

The house owned by the late John and Geo. Edkins for many years and at present the home of Mr. H. Jamieson, originally stood on the southwest corner of that lot and was owned by Robt. Montgomery and operated as an hotel. Years later it was moved to it's present site and used as a dwelling, John Ellman purchasing the barn and moving it to his property the name of which was 'Battle Hill', where he later built the large red brick house now owned and occupied by Archie Kosynski.

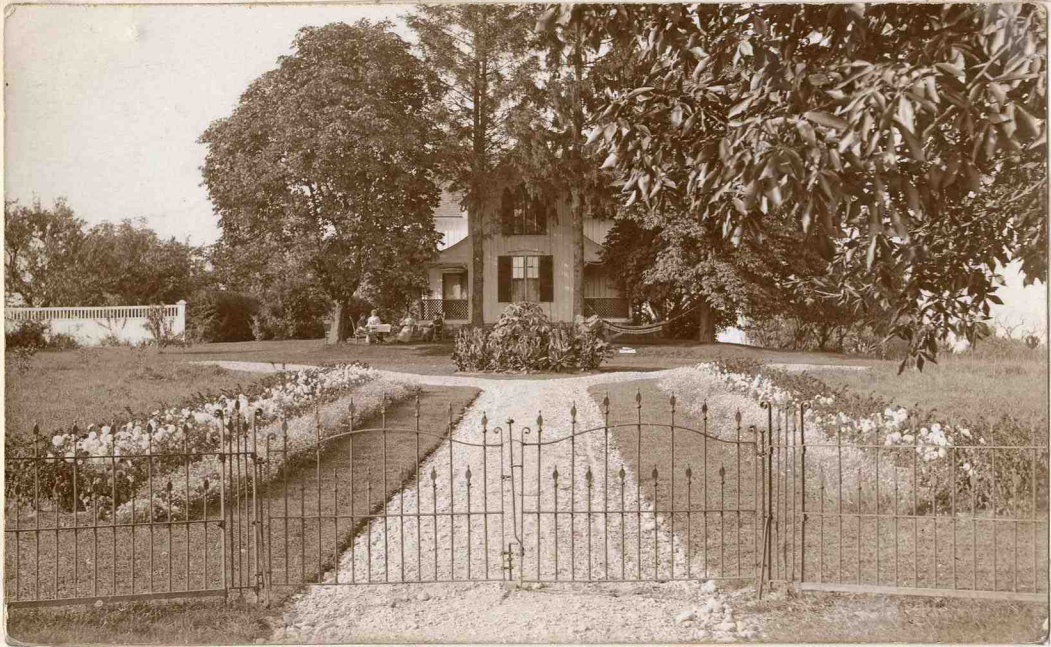
Mr. and Mrs. Babcock ran an hotel situated on the north-west corner of what is now the R. Collis property. This building was later torn down and moved to the farm of the late Robert Waite, (across from the Plains Baptist Church) and rebuilt. Mrs. Babcock was the mother of Mrs. Charity Waite, who was Robert Waite's mother.



Mrs. Babcock was a woman of remarkable qualities and highly esteemed by her many friends in the Union district.

One of the earliest industries of Union was the four story distillery which was built and operated by Alex Ketchum, 90 odd years ago, in the valley on the mill road west of Union, he and his family living in the house at the top of the south hill. Many of the oldest residents of Union (now gone) remembered this old building. Mrs. Celia Campbell, at present residing in St. Thomas and to whom we are indebted for the picture on previous page, was the grand-daughter of Alex Ketchum and spent her vacations there when a little girl. She said the grain was ground for making the whiskey, by horse power, the old horse used being called 'Richard Willie'. The wife of the owner, Mrs. Catherine Ketchum, used the little addition at the front of the building, where there was a stove on which she scorched raw brown sugar used to color the whiskey, which was sold for 2 York shillings (25¢) a gallon. The several buildings beside the distillery were used as hog sheds, the grain mash being fed to the hogs to fatten them, This industry carried on in connection with the distillery, proving very lucrative.

