and Harold Hockin, sons of Thomas Hockin, who have a splendid store and employ a large staff, Mr. Arthur Armstrong being head of the grocery department, and Mr. George Mortin managing the shoe department. The T. Hockin Co. suffered in the many fires that were in Dutton, but, undaunted, they rebuilt and extended till they have one of the finest departmental stores in Western Ontario.

Mr. A.E. White is one of the oldest business men, and is justly popular with the public. He was born at Port Stanley in 1857, where he was educated, afterwards learning the hardware business and buying out Mr. R.R. Golding. He carried on the business for five years, then moved to Dutton in 1886 and built the store he now occupies, which was one of the best equipped stores in Western Ontario. Along with the hardware he carries a line of furniture and wall paper. Although Mr. White is in his ninety-first year, he still carries on his business.

Mr. J.B. Crawford had a hardware store established in Dutton. He was born in 1863 in Perth County. He farmed with his father, and after spending a year in Tilbury he came to Dutton and opened his hardware business. He was secretary-Treasurer of the High School Board for some years. He died a comparatively young man, and his business is now carried on by his two sons, Chester and Arnold, who carry a stock of furniture, groceries, wall paper, crockery and tin ware.

D.H. Taylor came to Dutton about 1890, where he erected a stave mill. He was born in Scotland, and came here from Kent County. He also conducted a large dry

goods store in Dutton, and did a thriving business.

George McKenzie, who came here from Fingal, opened a general store, and was afterwards joined by F.W. Drake, a former Fingal man. On Mr. McKenzie's retirement Mr. Donald McPherson entered into partnership with Mr. Drake. After some years Mr. McPherson went to Calgary and Mr. Drake carried on alone till he sold out and moved to St. Thomas. He was succeeded by Mr. Peter Cameron of Wallacetown, who, too, died suddenly while yet a young man. The business was then taken over by Kemp Panter who carried a general stock. He gave up business in Dutton in or about 1935, and the building which had housed the store was sold to Robert Affleck for a restaurant. Mr. Panter now resides in Toronto. *Latter retired to St Thomas.*

One of the earliest jewellers was J.S. Ostrander, who came from near Tilsonburg where he learned his trade, and where he stayed for four years before coming to Dutton. After two years he suffered from fire like the others, and for several months was without a place of business till his brother built the Ostrander Block, fitting up a store particularly for jewellery store. Another jeweller was a Mr. Nelson who later moved to St. Thomas where he carried on a jewellery store. Other jewellers were Mr. Archer and John Bambridge, who at present has an up to date store and repair shop. He carries a line of high class china and silver ware besides his jewellery business. *(1978) After Mr Bambridge death Mrs Bambridge carried on the business. She was very popular and after her retirement. Mr Morley Banks acquired the shop.*

J.M. Glenn, who was raised on Hogg Street, opened a lawyer's office here, and in charge was Henry Clay, and later, Colin St. Clair Leitch. Mr. Clay moved to Windsor and Mr. Leitch to St. Thomas. William H. Barnum practised law here and in 1908 entered into partnership with Stuart C. Kirkland, recently called to the bar. Mr. Barnum moved to Tilsonburg, and Mr. Kirkland continued the practice until his death in 1936, with the exception of the years he spent in the army during the first world war. His practice was assumed then by Sanders & Sanders of St. Thomas of which Mr. Edgar Sanders was the head. Their office was closed here in the forties. Mr. Blain opened an office, and Mr. E.B. Stirling (Ridgetown) is now here for two afternoons a week.

EARLY FARMS ✓

Some of the farms belonging to the descendants of the original owners in the vicinity of Dutton or adjoining it:

- McNeil - - - - Malcolm McNeil came from Argyleshire, Scotland, in 1843 with his family of nine. They landed at Port Stanley and walked to the Talbot Road where they stayed with a McPhail family where the late John McPhail lived east of Wallacetown. They bought a farm one mile east of Dutton on Shackleton Street. One of the sons, John, was killed the following year, when a log rolled on him while clearing the wood off the land where Fairview Cemetery now is. The farm has been in the family continuously since then, and is farmed by the grandsons of the original owner, Malcolm N. McNeil and his brother Archie McNeil.
- Graham - - - - Donald Graham came in the same year McNeills did (1843) from Argyleshire, Scotland, and bought a farm south of Dutton on Currie Road and Hogg Street, and it is also farmed by descendants of the original owner, Mrs. Dan Graham, ~~Dr. Arthur~~, Dr. Arthur Graham and his sister Annie.
- Blue - p - - - Adjoining the Graham farm was his brother-in-law, John Blue; ~~sw~~ who came from the same place in Scotland, and in the same year. It passed to Neil Blue and then to John M. Blue, then into other hands.
- Patterson - - - Another farm west of Main St. Dutton, to Shackleton St. west was owned by Mr. Patterson, father of Mrs. William Hollingshead, and was the site on which the greater part of Dutton was built.
- Duncanson - - - The land on the east side of Main Street was owned by Peter Duncanson. John McCallum has a strip of land west of Nancy St. and Dan Royal and John Patton east of Nancy Street.
- McGillvray - - - A Mr. McGillvray owned land where the Baptist Church is now, and it is claimed theirs was the first house built in Dutton.
- Luton - - - - Thomas Luton owned the farm south of the track and east of the Currie Road, and in the Dutton limits. He named the street leading down to the Hydro Sub. Station- Leitch St. and Annie St. South of that, and Wesley St. running at right angles to the other two streets and parallel with the Currie Road.
- Hodder - - - - The Hodder family came from near London and bought a bush farm on the concession north of Dutton, and it is now owned by Lionel Hodder, grandson of the original owher.
- Milton - - - - The Milton farm, Shackleton St. West, has now reverted to a descendant of the original owner, Daniel Milton, namely his grandson, Clarence Milton.
- McAlpine - - - Just west of Dutton lies the farm owned by Peter McAlpine, now owned by his grandson Archie McAlpine, Strathroy.
- Wilkie - - - - A Mr. Wilkie owned the farm now belonging to Henry Milton.
- Wallace - - - - The farm owned by John Miller on the outskirts of Dutton originally belonged to a Scotch family named Wallace.
- McPherson - - - The first brick house built in Dutton is the one owned by Dr. Arthur Graham and built by Mr. Angus McPherson, merchant.

DUTTON NEWSPAPERS ✓

The first newspaper was established in Dutton in 1881 by Mr. N. F. Phelps. It was called 'The Enterprise'. In 1885 he disposed of his property to his brother Mr. N. Phelps, then of North Bay, who conducted it till he sold it to Mr. R. Sutherland of Glencoe in 1888. In 1889 the 'Advance' was started by Messrs. Blue and Smith, who in 1891 purchased the Enterprise and amalgamated the two papers.

Mr. J. D. Blue was born in Dunwich Township. He taught school for a number of years in various schools in the country. Finally he entered into partnership with Mr. M.S. Smith, and they journeyed forth together into the field of journalism.

Mr. Smith was born in York County and after his education he was employed by a Toronto newspaper, where he received a thorough training, and went on to follow his trade in Chicago. He was an all round practical printer, and was thoroughly acquainted with the details attending the publication of a weekly paper. After Mr. Blue's death and Mr. Smith's retirement, the latter's son, Mr. Bertram Smith, took over the business and was later assisted by Mr. Herbert Campbell, who later bought the 'Advance' and is carrying on a very successful weekly newspaper- the Dutton Advance.