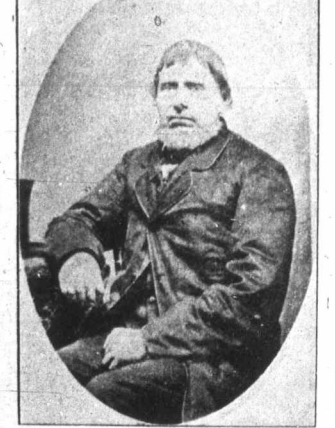


# Elgin's History

Sketches....  
prepared for  
"The Journal's"  
HISTORY  
COMPETITION

S. S. NO. 5 DUNWICH.

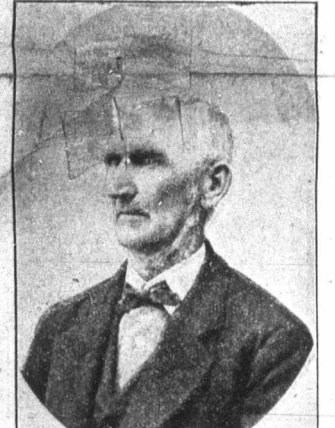
The very first settler in these parts was Mr. William Brooks, of New Jersey, who settled in 1805 or 1806 on what is now known as the P. P. I. farm. He started in 1808, a general store on his own farm, procuring his supplies from Mr. George Elliott, east of Fingert, and failed financially a few years afterwards. About 1810 he built a saw mill a few rods north of the present site of the school house. Owing to the irregular supply of water by which it was run it would only be operated during a small portion of the year. This eventually caused its abandonment a few years after being built. Portions of the dam still remain and it is a favorite resort of the school children. Business difficulties caused Mr. Brooks to flee the country and he died in Illinois.



MR. WM. LUMSDEN.

The stream referred to above, towards its head waters, was dammed by beavers, possibly several centuries ago, forming above on the farm now occupied by Robert Morris and George Wain, a veritable lake covering about seventy-five acres. In the days of the earlier settlers it was navigable for boats of considerable size and in later years I. P. Stokker, recovered from its murky depths pieces of timber resembling round wood sticks on the ends of which the marks of the beavers' teeth were plainly visible. This land has since been drained and is now of the richest arable quality.

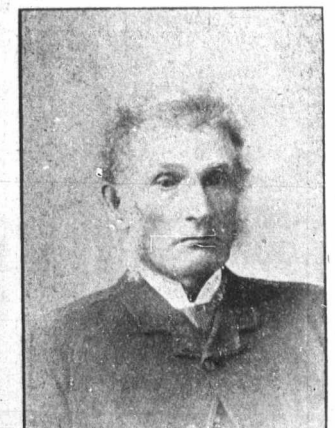
On the Brooks farm, already referred to, was born in 1808 J. C. Watson, nephew of James Watson. He afterwards became professor of physics and astronomy in the University of Michigan, and was commissioned by this university to visit China



MR. JAMES PHILPOTT.

that he might observe the transit of Venus. Professor Watson was a voluminous author on works relating to the above mentioned sciences, and was building an observatory after his own idea at Madison, Wisconsin, when he died.

In 1808 the farm opposite that occupied by Brooks was settled by an American Revolutionary named Canute, who fought in the American War of Independence as one of a band known as Butler's Rangers. This man, from stories told by himself of acts perpetrated during his guerrilla career, was justly regarded by his neighbor settlers as a person of the most brutalized type. The lights and other supernatural phenomena alleged to have been seen for some time after his death emphasize the reputation of the man with his neighbors.



MR. GEORGE BROWN.

As might be expected he was not sympathetic with Canadian politics, whilst it looks as if he had been a member of the British army, for he was a man of the most ardent loyalty to the land of his adoption that extended that of the Canadian themselves, hence when it was found necessary to take such men as Canute, during the war of 1812, to take the oath of allegiance before Colonel Talbot, Brooks was the strongest to urge it by a vigorous harangue and flourish of his cane. The Colonel took the reins in his own hands and shrieked an effectual threat to Canute "Come forward and take it or I will confiscate your property."

Canute occupies an unknown grave some where on what was then his own farm. His death is supposed to have been hastened by his wife, who afterwards married a man named Johnston employed as a laborer by Colonel Talbot.

Johnston received from the Colonel a grant of fifty acres of land, which forms a part of the farm now owned by Malcolm Graham.

Other early settlers were the Young brothers from Lower Canada in 1815, who settled on the farm now occupied by Elder Philpott, where they were buried in 1824 and 1825 but all traces of their graves have been obliterated.

