

## HOW THE VILLAGE GOT ITS NAME

About one hundred and twenty years ago there came to Canada from England one Henry Payne, a carpenter and joiner, with his wife, also a Miss Payne before her marriage, and their family of two sons, Henry, the eldest, Frederick, and one daughter Sarah. One daughter died in England prior to their voyage to Canada. Although Mr. and Mrs. Payne were of the same name they were of no relation before their marriage. They came to Canada by sailboat and one boy, Frederick, was almost washed overboard when a wave broke over the boat. He was saved by a lady who caught his leg just as he was about to go over.

On their arrival in Canada they overlanded as best they could; walking most of the way, travelling westward until they arrived at a little settlement on Kettle Creek, now the City of St. Thomas. Needless to say this was a long and tedious journey, travelling over rough roads and Indian trails. They continued westward and bought from one Squire Matthews, a tract of land known as Lot 35 S.N.B.T.R.

Squire Matthews was a Welshman who came to Canada when he was jilted by the girl he was to have married. She married another who soon died, she came to Canada and in the course of time the Squire heard of it and married her.

Lot 35, situated south of the north branch of the Talbot Road (No. 3 Highway) was the Payne homestead and has been handed down from generation to generation and is still in the Payne family.

In the course of years the old gentleman, Henry Payne, passed away and his son Frederick who was seven years of age when they came to Canada, took over the farm, keeping his Mother with him until her death in her 99th year. Before his death Mr. Payne built on Kettle Creek the first grist mill in the township. This too was operated by Frederick Payne.

Frederick Payne married Sarah Sharon of Frome, Ontario, who lived in the brick dwelling east of the Congregational Church (now United Church). Her parents were of U.E.L. stock coming to Canada from Pennsylvania. They walked from Niagara Falls to St. Thomas.

Miss Sharon was a school teacher at Paynes' Mills having charge of a summer school at the age of 14 though she was not yet a qualified teacher. This school was a log building which stood on the opposite side of the road from the present school. She received \$6.00 per month as wages but of course she boarded at home, riding to and from school on horseback. Later she obtained her certificate at the age of eighteen, the examination being





STURGEON PAYNE

#49

Frederick Payne  
Founder of Paynes Mills  
St. Thomas Smith  
before 1895

#

50

Sarah Payne

St. Thomas Smith  
before 1895

29

Painting by  
Wm. St. Thomas  
Smith

Payne Home Paynes' Mills

STURGEON Payne & ALL  
his family BORN HERE

Floyd  
Glen  
Carl

Guy  
Clair

Marion (MRS. ROSS BERDAN)



The following is a newspaper story found in a binder labelled "Paynes Personal Mostly Family" that was kept by Gordon Payne. Neither the name of the paper nor the date of the issue in which the story appeared are included with the clipping. The paper was probably The St. Thomas Times.

#### HONOR MRS. PAYNE OF PAYNE'S MILLS

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Daughter-in-Law of Founder of Payne's Mills Attains Her 94th Birthday  
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Payne's Mills, Oct., 17. -- (Special) -- The friends, neighbors and relatives of Payne's Mills' oldest lady, Mrs. S.E. Payne, met to celebrate her ninety-fourth birthday in the community hall here on Friday evening, October 16. A large number gathered, a delicious supper was served, speeches were made and a beautiful bouquet presented to Mrs. Payne, who, in spite of her years, made a most gracious reply. A feature of the banquet was a large birthday cake set with ninety-four candles.

Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Sturgeon Payne and "Marlon, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Baker of South Delaware, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Sharon, Mr. and Mrs. Kelly of Lambeth, and Alex. Lyle, a neighbour who is near the ninety-mark. Following is the address presented to Mrs. Payne:

"We, your friends and neighbours, have gathered here to honor you on your ninety-fourth birthday. Having lived long and well we congratulate you. We love as one who has come a long way, as one of our dear old people who has seen much that is sunny and much that is sad in life and yet has kept faith sweet and strong.

"We honor you for your exemplary Christian life. Surely there is no greater thing than to have lived well. We are reminded of your zealous service in the cause of Temperance; the benefits of which the young of our community are reaping today. Your allegiance also in the church and Sunday school and the ever-willing efforts put forth there have borne fruit that must be a joy to you in your declining years. We have learned from you too, that patience and persistence in common things through the days and years is a mark of true living. We know there are many people who can work under pressure for a little time but who tire of the monotony and become slack in their efforts by and by, failing at last because they cannot endure unto the end. We see people too, who begin many noble things but weary of them and drop them out of their hands. They may pass for brilliant men, even men of genius, but in the end they have for biography only a volume of fragments of chapters, not one of them finished. Such men may attract a great deal of attention while the tireless plodder working beside them receives no praise, no commendation; but in the records of life written in God's great book it is the latter who will shine in brightest splendour.

