

OXFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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Last year was our first year. During the summer of 1896 I called the attention of the public, through the columns of the *Sentinel-Review*, to the importance of such an organization in order to collect matter relative to the early settlers, and take steps towards its preservation.

I had contributed nearly fifty sketches of the early settlers of Zorra in Nissouri to the paper myself, and both Mr. Pattullo and your servant again and again dwelt upon the prime importance of such work.

Later on W. S. McLay, B. A., of McMaster, wrote a letter covering the same ground, and so by repetition and insistence we compelled action of some sort. We organized early in '97 and from the beginning there was more or less apathy. This we have lived down, I think, and now we have over thirty members all much interested and many of them active workers in our rank. I proposed affiliation, thinking it was a step in the right direction, and I am sure that our whole membership think so too now.

Papers read during our meetings so far have been decidedly valuable, and as we preserve them in our society's scrap-books until we are able to publish in pamphlet form, they must prove the nucleus of what may be of lasting value to our future collectors of historic details.

The papers read were :

"The early Settlement of the County," R. W. Sawtell.

"Our Pioneer Fathers," Rev. D. McKay.

"The History of the Chesterfield Presbyterian Church," Jas. Henderson.

"Rise and Progress of Thamesford Village," D. Lawrence.

"Early Blenheim and Blandford Settlers," G. Stevenson.

"The Amish Community in East Zorra," G. Smith, B. A.

"The Early Settlements near Princeton," Col. Cowan.

"Primitive Man," J. M. Wintemberg.

"Regal and Vice Regal Visits to the County," R. W. Sawtell.

"The North American Indian," J. M. Wintemberg.

"Indian Occupation of Nissouri," L. D. Brown.