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PAST AND PRESENT Of the Methodist Church in Wyoming

BY SENEX.

(Expressly written for the GUIDE-ADVOCATE.)

In reviewing the organization and growth of the Methodist church in Wyoming it may not be interesting to the general reader to take a glance at a state of the ownership previous to the event we are about to describe, and trace the steps which led to that important era in the early history of our village.

Following close upon the laying out of Plympton in 1829 a few settlers began to find their way into the township. Some of these came direct from the Old Country, but the majority moved from the various townships in the county of Lanark, the land in that section of the country being very stony and offering a poor prospect of ever making a first-class farming country. It is to be regretted there are no records extant of the advent of the first white settlers in the township, but in the year 1833 considerable immigration took place in Plympton and several small settlements began springing up. Foremost amongst these in importance was one along the lake shore, where Messrs. Carrol and Rankin, following the instructions of the Government, had located a village reserve. In the year just named the first settlers at this point took up their abode, with hopes full of anticipation, as they fancied they saw in the placid waters of Lake Huron as they lay at rest in the bay formed by the graceful curve of the land, the outlines of a most commodious harbour. The name of Errol was given to the embryo seaport and the rivalry of a contending village, called "The Rapids," where Sarnia now stands, lent stimulus to the growth of the lake village, which in a short time sent it ahead of the river village and for a few years threatened to actually strangle our present county town. Here was the seat of justice, and here was the first church erected, (if we except the Indian Mission House at Sarnia), in the northern part of the county of Lambton. The first school in the township was built at Errol. Both church and school house were erected in 1836. Rev. Mr. McAlister, first Presbyterian minister in Sarnia, preached the first sermon in this log church, but it was open to all denominations.

For the first few years of its existence Errol was thoroughly aristocratic and looked down upon its more plebeian neighbor with an air of coldness, amusing to the practical generation that followed. The result of a slight sprinkling of blue blood along the lake shore proved of vast importance to the settlers in the interior of the township. In addition to giving Plympton the first church and school house, Errol was the seat of the first post-office in the township.

Previous to the year 1836, the only mail for Sarnia and Plympton was a fortnightly one from Chatham, the few letters that passed being carried by an Indian who tramped a distance of 50 miles through the woods on foot, but in 1836 on application to Government a weekly mail was established, still from Chatham, but extending to Errol, with A. P. Toulmin as post master. This was a great boon to Plympton, and Errol continued to be the post-office for the whole of Plympton until the London Road was constructed from Warwick to Sarnia, when the route was changed via London, and offices located along the road. The spirit of competition didn't end here, and it may be news to most of our readers when we state that the first newspaper in Lambton was published at Errol. This paper, octavo size, double column, got up to boot the advantages of Errol as the county town, was called the *Sarniel* (Anglice, "Sam Hill")—Dr. A. Clark, "Diabolus"—other authorities, the "Simoon". Either of the two latter interpretations of the word, would be very appropriate as in advocating the points of Errol it became the relentless foe of Sarnia, and when Malcolm Cameron was elected to Parliament for Lambton in 1838, the *Sarniel* was replete with scathing articles. The Editor-in-Chief of the *Sarniel*, George McKee, described as a tall, dark-complexioned gentleman who wore a moustache, was an able writer, but dangerously personal, and dealt largely in emphatic adjectives.

At the risk of stepping aside from the task that we have undertaken, we will make a few quotations from this periodical of 46 years ago. The first is a *requiem* at the

threatened collapse of Errol on account of the projection of the new London Road, dubbed by the *Sarniel*, the *Swamp Road*, and the consequent building up of Sarnia.

"A year or two elapsed from the time of the survey of the Egremont Road and the village of Errol, when this line of road and the village began to show symptoms of increasing, the town lots were brought up, and lots along the road were settling fast, and large improvements were made in the village. Two large taverns were built, with extensive stables, (neither of which can afford to take out license this year) a mill gone with the hopes of a road; a school house, struggling on with hopes of support; black smith shop, the shop remains but the proprietor has gone in search of employment to some more fortunate settlement; a post-office, an advantage enjoyed for four years, but now threatened to be removed; a store, almost abandoned; several industrious mechanics have left, having had all their prospects blighted, the residence of two Magistrates, at first there were three, one has already left, and he would soon be followed by the other two if they could sell their property. Many valuable settlers have left the neighborhood in despair, and this is the picture of a settlement commenced under Government auspices."

