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Joiner, who built the present house. Vern lived on the place only a few years when he turned it over to his father who died a month or so after moving onto the place. W. H. Moore of London, a former store-keeper at Southwold Station, bought it from Joiner's and he sold to the present owner, F. S. Fayter.

L10, Con.3. In the early 1900's, Ben Langour bought the $W\frac{1}{2}$ and built a house and barn on the north end. The house burned in the spring of 1910 while the family were away at a party at the home of Angus Turner. Mr. Langour and family moved to St. Thomas. Later the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 50 acres was sold to Oliver Howe and is now owned by his grandson, Keith Howe, who has built a new house and barn. The remaining 150 acres was sold to Henry and James Oldham in the fall of 1913. Henry Oldham now lives on it. In June 1957 the barn was burned believed caused by faulty wiring, a new barn is being built.

W $\frac{1}{2}$ L12, Con.3. When Dan, the last of the McLellan family, was no longer able to operate the farm, it was sold to J. C. Campbell of the Cowal district. Many of the trees were cut for lumber.

S $\frac{1}{2}$ L15, Con.3. Early in 1958 Charles Oldham sold this farm to John Smith.

S $\frac{1}{2}$ L16, Con.3. After the death of Fred Beecroft, his younger son, Ivan, and family moved back to this farm. Mrs. Beecroft moved to St. Thomas.

Lot 5, Con. 1. In 1850, this farm was owned by S. P. Hamm who married Catherine Stafford of Shedden and had a family of 5 daughters and 4 sons. On this farm was a tile and brick yard which supplied bricks for most of the white brick houses of the district as well as tile for the farms. About 1882 he sold his farm and moved to Michigan where he passed away in 1905. It is not known to whom he sold his farm but later it was owned by Wm. Telford. Mr. Telford and his two sons, Jack and Frank, operated the tile yard and early in this century sold the tile yard to Oldham brothers of Muskoka. They later sold to the Bogarts who sold it back to Jack Telford. As the clay for tile was run out he had to stop making tile. Cletus *Holburn Atkinson* Holborn owns the few acres that went with the tile yard and the farm is owned by Farnell Nimmo.

Lot 5, Con.2. This farm was probably settled by Angus Turner and his wife who came from Argyleshire, Scotland. He, at least, spent his last days here with his son, Donald, and family. It was in this home that the West Magdala Post Office was located. On the death of Donald Turner the farm was sold to Webster Bogart whose son, Howard, continued to live there after his marriage. After Howard's death the farm was purchased by Lloyd Paton.

HISTORY OF SOUTHWOLD - MANY FAMILIAR NAMES MENTIONED

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About twenty-seven years ago a law-suit was heard in London, the parties thereto being farmers on the town line between Middlesex and Elgin, of the townships of Delaware and Southwold, respectively, near the River Thames. There were many interested parties looking on, among others the Oneida Indians, whose lands adjoined that of the Delaware farmer. The best witnesses in the suit were a lot of blazes cut from trees marked in the original survey. They told their tale well; eighty-five years had come and gone since the surveyors axe had left its tell-tale scar, eighty-five fine growths leaving their indisputable yearly record. The trees had lived on while the hands that made the gash had grown old and at last stiffened in death. Still they were putting forth their green leaves every year just as in the spring of 1792 when Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe and his party had made their momentous journey from Niagara to Detroit, tracing out the course of the river Thames. It was on their way home, when nearing Niagara, March 6th, that Simcoe met a surveyor, Augustus Jones, who, in the following year, surveyed the northwest part of the township of Southwold with the land adjoining Southwold along the Thames. Patrick McNiff's survey of the whole Thames valley from the river's mouth to the Upper Delaware village being also finished that same year. The land along the lake shore had been condemned the year before by the McNiff survey. Simcoe was entranced with the walnut lands along the Thames and thus it came about that the northern part of Southwold was surveyed about twenty years before the south or front part.

The land in Southwold included in the River Thames survey consisted of a tract six miles by four extending from the disputed town-line before mentioned to the Gore of Southwold and Dunwich, a stretch of about 14,400 acres, including school sections Nos. 3 and 17, better known as the West Magdala and Lawrence sections, also Muskoka section and parts of McBride's Union Section.

