

Life Members
of
River Road W.I.



Mrs. N. D. Campbell 1962



Mrs. F. Begg Mrs. Catherine Lindsay Mrs. C. Campbell
May 17, 1973

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of
River Road W.I.



Lillian Ross 1981



Ruth Fulton

Jean McPherson

1983

Mrs. Jean McPherson, Mrs. Ruth Fulton

Mrs. Bert Veenstra was hostess for the June 1983 meeting of the River Road W.I. A potluck supper was enjoyed. The president, Mrs. Andrew Schaafsma, welcomed the Elgin West District officers; Mrs. Helen Beecroft, Mrs. Jamie Campbell and Mrs. Hilda Morden.

A highlight of the evening was the honoring of two members of the branch. Mrs. Curtis Campbell read a letter of appreciation to Mrs. Ruth Fulton and Mrs. Catherine Lindsay presented her with a life membership pin and certificate. Miss Lillian Ross read the letter to Mrs. Jean McPherson and she was then presented her certificate and pin by her mother, Mrs. Myrtle Metler.

Introduced by Mrs. Elias Reck, Miss Bonnie Wilson, Rural Organization Specialist for Elgin spoke to the group on "Summer Barbecues." She told of the many meats and vegetables and how to prepare them and stressed the need for careful handling of all equipment.

The evening closed with a light lunch served by the hostess.

Life Members Honored

The June, 1973 meeting of the River Road W.I. started with dinner at the Safari Restaurant in St. Thomas. Corsages were given three members; Mrs. Catherine Lindsay by Alice Able, Mrs. F. Begg by Mrs. C. Campbell, and Mrs. C. Campbell by Mrs. J. Begg.

After the dinner, the business meeting was held at the home of Mrs. M. Lanning at which time Mrs. W. A. Metler presented Mrs. C. Lindsay with a life membership pin and certificate. Mrs. C. Campbell presented Mrs. F. Begg with a life membership pin and certificate. Miss Lillian Ross presented Mrs. C. Campbell with a life membership and certificate.

It was decided to hold a community picnic at Pinafore Park, St. Thomas.

The meeting closed by singing "O Canada."

JUNE 1981

Mrs. Marvin Caughell was hostess of the 60th Anniversary of the River Road W.I. in June, 1981, with the twin Institute of Aylmer as our guests at a potluck dinner.

District officers were present and corsages were presented to the officers and president of Aylmer Women's Institute.

Miss Lillian Ross was presented with her Life Membership with Mrs. Mary Veenstra reading a resume of her work as Public Relations Convenor and former secretary.

Mrs. W. A. Metler, one of the charter members of the River Road W. I. who later moved to London, was given a gift of remembrance.

Tea and Anniversary cake were served and a fine time was enjoyed by all.

Mrs. Etta Campbell

Mrs. Margaret Austin was hostess for the Oct. 19, 1955 Meeting of the River Road Women's Institute with Mrs. K.W. Campbell President presiding. Roll call was answered by naming a form of pioneer entertainment. Mrs. Etta Campbell was guest of honor. It was her 80th. birthday. She was presented with a life membership in the branch. Mrs. W. A. Metler read a scroll inscribed by Miss Carolyn Curtis who is a niece of Mrs. Campbell. Mrs. K.W. Campbell presented her with the framed life membership certificate and the pin.

All joined in singing "Happy Birthday" and "For She's a Jolly Good Fellow." Mrs. Campbell though taken by surprise made a fitting reply. Mrs. Campbell through her efforts had helped organize the Institute in 1921 and was a charter member.

Among the guests was her daughter Mrs. Stewart Brown of Shedden. Following the presentation an interesting program followed. Mrs. Duncan Brown of Shedden gave two readings and Mrs. Mac Best a talk on "The Incas of Peru."

At the close of the meeting refreshments were served and this included a gaily decorated birthday cake with lighted candles.

