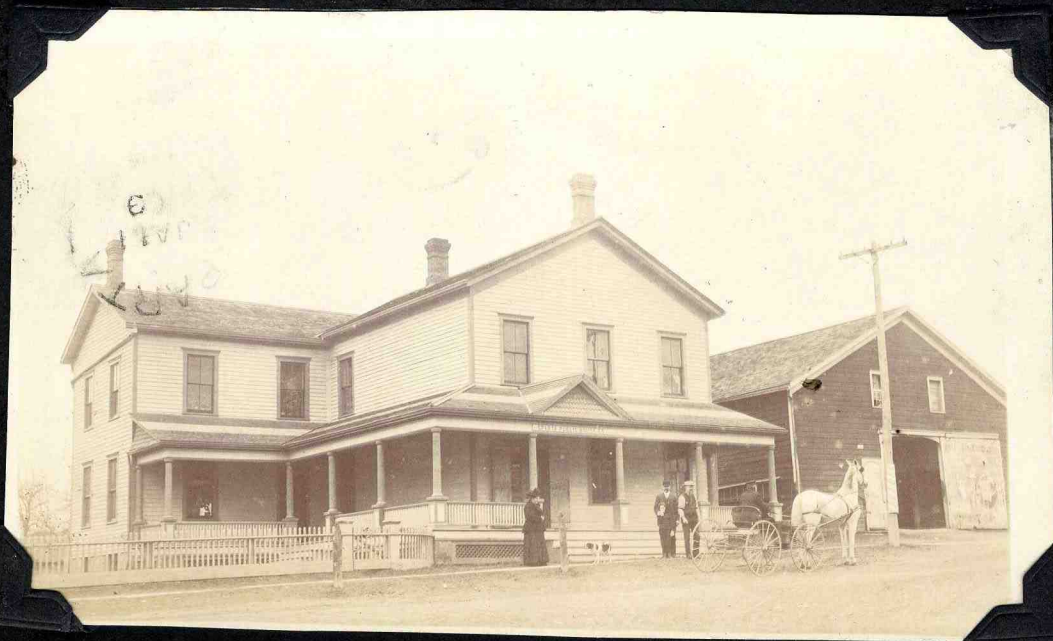




Main St. looking west Sparta Ont.

Mills Hotel at right.



Elgin Hotel remodelled into
Temperance House.



The Old Abbey.

THE SPARTA HOUSE

In a newspaper published in Sparta in 1844 the only hotel advertisement was "The Sparta House". This hotel was the building owned recently by Mr. Louis Moedinger and used by him as a store. It was one of those old taverns, rather finely built, resembling a big Colonial house which must have looked very well. Its double-decked verandah and its big ballroom upstairs, together with its large kitchens, show its original purpose. John H. McDowell, born at Sparta in 1844, later moved to Wisconsin, told in 1931 that "the old building on the northwest corner was being used as a hotel about the time I was born. David Mills built it and he was the last and only man to use it as a hotel".

A swinging sign on a tall pole stood in front of it, to which travellers looking for rest and food pressed on hopefully along the Sparta road.

THE ELGIN HOUSE

After the "Sparta House" was disused as a hotel, another was built across the road by a certain Hitchcock and sold to Isaac Moore. In 1851 this was named the "Elgin House" - after a Governor very popular in this section inhabited by reformers. In 1853 Moore sold out to a son-in-law John McDowell who owned it until he died in 1864. John McDowell said that the crowd used to come in hay-racks drawn by oxen. The bottom of the rack covered with straw and robes kept the company warm. They came because the hotels had ballrooms on their upper floors - the rooms large enough for four sets of square dances. No orchestra had to be brought in as three fiddlers were available; viz - Sam Doan, blind Homer Zavitz and Jim Waddel. Sometimes patrons of the bar room grew very uproarious.

This house excelled in social and business activity. Commercial travellers arranged their trips so as to stay for three or four days. Grain men on their way from St. Thomas to buy grain at Port Bruce always stayed over at one of the taverns.

