

REV.ELIZABETH CHAPMAN (MACVICAR)

Elizabeth Mac Vicar, daughter of Mrs and Mrs.Malcolm MacVicar was born at Lyons and went to school here.She taught in the Sunday School and was active in all areas of the Lyons' Methodist Church and the Community.



Rev.Elizabeth Chapman and Rev.Douglas Chapman are both ministers of the United Church of Canada serving adjoining charges in Kintore and Wellburn, Ontario.

Lyons Woman's Missionary Society

The Lyons Woman's Missionary Society was organized on the afternoon of February 9th, 1932, in Lyons Church. There was a large gathering of women of Lyons and Springfield United Church. Mrs. George Love was President of Springfield W. M. S., and Mrs. Bert Hobbins, Secretary, and they acted in their capacities for the afternoon. The Pastor, Rev. George E. Morley conducted the opening devotional exercises. Mrs. Horton, of St. Thomas, Past President of Elgin Presbyterial, gave a very inspiring address. She showed so many opportunities of doing work for the Master that it was immediately decided to organize. The first plan was that we would be only a branch of the St. John's Auxiliary, but after some discussion, we decided to stand on our own feet and become Lyons Woman's Missionary Society. Our first meeting had an attendance of only four. Since then progress has been made. The year 1938 marked our largest membership as we had thirteen members. All our members take some part in the meetings and they all work. Each year we have been able to send fine bales as per instructions. Letters of appreciation received have cheered us in the work of giving a "Cup of cold water in His Name". \$54.00 was sent in 1938 to the Branch Treasurer. Mrs. Malcolm MacVicar is President; Mrs. J. W. Boyes is Secretary; Mrs. Norman Ferguson, Treasurer.

(Mrs. J. W. Boyes)

1939

THE HISTORY OF LYONS' SCHOOL

In 1840, Henry Niles, from Nilestown, local superintendent of schools, formed this territory into a school section. The first school in the section was a log building situated one mile south of Lyons, on the east side of the road. Among the earliest teachers were Christiana Scott, Mr. Whittimore, and in case of shortage Elder Sheppard, Inspector of Schools, officiated.

The second school was a frame building on the tenth concession (literally the north of the eleventh), located just east of the present school (Mrs. MacVisar's account says it was just east of the Church and for a time was used as a church and school). Mary Ann Sinclair, and Al. Doan were teachers.



This school was built in 1872 and opened in January 1873.

The grant for the land was registered Jan. 13, 1873 transferring the land from Peter J. Putnam to the trustees of No. 6 School in South Dorchester.

Wm. White was the first teacher. His successors, as near as we have been able to ascertain were as follows: Collin Ferguson, Kate Daggart, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Augustine 1876, John Black, L. E. Van Amburg Nancy Inglis, S. Warwick, John Neff.

Teachers 1886- 1966

J. W. Ellerby 1886-1887
A. S. Hurst 1888
Jno. Clarke 1888-18889
Geo. Alway 1889-1890
Jas. Tiller 1891-1892
A. M. Sawler 1892-1894
E. R. Black 1895-1896
H. M. Miller 1896-1897
R. J. Penfold 1897-1898
T. G. Winder 1898-1899
L. G. Simpson 1900-1903
J. L. Cropp 1903-1905

M. Winter 1905-1906
W. H. Butt 1906-1907
C. Laidlaw 1907-1909
B. Shepley 1909-1910
M. E. Davies 1910-1911
E. Meikle 1911-1917
A. Peters 1917-1918
E. Meikle 1918-1921
B. Elliott 1922-1923
F. J. Hayward 1923-1926
F. H. Froud 1926-1928
E. C. Black 1928-1931



LYONS' SCHOOL 1948

1st row-- Charles Marshall, George Widner, Kathleen Stover, David Stover, Lois Martin, Beverly Irish, Alex McNeil, George Wilson.

2nd row-- Jerry Wilson, Barbara Marshall, Kathryn Martin, Joe Watters, Shirley Anne Franklin, David Summers.

3rd row-- Joe Webber, Carl Wilson, Bryan Green, Bill Baxter, Phyllis Baxter.

4th row-- Betty Jean Martindale, Bob Wilson, Harold Armstrong, Jack Watters, Tom Martindale, Bob Baxter.

5th row-- John Wilson, Reinhart Dohnt, Bill Putnam.

Teacher--- Audrey Faulds,

(Note the heating system and the wash basin)

LYONS' SCHOOL c't'd.

B.M. Taylor 1931-1934
M.M. Lamb 1934-1935
M.M. (Lamb) Roberts 1935-1936
Myrtle (Bogue) Kennedy-1936-1941
Margaret M. Smith 1941-1942
A. May Fitch 1942-1944
(Mrs. Robert C. Meek)
J.A. McKnight 1944-1945

Mrs. Schmidt
Mrs. C. O'Leary 1946-1947
J. Audrey Faulds 1947-1952
J. (Crandall) Franklin 1952-55
Mrs. S. Munroe 1955-1957
Mrs. Cornell 1957-1958
Mrs. H. Davies 1958-1965
Mrs. C.A. Baxter 1965-1966

The members of the last School Board of S.S. No. 6, South Dorchester (Lyons' School) were: Lloyd George, Don Irish, and Ansel Martindale, with Freeman Parker as Secretary.

