



COSTUMES OF LONG AGO—This merry group of choristers lent colors and enjoyment to the 50th anniversary celebration of Wallacetown Women's Institute, observed in July, 1962. Seen in the photograph, as they prepare to sing, are Mrs. J. A.

Lucas, Mrs. W. S. McKillop, Mrs. E. A. Cairns, Mrs. John E. Pearce, Mrs. M. Foreman, Mrs. J. R. McKellar, Mrs. Morley Page, Mrs. Clarence Small, Mrs. Archie MacFarlane, Mrs. Edward Lamb and Mrs. Mac Graham.—(T.-J. Photo)

Mrs. Matilda J. Brown Passes Away at a Great Age

Another of the very few remaining links connecting the first quarter of the nineteenth century was broken on Wednesday, when Miss Matilda J. Brown passed away at the home of her son, C. F. Brown, in this village, at the great age of 99 years and 3 months. The venerable lady has been remarkably active until recently, when the infirmities of old age manifested themselves and like the candle that has burned to the socket she passed peacefully away.

She with her family came to Dunwich from Nova Scotia in 1852 and settled on a bush farm south of Coyne's Corners, where she experienced the hardships and privations of the early settlers. Like many of the rugged pioneers she possessed many excellent traits of character, and was ever ready to lend a helping hand wherever required.

She resided on the farm until eight years ago when she came with her son to Dutton to spend her last years in quietness. She retained her faculties in a remarkable degree almost to the last, and could recall with vividness many interesting events in her long life.

In an interview published several years ago Mrs. Brown gave the following interesting account of her long life:

"I was born in Canso, N. S., in 1813." My father, Thomas Nickerson, was at that time on the frontier in the Canadian volunteer ranks, in the war of 1812. After the war our family settled on a farm on the banks of the River Philip, Cumberland county. And here indeed we underwent all the trials and hardships that were unavoidable in the making of a home in the densely wooded lands of old Nova Scotia. Here I remained until February, 1838, when I became the wife of J. W. Brown, and settled in the village of Joggins, where Mr. Brown was engaged as a stone cutter, which work was carried on extensively in Nova Scotia.

"After four years there we moved to Little River, N. S., and despite the fact that the land was exceedingly rocky and poor, we moved along at as prosperous a rate as could be expected in a new and unbroken land.

"Just at this time, in the year 1852, Nova Scotia people were stirred by repeated rumors of the rich lands and great opportunities that were afforded one in what was then known as Upper Canada, but now is the Province of Ontario. And truly the influx into Nova Scotia from the mother land was crowding the lands very rapidly, and it was certain that with the crops of Nova Scotia it was impossible to even afford food for the vast numbers and it was necessary that some of us must seek a new home.

"With my husband and two children, Christopher and Cyrus, I bade farewell to my birthplace, parents and former home, and set out under the prevailing conditions in those early days, what seemed an almost endless journey.

"However, we landed at Port Stanley May 28, 1852, and set out with the household effects we had brought through the woods to Tyrconnell, which was then called "Number Nine." This was then the largest village in Dunwich, and consisted of a distillery, a blacksmith shop, a small store, and a poorly equipped church. The distillery, ~~a black~~ was the main business of the place and had a mill run by water-power, where all the farmers invariably came and exchanged their small supply of grain for its worth in whiskey and groceries, as the owners of the mill and distillery controlled the store as well.

"The outlook for us, to say the least, was very discouraging when we considered the idea of once more hewing a home in the dense forest, which here was exceedingly thick, but we set at it as all true Canadians did and were rewarded in a few years by having everything coming along nicely.

"When I reflect on my old neighbors, who with my husband are gone to the great beyond, it casts a gloom over my lone and varied life. One cannot imagine it until one has experienced the feeling of not having a single one of the old-time neighbors and friends to converse with.

"But speaking again of my life, and I have told you practically all that is of interest, I lived on my home there and saw it slowly, but surely, developing into a modern farm. I have passed through the days when the seed was sown by hand and the crops harvested with the cradle. We threshed the grain by flails and with horses, which would these days look odd enough, but we thought at that time most convenient."

Nancy Sheppard

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EE REPLACEMENTS

Walk-a-thon aims to raise both funds and awareness

By TAMMY CARON
THE CAPABILITIES of medical surgery have grown substantially over the years, giving back the gift of life and mobility.

Some of the most successful surgeries performed today are hip and knee replacements and to celebrate this success, a Hip, Hip, Hooray fundraising walk will take place in Springbank Park, London, on Sunday. The walk begins at 10 a.m., rain or shine.

For more information and to get a pledge form, contact Barb Keim at University Hospital, 663-3033.