Enos Scott, of Quaker parentage, was married in 1845 and made his home in Union in the house now owned and occupied by Murray Scott. Mr. Enos Scott established a pork and beef packing plant on the site where the late Cyrus F. Stockton's house now stands, on what was called 'The Commons' west of Union. The water used in the plant was supplied from a spring in the ^{Bank} across the road and brought under the road, square tile being used for this job. When Mr. Stockton was excavating for his house, the workmen dug into this tiling and as they could not break it up, the house was built with one corner resting on it. This pork packing industry prospered during the building of The London and Port Stanley Railroad and succeeded in establishing markets throughout Canada and the U.S.A. Older residents of Union can remember, as small boys, seeing wagon loads of hogs from the distillery being brought to



"Burnside". Built by one of the Green brothers about 1867 and owned and occupied by members of the Thomas Hunter Scott family since 1911.



House owned by Enos Scott in 1845 and later owned and occupied by the Murray Scott family.

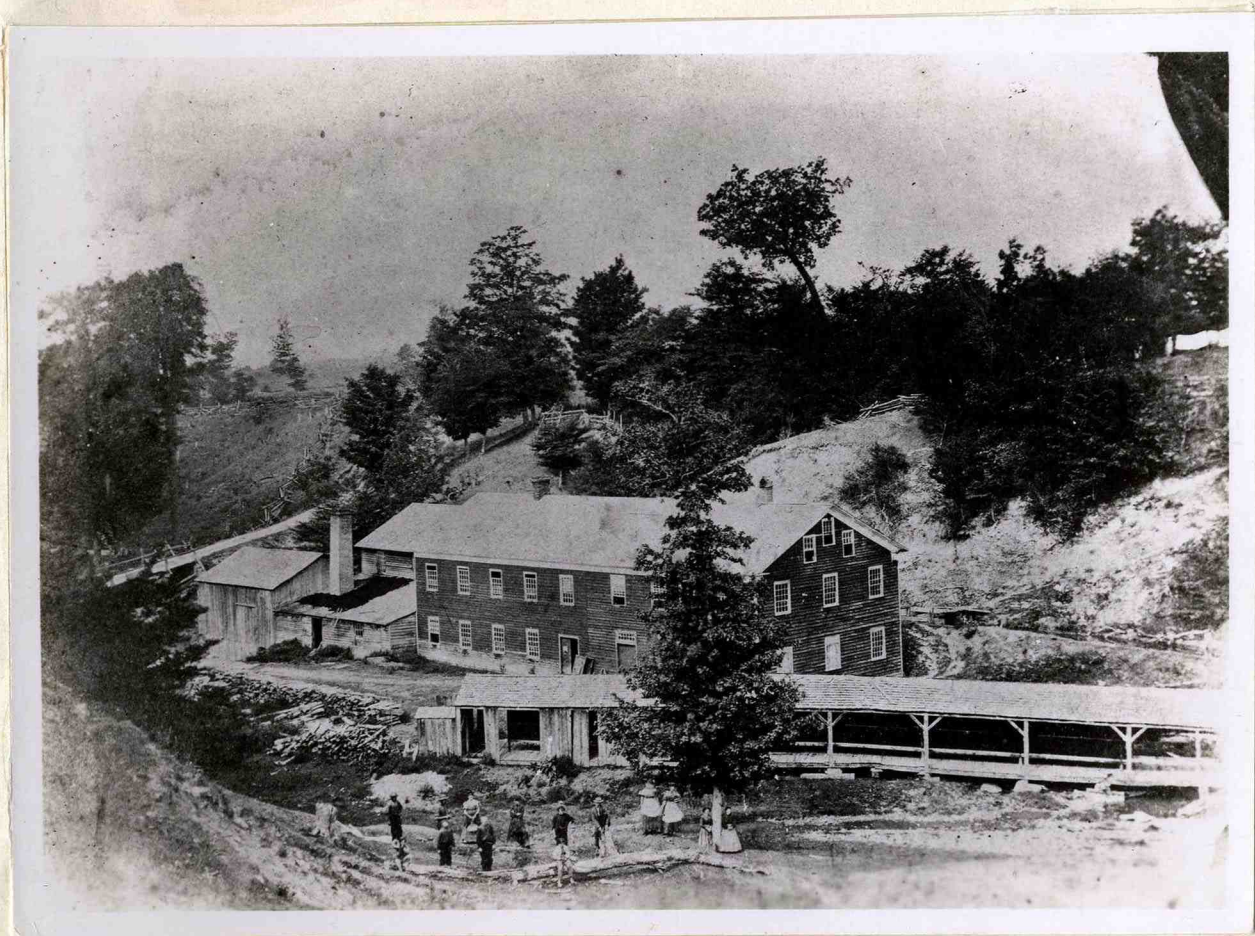
the Packing House to be slaughtered. Enos Scott left Union and built a large Packing House in Aylmer, which he conducted for many years.

