

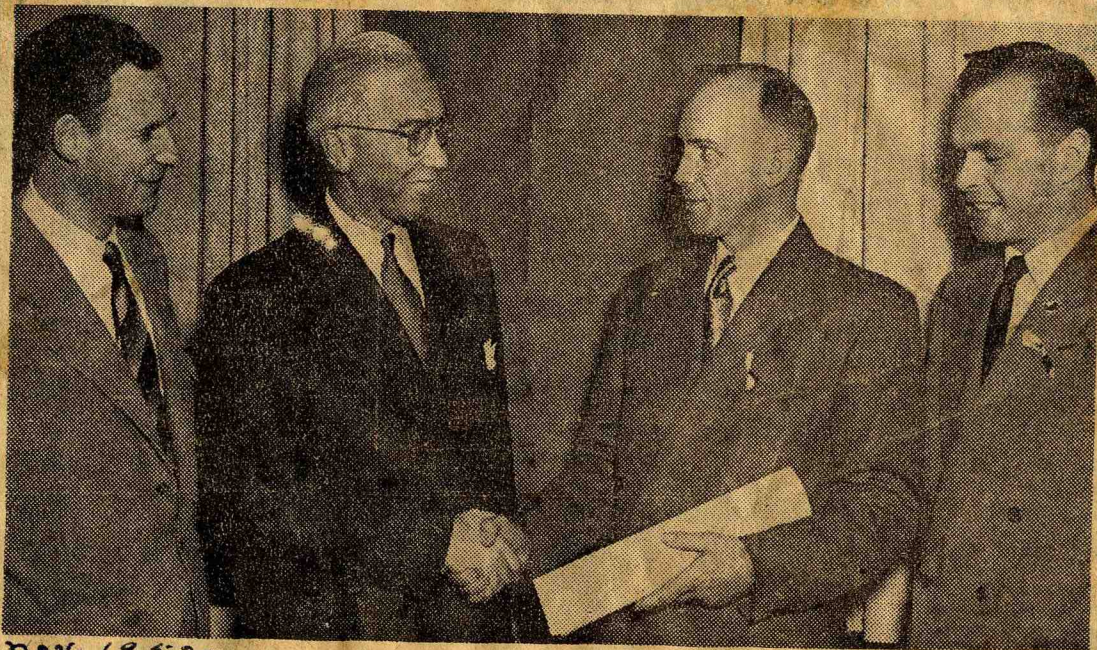


Members of the official party attending the opening of the West Lorne Public Utilities building were introduced from the theatre stage. Left to right, the Rev. W. K. Morrison; Reeve William Merrett; E. D. McMillan, M.L.A. for East Kent; Mr. Saunders; A. G. Stonehouse, chairman, West Lorne P.U.C.; R. M. Laurie, Western Region hydro manager; J. R. Milner, West Lorne P.U.C., and Adam Smith, of the Ontario Hydro Commission.



Scores thronged the sidewalk in front of the new West Lorne Public Utilities building during the ceremonies. Following the official opening by Mr. Saunders, the Rev. W. K. Morrison, rector of Grace Anglican Church, dedicated the building. Here, the crowd stands with heads bowed during the dedication. The youngster in the foreground apparently couldn't resist the temptation to sneak a peek at the photographer.

At West Lorne Kiwanis Club Charter Night



Nov. 1952

—Photo by Stollery

PRINCIPALS in the charter night program of the West Lorne Kiwanis Club, held on Thursday evening at the Community Hall there, appear in the above photograph with K. B. Loheed, Toronto, governor of the Ontario-Quebec-Maritimes District of Kiwanis International, who presented the charter, and Ron Prevett, president of the newly-organized club, displaying the treasured document. At left in the picture is J. A. Ferguson, president of the London Kiwanis Club, which sponsored the new club in West Lorne, and at right, Vincent McHale, secretary of the new club.



DR. BROCK, West Lorne's First Reeve.



1914
W. A. BECKER, Reeve of West Lorne

HAS PRACTICED
HALF CENTURY



DR. DAVID FERGUS WEBSTER, of West Lorne, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his practice in the community, begun in the summer of 1891 after his graduation from the University of Toronto Medical School, at his home, and two hundred came to tender congratulations. Though he is now 76, he doesn't intend to retire, says he wouldn't be happy "just hanging around." West Lorne businessmen honored him with a gift in token of their esteem.



Dr. Amos J. Ripley

DR. AMOS T. RIPLEY

The medical practice of Dr. Amos T. Ripley in West Lorne extended from 1908 to 1942 when, due to ill health, he was forced to retire. During these years he was most faithful to a very large practice and his retirement was greatly regretted.

