

south-west corner of the lot and the clearing of the land was started.

Although the work was new, by perseverance, he and his sons gradually cleared the land and raised crops of wheat and corn. In a few years they were able to take up farms in South Dorchester and Westminster as well as Yarmouth.

While many incidents might be told of those early days they are common to all the early settlers. Being human these pioneers had their faults and failings just as their descendants have. However, they had two qualities well-worth recording. In the church records we find their names appearing as regular attendants and liberal supporters. In community affairs we find them always ready to give a helping hand. So much is this true that it has been said as they were coming across the fields to a neighbor's bee or raising: "We can get ready to start now, here comes the Taylor boys." This means they were lifters, not leaners. Let us hope that the same two things can be said of their descendants.

While possibly the men have figured most prominently in the above history, we must not forget the wives who have kept step beside them. With our modern conveniences, it is difficult for us to realize the hardships they endured. It was by dint of hard work and great self-sacrifice that they raised their families, giving them healthy bodies and sound minds. To them we owe a great debt which can be repaid only by noble lives worthy of their self-denial.

1950

Florence Taylor

4-Taylor.

1966.-----

The farm settled on by Archibald Taylor in 1832, remained in the Taylor family, until the death of a grandson, Gilbert E. Taylor, whod died in 1942, when it was sold and is now owned by Earl Grawburg.

Pioneer Incidents

Rich heirlooms of the past are the memories of some of the older residents, direct descendants of the pioneer settlers. One of these, Mrs. Eliza J. Person of Rodney, one of eight children born to William Taylor and Mary Jane Porter, on the Taylor homestead, Lot 9, Concession 10, North Yarmouth.

Mrs. Person tells of being born on the farm first owned by her Grandfather, and has been in the Taylor family for five generations, now owned by Clarence Taylor. She recalls when all the light was a booby light made by tying a piece of cloth around a brass button, leaving the corners up about an inch and a half. This was placed in a large saucer and pieces of tallow were put around it. Every little while more tallow had to be placed in the saucer. Then came the old tin candle molds to make tallow candles. The coal oil lamp and the Alladin lamp followed progressively. To-day electric lights flash on!

One thing that was very near and dear to her was the little church, built on the farm of their next door neighbor, William Baker, where his grandson, Roy Baker, now lives. She remembers how, Mrs. William Blewett, a wonderful Christian woman, with a clear, sweet voice, would lead in the singing of the old Hymns. The church is gone, but the grave yard, Salt Creek Cemetery is there.

The grain was sown by hand, cut by hand with old fashioned cradles and scythes, and then was hand flailed. The grain was sifted through large hand sieves before it was ready for the gristmill.

Then man, in his ingenuity began to make machinery and implements to lighten the farmer's burdens. The first improvement was the fanning mill run by hand. The next, the horse power threshing machine, which took two, four, or six teams to operate it. Then came the steam engine to take the place of the horses, then the tractor.

There followed many other machines- the mower to cut the hay; the one horse wooden rake with a seat to ride on; better still the side delivery rake. The reaper which cut but did not bind the grain, the self binder, the cultivator, the hand corn planter followed by the horse-drawn planter; the disks, the seed drill which both planted and covered the grain, the hay fork to remove the hay from the wagon to the mow. This march of progress continued, and now a combine and tractor are taken into a field, and in a few hours the grain is cut, threshed, cleaned, bagged, and trucked to the elevator.

Mrs. Person describes pleasure trips, taken in a big sleigh drawn by two horses, with straw in the bottom of the box, and hot bricks wrapped in cloth to provide extra warmth. Everybody wore home knitted mittens and scarves and snuggled down under buffalo robes. Starting early in the morning, the trip would take an hour or more. But to-day, we step into a heated motor car, and are at our destination in a very few minutes. What a change in transportation!

Mrs. E. J. Person
(Centennial issue of St. Thomas
Times Journal. Aug. 1, 1952)

1966.-----

The farm Lot 9 Concession 10, North Yarmouth settled on by William Taylor, is now owned by Morris Taylor, a Great Grandson.



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R.K. McNEIL, M.P.P.

ELGIN

Parliamentary Assistant to
Minister of Agriculture and Food

Toronto, Ontario
October 9, 1980

Dear Ladies:

Due to the Legislature sitting on October 16th, I regret that I am unable to join with you at the St. Thomas Memorial Arena.

I do want to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations and best wishes to your Women's Institute on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary and to wish you continued success in all your worthy endeavours.

With kind regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

R.K. McNeil

R.K. McNeil, M.P.P.
Elgin

North Yarmouth Women's Institute
c/o Mrs. J.A. McBain
R.R. #6
St. Thomas, Ontario
N5P 3T1

Mrs. Albert Archibald

Roy Baker

Agnes Campbell

✓ Albert Campbell

Neil Curtis

Salathiel Curtis

✓ Cedric Evans

George Evans

✓ Archie Ferguson

Harry Fishback

Clarence Gless

Miss Hazel Hepburn

Mrs. Ralph Heydon

Fred Lewis X

✓ Donald Mc Gregor

Miss Jean McCallum

" Ethel Mc Intyre

Miss Colin Mc Intyre

✓ Campbell Mc Intyre

Miss ✓ Myrtle Padden

Mrs. ✓ James Patterson

" ✓ Clarence Taylor

" John Van Patter

" ✓ Ed Williams

Alphabetical

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Paid fee

October 17, 1930.

Mrs. Gilbert Taylor

Nov. 20

" Neil Mc Intyre

Nov. 20

" Colin Smith

Nov. 20

" Irwin Taylor

Nov. 20

" Albert Kichsee

Nov. 20

Miss M. B. Campbell

Dec. 10

Mrs. George Dennis (Sm) Dec. 10 (over)