

Edna Lumley (Mrs. Frank H. Silcox had three sons by a prior marriage. To her boys she was an excellent mother, supporting them by her work at the Iona Telephone Exchange in her home in Iona. Her reputation of efficiency as an operator was widely recognized. At this time she was Mrs. Peter Carswell.

Murray, the eldest, born in 1940, died at twenty-three years of age. He had suffered brain damage as a baby, and was cared for faithfully by his mother for many years, until she recognized the necessity of more professional care.

Homer and Ross remained with her until completing their education and have shown their devotion to her throughout their lives. Both secured positions and rapid advancement with the Bell Telephone Company.

Her marriage to Mr. Frank Silcox brought her much happiness in her later life. She was a charter member of the Iona Women's Institute, served as secretary, president and convenor of Agriculture in the local branch and district. Later she was made a Life Member of this institution. She was also a long time member of the Iona United Church, to which she remained faithful, having served as president and secretary of the Women's Auxiliary.



Mr. and Mrs. F.H. Silcox, 1953.

After her husband's death in 1962, she continued to live in her home, having her sisters Edythe Carswell and Mildred Herford with her as much as possible. Growing older, she moved to the St. George Street apartment in St. Thomas. This apartment had been erected on the site of the Dr. Charles C. Lumley home. He was a relative and good friend.

Mrs. Silcox had a keen sense of humour and expressed it fluently, well to her own enjoyment and that of any group she entered publicly or privately.

Curator 1962-1968.

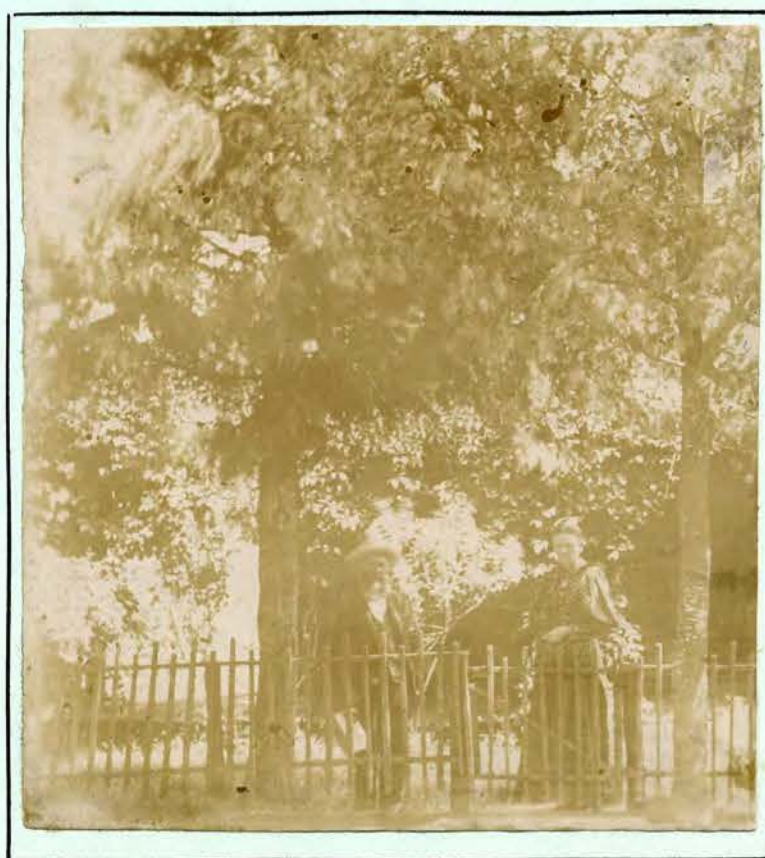
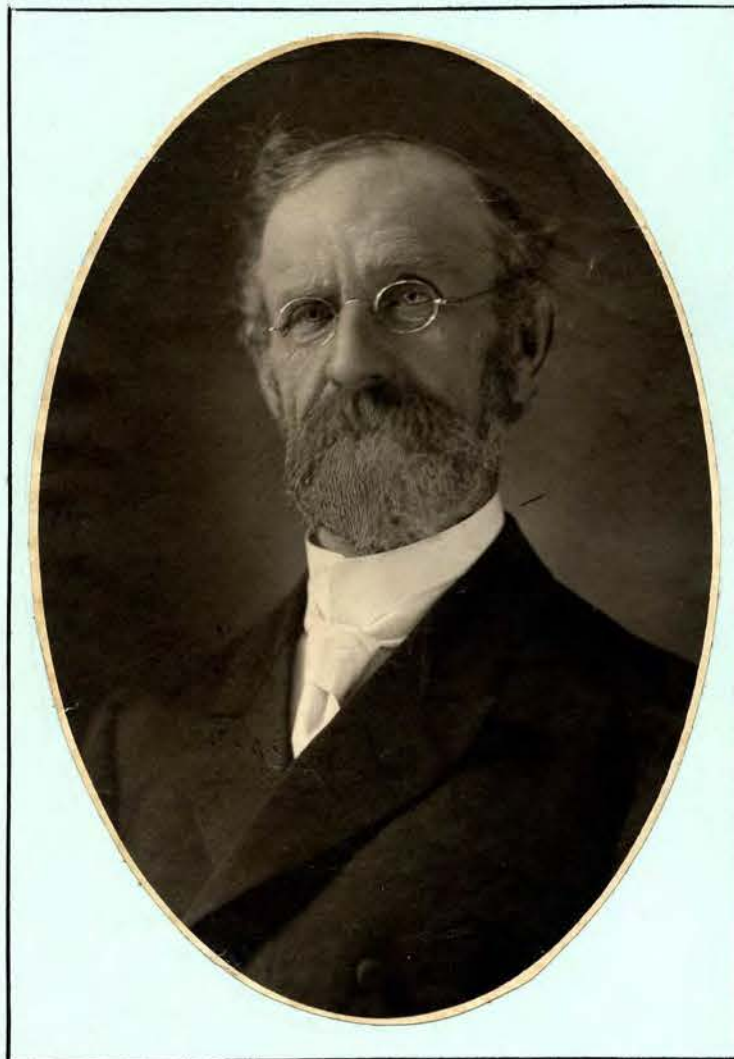


