

History of Erin Township

Name

Erin Township is said to have been so named by the surveyors, because it was surveyed immediately after the Townships of Albion and Caledon. Albion suggested England, Caledon suggested Scotland, and it was thought fitting that the third should suggest Ireland; so they called it Erin, the poetic name for Ireland.

Survey

The survey of the Southern part of Erin Township started in 1819, by Deputy Surveyor Charles Kennedy of Esquesing Township, and Donald Black of Eramosa Twp. Starting at the east side, they continued across to the Eramosa boundary, as far as 17 sideroad, leaving a gore at the Eramosa side.

In 1820, the northern part of the township was surveyed. The 1906 Atlas names O'Reilly as one of the surveyors, but the History of Erin Township in 1967, states that Donald Black and John Burt continued the survey above 17 sideroad. But instead of beginning at the Caledon side, they started at the Eramosa side, ending up with a gore along the Caledon boundary. This accounts for the jog in the lines at 17 sideroad.

J.W. Burt had the instruments used by his father and Mr. Kennedy in the survey, and in 1956, Goldwin Burt presented these instruments to Wellington County Museum at Elora.

When the surveyors finished their arduous work, they were offered land in the newly-surveyed Township as their pay, or part of it; but not being favourably impressed with the wilderness, they refused to accept it. Mr. Kennedy was offered 1,000 acres, beginning at lot 14, on each side of the 9th line, to lot 17 inclusive; but in his refusal, he reported the land to be of little value.

Surveyors were offered tracts of Crown Land as part payment for their work. It is more than likely surveyors had more land than they could get rid of. It was the Land Office in Toronto that was in the business of selling land. Surveyors spent their lives in the bush.

However, this report made it easier for Donald McMillan to get all the land he needed in a block, almost at his own terms. As he was the first settler in that part of the Township, he obtained the land that Kennedy had refused, and was pleased with it. Since Mrs. McMillan was the first white woman in the area, the Crown made a gift to her, of lot 18, con. 9.

Soil

The Township of Erin contains 70,400 acres of land. The soil is described as clay and sandy loam. Most of the Township is very hilly, with beautiful scenery. Many city people are taking advantage of this when buying sites for new country homes since the 1960's.

Well drained by two trout streams, branches of the Credit River, on the east side of the Township, Erin boasts many clear springs bubbling out of its side-hills. The southern part of the Township drains westward, into the Eramosa River which joins the Speed River at Guelph and flows into the Grand river at Hespeler.

All streams and rivers in the early days, were well-filled with speckled trout. Trout weighing from one to five pounds were a common catch. But with the building of dams to operate sawmills and grist mills the salmon runs in the springtime came to a halt; and by 1855, salmon fishing in the Credit Valley came to an end, as it did in all Southern Ontario streams.

Land Purchases

Permission to use the rivers for fishing and water power, came as a result of the Land Purchase from the Crown. On August 2, 1805, the Crown purchased land from the Mississauga Indians, extending from Etobicoke to Burlington Bay, and reaching inland five or six miles. This was known as the "Old Purchase". Following the War of 1812-14, there was an increase of settlers to this area, and more land was needed. As a result, large tracts of land were added to the Crown's holdings between 1818 and 1825, in various parts of Ontario.

On October 28, 1818, the Mississauga Indians surrendered the remainder of their land, and their rights to the Credit River. This gave the early settlers the fishing and water power privileges.

Settlement

In spite of the Irish name, the Township of Erin was settled by many Scottish settlers, and very Scottish, at that. Erin Twp. had a Scottish Block. Gaelic became the universal language, and later, in Court sittings an interpreter was needed. Someone who could speak both Gaelic and English, fairly fluently, was sworn in as "Court Interpreter". McLaughlin McLean, being pretty free with the tongue, often acted in this capacity, giving general satisfaction.

