

At the October meeting, held at Mrs. Murray's a spelling match was held, and Mrs. Dan Campbell, and Mrs. C.C. Joiner were the captains. The side of Mrs. Joiner carrying off the both prizes. The first prize, a bon-bon-dish given to the one staying up the longest and an egg beater to the one taking her seat first. No names are mentioned so I can't tell you who got them. I see at a later date Mrs. P.M. Campbell was the Champion Speller.

The November meeting, as usual was the banquet and Mr. J.C. Telford was the toast-master.

The April meeting was held at the home of Mrs. ^{Howe}, when the most important feature of the program was the darning contest by the members, which kept them very busy while the program was in progress. Mrs. Walter Biddle and Mrs. James Lawrence were the judges. Mrs. Wm. Telford won first prize, a work bag; Miss Jennie McIntyre 2nd; Mrs. J.C. Telford 3rd. They each received a box of bon-bons.

The May meeting was held at Mrs. Dave Crosson's, and she was presented with a bouquet of roses, it being her wedding anniversary.

The June meeting was held at Mrs. John McCormack's, when the election of officers took place. Mrs. Angus Turner was the New Pres. and Mrs. J.C. Telford her secretary for 1914-15.

This was the year of the war and a great deal of war work was done by the ladies. There was a Red Cross Society formed in the village. The Red Cross Workers came up from St. Thomas one afternoon to Mrs. McAlpines. Mrs. McAlpine was the Pres. and Mrs. Angus Turner the treasurer. The reason I am mentioning this is because any money raised by the Club was handed to them to use. A war fund was started, by each member giving .10¢ a meeting. A shower of yarn was given. Also a block for a quilt made by each member for the gore ladies, who were making quilts to send for Belgian Relief.

Boxes were put up in the store and in the bank for Belgian relief. A can of condensed milk was also given by each lady to be sent to Belgium.

You all remember during the war how the food was conserved. We had to use all the coarser grades of flour so the best could be sent to the war area. Some one tells me that we served lemonade and candy at some of the meetings during this period.

There was an average attendance the first six months of forty.

The November meeting was the usual banquet with Rev. Mr. McKay as toast-master.

During this year we suffered the first break in our ranks, when Miss Alice Killins passed away.

The business meeting for 1915-16 was held when Mrs. McAlpine was the Pres. and Mrs. Alex McCormack her Sec.

I think at this time the club had as large a membership as at any time. There were 53 on the roll. Mrs. McAlpine's first meeting in August was held at my home with an attendance of 80 or more.

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At the October meeting, held at Mrs. Murray's a spelling match was held, and Mrs. Dan Campbell, and Mrs. G.C. Joiner were the captains. August meeting was always large, the school girls being free to come, also visitor! The club books always had guests invited so the guests also were present. It was oat harvest, and it rained the day before so the men drove those who didn't drive themselves. (At this meeting a great deal of enjoyment was had when a contest was put on, by each lady being given a piece of gum, which she chewed and then modelled into some sort of an animal. Mrs. F. Telford won first prize, it being a work of art. The consolation prize went to Mrs. Robt. Meek. Hers was a fish-worm.

This meeting also had it's sad side. Someone, unthinkingly sang, "Just before the battle Mother, I'm thinking most of you". Now some of the mothers present had seen their sons leave for training and not a dry eye was seen.

The Sec's books for the next four years have been lost, so I haven't any records, only the little books, and there isn't much I could glean from them. ^{Programs}

It was during one of these years when Miss B. McFarlane was given a miscellaneous shower prior to her marriage.

The next year 1916-17 Miss Kate McDougal was the President and Mrs. Alex. Buchan her secretary. During this year Miss Jennie McIntyre died. I can't recall anything this year but the June meeting at Mrs. M.D. McCormick's when it stormed so hard. Mrs. Biddle was the president for 1917-18, and Mrs. J. Murray her secretary.

This year \$100.00 was raised by the Club for war purposes. A play entitled "The Suffragettes Convention", was given. Those putting it on were: Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Wm. Lawrence, Mrs. J.C. Telford, Mrs. A. Down, Miss Margaret Carroll, Miss Jean Killins, Mrs. Angus Turner, Mrs. Albert McIntyre, Mrs. C. Annett, Mrs. E. Biddle, Mrs. J. McFarlane, Mrs. Duncan McLellan, and Mrs. R.N. McLellan.

We gave the play first in Lawrence Hall to a crowded house. Then in Shedden, Iona Station and Cowal. We were all dressed in some old-fashioned clothes. I had on a long black taffeta skirt with frills, old fashioned wire hoops and a bustle; Mrs. Elgin Biddle's mother's black silk wedding coat, a wide brimmed hat trimmed with Mrs. J.C. Telford's high ostrich plume. *mm R. Meek's*

Mrs. Murray was the star of the play, and Mrs. Robt. Meek was our prompter. Mrs. Dunc. McLellan entertained all of us afterward and a snap was taken. We haven't a snap of our play clothes, which would have been interesting.