The present Piper farm was settled by James Lamley from Nova Scotia, father of Ephraim Lamley. Two immense spruce trees planted by him still standing, attest the antiquity of the settlement.

The Southwold side of Iona was settled by John Axford, from New Jersey, in 1812. On this farm was built, in 1816, the first school house of this part of the country, a few rods south of the present Regular Baptist Church, John Robinson being the first teacher. Other early teachers were Warren Rondel, Davis, Mulholland and Hanah. The first trustees were Daniel McIntyre and Robert Reed.

The books used at this time were the New Testament, Cobb's Spelling Book and English Reader; the pens were made by the teacher from quills; the ink was made from the bark of the red pine. The first teacher was Daniel McIntyre, who came from Nova Scotia about 1810, and settled on the farm now occupied by his son, Herman, and the same year John Carwell, who came from Aldborough with his father, Archibald, in 1835, and purchased a farm on the south side of the street from Elliot Young. In the same year John Carwell rented the opposite farm from George McBeth at \$20 a year for ten years, after which he purchased it and is residing on it at the present time.

On the back part of this farm resided in a log house for a number of years one of Dunwich's early school teachers, Thomas Benson, who taught for a number of years in the adjoining section, No. 4. Mr. Benson afterwards died in Prince Edward county.

The original school house of the section, a log building, was erected in 1844 on John Clark's hill, overlooking the Hollow, and was used till 1860, when the present house school and meeting purposes. The size of the building was 20 x 22. It was provided with desks, had a library of over one hundred volumes, ten maps, blackboard was used, visitors' book kept and Journal of Education was taken. There was also an extensive playground attached.

The first teacher was Alexander Salmon, who afterwards became insane. He was succeeded by William Moore. He was succeeded by J. Keller; afterwards by William Harris, hereafter alluded to, who subsequently became one of the principal men of the village. Other teachers after this were Matthew Lodge, who became a well-to-do farmer, and died in the section, and Daniel Sinclair, afterwards M. D., of Melbourne and Toronto.

At this time the books used were the National Readers, Irish Arithmetic, Moore's Geography, Jackson's Book-keeping, National Algebra and Simpson's Euclid.

James Philpott was born in Col. Talbot's house in 1814. After a long career as a farmer, bailiff, J. E. and church deacon he died a few years ago at the age of nearly eighty. His memory is gratefully preserved by a tablet in the Regular Baptist church, where he officiated as deacon for over fifty years.

In 1817 Mr. William Lumley, also of Nova Scotia, settled on the lot now owned by his grandson, William John Lumley. About the same time William Clark from the same province settled on the Bishop Clark farm.

Two years later another Nova Scotian named McDermont settled on the farm and joined Canute's on the west.

McDermont's son William afterwards became the celebrated pioneer preacher. Elder McDermont, after his conversion joined the Free Congregational church, the Rev. Joseph Silcox being at the time its pastor, who relaxed his duties so far as to baptize him by immersion. After remaining with this church a year he united with the Regular Baptist church, Iona, and later on became its pastor. With characteristic scruple, after joining the Baptist church he demanded a second performance of the baptismal rite by an elder of the same faith.

He has been described to the writer as a man of striking physical appearance, with regular and refined features, and a generally unke-p condition. Add to this a total ignorance of literature, inasmuch as his wife had to read the hymns and scriptures to him, and we have a picture of this early standard bearer of Christian faith. Nevertheless he was a man of great force, a fervent speaker, a most convincing orator, a beautiful and strong singer.

In 1836 he became pastor of the Houghton and Wainwright churches, and after a few years went to Nova Scotia and thence to Illinois. He returned to Ontario in 1870, and was named as a missionary by the Home Mission Board. He afterwards returned to Illinois, where he died.

He held two revivals in Iona, and by reason of his loud and sweet singing, and heretofore careless, regarding church attendance made frequent visits to his services, until over one hundred professed converts.

His early home was a few rods directly south of the schoolhouse, where there to-day stands a lofty aspen tree some five feet in circumference, which the elder sat beneath in quiet work to earn the means of procuring an education which, his ultimate acquaintances say, he was determined to have done in the most satisfactory manner. He was a fair proof of a conscientious, latent, intellectual power. He got an engagement on the drill shed, then in the course of erection under contractor Caswell, and when climbing a high ladder fell with it to the ground sustaining severe injuries. This accident laid him up for some time in Ephraim Lumley's hotel, where he boarded. When recovered he did not proceed home, and his father on going in search of him found him at work in the office of the Home Journal of St. Thomas, owned and edited by the late A. McLachlin.