Mrs. Fred Claus

On Nov. 10 1955 the River Road W.I. held their monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. W. A. Metler with Mrs. Adair Douglas, Vice President presiding. After the business session an interesting program followed.

Mrs. Fred Claus was guest of honor at being her 83rd. birthday. She was presented with a Life Membership in the branch. Mrs. N.D. Campbell read an address and Mrs. Adair Douglas presented the Life Membership certificate and pin. All joined in singing "Happy Birthday" and "For She's a Jolly Good Fellow"

During the evening piano solos were given by Darlene, Marilyn, and Gregory Metler. Mrs. Spurr read a poem. Miss Ella Axford gave a demonstration on make up and Mrs. Stillwell of St. Thomas described her work in judging at fairs.

A delicious lunch convened by Mrs. A. McIntyre, Mrs. J.O'Brien, Mrs. N.D. Campbell brought the evening to a close.

Mrs. W.A. Metler

The River Road Women's Institute met for their annual dinner meeting at First United Church on the evening of Apr. 15, 1959 with 23 members and guests present. After a delicious smorgasbord dinner a short program and business meeting was held followed by the election of officers for 1959-60 with Mrs. Fred Austin presiding.

During the evening Mrs. Metler one of our valued members was presented with a Life Membership in the branch. Mrs. Etta Campbell read an address and Mrs. S.A. Fulton presented the pin and corsage. All joined in singing "For She's a Jolly Good Fellow."

Mrs. Metler is a charter member of our Institute and was the first Secretary Treasurer. Mr. and Mrs. Metler are leaving for their new home in St. Thomas, but we are happy to know Mrs. Metler will still be a member of our Institute.

Two contests were held and the prizes won by Mrs. N.D. Campbell and Mrs. G. Mycroft. who presented the prizes to the guest of honor.

The election of officers followed the business part of the meeting. Mrs. Margaret Austin who had been President for 2 years was succeeded by Mrs. Fatcher Begg.

The best wishes of the Institute and community go with Mr. and Mrs Metler to their new home.

Mrs. Clara Fulton

Mrs. Fred Lindsay and Miss Dorothy Lindsay were hostess for the June meeting of the R.R.W.I. on Wed. evening June 21 1961 with Mrs. Catherine Lindsay the President presiding.

At this time Mrs. S.A. Fulton who had been a member of the River Road W.W. was honored with a Life Membership in the branch. Mrs. W.A. Metler read the address. The President Mrs. C. Lindsay presented the certificate and pin while Miss Lillian Ross pinned an orchid and rose corsage on the guest of honor. Mrs. Fulton made a fitting reply thanking the members.

Later Mrs. K.W. Campbell who is leaving the community was remembered with a gift. Mrs. C. Lindsay, Mrs. J. Robillard and Miss Lillian Ross assisted the hostesses at the tea hour.

Mrs. N.D. Campbell

The June meeting of the R.R.W.I. was held in the form of a dinner party Friday evening June 22, 1962, at Berry's Restaurant Port Stanley, with 25 members and guests present.

Mrs. N.D. Campbell a faithful member of the branch was honored at this time with a Life Membership in the branch. Mrs. S.A. Fulton gave the address, Mrs. Catherine Lindsay presented the certificate and Miss Lillian Ross the pin. Mrs. L. Moore of Chatham daughter of the guest of honor pinned a lovely rose corsage on her mother. Mrs. Campbell thanked her fellow members and said she looked forward to many more years of Institute work.

A short business session followed and at the close of the meeting a minutes silence was observed in memory of a valued member Mrs. Clarence Fulton.

The following members of the River Road Community have passed away since 1945.

