

The following account of the founding and early history of newspapers in Watford and Alvinston is an extract from an article on "Lambton County Journalism" by Edward Phelps, which originally appeared in Western Ontario Historical Notes, vol. XV, no. 4 for December, 1959.

#### WATFORD

The newspaper history of Watford is closely bound up with that of surrounding communities and the story has been difficult to piece together.

#### Enterprise 1870-1877

The only mention of this paper located was in an article "First Settler is Recalled", concerning Watford, in the Sarnia Canadian Observer (centennial edition) November 16, 1953, Section A, p. 3. Here it is stated that The Enterprise had been running successfully since 1870, and an item of January 1875 is quoted. If the paper existed, it missed the American newspaper directory of 1873, and must have been defunct by 1877 as two directories of that year do not give it a mention.

#### Guide 1875-1879

#### Guide & News 1879-1886

The Watford Guide was founded by James C. Tye and from the earliest extant copy, dating from 1877, the date of the commencement seems to have been February 5, 1875. In 1877 the Guide was a conservative paper. Tye started to publish the Alvinston News on October 16, 1878, from an office in Alvinston, but this venture proved economically unsound, so the two papers had to be united as the Watford Guide & Alvinston News, as of Vol. 5, No. 9, (Whole no. 217) of Friday, March 28, 1879. It was later known as the Watford Guide & News. The Ontario Directory of 1882 names Rev. Henry J. Colewell as editor (see also Forest Advertiser) and Tye as proprietor.

#### Guide-Advocate 1886 - current.

In the issue of January 8, 1886, the Watford Guide & News announced the purchase of the Watford Advocate Adviser. Mr. James A. Hunter of the latter paper was joining the staff of the new paper, to be known as the