

TWEEDSMUIR VILLAGE HISTORY

PAYNES MILLS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE  
1946



The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the Paynes' Mills Homers Institute were held on September 14, 2006 at the Talbot Trail Tearoom, St. Thomas. A noon luncheon was enjoyed by the members with Pat Nichols, our district representative presiding, and Velma Stover secretary.

The Paynes Mills Tweedsmuir history book, loaned from the Elgin County Archives was on display. Members enjoyed viewing the articles and pictures of the past.

Life memberships for Lilly Larson, Hazel Rowe and Margaret Traquair were presented at this time. We were honoured to have charter member Margaret Lyle mark the occasion with us.



Paynes Mills M.D. hall built in 1962  
sold in 1989  
now a private home





left to right:  
Pat Nichols - Chairperson  
for the event.

Margaret Lyle - a  
Charter member

Margaret Traquair  
a new life-time  
member.

### OFFICERS 2006 - 2007

Past President	Pat Nichols
President	Lil Larson
Recording Secretary	Velma Stover
Treasurer	Helen Gunning
District Director	Pat Nichols
Alternate Director	Lil Larson
ROSE Co-ordinator	Debbie Dawdy
Cards and Flowers	Edith Auckland
Nomination Committee	Helen Gunning
	Debbie Dawdy
Financial Examiner	Velma Stover
	Edith Auckland
Pennies for Friendship	Marg Traquair
Elgin Manor Representative	Monna Bate
Museum Representative	Sheri Karafil
District Annual Delegates	Lil Larson
	Pat Nichols
	Sheri Karafil
Area Convention Rep	Lil Larson

Inactive Members: Marion Berdan,  
Margaret Lyle



Members at 60th luncheon

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PAYNES MILLS TWEEDSMUIR VILLAGE HISTORY

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merely a few questions asked and answered orally while seated on a bench with a few other students. She taught too in what was known as Gilbert's school, a log building on the sideroad north of the village. Here she received \$8.00 per month and paid \$1.00 a week for her board.

To Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Payne were born seven children, three daughters, Julia, Amelia, and Clara; four sons, John, George, Alfred and Sturgeon. Julia the eldest of the family married Mr. Wm. St. Thomas Smith a well known artist and she too was an artist in her own right. Amelia married Mr. T. W. Baker of Littlewood. Clara died in girlhood. Of the four sons only one survives and is the only surviving member of the family, Mr. George Payne of Niagara Falls, Ontario, a retired railway engineer. John went to British Columbia where he operated a ranch and tourist home. Alfred died in middle age.

After his marriage, Frederick Payne enlarged on the mills built by his father, putting in a new set of mill stones, installing facilities for making oatmeal which included a kiln for drying the oats. His elder brother Henry lived in a house on the creek bank. He had three sons, Henry, Edwin, and William.. Two of the sons built a grist mill and a saw mill, these with one owned by Frederick Payne were the mills from which the village got its name. The mill owned by Frederick Payne however, soon burned down.

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General history-----Henry Payne's home was sold to Nathaniel Berdan and eventually became the property of Vermont Pow. The two remaining mills were sold to John Munroe and they too soon burned. The Henry Payne family moved to London.

Frederick Payne passed away at the age of 90 at the homestead then operated by his son Sturgeon. Mrs. Payne died in her ninety-eighth year the home of her daughter, Mrs. Baker.

The original village, I am told, consisted of the mills, a cheese factory, the log school house which also served as a Sunday school, and a blacksmith shop operated by one Phillip Cole. This shop stood on the lot where the cheese factory now stands. A little later a harness shop was started by a man once a sailor. He cut the leather into shape and sewed it by hand. In later years a church was built the land being given by Henry Berdan. In 1928 this was disorganized and became the Community Hall.

In the cottage now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Jacques lived a Mr. Philpot, a carpenter. He had one daughter, Lucy, who married a Mr. Down who died and Mrs. Down then married John Abbott, a great uncle of Edna Abbott Jacques.