Mr. W.F. Coleman	Mar. 8 1945
Mr. R. Lindsay	June 23, 1945
Mrs. R. Ross	Nov. 1, 1946
Mrs. W.F. Coleman	June 30, 1947
Mr. Ken Yeo	1947
Mr. J. Kelly	Feb. 22, 1948
Mr. Earl Yeo	July 1948
Mr. F. Lindsay Jr.	Feb. 23, 1949
Mr. J. Darrach	May 19, 1949
Mr. F. McGaw	Feb, 2, 1950
Mrs. J.A. Campbell	Feb. 23, 1951
Mr. F. Austin	Oct. 17, 1952
Mr. J. McIntyre (John)	Mar. 30, 1953
Mrs. E. Douglas	Mar. 17, 1953
Mr. J. Malik	June 18, 1953
Mr. R. Ross	Jan 25, 1954
Mr. J.A. Campbell	Jan. 8, 1954
Mr. Fulton Darrach	May 13, 1954
Mrs. D.B. McPherson	May 29, 1955
Mrs. J. Darrach	May 13, 1955
Mr. F. Lindsay Sr.	July 19, 1955
Mrs. M. McGaw	Mar. 15, 1956
Mr. J. O'Brien	Feb. 6, 1956
Mrs. W. Cummings	Oct. 8, 1958
Miss P. Fulton	Mar. 5, 1958
Mr. Marvin McCaig	Jan 17, 1959
Mr. M. Claus	Oct. 31, 1959
Mr. F. Axford	Nov. 12, 1959
Mr. F. Jones	Mar. 30, 1959
Mr. J. McIntyre (James)	Apr. 4, 1960
Mr. J. Lindsay	Jan. 17, 1961

Miss Emma McIntyre	Mar. 14, 1961
Mrs. Annie Lindsay	Oct. 30, 1961
Mr. B. Patrick	Oct. 7, 1961
Mr. F. Thompson	Dec. 23, 1961
Mr. J.Y. Harper	April 21, 1961
Mrs. F. Claus Sr.	Oct. 27, 1962
Mrs. Clarence Fulton	May 21, 1962
Mr. G. McGaw	June 4, 1962
Miss Elsie McIntyre	June 11, 1962
Mrs. Louise Campbell	July 20, 1962
Mrs. F. Vickerey	Sept. 20, 1962
Mrs. Mabel Legg	Nov. 30, 1962
Mr. S.A. Fulton	Dec. 30, 1962
Mr. George Morley	March 28, 1963
Mr. F. Chaplow	Sept. 6, 1963
Mr. G. Richardson	Apr. 19, 1964
Mrs. F. Axford	July 14, 1965
Mr. D.B. McPherson	Oct. 14, 1965
Mrs. Etta Campbell	Nov. 23, 1965
Mrs. Clara Lindsay	Dec. 6, 1965
Mrs. G. Mycroft	Dec. 15, 1965
Mr. Art Dadson	Jan. 11, 1966
Mrs. F. Cron	Sept. 1, 1966
Mr. Archie Barrie	Feb. 11, 1966
Mrs. C. Porter	Oct. 16, 1966
Mrs. Ada Kelly	Mar. 1, 1966
Mr. Albert Dadson	April 7, 1966
Mr. Ronald Allison	Dec. 20, 1966
Mr. John Carter	1966
Mr. Richard Allison	April 5, 1967
Mr. Mac Butcher	1967
Mr. S. Page	June 11, 1967
Mr. Griffith Walker	Aug. 9, 1967
Mr. E. Douglas	Mar. 29, 1968

