

the conversation they carried on in the moonlight on the ridge boards of his wood-shed. These cats were not only buried with due solemnity, but Warren erected tombstones at their graves, inscribed with their names and supposed virtues.* James Farley, the first Clerk of Elgin County Court, who came from London, was the next lawyer. An agitation had been kept up a good many years by the people living in the lake shore townships and St. Thomas to have a new county formed from these townships. In 1851 their wishes were gratified, and the County of Elgin was created. The first provisional council met in the town hall, St. Thomas, on the 15th of April, 1852. It was composed of the following: Duncan McColl, reeve, Aldboro'; Moses Willey, reeve, Dunwich; Colin Munro, reeve, Southwold; Nicol McColl, deputy-reeve, Southwold; Elisha S. Ganson, reeve, Yarmouth; Leslie Pearce, deputy reeve, Yarmouth; David Parish, reeve, St. Thomas; Thomas Locker, reeve, Malahide; Lewis J. Clark, deputy-reeve, Malahide; Jacob Cline; reeve, South Dorchester; John Elliott, reeve, Bayham; J. Skinner, deputy-reeve, Bayham. Elisha S. Ganson was chosen the first warden, but resigned before half his time had expired, on account of some differences with the council, and Thomas Locker was elected to act during the remainder of the year. John McKay was the first County Clerk, and Wm. Coyne the first Treasurer. Some of the arguments used by the people of London at that time against the formation of a new county on the lake shore are amusing now. One of them was that Middlesex would be cut off from the Lake and would not have the benefit of navigable waters. Mr. Coyne was Treasurer two years and received no salary for performing the duties of the office.

For many years after the Coynes' started in the mercantile business in St. Thomas, all goods brought to the village came by way of Port Stanley. Later, after the building of the plank roads, goods were teamed from Hamilton. James Foote and Lewis Rowland were the principal teamsters and did a large business.

Wm. Coyne was married in 1846 to a daughter of Donald Patterson, one of the first settlers of Aldboro'. Patterson was stricken with the terrible fever which raged in Aldboro' in 1826 and died in that year. Mr. Coyne and his wife raised a large family of sons and daughters, who are respected

*This is an error as tombstones to two pet dogs only were erected.—Ed.