

BOOK 2

TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY
OF

GRAND BEND

&

SURROUNDING COMMUNITY
1962

"Foreword"

I am so glad to hear that the Women's Institutes of Ontario are going to compile village history books. Events move very fast nowadays; houses are pulled down, new roads are made, and the aspect of the countryside changes completely sometimes in a short time.

It is a most useful and satisfying task for Women's Institute members to see that nothing valuable is lost or forgotten, and women should be alert always to guard the traditions of their homes, and to see that water colour sketches and prints, poems and prose legends should find their way into these books. The oldest people in the village will tell us fascinating stories of what they remember, which the younger members can write down, thus making a bridge between them and events which happened before they were born. After all, it is the history of humanity which is continually interesting to us, and your village histories will be the basis of accurate facts much valued by historians of the future. I am proud to think that you have called the "The Tweedsmuir Village Histories".

—Written by Lady Tweedsmuir.



The Adelaide Hunter Hoodless
Homestead



THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE FOUNDER OF
WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

ST. GEORGE, ONTARIO BRANT CO.

ADELAIDE HOOOLES
&
HOMESTEAD

FOUNDER of the Women's Institute

- 1897 -

The Second Edition
An Exposition of the Tweedsmuir History Book
of
The Grand Bend Women's Institute
"Lo"

A nation as rich in history as in natural resources, Canada is in its greatest stage of development. Behind this phenomenal growth lie many courageous and significant undertakings and events. It has been through these pioneer daily struggles that the foundation was laid for the comfortable life now enjoyed by many. These pioneer men and women have passed to reward after serving their generation, and their efforts should not remain unsung.

"Preface"

This illustrated book an eternal principal and challenge to the heart and mind depicts a survey of historical events of important interest to many. Peering into its allurements and accomplishments they have marked a magnificent purpose.

Among its gleanings, down through the ages being prepared to give fuller exposition that a knowledge of history is essential to modern progress and future greatness. We owe much to the acknowledgement made in the footnotes of many whose published work has helped us. It is on these encounters we shall rely as persuasive evidence into history which gives meaning to the memories of Yesterday — Work of Today and Hope for Tomorrow.

"Our past years are finite margins, placed as God's eternal boundaries for our painting on His greatest work of Art."

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March Meeting for 1959 —

— Historical Research —

As Convener of Historical Research, First, I would be remiss at this time did I not mention how truly grateful I am to you for the courtesy extended to Mrs. Walper and myself in allowing us the privilege and pleasure of presenting our two very precious historical principles the Tweedsmuir History Book and rug on the "At Home" show with Hope Barber on Jan. 19, 1959.

I appreciate this opportunity of appearing with Hope Barber on her very fine TV programme. I assure you it is something which I never anticipated, but will remain in my memory as a rich and treasured experience.

During this year, on the verge of a new era in the history of our organizations. Tales of pioneer life have been preserved in many ways but one of the most unique is by way of our looked highly Grand Bend Women's Institute. The scene depicts a saw mill with the huge mill turned by the force of water rushing over a barrier of stakes and logs constructed across the stream by the early settlers. The design commemorating the site of the Brewster Dam and the beauty of its distinctive colours have been a delight to the eye of many, while the significance of that design depicts the scene of a place where time stands still and yesterday returns and the eternal principle symbolized by those distinctive colours challenge and thrill the heart and mind.

Fashions and customs — even the very patterns of our living may change with the passing years, but once

History has been made it does not change. This rug was
hooked as a group project and was entered in a Salada Tea
Competition in 1954. It was awarded first prize in
South Huron district of nine branches. The design was copied
from an illustration by Clare Bice of London in Dr. Sherwood
Fox's book "T Aint Runnin' No More" the story of Grand Bend,
the Pinery and the Old river bed.

The History Book — This book has sketched, in brief fashion,
only a few of the many allurements, accomplishments of which
we have reason to be particularly proud. It is hoped that the
facts that are presented will do more than show a few highlights
— that they will stimulate further inquiry into Canada's
achievements and her place in the world.

