

## DUTTON AND WALLACETOWN BRASS BANDS

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own band play, crude though that play might be.

As is the fate of every village band, the Wallacetown Band, through loss of members, found it very difficult to maintain its existence, until in 1875, it finally expired from lack of membership.

By this time Dutton, a thriving village on the M.C.R., situated about three miles north of Wallacetown, had sprung up, about 1870. In 1889 it, too, began to feel the need of some public musical organization. So, through the efforts of the members of Court Nelson, I.O.F., instruments were procured and on Good Friday, 1889, the Dutton I.O.F. band was organized. The charter members were; John Kieffer, A.N. Patterson, C. Patterson, M.L. Miller, John Wren, Andrew Ferguson, Harry Shore, George Gusterson, Walter Fletcher, B.J. Schultz, and John E. Clark. In 1890, the same Dan Campbell, who in 1869 identified himself with the Wallacetown Band, joined the Dutton Band and in October 1891, was appointed band leader, a position he held for many years.

Dutton's next band was organized about 1932 and operated successfully for five or six years. The leaders of this band were Jack Dow, Arthur Molyneaux and Eugene Saunders.

Among the members were; D.F. Kirkland, Charles Panter, Ralph Perkins, Frank Ruston, Henry Ruston, John Ruston, Harold Smith, Walter Smith, Dr. Arthur Graham, Lewis Burns, Allen Burslem, D. Perelman, Leo Gibson, Robert Clark, William Saunders, Claude Smith, Herb. Campbell, Jack Knight, George Pinner, Clarence Reid, Jack Saunders, Clarence Reid, Arnold Crawford, Richard Waite, Robert Pinner, Vernon Shipley, C.V. Kindree, and William Johnston.

## HISTORY OF DUTTON

### LOCAL BANDS

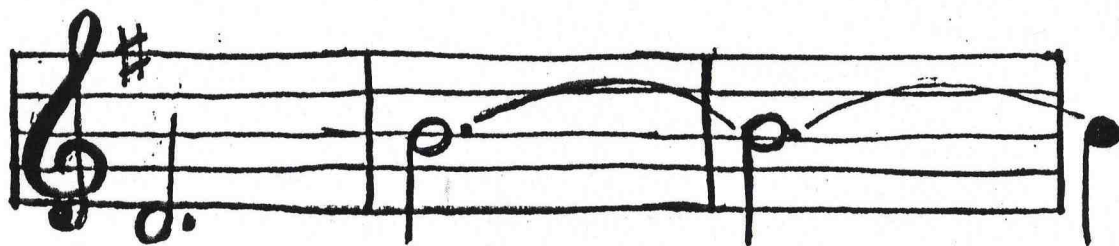
In 1869, musical enthusiasts of Wallacetown suddenly decided that a brass band would lend glamour to their town, as well as furnish entertainment to its citizens. As a result of this desire, a subscription list was circulated and in a short time the necessary money was available to purchase the musical instruments. A set of these band instruments was bought from Peter Grossman, band instrument dealer in Hamilton.

Next on the agenda was to secure the men to play these instruments. To this end a public meeting was held and the men that were to become the charter members of the Wallacetown Brass Band were selected. They were; Oliver Pruis, E<sup>b</sup> bass; J.E. Crane, B<sup>b</sup> baritone; Daniel McBrayne, E<sup>b</sup> alto; Daniel Campbell, 1st B<sup>b</sup> cornet; John C. Blackwood, and Robert Stevenson, solo E<sup>b</sup> cornets; William H. Morrish, bass drum; James Bradt, snare drum

Professor Walker, who was conducting classes in band music at Iona and Fingal, was chosen as instructor. Three months after its organization the band gave its first concert on the street. The people were thrilled and no professional band ever received more applause than did this small band on its first appearance. Band concerts were by no means common and the people went into ecstasies when they heard their own band play, crude though the playing might be. Alas, after a time the Wallacetown Band found it difficult to continue through loss of members from one cause or another and finally in 1875, expired from lack of members. (1875).

In the meantime, Dutton, a thriving village, about three miles north of Wallacetown, situated on the Michigan Central Railway, had come into being, about 1870. About 1889 it began to feel the need for some public musical organization. Through the efforts of Court Nelson, I.O.F., instruments were procured and on Good Friday, the Dutton Brass Band, I.O.F. was organized. The charter members were John Kiefer, A.N. Patterson, C. Patterson, M.L. Miller, John Wren, Andrew Ferguson, Harry Shore, George Gusterson, Walter Fletcher, J. Schultz, and John E. Clark.

