

THE ONE-ROOM SCHOOLS COME TO AN END

June 27th, 1969

This modern brick structure, known as Yarmouth Public School # 2, has 16 teaching areas, and includes a library, resource centre, a double gymnasium, kindergarten, science room, and special education room. There are also modern offices, a staff room and a guidance and health office. It is built on a 12 acre lot with ample space for outside programs.

Classes commenced in Sept. 1969 with the following on the staff:

Principal: Mr. David A. White, B.A.

Vice-Principal; Mr. Wilfred Smith

Mrs. E. Agar	Mrs. N. Patterson
Mrs. S. Ballantyne	Mrs. P. J. Pettit
Mrs. J. Bedford	Mrs. J. Preston
Mrs. M. Crawford	Mr. G. Previl
Mrs. R. Gonyou	Mrs. S. Scheiding
Mrs. J. Logan	Mrs. M. Shewen
Miss B. McKinnon	Mrs. J. Verheyden
Miss L. Morrison	Mrs. M. Vogan
Mr. R. Osborne	

Secretary - Mrs. Joan Davis

The official opening of the school was held Thursday, Nov. 27th, 1969.

The Township Area School Boards ended on Dec. 31, 1968, and the Elgin County School Board took over administration of all the schools in the county Jan. 1st, 1969.

Mrs. Harold R. Davis,  
1970

CYRIL MOORHOUSE WILLIAMS

OCT. 10 - 1892 - AUG. 20 - 1969



Cyril Moorhouse Williams, son of Edith Moorhouse and W. George Williams, was born on a farm near the village of Florence, Ont. The family moved to Talbotville in 1899, and moved to Lot 9 1st R.N.E.R. Yarmouth Township in 1909. In 1915 he became a member of Grace Methodist Church in St. Thomas. He was active in many church offices, acting as chairman of stewards for many years and also served on the trustee board.

In 1917 he married Mary E. (Minnie) Baker and four sons and two daughters completed their family. They continued to live on the family farm.

General farming was carried on, but after testing the dairy herd for tuberculosis, several re-actors were found and the entire herd was disposed of in 1924. An accredited herd of Jersey cattle was established. All cows were put on Record of Performance and the entire herd was fully accredited. In 1947 he had the distinction of breeding and owning the first Excellent Jersey cow in Elgin County. Later the dairy herd was partially changed to Holsteins and was sold in 1959 and 1960. He also had a large local threshing business.

For many years he was a trustee of School Section No. 18 Yarmouth Township, part of the time acting as chairman. During World War 11 he was active in Red Cross work and the Blood Donor Clinic. He was active for many years in the Progressive Conservative Party, acting part time as Elgin County President.

In 1940 he was a director of the International Plowing Match, and in 1945 the Elgin County Plowing Match was held on his farm.

He was elected to Yarmouth Township Council in 1949 and as Reeve in 1954. He served on Elgin County Council from 1953 - 1955. He was, in 1950, Worshipfull Master of Belmont Lodge A.F. and A.M.

He was President of the Elgin County Jersey Cattle Club in 1946-1947, and in 1964 he was made a life member. In 1952 he was elected as President of the St. Thomas Milk Producers Association and in 1955 -1956 he was President of the Elgin County Crop and Soil Improvement Association.

In 1964 he was presented with a service pin by the Canadian Cancer Society as a volunteer driver for the Elgin County branch of the Society.

In 1968 and 1969 he was President of the Elgin Good-Will Tour Association and he and Mrs. Williams had some fine trips with this group.

His death occurred in St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital on Aug. 20, 1969.

Mrs. M. E. Williams

Jan. 1974.



MARY (MINNIE) WILLIAMS

Minnie (Baker) Williams was born Dec. 6, 1890 at the old Baker homestead, Lot 9, Concession 10, North Yarmouth. Her parents were Thomas and Mary Jane (Miller) Baker and she was a granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. ? Baker and Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Miller, early residents in North Yarmouth Township.

She was raised at the old Baker homestead in North Yarmouth, settled in the 1840's, and attended the Glen School. She attended the old St. Thomas Collegiate Institute and Teacher's College and taught public school in the area for nine years prior to her marriage.

She married Cyril M. Williams and they made their home on Lot 9, N. Edgeware Road. They were the Parents of six children, Donald B., Raymond G., Dr. Robert L., Edith and Velma and another son Keith, who died in infancy, aged 4 months.

