



FORMED LITERARY CLUB — Some years ago literary clubs flourished in various communities in this area. One of these, known as "Happy Hollow," was located at S.S. No. 3, Coyne's Corners, and the above group-formed its membership in 1908.

Front row, from left: Elizabeth Cusack, J. R. Cameron, Daniel Clark, Elsie Braddon and Jack Ross. Back row, Pat Crowley, Jim Fredericks, Annie Telford, Jack Paton, Jack Curtis and May Hamilton.

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The Women's Times-Journal



Museum News

By MRS. J. R. FUTCHER

The Ellis Sifton Victoria Cross

Some weeks ago, Mrs. W. Herold, then chairman of the YWCA Board spoke to the Museum Board and gave the members the following information.

Some time ago, the St. Thomas YWCA inherited the estate of the Misses Sifton of Dutton, on the death of the last sister. These Misses Sifton were sisters of the late Ellis Sifton, one of the Canadians in the First World War to win the Victoria Cross. Several years ago, a Provincial Plaque, honoring this brave young soldier was erected at St. Peter's church, Tyrconnell where the family attended church.

The family home was in Wallacetown but they were Anglicans and attended the English Church at Tyrconnell. Later, the Sifton sisters moved to Dutton where they lived until their death. The plaque, erected to commemorate the bravery of their brother reads thus; Ellis Wellwood Sifton V.C. 1891-1917.

Born and educated in Wallacetown, Sifton joined the eighteenth Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force in October 1914. During the Canadian attack on Vimy Ridge on April 9, 1917, his company was held up by the fire of a German machine gun. Lance Sergeant Sifton charged it single handed killed the crew and held the position against enemy counter attack until his comrades arrived. In carrying out his gallant act he was killed but his conspicuous valour undoubtedly saved many lives and contributed largely to the success of the operation. The British Empire's highest award for military valour, the Victoria Cross was awarded posthumously to Ellis Sifton Erected by the Ontario Archaeological and Historic Sites Board.

Included in the Sifton estate willed to the local YWCA was the Victoria Cross, awarded to the brother. Mrs. Herold reported to us that the YWCA Board discussed the disposal of this valuable medal and decided it should not leave Elgin County, although it is very valuable and a large sum would be realized if sold to collectors. The members of the YWCA Board generously and fittingly decided it should be placed in the Elgin County Museum if the Museum Board could provide a suitable place and could guarantee its safe-keeping.

Following discussion by the Museum Board it was decided to accept responsibility for the safety of the medal. It will be, probably, the most valuable single item in the Museum.

Mrs. Hall-secretary to the chief museum advisor for the Province, Mr. Styrrmt came to

St. Thomas and went over, with us the possibilities as to the proper and safe placing of the medal.

An excellent place was found, that visitors might see and appreciate its worth. A specially constructed showcase has been made by Bob Hunt and the curator Mr. Reynolds, to house the medal and is ready for display purposes.

A special afternoon ceremony is being planned jointly by the YWCA Board and the Museum Board, when the medal will be accepted and placed in position.

It will be the major attraction at the Spring Tea on June 12. Several surprises are planned for the guests for that afternoon. There will be demonstrations of interest and craft activities to observe. Will the readers please circle this date and spend a happy afternoon at the museum.



Celebrate 65th wedding anniversary

On December 24th, Mr. and Mrs. St. Clair Graham celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

Friends, neighbours and family visited with them at the Bobier Home, where Mrs. Graham is a resident, on Sunday, December 23rd.

During the afternoon Elder Stewart McColl and Mr. Frank Ruston made the presentation of a certificate from the Ontario Government signed by Premier William Davis, and read a letter from Mr. Jim McGuigan, M.P.P. for Kent-Elgin, congratulating them on this special occasion.

The ceremony uniting Mary Elizabeth Gow and St. Clair Graham took place in Knox Presbyterian Manse, Dutton, on December 24th, 1919, with Rev. Robert Stewart officiating. Mrs. Graham is the former Mary Elizabeth Gow, daughter of the late William W. Gow and

Sarah Jane (Milligan) Gow of Dunwich. Mr. Graham is the son of the late Archie and Maria (Lodge) Graham.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Graham are natives of Dunwich and following their marriage first lived on a farm on No. 3 Highway. Later they resided on Hogg St. until six years ago when they moved to their home on Shackleton St., Dutton.

They are both members of the Covenanted Baptist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Graham had one son, Harold, who passed away November 17th, 1978.

The couple have a daughter-in-law, Leone of Dutton, three grandchildren, Gary of Cambridge; Cheryl of Dutton and Linda, St. Thomas. There are also six great-grandchildren, Lynda, Tyler and Laura Jacques, Dutton, Andrew and Christopher Graham, Cambridge, and Christie Osborne, St. Thomas.