Within two years we see him teaching school in Kent county and at Windsor, his parents' present home. There, while yet in his teens, he gave a short contribution to the Detroit Free Press entitled, "A Dangerous Journey," which lifted him into fame with a bound. He was at once put on the editorial staff of the Free Press, at a salary of thirty dollars per week.

This position, it is well known, is generally attained only by patient, unswerving diligence.

Then he was despatched to London, England, to exploit the Free Press among the newsmen of the great metropolis, which he is said to have done in the most satisfactory manner. Again with Jerome K. Jerome he became co-editor of the "Idle," a monthly literary magazine of that city, which has only to be read to be admired.

The manuscript of one of his earlier extended works, "In the midst of alarms," he offered to American magazines, but it was coldly received. A British publishing house seized upon it with avidity, realizing handsomely.

Mr. Barr was home visiting his parents last summer, with his family.

When Robert was a boy of twelve his little brother was accidentally drowned in a shallow pool near the old Cowal school house, which his father was building.

Mr. Barr was highly esteemed by his fellow-laborers, and the writer has just received a highly laudatory letter from the pen of Julian Ralph, editor of Scribner.

Among the physicians of the village were Dr. Barrow, Miller, Cowan, Bruce, Macdonald, Pasmore, John Cascarden, Lawrence McLaughlin, A. V. Michell and Wm. McGeady, the sole practitioner left in the village.

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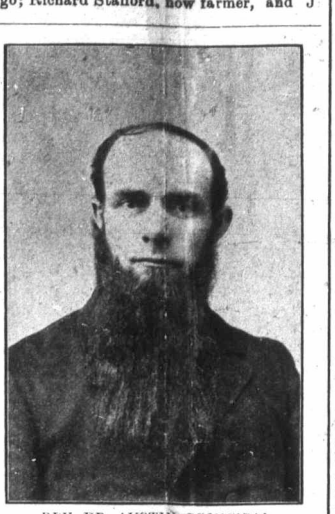
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Daniel Sinclair, already mentioned; Henry Harris, afterwards teacher of an English school in New York city, and at present living a retired life on the banks of the Hudson River; William G. Fraser, who afterwards came to a brick and tile business west of Cowal; D. S. McCall, afterwards M. D., Wallacestown, and now many years dead; Duncan McAlpine, at present a prosperous farmer adjoining the village; Archibald McCall, at present M. D. at Woodstock; Peter McCall, now Superintendent of Manitoba Indian Agency, Winnipeg; Peter Sinclair, who died many years ago; Richard Stafford, now farmer, and J. Brown.



REV. DR. AUSTIN, PRINCIPAL.

P. Shelders; Duncan Sinclair, afterwards graduate of Toronto Military School, and at present a thriving insurance agent, Alvin; George Duncanson, one of the few who are still engaged in the teaching profession at present near London, Ont.; Peter M. Diarmid, now druggist, and chemist, Alvin; William Dodson, afterwards gold medalist from the University of Michigan; Robert McKeown, a genial Irishman at present merchant, Bay City, Mich.; Joseph Graham, who, although he has devoted a considerable amount of his time to farming interests, is still connected with school work, as district superintendent in Dakota, U.S.; N. D. Gunn, afterwards gold medalist from McGill College, graduate of John Hopkins University, and now member of medical faculty of the first mentioned college; Duncan Taylor, afterwards farmer near Belmont village; Florence Ross, afterwards of Nebraska; H. F. Smith; Sidney Silcox, afterwards gold medalist from Toronto University, and at present science master of Collingwood College Institute; Maggie McPherson, who obtained the gold medal at Ottawa Normal School, and later on removed to Toronto; Samuel Piper, whose brief but brilliant career as a high school student is not yet forgotten. He died in the midst of his usefulness on March 12th, 1890 at the age of nineteen, and lies in the cemetery east of the village. Thomas O'Donnell, now principal of Wallaceburg separate school; Blake Miller, at present student at Ayer's College Institute; Charles Lamley, now dental student, St. Thomas and finally J. W. Brown, the present incumbent.

In looking over the trustee's books it is very noticeable that each secretary has remained in office for many years; among the names might be mentioned those of William Harris, Matthew Lodge, J. B. Lowther, John Liddell and William McLandress.

