

Science Chief of Strathcona High called by Death

A. M. MUNRO, M.A.

Ex-pupils of Strathcona High School, Edmonton, will learn with regret of the death of Mr. A. M. Munro, which occurred on Wednesday morning, May 9th, following an illness of several months. Mr. Munro was for the last fourteen years Science Master at Strathcona High School and was highly respected and beloved by the hundreds of pupils who received their instruction under him. He was one of the staff of the Bureau of Education on its formation, and was well known among the teachers of the province for his attainments in the teaching profession and in his professional studies.

Mr. Munro was born at Wardsville, Ontario, and came west in 1904. After teaching with marked success in the town school at Lamont he entered the University of Alberta from which he graduated with honors in science in 1914. Then followed his appointment to the staff of Strathcona High School. While teaching he completed his M.A. degree and also took further courses as a post-graduate student in education, psychology, and philosophy.

For twenty years Mr. Munro was an active member of the Masonic Fraternity, was a Past Master of Acacia Lodge, Strathcona, and a Past District Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta. He was a faithful member of the Baptist Church, and for several years conducted the Bible Class in the Allendale Mission. He leaves to mourn his loss his wife, two sisters in Ontario, and a brother in New York.



Mortimer Munro

Mr. John Philpot was one of the first members of the Iona Baptist Church. In 1821 it was at his home that they met to become a duly constituted church, meeting at homes, the Cottage School and on Lot 2, Back Street (now number 3 Highway).

In 1863 a building was erected in Iona on two lots purchased from John Decow, A committee of Rev. Joseph Painter, Deacon John Clark, Daniel Decow, Henry Silcox and Joseph Philpot arranged for the building. Elijah Clark, William Lauther and Henry Silcox were its first trustees.

James, son of John Philpot, was born in Colonel Talbot's house in 1814. He lived to be nearly 80 years old, serving his community as farmer, bailiff and justice of the peace. For over 50 years he was deacon in the Iona Baptist Church.

Another Philpot of Iona, Peter, became a blacksmith after leaving school at the age of thirteen. At eighteen he joined the Salvation Army and became its first Canadian Brigadier.

In 1892 he founded the Gospel Tabernacle at Hamilton, now known as the Philpot Memorial Church. In 1922 he became pastor of the Moody Memorial Church in Chicago, and in 1929 served as pastor of the "Church of the Open Door" in Los Angeles, California.

One of the Philpots married John Mill's daughter Esther. Mr. Mills built the house on the farm at the south corner of Clay Street, about one mile north of Iona on the Iona Road, for them.

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Descendants of Elder William and Levi.



Elder and Mrs. William Pollard
(Mary Jamieson)

Elder William Pollard came to Ontario with his parents and settled near Dundas. In the small town of Westover, nearby, he was married to Mary Jamieson, whose loyalty and intelligence was to prove the wisdom of his choice. The years ahead were filled with the hardships and hard work which the pioneers of those days faced.

After his marriage, receiving his call to preach (in the Covenanted Baptist Church), he journeyed, accompanied by his wife and family to Michigan, where they stayed for four years. Returning to Canada they settled in a log cabin on the old Pollard farm, formerly owned by Nelson Keillor. They remained nearly five years when a call to preach in Warwick, New York, was accepted. On their return in 1881 to Dunwich, a home was built on the south side of the Iona Road, two miles west of the village of Iona, directly opposite the Duncan Grahams. He served the Dunwich, Ekfrid, Duart and Lobo churches for the rest of his life.

The home of Levi Pollard, Elder William's son is well remembered in this district. It was on the 9th Concession of Dunwich. A lane also led northward to the Back Street, opposite the Carswell farms.

Elder William Pollard died 1901. His wife Mary Jamieson Pollard died 1847.

The family of Elder William included: Mrs. Archie Campbell
Minnie (Mrs. John Shearing)
Levi, Ezra (died at four months),
William (who died at fifteen months), and John who died in 1948 in Michigan.

Levi Pollard's family included: Alexander, William Robert, Mary Jane 1885 - 1963, Janet Regina, Maggie Armina, Lydia Bell, John Levi and Laura Edith. Mary Jane married Arthur McIntyre (1865-1943).

Mrs. Mary J. McIntyre Was Well-Known as Janet

Mrs. Mary J. McIntyre, whose homely, bucolic writings in The Times - Journal under the pen - name of Janet have appeared every week for the past 40 years, died on Sunday in the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital after an illness of three weeks. Her home was about a mile north of Shedden and she had lived there for more than 50 years, her husband, Arthur J. McIntyre, who was well - known throughout West Elgin as a farmer, died 20 years ago.