Mr. W. A. Metler	Oct. 16, 1968
Mr. Harrison Dadson	May 1, 1969
Mrs. B. Patrick	Aug. 27, 1969
Mrs. S. A. Fulton	Dec. 6, 1969
Mr. Jim Shingler	Feb. 18, 1970
Mr. J. Powers Sr.	March 5, 1970
Mr. Harry Palmer	Aug. 8, 1970
Mr. Frederick Vickery	Dec. 16, 1970
Mrs. Maud Spurr(Thompson)	April 27, 1971
Mrs. M. Laidlaw	March 10, 1972
Mr. Leslie Fulton	March 24, 1972
Mr. Albert McIntyre	Oct. 25, 1972
Mr. Hermanus Van Meppelen Scheppink	Dec. 26, 1972
Mr. Leonard C. Ross	Dec. 28, 1972
Mr. Clarence Fulton	July 24, 1974
Mr. Gordon Beattie	Sept. 29, 1974
Mr. Tom Hill	Oct. 27, 1974
Mrs. J. Ewart	Jan. 11, 1974
Mrs. John Carter	1974
Mrs. Earl Yeo	1975
Mrs. Estelle Nugent(Fulton)	Nov. 29, 1975
Mr. J. Ewart	July 1, 1975
Mr. Francis Coleman	Jan. 25, 1975
Mrs. Rubina Groat	Feb. 22, 1975
Mr. Leonard Duynesveld	July 19, 1975
Mrs. Jean O'Brien	Dec. 26, 1975
Mr. John H. Campbell	June 21, 1975
Mr. Ian Yeandle	Jan. 3, 1976
Mr. Wutshi Wymengo	Oct. 14, 1976

Mr. Floyd Claus	Feb. 10, 1976
Mrs. Ella Dowler (Patrick)	Dec. 3, 1976
Mrs. Bessie Campbell	March 17, 1976
Mr. Albert Ross	August 18, 1976
Mrs. Minnie Jones	June 19, 1977
Mr. Norman Chaplow	June 12, 1977
Mr. Ray Stacey	Jan. 2, 1977
Mrs. Ellora Beattie	August 1, 1978
Mr. John Chaplow	Feb. 20, 1978
Mr. George Morley	Jan. 24, 1978
Mrs. Ruby Lee (Claus)	Dec. 26, 1978
Mr. Charlie Dadson	July 9, 1979
Mrs. Albert McIntyre	Oct. 13, 1979
Mr. Norman Ross	Aug. 9, 1979
Mr. Neil Campbell	March 9, 1980
Mr. Wallace Carter	March 12, 1980
Mrs. Annie Fulcher (Barrie)	March 20, 1980
Miss Leila Francis	" 1980
Mr. Bazil Patrick	Dec. 1980
Mrs. Ethel Joiner	Nov. 24, 1980
Mr. Percy Loveday	May 20, 1981
Mr. Wallace Cummings	1981
Mrs. Clare Chute (McGaw)	July 1, 1981
Mrs. Annie Pace (Campbell)	Jan. 1981
Mrs. Jean Lacy (McPherson)	Jan. 22, 1981
Mrs. Marguerite Lindsay	March 1, 1982
Mr. Harold O'Connor	April 3, 1982
Mr. George Vowels	JUNE 5 April 28 , 1982
Mrs. Jean Brown (Campbell)	Aug. 31, 1982
Mr. Wm. Chaplow	May 26, 1983
Mr. Ray Fritsch	Dec. 14, 1983

DEATHS

George Groves	Dec. 27, 1959
Alfred Groves	Aug. 6, 1964
Thomas Groves	Oct. 10, 1979
Leonard Groves	Dec. 4, 1984
Bert Groves	Nov. 15, 1977
Mrs. B. Groves	Jan. 6, 1978
Henry Groves (Ted)	Nov. 2, 1973
Garfield Beattie	1986
Mrs. Hazel Thompson (Butcher)	Dec. 30, 1983
Kenneth Harper	Dec. 22, 1980
Jean Lacey	Jan. 24, 1981
Mrs. Margaret Dowler (Kelly)	March 9, 1983
Mr. Jake Van Meppelin Scheppink	June 13, 1983
Mrs. Jean Deary (Campbell)	Dec. 29, 1983
Mr. Robert Bradt	March 5, 1984
Mrs. Edith Bridge (Satchell)	March 18, 1984
Mr. Harold Harper	June 12, 1985
Mrs. Adeline Lindsay Compton	Aug. 3, 1985
Mr. Stephen Palmer	Oct. 7, 1985
Mr. Curtis Campbell	April 7, 1986
John (Pete) Beattie	July 17, 1986
Mrs. Margaret Begg	October 18, 1986
Donald Fulton Jr.	April 10, 1986