THE LAST CLASS 1965-1966 (Grade 1)



Top row-Cindy Church, Heather Putnam, Marion Manning, Joyce Charlton, Ruth Nuetz, Bonnie Shackelton, Myrna Willsey, Teresa Watters.
2nd row-Larry McNeil, Lennie Webber, Layne Wilson. Stephen Smith, Mark Lindsay, Danny Martindale, Mark Lisiecki.
Front row-Wayne Gray, Rodney Corey, Douglas Drabick, David Watters, Blake Bennett, Lonnie Webber.
Teacher- Mrs. Cecil Baxter.

SOUTH DORCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

On December 7, 1964, the first South Dorchester School Board was elected to office. This replaced the three Trustees of each of the five school sections in the township. The new Board members were: Wm. Shackelton, chairman, Gordon Gent, Harold Nigh, Stuart Phoenix, and Ken Shackelton, with C.O. Daniel as secretary-treasurer.



TRUSTEE BOARD ELECTED — Five men were yesterday elected to form the South Dorchester Public School Board, defeating five other contestants including one woman. The Board will represent the five schools of Lyons, Crossley-

Hunter, Martin, York and Mount Vernon. The successful candidates seen here are, left to right: Kenneth Shackleton, William Shackleton, Stuart Phoenix, Gordon Gent and Harold Nigh.—(T.-J. Aylmer Bureau Photo).

— South Dorchester School Board 1965

For the school year 1965-66 the grades were divided among the five schools in the township. All the pupils were brought by bus to the Lyons' school in the morning. The Grade 1's remained there with Mrs. B. Baxter; Grades 2's were taken to Mount Vernon with Mrs. I. Coleman; Grade 3's and 4's went to Crossley-Hunter with Miss S. Poulton; Grade 5's and 6's went to Martin's with Mrs. E. Davies; and Grades 7 & 8 went to Yorke with Mrs. H. Helka.

During the year plans were completed and contracts awarded for an 8-room Central School with a gymnasium on Lot 15, Concession 9, South Dorchester. The designer was G. Duncan Black Ltd., and the general contractor was McKay-Crocker Construction Ltd.

All the pupils assembled there in September 1966 with R. Farrow as principal, and the following staff of teachers:



Ron.Farrow(8)

I.Coleman(2)

E.Baxter(1)

G.Davies(5-6)

M.Helka(7)

G.Exley(3)

S.Poulton(4-5)

Principal's supply: A.Jenkins

Music: B.Ternyik



Custodians:Mr.and Mrs. S.
Brunsdon.

Bus Drivers:Geo.Stratton,
Mrs.H.Stratton, Mrs.F.
Daniel, C.O.Daniel.

South Dorchester School

1967

SOUTH DORCHESTER'S GRADE 1 1966-67



Top row--Palmela Mawley, Colleen Page, Patty Martindale, Diane Coleman, Mary Jane Stover, Cathy Baxter, Mary Pettit, Penny Shackelton, Betty Cox, Sherri Brooks, Debbie Grass, Denise Pogue, Karen Jacklin.

2nd row--Gary Shackelton, Carey Locke, Stanley Putnam, Benny Reimer, Craig Bond, David Drabick, Donald Beggs, Glen Lucas, Mickey Hamn, Ricky Zavitz.

Front row--Donna Bristow, Debbie Prothero, Cynthia Burks, Rosemary Durston, Maxine Summers, Cynthia Loucks, Laurie Walker, Patti Ingram.

Teacher--Mrs. Cecil Baxter.

Aug. 22, 1959

Springfield Farm Dates Back To Freeing of Clergy Reserves

By C. B. GRAHAM

The Clergy Reserve Deed owned by Norman Ferguson, RR 1, Springfield, brings to mind one of the most turbulent eras in Canada's political history, that of the family compact, the fight for responsible government and the Rebellion of 1837.

Clergy Reserves were large tracts of land set aside in every township for the support of the Protestant clergy by George III in 1791.

There were two reasons why the Clergy Reserves were the source of so much antagonism among the early settlers of Upper Canada for the first half of the 19th century.

First the clergy lands were not taxed and this proved a great hindrance in the development of the new province especially in the building of roads.

They stood between settlements and as no tax revenue was received from the said lands, it meant that settlers on either side of the reserves had to stand the total expense of road building through or around the reserves.

Secondly under the leadership of Bishop John Strachan, one of the most powerful and influential voices in the family compact which controlled the legislature for nearly a half a century, the Church of England sought as a state church to control religion and education in the province of Upper Canada.

While a state church was recognized in England, the democratic principles of the majority of pioneers of Upper Canada, many of them United Empire Loyalists who had come to Canada from the United States following the American Revolutionary War, would not allow the establishment of a state church.