# 1891



## And the band played on . .

In 1869 the enthusiasts of Wallacetown suddenly decided that a brass band would be a good assistance to their town, as well as a good entertainer to its citizens. Consequently a subscription list was circulated and in a short time the necessary sum was subscribed to warrant the purchase of a set of band instruments from Peter Grossman, band instrument dealer in Hamilton.

The next thing required was the boys to manipulate these instruments. A public meeting of the citizens was held, when the following were chosen to form

the charter members of the Wallacetown Brass Band.

Oliver Cruise, E.b bass, J. E. Crane, Bb baritone, Dan McBrayne, Eb, alto, Dan Campbell, 1st Bb cornet, John A.C. Blackwood and Robert Stevenson solo Eb cornets, Wm. Morrish, bass drum, James Bradt, snare drum, Prof. Walker, who was already instructing bands in Iona and Fingal, was chosen as teacher and on July 6th the instruments were distributed. A more pleased audience never listened to the best professional bands than listened to that small band on its first appearance on the street about three months after

organization. Brass band concerts were by no means so common then as today, and it is not any surprise that the citizens went into ecstasies when they heard their own band play, crude though that playing might be.

As is the fate of every village band, the Wallacetown band, through loss of members, found it very difficult to maintain an existence, until in 1875 it finally expired from lack of membership. Dutton a thriving village on the M.C.R. situated about three miles north of Wallacetown sprung into existence about 1870. In 1889 it also began to feel the want of some public musical organi-

zation, so, through the efforts of the members of Court Nelson I.O.F. instruments were procured and on Good Friday the Dutton I.O.F. brass band was organized. The Charter members were, John Kiefer, A. N. Patterson, C. Patterson, M. L. Miller, John Wren, Andrew Ferguson, Harry Shore, George Gusterson, Walter Fletcher, B. J. Schultz and John E. Clark.

In 1890 Mr. Campbell (the same Dan Campbell, who in 1869 identified himself with the Wallacetown band), joined the band and in October 1891 was appointed band leader, which position he held for many, many, years.

DUTTON AND WALLACETOWN HAD GOOD BRASS BANDS  
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(Taken from DUTTON ADVANCE april 28th 1949)

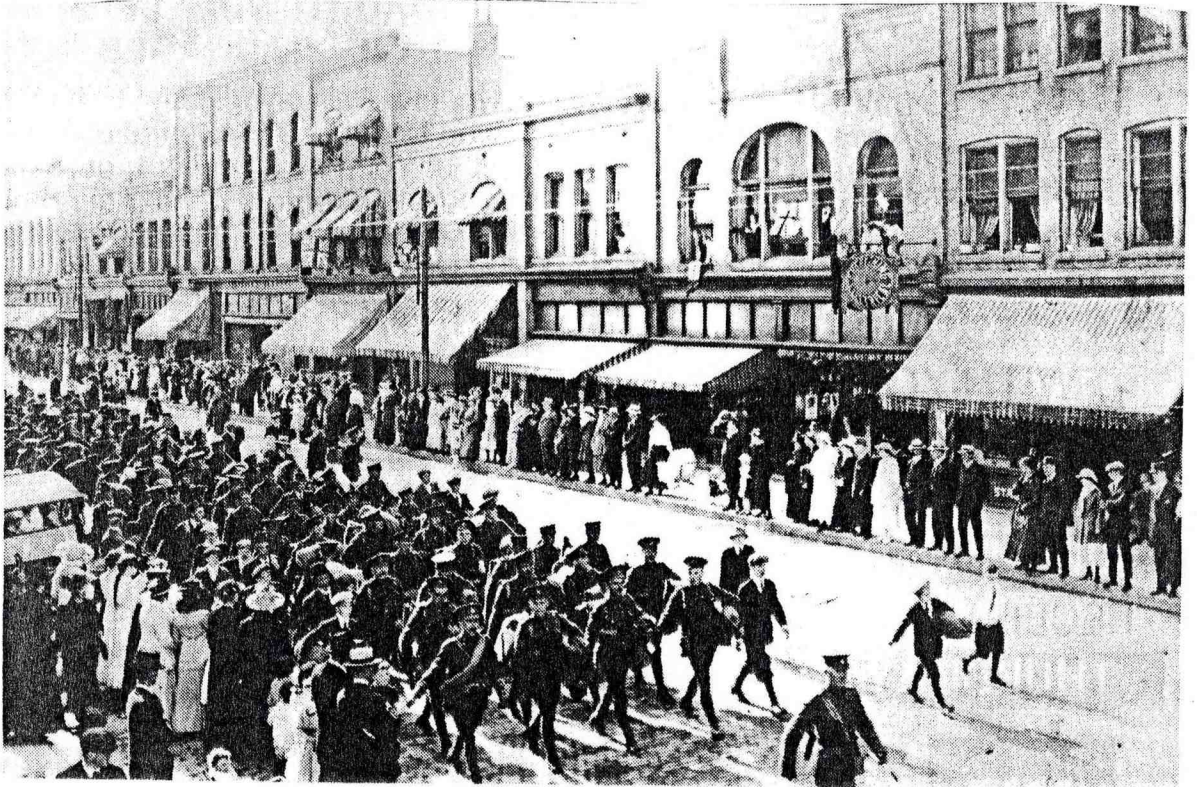
There have been some good brass bands in the history of Dutton and Wallacetown. These were organized, flourished for awhile and then gradually or suddenly disintegrated as interest waned or important members moved away. It is now good news for those who enjoy this type of music that a new band is being organized in Dutton, (April 28th 1949).