The cause of this lamentation is given as follows:—"Another little village (not a Government one) springs up on the St. Clair, in which the Hon. member for Lanark had some interest, and this Hon. gentleman, fearing that Errol should outstrip his bantling city, he commenced his career, not by waging an honourable war, but by a series of low cunning, artful and unscrupulous rascaling, he takes advantage of his situation, and the whole bent of his parliamentary influence is brought to bear in one grand focus, like a battering ram. To effect this object, stratagem and trickery have been resorted to, and we may truly add, without misrepresentation, which would in effect rob the people of Plympton, and thereby enhance the value of his own property at Port Sarnia. Yes, Mr. Cameron saw clearly, and with some degree of dread, that if some bold attempt was not made to stop the progress of Errol forever, that it must ultimately become the great market for all the land, and produce of the townships of Lobo, Carleton Place, Adelaide, Warwick, Plympton, and a part of Bosanquet, as being 14 miles nearer than Port Sarnia."

The completion of the London Road to Sarnia proved the death-blow of Errol. In the course of time the *Sarniel*, which was suppressed by the *Banner* of Sarnia, a paper started in the interests of the Hon. George Brown. A two years' career brought the *Banner* to a close, when the *Lambton Shield* took its place. This paper was owned and edited by the present Hon. Alex. McKenzie. Mr. McKenzie being a politician of an advanced type frequently used unguarded language in his editorials, and the finale was an expensive lawsuit that closed the career of the *Shield* in 1854, and left the field for the present *Observer*, which had sprung into existence the year before.

The interest taken in politics and municipal matters by the inhabitants of Lambton in these days has scarcely been exceeded by their descendants. There is still a large number who will remember the enthusiasm called forth in the early part of 1848 on the occasion of the election to Parliament of Malcolm Cameron, and the response to the strain made by a festive crowd that completely filled Frost street. Led by the inspiring strains of "See the Conquering Hero Comes," played on the bugle by Peter McEshan, the crowd made its way to the seat of the village to welcome the successful candidate on his return to the southern part of his constituency, the electoral district at that time consisting of Lambton, Kent, and Essex. Several ludicrous sights were witnessed on that occasion.

We can only make room for one. A leading spirit of Sarnia's early days, still living, and distinguished for the length of his legs, got set up in the press, and either by design or accident, found himself elevated on another man's back, with both feet in the other party's coat pockets. The person thus unceremoniously mounted entered the city in the spirit of the thing and, as he kept the gentleman with the legs aloft till the stroke of the day had been immensely enjoyed.

With one simple incident illustrative of the times, and which may be still remembered by the few remaining representatives of a generation disappearing from our midst, we will pass on to a brief summary of the religious history of this (Plympton) and the neighboring townships of Sarnia and Warwick.

On a balmy afternoon in the fall of 1833, a yoke of wearied oxen, footsore and with drooping heads, made their way as best they could through the brush in the townships just named, with heads directed toward the setting sun. They are dragging a "jumper" on which are securely tied all the boxes, barrels and bales the poor animals can conveniently draw. Three days before, they left London, and are now making their way to the "Rapids". When that consignment of dry-goods and groceries reaches its destination, Geo. Durand will open up in a little log building, the first display of such things ever witnessed in Sarnia.

LOCAL ITEMS.

STEAM'S UP.
SAINT VALENTINE'S day Sunday.
WELL, how do you like our style?
For a neat, nobby suit go to Swift's.
HOUSE TO LET, apply to John Bodaly.
FOR the largest stock and lowest prices go to A. Brown's.

THREE cases of white and colored shirts opened out at Swift's.
MR. and MRS. CARROTHERS, of Strathroy, were the guests of Mrs. Lowry last week.
MISS BELLA OLIVER of Duncrief and Miss Mary A. Wood, of Vanneck, are visiting at Mrs. Telfer's.

WHEN you see a man slip and fall on the icy pavement, never say, Ah! there—stay there. He won't like it.
FOR DRY-GOODS, boots, shoes, clothing, hats, caps and millinery—new, cheap and stylish—go to A. Brown's.

THANKS.—Mr. Peter Graham, M. P. P., will please accept our thanks for copies of proceedings of Ontario Legislature.

JUDGING by the dry load of harness leather delivered at Mitchell's harness shop, he must be doing a rushing business.