For the year 1919-20, Mrs. John Murray was the president, and Miss Marguerite Joiner (now Mrs. G. Evans), was the secretary. I can't recall anything for this year.

The year 1920-21, Mrs. W.J. Evans was the president and Mrs. C. Annett her secretary. This year was the picnic in the woods in the grove on McLellan boy's farm. The chicken pie supper was held as usual with Mr. A. McAlpine as toast-master. Mrs. J. Campbell died this year at the time of the banquet; the November meeting was dispensed with and the banquet held in December.

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At the business meeting in June, it was decided to dispense with the banquet and hold a social evening. Miss Annie McDougal was the president 1921-22, and Mrs. Angus Turner her secretary. During this year each lady of the club bought a poppy. These poppies were made by the Children's League of France and the money used to aid the French orphans. The money in the treasury was given to the fund of the Princess Mary Ward in the Memorial Hospital. Our beloved honorary president, Mrs. Barber, passed away this year.

The 1922-23 business meeting was held and Mrs. Fleming Carr became the president and Mrs. Wm. Lawrence her secretary.

The guest night was again in the form of a banquet this year. Mr. P. Campbell toast-master. It was during this year that the club tables were built. Mr. J. McCormick kindly consenting to make them if the ladies buy the lumber.

At the May meeting the Shedden Institute was entertained, and during the business session, it was moved by Mrs. A. Turner that the Club Ladies join in the boycott against the high price of sugar. This was seconded on behalf of the Shedden Institute by Mrs. Arthur McIntyre.

The business meeting for 1923-24 was held when Mrs. Fred Beecroft was president, and Miss Edna Howe her secretary. The picnic was held at Port Stanley and Mr. Dunc. A. McLellan was toast-master at the banquet. During this year we had the passing of two of our members; Mrs. C.C. Joiner and Mrs. Caughell, Mrs. Murray's mother and one of the honorary Presidents.

The 1924-25 business meeting was held and Mrs. Murray McArthur elected president with Mrs. Elgin Biddle her secretary. Mr. Fleming Carr was toast-master at the banquet and the picnic held at Springbank.

The 1925-26 business meeting was held and Mrs. Annett chosen president, and Mrs. Gardiner her secretary. The picnic was held on the baseball diamond at Lawrence in co-operation with the ball team. It was moved this year that our Club become affiliated with the National Council of Women, then at another meeting it was decided not to become affiliated with it. Mr. J.C. Telford was toast-master at the banquet.

The 1926-27 business meeting was held and Mrs. R.N. McLellan chosen president and Mrs. Beecroft her secretary. \$15.00 of the Club money was voted to make some needed repairs on the hall. A social evening was held this year and a Playette given entitled "Not a man in the House". Those taking part were: Mrs. E. Biddle, Mrs. W. Downs, Mrs. Snell, Mrs. Annett and Mrs. Harry Killins. Mrs. A. Buchan was the prompter. The picnic was dispensed with and not held again. There were three meetings this year - one at Mrs. Snell's, Mrs. Gardiner's, and Mrs. Carr's, where there was an attendance of sixty. Mrs. Robt. Meek passed away this year. We all remember what a good club member she was - always present.

At the 1927-28 meeting Mrs. F. Telford was appointed Pres. and Mrs. P.M. Campbell her Secretary. A social evening was held in the hall and a playette "You do say" was given. I have a list of those in it.

During the 1928-29 business meeting, Miss M.L. Miller was elected Pres. and Mrs. Vernon Joiner her Secretary. The November meeting was a program of outside talent. A play "Smile Rodney Smile" was given by the Yarmouth Centre people. \$34.00 was realized. My mother, Mrs. Killins passed away this year.

In 1929-30, we find Mrs. J. Carroll Pres. and Mrs. Elgin Biddle her secretary. Mrs. Carroll got out the programs and then they sold their farm and moved away. Mrs. A. Downs was the one elected in her place. At the May meeting, Mrs. Dougal Turner, an Hon. member was presented with a box of candy on her 87th birthday.

In 1930-31 Mrs. Harry Killins was the Pres. and Mrs. A. Buchan her secretary. Miss Margaret Brown was present and gave a talk at one of the meetings. She spoke on "Health" and urged the Club to join with the Women's Institutes of the County to petition the government to help health conditions. After discussing the subject for some time, the Club decided not to sign the resolution by the Elgin Rural Woman's Association, but if any person wished to join, it was her privilege.

The President for 1931-32 was Miss Edna Howe and Mrs. Dunc. A. McLellan as secretary.

The President for 1932-33 was Mrs. P.M. Campbell, and Mrs. Gardiner her secretary. During this year we had the passing of Miss Annie McDougal.

- In 1933-34 Mrs. M.C. Campbell was Pres. and Miss M.L. Miller was secretary. We have the passing this year of two of our members. Misses Kate McDougal and Mrs. Gram.

For the year 1934-35 Mrs. Hutchings was president and Mrs. Down the secretary. This year marked the 25th anniversary of the Club.