Dr. Eosles, member of the medical faculty of Western University, and the well known London apothecary, Dr. Douglas Deacon, Montreal, Dr. Rosegrange, Eosles, Blissett, Mich., Dr. L. E. Clark, Otago, Mich., as well as the following teachers were pupils of this school: Daniel Sinclair, Peter Sinclair, Duncan Sinclair, Henry Harris, Duncan McAlpine, Joseph Graham, N. D. Gunn, Samuel Piper, Charles Lamley and J. W. Brown.

Among the very earliest settlers of Iona proper or that part called Ellersville were William Taylor, a Scotchman, and Mrs. Mary Gibson from Canby, the latter of whom died recently at the advanced age of eighty-eight. This part of Iona, situated on the Dunwich side of townline, was so called from a survey made into village lots by the late George Elliott, grandfather of Geo. E. Casey, M. P.

Taylor introduced into business in 1846 a Mr. Grossett McKay, of Lunenburg, who so far as is known, carried on the first mercantile business in Iona. After his death his widow married Francis A. Tate, a shoe maker.

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For fifty years W. H. Backus has lived in Dunwich township, and there are few better known or more highly respected residents in the county. He was born on the lake line shore in 1846, and during most of his life followed farming, as a vocation, and has during brought him in touch with the farming community. Eight years ago he went into the implement business at Wallacestown, where he remained until five years ago, when he came to Dutton to follow the same occupation. By reason of his wide acquaintance with farmers, and his uniformity of dealing, he has worked up a big trade in the implement business. He represents the Newcomb Bros. of Iagrowell, the American Plow Works, Adams' Wagon Company, and is also agent for the Ontario Engine Company. He has a large supply of everything in the way of farming machinery, including binders, mowers, rakes, wagons, buggies, etc. His business, this year, has been double what it was in former years. For two years he has been a member of the village council.

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## ALMA COLLEGE.

Something of St. Thomas' Seminary of Learning.

Writing at this date it is not definitely decided whether the Governor General and the Countess will be entertained at Alma College or elsewhere, but it is tolerably likely that the College will be utilized for this function. Lord Aberdeen's secretary has written Principal Dr. Austin that the Governor General and his lady will be pleased to visit the College, on the occasion of their visit to St. Thomas. He will be asked, at the same time, to present the Governor General's medal to Miss Dora Ferguson, the successful competitor at the recent examinations.

In this issue the JOURNAL publishes a cut of the College, together with that of its able Principal, who, for so many years, has been identified with the institution, and whose energy and business capacity has placed the College on its present excellent footing.

The main building is, in extreme length, one hundred and fifty feet, and in extreme width, seventy-three feet. Its form on the ground plan is, however, irregular, owing to the breaks in the wall, creating projections and recesses here and there for the purpose of substantial construction, as well as for beauty. The principal feature in the design is the main tower and spire, which together stand one hundred and thirty-six feet above the level of the grounds outside.

McLachlin Hall, erected to meet requirements for additional class-room and dormitory accommodation, is joined to the south-west corner of the main building, and is in extreme dimensions 40 x 75 feet. The architectural plans are in harmony of design with the main building. It is five stories high, including basement, is flanked by round towers on the west corner, and presents an imposing appearance, especially when viewed in perspective of both buildings. This new building provides an audience hall and an art studio such the full size of the building, classrooms, dormitories, piano-rooms, besides storerooms, etc. The interior is handsomely finished in oil ash; the corridors are spacious, the ceiling high, and each room is provided with independent ventilation. Steam heating, which has been found so satisfactory in the main building, is used in the new building. The Art Studio is one of the finest in the country, the Audience Hall commodious, and the dormitories cozy and comfortable.

The College site embraces over eight acres of land in the centre of the city. A wooded ravine runs through a portion of it in a manner that greatly enhances the value of the grounds for school purposes, affording picturesque, shady resorts, and convenient and pretty spots for landscape sketches.

Drives and walks, lawns and flower beds have been laid out, trees and shrubbery planted, and other improvements made, adding greatly to the natural beauty of the grounds.

It is a matter of congratulation that the

history of the first fifteen years of Alma College is in many respects one of unparalleled success. Starting with an attendance of between fifty and sixty, it has averaged over one hundred and fifty pupils each year in the various classes.

Courses of study have been carefully laid down in Literature, Music, Fine Art, Commercial Science and Education, upon all of which students are entering with a spirit of earnest diligence that gives promise of successful scholarship.

The many evidences of increasing public confidence and favor in the patronage received by the school from all the Christian churches, in the favorable criticisms of the press, and in the commendation of educators and public men, must be highly gratifying to all friends of Alma College.