MISSES Bells and Sarah Campbell of Caradoc are spending a few days in town visiting their brother Mr. M. S. Campbell.

DID YOU SEE that fine lot of American whips at M. J. Mitchell's. Everyone warranted, and lower in price than Canadian makes.

THAT married man who was out the other night rather late had better look out in the future. We're mum this time but watch yourself.

THE "BIG 4" QUARTETTE CLUB have been engaged to furnish music at the Congregational Church tea-meeting this (Friday) evening.

CORRECTION.—The East Lambton Farmers' Institute will be held at Forest on the 15th of June, not on the 5th, as stated in last issue.

MR. JOHN DONAHUE, of Chicago and Mr. D. McIntyre, of London, spent Wednesday in Watford, visiting their friend Mr. D. Roche.

A WATFORD youth says that progressive euchre parties are all right for dowagers and old maids, but he prefers the progressive kissing ball.

TEA-MEETING.—A tea-meeting will be held in the Town Hall, Warwick village, on Thursday next, in aid of the English church. All are invited.

FRANK JAMES, the ex-ban-dit, drinks three glasses of whiskey a day. But there are any number of Watford people who are braver men than Frank.

THE French China Tea Set which Mr. D. Roche purchased for Watford Rifle Club, from the firm of W. J. Reid & Co., London, is really beautiful.

ON THE BRAKE.—Sid says that he is going to keep away from the new bakery as it won't take much to break him. He has already made one break.

MRS. FITCHCOCK having been notified to leave the store occupied by her, has determined to sell all goods at and below cost. Berlin wool at 13c. an oz.

THE WATFORD RIFLE CLUB will compete for their grand French China Tea Set on Thursday, 18th inst. Ranges 200 and 400 yds. A large attendance is expected.

CONVENIENCE.—Customers ordering bill headers, note headings, statements or letter paper printed at this office, can have them put up in pads without extra charge.

ROBERTS BROS. will sell Boots and Shoes for one month at cost, to make room for spring stock. They always do as they advertise. Come and get prices and see styles. Feb 5-Du

ARRY is busy making a pair of Berlin wool slippers for himself. It's a daring feat for him to try as the spring goods are not in town yet and the present supply of wool is limited.

THOS. TIEDOLE SWIFT has a brand new dressing gown and cap and the boys are trying to find out whether it came from his S. S. class, or whether there has been a snaffle at Duck's rink.

RENIER & SON do not need big puffs and large advertisements to keep customers from going other places for their clothes, for they always give entire satisfaction both in quantity of goods and artistic quality.

A great fondness for the refined and refined mind found generally in or about the modern school house. He expects in the future to have a gayer time of it than usual. Feb 1-Alex.

TO-NIGHT.—The Congregation tea-meeting takes place to-night in the music hall. A lengthy and interesting program will be presented, and the ladies guarantee a tasty and attractive tea. Admission 25 cents.

ATTENTION is called to the new advertisement of Macraut & Parker in this issue. Sweeping reductions are announced in every line of winter goods and intending purchasers will do well to call and investigate.

WATT'S GROCERY DEPARTMENT is giving splendid satisfaction to customers. The goods are all fresh and well bought, and are being sold at lowest prices. Lard, tallow, butter, eggs and dried apples taken as cash.—DAVID WATT.

PUBLIC SCHOOL REPORT.—Following are the names of the pupils of Form 5 who obtained more than fifty per cent. of the aggregate of the marks obtainable for January. Fifth Class—1, H. Woods, 2, Mable Hume, 3, Maggie Hastings, 4, Annie Ray, 5, S.

Hastings, 6, Elizabeth Higgins, 7, A. Jamieson, 8, Lena Jamieson. Fourth Class.—1, W. Lucas, 2, H. Ray, 3, Ethel Hay, 4, L. Mitchell, 5, Fanny Harvey, 6, Kate McDermott, 7, B. Barley, 8, Geo. Reid, 9, Ivan Ryland, 10, F. Robinson.

LECTURE.—A fair audience assembled in the Y. M. C. A. rooms on Friday evening to hear the lecture delivered by the Rev. Jasper Wilson, and were much edified by the able manner the rev. gentleman handled his subject.

FRATERNAL.—A deputation from Court Lorne, C. O. F., consisting of Dr. Stanley and Messrs. J. Miller, L. Rogers and C. Eccles, went to Petrolia on Wednesday to attend the banquet given by Court Louise of that place.