First Wife Jane Vanveltzer  
Second Wife Rebecca Mills

Among the pioneer settlers coming to the Talbot Settlement in Upper Canada were the Silcoxes from Wiltshire, England. Daniel came in 1816, settling on Lots 6 and 7, Back Street; Reverend Joseph in 1817. Henry and John came in 1821 with Joseph who had returned home for his family. Joseph had visited his brother Thomas of Somerset County, whom he thought he might interest in the new country. Thomas remained content in England but encouraged his two sons to return with their uncle. The two brothers settled on Back Street in Southwold, Henry on Lot 8, John on Lot 9 which came to be known as the North Branch of the Talbot Road, now number 3 Highway. Thus, Daniel, Henry and John were settled in adjoining lots. George came in 1829 and aquired the east half of Daniel's holdings.

Henry first married Jane Vanveltzer. There were four children: Mark, no children, died in California at ninety-eight years of age, John - a Regular Baptist minister, Thomas A. spent life in Iona, twice married; and Stephen died young unmarried.

Mark must have received more of an education than usual in these early days, as he taught school at Southwold School Number 10. He settled in Filmore, California, spending most of his long life on the orange grove where he lived. He corresponded regularly with his half-sister Mrs. Luke H. Brown of Iona.



Left to right:

Rev. John Silcox  
Stephen Silcox  
Mark Silcox and wife  
Thomas A. Silcox and wife

Pictures courtesy Mrs. L.H.  
Brown.



His widow and daughter made their way by the products of their loom until the daughter married Luke H. Brown.

The youngest son Oliver moved in the home with his mother together with his wife and two children, Gladys and Rhea. His wife's health declined and Mrs. Silcox came to live with her daughter Nancy in the village. Mrs. Oliver Silcox died and was buried beside her husband's parents in the old Iona Cemetery.

The farm was inherited by the sons, Oliver getting the north half, Sanford the south.



Blake and Dola Oatman  
children of Roy and Rhea  
(Silcox) Oatman.



Mrs. T.J. LaFontaine, of North Palm Beach, Florida, spent much of her time, especially when she was needed, in the village as a girl and with her father, Oliver Silcox, and her aunt Mrs. L.H. Brown.