Mrs. W. P. Willson, a beloved resident of Union, was a niece of Enos Scott and visited there frequently when very young. She recalls that one time she was pressed to have a too generous serving of strawberries and cream for supper and later having a swing under the trees, much to her sorrow.

The erection of the first woollen mill to be established in this district, was begun in the year 1837 by James Thompson, who came here from the State of Illinois. He set out to build a 3 story factory in the Beaver Creek valley, 1/4 of a mile west of Union on the north side of Con. 3, engaging John Preffer to build the factory and also to provide the mill with adequate machinery, most of which Preffer invented and built himself. Before the mill was completed, Thompson went back to Illinois and did not return. The mill was successfully operating in 1843 when it was sold to James Haight, Merchant of Union who conducted an extensive business. Subsequently Jas. Haight sold the mill to Benjamin and Thos. Green, woollen manufacturers from Yorkshire, England, who carried on a most successful business for many years, retiring about the year 1870. The Green Brothers' wives were sisters and they built new homes at this time, their houses being built practically alike, these being the greens-keeper's house belonging to The Elgin Golf and Country Club and 'Burnside', the residence of Mr. and Mrs. T. Hunter Scott and Miss. Edna Scott.

(See picture of Greens' Woollen Mill
on the following page)

GREEN BROTHERS' WOOLLEN MILL



The lady in back row, Miss. Green, daughter of Benj. Green
The 4 ladies near tree, Phoebe Jane Vanhorn, mother of
Mrs. Robt. Waite.

Miss. Philpott, Zara and Martha Moore

In front row-

Christopher Moore

Eli Green

Judson Willson (sitting on log)

(the other men in group, not known.)

(This picture taken about 1865)

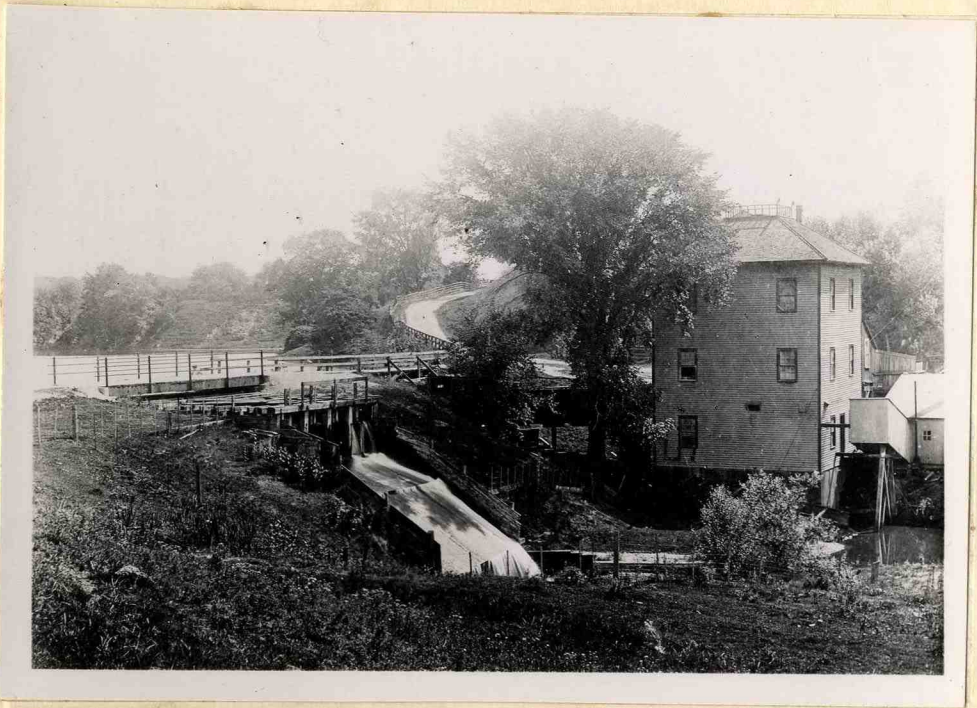
James W. Haight and Solomon V. Willson built a woollen mill and grist mill in the year 1866 in the valley at the foot of the 'old mill road'. Edward Simons, a carpenter, (father of the Simons brothers) built these mills. The distillery which was still standing on this site, was purchased by Haight & Willson and used in connection with the mill for dyeing the wool. These mills were destroyed by fire in the ^{year} 1887, Solomon Willson rebuilding the woollen mill, also the grist mill. John Dadson, a carpenter (who lived in the house for many years the home of Mr.W.P. Willson) built the second grist mill. The picture below, taken about the year 1895, shows the Willson Mills, the grist mill being at the right. John Wilkinson, always known as 'John the Miller' ran the grist mill and lived in the small house at the foot of the hill. He formerly had rooms in the mill but after the mills burned down, Solomon Willson built this house for his use. Later it was acquired by Dan. Sullivan which he used for the kitchen of his new home.