Mrs. McIntyre's pithy, rustic little articles were published

every Saturday on one of the women's pages of this newspaper and won for her a wide readership which was not confined to country women. Women of the district's urban communities and many menfolk were also among her constant readers. She found for her subjects the goings - on in a typical country home and life on the farm, and her comments and observations on the affairs of the day made meaty and pleasant reading.

She was 78 years old and continued writing her once - a-week article up to the time of her last illness, the last of them being printed on Sept. 19. Mrs. McIntyre continued to live on

the farm north of Shedden after her husband's death and after her four daughters had all married and moved away, but had spent the past three or four years in the city.

She was the former Mary Pollard and was born at Iona, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Levi (Margaret) Pollard. She was a young woman when she moved to Shedden and she spent the rest of her life in that district. She took a keen and active interest in the Shedden Women's Institute and the Shedden Library Board, of which she had been president, and was among those who took an active part in establishment of the Elgin Pioneer Museum. She was an adherent of the Covenanted Baptist Church, Wallacetown.

Mrs. McIntyre is survived by

four daughters, Mrs. Alex (Margaret) Turner, Shedden; Mrs. Marion Mitchell, 20 Hemlock Street; Mrs. Max (Kathryn) Churchill, Detroit, and Mrs. Lucien (Frances) Lepage, Three Rivers, Que.; by four sisters, Mrs. P. H. Schleihauf, West Lorne; Mrs. H. C. Lumpkin, Muncie, Ind.; Mrs. Lloyd Smith, Iona Station, and Mrs. Robert Clark, Rosetown, Sask.; two brothers, W. R. Pollard, Iona, and John Pollard, London, Ont.; and three grandchildren, Rosemary and Ramon. Lepage, Three Rivers, and Karen Mitchell, St. Thomas.

Elder George Ruston, Dutton, pastor of the Covenanted Baptist Church, will conduct the funeral service at the P. R. Williams and Son funeral home at two p.m. Tuesday. Interment will be made in Black's Cemetery, Dunwich.



Alex Pollard's Warehouse.



Alex Pollard, Kate McAlpine



Mrs. Alex Pollard and Clifford

Mrs. Levi Pollard had passed on when she was fifty-two years of age, leaving three sons and five daughters. The eldest daughter Mary Jane at seventeen years of age, took charge of the household. After marrying Mr. Arthur McIntyre, she moved to a home of her own, north of Shedden. Janet, later Mrs. Phillip Schlieuf, replaced her. This home is remembered in the community as a place where the atmosphere was warm and friendly, and the hostesses excellent homemakers. Margaret, a trained nurse, worked in a supervisory position in the operating rooms at the Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, before marrying. John had gone to stay with his grandfather when he reached his sixth year, in order to make the walk to school shorter and Lydia was allowed the same privilege at the same age. Laura, also a graduate nurse, married and lives in Saskatchewan. The two other brothers were William who also lived with his grandfather and Alexander, who married Catherine McAlpine. Alexander was in partnership with his father, Levi. William married Stella Mae Smith, a trained nurse.

Mrs. Arthur McIntyre used the name "Janet". She was a successful contributor to the St. Thomas Times Journal for many years. Her column was enjoyed by readers of that newspaper, especially her old friends who were very proud of a good friend's achievements.

Mrs. John Shearing (daughter of Elder William Pollard) and her husband lived on the farm now owned by Neil Malcolm Robb. Her niece Lydia, who remained with her until her death, inherited the farm. Mrs. Shearing had come to her father's home after the death of Mr. Shearing. William R., John, Lydia and their aunt Minnie had a good life.

Lydia and her husband Lloyd Smith lived on Mrs. Shearing's farm for the early years of their marriage. Later, the Levi Pollard home being empty was moved to the Smith farm.

Only Lydia is in this territory, John in London, and Laura in Saskatchewan, survive.

Curator 1968



Mr. Levi Pollard's Daughters

Back row: Janet Armina, Mary Jane,
Centre: Maggie Regina, Lydia Bell
Front: Laura Edith



William Robert, Mary Jane and
Alexander Pollard

Pictures courtesy W.R. Pollard.

6.2.1858
18.1.1919

27-3-1864
18-2-1939

Mr. and Mrs. George Pyatt of Dorchester came to Iona in 1902 bringing four children with them - Voylet, Garfield, Earvel and James. Mr. Pyatt came in advance of his family, using a wagon and team of horses to transport their household effects. Mrs. Pyatt, with the children, came by train. She was met by her husband who had made arrangements with the James Vogans for the night's lodging.

This house had been moved here by Mr. Malcolm (Mic) McIntyre who had inherited the land from his father. It was on lot 1, opposite Henry Brown on the east side of the Iona Road, north but almost opposite Clay Street. They must have been about to vacate for it was here that Mr. and Mrs. Pyatt made their first home. Mr. Luke Brown of Iona was the owner at the time, using the land as pasture for his small stock of farm animals. His nephew, Austin, who lived with his parents across the road, wished to buy this house. He planned to move it to his property on the sideroad first to the north. An agreement was reached. Austin bought the house on the understanding that Mr. Pyatt could occupy it until he found a more suitable place for his family and near the employment he was seeking.