THE CARNIVAL.—Last Tuesday was the time set apart for a grand carnival at Reid's rink, it was also the time set apart for a general thaw, and we had the thaw, much to the disappointment of masqueraders as they had expected an ice time of it.

MR. W. MORRISON, of the Elephant warehouse, returned on Friday last from his home in Jarvis where he went to witness the ceremony which united in the holy bonds of wedlock, his sister Miss Aggie Morrison to Mr. D. Fisher of Forest.

A COLD DIP.—The cold dip of last week, gave the lowest reading of the season at this point, fifteen below zero on Thursday night. On Saturday a warmer change set in, and the weather has since been beautifully mild and genial; totally demolishing the sleighing.

TWO CASES of spring hats opened out at Swift's.

WATFORD LITERARY SOCIETY.—The next, and closing meeting for the season, of the Watford Literary Society, will be held on Tuesday evening, the 2nd of March. A high-class program is being prepared and a real enjoyable evening may be looked forward to.

SALE REGISTER.—Mr. James Lakin, lot 21, con. 11, Brooke, will offer for sale on Tuesday, Feb. 16th, his entire farm stock, implements, and household furniture, without reserve. Sale at 1 o'clock. Terms: \$5 cash; 10 months credit; 8 per cent. off for cash. Jos. S. Williams, auctioneer.

HIGGINS' MILL.—The trustees of the Campbell Estate have disposed of the Higgins' saw and stave mill on the 6th line, Warwick, S. E. R., to Wm. Lawrence, of Sarnia, for the sum of \$3,600. Seventy acres of land in connection with the mill were included in the sale, subject to mortgage.

20 PIECES all-wool tweeds at 50 cents a yard, just opened up at A. Brown's.

WATFORD MARKETS: Red Wheat, 76c. to 78c.; White Wheat, 75c. to 76c.; Spring Wheat, 68c. to 75c.; barley, 48c. to 55 c.; oats, 28c. to 29c.; peas, 52c. to 55c.; potatoes, 50c. to 50c.; butter, 15c. to 15c.; eggs, 16c.; lard, 10c. to 10c.; tallow, 6c. to 7c.; beets, 40c.; flour, \$2.00, to \$2.00, pork, \$5.00, to \$6.00.

THE AUDITORS' REPORT.—At a special meeting of the council Tuesday evening, the Auditors' Report for 1885 was accepted. From it we glean the following figures:—Total amount of receipts, \$8,679.08; disbursements, \$6,468.85; balance in Treasury, \$2,210.23. The total amount of taxes collected was \$4,301.11.

BEAUTIFUL SUITS, well cut, well made, and cheap, at A. Brown's.

TOWN HALL SCHOOL.—At a meeting of the School Board held Wednesday night, the contract for partitioning and fitting the above school was let to Mr. Henry Hume, who commences the work to-day. In consequence the school will be closed for a few days, much to the delight of the children and regret of the parents.

RETURNING.—Mr. A. D. Elliot and Henry Elliot, who have been spending several weeks with their friends in Watford and vicinity, will start for their homes in the West, to-morrow (Saturday), the former for Winnipeg and the latter for British Columbia. They will be accompanied by Mr. Robt. E. Dadds, who intends taking a trip through the distant province in the hope of benefiting his health. Bon voyage friends.

CAL LOAD of new spring and summer goods opened out at A. Brown's.

REUNAWAY.—On Monday noon last, while the school children were on their way to school a team belonging to Mr. Manning in sign of WATT'S GROCERY furniture shop took flight at a passing train and made a bee line for home. Luckily no children on the home stretch and the team made fair time. No accidents and no damage. Time, 2:28 P. M. Moral—Farmers and others should make use of time lines, if they have them; if not—buy them.

COUNTY CHURCH LODGE.—At the meeting of the East Lambton L. O. L., held here last week, all the officers were re-elected. It was decided to hold the annual walk this year at Alvinston on the 12th of July. Over 80 members were in attendance from different parts of the Riding. Following are the names of the officers elected:—Master, W. H. Stewart, of Warwick; Deputy Master, G. J. Clahier, of Brooke; Chaplain, R. Bailey, of Plympton; Fin. Sec., John E. Bailey, of Plympton; Treasurer, Thomas Woods, of Watford; Director, B. Johnston, of Plympton; Lecturers, W. H. Rowan and S. Sutton, of Brooke. After the session the delegates were entertained to supper by Mr. A. Brown, merchant, some 77 partaking of his hospitality. In the evening an open meeting was held when a pleasant couple of hours were spent in listening to speaking and music.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS. A RATEPAYER TOUCHES UP THE COUNCIL WITH A SHARP STICK.