Jane LaFontaine.

Pictures courtesy Mrs. Ray Johnson

Curator 1967.



This picture shows Miss Hamilton in a gay mood. The younger man is her nephew, Lee Strauthers. Oliver K. Silcox, whom she married, is on the right.



John became a minister serving the Eden (near Vienna, Elgin County) Baptist Church many years. He had one son Arthur, a professional engineer, and one daughter Minnie, a nurse, who after spending many years in New York city at her profession, retired to Toronto to be near her brother.

It is interesting to know that Miss Minnie had as her patient, the young widow of Colonel John Jacob Aster, when the baby son was born. The S.S. Titanic, on her maiden voyage to New York City from England, struck an iceberg, and sank with an enormous loss of life. This ship, thought to be unsinkable, was seeking a new record in a speedy crossing. Colonel Astor went down with the ship, but his wife survived to bear the heir he would never know.

Thomas A. usually spoken of as T.A. lived in the village of Iona, lot 3, south section in Southwold. He worked a farm on its outskirts, to the west, on the south side of the Back Street. His first wife was Jane Cascadden (born 1796, died 1812), daughter of David and Mary Cascadden of Ballintra, Ireland. All but Jane rest in the old Iona Cemetery. Of their two children, Jane early went to Corsica, Nebraska and John to Brandon, Manitoba.

Thomas A. later married Maggie Silcox, a direct descendant of the Reverend Joseph Silcox, Circuit Rider, well known pioneer, who established the first Congregational Church in Upper Canada at Frome.

To them was born three children: Minnie and Mabel (twins) and Frank H. Minnie remained at home acting as assistant to Miss Bella Roche, Iona Postmistress, until her marriage to Mr. Ben Scott of London. Mrs. Scott, a widow, is still living and has one daughter.

Stephen - the youngest, was light hearted. While living with his step-mother, who made every effort to influence him to follow in the paths of his hard working and serious brothers, he caught cold and contracted pneumonia and died. Her efforts to have him take care of his health were not heeded.

Mrs. Rebecca Jane Mills who became the second wife of Henry Silcox had been married twice before. At eighteen she was a widow with a daughter Amy Smith who never knew her father. Amy married Wesley Smith and came to Elgin County with him from Nova Scotia. Soon she married her second husband Joseph Canfield, also in Cumberland County, Nova Scotia. Shortly after the marriage they, with Joseph's brother Ben and sister Libbie, found their way to Iona. Mr. Canfield did not long survive leaving her with a small son Joseph.

Certainly she was a woman who lived a life of ups and downs, hardships and triumphs.

Her daughter Nancy, visiting in Nova Scotia, is quoted as saying that every relative she visited said, "You resemble your mother", and she always replied before they could: "but you're not as good looking", and then invariably the reply to this was - "No, you are not."

She must have been gifted in household arts as she won many prizes on the food and crafts shown at Iona and Wallacetown Fairs.

Children of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Silcox (Rebecca Mills) were:

Sanford, 1859-1955, married Jane Lowther, died in Winnipeg.  
Phobe Ann, 1862-1931, married Dugald Lumley (1864-1919).  
Nancy Catherine, 1865-1955, married Luke H. Brown.  
Oliver K., 1868-1945, first wife May Lewis, second Jerusha Hamilton.

Henry and Rebecca Jane lived on Lot 8, Back Street until his failing health made it seem advisable to leave this farm and buy a home in the village of Iona. They settled on Lot 4 just west of the main corner on the north side of Back Street. Sanford, the eldest son, already married, moved to the farm.

Henry, as his health failed, was given loving care by his daughter Nancy, which he is said to have deeply appreciated. He died in 1888.

Curator



Henry Sanford Silcox and Jane Lowther were married on September 21, 1881, and celebrated their fifty sixth anniversary in 1937. Mrs. Silcox is quoted as saying that the ceremony was early in the day as they wished to attend the London Fair. The day was well remembered as they saw their first electric light that night - turned on for the first time in London.