At the end of about two years, Mr. Luke Brown had secured land adjacent his home in Iona. Mr. Pyatt was ready to settle elsewhere and Austin bought this acreage as well as the house. Through the years this has been improved in appearance, and modern heating and plumbing facilities added. It remains the comfortable home of Mr. and Mrs. Austin Brown.

The Pyatts moved to a house in the village of Iona owned by Mr. William Whalls (father of Percy and Henry) and two children arrived while there - Arthur and George. Mr. Whalls later moved with his family to this house. This is now the attractive home of Mr. Percy Whalls, his wife Irene and son Donald. The Pyatts lived several places in the following years as Mr. Pyatt served with his horses in different locations. For one year he was employed by Mr. Hiram Kruppe and lived in the Kruppe house, lot A., on Talbot Creek.

During the war of 1914-1918 they lived near Port Stanley and here Voylet met Mr. Rupert Jones, whom she later married. She and her husband are known to have a fine family and contented to live in nearby Fingal.

The family returned to the village to the house on the north side of the "Methodist" Church, which has recently been remodeled by its present owner Rev. Norman Morris.

Mr. Pyatt and son Jim had become very good friends with Mr. Luke Brown and his son Vernon. As was not unusual in these days, Mr. Pyatt's family faced a financial problem when he died in 1919. The funeral service over during a big snow storm of that winter, in this weather the cost of transporting a casket by rail proved prohibitive. A hearse would be required at beginning and end and several transfers from one railroad to another before reaching the grave site in Dorchester. The problem was solved when Mr. Brown agreed to place the casket, well covered, across the doors of his touring car. The car had not been in use in the winter months and the new licence had not been obtained. The trip was made by back roads and the two eldest children of the deceased, with the driver arrived at their destination at the appointed time. Relatives were waiting with all necessary plans for the interment in order. Thoroughly chilled, the travellers were afterward welcomed to a home where warmth, food and gracious hospitality prepared them for the return trip. They arrived home gratefully and without incident.

With the co-operation of his brothers, and the help they could give, Earvel bought the George Owen Lumley home on the south-east corner of the Iona Road and Mary Street. These boys planned to take good care of their mother. Here, Mrs. Pyatt lived for the rest of her life with the sons who were devoted to her. She had never spared herself or faltered in doing everything possible for their good. She was highly regarded by her neighbours. Her closest personal friends were Mrs. Robert Morris and Mrs. Elijah Keillor, whose company she enjoyed.

Garfield, the eldest son, located on the Herbert Clark farm opposite the Mill Road on what is now No. 3 Provincial Highway. This lot A is now owned by Mr. Joe Van Bree. His wife, the former Mary McArthur, died in 1945 leaving him to bring up his three children alone. Leaving the farm they came to Iona. There he lived on lot 5, in the south-west section of Iona on the Iona Road, also on lot C north of the then United Church where the family had lived previously. He had found employment with the Department of Highways.

Earvel did not marry. An excellent worker, he operated the threshing machine for Mr. Thomas Small for forty years. After his mother's death, he sold the home in Iona to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Draper and lived with his brother and sister-in-law, James and Emma in Iona Station until he died in 1967.

James, the third son, was in the employ of the Michigan Central Railroad (afterwards called the New York Central and then the Penn Central) for forty-four years. He retired from the executive position he had earned by faithful and efficient service in 1964. He and his wife now live in their attractive home in Iona Station, just west of the Iona Road. Their lovely lawn and garden are a pleasure to them and they share their flowers and garden produce generously with others. Mr. James Pyatt is a long time member of the Masonic Order (Prince of Wales Lodge No. 191), Iona Station. He is known to have been an honoured member and officer of his Lodge.



Mr. and Mrs. James Pyatt.

Mrs. Pyatt was a tireless worker in the Iona United Church until it became more convenient to attend the local church where she has been made welcome, and has lived up to her former reputation. She has served as President of the Iona Station Women's Institute, and is at present Curator of the organization's Tweedsmuir History.

Their four children are frequent and welcome visitors with their parents and the community.

Arthur, a trucker, had two sons, one of whom was killed while engaged in trucking operations in 1967.

George, a trucker also, has three children.

More details will be found in the Family Tree.

Garfield and Earvil Pyatt were in the Canadian Armed Forces in 1918. Garfield was ready to go overseas but asked and was given permission to be left with Earvel. The war ended so that neither brother left their station in London.

The following is an interesting memory from the distant past: -

Mr. James Pyatt remembers Mr. Ed. Pearce drawing fish from Port Talbot. James would be at the road when Mr. Pearce was expected along, as a fish was always reserved for him. The fish would be so large that young Jim would carry it only with the greatest difficulty.