Another gratifying fact in connection with the work of the school is the success that has attended its students in examinations conducted by the Education Department. Alma College students have won 1,025 certificates in the Art Department, including 57 Primary and 36 Advanced Teachers' certificates, 31 mechanical subjects, 83 paintings, 11 china paintings and 3 bronze medals, 3 silver medals and 2 gold medal certificates, within the past twelve years.

Several have obtained Public School Teachers' certificates. Of those candidates who have studied at Alma College, and who have written on Teachers' Examinations, about 65 per cent. have been successful.

Of the one hundred and eighty-five young ladies who have graduated at Alma College, over sixty have received College appointments as professors and teachers, or other educational positions, in which they are utilizing the practical education received in these halls.

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The faculty of Alma College, recognizing their responsibility to the founders and friends of this institution "for the higher education of women," and to the general public, determined to make the course of instruction in each department broad and practical, the examinations thorough, and the certificates and diplomas indicative of real proficiency. They recognize gladly the rapid advancement in the educational work of the public and high schools, the higher standards of qualification required in all the professions, and the urgent need of corresponding progress in the special work of a college for women. They have therefore resolved that the course of study, the methods of instruction, and the graduates sent out should testify to the public the solid character of the education obtained at Alma College.

No other institution of a similar nature offers better inducements for the proper education of young women. The college is supplied with a strong faculty; the course of instruction takes in every branch of study for which young women will have use in after life, such as art, literature, piano, violin, voice, elocution, commercial reading and such preparatory work as history, grammar, composition, arithmetic, science, drawing, physiology, etc.

Heretel Bros. are about as well known as any firm of tailors and gents' furnishees in Western Ontario, the senior member having gone into business in Dutton fifteen years ago, and besides a big local trade he has a large connection with commercial men, both in Canada and the States. The senior of the firm, J. C. Hertel, was born in Oakville of Columbia University. He received an appointment as one of the teachers on the staff of the Columbia University, commencing his duties on October 1st, next.

Two years later he took the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, writing a very able and exhaustive thesis on "The solution of a certain differential equation which presents itself in Laplace's Kinetic Theory of Tides," as a partial fulfillment of the requirements of such a degree in the faculty of pure science of Columbia University. He has since been appointed as one of the teachers on the staff of the Columbia University, commencing his duties on October 1st, next.

C. W. Hodder.

C. W. Hodder is one of Dutton's self-made men. Coming to Dutton fifteen years ago, he has steadily prospered until he is financially one of the substantial men of the town. This is all the more creditable to him from the fact that in his youth he had most youths possess. Mr. Hodder was

born near London in 1858, and with his father, farmed in Elfrid and Canadoc for several years. The family then took up a hundred acres of bush land in Dunwich township, which the younger Hodder was instrumental in clearing, when he left home to work for himself at the age of twenty-one. For a number of years he followed farming, after which he learned the baking business at Melbourne. Fifteen years ago he came to Dutton and established himself in the baking business. He did a large business from the outset, which he retained by looking closely after it. He has agencies established at Wallacestown, Tyrone, Iona, Iona Station and Middlemills. Besides owning the block he is in, Mr. Hodder has a fifty-acre farm adjacent to the village and three houses in the village.

J. S. Ostrander.

J. S. Ostrander belongs to the younger business element of Dutton, and although

only twenty-five years of age, has one of the best watch and jewelry businesses to be found in the smaller towns in the west. Like his two brothers, he comes from Middleton township, near Tilsonburg, where he learned his trade, and remained until four years ago, when he came to Dutton and entered into business for himself. After being in business for two years and a-half, he, like almost every one else, suffered from fire, and for several months was without a place of business, until his brother built the Ostrander block, fitting up this particular store especially for the jewelry trade. The shop is a model in its purpose, dressed in natural wood, with convenient shelving, show cases, etc. Mr. Ostrander carries a large stock, and one that meets with every requirement of a village. He pays special attention to watch and clock repairing, engraving, etc., a long apprenticeship qualifying him to give the best satisfaction.

George Herbert Ling, M. A. Ph. D.

Few young men can boast of a more successful career than the subject of this sketch. Although only twenty-two years of age, he is a Doctor of Philosophy, and has secured the degree of Master of Arts. Dr. Ling is a son of Dr. George Ling, of Wallacestown, where he was born in the year 1874. At an early age he developed a remarkable aptitude for learning, and from the time he entered school until to-day he has been a wonder to his teachers, reading, penetrating problems of the most difficult nature, and