In 1872 Freeborn Taylor bought this hotel and named it "Ontario House". It is advertised in this way;

"Ontario House

Sparta, Ontario

Freeborn Taylor, Proprietor

This first class hotel is fitted up in best style for the accommodation of commercial travellers. The bar is supplied with best liquors and cigars. Good stabling and every attention paid to guests. First class livery, safe horses, and fashionable outfits in connection with the hotel. F. Taylor."

The advertisement is enlivened by the illustration of a swiftly moving stage coach, provided with a coach man and a guard, all drawn by two span of horses driven tandem.

The last owner of the "Ontario House" was Joseph Phelps, Sr. It was from him that the temperance people purchased this property.

THE ELGIN HOUSE (Cont'd.)

In 1901 the Religious Denominations of Sparta, led by Rev. J. J. Baker and Rev. W. H. Graham and Dr. G. A. Shannon, organized a successful temperance drive against the Ontario House.

While the petition against the granting of a license was being circulated, many of the petitioners expressed their willingness to stand by any organization financially, which would undertake to furnish entertainment to the public without the accessories of intoxicants.

The plan, speedily formed, included not only the idea expressed above, but also the purpose of furnishing in the house of entertainment a drawing room, equipped with daily papers and good periodic literature, and of making the general surroundings of the place such, that it would not only be a hospitable home for the traveller, but also a center of social and educational interest to the community at large.

For carrying into effect these plans, a company was formed and stock subscribed by the people of the community and some generous assistance given by outsiders.

Dr. G. A. Shannon was President and Rev. W. H. Graham, Secretary, and Thomas Roberts and James Yarwood were some members of the board of the Sparta Public House Company.

W. T. A. OF SPARTA PUBLIC HOUSE CO.

A meeting was called at Sparta Town Hall November 12th, 1901, with an attendance of eighty ladies and the Women's Temperance Auxiliary of Sparta Public House Co. was formed with Mrs. W. H. Graham, President, Mrs. G. H. Haight, Vice-President, Mrs. A. Clark, Secretary and Mrs. G. A. Shannon, Treasurer. Aims - Assisting in appointments of the House, under the direction of the Men's Board. Fostering of a Temperance sentiment, promoting Social Purity, increase of wholesome home influence in every department of public life.

Men's Board of Trustees asked the Women's Auxiliary to assume \$500.00 of the cost of the Company's Property. In March 1902 Mrs. H. B. Smith introduced the Cook Book system of making money. This book found its way into thousands of homes. Also paper weights were sold. Three-quarters of these showed the picture of "The Maple Tree" and one-quarter of "The Spartan Hotel". Teas, dinners, concerts, garden parties and talent money helped fill the Treasury.

It was moved by Mrs. McVitty, seconded by Mrs. Shannon, that a resolution be sent the men that soft drinks shall not be sold at the "Spartan".

MOORES' HOTEL

Having disposed of the "Elgin House", Isaac Moore built a larger tavern at the west of the village which was known for years as "Moores' Hotel". Occasionally the proprietor entertained his guests with reminiscences of the rebellion he had taken part in, for which he had paid the penalty of four and one half months imprisonment during 1838 in the jail at London.

In 1855 he moved to Strathroy and there followed several other men as hosts of this hotel.

In 1872 Cyrus Thayer purchased this property and named it "The Dominion Hotel".

Later, George Moore came to Sparta and rented the "Dominion Hotel" and having strong temperance views, discontinued its license and made it his home and office for a few years. Then Ned Winters, Israel Doan's son-in-law, rented it to keep a private school - after several years of use and idleness it was bought by Fred Garner, who divided it and made two houses.



