

The first burial was Mrs. Wm. Mack in January 12th., 1896, and the inscription is written in German.

Mr. John Patterson was appointed Sexton and given the contract of opening graves at \$2.00 per grave. H.F. Jell, E.A. Hugill and T.C. Campbell were named to draft a set of By-laws (see preceding page) by next annual meeting to be held on the third Monday of January, 1897. The Secretary being allowed .25¢ for each plot sold and furnishing deed for same.

On January 21st., 1896, O.R.G. Stinson was elected as President, T.C. Campbell - Treasurer, E.A. Hugill - Secretary for one year. Special meeting on August 31st., 1896, each shareholder credited with one \$10.00 lot each. Previous motion to borrow \$200.00 was rescinded, and a new motion made \$100.00 for current expenditure, to be borrowed at lowest Interest Rate and to be paid within 6 months. O.R.G. Stinson was paid \$105.00 for building fence at front of Cemetery.

Resolution was passed on September 21st., 1896, that no lots be sold except for cash or satisfactory security until By-laws were adopted.

On January 18th., 1897, a new slate of officers were elected, A.J. Liebner - President, E.A. Hugill returned as Secretary, T.C. Campbell returned as Treasurer, and remained in office continuously until Mr. Hugill moved to Toronto; Mr. Campbell passing on in 1926; Mr. Liebner on August 14th., 1939.

E.A. Hugill and A.J. Liebner and T.C. Campbell were grounds committee. J.J. Mistele and J.B. Campbell were auditors and John Paterson was Sexton.

J.B. Campbell, E.A. Hugill, and J.J. Mistele were the committee to prepare the By-laws of the company.

On November 11th., 1897, Messrs. Liebner, J.B. Campbell, and T.C. Campbell interviewed council re- widening of road opposite the

cemetery.

January 17th., 1898, annual meeting a dividend of 8% premium be paid to the stock-holders for each year 1896-1897, and Treasurer instructed to pay same as fast as the funds accumulated.

Directors for 1898 were O.R.G. Stinson, N.S. Lusty, J.J. Mistele, F.A. McCallum, A.J. Liebner, T.C. Campbell, J.B. Campbell and D.H. McRitchie, officers same as 1897.

On February 6th., 1899, 8% dividend again granted and paid on stock. John Paterson returned as Sexton, and paid \$2.00 per grave and include proper care of grounds.

January 29th., 1900, Board of Directors re-elected and 8% dividend on paid up stock.

At Director's Meeting on March 21st., 1900, a resolution was passed that no plot to be graded higher than level required by By-laws, which was adopted as drawn up by the committee for that purpose. 200 copies of By-laws were printed and one sent to each plot holder, and one copy given to each future purchaser.

The Grounds Committee were instructed to spend \$50.00 for purpose of gravelling lanes in cemetery, starting at cross road nearest the front entrance.

On January 28th., 1901, same slate of officers were re-elected and transacted business until 1903, being re-elected at each annual meeting.

On February 19th., 1904, N.S. Lusty and D.H. McRitchie were appointed to interview township council re- tile on Queen Street and assistance in building side walk, grounds committee instructed to secure sidewalk to cemetery, a grant of \$10.00 was allowed towards building of sidewalk.

May 5th., 1905, the first reference was made to any equipment being bought; lawn mower being purchased from J.A. McLean for

\$10.00; dividend of 10% on capitol stock was declared.

In 1906 a fund of \$45.00 was set aside to be paid to share holders as dividends; highest dividend recorded to that date was 17% on paid up capitol stock declared in 1908. Recommendations for water supply was left to discretion of grounds committee to be put before directors at future date and 10% dividend declared in 1909.

On February 7th., 1910, grounds committee were instructed to have tests made for water in centre of grounds and if tests satisfactory the well to be put down, which was completed in 1910.

In 1918 prices of lots were again increased to \$15 - 8 - 5; on motion of T.C. Campbell, seconded by J.J. Mistele, that \$50.00 be set aside to start maintenance fund and the profits each year from increase of price to be added to same. This was the beginning of Perpetual Care.

In 1925 F.A. McCallum was appointed to take the place of the late T.C. Campbell as secretary. Mr. McCallum held office until 1942 when G.S. Stinson was appointed to take his place.

In 1922 price of lots again advanced to \$15 - 12 - 10, with perpetual care at extra \$25.00. Up to this time there had been 359 lots sold.

In 1924, a movement was underway to try and secure funds to build a cement sidewalk from the John Fleming home to the cemetery; E.G. Lusty as reeve acted as overseer, and through his efforts succeeded in receiving many donations. The township donated the gravel, the farmers west of the cemetery drew the gravel, did the necessary grading and labour was donated wherever it could be secured. Many friends of relatives buried in Rodney Cemetery were contacted and money received. The Board of the Cemetery donated \$40.00, the business men donated cash, and a cheque from the Rodney Council made it possible to complete the job.

In 1925 Maintenance Fund had grown to \$636.00 and in 1926 Dominion of Canada Bonds were bought, one \$500.00, and three \$100.00

bonds, making a total of \$1436.00 at the end of 1926.

In 1927 Mrs. E.J. Schmid and Mrs. J.G. Gillies interviewed the board with conditional proposition for building of new fence and Memorial Arch representing Womens' Institute. Mr. Liebner was appointed to purchase materials and Mr. McCallum appointed to building same, John Templeton mason work.