After their marriage they made their home on the north side of Lot 4 where the William Keith's now live. At that time there was a house at the north and Dr. McGeachy's house and barn was at the south side of this lot. When due to failing health his father purchased lot 8 on the north side of what was then the Back Street, he took over his father's farm. Eight children joined the family in due time, they being: Mrs. A.E. Crane (Cora), Mrs. J.S. Rouse (Eva), Harry L. Silcox, Mrs. Roland Carter (Pearl), Mrs. Charles W. Howatt (Jennie), James, Mrs. Percy Coupland (Velma), and Mrs. C. Jennings (Eileen), all of Winnipeg, except Mrs. Howatt who has lived on a farm near Manitou, Manitoba, since her marriage. Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Carter and James are deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Silcox have many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

CORA, the eldest, learned dressmaking in the shop of Mrs. Annie Liddell in Iona. She set up her own shop on Main Street in Dutton, in a small building north of the Town Hall. The enterprize was successful and her sister Eva joined her. However, heavy the demands on her time, she spent enough time with Mr. Arleigh Crane, from south of Wallacetown, to become engaged to marry him.

EVA apparently continued the shop in Dutton when Cora accompanied the next member of the family, her brother Harry, to the western provinces. In Winnipeg, her ability must have won appreciation, as when there were more customers than she could handle, at prices which were higher than she had anticipated, she sent for Eva to join her.

After her marriage in Winnipeg, she gradually spent more and more time sewing, while Eva continued to replace her duties in their shop. Before her death in the late fifties, she had a large class to whom she taught china painting, having a kiln of her own to bring these products to completion. Her husband Arleigh Crane survived her by several years.

Eva married in Winnipeg. Her husband, Sylvester Rouse, formerly of Chatham, passed away shortly after his sister-in-law, Mrs. Crane. Eva, having developed her own artistic abilities, took over the unfinished work of Cora's pupils and carried on both that and some dressmaking for sometime. Now nearly ninety-years of age, she is enjoying a good life in the small, but comfortable home where she has lived for so many years.

HARRY, next in age in this family, married a teacher, Alberta Brown, and farmed for some time in Saskatchewan, and established a family of two boys and one girl. Farming in the early years of his marriage was at the time of acute hardship on the prairies, and being a veteran of the 1914-1918 war - years, succeeded in gaining employment with the Canadian Pacific Railroads in Winnipeg. He has been pensioned for twenty odd years, but managed the Legion Hall near his home with great satisfaction until becomming crippled with arthritis.

PEARL married Roland Carter, an accountant, had two sons and died in giving birth to a third.

JENNIE married Charles Howatt, a farmer in Manitoba - Manitou. He was a veteran of the First World War also, and they had become engaged before he was sent overseas. They were married soon after his return. Charles passed away four years ago, but his wife remains in the home where they had lived, and where their fifty years of marriage was celebrated.

Two daughters arrived first in this home. Dorothy became a teacher and has resumed now that her children are matured, as a specialist in the Retarded Classes. The next daughter is a Registered Nurse. Twins, Verna and Velma were the next arrivals.

The youngest, a son, Basil, has worked with his father since graduating from school, on the farm.



These family farms in the south-west part of Manitoba were of an interest to the writer. The three here described were of much greater size than the usual Ontario farm, and each had a wide circle drive with shrubs and lawn in the centre. The parents had a house at one side of the drive, the barns a distance back of the middle rim of the circle, and the son, in partnership with his father, across the driveway from his father, in his house.

The flat prairie did not make too great appeal to easterners.

To those readers who have little faith in the "diviner's witching willow stick" to locate a spring of water below ground, the account read in a Detroit paper regarding the search for a supply of water for the Manitou Hospital, may have some interest. Search for water by a regular well drilling outfit had become a problem. In spite of opposition by the more intelligent(?) members of this building group, a 'witcher' was chosen who located water. An artesian well was drilled successfully and is still meeting the needs of this hospital at last report.

Mr. Sanford Silcox gave up the farm homestead he had established in Saskatchewan during those trying times and became engaged in carpentry in Winnipeg. He died at the age of ninety-three, after an active life to within a few days of his death. His wife preceded him by a few years.

Curator



Henry Sanford Silcox, his son Harry  
and a grandchild.

Picture courtesy Mrs. Ray Johnson

Jane Lowther  
Silcox

## HENRY S. SILCOX DIES IN WINNIPEG

Born Near Iona Nearly Ninety-  
three Years Ago

The death occurred in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on Wednesday, March 19, of Henry Sanford Silcox, son of the late Henry and Rebecca Silcox of Iona. He was born on his father's farm, two miles east of Iona on March 26, 1859.