Sparta S.S. No 7. Built before 1865



S.S. No. 7 Pupils



S.S. No 7 Built in 1908



Barnum's S.S. No. 4. Built 1875



Cole's S.S. No 13

1840



East S.S. No 6. Built in 1875

SPARTA CONTINUATION SCHOOL
SPARTA - ONTARIO
TEACHERS - 1923 to 1957

23-24, 24-25, 25-26, 26-27 Ona A. Setterington

27-28 Mary A. Nott

28-29 Florence L. Parks Form III

Mary A. Nott Forms I & II

29-30, 30-31 Edward W. Fox

Ida L. Waddle

31-32 Edward W. Fox

M. Jean Wiley

32-33, 33-34, 34-35 A. W. Browne

M. Jean Wiley

35-41 A. W. Browne

Catherine Ingram

41-42 A. W. Browne

Marion MacIntyre

42-43 Ronald G. Froud

Marion MacIntyre

43-44 Ronald G. Froud

Juliette Dubois

44-45 Ronald G. Froud

Doris Gent

45-46 Ronald G. Froud

Gertrude Marion

46-47 J. A. Seimens

Gertrude Marion

47-48 Marion MacIntyre

Julia Boyle

48-49, 49-50 Marion MacIntyre

Audrey Crump

50-51 to 57-58 Marion MacIntyre

Doris G. Prouse

58-59-60 to-63 Marion MacIntyre

Mrs Gertrude Mathews.

63- to 64

Mr. Scott Taylor & Mr. O. Bressan.

PUPILS OF CONTINUATION SCHOOL IN SPARTA TAKEN IN 1957

1st row - Georgina Vanderbelt, Lynda Withenshaw,
Brenda McKinley, Bob Nemett, Louise Roberts

2nd row - Bill Rowden, Marlene Oille, Ronald Burd,
Raymond Churchill, Joyce Blancher,
Harry Proctor

3rd row - Marietta Roberts, Donna Lampman, Gary Wilson,
Gloria Marshall, Carol Crocker, Carolyn
Marshall

4th row - Nancy Tansley, Marion McCutcheon, Judy Harvey

FAREWELL PARTY GIVEN FOR SPARTA TEACHERS JUNE 28, 1963

Students, ex-students and friends gathered at the Sparta Continuation School to honor Miss Marion MacIntyre and Mrs. Gertrude Mathews. Mrs. Mathews has taught for 5 years and Miss MacIntyre for 18 from 1941-to 63. She has been principal since 1947-63. A lovely oil painting was presented to Miss MacIntyre by Rev. Father Marcel Gervais, a former student.

CLOSING OF THE CONTINUATION SCHOOL.

As of September 1964 the school was closed and the pupils were transported by bus to St. Thomas Schools.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT 1844
(COLES' SCHOOL)

"Articles of Agreement made, concluded and agreed upon, the 9th day of the 12th month 1844, between Joseph Hilborn of the Township of Yarmouth, District of London, and the Province of Canada of the one part, and the trustees, for the time being appointed for the school district No. 13 in the 6th concession of Yarmouth aforesaid

that the said Joseph Hilborn doth agree with the said Trustees to teach a good regular English school for Reading, Writing and Arithmetick, in the house now erected in that district for the Term of three months, commencing at the date of these presents for the sum of twelve dollars per month, one half thereof to be paid in cash, and the remainder in produce at the Election of the said Teacher. And the said Trustees doth agree on their part to pay the aforesaid sum as above mentioned and see that the house is kept in suitable repair and furnished with firewood cut suitable for the stove, before the same is delivered at the house for which service the Employers whose children are taught in said school are hereby bound to furnish the same in the manner above mentioned. Each in proportion to the number of their assignment.

David Mills 1	Joseph Hilborn 1
Jesse Bailey $\frac{1}{2}$	Cornelius Mills 3
Isaac Mills 2	Samuel Minard 4
John Mills $1\frac{1}{2}$	Calvin Russ 2
Abner Chase 1	Hiram Mills 1
Minard Mills $\frac{1}{2}$	Samuel Mills $1\frac{1}{2}$
William Williams 2	Michael De Peel 2 "

(These names are signatures, written in all colors of ink and a few hard to decipher.)

This school was built about 1840 on John Mills' property.

The agreement in 1840 with the teacher gave her pay in groceries and the rest in board.

James Teetzel (later, Judge Teetzel) taught in this school. He was paid \$140.00 and got his dinner at William Mills for fourteen cents. During the summer the attendance was about twelve pupils and in winter about seventy.