McLean lived on the 8th line, below "Gooseberry Hill". How's Store on the 7th line was their closest trading point. Mrs. McLean spoke only Gaelic, so when going shopping, her husband always went along. On one occasion they started for the village, he carrying a large basket of eggs, she carrying a large basket of butter. Arriving at the 7th line corner, they met a neighbour who could always afford time for a chat. Mr. McLean deposited his basket on the ground, but Mrs. McLean, not wishing to gossip, picked up the basket and proceeded to the store. After emptying the baskets, Mr. How asked Mrs. McLean, "What will I show you"? Her reply in Gaelic needed interpretation. "Wait till Laughlin comes with the English", was a speech that was long remembered.

Many of the colourful stories in the history of Erin Township, were preserved in a 66-page booklet, written by C.J. McMillan about 1922. He was a descendant of the Pioneer McMillan family on the 9th line.

The first settler in Erin Township is said to have been Archibald Patterson, who came to lot 2, con. 8, but that is all that is known of him.

First Settlers

However, it is known that George and Nathaniel Roszell came in November 1820. Nathaniel settled on lot 1, con. 7, now Ballinafad, and is generally conceded to be the first settler in the Township. Their son, Benjamin, was the first white child born in Erin Twp., born in Nov. 1821. He was the father of John and Charles Roszell, who in 1922, were retired farmers living in Hillsburgh. Not believing in race suicide, Nathaniel did his share in populating the land of his adoption, and became the proud father of seventeen children. The Roszell families were hardworking people, and did their utmost to assist other early settlers. Descendants have spread to all parts of the County. The land was a grant for their part in War of 1812-14.

Second Settler

Was William How, the founder of Hillsburgh, who came in 1821, accompanied by his brother. On reaching lot 1, con. 7, they stayed with Roszells for the night. Mr. How set out next morning for lots 22 and 23, con. 7, accompanied by his wife and Mr. Roszell. By evening they had arrived at lot 23, and discovered a large fallen tree. With brush thrown up against it, they made a shelter for the night. Next morning they began building a rude shelter which they completed in three days, then Mr. Roszell returned home. Snow came on Nov. 9th that year,

and stayed until March. It was six months before Mrs. How welcomed another white woman to her home.

Wm. How started the first general store in Hillsburgh. He had four sons who did much for the prosperity of the community, by establishing a sort of Trading Post. They bought what produce the settlers had for sale, and teamed it to the nearest market, Oakville, over a bush trail.

Nazareth Hill

Arrived with his family in 1823, and settled on lot 25, con. 7. He started the first Hotel near where Lacey's store later stood. Until then the settlement had been known as Howville, but Mr. Hill became a foremost citizen, and imposed his name on the village, although it is commonly assumed that it received its name from the surrounding hills.

First Grist Mill

Was built by Aaron Wheeler on the west branch of the Credit River, soon after his arrival in 1824. His dam had a fall of six feet. The mill was driven by a breast-wheel ten feet in diameter. The log building was about 18 x 20 feet in size, one storey high, with a few loose boards laid across the beams for flooring. One of the gables was left open, and a few logs were laid from it to the bank, upon which to walk while carrying the bags of grist. One had to be careful to keep to the centre of the building while carrying the bags, or they could catch on the roof and get torn. The above description was written by John Dobbin in "Memoirs" he wrote in 1866, while he was Reeve of West Garafraxa Twp. The Dobbins came to Garafraxa in July 1826, and made one trip to Hillsburgh with grist. The mill was slow, and soon became inadequate to meet the needs of the increasing population.

Trout Family

Came to the Binkham area in spring of 1822. Other early settlers were Archibald Williams, L. Near, Abraham Buck, and Alex McArthur in 1824. They were soon followed by Aaron Teeter, John Dean, P. and W. Hill, Obadiah Reynolds, J. Shingler, and Dougal McGill.