WEDDINGS

Lila Axford	Edward Richards	Aug. 2/47
Keith Fulton	Ruth Earnshaw	Apr. 4/49
Marianne Coleman	Edward Unger	June 10/50
Joe Coleman	Catherine Cassidy	Dec. 1/45
Donald McIntyre	Joyce Reid	Jan. 14/56
Walter Carter	Margaret Smith	March 30/57
Leslie Jones	Marie Lamour	Aug. 24/57
Harry Axford	Beatrice Laidlaw	July 20/57
Marvin McCaig	Louise Foster	July 12/58
Louis Powers	Nancy Merrit	Oct. 10/59
David McPherson	Dorothy Woodman	Mar. 5/60
Donald Fulton	Patricia Allman	Apr. 23/60
Douglas McCaig	Elaine Connell	May 28/60
Jeanette Campbell	Jack Tyson	Apr. 1/61
Morley Reid	Sharon Kilmer	Nov. 4/61
Doris Campbell	Lawrence Moore	May 26/62
Alice Lindsay	Gene Abel	Aug. 11/62
Margaret Duynesveld	Joe Swinkles	Oct. 5/63
Ronald Allison	Doreen Davis	June 15/63
Harold McIntyre	Donna McCallum	Sep. 26/64
John Lindsay	Helen Nott	Sept. 12/64
Robert Reck	Elizabeth Irvine	June 27/64
John Begg	Margaret McPherson	Aug. 28/64
Darlene Metler	Grant Bourdon	Feb. 8/65
Janice Campbell	Allen Aicken	Apr. 23/65
Ronald Reiger	Sharon Jackson	June 25/65
Charlene Bradt	Morley Doan	June 4/66
Kenella Campbell	Allan Johnston	Dec. 3/66
Mary Campbell	Dwayn Lunn	Dec. 31/66

WEDDINGS

Marilyn Metler	Gary Watt	July 1/66
Ruth Ann Carter	Gerald Couture	Mar. 15/67
Donald Harper	Patricia Cadotte	June 3/67
Gary Reiger	Linda Irvine	Aug. 26/67
Donald McCaig	Patricia Williams	Sept. 16/67
Louise Beattie	Morte Smyth	May 14/68
James Coombs	Doreen Allison	July 13/68
Colin Campbell	Doreen Fleischhauer	July 6/68
James Douglas	Patricia Donnor	June 4/66
John Palmer	Margaret Grigg	Jan. 27/68
C. Duynisveld	Bernice Jorgenson	Feb. 23/68
Russel Reiger	Lise Myers	July 26/69
Colin G. Campbell	Doreen K. Fleischhauer	June ^{July} 6/68
Rose Mary Reck	James A Chrysler	May 9/70
Dugald K Campbell	Diana L. Olophant	June 6/70
Alexander W. Lindsay	Linda Dakin	June 26/70
J. Timothy Reck	Donna N. Hoffman	Oct. 17/70
Bob McCaig	Mary Niclie	Dec. 30/70
Eugene R. Reiger	Rhonda L. Burrows	April 17/71
Will Wymenga	Betty Kingswood	Oct. 14/72
George Wymenga	Tilda Sandergold	April 15/72
Michael J. Lewis	Katherine Ballantyne	May 6, 1970
Linda Jane Begg	Randolph D. Mills	May 1, 1971
Donna J. Douglas	Jeffery Henderson	June 19/71
Norman W. Simpson	Sharon E. Brandon	Nov. 6, /71
J. Stuart Harper	Barbara J. Edwards	Aug. 7/71
Jerry Simpson	Julia McBain	Sept. 3/71
Sandra Jean McCaig	Keith A. Miles	Dec. 4/71

WEDDINGS

Jacquiline F. Begg	Douglas S. Gordon	Aug. 5/72
Lewis Simpson	Marjorie Maudsley	Aug. 25/72
Robin Douglas	Barbara Racher	Oct. 4/69

As far as we know this tract of land extending from Niagara to Detroit was, when the first settlers came in the early years of the 1800's largely a wilderness inhabited only by a few Indians and an occasional settler.

