

THE McCREDIE HOME



This beautiful home was built in 1908 across the road, east from the tile plant using McCredie brick.

McCredie's Ford car with the brass front was one of the first in the area. Note how the flat tire is being changed. The spare is hanging on the side. Riding with the top down saved gasoline.



This picture was taken and developed by James Reid, a nephew of Willson McCredie.



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# Landmark Facing Destruction

August 27, 1980



The round barn on Hwy. 73 north of Lyons is facing a slow death from old age and the

weather. The building is crumbling and may be torn down.

Built in 1911

The Round Barn farm was purchased by Bill and Joyce Nesbitt in 1979. The barn was now beyond repair. For anyone to enter it there was a great risk of being injured by falling timbers, and there were large gaping cracks in the walls. Twice during the summer of 1980 parts of the roof collapsed and the rear section of the second floor had also collapsed.

Bill explored all the channels to try to save it, as did the Historical Society a number of years before. Both got the same answer, "It would cost too much!"

In September 1980 a bulldozer bulled its way through the remains of the once picturesque building and pushed the bricks into the pit from which they were dug.

THE ROUND BARN ---A MEMORY\*---HAS LEFT MANY MEMORIES

Wed., September 3, 1980—

## True History Of The Round Barn

I am the widow of Russell Moore, grandson of Willson McCredie who built the round barn north of Lyons. A historical landmark now demolished.

I feel it is my duty to your readers and to the memory of Willson McCredie (not McGrady) to correct the article by Bob Meharg in your August 27, 1980 issue of the Aylmer Express.

Willson McCredie was not a Scottish immigrant but was a Canadian of Scotch ancestry. His wife was Ellen Crossley, sister of Rev. H. T. Crossley of the Crossley-Hunter evangelist team. He was a devout Methodist with a faith built on a firm foundation but unfortunately his barn had an inferior foundation.

A mutilated hand attested to the fact he did operate a saw mill but his chief occupation was farming until he discovered a portion of his land was ceramic clay. Thus was developed an industry manufacturing various sizes of drainage tile and three types of brick.

He probably purchased brick to build his first kiln, but I do know he cured some brick in open sheds and baked them in rectangular rows with straw for fuel.

Building a kiln was a masterpiece especially the dome shaped crown. When Mr. McCredie was in his seventies he taught my husband the art. With the help of Clarence Tanner they started at the top of the kiln wall using clay for mortar between the bricks. As the dome became higher and circle of bricks smaller, Clarence and Russell planned a way of escape if the bricks slipped and the dome collapsed. Mr. McCredie went inside the kiln to examine the under side of the crown and at that moment it collapsed. Clarence and Russell jumped to safety. Inside the kiln was the huge mass of tumbled bricks with a straw hat at the centre. From under the straw hat came Grandad's voice "Is anybody hurt?" Joyously the boys rushed to his rescue.

His first home was located on the tile yard. Later he vacated this for his chief employee, purchased fifty acres across the road and

built his house and barn, hen house, and pump house of brick made by himself.

The round barn was an idea based on his construction of kilns and a round building he had seen on a trip to Ohio. Even the roof was constructed to resemble a kiln. Mr. McCredie was assisted by a Mr. Coleman and Mr. McTaggart in drawing the plan, constructing the marvellous framework and shingling. It was not built as an advertisement but as something unique and challenging. It was a time saver with silo in the centre, mows for hay and straw encircling the silo above and stalls for cows and horses below.

In later years Russell Moore and his father Maynard Moore dug below the brick and poured in a cement foundation.

When the farm was sold pig pens were installed and this hastened the deterioration of the brick wall.

I am sad the Round Barn at Lyons has gone but happy I was able to help preserve its history in word and pictures in the Tweedsmuir books compiled by members of Kingsmill Mapleton and Lyons Women's Institute who sacrificed time to preserve our heritage.

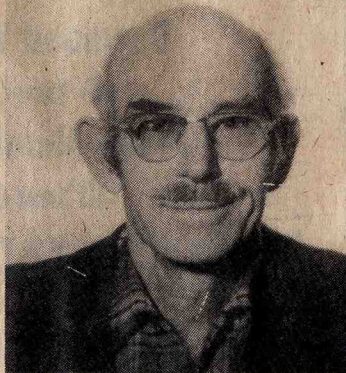
Mrs. Jane Moore  
10 Chestnut St.,  
Aylmer, Ont.,

## The Passing Of The Round Barn

Warren Faw gave me this poem about the round barn. I would like to share it with your readers if possible.