First Council Meetings

The first Town Meeting was held in the house of Abraham Buck, on January 5th, 1824. Henry Trout, Sr., was appointed Town Clerk. Assessors were Henry Trout, Sr., and Archibald Patterson; Philander Hopkins was Collector. Wm. How was Poundkeeper, and Archibald Williams and Robert Neily were Town Wardens. In 1825, the Town Meeting was held at the house of Philander Hopkins; and in 1826, at the house of Matthew Smith. In 1827, it was held in the house of Stephen Clark, and at this meeting, Nehemiah Hopkins was appointed "Town" Clerk. In the New England States, the word "Town" still means township, and this may be the reason it was used by the early settlers. Many of them were United Empire Loyalists.

It is said that the first election was held on a pine stump across the road from Wilfred Burt's gate. If any improvements were to be made in the Township, it was necessary to collect tax money, thus the need to organize the Township business.

The location of the first Town Hall in Hillsburgh has not been established, but it was the site of early Nomination Meetings. The second Town Hall was erected in 1887. It was a two-storey building on Main Street, with the second floor being used as Lodge Rooms, sponsored by the Oddfellows and Workmen's society.

The third Township Office was erected on east side of Main Street in 1959, at a cost of \$27,000, but was short of parking space.

A new Municipal Office for Erin Township was officially opened on June 10, 1995. It is located south of Hillsburgh Village, beside the township Works Department Building, on six acres of land, on County Road #25.

The 1830 Census showed 75 households, with a population of 386, and 1154 acres under cultivation, one sawmill, one grist mill, 24 horses, 103 oxen, 137 cows, 91 young cattle, and assessment was £5,080, 8s. In 1835, population was 442, and there were six frame houses and one stone house. The number of live stock had doubled, as had the assessment.

Smith's History of Canada, published in 1851, states that "a road runs straight from Erin Village to the town of Guelph, passing through the town of Eramosa. After crossing the 7th line of Erin, the road which is new, becomes very bad, consisting of almost impassable hills, a long piece of corduroy crossing several cedar swamps, and two or three extensive tamarack swamps. Some of the homes are enlivened with flower gardens. The timber consists of maple, beech, hemlock, etc., with very little pine."

In 1841, Erin Township had 1368 residents. By 1850, the population had increased to 3,055, and there were 15,400 acres under cultivation.

Council Representatives

The Council of District of Wellington was organized in 1842, and representatives were:

1842 - George Henshaw
1843 - Peter McGill, George Henshaw
1844 - Peter McGill, Thomas Thompson
1846 - Daniel McMillan, Thomas Thompson
1847 - Daniel McMillan, George Henshaw
1849 - George Henshaw, Wm. Clarke

Council of Waterloo County

1850 - Wm. Clarke, Reeve; George Henshaw, Deputy
1851 - Wm. Clarke, Donald McBean

Council of United Counties of Wellington, Waterloo and Grey

1852 - Wm. Clarke, Charles McMillan
1853 - Wm. Clarke, George Henshaw

Wellington County Council - Reeves and Deputy-Reeves

1854 - Wm. Clarke, Robert L. Campbell
1855 - Peter McGill, James Lee
1856 - Peter McGill, Wm. Everdale
1859 - Wm. Everdale, Wm. Cornock
1860 - Peter McGill, Wm. Cornock
1861 - Peter McGill, Wm. Everdale
1862 - Peter McGill, Alex Binnie
1864 - George Martin, Alex Binnie
1867 - George Martin, Wm. Cornock
1868 - Wm. Cornock, Duncan McMillan
1869 - Duncan McMillan, Edward Johnson
1871 - Duncan McMillan, Charles McMillan
1872 - Duncan McMillan, Edward Johnson