Each year 18,000 Canadians are given a second chance to lead healthy, active lives thanks to hip and knee surgery. Ten years ago the average age of patients undergoing joint replacement surgery was 72, today it's 63.

Alistair Littlejohn is a farmer living on the outskirts of Elgin County near Fingal who has been the fortunate recipient of two hip replacements. It has been approximately six-years since his surgeries, but the experience has not left his memory.

"It was the best thing that's happened to me and it wasn't any inconvenience. It relieved my pain completely. The pain was going down my legs something terrible and now I don't have any pain. Now, if I see anybody limping I go and ask them what's wrong," said Mr. Littlejohn.

The amount of medication he was taking to curb the pain and the pain itself soon became a hindrance, preventing him from adequately performing his farming duties and making it nearly impossible for him to even drive a tractor.

Despite the agony he was suffering, at first Mr. Littlejohn refused to seek medical help.

"He was just in agony around here and taking a lot of medication. When you have pains that start in your groin you know it's your hips. He couldn't even sit in the bath tub, his legs couldn't straighten out. Some people are afraid, especially men are afraid, he was just too stubborn," said Audrey, his wife.

Then one-day his daughter, who happens to be the head of orthopedic out-patient care at University Hospital in London,

saw him struggling to get out of his car. After that the Littlejohn family, which amazingly happens to be a professional family of nurses, doctors and veterinarians, joined forces and convinced their stubborn dad, brother and grandfather to have the surgery.

"I had nurses all over me, my own family are nurses so I didn't need an out-patient nurse. I had the best support that could be" said Mr. Littlejohn.

Hip and knee replacements have become a serious part of many

peoples lives and without it, Mr. Littlejohn truly believes today he would be confined to a wheelchair.

"It hasn't changed my views on life one bit except if you're in pain, get in there and get fixed. Anybody with hip problems, go and have it done," said Mr. Littlejohn.

As far as participating in the walk itself, Mr. Littlejohn is still unsure of his situation, but said he would like to attend.

Tammy Caron is a journalism student at Conestoga College working at The Times-Journal on a cooperative education placement.



LIFE ON THE FARM - Alistair Littlejohn sits on the farm with his youngest grandson, Fraser Brown. Mr. Littlejohn has had both hips replaced and credits his mobility today to the surgery.
 - (Tammy Caron photo)

Frances Nellie (Smith) Bradt daughter of Mr. and Mrs. (Elizabeth Molineux) William Fredrick Smith, was born March 20, 1898 in Clint Worcestershire England. During 1912 Mr. Smith sailed to Canada, where he settled in Queenston, Ontario. On April 15, 1913 Nellie and her sister Evelyn May arrived at Montreal after sailing the Atlantic for about two weeks. They both worked in Montreal and Toronto as maids. Then her mother and brother William Henry arrived from England a little later. In 1915 the family moved to the Port Talbot area. Nellie worked in London for a time and in 1916 Nellie and Charles William Bradt were married at St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Burwell Park near Port Talbot. They lived on the family farm known to-day as the Harry Bradt residence. On April 27, 1918 Nellie gave birth to their only child William Henry (Harry). During World War II, Nellie was treasurer of the Port Talbot Red Cross. They raised funds and knitted items such as socks, gloves and scarves for the soldiers overseas. Nellie and Will moved to St. Thomas shortly after Harry married Mary Christina Lodge on March 27, 1948, and they lived on the home farm. After going to St. Thomas Nellie worked as a housekeeper and companion for many years. Harry and his wife Mary had four children:

Mary Elizabeth (Betty) born Sept. 16, 1949
Barbara Ann born October 7, 1951
Beverly Marlene born January 5, 1965
Brian Harry born February 17, 1967.

On July 1, 1960 Nellie's husband, Will died and was buried at St. Stephen's Cemetery, Burwell Park, Dunwich. Nellie and May flew to England in July 1961 and visited relatives and friends and also toured England and Scotland. In 1962 they went to Germany, where they visited with May's daughter and husband, who was serving with the R.C.A.F. The four of them toured many places in Europe. Each year Nellie and May went on bus tours, which included Canada and United States. They also took their grand daughters, Betty, Barbara and Michelle to Ottawa, New York, Washington, Windsor and Niagara Falls.

Nellie had four grandchildren:

Krista Michelle Slatford born June 28, 1973
Craig Ryan Slatford born March 23, 1978

William Todd Hassall born September 25, 1975
Tawnya Michelle born July 27, 1977

In 1973 she retired and lived in a lovely apartment for Seniors.
She was able to enjoy working with her flowers, knitting and
sewing. On March 9, 1991 she died and was buried in St.
Stephen's Cemetery, Burwell Park, Dunwich.



Taken on July 2ND 1961 in London England.