Noble deeds are held in honor,  
But the wide world sadly needs  
Hearts of patience to unravel  
The worth of common deeds.



"We are most happy to be here on this occasion and we trust you may be spared to see many more birthdays. As a small expression of our respect and love for you we ask you to accept these flowers and may their beauty and fragrance remind you of the lovely in life and of the promise of glorious things in the life to come. For God has said, 'With long life will I honor you,' and 'Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness.' "

Mrs. Payne's maiden name was Sarah Ellen Sharon, the daughter of Thomas Sharon and Jane Sutton. She was born a mile west of this village in 1831 on the farm until a few years ago occupied by her brother, F. H. A. Sharon. She was descended from U.E. Loyalist stock, her forefathers having migrated from Scotland and settled in Pennsylvania, from whence they moved to Canada, Thomas and Henry Sharon walking from Niagara Falls to St. Thomas. Having fitted herself for a school teacher she secured her certificate from Judge Elliot of London and taught school in this village in a building on the opposite side of the road from the one now in use, making the trip each day on horseback. She also taught in a school not standing now for many years, a log building one mile north of the village where Mrs. George Thompson, Absalom Gilbert's sister, was one of her pupils. Widdifield's Corners, between St. Thomas and Union on the Gravel road, was another school where she trained youth in readin' and 'ritin' and 'rithmetic, not omitting morals and manners.

In 1851 she was married to Frederick Payne who was born in Wiltshire, England, son of Henry Payne. He came to this land with his parents when 3 years of age. The family moved into the house purchased from one Squire Matthews and still standing on the old homestead at Payne's Mills, occupied by Sturgeon Payne and family and Mrs. Payne, Sr. Mrs. Payne having gone there as a bride has lived in the same house for 75 years. Mr. Payne, her husband, died in 1915. Four sons and three daughters were born of the union, John in British Columbia, George, Niagara Falls; Sturgeon at home, Alfred, deceased; Mrs. W. St. Thomas Smith, St. Thomas; Mrs. Baker, Delaware, and Clara, who died in youth.

There are twenty-one grandchildren, two of whom made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War. Mrs. (Rev.) J.M. MacGillivray of Toronto is a granddaughter. There are also fourteen great-grandchildren. Nephews and nieces are Stanley Sharon of Payne's Mills, Floyd and Ainley Sharon, of California, and Mrs. Kelley of Lambeth. Mrs. Sharon's brother, F.H.A. Sharon, died in Camrose, Alta., in 1924, in his 92nd year.

In the church Mrs. Payne has ever been foremost in every good work and has long been known as an earnest Christian and a member of Talbotville Methodist church. She has also acted as superintendant of Payne's Mills Sunday School teaching and taking a very active part.

The following is a newspaper story found in a binder labelled "Paynes Personal Mostly Family" that was kept by Gordon Payne. Neither the name of the paper nor the date of the issue in which the obituary appeared is included with the clipping. The paper was probably The St. Thomas Times.

#### FREDERICK J. PAYNE IS DEAD: OLD RESIDENT OF PAYNE'S MILLS

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Esteemed Southwold Man Succumbs to Brief Illness -- Father of Mrs. W. St. Thomas Smith, Was Born in England, an Anglican and a Conservative -- Had Celebrated Diamond Wedding.

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The death took place Thursday evening at the age of 87 years of Frederick J. Payne on the Pine Grove Farm at Payne's Mills, after a short illness.

The deceased was born in England Jan. <sup>21</sup>~~27~~, 1827, and came to Canada with his parents at the age of four years. The family settled at Payne's Mills, and deceased resided there ever since. Mr. and Mrs. Payne celebrated their golden wedding 15 years ago and their diamond wedding five years ago.

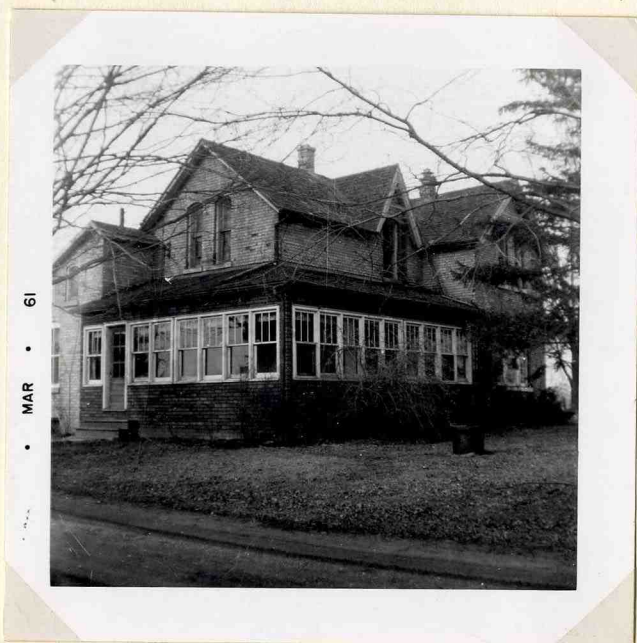
Deceased was a Conservative and a member of the Anglican church. He leaves to mourn his loss his wife, three sons, C.J. Clinton, B.C.; George, M.C.R. engineer, Niagara Falls, and Sturgeon Payne, at home, and two daughters, Mrs. W. St. Thomas Smith, St. Thomas, and Mrs. T.W. Baker, South Delaware. Deceased is the last of his father's family.