1873 - Duncan McMillan, John Berry
1874 - Duncan McMillan, Wm. Teeter
1876 - Duncan McMillan, John W. Burt
1877 - J.W. Burt, Charles McMillan
1878 - J.W. Burt, R.H. Reid (Second Deputy added)
1880 - J.W. Burt, Charles McMillan, Robert A. Reid
1884 - J.W. Burt, Charles McMillan, Lachlin Currie
1885 - J.W. Burt, Charles McMillan, James Kirkwood
1886 - J.W. Burt, James Kirkwood George Robinson
1888 - James Kirkwood, Robert A. Reid, George Robinson
1889 - James Kirkwood, Henry Dunbar, George Robinson
1890 - James Kirkwood, Thomas Tolton, George Robinson
1891 - James Kirkwood, Robert Lang, Henry Dunbar
1892 - Robert Lang, George Robinson, Peter McGill
1893 - Robert Lang, George Robinson, Robert A. Reid
1894 - Robert Lang, John Duff, Robert A. Reid
1895 - Robert Lang, Archibald Currie, Robert A. Reid
1896 - Robert Lang, John Duff, Archibald McLachlan
1897 - Archibald McLachlan, George Beer, Thomas Dearing
1900 - Archibald McLachlan, John Duff, (second Deputy dropped)
1901 - Archibald McLachlan, John Wilson
1902 - Alex McKinnon (Deputy was dropped)
1903 - Andrew J. Lindsay
1904 - Thomas Dearing

From 1897 - 1906, a system was introduced to reduce the unwieldy number of members attending County Council. The County was divided into "Divisions". Erin Township, Erin Village and Eramosa Township were in Division #2. From 1897 - 1902, Robert Lang represented Division #2; 1903 - 1906, Alex McKinnon was the representative.

1907 - Alex McKinnon, A.B. Murray (Deputy again)
1909 - Alex McKinnon, Edward Marshall
1910 - John W. Sutton, E.T. Barbour
1911 - John W. Sutton, Andrew McKecknie, (Deceased); Ed. Marshall
1912 - John W. Sutton, Ephriam T. Barbour
1913 - Alex McKinnon, E.T. Barbour
1914 - Alex McKinnon, Wesley Jessop
1916 - Alex McKinnon, Ebenezer Beswick
1918 - Alex McKinnon, James Milloy
1919 - James Milloy, Wesley Jessop
1920 - James Milloy, R.W. Tarswell
1921 - James Milloy, Joseph Benham
1923 - Joseph Benham, David J. Sinclair
1924 - R.W. Tarswell, David J. Sinclair
1925 - David J. Sinclair, George Bryan
1928 - David J. Sinclair, James McKinnon
1929 - James McKinnon, Henry Wheeler
1932 - Henry Wheeler, John McFee
1936 - John McFee, Neil E. McKinnon
1939 - Neil E. McKinnon, Henry Wheeler
1940 - Neil McKinnon, Edgar Huxley
1944 - Edgar Huxley, Arthur Swackhamer
1946 - Arthur Swackhamer, Goldwin Burt
1948 - Goldwin Burt, George D. Scott
1950 - Goldwin Burt, Albert Wheeler
1952 - Albert Wheeler, Harold Griffin
1955 - Harold Griffin, George C. Wallace
1959 - George C. Wallace, Melwood Barden
1962 - Mel Barden, Robert A. Rowan

1966 - Jan. - Robert Rowan, resigned due to ill health
1966 - Mel Barden, Alex Jackson
1967 - Alex Jackson, Stanley Fuller
1969 - Stanley Fuller, Lloyd Lang
1971 - Lloyd Lang, Donald Matheson
1975 - Donald Matheson, Bert Wheeler
1979 - Bert Wheeler, John Reid
1981 - Bert Wheeler, Jo Schneider
1985 - Jo Schneider, Duncan Armstrong
1987 - Aug. - Jo Schneider, resigned
1987 - Duncan Armstrong, George Root
1991 - Duncan Armstrong, John Holder
1994 - Barbara Tocher, George Root

Wardens from Erin Twp.

