

I think the salary was about \$400.00, and teachers paid their board out of that.

Our home life was different, -up in the morning at five o'clock, breakfast at six, dishes washed, potatoes peeled, and off to school.

Mother spun and wove cloth, got it woven in some bright colours, made dresses and we wore them to school. We knit our stockings, too. They were red and we had red shoe laces to match. We went to town twice a year to have our feet measured for shoes. We wore calico pantlets, but when we grew up, we wore trains and had skirt lifters. Bustles too, were worn.

For recreation, we would picnic in the woods. We also had singing schools, and often paring bees with sometimes a little dance afterwards. But we were not allowed to go to the dance if father found it out.

I am glad for my early home training. Mother died when I was seven, which made a lasting impression on my future life. She was a Christian and I never saw the time when I could not pray. If I wanted anything, I prayed for it and generally got it. That is faith. You never know what is in the mind of a child, but I do say this - a mother's loss to a young child is an irreparable loss.

*Mansion House*      *"Wine Ball"*

We had in the village then two hotels, and a saloon, but we got up a petition and one hotel was closed. We had the other for a long time but one Sunday night it took fire and was burned down. It was rebuilt and they tried to get a license but being a new building a petition was sent in asking that no license be granted, and was carried. In the meantime, we obtained local option. We had another Temperance Society, the Royal Templars, but it was not of long duration.

Our church life was with the New Connection Body, until about 53 years ago, in Rev. Birk's time when there was a union of three bodies. We then had the greatest revival we ever had. I thought after I was converted that I would not join the church but wait until later on. But when so many were joining, I thought I would cast my lot in with the rest. My advice to everyone is to identify yourself with some church. We want to aim high and help someone else. I have been a church member for years, and always make it a point to attend if possible. Just lay aside your work and go. If anything gets behind let it be the work.

I wish the Women's Institute in its undertaking, all the success due their efforts."

The above paper appeared in the Times-Journal at the time it was read at the Institute meeting in 1928, and the clipping

*Warren Smith*



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was preserved in a scrap-book kept by Mrs. John Auckland. On October 17, 1946, more than eighteen years afterward, it was read at the Grandmother's meeting of Talbotville Women's Institute by Mrs. Alice Thomas at the house of Mrs. Frank Henderson.

Written by Mrs. John W. Cowlter.  
July 17th, 1928.



Mr. and Mrs. John W. Cowlter.



# John W. Coulter Passes at Same Time as Brother

Pioneer Stock Breeder and Well-Known Man in District  
Was in His 86th Year; Brother, A. F., Was Retired  
Railway Mail Clerk at Windsor *About 1937*

Fate played another of its strange grim tricks, early Thursday morning, in the deaths of John Wesley Coulter, grand old man of Talbotville, and his younger brother, A. F. Coulter, retired mail employee at Windsor. They died almost at the same hour. Relatives in the city had just been notified of Mr. Coulter's death at Talbotville, when word came from Windsor of the other death.

Pioneer stock breeder of the district, veteran prize winner at the big agricultural fairs and one of the first men to ship his own cattle to the Old Country and United States markets, Elgin county loses one of its best farmers in the death of John W. Coulter while residents of the Talbotville district lose a good friend and neighbor. They knew him as Uncle Johnny Coulter. To young and old, he was "Uncle Johnny," the man who lived on the well-kept farm in the big brick house off No. 4 Highway, just north of Talbotville. Mr. Coulter had been ill but was believed to be well on the road to recovery until about three days ago, when his condition became serious again.

## Success as Live Stock Raiser

No man took greater pride in his farm and his livestock. He took a keen interest in good farms and livestock generally. It is said that Mr. Coulter could never learn to drive a motor vehicle successfully because he liked to look at the livestock in the fields he was passing rather than the road.

Mr. Coulter was a great sheep

breeder, one of the very best in Canada. His entries were consistent winners for years at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, at Western Fair, London, and at other shows. He bred and ex-



JOHN W. COULTER

hibited Shorthorn cattle, Percheron horses, Berkshire hogs and sheep. Mr. Coulter tried to have the very best in livestock. There was no substitute for quality with him.