The Crest — The glorious emblem of our organization, a
fulfillment of our Watchword for Home and Country —
will be the crowning touch in our History Book and
that our motto for Home and Country will prevail.

The design of the Oak Leaf and Acorn — Standing back from
this amazing universe, the design of the Oak Leaf and acorn.
They have marked a magnificent purpose through the years
and depict beyond description the beauty of the parks associated
with the village and vast surroundings of Grand Bend.
Among which through this and the mist of years holds to
many or all of us many fond memories.

The Sprig of Pine — Lured by its natural beauty
we are interested in the development of the Pinery as
a Provincial Park. We look upon this trend as an
important factor in the great cause of human betterment
and as a necessary contribution in the development of this
great and growing community. To keep renewed

memories of the Past many pine trees are being planted
to illuminate more truly steps to keep alive in this and
future generations memories of the Past. It is on these
encounters we rely as persuasive evidence into history
which gives meaning to the memories of Yesterday - Work
of Today - and Hope for Tomorrow. This endeavor should
appeal to every resident of the district whether rural or urban. The
face of countryside is changing daily and we cannot afford to
let the past be forgotten.

"Army" Wrecks - Dam

Every summer season a number of the summer visitors to Grand Bend become interested in the historic site of Brewster dam, now a part of the Southcott Pines sub-division.

In an article in The Exeter Times-Advocate in 1938 the late W. H. Johnston relates the following history:

"In 1832 Brewster & Co. bought from the Canada Company a mill site and power privileges therefor on the Aux Sable River. The new proprietors built a dam at once, and their mill proved to be a successful one. One old-timer said at the height of their success they employed 300 hands.

"The damming of the river proved to be their undoing in the end. The Aux Sables runs through a fertile plain of almost level country, but in the 1840's it might almost be classed as swamp lands. The Aux Sables, a sluggish stream, drained it imperfectly, and after Brewsters dam was built the effect would have been disastrous if the country had been closely settled.

Land flooded

"The water was backed up and large portions of the townships of Williams, Biddulph, Mc Gillivray and Stephen were flooded. In the 50's settlers began to locate in the territory affected by the overflow. The mill and their owners became unpopular, and the Canada Company instigated legal proceedings against the company some 19 years after granting them the privilege of erecting a dam and mill, and sought damages for the flooding of their lands.

The proprietors filed a bill of chancery to refrain the company from taking legal action, and this relief was granted by

Chancellor Blake on the principle of law and justice that 'when a person has stood by seeing an act or has consented to it shall not use his legal rights in opposition to that permission.' Chancellor Blake, was the father of Samuel and the Honorable Edward Blake, who won a wide reputation for honest interpretation of the law.

"Though the proprietors had won their case, they offered to demolish their dam on the payment of compensation by the company, but the latter refused to consider the offer.

Crowd destroyed mill

"The people settled the matter by organizing a vigilance committee from the flooded area, and a crowd destroyed the dam and mill, and for a long time thereafter there was no mill in the vicinity."

Dr. Sherwood Fox, former president of the University of Western Ontario, in his book "T'aint Runnin' No More" describes the destruction of Brewster dam as follows: "So one night after many years of endurance - it was in the early years of 1860's - a diminutive army of peasants was secretly mustered in the forest. At a given signal it advanced upon the dam and mill. Armed with un-martial weapons of the backwoods - axe, canthook, spades, pick, crowbar, and flaming pineknot - in a few minutes the attackers tore the flimsy makeshifts down and set fire to all that remained above water.

"The liberated stream dashed through the breaches towards its goal as though exulting in its freedom from regimentation. Nature was left as the sole arbiter of success or failure in the tilling of the valley lands above. Another improvement of man

upon Nature had been sent down the river and up in
smoke."

Today the site of Brewster's dam may be found at
the rear of the R.C. Church south of Grand Bend. A
plaque outlining the history of the dam has been erected
on the highway in front of the church by the Grand Bend
W.I. and Oux Sable Conservation Authority.