In summing up the History, I might say there have been 27 presidents. No one person has ever acted as President twice. Each the old executive is put out and an entirely new executive chosen. There are at present 47 active members. Fourteen have passed away. Sixty invitations have been sent. In all 121 members since the Club began. Many times the West Elgin Institute has tried to persuade the Club to affiliate itself with their organization. The last time the reason being that Mrs. McCormich the organizer was now an active member of the Institute. But no!- the members were prone to give up the Kensington Club. One can scarcely explain the difference in the two. In the Institute you can dress in a print frock in the morning, leave your work, and attend the Institute in the afternoon; even act in the capacity of president and feel right at home. The Club: well it is your best bib and tucker or you don't feel at home.

We often hear the remark from out-siders, "Well, I just can't see any good in that Kensington Club, You never do any work. It is all purely social". Now all through this essay, I have tried to show where the Club has always been active in helping whatever calls have been made upon it, and I am sure can hold its own in comparison with other institutions.

with history

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The membership has always been in the neighborhood of 50, and flowers have been sent to all in case of sickness.

There have always been honorary members and on Mother's Day or some other occasion, flowers have been sent to them.

I don't think there can be any doubt about the end of the next 25 years finding the same old Kensington Club. Perhaps the members will not include many of us, we do not know, but as long I am sure as the 1934 members are able, each will do her duty to see that the Kensington Club with its jolly social gatherings, may continue to be just as enthusiastic at the time of the 50th anniversary as it is to-day.

We will rear new homes under trees that glow
As of gems were the fruitage of every bough
O'er our white walls we will train the vines
And sit in its shadows at day's decline,
Or watch our herds as they range at will
Through the green savannahs all bright and still.

Southwold Township from its position and
shape bears the resemblance to the keystone of the
arch. From the fertility of the soil and character
of the people is called the Keystone Township,
its name coming from the Anglo-Saxon word "Wold",
a forest, or open country.

LIST OF EARLY ASSESSORS

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|----|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | 1850 | Amos Barnes |
| 2 | 1851-1858 | Messrs. Colin Munro and John Silcox |
| 3 | 1860 | Dugald Brown |
| 4 | 1860-1862 | Samuel Farr |
| 5 | 1863-1864 | Duncan Campbell |
| 6 | 1865-1868 | Fred Sharon |
| 7 | 1869-1870 | Amos Barnes |
| 8 | 1871-1873 | J. W. King |
| 9 | 1874-1877 | John Hortor |
| 10 | 1878 | Colin Munro |
| 11 | 1879 | Charles Couse |

Miss Lou Miller

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January 2nd, 1948.

I have a small map here of Elgin County, which shows how the lots in each township are surveyed. To look at Southwold Township one would wonder just what some of those old surveyors had in mind.

For the information of those who are new in our section, I want to tell a few general items.

I told Mrs. McArthur last spring that I would give the history of concessions 1 and 2. The concession is the land lying between the roads not the roads.

Strange as it may seem to many, our School and a lot, maybe all, of School Section #3 was surveyed before the lots along what used to be known as the Front Street, the road from St. Thomas to Fingal and those along the Back Street now #3 Highway. You will notice in pictures that lots in different places in the township are a different shape. Our lots in this section are 120 rds wide, $\frac{5}{6}$ of a mile long, and those along Back and Front Streets are 80 rods wide and $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles long. That makes our concession $\frac{5}{6}$ of a mile wide and the best example we have of the length of Back Street lots is from Mrs. Arthur McIntyre to Shedden $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

Of course these surveys were made at different times and we have what is known as the Gore. I will leave it to some one else to tell about that.

On lot 11 of the 1st concession 50 years ago there was such a thick grove of Hemlock trees the sun never reached the ground. Early one summer between 1900 and 1905 we had a cloud burst. When the storm was over the ravine or gully that runs almost on line between Lots 10 and 11 was swept bare. Trees, logs, stones and dirt were piled up in the river. It was said a team of horses on a wagon with a load of hay could have been driven down the creek. That was the beginning of the end of the hemlocks. Banks started sliding and trees went with them and now there is scarcely a hemlock left on those banks.

The first survey along the river started at the Base Line or, as is known now, the County Road from Southwold Station to Frome, and the first lot there is #1. Our school section starts at Lot 9 and goes thro to all of Lot 13 in the 1st Concession.

The survey ends at the townline between Southwold and Dunwich, which is Lot #17. If you want lot #18, you will find it on the East side of the Base Line.

Another thing which is most confusing to new comers is that our roads do not run straight North and South, and East and West. In the 2nd Concession the School Section takes in the S. $\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 14, the farm on which Mr. Leitch lives.

LOT 9 CONCESSION 1

The first I can find out of this land was that it was owned by Rev. Peter Jones (who was an Indian) and sold to Philip Spolin in 1857. Later it was owned by McLeans, who sold to a Mr. Kearns, who sold 80 acres to Henry Killins. Later Mr. Killins bought the rest