



The home pictured above is situated on land described in the early deeds as on the north half of Lot#4, all of lots#11 and 12 and parts of lots B&C, Registered plan #45, in the village of Union and the Township of Yarmouth.

It is difficult to trace back so many years to find exact dates of the building of this beautiful home, but the following information has been gleaned from old deeds and papers with some names acquired from the Registry Office as well as from people interested in this property over the years. At one time in history the old Traction Line ran on this property, in fact immediately in front of the home. There used to be the Plank Road, then the London and Port Stanley Gravel Road, the London and Port Stanley Highway, #4 highway (which has been moved further west of the village) and now it is a quiet road again running through the village of Union.

Apparently this land dates back to 1799, when it was part of the 5000 acres given to Colonel Baby, who in turn divided it up into many sections and lots.

On January 30, 1816, this property was part of 200 acres that was registered in the name of Susannah Thayer. Names on various lots of land within this 200 acres which had been subdivided are: Jurvis and Susannah Thayer; Almiry Thayer; Edmond and Elmiry Thayer Smith; Robert Hepburn; Annaly Thayer

Robert Hepburn; John Thater and wife; Elizabeth Stephenson; John and Purley (Thayer) Willis; Cyrus Thayer; Nahum Thayer; Jude Allen; Israel Doan; Elias Moore; Isaac Hannon and Susan Hepburn.

This property consisted of 15 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres and before 1882, had been acquired by Mary Hannon from Susan Hepburn because on April 1, 1882, Charles Parker, a contractor bought this land from Mary Hannon, wife of Gouzallo Hannon, harness maker. This transaction was witnessed by Angus McKenzie, merchant's clerk and sworn before James McKenzie, Justice of the Peace.

Perhaps of interest would be this information regarding Jurvis and Susannah Thayer. They had a daughter, Purley, born in 1815, at Union, and died in Lexington, Michigan in 1899, in her 84th, year. She had been married three times, first to a Mr. Croft, then to John Willis who died in 1853, at the age of 46th, year, and then to a Mr. Croft.

In 1876, Susan Hepburn sold $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land for \$30. to the Methodist Church to erect a new building. Regarding the churches in Union, in 1820 and before, people used to meet in homes and the First Methodist Church was formed in that year. In 1859, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, acres were given for a church and cemetery on the west side of the Plank Road. In 1876, the land was acquired on the east side of the road and a new church built. When this church burned down, a new one was built in 1949.

Susan Hepburn died in 1887, and the executors of her estate were Robert W. Hepburn, Benjamin Franklin Hathaway and James McKenzie.

On January 11th, 1890, John Ellman, gentleman, bought from the executors of Susan Hepburn, 14, $\frac{3}{4}$ acres, more or less, for the sum of \$817, and it is understood that John Ellman had this home built by Mattie Young. The legal document for this transaction was witnessed by Kate E. L. McIntyre of the village of Union, telegraph operator, and sworn before Matthew Doyle, Justice of the Peace,

In 1901, John Ellman deeded the land to his wife Mary, who

in 1902, deeded it back to her husband and this time 15 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres was mentioned in the deed.

In 1910, John H. and Mary Ellman sold to Benjamin F. Honsinger, merchant the property for \$2500, witnessed by Ethel Maxwell, law clerk of St. Thomas, and signed by J. B. Davidson.

On October 24th, 1910, Benjamin Honsinger sold to Constance D. Fulton, wife of Hugh R. Fulton, Township of Yarmouth, and daughter of John and Mary Ellman. In March 1922, Constance D. Fulton Kirkland, sold to William Alexander Wilson, yeoman and his wife Nellie May Wilson.

On April 20, 1927, the Wilson's sold to Frederick Ellwood Elford, auto mechanic and his wife Edna G. Elford, and they in turn disposed of the property to George H. Henderson, on October 14th, 1929.

In 1932, George Henderson and Daniel Cattanach sold the home and approximately 15, acres to Alexander McCaw, locomotive engineer with the C.N.R. of St. Thomas, and his wife Margaret. They had a family of ten children, (three being born while in Union) who enjoyed the friendship and fellowship of a historical village.