He received his education at S.S. No. 10, Southwold township. Mr. Silcox farmed for a number of years on the old homestead and moved with his wife and family to Winnipeg in 1908.

Surviving besides his wife and family in Winnipeg are one sister, Mrs. L. H. Brown, Iona; four nieces and one nephew, Mrs. Ray Johnson, Iona; V. L. Brown, and Mrs. T. H. Edwards, St. Thomas; Mrs. La Fontaine, Palm Beach, Florida, and Mrs. R. Oatman, Springfield. Several great nephews and nieces also survive. The funeral service was held from the residence of his daughter, and burial was made in Winnipeg.



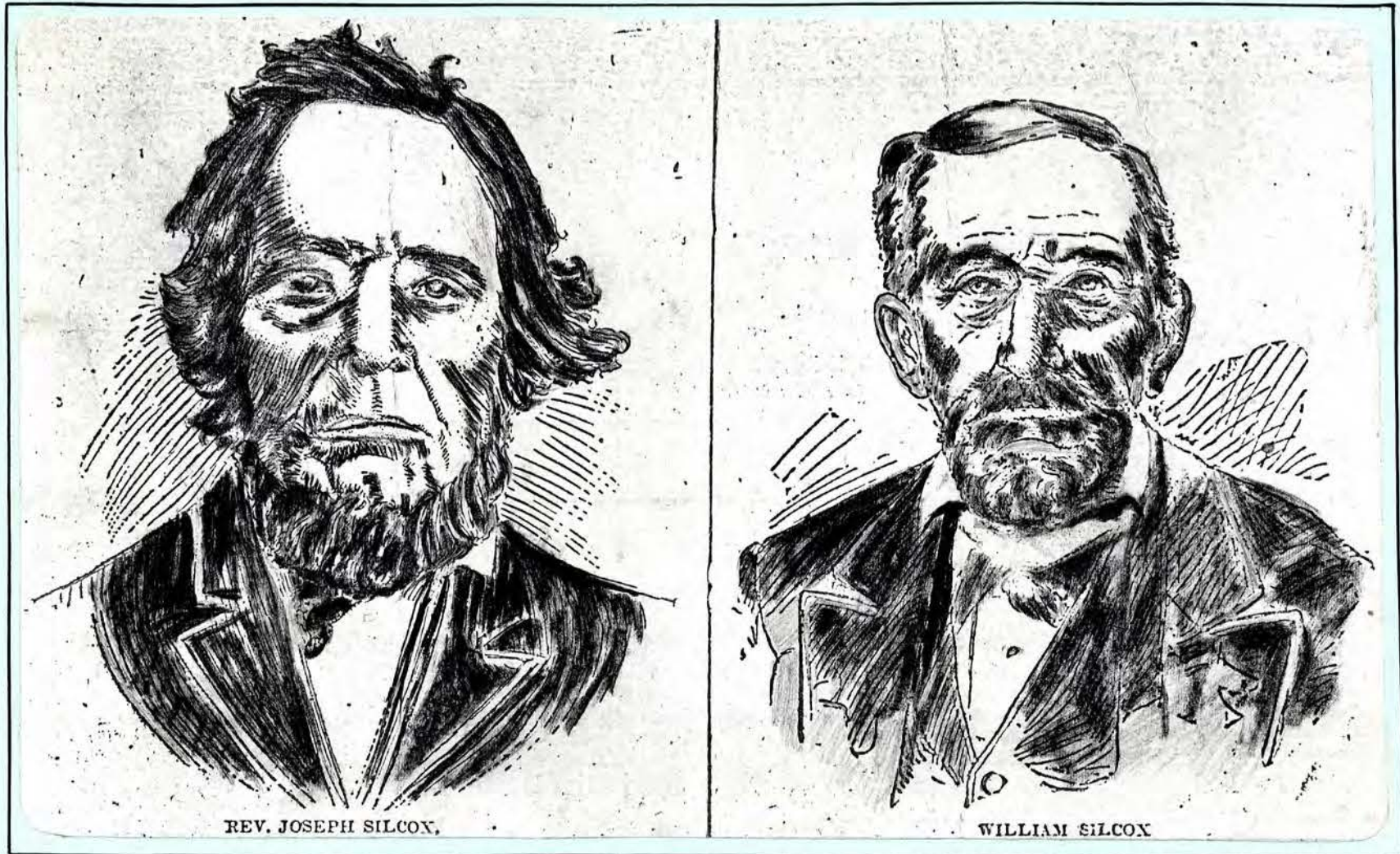


REVEREND JOSEPH SILCOX  
his son  
WILLIAM SILCOX  
And Some Succeeding Generations