Celebrates 100th birthday

Mrs. Catherine Lyons celebrated her 100th birthday on Sunday, February 3rd at her home, R.R. 1, Wallacetown, where she resides with her son Harold and family.

Many friends, relatives and

neighbours visited with her in the afternoon and family members were present for supper.

She received many flowers, gifts, cards, telephone calls and birthday wishes on the radio. Greetings were received from

Ron McNeil, M.P.P., Honourable John Wise M.P.P., a letter of congratulations from Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and his wife Mia, a provincial placque from Premier William Davis was presented to Mrs. Lyons by James McGuigan M.P.P. Kent-Elgin and his wife Mona, and as she has always been an avid fan of the Royal Family, she was especially pleased to receive a telegram from her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

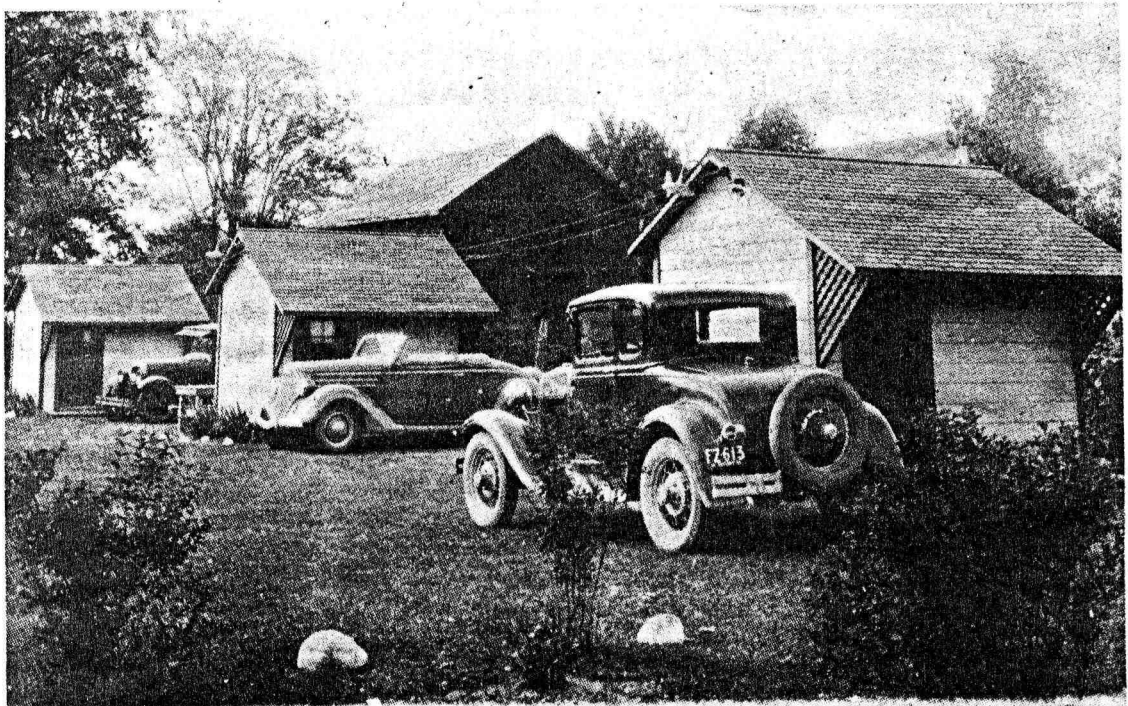
Mrs. Lyons (the former Catherine Palmer) was born in Dunwich Township. She was married to the late Charles Lyons. They had six children, four of whom are still living - Mrs. Jean Maddox, El Sobrante, California; Mrs. Ruth Wild, Turlock, California; Mrs. Catherine Boekhorst, R.R. 3, Lambeth and Harold Lyons, R.R. 1, Wallacetown. She had two sons, Carmen and Gordon, a grandson Donald Lyons and a sister, Mrs. Edward (Mayme) Shipley, who have predeceased her.

She also has 13 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Mrs. Lyons still enjoys fairly good health and takes an interest in her family and community affairs.



Mrs. Catherine Lyons



CAM'MAC INN Cabins, Rooms, Meals, Refreshments J. W. Bobier, Prop. Wallace Town, N.S.

This picture was taken from a picture postcard - dated 1936.

--The Dutton Advance--Wednesday, March 2, 1983



CRACK SHOTS — This group of sharpshooters represented Wallacetown Rifle Club at a tournament in London, Ontario, in 1907 and brought home the trophy pictured with them. Front row, from left: John Campbell, Dutton; Sidney Turville, J. J.

Sifton and A. A. Gow, all of Wallacetown, and Alfred Bobier, Port Talbot. Back row: W. Eustace, Dutton; Henry Rapelje, Wallacetown; James Stevenson, Tyrconnell; John Telford, Dutton, and John McFarlane, Wallacetown.