My late husband Russell Moore was the last owner and operator of the Tile Manufacturing Plant at Lyons. Founded by his grandfather Willson McCreadie.

Warren Faw was a valued and faithful employee and his memories are authentic and interesting.



Warren Faw

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Jane Moore  
10 Chestnut Street  
Aylmer, Ontario

Time was when strangers - friends and foes- the way to  
Faw's would learn

We'd tell them: "Follow 73 and at the Round Barn turn."  
Directions more precise and true no one could ever seek  
For that Round Barn was verily a landmark quite unique!  
Some 70 years ago 'twas built of bricks made on the spot:  
60 feet wide; 54 feet high, it surely took a lot!

'Twas patterned from a kiln that burned the brick and tile of  
clay.

For saving time this barn was built in an efficient way:  
A silo high of well-laid brick was built right up the centre.  
From which the cows around the edge were fed throughout  
the winter.

The mows were very handy, too, around the silo stout,  
And just below the cattle stood, their tails a-facing out.  
'Twas built by one of Scotch descent, by name Willson Mc-  
Creadie

Who had the fortune good to wed a very famous lady:  
An Ellen Crossley, sister of a preacher of renown,  
Who for his faithfulness will have a bright soulwinner's  
crown.

For years the barn housed dairy cows and subsequently  
hogs.

While time and dampness took their toll on inside wooden  
logs. (I sold some cows there years ago at Farmer's  
Auction sale.

And viewed the inside of the barn in all its grand detail.)  
And when Crop Farming came in vogue it was not used at  
all;

Deterioration quickened pace from coming Fall to Fall.  
The barn unused and useless now began to creak and sigh.  
And so with no more will to live it soon began to die!  
The mortar loosened from the bricks; leaks showed there in  
the roof.

And those who might have sensed decay politely stayed  
aloof.

It's rotting roof began to sag and at long last caved in.  
And it was now too far, far gone to restoration win.

It's lofty top which pierced the sky like some cathedral spire  
Dropped through the gaping roof-(it felt it was time to  
retire)

The busy owner of the barn no hope for it could see;  
Bulldozed it down to put it out of it's long misery  
'Twas sad to see this landmark gone, but such is Nature's  
way.

Just like our fragile human frame - this crumblin house of  
clay.

Its bricks were buried in a pond where mud was excavated;  
I't wooden parts - so I am told - were rev-rently cremated!  
I'm sure if this old barn could speak full many a tale would  
tell

Of all it's inmates doings, and it's neighbour's lives as well.  
No doubt it watched the men at work off there across the  
road

A-wheeling buggies of green tile which made a heavy load.  
(I worked one summer there myself and freely did perspire)  
When taking tile from the kiln still hot almost as fire!

No doubt the barn saw many a change in it's full 70 years,  
Rejoicing in the hopes of men and moaning for their tears.  
It lived through horse and buggy days; through farming  
done by team;

The threshing of the oats and wheat by engine run by steam.  
It saw the trucks and cars emerge and gather pow'r and  
speed,

Replacing in a few short years the farmer's faithful steed.  
It saw the tractors run by gas; the modern grain combine  
Which saved the farmer heavy toil and soaring price of  
twine.

The Old Round Barn has witnessed life - the old - the modern  
way -

But now it has been razed - its gone - for it has had its day.  
So when directing people here, be they a child or spouse,  
I can't say "Turn at The Round Barn, but the lonely square  
brick house!"

Warren W. Faw

## LYONS CHURCH



By a grant dated March 6, 1867 and Registered Sept. 7, 1867, the Trustees of Lyons Wesleyan Methodist Church, namely - Daniel Gunn, George Appleford, Daniel Appleford, John Blake, Richard Fullerton, Thomas Wilkinson and Noah Lee, procured 1/4 acre of part of the northwest part of Lot 12, Concession 11 of the Township of South Dorchester, from Peter J. Putnam and wife for the sum of \$43.00.

One hundred acres, of which this was a part, had been taken up from the crown in 1816. A log school house had already been built to the east of the above 1/4 acre and had served as both a school and a church. People used to walk two miles and more to church service there, and their singing, without musical accompaniment, would fairly raise the rafters.