With the UEL came the Methodist saddle-bag preachers who toured the settlements holding religious services and camp meetings, building up a growing membership in the Methodist Church. This group soon far outnumbered the membership of the Church of England, to say nothing of a considerably large proportion of Presbyterians among the Scots emigrants.



MR. AND MRS. NORMAN FERGUSON, RR 1, SPRINGFIELD
- - - looking over old Clergy Reserve deed of farm

While Bishop John Strachan was a power for the establishment of the state church, he met his match in the person of the Rev. Egerton Ryerson, editor of *The Christian Guardian* which exerted an immense influence over the political as well as the religious opinions of the Upper Canadians.

Ryerson, who became the father of the public school system of education in the Province of Ontario was a Methodist minister and fought for the equal rights of all churches and advocated an equal share of the monies received from the sale of clergy lands.

Finally the clergy lands were disposed of and the monies received from sale of same were divided proportionably according to numerical strength (membership) to all the churches for the purpose of providing educational facilities for the Province of Upper Canada.

FAMILIES

James Earl of Elgin



PETER FERGUSON
- - - first owner

Mr. Ferguson is the third generation of Fergusons to own the Ferguson homestead. The farm was bought by his grandfather Peter Ferguson in 1854.

A former Scots shoemaker, Peter came to Canada with his wife and two sons in 1843 and worked as a cobbler and wood-cutter for 12 years to save forty pounds—the price paid for his wilderness estate. Mr. Ferguson helped to chop No. 74 Highway out of the virgin forest.

After obtaining the grant of land he built a little log cabin on Catfish Creek for his wife and family and then started clearing his land, chopping, logging, burning and making potash, soap and maple sugar as a means of a little income.

For the first winter they had no barn and the cow ran loose in the woods. Some mornings the cow would have three or four inches of snow on her back when she would come up to the cabin for milking.

Frequently Peter Ferguson carried a bushel of wheat over bushland trails a distance of nine miles to the mill at Orwell to have it ground into flour.

The Ferguson homestead has never been owned by anyone but a Ferguson since the land was purchased July 1, 1854 at the City of Quebec in the eighteenth year of the reign of Queen Victoria.

Peter Ferguson died in 1896 and the farm was then taken over by his son Duncan who died in 1924. The farm then passed on to its present owner, Norman Ferguson.

Under the signature of Governor-General the Earl of Elgin (above) the Ferguson farm deed reads as follows:

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain, and Ireland, QUEEN, Defender of the Faith.
—TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME—
GREETINGS:

WHEREAS the Lands hereinafter described and granted are part of the Lands which have been from time to time, according to the provisions of Law in that behalf, allotted and appropriated, and are commonly known as Clergy Reserves AND WHEREAS by an Act of the Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, passed in the Eighth year of the late King George the Fourth, intituled, "An Act to authorize the Sale of a part of the Clergy Reserves in the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada," and by another Act of the said Parliament, passed in the Third and Fourth years of Our Reign, intituled, "An Act to provide for the Sale of the Clergy Reserves in the Province of Canada, and for the distribution of the Proceeds thereof," power and authority is given to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Person Administering the Government, respectively, as well of the said Province of Upper Canada as of the said Province of Canada, with the advice of the Executive Council, to sell, grant, alienate and convey, all or any of the said Clergy Reserves: AND WHEREAS in pursuance of the power and authority given in and by the said Acts, or by any one or other of them, a contract hath been duly entered into for the sale and conveyance of the Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments hereinafter mentioned, being part of the said Clergy Reserves, unto Peter Ferguson of the Township of South Dorchester in the County of Elgin, his heirs and assigns, at and for the price or sum of forty pounds.

NOW KNOW YE, that in consideration of the said sum of forty pounds to Our Commissioner appointed by Us to superintend the Sale of the said Clergy Reserves, to and for Our Use, well and truly paid, We have granted, sold, aliened and conveyed, and by these Presents do grant, sell, alien and convey unto the said Peter Ferguson, his heirs and assigns, All that Parcel or Tract of Land, situate in the Township of South Dorchester in the County of Elgin of Our said Province, containing admeasurement one hundred acres be the same more or less, being the North half of the Clergy Reserve Lot Number Nine in the Ninth Concession of the foresaid Township of South Dorchester.

TOGETHER WITH all the Woods and Waters thereon lying and being. To have and to hold the said Parcel or Tract of Land hereby granted to him the said Peter Ferguson, his heirs and assigns for ever; Saving Nevertheless, unto Us, Our Heirs and Successors, all Mines of Gold and Silver that shall or may hereafter be found on any part of the said Parcel or Tract of Land hereby given and granted as aforesaid.

GIVEN under the Great Seal of Our Province of Canada: Witness, Our Right Trusty and Right Well-Beloved Cousin JAMES, EARL OF ELGIN AND KINCARDINE, Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, Governor General of British North America, and Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over Our Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Island of Prince Edward, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c. &c. &c. At Quebec this first day of July in the year of Our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, and in the eighteenth year of Our Reign.

By Command of His Excellency in Council.