The home of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Coulter was a lodestone for the community of Talbotville and Southwold, as well as for a great many people within a wide radius. Monday afternoon, when the worthy couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. It was on March 26, 1878, that John W. Coulter and Ellen Bowly were married at the home of the bride's parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Bowly, just across the other side of the highway, by Rev. Thomas Jackson, Methodist minister. The best man was Daniel Coulter, brother of the groom, and the bridesmaid was Miss Sarah Bowly, her cousin, afterwards Mrs. Allister, whose home is over at Lynhurst, and both of these were present on this interesting anniversary. Relatives and friends were present from Detroit, Hamilton, London, and other places, and many letters and telegrams were received from friends afar. All afternoon and evening the spacious home was crowded, the throng testifying to the place which the fine and youthful couple of 76 years have won in the hearts of so many. The rooms were aglow with pretty flowers, and crepe decorations in golden colors, depending from which were white wedding bells, hung from the arches and over the table.

Among the guests was Mrs. Charles Saywell, sister of the groom, who celebrated her own golden wedding more than a decade ago, and her diamond wedding quite recently.

During the afternoon a number of speeches were made, and Rev. R. C. Copeland, minister of the Talbotville United Church, read an address on behalf of the congregation and the officers, expressing appreciation of the loyal services of Mr. and Mrs. Coulter to the church during the whole of their married life. Mr. Coulter was one of the original members of the board of the present church, and the only one left. Mrs. Coulter is the only charter member of the Ladies' Aid living, and, like

her husband, has given unwearied service to the church and all its activities. Her work was recognized by the Aid and by the W. M. S., the members of which gave her suitable presentations.

Expressing the feelings of all present at the afternoon reception, Rev. Robert Hicks, of Central United church, St. Thomas, in a racy and felicitous speech, referred to Mr. and Mrs. Coulter's home as a centre of friendship, which was reflected in such a gathering as was there that day. Their lives had been spent in the community and they had been devoted to the neighborhood and the church. They had made a great contribution to the community because of their ideals, living in a quiet, honorable and progressive way. They had found joy and fellowship among their neighbors and in communion with God, fifty years full of honor and respect, good will and good wishes.

The best man of fifty years ago, Daniel Coulter, spoke, and other old friends conveying good wishes were Jacob Bainard, F. B. Holtby, Ezra Hunt and Dr. Arthur Voaden. Mr. Coulter made a neat reply, and paid a high tribute to his wife.

In the evening Will Coulter was master of ceremonies, W. A. McIntyre and J. T. Webster made short addresses, and the bride "brought down the house" with a song of long ago, "Little Brown Jug." Readings were given by Miss Erie Coulter and Will Voaden. The gathering broke up about midnight with the singing of "They Are Jolly Good Fellows" and "Auld Lang Syne."

The tea table was presided over in the afternoon by Mrs. J. E. Travers, and Mrs. John R. Travers in the evening. Mrs. N. Brokenshire and Mrs. B. A. Cattnach, nieces of Mrs. Coulter, served. Mrs. Hall ushered the guests to the tea room, and Mrs. W. J. Travers, sister of the bride, received. Florence Travers was in charge of the register, and Master Travers Cattnach, grand nephew, attended the door.

## TALBOTVILLE GOLDEN WEDDING



MR. AND MRS. J. W. COULTER FIFTY YEARS AGO.



Historical Sketch

of

to Oct/38

Galbotville

United Church



by Rev. John W. Hedley.



1925- United Church of Canada

This desire for unity was unhappily interrupted locally by a division in the church. In 1876 a considerable number of members withdrew and established a Bible Christian Church on the site of the present cemetery, using as a parsonage the house enlarged and now occupied by Mr. Lewis Jones. However, as a result of the union of 1884, in the next year these two churches were happily united. The parsonage in connection with the original church was purchased in 1860, enlarged with a brick front in 1875 during the pastorate of Rev. Mr. Birks, and other changes made from time to time.

*Parsonage  
1860  
1876*

*Parsonage rented 1945. (Minister living at Varmouth Centre).*

Parsonage rented 1945. (Minister living at Yarmouth Centre).

In connection with the story of the construction of the present church we would like first of all to quote the contents of a document found on October 21, 1927, embedded in the corner-stone of the church. Some repairs made necessary the reconstruction of this part of the building and the discovery of this interesting letter.

This memo was dictated by William Bowlby, one of the first residents of this place, by occupation a carpenter, and written by John Stacey, blacksmith and postmaster for nearly 20 years and who now is about to move to Toronto.

After many conversations and conflicts as to the expediency of putting our hands to the work of erecting a new house in which to worship the God of our fathers, on account of want of funds to erect the same, at length under the ministry of Rev. Thomas Jackson, and Alexander Bowlby, John Tucker, Walter Roberts, Harry Ayeard, Micaiah Hunt as building committee, and William Bowlby, Josiah Dundas, George Hicks, Edward Barnes, Charles Stringer and James Voaden — most of the above being Trustees — it was decided to arise and build, trusting that God would own and bless our labors. The corner-stone not being laid till after seeding.