The funeral will take place Saturday at 2 o'clock from his late residence. Interment will be made in Talbotville cemetery.





The home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Auckland in 1957.



The home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Auckland in 1957





In 1920 Frank S. Auckland purchased a farm in the Paynes Mills area. It consisted of 148 acres, being part of lots 37 and 38 N N B T R, and having belonged to the estate of the late Edgar Gilbert. Later the same year the back 50 acres was sold to James Gunning of Talbotville for lumbering purposes. This left 98 acres. When this property was owned by the Gilbert family it is said that 2 acres was taken off lots 37 and 38 for a given concession road between the two lots. Thus 98 acres remained instead of the usual 100 acres.

In 1940 the eastern part of lot 38 consisting of 50 acres was purchased by Frank Auckland from the Fenner Merrill estate. The back 50 acres of the Merrill farm had been earlier purchased by John Longhurst. <sup>in 1927</sup> The farm presently consists of these 2 parcels of fairly level land. The first buildings of what is considered the home place on lot 38 were about 40 rods north of the present site on a portion of land slightly higher than the presentsite. However, in 1890 the Gilberts decided to move the buildings closer to the road and a brick house was built which is still in use. The house on the former location was moved to lot 39 and is now the home of Alex Karafil and family. The main barn (40 x 50) was moved to the new site and was put on an 8' cement wall. It is said that the cement for this wall which is 15" thick was mixed by hand on a platform. The second barn (36 x 50) was built adjacent to the main barn but at right angles forming an L shape. It was raised on a cement wall by the present owner in 1927 with John Ramey and Will Auckland, contractors of Talbotville, doing the work. Further buildings were added over the years and in 1938 Travers and Young of Talbotville erected a cement silo.

The brick house built in 1890 remains much as it was built although the back portion was replaced in 1926 and in 1948 sunporches were added.

Across the lane from this home stands a frame home belonging to Albert Auckland and family. In 1952 the S.E. part of lot 37, approximately 32 acres, was bought by



Albert and Edith Auckland and the same year a 1½ story frame house was built by carpenters Elmer Auckland of Talbotville and John Silcox of Frome. This is said to be near the site of the original Gilbert home on lot 37.

Buildings on the Merrill farm at the time of purchase consisted of a two family frame dwelling and a large barn. The barn still stands close to #3 highway. It was built in 1903 and painted red at that time, replacing a barn destroyed by lightning earlier in the year. The house, which was built in approximately 1858, as a two family home, was occupied by Mrs. Fenner Merrill until 1943. This house was put on a lot of its own and sold away from the farm in 1952. Mr. Wm. Meek purchased the house and lot. Now completely remodelled and moved back from # 3 highway, it belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nichols, Mrs. Nichols being the former Patricia Meek.

Frank Auckland and Winnifred Boughner were married at Talbotville in 1917 and after living in the Talbotville area purchased the present farm and have resided there since 1920, being engaged in dairying and general farming. In January 1921 a son Albert was born and in September 1924<sup>3</sup> a second son Lloyd was born. Both boys attended S.S.# 7 Southwold public school (Paynes Mills) and later both attended the St. Thomas Collegiate Institute. Frank Auckland was trustee and secretary of S.S.# 7 for over 30 years.

Albert took up farming upon leaving high school and is still engaged in farming. In 1946 he married Edith Williams and they have a family of 5 daughters--Karen, Margaret, Diane, Brenda and Janice. Albert has been active in Municipal politics. He served on Southwold council for 10 years, being their reeve in 1966 and 1967. As well, he was Elgin County's warden in 1967, Canada's Centennial year.

Lloyd Auckland furthered his education by attending Western University and returned to his former high school in 1947 as a mathematics teacher. He continued there until his appointment as vice principal of the Central Elgin Collegiate Institute in 1966. He married Phyllis Latimer of Paynes Mills in 1948 and they have a family of 3 boys and 2 girls.