In the early days, Alex Ketchum conducted an hotel in the large house on the mill road overlooking Union pond- this property later being owned by the Sweedland family. Nelson S. Mc.Call conducted one of the principal hotels in Union in the house now the property of Dr. F. E. and Mrs. Lumley and Mrs. B. Mc.Intyre. An addition was built at the south end of the building which was later moved across the road and became the dwelling of John Ellman. Years later, Mr. Ellman built the brick house now standing on this property and he moved his former house down to where it now stands, being the white frame house west of the corner, opposite the Bennett store. Nelson Mc.Call left Union and moved to Port Stanley and later Stephen Mills ran this hotel. One of Union's oldest residents recalls going home from school through the meadow to the back door of the hotel to have a tooth pulled, Mr. Mills, as a side line, accommodating any of the villagers who needed teeth extracted.



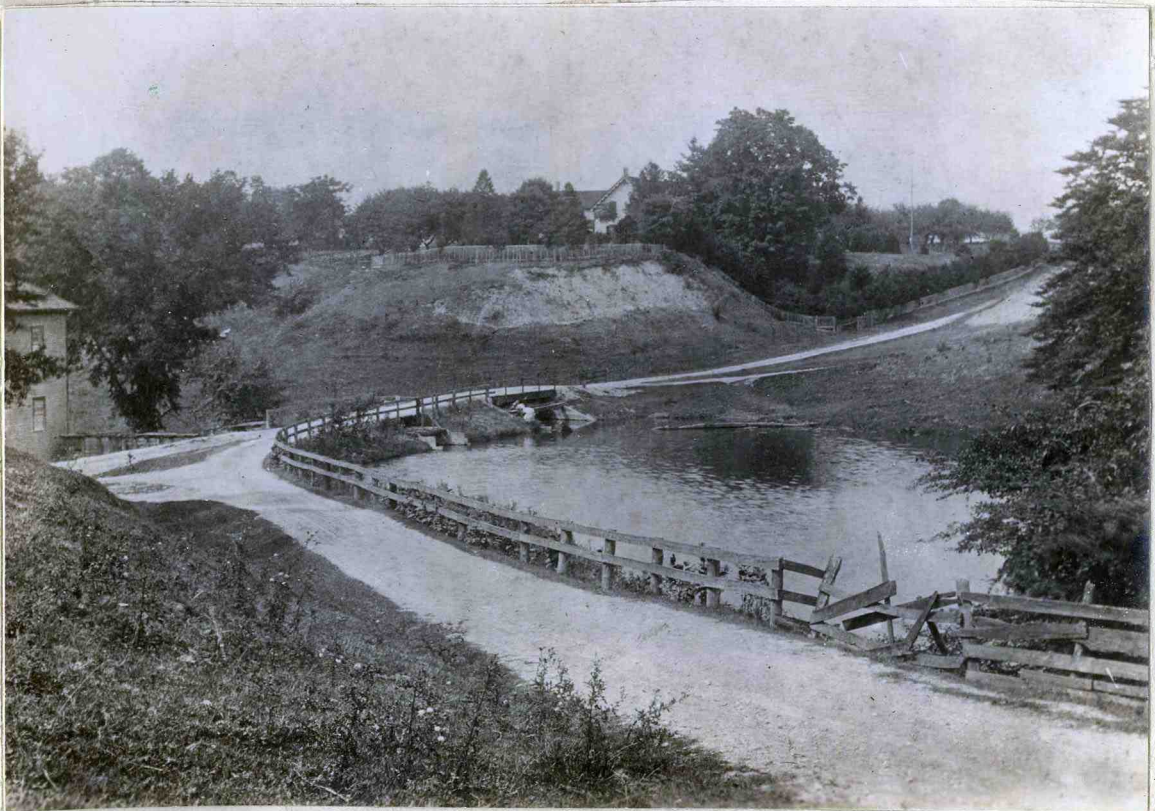
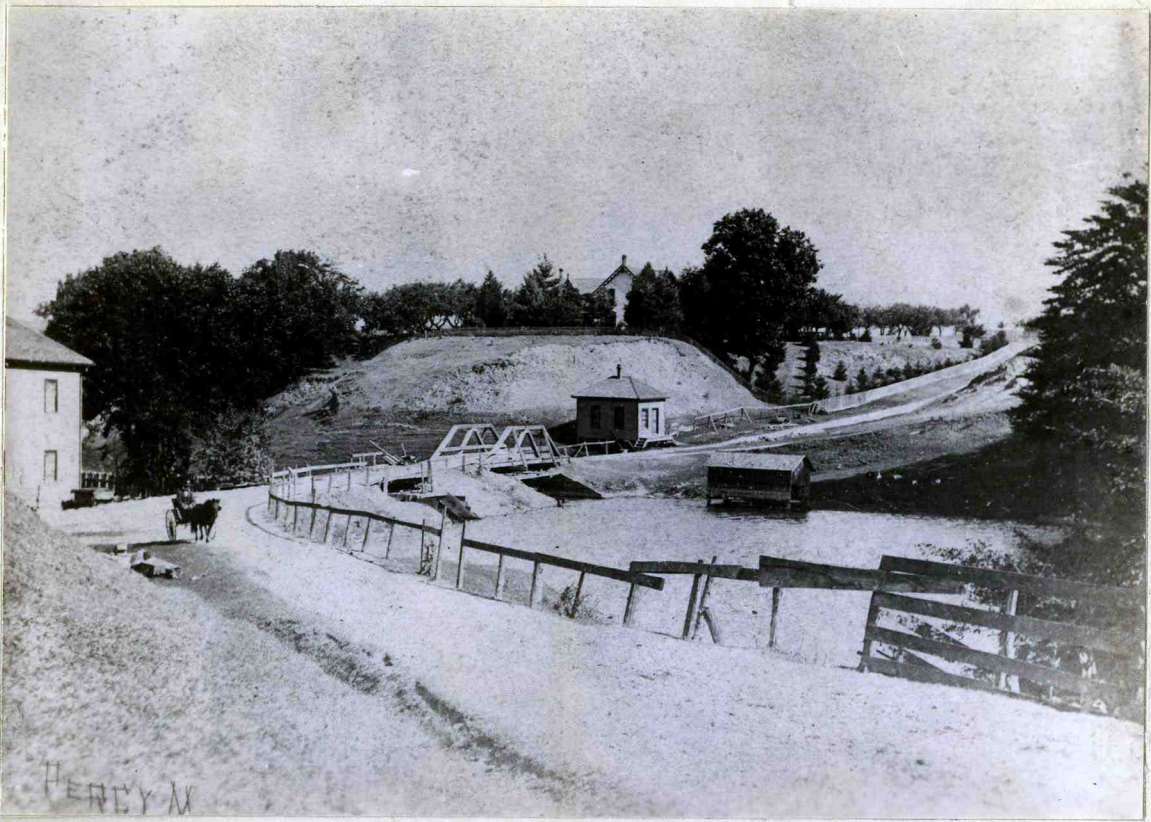
The old distillery operated over 90 years ago. Sarah Ketchum, daughter of Mrs. Babcock, in the foreground.



A view of the second grist mill situated in what was familiarly known as "Wilson's Hollow". This mill later burned down and a cement mill was built to replace it by Mr. Geo. Doolittle, who later sold it to Mr. Joseph O. King. This mill is still standing, but has not been used for many years.

The picture below shows the home of John Dadson, on the hill, 'John the Miller's house, the S.V. Willson's boat house, the 2nd grist mill (which later burned down) and Mr. Edward Matheson driving his pony and cart up the hill, his son Percy taking these two splendid pictures.

(This picture taken about 1900)



This picture was taken several years later- the spruce hedge at the foot of the John Dadson property, having made considerable growth.