And Wants to Know what is to be Done about Improving Main Street.

Editor GUIDE-ADVOCATE.

DEAR SIR.—Our new Council appears (from the printed minutes of their February meeting) to be settling down to business, as they have been discussing the subject of a new town bell, and have requested the clerk to write to different firms for prices, but if I remember rightly Mr. Editor, it was not a new town bell (however right and proper that may be) that weighed most heavily upon the minds of the electors nomination day, but the burning question, and the question that still burns, and that will most likely burn the seats from under the Council next year, unless promptly attended to, the question of the thorough bettering of our Main Street, which up to the present is a standing memorial of a want of thrift in our town and people.

But I may be met here by the answer from the Council. Well get up a petition, and have a meeting called to discuss the subject, have a by-law submitted to the people, &c., &c., or, in other words we (the Council) are in hearty sympathy with this much needed Main Street improvement, but don't you ask us to move first, some of the electors might not like it, and at any rate our main duties are the purchase of lumber, laying plank, and passing accounts. You do the thinking, discussing and calculating, and then when you are all ready, and the will of all the people be so, we will help you. Now, Mr. Editor we have a splendid Council, one every way qualified to deal satisfactorily with any duty passed upon them, and we will look to our representatives to make it their first business to take up this question, the improvement of Main Street, and give the public the benefit of their conclusions through the columns of your valuable paper the GUIDE-ADVOCATE.

Yours respectfully,
M. S. E.

THE VILLAGE COUNCIL.

A special meeting of the village council was held in the Council Chambers on the 9th inst., all the members present, minutes of last meeting read.

Report of the Finance Committee.—Your committee appointed to examine the Auditors' Report of 1885, beg leave to state that they have gone carefully over it, and find it to be correct.

Moved by Mr. Howden, sec. by Mr. Cook, that the Auditors' Report be accepted and that orders be drawn on the Treasurer for \$8 for each Auditor, as remuneration for their services.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Hume, sec. by the Reeve, that J. C. Tye be instructed to print 250 copies of the Auditors' Report.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Jones, sec. by Mr. Hume, that this council re-appoint the same officers for current year for Board of Health that were appointed for 1885, viz:—Dr. Stanley, Medical Health Officer; John Reid, Sanitary Inspector; Thos. Woods, Robt. Garter and Dr. Stanley.—Carried.

The following accounts having been reported correct by the Finance Committee, it was moved by Mr. Howden, sec. by the Reeve, that orders be drawn on the Treasurer in payment of the same, viz:—Willie Reed, for posting bills, &c. skating on sidewalks, 25 cts.; the Clerk's postage account up to date, 65 cts.—Carried.

JOHN REID, Clerk.

Methodist Quarterly Board.

At the third quarterly official meeting held in the Methodist church, Watford, on Feb. 8th, 1886, the following resolution was unanimously carried:

"Brother Thomas Edwards, one of the members of our Official Board having passed away during the last quarter, we the members of this Board take this opportunity of expressing our sincere sympathy and respect for the fact that our esteemed member was an efficient member of the Board for the last 33 or 34 years. We, the members of this Board desire to express our deep sympathy and condolence with the bereaved family, and while we regret his loss as a faithful christian and an agreeable worker in the Watford Board, yet we feel to thank the Giver of all good that the religion which he possessed in health was able to sustain him in the hour and article of death."

Signed on behalf of the Board by
DAVID WATT, Recording Steward.

A DOG-GONE BAD TRICK.—Last Monday Mr. Samuel Fuller and wife desired to go out to make a call, and, after holding a council of war decided to leave a large dog, of which he is sole proprietor, as sentry. After his departure his dogship found things very quiet on the inside of the house and no doubt after thinking the thing over came to the conclusion that a sentry's place was on the outside of a building, when on duty; accordingly he made his exit through the basement window leaving a very painful looking hole in the sash where the panes formerly had been. Mr. F. now thinks seriously of keeping him in the bank but is unable to decide how to keep him there unless he locks him up in the vault, as there is no window there. We would suggest stuffing the critter.