Prior to and up to around 1650 it is known that this same area was well settled with a tribe of Indians known as the Neutrals of the Iroquois tribe.

It is regrettable that the early Indians left no written records, but thanks to the efforts of Archaeologists many relics of the past have been recovered from the soil of Western Ontario and elsewhere. Through these same relics part of the Indians past has been reconstructed.

It is generally conceded that the Indian came to this continent from Siberia and other parts of Asia.

Dr. Wilfred Jury of London has done much work in excavating. University students and others have helped in this, especially at known Indian village sites. Many farmers in by gone years have in the working of their fields in this district come upon many interesting Indian articles. Those working lately have especially in the Lake Huron area unearthed different levels of occupation. They presume that this means different tribes in the course of many years had made their homes there, each group showing some progress over their predecessors. From articles found it has been established how they built their homes, what they ate, what games they played, what implements and weapons they had. Pipes disclosed that they used tobacco, which presumably came from Asia. In the later tribes well decorated pottery was found. No article of European origin was discovered showing that the sites were well occupied before white settlers came.

We have all seen the arrow heads and stone weapons found in our fields (Mr. D.B. McPherson has a fine collection as well as one in our Museum.) They are of flint stone which is not found in many places in this district. There is much of it at Ipperwash. So it is concluded that the Indians travelled about much throughout Western Ontario.

This last tribe mentioned above was no doubt the Attawandarons or Neutrals, as they were called since they kept out of the warfare existing between the Hurons to the north and the Iroquois to the south of the lakes. These two tribes Huron, Iroquois, were related but bitter enemies.

The neutrals settled on both sides of the Thames River up to the Huron country and to Lake Erie at the south, to Niagara and as far as Burlington Bay and on north shore of Lake Ontario.

The great Algonquin family occupied a great part of Canada. Some of their tribes are the Micmacs, Ojibways, Crees, Blackfeet. Cartier had met the Hurons but when Champlain came in 1608 it was Algonquins whom he met at Quebec. Champlain explored much of what is now Ontario travelling to the land of the Hurons around Lake Huron and Georgian Bay to the Huron villages near what is now Midland, the across by Lake Simcoe to Eastern end of Lake Ontario, finally to engage in war with the Iroquois in New York State. Through this he earned the undying hatred of the Iroquois for the French.

The Huron country had been opened up to fur traders and missionaries. The outlet for the Huron fur trade was Montreal

while that of the Iroquois was New York. The Neutrals supplied the Hurons with weapons and furs, many of them beaver trapped along the Thames. The Iroquois became interested in obtaining more of the valuable pelts by and for themselves and proceeded to conquer the territory from which they came. In the fall of 1650 the war began in earnest and soon this whole region was devastated. A few Hurons escaped to Michigan and became known as Wyandots, others went farther west. The Iroquois went back home and with the exception of an occasional hunter a roving Algonquin no one lived here until after the American Revolution when a few drifted in.

Champlain had begun the missions among the Hurons by taking a priest with him on his travels there. Most missionaries followed the Neutrals and Hurons. One of these Father Bribeuf learned their language and compiled a dictionary of the Neutral dialect. Other missionaries wrote reports and from these something has been learned of their life and customs. It is thought there were about 210 towns, 12,000 people, 4,000 of them warriors at the time of their defeat. The district teemed with deer, moose, panthers, bears, squirrels, wildcats. There were fish in the many streams and lakes. They worked small plots of land for their crops, mostly corn. The Neutrals are described as being fine looking. They made weapons and implements for themselves and neighboring tribes. They make canoes, wooden bowls, mortars for preparing grain for food. However they and all Indians of America had no knowledge of the wheel and its uses, and never made tools or weapons of steel. Except in a primitive way they never acquired the art of writing. They wore clothes of fur or deerskin, often decorated with feathers, and understood basketry.