1906 - Alex McKinnon
1922 - James Milloy
1927 - David J. Sinclair
1938 - John McFee
1951 - Goldwin C. Burt
1961 - George C. Wallace
1974 - Lloyd Lang
1983 - Bert Wheeler

Clerks

1855 - Wm. Pylor or Tyler
1870 - Charles Ferguson
1874 - Wm. Pylor
1889 - Thomas Young
1912 - Peter McLean
1915 - Sam Huxley
1926 - James Milloy (July)
1932 - Archie Milloy (June)
1936 - James McKinnon
1943 - John McFee
1944 - George Bryan
1958 - G.T. Lacey
1961 - Bert Berry (Oct.)
1962 - Elmer McKinnon
1977 - Clive Beardwood
1980 - Dave Emmons
1985 - Murray Clarke
1996 - Lisa Hass

Treasurers

1956 - Bert Berry
1982 - Jackie Wagenaar
1987 - Sharon Marshall

Members of Parliament

James Kirkwood of lot 9, con. 2, Erin Twp., Reeve from 1888 - 1891, was elected M.P.P. for East Wellington in 1891, and sat in the Legislature for three years.

John Root of lot 20, con. 3, Erin Twp. was elected to represent Wellington-Dufferin in the Ontario Legislature in 1951. On Dec. 22, 1958, he was appointed a Minister without Portfolio in the Cabinet of Premier Leslie Frost.

When Premier John Robarts formed the Government in 1961, he invited John Root to serve on the Ontario Water Resources Commission, of which he became Vice Chairman, and Chairman. Descendant of a Mennonite Minister, his family is the fifth generation living on their Century Farm.

John had served as President of the Baptist Convention in Ontario and Quebec, representing 52,000 Baptists. In his maiden speech in the Legislature in 1952, he advocated setting up a Pioneer Village to preserve the story of Ontario's development. His speech is credited with sparking a revival of public interest in Ontario History.

John Root resigned in 1975, after 24 years of faithful service; and in June 1976, an Appreciation Night was held in Grand Valley for John and Lillie Root, who were never too busy to chat with their constituents, in an effort to understand their problems.

Under School Sections each area of the Township will be dealt with, including the village of Hillsburgh, S.S. #6. The School Sections were numbered as they were developed.

But since Erin village had its own Council Representatives, it will be dealt with separately. It was S.S. #2.

Century Farms

43 Century Farms in Erin Twp., were marked by the Junior Farmers Organization for Centennial year, 1967. The oldest Century Farm was that of John Kirkwood, W-1/2 lot 3, con. 11, dating back to 1828.

S.S. #1--Plugtown

"Plugtown" was the name given to the area of the Township in the east corner, one of the earliest settlements. The log school was believed to have been the first in the Township. It was built on the west corner of lot 5, con. 11. The little settlement included a blacksmith shop, cheese factory, dance hall, two houses and a cemetery. The second school was built of stone, and was located on the opposite corner of 5 sideroad and the 10th line. The brick school was built in 1885, beside the other. This third school was burned down in January 1934, destroying all records.

The fourth school was also of brick, and was built that summer. It is still standing and has become a modern home. In 1947, S.S. No. 1, joined Erin Township School Area. In June 1964, the school was closed, and the children were taken to the Central School at Brisbane in September by bus.

The blacksmith shop was on the west corner. It was operated by Peter Ferguson who later moved to Ballinafad.

The dance hall was on the south corner of lot 5, con. 10.

One of the two houses was where Alexander McLaughlin, the noted poet, lived. One of his verses and a sketch of a sheaf of wheat were carved into a stone over the barn door in the John Jackson barn. The stone is now on display at Rockwood Academy, having been purchased by Mr. Drenters in 1966.

Cemetery

The Old McLaughlin Cemetery is on lot 6, con. 10, and is now abandoned. Some of the stones have been taken away. Poet McLachlin later moved to Erin Village.

Providence Chapel Burying Ground is located on lot 1, on the 9th line. There was a Chapel on the east corner, which was surrounded by this churchyard. The iron gate was hand-made by blacksmith Dan Reid. Earliest stones show burials of a McEnery child in 1832; the young wife of Arthur Lynden in 1843; and William Anthony, aged 27, in 1844. This cemetery was used until 1962.

One citizen who lived to a remarkable age was Mrs. James Young, the former Agnes Smith, who died in 1939, in her 107th year. Her daughter, Barbara, died the same day, in her 80th year, and a double funeral was held.