Dr. Ripley was born in Southwold Township, a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ripley. He attended Coyne's Corners Public School, Dutton High School, and London Normal School. He taught at Coyne's Corners and at Iona for a short time before entering Medical School. He graduated from Toronto University in Medicine in 1906, and practised for two years in Dunnville before coming to West Lorne.

The year after locating in West Lorne, in September, 1909, Dr. Ripley married Laura Liddell of Iona. There is one son, Lawrence, shipping clerk with the Canadian Cannery. Mrs. Ripley and Lawrence still occupy the home, of which a part served as Dr. Ripley's office.

Dr. Ripley was Medical Health Officer for Aldborough Township for many years as well as Coroner of Elgin County for a long period. He was a member of McColl Masonic Lodge and a P.N.G. of the former I.O.O.F. Lodge. He was a member of the United Church.

One of the most sensational experiences in Dr. Ripley's West Lorne career was the delivery of the Milner triplets in 1919. These were the only triplets born in West Lorne.

Till 1911 Dr. Ripley had to rely altogether on the horse and buggy as a means of transportation. Then he purchased his first car. This increased the ease and speed of getting around to his patients but roads were not yet good enough for use of the car all the year round and the horse was still a necessity.

Three years before his death Dr. Ripley's health began to fail but he carried on as long as he was able. He passed away February 18, 1943, at the age of sixty-seven.

This article prepared by
Miss Mima Currie.

DR. WILLIAM BROCK

Dr. William Brock was a real pioneer of the medical profession in West Lorne, carrying on a practice from about 1877 until the time of his death, January 26, 1916. During this time he spent freely of his time and energy, often under difficult conditions, as family physician to many households in West Lorne and vicinity.

He was born at Scarboro near Toronto in 1843, the son of Francis and Annie Brock. He attended Public and High School and taught school at Jarvis and Wardsville till he was thirty years of age, then entering Toronto University to study medicine, and graduating with the silver medal about 1877. He first opened an office in Rodney where he remained for three months and then established a practice in West Lorne which continued for the remainder of his life.

Dr. Brock was first married in 1877 to Barbara McCallum. Their only son, William John Brock, paid the supreme sacrifice in the First World War. In 1883 Dr. Brock married Mary Jane Dundas. The children of this marriage were Annie Keele, now living in Toronto, Frances Augusta Hunchberger of Niagara Falls, and Harold Dundas Brock, deceased.

Community affairs also claimed Dr. Brock's interest.

He was on the Township Council for a time and was reeve of the Village of West Lorne for several years. He was a member of the Library Board and an active member of Grace Anglican Church, being rector's warden at the time of his death.

This article was prepared by
Miss Mima Currie.

DR. DAVID F. WEBSTER

In 1891 Dr. David Fergus Webster began a medical practice in West Lorne and for more than fifty-seven years, in all kinds of weather, by day or night, whether roads were good or bad, he gave of himself and his skill unstintingly to heal the sick of West Lorne and a wide area about it. He will long be remembered for his unfailing response to calls. His practice can truly be said to have extended through the horse and buggy days to the era of the high-powered car.

Dr. Webster was born in Mosa Township about two miles south of Glencoe, a son of the late William Webster and Janet Ferguson. He attended Public School at S.S.#1, Mosa; High School at Wardsville; and Model School at London. He intended to use the teaching profession as a stepping stone to a medical course, but his teaching career was abruptly ended after nine months when his father offered to finance him through Medical School. He graduated from the University of Toronto Medical in 1891. At first it was his ambition, after earning sufficient money, to take a special course in surgery in New York, but after getting his practice well established in West Lorne he gave up the idea, although during his career he performed several intricate pieces of surgery successfully.

Eight years after setting himself up in West Lorne Dr. Webster married Alice Wilton, whose home was just north

of the village, and who predeceased him. They had one daughter, Erie Dean, wife of Dr. W.J. McLean, former head of Westminister Hospital. There is one grandson, David McLean. The McLeans now occupy Dr. Webster's former residence.

Dr. Webster took a keen interest in civic affairs, giving his support to all enterprises he considered of benefit to the community. He was one of the early advocates of the modern pressure water system that has been installed in West Lorne. He served as a trustee for a time when West Lorne was still a police village. He was an active Mason. He held the 32nd degree in the Scottish Rite and was past District Deputy for the Royal Arch Masons. He was a member and elder in the United Church.

On August 18, 1941, Dr. Webster celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the day he began practising in West Lorne. Two hundred friends from the village and district and others from a considerable distance came to help him commemorate the occasion, and many were the reminiscences that day.

On April 20th, 1950, Dr. Webster, this pioneer of medicine in West Lorne, passed away at his home at the age of eighty-five.

Prepared by

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