



According to our records the Clergy Reserve were granted no land in Union district, only in Southwold Township West of Post Stanley. Probably somebody became mixed up with The Kings College property.



The members of the South Yarmouth Womens' Institute who comprise the committee compiling The Tweedsmuir Village History of this district, are greatly indebted to the late Dr. H.J. Davis, former Registrar of Elgin County, for the map on page 9 which he contributed and which records the names of the original owners of much of the land in this school section- No. 9 of the Township of Yarmouth.

The first surveying in South Yarmouth was done by Augustus Jones in the year 1799 and on the 24th of July of that year, patents were taken out by members of the Baby family for Lots 1,3,4,5 and 7 (comprising 1,000 acres in all) in the 4th Concession of Yarmouth, this land being a grant from the Crown for services rendered. Lots 3 and 4 granted the Hon. Francis Baby, extended from the 4th Con. down to the 3rd Con., the village of Union being built on land purchased from the Baby family who acquired thousands of acres of the choicest land in this district. In the year 1810 Jonathan Doan (a United Empire Loyalist from Philadelphia and accounted to be the first white man to settle in South Yarmouth) was appointed by Col. Baby as agent for his lands in South Yarmouth, many of the early pioneers preferring to buy Baby land rather than purchase it from the Crown.

Col. Mahlon Burwell was appointed by the Provincial Government in the year 1809 to complete the surveying of Yarmouth Township, this work continuing for a period of ten years. It has been said that Union got it's name because the converging roads met in better unity than elsewhere in some of the districts surveyed in Yarmouth Township. The Township was named 'Yarmouth' after the port of Yarmouth in Norfolk, Eng., the former home of some of it's early settlers.



In the year 1812 Col. John Bostwick obtained a grant of 2 lots on the lake front at the mouth of Kettle Creek. He was the son of the Rev. Gideon Bostwick, Rector of Great Barrington, Mass. but had been reared by a surveyor named Hambly, who had laid out some of the Townships in Elgin County. Col. Bostwick was the founder of Port Stanley and in the year 1822 built the first road from the mouth of Kettle Creek to the Village of St. Thomas and thence to London, following the Indian trails through the unbroken forest. The map on page shows where the Bostwick road ran through Union. Running north of Port Stanley, it followed the ridge to the west of the present road, on down the school-house hill and across the road (Con. 3) to the west of the Chas. Randall house <sup>on #4 Hwy</sup> and north over Beaver Creek and up the hill past the Isaac Wilson house and through the M. G. Mc.Laws farm and on to St. Thomas and London. The Mc.Laws' home was built facing this road, so that the original front of the house faced the west.

It is not known who was the first settler in this locality but as early as the year 1804, Henry Bostwick acquired 400 acres of land, being Lots 1 and 2 in Con. 3, John Philpott in 1811 taking out a patent for 200 acres, being Lot 6, Con. 3 and Susannah Thayer <sup>D. U. E. L. John PARKER</sup> in 1816 acquiring 200 acres, being Lot 4, Con. 3. Mahlon Doan arrived in 1816 and settled in the Whites Station area, his farm later being the Stockton property.

Among the earliest settlers to come to the Union district, were Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Mc. Coll. They were married in Norfolk County in the year 1813 and came to Yarmouth the same year, she being the former Anar Haviland. They made a clearing in the virgin forest and built their first small home.

Hugh Mc. Coll was a sailor on the Great Lakes, for many years, his wife looking after their family and their land. She is credited with being the first person to split the rails and build the first rail fence in South Yarmouth. These undaunted, hardy pioneers are buried in the old



Wintemute cemetery on the farm of the same name on Con.2, now the property of Mr. and Mrs. John Shannon. Nelson S. Mc.Coll, <sup>grand-</sup>son of Hugh and Anar Mc.Coll, was a resident of Union for many years.

Elias and John Moore were early settlers from Digby, N.S., John acquiring land near Sparta and Elias, a farm on the Sparta Road, near Union. In the year 1820 the first temperance lecture was given in the home of Elias Moore (who was of the Quaker faith), David Burgess addressing the gathering. 'Friends' meetings were held at the homes of Elias Moore and John Kipp, until the meeting house was built at Sparta. Elias Moore was a man who did much for the community, and later was elected Member of Parliament for the London District in the years 1835 and 1836.

Slowly the little colony increased, many of the settlers belonging to The Society of Friends and coming from New York State and Pennsylvania—the Hathaways, Weldings, Widdifields, Grahams and Willsons coming about the same time and many others in the next few years. The London and Port Stanley Gravel Road was originally a trail made through the woods by the Indians as a part of an old portage, the present road following it very closely. In 1843 the Government of Upper Canada assumed control and planked it to London, to make a military road for the troops coming by boat to Port Stanley, the soldiers walking to London. It lasted but a few years and was replaced by the Gravel Road.

Port Stanley was the central port for many years through which all imports and exports for the Western Ontario district came or were shipped out, the exports of wheat alone, amounting to as much as 300,000 bushels annually, and large quantities of lumber being exported. All merchandise and commodities handled by the merchants of London and St.Thomas, came by boat to Port Stanley and were drawn by ox-cart or teamed over the

NB: Farm mentioned as owned by John Shannon is now owned by Chas. Crevitt



corduroy road or later the plank road through the Village of Union.

After the grain harvests, it was not uncommon for long lines of grain wagons pulled by both horses and oxen, to pass through Union on their way to Port Stanley, this small settlement being situated on <sup>one of</sup> the busiest and most important stretch of road in existence, in Elgin's early days.

Weary, worn travellers and newcomers to the district arriving by sailing vessel at Port Stanley, were taken to their destinations by the old stage coach drawn by 4 horses which were replaced with fresh teams at various hotels along the route, the stage coach making trips three days a week from Port Stanley to London and return. The mail was carried on the stage coach and deposited at the Mandeville Hotel in the hollow at the extreme west of St. Thomas- later to be taken to the Post Office for sorting. The arrival of the stage coach was heralded by a blast from the coachman's horn, this occasion being eagerly looked forward to, as the event of the day.

### *Early Business & Industries*

To accommodate the many travellers and people seeking lodgings, Union had its share of hotels. The old brick structure on the north-west corner at Union (the present general store of F. Bennett) was built in the year 1840, the carpenter being Major John Ellison. The mason work was done by Geo. Philpott. The large barn in connection with this hotel, which still stands, is a good example of the accommodation provided in the early days for oxen and horses which had to be stabled over night, when travellers were going some distance. The records of the first owner and men who later were its proprietors, are not available until the year 1879 when Richard B. Mc.Coll was the owner, subsequent proprietors being John Carpenter, Jas. Stewart, 'Prince' Clark, Marvin Ketchum, Thos. White, Porter A. Bush, Chas. Dew, Hannah Lanagan Dew and A. Vincent. In the early days of this famous old landmark, it was the centre of activities for



social gatherings in the district. The entire front of the second story was a large 'ball room' with a raised platform in the south end to accommodate the fiddler and the man who did the 'calling off' for the reels, polkas and square dances of olden days. Mr. and Mrs. Walton Owen purchased this property and conducted a very successful general store for several years, Mrs. A. Perry later owning the business and the present owner being Mr. F. Bennett.



The man holding the horse was Marvin Ketchum with his horse 'Jinny'- Mrs. Mary Ketchum, his wife, standing in the doorway.