But the first shall be last. Simcoe's dreams of the earliest settlements being made along the river found no better fulfillment as far as Southwold was concerned than his other dreams of transplanting the effete system of a landed aristocracy from the old worlds to the wilds of Canada. Even a site had been laid out for a town on the bend of the river opposite the Donaldson farm, but no purchaser of town lots ever appeared on the scene. The old Iroquois hunting trail pointing towards Kettle creek lay undisturbed by white man's foot, unvalued the walnut trees waved their branches around the bends of the Thames, while unmolested the Chippewa Indians on the Southwold bend fished, gathered berries and made their maple sugar on its banks, with almost as little care for what a day might bring forth as nature herself. But while this part of the survey lay all but forgotten the lake shore and front parts were being settled and it was not until the latter was exhausted that the settlers began to make their way back to the river Thames survey.

- The year 1837 saw its first settlers, the Cushman family, who took up what is now the Crawford and Jones as well as the farm owned by Sheriff MacColl. The first Cushman of whom America has any record had come over in the Mayflower and settled in the New England States, and later on while part of the race were peopling the wilds of Canada, another member was Governor of Massachusetts.

The Canadian branch of the family were U. E. Loyalists, emigrating at the time of the War of Independence and settling near Toronto. During the War of 1812 the head of the family who afterwards settled in Southwold distinguished himself enough to draw a pension from the British Government, but in 1837 he sided with McKenzie and his party, so he and his family sought oblivion in the back-woods. Still later on they moved to Michigan.

later

Four years came the second settler, James Rowans, from Argyleshire, Scotland, who took up the Colon and Alexander, Munroe and Pfarrer homesteads. Later on he and other Southwold settlers moved to Bruce County. To-day his descendants are captains on the lakes or in the salmon industry in British Columbia where they were pioneers.

The years from 1840 to 1844 saw the incoming of the Oneida Indians from New York State. They landed at Port Stanley, came in through the Claris sideroad and took up their abode on the Thames survey opposite the earlier settlement of the Muncey and Chippewa Indians, on a stretch of 5,000 acres bordering on the Southwold survey.

The immediate result of their coming was the opening out of the Oneida road making an opening from the Muncey trail to the north branch Talbot Road. The concessions had been laid out in the original plan.

One by one the settlers made their way in buying their lands from absentee owners. The whole bend of the river, the Donaldson farm and its surroundings opposite the proposed site of the town of Colbourne was early given over to Peter Jones, a half-breed son of Augustus Jones the surveyor. However, Mr. Jones never tested the fertility of his tract, earning an easier living and, in fact, getting rich by lecturing in England on Canada. He is said to have been one of the prime movers in the founding of the Muncey Institute.

Even here were to be found the famous Clergy Reserved lands, among them being the MacFarlane, Newsome, Connor, MacNish farms, an extensive owner of land in the district was the Rev. Salterne Gwens, and an English church clergyman. Whether or not he was related to Lieutenant Gwens, one of Simcoe's party on his trip up the Thames I have not been able to find out. Among these lands were the Archie Turner, MacDougall, MacVicar, MacLaughlan, Harris, MacIntosh, Telford and MacNeill homesteads. The Millers of Lawrence owned their lands twenty years before from the Niagara district.

There is a characteristic story of the Colin MacArthur homestead. It was bought by a Scotchman named Ferguson who seems to have been somewhat of a coward, for when some of the settlers went out to the end of the Oneida road to meet him rolling on the ground in utter terror of the prospect before him. At the felling of his first oak he sought a friendly neighbour, but as soon as it was down he quit his forest home and was soon back among his native Scotch hills and heathers.

By 1845 the nearest postoffice was Burwell's Corners, twelve miles away. Then an office was opened at Fingal, seven miles away. In 1869 the home postoffice, West Magdala was opened, Donald Turner being appointed postmaster. For Thirty years it ran its even existence, without a store or even a blacksmith shop in sight, only a school house on the opposite hill. Yet at first it catered to the needs of the inhabitants of a wide stretch of country. The railways had not yet past through, so Shedden, Lawrence, and Southwold Station were unknown sites. Even the Indians from the banks of the Thames sought the little office. Among my own earliest childish memories are those of the chief's wife and her sister who posted a great many letters, addressed in beautiful handwriting and received a great many, driving after them in their carriage or galloping up on horseback, and leaving always the impression in our childish minds that they were great ladies. At first the mail came twice a week from Fingal, then three times, in a few years the daily mail was carried between Southwold and Lawrence. When Southwold Station postoffice was established it was the unique existence of two postoffices in one school section. There were also two school houses in the section, the bend of the river, where there was a small settlement too far from school requiring the second. In 1900 West Magdala ended its peaceful existence, but it has scarcely been missed for a complete system of rural mail delivery was in force, and the daily Journal was in people's hands at 4.30 p.m.