It is impossible to give the names of all who comprised the various bands down through the years. But the name of DANIEL CAMPBELL was prominently connected with most of those musical organizations. He was a member of a band organized at Wallacetown in 1869, and when he later moved to Dutton, was a leader there for years.

An interesting article on early bands was given at a meeting of the Dutton Women's Institute by Miss Minnie Gow. It was as follows:

In 1869 the band enthusiasts of Wallacetown suddenly decided that a brass band would be of great assistance to their town, as well as presenting fine entertainment for their citizens. Consequently a subscription list was circulated and in a very short time the necessary money subscribed to warrant the purchase of a set of band instruments from Peter Grossman, band instrument dealer of Hamilton.

The next requirement was for boys to manipulate these instruments. A public meeting of the citizens was held when the following were chosen to form the charter members of the Wallacetown Brass Band;: Oliver Ffouse, bass; J.E. Crane, baritone; Daniel McBrayne, alto; Daniel Campbell, coronet; John A.C. Blackwood, and Robert Stevenson, coronets; William H. Morrish, bass drum; James Bradt, snare drum. Professor Walker, who was already instructing bands at Iona and Fingal, was chosen as teacher, and on July, 3rd. the instruments were distributed. A more pleased audience never listened to the best professional bands than listened to this small band on its first appearance on the street about three months after its organization. Brass band concerts were by no means as common as today, and it was no surprise that the citizens went into ecstasies when they heard their



Pictured here is the 91st battalion marching down Talbot Street St. Thomas about 1916, marching off to the First World War. The soldier in the third row back, left side (with a moustache and glasses) is John H. Tuff, formerly of Aylmer. He left Canada June 30, 1916

*June 17<sup>th</sup> 1992.*

and arrived in France August 2, 1916. He transferred to the 73rd battalion and the 42nd battalion, C.E.F. His participated in engagements at the Somme, Arras and Rouen. He returned to Canada Sept. 17, 1919 with the rank of sergeant. Photograph contributed by J. K. Tuff of St. Thomas.



*June 3/92*

### Cultivating

William Grant Shelley, formerly of Dutton, cultivates a field on his Thedford farm in 1930 in the phot donated by his daughter Better Shelley of Port Bruce.

**FIFTY YEARS AGO**  
(From *The Times* and *The Journal*)

When Colonel Talbot went to England on a visit, he looked around for a capable and trustworthy man to handle farming operations. His friend, the Earl of Ellsmere recommended John Brown, who arrived in 1849 and remained with the colonel until the latter died. Brown then took up farming on his own at Tyrconnell. Mr. Brown has just died on his farm in his 84th year. The funeral service will be held in St. Stephen's Church, Burwell Park.

1918

# The St. Thomas

INCORPORATING THE ST. THOMAS DAILY TIMES AND THE ST. THOMAS JOURNAL

ST. THOMAS, ONTARIO, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1961

# Times-Journal

— TWENTY-TWO PAGES

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~~Muir, 1874-77, 1902-03~~  
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Yarmouth, 1829-37  
Yarmouth Centre, 1863-1954

Given to us by Mr Harry Bradt.