In 1934 Evergreen Trees were purchased from Government and planted on each side except front and the building used by sexton was moved to north-east corner of cemetery where it still stands.

In 1938 sexton's fees were again raised from \$3 - 3.50 to \$4 - 5.00; four dollars for opening grave in summer and \$5.00 for winter. Deposit Box was rented at Royal Bank for safe keeping of all Bonds and Valuable papers.

In 1939 caretakers were given salary of \$175.00 to care for cemetery grounds and is the same at this date 1947.

Special meeting to select President in Mr. Liebner's place being Sandford Campbell.

Directors are J.S. Campbell, Mrs. O. Tough, Agnes Liebner, A.H. Liebner, J.E. Schmid, E.G. Lusty, F.A. McCallum, Mrs. J.G. Gillies. Each director receives \$3.00 dividend per year for capitol stock.

HOW THIS AREA RECEIVED ITS LIGHT

In the early pioneer days, settlers rose with the dawn and went to bed "with the hens" as far as possible, but during the shorter days of autumn and winter, for sewing and reading, they used the light from the fire-place in the single room of their log houses.

Sometimes burning knots, from pine trees, were set on flat stones to throw light farther into the room. Outside, the men carried pine torches, or hickory forks, which often proved dangerous.

The next step in this matter came when metal or earthen dishes were used to hold oil, or grease, with yarn or cloth hung over the edge. This was sputtery and smoky. Some people had small iron pots with handles which could be hung up, or carried, close to their work, for better service. Sperm oil gave a yellow flame, which was much desired. Such lamps were called "cruisies" or "Betty" lamps.

As late as 1849, Sperm oil lamps were in use at a public dinner held in London, at the Western Hotel, when 120 guests gathered for the ceremony of "breaking ground" for the Great Western Railway on October 23rd of that year.

Candles came next, giving feeble glow to homes, taverns, churches, halls and court houses. These were made in two ways. First "dipped" candles, which were cotton or linen wicks tied at intervals, on a stick and dropped in and out of melted mutton tallow. This was very tedious work, as the maker had to wait in between dips for the tallow to harden before the next immersion. Sometimes tallow was made of three parts beef and one part hog's lard. Store candles could be bought, but were not extensively used.

Next followed moulded candles made in moulds of tin or pewter into which the wick was dropped from a little rod and hung as nearly as possible in the centre while cooled grease was allowed to

fill the tube or mould.

Candle sticks are to-day heirlooms of real value, and a few candle moulds can be seen in antique shops and private collections.

A professional chandler made candles in a large mould, a dozen at a time. These were sold to merchants, and on to private families, or other groups requiring them.

Sconces were hung on nails along walls to hold candles. They were cases or sockets made of tin or iron, and the light was distributed better from these "candle stands".

"Snuffers" became a necessity because of smoking wick, which often needed to be cut off by scissors, and laid on a little tray or box which was part of the snuffer.

The discovery of Petroleum by the Indians of Western Ontario brought about a revolution. Coal oil lamps became common with their flat wicks and ventilated chimneys, and the era of lamp-lighting began in earnest.

Even street lights became a reality in Rodney. The lamps used were made by hand, by the late Charles Martini. The first of these is a part of the collection of antiques to be seen, by the public, at the Memorial Park, Port Glasgow.

These were bought, erected and maintained by merchants, public halls and churches, and a few private citizens, and greatly appreciated.

On October 24, 1900, a stock company called "The Rodney Gas and Water Company" was formed, which would manufacture and distribute acetylene gas. Some of the members were Messrs. J.J. Mistele (who remained its president all the years of its existence), N.S. Lusty and Sons, A.J. Liebner, David Mistele, and others.

By-law No. 787, dated December 15, 1900, set the price of \$14.00 per light for some thirty street lights for which the Township would pay.

By-law No. 788 stated that the Aldborough Township Council agreed to give this company a 20-year franchise to lay pipes along the streets to carry acetylene gas. This gas was made in a building which was on the second lot south of Harper Street, on the west side of the alley. Buckets of carbide were so placed over a large tank of water so that when gas pressure became low, these buckets would drop into the water thus making more gas as required. It was no easy job to clean, wash, and refill these buckets every morning.

Mr. David Mistele was in charge of the making of gas and keeping street lights lit. His task of hiring responsible "tenders" was a difficult one. Only \$12.00 a month was paid for such duties as seeing that a sufficient supply of gas was always available, and the going from lamp to lamp at dusk to light them and returning at 11 p.m. to put them out. Only four days each month were street lights unlit, namely, "two days before and two days after full moon".

Some men who held this position were Messrs. David Miller, William Kew, N.S. Lusty, William, Henry, and George Mistele.

At the time when this franchise had still four years to run, the Village Council offered the Gas and Water Company \$1,000.00 to break their agreement providing the ratepayers would vote in favour of installing Hydro Electric Power. The vote was a most contentious one, but on April 3rd, 1916, Hydro Electric was introduced, and a good thing for Rodney that it was, for after the First World War 1914-18 all copper and equipment jumped in price by leaps and bounds.

The Gas and Water Company received their \$1,000.00 on December 6, 1916, and surrendered their charter, and distributed the money among the shareholders.

For sixteen years the Acetylene Gas had been most satisfying,