

Garry by Indian trail, thence west to Fort Edmonton with Indian guides. After leaving here they passed through the Rocky mountains to the Fraser River, then down it to Cariboo district. It took them nine months and nine days to complete their journey. Shortly after they arrived there, Isaac F. Berdan was seized with mountain fever and died, after a short illness, and was buried in Cariboo district. His only son, Archibald Berdan, resides at Frome, Southwold.

Charles Knight, an early settler, was in the war of 1812-14, and was taken prisoner by the Americans at Squaw Island, Niagara River. He was marched at the point of the bayonet to Green Bush New York State. After the war he was liberated. In 1817 he drew lot 37 south, where he lived the greater part of his life. He was also a great hunter.

Jonathan Wase, a great sailor, came to this part about 1818, and drew lot 35 north. He being a ship carpenter, built a ship in 1828 on his farm for Mr. Smith, to move his family to River St. Clair. The boat was loaded on a wagon, taken to Byron, and launched on the River Thames. Joseph Little, a hatter by trade, came from the Niagara District, and took up lot 30 south. He died at the age of seventy-five.

The above six settlers lived and died on the lots they drew from Colonel Talbot.

Squire Matthews, a Welshman, came to this country about 1818, and settled on lot 35 south. He rapidly improved his farm as well as his stock. About the year 1825 he built a barn on his farm, this being the first barn in this section, the frame of which is still standing. In 1826 he went to England and Wales and purchased some thoroughbred stock (cattle and sheep). He returned the same year bringing with him a number of Welsh families. Mr. Hughes, of Frome is a descendant of one of these families. In 1830 he sold his farm to Henry Payne for the sum of \$1800.

E. Brown, one of the first settlers, sold his farm (lot 33) to Mr. B. P. Brown, a Methodist minister, who only lived a few years on his farm until he sold his property and moved to Brownsville; which place was named in his honor. It was during his stay in this locality that he married Mr. Amasa Wood, St. Thomas, and Miss Fowler, of Fingal. Having previously known that Mr. Wood was coming to be married, he invited a number to see the ceremony performed, which took place in the evening. After they were married Mr. Wood and his bride drove to Fingal where he resided for a great many years.

Other settlers stayed but a few years until they sold their farms and moved to other places.

Some of the oldest persons living in this section are Jacob Gilbert (son of David Gilbert) and his aged partner whose maiden name was Chestina Knight. Absalom Gilbert, David L. Gilbert, Edgar Gilbert and Rowley Gilbert are all gradnsons of David Gilbert.

The descendants of William Sells are Miss sells (daughter), Fred Sells and Mrs. H. Kirkley, grandchildren, also K.W. McKay of St. Thomas.

The descendants of Charles Knight are Mr. Samuel Knight and Mrs. Jacob Gilbert, children, also Miss Lizzie Knight, grandchild.

EDUCATION

The scholars in this settlement had to go to the schools at Talbotville and Frome; the Kettle Creek forming the boundary between the two sections. William Sells agitated a school nearer home, so those in the neighborhood having children helped build a frame school house on lot 34 south, known as the Wade and Union school house. In 1832 money was raised by subscription to buy nails and shingles. James Jackson prepared the lumber, as he had a saw mill on a branch of Kettle Creek, afterwards known as Paynes' Mills. Jonathan Wade did the carpenter work. As a play-ground was an uncommon thing the children had to use the roadway. Andrew Boyd, the first teacher, was pai so much per scholar, and boarded among his pupils' parents. The only books used were the Bible, English reader and spelling book.

Although there was no church in this section the school house was used as a place of worship in the early days. B.P. Brown, a Methodist, was the first preacher. Mr. Jenkins, a Freewill Baptist minister, who came from New York state, held meetings in the different houses. One Sunday he baptised twenty- two in Kettle Creek. About the year 1862 a school site on the north side, opposite the old one, was purchased from Mr. Henry Payne, lot 35 north, on which a new frame school was built. In 1889 this school was rebuilt and is now our present school house. The trustees are John Down, Byron Wade and A. McGugan. D. McBain is our present teacher.