She was a devoted member of Grace United Church, St. Thomas and was very active in all phases of church activities. She served as a Sunday School teacher, president of the Women's Missionary Society and the Elgin County Presbyterial of the W. M. S. She was a member of the Sunshine Unit at Grace Church and a church elder. She considered it a high privilege to be chosen by the Presbytery as the first female lay delegate to the general Council meeting of the United Church. She and her husband, Cyril, organized the XYZ Senior's Club at Grace Church. In 1968 she presented a book she compiled containing 55 County Church histories to the Elgin County library.

Beside her church work, Mrs. Williams was also very active in community affairs. She served for many years as secretary of the Glen School board, and was secretary of the local Red Cross Unit during the Second World War.

She was a charter member of the North Yarmouth Women's Institute and served a term as president of the London Area Institute. She also acted as Tweedsmuir History Convenor for the London Area.

Always interested in things historical, Mrs. Williams was a founding member of the Elgin County Pioneer Museum and served as a Director of the North Yarmouth District Historical Association from the founding in 1969.

As a hobby, she had an extensive collection of buttons, which she exhibited at various times and places and was a founding member of the Talbot Button Club.

She had been a patient at the Memorial Continuing Care Centre for a number of years, but retained her interest in community affairs. While confined to a wheel chair in the last few years of her life, she enjoyed attending the open house at the Dan Patterson cabin and the antique machinery show of the Kettle Valley Pioneers hoeld in August each year.

She passed away at the Memorial Continuing Care Centre Dec. 27, 1984 at the age of 94 years. Interment Dec. 31 was in the family plot of the St. Thomas Cemetery. A grandson Colin Stover assisted Rev. John Carbert, minister of Grace United Church, in conducting the service and several grandsons acted as pallbearers and floral bearers. Minnie Williams lived a long and useful life as a lifelong resident of North Yarmouth township.

She was survived by 3 sons, and 2 daughters, 20 grandchildren and several great-grand children. The family of Cyril and Minnie Williams, all raised in Yarmouth Township, were:

1. Donald B of 167 Woodworth Ave., St. Thomas and his wife the former Hazel Ormerod of St. Thomas.
2. Raymond G. of 3 Englewood St., St. Thomas and his wife the former Catherine Sohaluk, of Saskatchewan.
3. Edith of R. R. 7, St. Thomas, the wife of Albert Auckland.
4. Velma, of 43 Erie St., St. Thomas, the wife of Allan Stover.
5. Dr. Robert L. of Richardson, Texas and his wife the former Lillian Sohaluk of Saskatchewan, sister to Catherine (above).



## PATERSON FAMILY

South  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Lot 9

Concession 11

It was in 1831 that Alexander Paterson of Argylshire, Scotland, and Catharine Fraser, of Inverness, were married and started on the long trip to New York, which took seven weeks to accomplish.

They settled in Utica, Oneida Township, New York. After a short time they decided to come to Canada influenced by reports from their friends the Noble and Clunas families. In 1832 they travelled by the Erie Canal to Buffalo and took a boat from there to Port Stanley, and then a toilsome journey from Port Stanley to North Yarmouth by two wheeled cart. They purchased the south  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Lot 9, Concession 11, where there was a small log house by the creek and about five acres of land cleared. The previous owner had decided to go to Illinois where land was given free. The Patersons gave him a small sum for the place and eventually acquired title to their land by a Crown deed dated June 8, 1860. The price paid for the 100 acre farm was \$275.00.

Alexander Paterson, the pioneer, had two sons and five daughters. The eldest of the family, John Paterson, was born in Utica, N. Y., the others, Alexander 11 and his five sisters were born in North Yarmouth. These pioneers cleared the land and burned the wood and brush. As the land was cleared crops were planted, mainly spring wheat. The crops as a rule were good and were taken to Port Stanley by covered wagon or sleighs. At times the roads were impassable and a bag of wheat had to be taken by horseback to a mill to get it ground into whole wheat flour. This flour made excellent bread, dark, moist and sweet. The grain was all cut by hand with a cradle and the hay with a scythe.

The settlers had to clear and build the road in front of their farms. The low swampy places had to be built with logs lying side by side, (corduroy roads). Land was around \$2.50 an acre, and payments had to be made in London, as Elgin was part of Middlesec County at that time. Many farmers walked to London to make payments; John Paterson remembered making that trek.

The neighbours were wonderful in those early days, helping with logging, quilting and other bees. There was usually a jug of whiskey which cost around 25¢. The women would carry eggs to St. Thomas and trade them for essentials.