"Shipka 50 Years Ago"

The following history of Shipka was written by Edward Lampart, then deputy - reeve of Stephen Township and appeared in the Times - Advocate on July 21, 1938. We have copied this history from the late Simon Sweitzer's scrap book:

Shipka, located on the corner of the 16th concession of the Township of Stephen, is on the county road known as the Creditors Road - six and a quarter miles from Creditors, six and a quarter miles from Dashwood, twelve miles from Exeter, eleven miles from Parkhill, five and a half miles from Grand Bend.

Stephen Township has a total area of 56,988 acres a population of 2,578 people and contains four police villages, Centralia, Creditors, Dashwood and Grand Bend.

The township officials for 1938 were: Reeve Chester Mawhinney; deputy Reeve Edward Lampart; councillors Edmund Shapton, Exeter; R. Ratz, Dashwood; Tom Love, Parkhill; Road Superintendent George Elber, Creditors; Clerk and Treasurer, H. K. Elber, Creditors.

In the 1880's Shipka was called Slabtown, owing to the large piles of slabs piled around the place. In 1876 Charles Elber, who lived near Creditors, built a sawmill at Shipka and operated it for a number of years and later sold it to John Parsons and Norman Buchanan.

These men ran the mill for a number of years until in 1888 they sold it to Samuel Sweitzer, who built a flax mill. In 1910 these mills burned but they were built again and later the flax mill sold to the Ontario Flax Company, with headquarters at Belfast, Ireland. Later the flax business went bad and the mill was sold for farm buildings.

To return to Samuel Sweitzer. He was a good man for the village of Shipka. He served in Stephen Twp., council for a good

many years, also in the County Council. His sons, William and Matthew, conducted an apple butter factory and chopping mill, and later the mills were burned. William served 17 years on the Stephen Township Council and in 1935 he was warden of the County of Huron.

In 1874 Frederick Hertzman built a general store at Shipka and kept store for a number of years, he also drew the mail to Kihiva.

In 1892 Jacob and Henry Kellerman built another general store. The store later occupied by A. G. Webb. Henry Kellerman moved to Michigan and died there. Jacob operated a large farm north of Shipka.

In 1875 John Ryan built a blacksmith shop at Shipka. Today it is being operated by Charles Lochner.

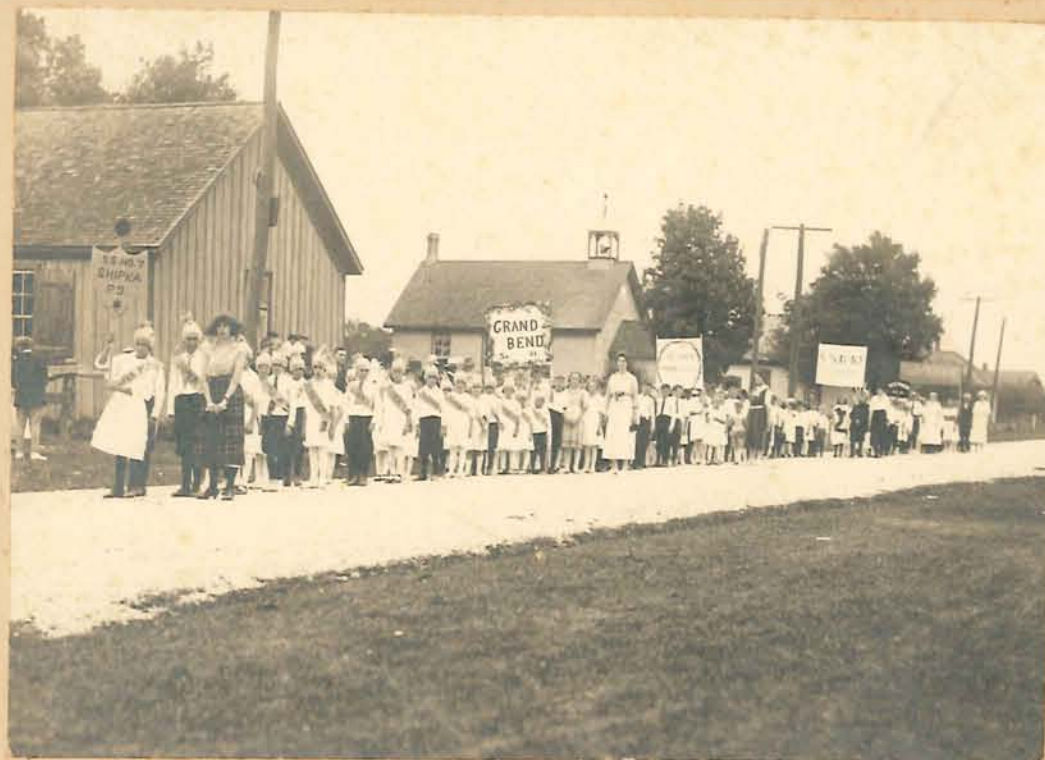
In 1874 Valentine and John Ratz came up from Waterloo County and bought the sawmill east of Shipka, formerly owned by William Fulton, Walter McDougall was the mill foreman. The Ratz brothers bought several hundred acres, mostly timber land.