Mr. and Mrs. George Pyatt, senior, had eighteen grandchildren, thirty-seven great grandchildren, and seven great great grandchildren.

Emma (Mrs. James) Pyatt.

The Curator has taken the liberty of adding to the record of the James Pyatt's. Mrs. Pyatt is far too modest to have written a more realistic account of herself and her husband.



Miss Ann Silcox, daughter of James Silcox and sister of Maggie Silcox who married Thomas A. Silcox, lived in a neat house occupying about one half of the south part Lots 7 and 8, south west section, Iona, as well as land now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Piper, Lots 5, 6, 7 and 8 South west Section, Iona.

She worked very hard at market gardening at one time owning several lots in the village, including the Lot 4, southwest Section of Iona, facing the Iona Road and others.

Her thumbs must have been "green" for her produce was plentiful and of excellent quality. She was scrupulously honest, insisting on a fair price regardless of the market and her measures were heaped and running over.

When the payments to the aged were first introduced, the amount she was entitled to was twenty-five dollars, a sum which she might have well used. Figuring how many years she might have lived and a fair value of her assets, she arrived at the sum she could accept and yet pay it back in full at her death. The figure was fifteen dollars a month and that was all she would accept. Something for nothing was not for her.

Miss Ann might have been an asset today. Fearlessly she would speak up to those who, in her opinion, were not doing what was right.

The brick used in the beautiful old Decow house immediately north of her had come from the kiln on the Ibbetson farm about two miles north of Iona Station. It did not suit her at all to see it falling into ruin, so she bought it, grew her usual fine produce on it and arranged to have her nephew Mr. Frank H. Silcox move her house to his farm, one half mile west of the village. With no more help than possible she made a neat place for herself with the excellent materials salvaged. (Mr. Ibbetson's farm house was the first brick residence in this district and were formed and burned in the kiln on his farm).

James Silcox with his wife Agnes (Dell) and son Franklin occupied the home she had moved away until it was destroyed by fire in 1957.

She lived alone in what she built of the salvaged remains of the Decow home until her death, almost totally deaf and uncomplaining.

Picture courtesy Mrs. L.H. Brown

Curator 1962-1968.

Nine children were born to this union.

Ernest - married Ada Hurst, farmed in Saskatchewan, later returned to Shedden.

Wilfred - married Lily Bradden, farmer, later automobile salesman.
Sidney C.

Alfred - married Mildred Orchard. He was also known as Allworth.

Joseph Bertram - married Roesmond Thompson.

George Edgar - married Viola Styles.

Claris Mathew - married Mary McTavish.

Arthur Prescott (Pat).

James Hilton - married Elsie Koyle.

Of the nine boys in the above family, all are living with the exception of Sidney, who was killed in the first World War at Cambrai, in 1918, just a few days prior to the signing of the Armistice. He had enlisted in Saskatchewan where he had gone with his elder brother Ernest.

Bertram, Arthur(Pat) and James were successful teachers - Bertram became a Deputy Minister of Education in Ontario, Pat, an Inspector of Education in Norfolk County, and James, a school principal in Windsor, Ontario. He and his wife, his son James and his wife (both Medical Doctors), all live in Berkshire Village, London, Ontario.

The remainder of these boys were all well respected farmers, turning to other pursuits, probably more as a hobby in later life. George, who succeeded his father Edgar on Lot 7, north side of what is now Provincial Highway number three, is now retired in Shedden and this fourth generation Silcox farm is now in other hands. George was active politically.

Allworth, who married a neighbour, Miss Mildred Orchard, now lives in a home where the planning and much of the construction was his own work. His farm on part of Lot 7, south side of Highway Number Three, is now in other hands. The log cabins, where he carried on a successful antique business, still remain on the farm. The Silcox Lumber Company he owned and turned over to his sons Hugh and Lawrence, is now closed following the death of Hugh who was an asset to the community in many ways. Hugh was a qualified auctioneer.

Lawrence, his youngest son, lives in Shedden.

Mrs. Kate Allworth Silcox of St. Thomas, was a city girl. There were those who were interested in this city girl turned farmer's wife. As later years proved, she at first learning much from her husband's Aunt Hannah (his uncle George's wife), she came to be much admired for her efficiency. Mother of nine active sons, she ran her home with no apparent hardship, turning out home-made bread for her family, excellent in all other homemaker tasks, she was able to take her place in efforts for the good of her adopted community. The baby girl they desired never came to them.

There has never been a shadow on the moral character of any member of this family, to the knowledge of the writer. What higher tribute could be paid to a mother and father of nine sons?

Winters in later years were spent in Florida, where they are known to have nearly as many friends as they had at home.

Curator.