On the left side Nellie (Smith) Bradt

On the Right side May (Smith) Bradt

Evelyn May (Smith) Bradt born April 15, 1893 in Clint, Worcestershire England daughter of Elizabeth (Molineux) and William Frederick Smith. She came to Canada April 15, 1913, along with her sister Frances Nellie. They were at sea for about two weeks and landed at Montreal. Their father had come over earlier and settled at Queenston, Ontario. Mrs. Smith and son William Henry came a little later. May and Nellie worked in Montreal for some time and in Toronto also working there as maids. When their parents moved to Port Talbot area, they also worked in London. May married John Alexander at St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Burwell Park in 1916, and they lived on the family farm near Port Talbot. They has six children:

Stanley Molineux born Feb.2, 1918
John Leslie born March 4, 1921
Muriel Frances born July 27, 1921
Aileen Constance born Jan. 20, 1923
Gladys Evelyn born October 4, 1929
Donald Fredrick born October 4, 1929

May's father W.F. Smith died in October 1929, and her husband John died six weeks after the twins were born, in November 1929. He was buried at St. Stephen's Cemetery Burwell Park, Dunwich. May moved to St.Thomas to live with her son Stanley around 1950. In 1961 May and Nellie flew to England to visit with relatives and friends. They also toured England and Scotland. In 1962 they flew to Germany to visit May's daughter and her husand, who was serving with the R.C.A.F. The four of them toured may places in Europe. May and Nellie went on many bus tours in Canada and United States. On February 15, 1982 May died and was bured and St.Stephen's Cemetery Burwell Park, Dunwich. She has eighteen grand children and several great grand children.

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W.E.S.S. celebrates 40 years of classes

A year of planning was culminated in a wonderful weekend of renewing acquaintances and reminiscing as the 40th anniversary of West Elgin Secondary School was celebrated.

Many months of preparation, decision-making and hard work came to a close on June 26th, 27th and 28th as 1684 former students and teachers registered for the various events.

The weekend's activities started for many on Friday evening as the high school became a busy spot for picking up registration packages. Visitors then drifted in and out of the decade rooms which depicted the different eras through pictures and displays of clothing, etc. The excitement continued to build as

more people arrived and happily greeted past classmates.

A room could be found full of souvenirs of the occasion which included hats, T-shirts, sweat-shirts, coffee mugs, beer mugs and commemorative pins. Another room held a judo display and memorabilia, and yearbooks were available for sale elsewhere. Punch and snacks could be found as well.

Opening Program

Prior to the opening ceremonies, violinists Sheila McGugan and Jennifer Walters, accompanied by pianist Melanie Lapadat, provided entertainment. They were followed by a group from the 1985 band under the direction of former music teacher, Dave Cunningham. The 1992 WESS Band added to the musical entertainment under

the direction of present music teacher, Mark Enns.

Pipers Bill Reid, John Johnston and Duncan McGregor, all former students, led the opening ceremony officials to the stage.

J.J. Prince, current principal, and honorary chairman of the Reunion Committee, as master of ceremonies, welcomed everyone on behalf of the school.

Rae Axford, former teacher at WESS for 25 years, chairman of the Reunion Committee, spoke briefly saying he watched the school being built in 1952, he married a graduate of the school, taught at Rodney Public School for 2 years and then WESS for 25.

At this time Mr. Axford introduced the Reunion Committee which included:

Betty Ross, vice-chairman; Eileen Kozdras, secretary-treasurer; Norma Schneck-enburger, John McIntyre, Albert Roos, Edd Bell, Ron Ross, Bev Padfield, Marlene Payne, Lois Woolner, Jackie Campigotto, Norman McWilliam, Frank McBride, Bob Johnston, Dagmar Jobson, Mary McCaffery, Wendy Vergeer and Elaine Brown. Special mention also went to Larry Schneider, teacher, and editor of the special commemorative newspaper, and to Ron Payne and Allen Ross and the many other helpers.

Norman McWilliam, a former school board member, spoke on behalf of past boards of education. He said, that in 1948, a combined school board was formed comprising of representatives from Dunwich, Aldborough, Rodney, West Lorne and Dutton. In 1952, this board, after much discussion and controversy decided on the present site. A member of that original board, Wilf Rewbotham, still lives in West Lorne today.

One of the original staff, Miss Dorothy Steele, was introduced and she spoke a few words.

John Fisher, a teacher from 1964 - 89, welcomed everyone on behalf of both past and present teachers.

Herb Keibel, the class of '55 said it had been over 35 years, and a lot of great times were had at this school. He brought greetings from all student councils.

Present Student Council President Ericka Szewczyk, read a poem "Spirit of the Wild Cat" and welcomed all to the reunion.

Mr. Prince closed the cere-

(continued on page 6)