After the destruction of the Neutrals the Chippewas settled in the region. They were a Canadian branch of probably the largest Indian tribe, sections of which were found as far south as Mexico. Their culture was like that of the Algonquin in that they trapped and hunted extensively, roaming about the country and returning to a permanent location in winter in oval rush-covered lodges and in summer in bark covered huts. Tecumseh was one of the Chippewas. Many of them settled near London in 1819 and 30 years later had much land in Canada and near Muncy. The Muncy group came from Pennsylvania. They were one of the tribes who signed a treaty with Penn selling him part of Pennsylvania.

Then came the Delaware Indians, about 1819-24. These Delaware Indians were affiliated to the Muncys. Another tribe who joined the Chippewas were the Oneidas. They were of the Six Nation or Iroquois stock and had lived in N.Y. state near Oneida Lake. They sold their land there and bought 5,000 acres in Delaware township for \$15,000 arriving 360 strong in 1840. Many of the original families of these tribes still reside in these areas.

We have near here the two reserves, the Oneida in Southwold and the Muncy in Delaware. Some of the Indians live there in rather primitive homes while a few have tried to improve their surroundings. They have their churches and schools. There is a "long house" on the reserve where gatherings are held.

A fine school at Muncy gives the young boys and girls a good training.

Many of the younger generation have left the reserve to further their education, some entering the professions and others seeking employment in various fields.

Much has been written of the early history of Canadian Indians, many legends have been told of them. They were when the white man came a very primitive people. They were more often than not treated by French and English alike, with treachery and duplicity. The great struggle between the two countries and for the mastery of the New World went on for years. The Indians were drawn into the conflict and whatever their mode of living had been prior to the 1600's was unbelievably changed. As we have seen whole tribes were exterminated the colonists suffered too from their attacks and the whole history of Indian warfare is a sad one. As is indeed the history of conquest the world over. The civilization of America as we know it owes little to the original inhabitants of the country. It has its roots in Europe, the home of America's conquerors not in America the Redman's home.

In July of 1959 searching was done in our River Road community for the ancient portage route between the mouth of Kettle Creek and the Thames River. At a point directly up the steep embankment at the western end of Fulton Bridge and somewhat farther to the west in the field 3 men, Bruce Hill of Port Stanley, Jack Prothero who had worked in the Midland excavating and Paul Parks Port Stanley school teacher located the remains of an ancient Indian encampment. I watched them for a time, They very painstakingly with trowel and whisk brooms swept away the accumulation of years. They found bits of charcoal, flint, bones, pottery, and a broken pipe. The evidence indicates it was the home of a group of Iroquoian people, the Neutrals tribe probably who occupied the Western Ontario Peninsula, particularly Elgin Co.

Kettle creek appears to have had an important place in the lives of the aboriginal people. Even its name is thought to be a translation of the Iroquoian word Konagio. It is known that a portage route wound through the forest from the mouth of the river to the Thames River. This land at the west of our farm, on up through the fields of River Road and away to the north, is a height of land, the water on the west side of which flows through ditches and streams to the Talbot Creek. So for quite a distance on the east side of Kettle creek and for a short distance this side, through the centuries Indians made their portaged rather than take their canoes along Lake Eries cliff rimmed shores. As we have mentioned when the neutrals disappeared, but a few wandering Algonquins remained perhaps they too plodded over the many portage trails. Some of these have become roads where trucks and cars replace the weary backs of Indians.

The Southwold earthworks are another mark left by the original inhabitants. The works or fortifications are located off the Dunwich Southwold line, south of Iona and is preserved as an historical site by the Federal government.