Early settlers included Beer, Kirkwood, McLean, McEachern, Thompson, all before 1840.

Belfountain and McLaren's Castle in Caledon Township are very close to this eastern corner of Erin Township, with many close associations.

McLaren Castle, located just south of Belfountain in the Caledon Hills, is said to be a miniature of a castle in Perthshire, Scotland, with 20 rooms and high ceilings. It was completed in 1884, by James McLaren, who came to the area from Scotland in the 1860's. Named "The Grange", it had a winding driveway through a grove of trees. It had a tall Norman Tower with a circular stone staircase, from the top of which could be seen smoke from the steam ships entering Toronto Harbour, on a clear day.

Located on 300 acres of land, the third floor is said to have been a secret meeting place for the first Co-operatives in Ontario, a men's group known as The Grange. In 1905, the author's mother, Kate McFadzean, R.N., graduated from Fergus Hospital; and she nursed one of two young men at the Castle, sons of the owner, because of pneumonia. Their photograph is in Wellington County Museum Archives.

It was son, Alex McLaren who lived there until the 1930's. His daughter, Grace McLaren married Elmer McKinnon, long-time Clerk of Erin Twp. The Castle was badly damaged by fire in 1964, but repaired.

MacDonald-Gibson Family

Settled first on lot 1, con. 6, Caledon Twp., and spread northward into Erin Twp., Garafraxa, Luther, and further afield.

The Patriarch, John MacDonald, 1764-1840, and his wife, Margaret Gibson, 1767-1845, had a large family, and left Greenoch, Scotland in April 1820, in the sailing boat, "Young Norval". The trip lasted six weeks, they were becalmed off Newfoundland, and ran into fog. At Quebec City they were transferred to "Durham Boats", and at Brockville they boarded a schooner for Little York (Toronto).

John MacDonald, aged 56 years, was the spokesman, and asked for a block of land for his 8 children, all married, most of them with families of their own. Others followed later. He settled on lot 1, con. 6, Caledon Twp., and was surrounded by his children. He and his wife were buried in McDonald Cemetery, a mistake in the spelling when the sign was erected. Their family married well-known families who settled in Erin Twp. Family of ten:

1. John MacDonald, Jr., married Jane Smith. Browns, Brooks and Felkers are descendants. Some of the Browns lived at McLaren Castle for a time.
2. Dan (Quaker) MacDonald married Rachel Trout. Harris, Nunn and McArthur families are descendants.
3. Alex MacDonald, (The Scribe), married Lizzie Forgie. Harris, Kirkwood, Smith, Nunn and Akitt families are descendants.
4. William MacDonald married Lizzie McNaughton and moved to USA.

5. James (Jim Peel) MacDonald married Lenora Newton. Allen, Campbell, Cooper and Charters families are descendants.
6. Annie MacDonald married Jim Reid.
7. Margaret MacDonald married William Kirkwood. McLaughlin, Thompson, Beer, Douglas, Near, Patullo, and Trout are descendants.
8. Jane MacDonald married Charles Haines. Descendants are Cameron and Wilkinson.
9. Janet MacDonald married twice, Mr. McLoed and Mr. Wilson. Patterson, Haines, Mountain, Morley, Thompson are descendants.
10. Mary McDonald married John Eddley.

The MacDonald Family was accompanied by Mrs. MacDonald's brother, David Gibson, who was skilled in Experimental Farming in Scotland, and with advice, and by example, was able to guide other pioneers in their farming procedures. It is said that "all the Gibsons in this area are descendants from this one man", including Dr. Allan Gibson, M.D., who settled in Hillsburgh in 1895, with his bride, the former Harriet Irvine. He sold his home and the drug store in 1924, to Dr. E.C.A. Reynolds. Dr. and Mrs. Gibson had no children.

S.S. #3 - Binkham

Following the survey of the township about 1820, the surveyors were not impressed with the wilderness, and refused to accept the property, saying that it was of little value.