About the year 1840 the land north of the fourth concession known as the Clergy Reserve was sold. Isaac and Jacob Gilbert sons of David Gilber, J. Gobson, W. and D. McNally, Moses Abbot, Donald Manro~~s~~ and Neil McGugan, were the first settlers on this part.

Donald Manro~~s~~ desiring a school in this locality succeeded in arranging with those having children to lend a hand in building a log school house on the south corner of lot 24, concession four. The first trustees were Isaac Gilbert, Donald Manro~~s~~, and William Mulligan. James Harshaw was the first teacher, and

We have no magistrate since the death of Sturgeon Sharon, some twelve years ago.

About four o'clock, on a clear November morning, 1833, a great shower of meteors fell. It seemed as if all the stars in the sky were falling.

One clear winter's day, 1836, as the sun was setting, the snow showed a blood-like tinge. Superstitious people predicted war which followed the next year.

In the year 1838, five hundred regular British soldiers (32 regiments) were billeted, for one night, in Five Stakes, now Talbotville, and along the back street (north branch Talbot road); thirteen stayed at each house; their destination being Rondeau or Amherstburg. After being gone for three or four days, they returned to London. It was a false report of a fresh rebellion. Previous to this a number of prisoners were taken in a skirmish near Amherstburg, and brought through here on their way to London to be tried.

The largest tree, (an oak), grew on Mr. Wm. Sells's farm, (lot 33 south). It was 30 feet in circumference. The length of the longest tree found in this part was one hundred and twenty-five feet; found on A. Gilbert's farm.

Mr. Jones, the first shoemaker, went around to the different houses, to make shoes enough to last each family the year.

On the farm of Mr. E. Down, (part of lot 35), is the remains of an old wolf trap.

About 1868, two distinct shocks of an earthquake were felt. It rattled the glass in the windows.

Bradford Williams, a volunteer, took part in putting down the second Reil rebellion. He was at the battle of Batoche, and wounded in the thigh.

School Section Picture

About Year 1895



PAYNES MILLS SCHOOL

1896

TEACHER D. MCBANE.



D. MCBANE - TEACHER

1896



TEACHER-----EUGENE VANVELSER

1ST ROW I.-----: Cecil Patrick: Will Campbell: Ed. Kelly: Norman Kelly
Ward Ackford: Stanley Gilbert: Elmer Berdan: Wilfred Nichols:
Clifford Nichols: Frank Styles: George Markle:

2nd Row Pearl Down: Jessie Hoover: Pearl Nichols: Alice Smith: Ethel Yeandle
Frederica Sells: Edna Smith: Bessie Yeandle: Alma Hoover: Mary
Markle: Dora Nichols: Katie McGugan.

3rd Row Mabel Ackford: Cora Gilbert: Lily McGugan: Jessie Alliston: Myrtle
Boughner: Flossie Kelly: Flossie Branton: Myrtle Sells: Eva Boughner:
Edna Berdan: Winnie Sells: Albert Styles: Wentworth Styles: Bob
Patrick:

4th Row Mabel Begg: Vila Gilbert: Bill Clark: G. Patrick: Earl Hendershot: ~~Leo~~
Leo Ackford: Will Hopkins: Chester Patrick: Reggie Campbell: Harry
Lewis: Maggie Smith: Maggie Dickson: Sadie Campbell: Ethel Smith:
Beatrice Kelly: Mary McMillan.

5th Row Jennie Styles: Elsie McGugan: Sarah Nichols: Annie Hopkins: Eva
Branton: George Branton: Millard Patrick: Erastus Smith: Ed. Smith
Fred Begg: Alex McGugan



PAYNES MILLS SECTION

(ABOUT 1900)



School garden plot at Paynes Mills school
Do you know who these children are?