The Paterson children went to school on the corner of the 10th concession and Radio Road (Baker's Corner). Here 50 to 70 children learned the 3 R's. The school was built of logs with a large stove in the centre of the room. The older pupils sat around the outside of the room, while the younger ones sat on benches placed around the stove in the middle. All used slates as there were no scribblers; the only paper was a heavy wrapping paper and it was very scarce. A few of the names recalled by John Paterson as pupils were the Blacks, Jones, Nobles, Coles, Bakers, Leitches and others. All of the teachers were men, one of whom was a Dr. Simpson. The teacher would copy on the board and the pupils would have to imitate as best they could.

There was only the Presbyterian Church in Fingal in those early days, and the family would ride there in a lumber wagon. (Duncan Thomson and his wife, Margaret (McGregor) Thomson along with a small child walked to Fingal one Sunday from the 14th concession of Yarmouth to attend communion services. The Paterson men were sons-in-law of the Thomsons, both brothers marrying sisters.)

About the year 1838 a small log church was built on the 11th concession, north of Yarmouth Centre, by the Presbyterians of North Yarmouth, but it was not until the 4th day of September, 1855, that the first communion was held at Kilmartin Church by the Rev. Duncan McMillan, of Aldborough.

There was a small Methodist Church on the Baker property to the south, and a Baptist Church north of the 11th concession on Lot 8. Many people attended a singing school that was held in the Baptist Church. There was a plank across the creek for people to use instead of going around by the bridge. Mrs. McPherson, whose maiden name was Bucke, remembered going to the Baptist Church when a small girl. One December she was baptized in the creek after the ice was chopped away. Archie Coulter's mother, Emma Fowler, was also baptized here at the age of 13 (1869). Those baptized would go to the Paterson house to change their clothes and get warm.





Few of the log cabin homes built by the early settlers still remain, but of those which do, one located on the 100 acre farm of Daniel Patterson on the 11th concession of Yarmouth Township is still in excellent condition. An interesting feature of the cabin is the dove-tailed corner joints, each a close tight fit. The logs themselves have been hewn square and smooth with an axe the only tool. A stairway leads to the upper floor of the cabin.

St. Thomas Times Journal May 21, 1955.



In 1834 a larger log cabin was built on the Paterson farm. It had several rooms on the first floor and an upstairs. The red oak logs were hewn smooth with an axe or an adz, and the cabin had dove-tailed corners. It was plastered between the logs and was well built. The builders were four brothers who went about the country building such cabins. A fireplace was used for heating.

A Mr. Jones built a mill on Lot 7 of the 11th concession about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile west of the Paterson homestead, but ran out of money before finishing it. He was a veteran of the Battle of Waterloo, and was a very good friend of the Patersons. When his money gave out, he, induced by the lure of free land in Illinois, decided to go and investigate. He came back in a few months telling of land with no trees. He decided to go there and tried to interest the Patersons in taking up free land there also. Many settlers went to Illinois, but the Patersons stayed in North Yarmouth. Mr. Jones sold his mill to William Locke and left for Illinois.

There was a carding mill at Union where wool was made into rolls ready to be spun into yarn at the spinning wheel. This yarn was used to make many of the clothes worn in those days.

John Paterson, the elder of the sons, at the age of 28 in 1862 bought the farm east of the old homestead (south  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Lot 10, concession 11) from William Locke and in 1870 was married to Catharine Thomson, a daughter of Duncan and Margaret (McGregor) Thomson of the 14th concession of Yarmouth. There were five girls and two boys in their family. A log house was on the farm, but in 1873 a brick house was built. There was good fishing in Kettle Creek, trout, bass and suckers. Game was very plentiful too. Maple syrup was on the table almost every day. John Paterson distinctly remembered huge flocks of passenger pigeons darkening the sky like clouds. (They lived on beech nuts which were very plentiful in North Yarmouth, but were extinct by 1895)

On the death of Alexander Paterson, the pioneer, his son, Alexander II took over the homestead in 1867, the year of Confederation. He married Euphemia Thomson (a sister of John's wife, Catharine) and their family consisted of two sons and two daughters. He built the white brick two story house on the homestead in 1875.



His second son, Daniel, inherited the homestead on his death in 1910. Daniel Paterson continued to live here until the age of eighty, when he went to reside with his niece Mrs. Earl (Blanche) Anderson at 48 $\frac{1}{2}$  Mitchell St. St. Thomas. The farm was a century farm in 1967.