At this time, Donald McMillan of Argyleshire, Scotland, was hearing glowing accounts of Canada, and determined to try his fortune there. Originally he intended to settle in the Niagara Peninsula, but due to attacks of the ague, and other hardships, he decided not to stay. One day he was discussing his troubles with an old soldier who said he held the right to 100 acres of land in one of the new townships recently surveyed, and he would sell it for \$25.00. After some dickering, Mr. McMillan bought the land for \$20.00.

He made the trip on foot to Toronto, where he secured the ticket for his lot, number 19, in 9th concession, Erin Township. The ticket was a small piece of cardboard, that must not be lost, for it was the only indication that he had bought a piece of land.

On an inspection tour, Mr. McMillan liked what he saw, and the Indians seemed friendly. Upon returning to the Niagara Peninsula, he purchased a yoke of oxen, made himself a cart with wheels of blocks sawed from an oak tree on which he loaded his household articles,, his wife, and younger members of the family. The older boys, aged from six to ten years, drove their few cattle. The journey took two weeks, and became very slow for the last ten miles, where they were obliged to cut a trail through the unbroken forest. Upon arrival in the spring of 1822, on lot 19, they built a shanty, the first in the area that became Binkham School Section. There was good water, so no need to fear the ague and it had a healthy climate.

Because Mr. Kennedy had refused to accept the 1,000 acres as payment for the survey, the land was available to Mr. McMillan, almost at his own price. And because Mrs. McMillan was the first white woman in the area, she received lot 18, con. 9, as a gift from the Crown. The first wheat grown on his small clearing, he carried to Brampton, the nearest grist mill.



*Threshing
Machine
Getting
ready for
Harvest,
Farm of
Will
McMillan,
c1910*

Another early settler was Henry Trout who drew lot 23, con. 9, and came in the spring of 1822, but he was not impressed with the land, and sold to Samuel McKee, his son-in-law.

Dugald McGill and his large family came to lot 26, in 1824, and ultimately the whole family settled within the Township. Son, Peter, took the homestead, and became active in Municipal Politics. He was known as "Squire McGill", as he was the only Magistrate in the area.

In 1829, John Graham and his three brothers and three sisters, came from Scotland, and settled on W-1/2 lot 21, con. 11. John was a Colonel in the Wellington Militia in the Mackenzie Rebellion fo 1837-38, and led a party of men to track down a party of Tories who had stolen guns from 19 homes while those families were attending a funeral. The men were captured in Garafraxa Township, and "brought back to Squire Trout on lot 23, con. 9, where they were bound over to keep the Peace, and return the guns" to the owners.

Graham Cemetery

Graham Cemetery was located on the Graham farm, W-1/2 lot 20, con. 11, 10th line, Erin Twp. It was used for the first time in 1834. Last burial took place in 1962, and it was restored in 1950's.

The Graham family came from Clachan, Kintyre, Argyleshire, Scotland in 1829. There were three brothers, a half-brother, and five sisters.

Duncan Graham settled on lot 20, con. 11, 10th line, and married Mary Blue. When her father, John Blue died in 1834, aged 55 years, Duncan gave a plot of land off the west corner of his farm for a burial ground. John Blue's wife, Jane died in 1856. The stone also shows the names of several sons. Duncan Graham later moved to Elderslie in Bruce County, and was buried there.

John Graham settled on lot 21, con. 11, 10th line. John married Mary McGeachy in 1844, and had four children. Mary died in 1855, aged 28 years, and was buried with her baby in her arms. One daughter died young of Scarlet Fever. John died in 1893, at age of 94 years.

Alex Graham settled on lot 22, con. 11, and married Mary McLellan.

Edward, the half-brother, was killed in 1844, at a McLellan barn raising, and was buried in the Graham Cemetery.

Mary Graham, sister of the above boys, married Duncan McLean. They were buried in the Graham Cemetery, but the markers have been lost.

Nancy Graham married William Watson.