Valentine Ratz served on the Township Council and later was elected a member of parliament and afterwards appointed a senator.

Some of the early settlers were Gaisers, Finkbeiners, Switzers, Keough, McPhee, Sharps, Hartons, Pickering and Keys. In some cases the third generation are settled on these farms.

A Methodist Church was built in 1888. It is now an United Church. There is also a public school at Shipka, known as school section No. 7.

S C H O O L S



RR Fallows
Goderich, Ont.

MACABEE HALL

BRICK SCHOOL

SCHOOL FOR LOWER GRADES

TEACHER MRS. EDNA DESJARDINE



"School Reunion."



What - Reunion of U.S.S. No. 15, Hay and Stephen.

When - Saturday, September 4, 1965.

Time - 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Where - School Grounds.

Who - All former pupils and members of the section.

Requirements - Your presence!

Your help!

Your interest!

Your co-operation!

1. each family to bring own picnic basket plus { dishes and flatware.

2. short history of your farm from as far back as possible to present date.

3. any old photographs, pictures, documents or interesting materials relating to the school section.

4. but most important - would you please notify any members of your own family, and any others who have been connected with your place or farm, of this planned reunion.

If unable to attend, we would be happy to acknowledge "Greetings" received from any one, during the afternoon.

The little white brick school house reports on
reunion



Weyburn school Hay and Stephen

By Mrs Janet DesJardine

My school door closed on June 29, 1965. A few days later Mr and Mrs Pepper came in and did a thorough cleaning job. How happy I felt to be clean and tidy over the summer

months.

Then one day about one month later I heard footsteps coming in the driveway and a key turned in the lock. It was Ross Lumbull and he left carrying a whole armful of the old record books. What was up? I didn't have long to wait. Saturday, September 4th dawned clear and as the morning wore away, it became quite hot. The twelve o'clock whistle sounded in the distance. Shortly after, the school-yard became a real beehive of activity. Picnic tables were set up in the eastern part of the yard. A registration table was placed near the school door, and inside a picture collection was displayed on the table. The reason, have you guessed? Of course a reunion of all the pupils who had, at one time or another, attended this place of learning, since the year 1894 when I was built.

Of the 39 teachers, who had spent one year or more teaching here, 8 were present, 16 had passed away, and several more were unaccounted for. Everybody spent a happy time reminiscing, particularly the older ones. I noticed the more recent pupils enjoying a game of football and

softball, also the teters and swings.

A short program was held, with prizes being given to the oldest pupil present - namely Lloyd Taylor, now living in Exeter; the oldest teacher present - Mrs Lulu (Snider) MacGregor, now living in London, and the pupil having come the greatest distance - Mrs Charlotte (Spackman) Alton of Victoria, B. C. Fergus Turnbull acted as chairman, his son Ross who represents this section on the Hay Township School Board said a few words, as well as introducing the Chairman of the Board, Ian Mc Allister, who gave a short address. Mrs Ray Waghorn a former teacher now as inspector of public schools at Brantford made a few fitting remarks. Mrs. Alma (Hendrick) Westlake, Mrs. Ada (Keller) Telfer and Mrs. Martha (Rader) Merner, also helped in bringing the program to a successful close.