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Reverend Joseph Silcox of Corsley, England, was the founder of the Congregational Church in Upper Canada. He was one of the old fraternity of those dedicated preachers who travelled through trails in the virgin forests where there were no roads, and through snow and mud to bring the religion they represented, to the early settlers. He came in 1817 and farmed to support himself and to prepare a home for his wife and family - all the time carrying on his mission for his church.

He returned to Wiltshire, England for his wife two years later.



Reverend Joseph Silcox and his son William Silcox.

William Silcox, pictured above, was the son of Reverend Joseph Silcox. Both pictures are said to be a good likeness of them.

George, son of William, came to Southwold in 1829. His wife was the former Nancy Phillips. First settling on part of Lot 4, south side of what is now Provincial Highway Number Three, he afterwards bought Lot 6 on the opposite side of the road from his Uncle Daniel. Daniel arrived in 1816 and having a larger lot than was usual at that time, was willing to part with the east half.

George had four children: Arthur, Matthew, Edgar and Jennie.

Arthur, half brother of Edgar, married Minnie McIntyre.

Edgar Silcox inherited this land from his father George, and has until recently been the home of Edgar's son George and his wife.



REVEREND JOSEPH SILCOX  
his son  
WILLIAM SILCOX  
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Mrs. Mathew (Nancy McAlpine) Silcox

Matthew's first wife was Miss Nancy McAlpine, sister of Mrs. William Mc Landress, who died at the age of fifty one, in 1903.

Other children of the Reverend Joseph were: Albert, Abner, Reverend John B. and George.

To George's first marriage came a son Matthew Silcox who married Miss Nancy McAlpine. To his second marriage came Edgar, Annie and Arthur. Edgar married Kate Allworth, Arthur - Minnie McIntyre and Annie became the wife of William Piper. More information of Edgar's family of nine sons is to be found eslewhere in this history.

Arthur and his wife Minnie McIntyre, daughter of Benoni, Iona Merchant, lived on the south side of Lot 4, on the north branch of the Talbot Road, one mile east of Iona. Later, Arthur moved to Battleford, in the north-west section of Saskatchewan. While he was preparing a home there for his family, his wife and daughter Alice lived temporarily on Lot 17, Iona. Daughters Alice and Vera both married in Saskatchewan. They are remembered by the writer as unusually attractive and gracious people, who made good lives for themselves in this western locality.

Annie Silcox married William Piper of Iona. They had two children, Roy and Ethel.

Curator

Picture courtesy Mrs.L.H. Brown



Mable Silcox, twin sister of Minnie Silcox Scott, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Silcox, and remained unmarried. She took care of her widowed mother and remained all her life in Iona except when she lived with her brother Frank. She was needed after the death of his first wife, leaving young children.

Miss Mable certainly possessed a green thumb, and was a very successful cultivator of flower and vegetable gardens. These products she shared most generously with all her friends.

In her later years she suffered from crippling arthritis, but this could not make a chronic invalid of this courageous woman who also suffered from impaired hearing.



She became a resident of Mrs. Stevenson's home in Fingal. Discharged from Elgin-St. Thomas General Hospital, she next moved to the Bobier Home in Dutton, where she died and was buried with her parents in the old Iona Cemetery. (last burial there).

As a patient in the Bobier Home she became a favourite with other residents, with visitors there and with the staff. Her courage, humour and good nature made a niche which no one else was quite able to fill.

(Curator - 1962-1968).



Miss Mabel Silcox at the Frank H. Silcox home with Mrs. Jean Steele Silcox and her two sons Clifford and James.