Farm lands now being worth about 60 dollars an acre, unless where a brick dwelling has been erected, then about 80 dollars per acre. Farm

1876 to 1887 built  
Bible Christian Church  
(where cemetery now stands)  
Union of New-Connexion  
and Wesleyan Methodists

Apparently the resolution mentioned in the document was carried out with great zeal and expediency. A new site was purchased for one hundred and seventy-five dollars. Plans were drawn up and a subscription list circulated. A sufficient amount was subscribed to justify immediate construction. A great deal of labor was freely given. As a result, the building was soon completed and in October of the same year the church was dedicated to the public worship of God by Rev. Manley Benson, D.D. 1978, Rev. Thomas

Rev. E. Doed	1857-58	Rev. F. Haines	1866-68
Rev. E. Bothwell	1858-59	Rev. J. White	1868-72
Rev. J. H. Robinson	1859-60	Rev. W. Henderson	1872-74
Rev. E. F. Brown	1860	Rev. Wm. Birks	1874-77
Rev. Wm. Gundy	1860-63	Rev. Thos. Jackson	1877-80
Rev. E. Kershaw	1863-66		

## Revivals

These men were very zealous in the work of the church, holding revival meetings whenever possible. Special mention must be made of such services conducted by Rev. Wm. Gundy and Rev. Wm. Birks. During the latter minister's pastorate evangelistic services were begun in October, 1876, and continued for six weeks. For four weeks the meetings steadily grew in interest but without apparent results. Then at the close of a service two sisters by the name of Travers went to the altar and were soundly converted. Agnes, one of these sisters, is still living. The meetings now continued with increasing interest until some sixty or sixty-five persons were brought to Christ. Among these were many who afterwards became very active in the work of the church. James Voaden and George Hicks were licensed as exhorters, and in May, 1875, the former, together with Jacob Bainard, Thomas Voaden, Frank Stacey



## INTERESTING REMINISCENCES OF THE DAYS OF LONG AGO

Record of the Weather, Conditions, Happenings and Changes of Over a Quarter of a Century in Talbotville and Vicinity; The Outlook of This Year's Crops.

(Written for The Times by J. W. S., April 8, 1913)

*James William Smith.*  
(1862-1932)

The snow we have had the past few days makes many think there will be a late seeding, but when we look back over our diary we see many Aprils with much more snow than now. Twenty-six years ago, April the 5th, about three inches of snow fell; some were working on the land on the 19th. Twenty-seven years ago, April the 6th, there were snowbanks as high as the fence and good sleighing on the Gravel Road on April the 7th. Seeding that year on the 29th of April. There are many who remember this storm. J. C. Orr, who was on his way from the West, said he well remembered it, the train being stuck in the snow-drifts, and when he arrived here it looked like three feet of snow on the ground. Some, speaking of the funeral of John McLeod, being about that date, say his funeral was on April the 13th. The roads were very muddy that day. He then owned the farm known as the C. Allen farm, now owned by Broken Shear. **Mr. Frank Brokenshire.**

I could give dates of nearly all the funerals since that time, accidents, births and marriages. Many changes have taken place in and around Talbotville in the past 27 years. To the writer's knowledge there are only six farmers who own and live on the same farms now from the Town Line north to the railway, south of the village and west to Payne's Mills, their names being J. W. Coulter, Wm. Travers, L. Boughner, Mr. Payne, T. A. Merrill and J. W. Smith. Many farms have changed hands since that time, and the farms have changed some, too. At that time nearly all the farms had many acres of good woods on them; now the woods are mostly gone. Many of the farms are now tiled and land is being worked that at that time was very little good. The old rail fence will soon be a thing of the past, wire fence rapidly taking its place. Good buildings, silos and many improvements show the prosperity of the farmers. The village has grown, with many fine dwellings. The hotel in the village at that time was burned down, 23 years ago April the 27th. Warn. Smith had built on this same property shortly after the fire, a fine building, which has been a general store since. It is now owned by Mr. Boughner. The toll gates have gone, being closed on Oct. 2, 1906. The tolls were taken off first on November 19, 1896, but were again opened on June 2, 1897.

Those who have been away from the village for 27 years and now come back, would see a vast change. Cement sidewalks (some places you have yet to jump from one stone to the other to keep out of the mud), the telephone system, the Traction cars, which first ran into St. Thomas on July 1, 1906. The Traction line was little thought of in the years mentioned back, but is now one of the