In 1936, the McCaw's sold to John and Victoria Plattschore who acquired more land from the Robert Whaley farm which was adjacent and it became a tobacco farm. Also building a cottage just north of the big house. In 1943, the Plattschore's sold to Archie and Gladys (Lewis) Kosynski (Archie being a brother to Victoria Plattschore). Archie and Gladys Kosynski did extensive renovations which made it one of the outstanding homes of the area. In 1971, the Kosynski's sold the home alone, not the surrounding farm lands, to Paul and Shirley Bruyea who reside in it today 1977. In the spring of 1977, sold the surrounding land to the Kishimoto Brothers R.R.#4, St. Thomas, Ont.

If the walls of the home could talk, they would tell many happy stories of the good times in such a large, beautiful, well-built home. It stands tall and stately and has been admired by many who travel the road in front of it.

Written by:

Mrs. Marshall Field,
St. Thomas, Ont.

(formerly Dolly McCaw)

June 1977.

Former Optimist president Norman L. Shipley dies at Port Stanley residence

Norman L. Shipley, of 197 Victoria St., Port Stanley, died suddenly Tuesday morning at his residence, as the result of a heart attack.

Mr. Shipley, 56, a mathematics teacher at Parkside Collegiate Institute in St. Thomas, was past president of Optimists International and an honorary member of the National Council, Boy Scouts of Canada. He was also assistant provincial commissioner for Great Lakes Region, Boy Scouts of Canada being responsible for an area ranging from Woodstock to Windsor.

Born in Sparta, Ont., he was the son of the late Florence Donnelly Shipley and the late Samuel W. Shipley.

He held an honors degree in mathematics and physics from the University of Western Ontario.

He joined the Optimist Club of St. Catharines in 1949 where he served as chairman of the

Boys' Work Committee, New Club Building and Membership Committees. He was elected club president for the 1953-54 term.

At the district level, he served on the Boys' Work Committee from 1961-62, New Club building Committee from 1963-64 and 1966-67, and Membership Committee from 1969-70. He was Lieutenant-Governor in 1958-59 and Governor in 1962-63.

At the international level, he was a member of the Board of Directors in 1964-65; Vice-President in 1965-66; Chairman of the Achievements and Awards Committee in 1966-67; a member of the Constitution and By-laws Committee from 1967-69, and a member of the Community Service Committee in 1969-70.

He was elevated to the office of President-Elect in June, 1970; confirmed as President-Designate at the 53rd annual convention in Minneapolis,

Minn., (June 27- July 2, 1971) and assumed the chief administrative office of the organization on Oct. 1, 1971.

He served as president until Sept. 30, 1972 and continued his membership in both the Optimist Clubs of St. Catharines and St. Thomas.

He was a former teacher of mathematics, Dean of Residence and Assistant Headmaster at Ridley College in St. Catharines. He had been with the college for 25 years.

He also served as president of the Niagara Branch of the Western Alumnae Association; member of the committee for entrance to university in mathematics from 1961-67, and a member of the Delta Upsilon Fraternity.

He was a member of Dexter United Church and was an organist with the United Church from 1934 to 1945.

Mr. Shipley, a bachelor, had lived in the St. Thomas area



NORMAN L. SHIPLEY

since 1970.

He is survived by his sister, Miss Irene Shipley of RR 1, Union.

Also surviving are an aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Donnelly of Straffordville, and several cousins.

Resting at the L. B. Sifton Funeral Home, 118 Wellington Street until Friday noon, then to First United Church, St. George Street, where the funeral service will be conducted Friday at 1:30 p.m. by Rev. Karl Sievert of Dexter United Church.

Interment is to be made in the family plot of Union Cemetery.

1950 - 1975.

Mr. & Mrs. Dan McPhail R.R.# 1, Union Ont. purchased one ace off land from Dan's Father (Frank McPhail) in 1950.

Just South of Union on the west side of Colbourne St. on the south side off cemetary. Who built a new home in 1950, as shown in picture.

Mrs. Dan (Jean) McPhail President of South Yarmouth Women's Institute 1970 - 1972.





Mr. and Mrs. James Martin, R. R. #1 Union, Ont. celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a reception and tea held at the Union United Church on July 30, 1978. Mrs. Martin was the former Ruth Forbes of St. Thomas.