Following this a picnic lunch was enjoyed by all. Looking over the registration, at least 200 had registered. Seven o'clock the yard was cleared and the key again turned in my lock. Certainly I'm sad but happy too after having witnessed this glad reunion!

What will be my fate? I do not know, but to all my former pupils, the best of luck. God bless you all and adieu.

our /

"Programme for Reunion"

- 1.- The Queen
O Canada
The Lord's Prayer. - (minutes' silence in respect to those who have passed on)
- 2.- Chairman's Remarks.
- 3.- Remarks from Member or Members of School Board Present. - our representative - Ross who could introduce any others.
- Remarks from any other distinguished member such as - receive (etc.)
- 4.- ^{Alma White} History of the school read from the General Register (any teachers present. - please acknowledge, those not present, greetings to be read.) ^{Edith Telfer}
- 5.- Inspector's Remarks.
- 6.- Acknowledgements. - oldest pupil present (gift)
- oldest teacher " (gift)
- person who has come the greatest distance (gift)
- 7.- Last remarks of the little white brick school-house to be given by. - Martha Merner
- 8.- Any who has not registered please do so.
- * 9.- Visiting time for older members.
Play time for children in west portion of the school yard.
- 10.- Picnic Supper at 5 p.m.

* Suggested Sing Song - led by music teacher if any is present.

Please sign here.

Name	Maiden Name	Address
Mr & Mrs Henry Becker	Annie Brandt	Dashwood
Mrs. Vada Moulton	Vada Kertlich	Dashwood (milk)
Jim & Debbie Fee		586 N. Glenhurst Birmingham
Mr & Mrs Carl Weiberg	Della Fischer	R.R. 1. Centralia.
Rosetta M. Laub (Rader)	94 Sanders W.	Exeter Ont.
Frieda (Howard) Bierling		Exeter Ontario
Mr & Mrs A. B. Stucky	Maion. Tumbue	R.R. 1 Dashwood.
W. H. Schroeder		R. 2 Dashwood
Mr. Emil Becker	Katherine Freser	Dashwood
Mrs. & Mrs. Wm. Beerling	Edith Beerling	Dashwood
Mrs. Susie Spritzer	Susie Schroeder	Dashwood.
Mrs. Egmout Bruer	Elfriede Schroeder	New Hamburg
Mrs. Marie Maier	Marie Burmeister	790 Quebec St. London.
Miss Lynda Luther		R.R. 1 Dashwood
Larry Luther		R.R. 1 Dashwood
Mr & Mrs N. Lundbrell	Adeline Harrow	Grand Bend
Miss Nancy Desjardine		
Mrs Lillian Brown	Lillian Wilson	Parkhill R.R. 3.
Mr. Russell Brown		Parkhill R.R. 3.
Jay Desjardine		R.R. 1 Dashwood
Norma Desjardine	Norma Jamison	
Mona Dodge	Mona Desjardine	36 Canoe Cres London
Mark Desjardine		R.R. 1 Dashwood
Cindy Dodge		London
Dorothy Dodge		London
Manford Luther		R.R. 1 Dashwood
Ada Keller	(Ada Keller)	369 Wellington St. Brantford
Carl Keller		
Robert Keller		
Greta Luther	Greta Baker	R.R. 1 Dashwood

S.S.#11

1894 - 1954

JUNE 1940



BACK ROW: H.W. BROKENSHERE, IVAN MASSE, ANTIONETTE MASSE,

JULIETTE MASSE, AUDREY GILL, ORTHA GAISER

CENTRE ROW: BLAISE DUCHARME, BOB JENNISON, HUGH HENDRICK,

LEO MASSE, MICHAEL MASSE, ELMORE BEIERLING, ARCHIE MASSE

FRONT ROW: JOHN HENDRICK, PETER MASSE, SHIRLEY PATTERSON

DOREEN HENDRICK, RUBY JENNISON, PRISCILLA MASSE,

ELGIN HENDRICK.