Pictures courtesy Miss Mabel Silcox



OLIVER KING SILCOX - MAY LEWIS SILCOX  
1868-1945                      First Wife  
JERUSHA HAMILTON  
Second Wife  
1867-1942

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Oliver K. Silcox was the youngest child of Henry and Rebecca Jane Silcox, born on Lot 8, north side of the north branch of the Talbot Road, now Number Three Highway.

He first married May Lewis of Havelock. At that time he was employed in Strathroy, having some connection with the Bowley's there.

Three children were born to this family who had returned to Iona; Gladys LaFontaine, of West Palm Beach who had three children, namely - Paul of Detroit, Lorraine Comstock and Jane Newcomb, both of Palm Beach, Florida; Rhea, (Mrs. Roy Oatman) Tillsonburg, their fine children being Blake, Dola, Doris, Jean, Evelyn, Vern and Wayne; and Ronald, deceased, who married Bessie Erwin of Leamington.

Mrs. Silcox's death following the birth of her son while living in Iona, saddened the community where she was a highly respected member held in deep affection in the community.

Oliver later married Jerusha Hamilton, the pioneer music teacher of the community, whose home until her marriage was on lot 9, nearly across the street from the Silcox home.

Being employed as a guard at the City jail in St. Thomas at the time of his second marriage, a home was purchased at 35 Pearl Street in that city. They lived there for a time with their two daughters and Mrs. Silcox's mother, Mrs. Hamilton, who was dearly loved by the young girls.

A farm was bought in Mapleton and the family lived there for a few years. However, both Mr. and Mrs. Silcox had roots in Iona and the farm on the north part of Lot 4, which Wesley Smith had sold to Frank Down, was purchased and was their home until retirement when they moved to the north-east section of the village of Iona on Lot number 10. This home was sold to Mrs. Herbert Fletcher at Mr. Silcox's death in 1945. Mrs. Silcox predeceased him in 1942. Both are interred in the Shedden Cemetery.

Music was an interest to Mr. Oliver and Mrs. Jerusha Silcox throughout their lives. He was a gifted violinist with a fine tenor voice. The community dances were a joy to him up to a short time before his death.

As the first music teacher of the community, very few of her pupils are left. Reverend Norman Morris, one of the last is still active. More of her activities are to be found elsewhere in this book.

Curator



1840-1917

1843-1898



Wesley Smith and Amy Smith were married in Cumberland County, Nova Scotia, and came to Dunwich about the middle of the nineteenth century, settling at "Broadlands." This was one hundred and eighty acres, about a mile east of the Port Talbot Hill. It was later owned by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Whalls and their son Orray.

Children of the Smiths' were:

Jennie Rebecca, born in Nova Scotia, later married Fred Smith, there.  
 Elizabeth - 1870-1934, married John Claus - 1870-1913  
 Benjamin W. - 1864-1897, caught cold in their sugar bush, developed  
     Pneumonia and died.  
 John H. - 1866-1871.  
 Ernest - went to Alberta, never married, died there.  
 Mary E. - 1872-1906, nurse at Massachusetts General Hospital.  
 Arthur - 1875-1960, died in Alberta, married Minnie Moore - 1896-1955.  
 Clarence L. - 1881, lived 5 months.  
 Eva - 1885, lived 9 days.  
 Anna B. - 1905-1963  
 Blanche - , nurse, married Mr. William Lewis.

Elizabeth Smith Claus lost her husband when he was 42 years old. His people were Pennsylvania Dutch, coming to America in 1775. They were descendants of the well known Johnson, Indian Agent. Their children were: Ethel, 1891-1958, Registered Nurse, married Mr. Alva Baldwin (1898-1937) of Loyalist decent. Abner lost his life in First World War in 1915. Edna lived two years. Anna, 1905-1963, married Harry Hall (1903), died as a result of a motor accident.

Later the Smiths' moved to Southwold, Lot 4, northside of Back Street, one mile east of Iona to the farm formerly owned by Colonel McColl. Their neighbors to the west was a family of Mr. Mackenzie Lodge, and to the east John Henry Harris. Part of the west half of this farm was sold to Marwood Robbins at a later date.

Only the kitchen wing of this beautiful old home remains. It is well remembered as it was sixty years ago. A double row of maple trees arched over the