The congregation which gathered in the new frame church was at one time the largest in London Conference and Lyons became head of a circuit which in a 1903 report was comprised of Lyons, Crossley-Hunter and Kingsmill members, Mount Vernon, Ebenezer and Culloden members. In 1905 Crossley-Hunter and Kingsmill members are listed in the Sparta Circuit register and in June, 1907 were transferred to the Orwell Circuit. Crossley-

## MINISTERS

1872	Rev. Wm. Ames
1875	Rev. R. N. Williams
1877 - 79	Rev. John Saunders
1880	Rev. J. Russell and John Charlton
1884	Rev. G. W. Brown
1888	Rev. W. H. Gane
1890	Rev. James Kennedy Evangelist - Rev. S. Savage
1892	Rev. S. G. Staples
1895 - 97	Rev. Robert Thompson
1898	Rev. W, H. Moss
1899	Rev. C. P. Wells, B.A., B.D.
1902	Rev. S. C. Edmunds, B.D.
1908 - 09	Rev. E. A. Shaw
1909 (Oct.)	Rev. W. F. Kennedy
1913	Rev. Joseph E. Jones
1915 - 18	Rev. G. W. Butt
1918 - 19	Rev. J. E. Cook, B.D.
1920 (May)	Steven Mathers (Student)
1920 (Nov.)-21	Clayton Searle (Student)
1921 - 22	Rev. T. Chester Wilkinson
1922 - 23	Dr. Sheldon Bartlett, M.D.
1923 - 25	Rev. H. M. Wright, B.A.
1925 (June to Oct.)	Rev. Johnson (Supply)
1925 - 27	Rev. R. R. Connor, B.A.
1927 - 28	Rev. A. M. Grant, B.A., B.D.
1928 - 29	Rev. R. W. Langdon, B.A., B.D.
1929 - 31	Rev. A. M. Grant

Further to Springfield Circuit

Information courtesy of -

Lyons W. I. Tweedsmuir History  
Culloden W. I. Tweedsmuir History  
Elgin County Registry Office

and former residents -

Mrs. Malcolm MacVicar  
Mrs. Theresa Dickhout (Theresa McKenney)  
Mrs. Melbourne Ashton (Agnes Mitchell)  
Mrs. Frank Irish  
Mrs. Russell Moore

Compiled by Mrs. Marie Briggs - February, 1975

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

It would be impossible to name all those who superintended and taught, or to name them in order.

Some of the superintendents were J.C. Blake, Gordon Winder, Malcolm MacVicar, Frank Irish and Hugh McNeil. James Reid, Orvis Babcock.

Some teachers were - Mrs. William Boyes, Mrs. M. MacVicar, Mrs. (Emma) Simpson McEown, Mr. Mary Whyte, Mrs. Grice, Mrs. Emily Dewsbury, Jennie Follick, Mrs. Lilly (Lloyd) McCallum, Mrs. Russell Moore, Mrs. Lee Putnam, Mrs. Frank Wiltsie, Miss Lila Moore and Miss Elizabeth MacVicar and Mrs. Hazel McCallum.

Mrs. Lorne McCallum was the Secretary-Treasurer for many years.

Some of the pianists were - Mrs. Clayton Franklin, Mrs. Phyllis (McCallum) Goble, Elizabeth MacVicar and Mrs. Frank Irish.

Mrs. W. Boyes, Mrs. G. Winder and Mrs. Charles Putnam often trained the pupils for concerts. After the church officially closed, the Public School teachers joined with the Sunday School teachers to put on the Christmas concerts.

Mrs. Russell Moore organized a Mission Band about 1940 and they met in the homes monthly on a Saturday. This was quite an ecumenical group. Along with the W.M.S. they carried out many church cleaning bees.

Two young ladies, Kathleen and Mary Bagnall, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Bagnall, chose to have their wedding ceremonies performed in the church. Kathleen married Clarence Bruce on March 10, 1948. It was the first wedding in the church. The church presented her with a white Bible which she carried with a bouquet of red roses. Mary Bagnall married Chris Pearson on October 9, 1948. It was the second wedding. The church was opened for the third and last wedding held in the church. It was that of Peggy Franklin and Lloyd George on October 1, 1949.