As for church services, Fingal was early the Mecca of the sturdy Presbyterian settlers. All had to walk the seven miles at first and amusing stories are still told of the theological dispute by the way, for secular subjects were strictly forbidden. Once, it is said, the dispute waxed fierce as to which was the seat of the understanding, the heart or the head. The champion of the heart got rather the better of the controversy, backing himself up with a verse of Scripture, but the champion of the head, being somewhat of a phrenologist held his own pretty well. However, what backing had phrenology or any other ology in those days against plain theology or Scripture. The dispute was at last referred to the minister who compromised by saying both were right, giving his reasons, with definite understanding.

The first church in the district was the Methodist church near Lawrence, built largely through the efforts of Mrs. Miller. For sometime services of all denominations were held in the Oneida road schoolhouse. MacBride's Presbyterian church was built in 1880 as a branch of the Fingal church, later on came Hunt's Methodist church near Southwold Station.

Thus the settlement grew and prospered and its inhabitants came to realize luxuries beyond the dreams of the simple pioneers. Even in religion, in our softness and ease, we can hardly realize the sternness and austerity of those toiling lives. "I was so hungry for books," said one pioneer to me, "and there were none to be had. I remember also watching the catechist or minister on their rounds, with heart full of envy, for they, at least I thought, were sure of Heaven, and I wondered what it would feel like to be so for the stern religious doctrines of the day had left me in perplexity and doubt as to my own eternal welfare."

Thus their obscure and narrow duty-bound lives wore themselves away and we reap the benefit to-day in material comforts they never knew, and yet neither happier nor better, for they, losing their lives in the unremitting toil of the pioneer work of an empire, thus found them, while we too often in our calculating selfish lives of ease seeking eternally only lose, frittering away our time on the superfluous wants to which we have become abject slaves.

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135 E. Pearl Ave.,
Redlands, Calif.,
June 20, 1946

Mrs. Margaret McArthur;

Dear Folks:

In regard to the early history of the Cheese Factory I feel that I cannot give you much definite information. I do not recall the name of the first Manager or Cheese-maker. But I do remember the question being agitated in our neighborhood, as to whether a cheese factory should be built, -- and how many, and who of the neighborhood farmers would support it, and with how many cows. Alex Martin, Warren Warner, Hugh and Sam Lynn, were among those who favored the project; but one or two of the more cautious neighbors wanted to see it tried first. There had been a cheese factory built out on the Back Street or somewhere, that was in operation, and some thought we ought to be no less enterprising than they.

As near as I can make out by comparison with other events, the Factory was built in about 1871. I think it must have been running two or possibly three years before Mr. Warren Warner took it over. While he was in charge his wife died, and soon thereafter he married Miss Lee, a lady from Ingersoll, whom he had employed as cheese-maker. I think it must have been in 1876 (or possibly in 1875) that Mr. Cranston took over the management of the factory, and he was still running it when I left home in 1881. I think you can easily get its history from then on. 1922

Soon after the factory was built a drying department was added, and later on an ice house was erected, in which they packed in sawdust ice cut from the Mill Pond. I ought to mention somewhere here that Billy Martin, son of John Martin and a younger brother of Alex and Bob Martin, built and operated a blacksmith shop across the road from the cheese factory on the edge of Alex Martin's farm, or rather just about across the road from the whey tank. This was in the early days when the factory was new.

At our house in those days there was a bare-foot boy, whose duty it was to get up at the early dawn, and get the cows up from the pasture to be milked, about 12 cows. When milking was done, mostly by my twin sisters, and strained into those 24 to 36 gallon cans, they were set up on the milk-stand by the roadside to be taken by the "milkman" on his way to the factory. In the evening the caring for the milk was a bigger job, especially on the hot sultry summer evenings, when we would put the big can into a large vat used for that purpose, pump water from the well to pour around it, then dip the milk with a long handled dipper 'till our arms ached, to cool the milk and keep it from souring. I suppose the other neighbors had a like experience. Those that I remember to haul milk past our place to the Cheese Factory were John Welling, Sandy McDougall, Gyp Dingman, and Malcom McNish. I can remember one or two others who hauled by our place but not for long.