George Henshaw who married Ann, daughter of Aaron Wheeler, and later became the first reeve of the Township of Erin in 1842, was a close neighbour of Squire Trout. The Squire often borrowed Mrs. Henshaw's Prayer Book, which he used in wedding ceremonies, as there was no resident clergyman of any faith in the Township.

Erin Pioneer Cemetery

Erin Pioneer Cemetery, formerly known as McMillan's Cemetery is located on lot 18, con. 9, above Erin Village. It contains the stones of early pioneers including the names: McMillan, Lang, McGill, and many others. It is surrounded by a lovely old stone fence, and the grounds are beautifully kept. Miss Ada Cook of Erin has done a fine piece of work in sending out her "In Memoriam" Newsletter, as a means of keeping in touch with friends who have moved away from the area.

Binkham School

Soon after 1837, the first log school was built on the corner of the 10th line and 22 sideroad. The school was small, and the furniture was crude. Mr. Dickson was the first teacher at a salary of \$100. per year. He was a married man and lived in the back part of the school. He was expected to teach the whole year, except Christmas Day. In this Scotch community, everyone spoke Gaelic, so the teacher had to teach English before he could teach the Three R's. This was the school attended by Mr. C.J. McMillan, author of the booklet, "The Early History of Erin Township", written about 1922. He said that steel pens were then unknown, and that each student starting to write, had to furnish a goose quill. The teacher was adept in pen-making, and was often asked, "Master, please fix my pen". The expression, "Pen-knife" is often heard, and refers to the small pocket knife used by the teacher.

On the west corner of that intersection there was a shoe shop and Post Office, with mail delivered twice a week from Erin Village. The last Postmaster was Archie Leitch. The Post Office closed in 1910.

When the new log school was built in 1848, it was erected half way across the concession, on 22 sideroad, between the 9th and 10th lines, considered a more central location. "From 1855 to 1862, each pupil was required to pay twenty cents per month to maintain the school". There were about 80 pupils on the roll. Names on old registers are still familiar to the community: Young, McGill, Davis, McMillan, Graham, Speirs, Lang, Wheeler, Sinclair, Walker, Leitch, and Flaherty. Four of these families have descendants living on Century Farms.

From 1863 to 1866, Thomas Young was the teacher, and he went on to become the Township Clerk from 1889 to 1911.

The stone school was erected in 1869, on the same location with Miss Belle Standish the first teacher. The school was closed in 1961, and a reunion was held, with many old friends and teachers returning for the occasion.

Sunday School was opened in this stone school in 1895, and continued until 1911. George Fletcher was Bible Class teacher, and W.J. Young was Superintendent.

The Binkham area has retained its name.

Ballinafad, S.S. #4

First white settler in Erin Township was Nathaniel Roszel, a native of Pennsylvania of German origin. He came with his father Charles and family about 1800, to the Niagara Peninsula, settling near Smithville. He and four brothers served in the 1812-14 War, under General Sir Isaac Brock. Nathaniel, Eldrick and George Roszel received grants of 100 acres each, on payment of \$26 to defray expenses of deeds, etc. George and Nathaniel came to lot 1, con. 7, arriving in November 1820. George did not like the country, so sold his half to Nathaniel; and returned home, taking the team of horses as they were of little use in the forest. Later they were brought back. The journey north of Georgetown was difficult, as can be judged by the fact that the path they cut, was nine miles in length, as compared to the present journey of less than six miles. Brother, Eldrick Roszel, came in the spring of 1821, and settled on his grant of land, W-1/2 lot 2, con. 7.

Nathaniel Roszel, 1788-1872, tried to clear eight acres of land each winter. In the early days the closest grist mill was Jones' on the 6th line of Esquesing Township, in Halton County. In politics, Roszel was a Reformer, and in first elections he went to vote at Palermo, a distance of 25 miles.

His son, Benjamin, 1821-1897, was born Nov. 11, the first white child born in Erin Township and believed to have been the first born in what is now Wellington County. He married Elizabeth O'Reilly and had 5 children. His descendants are still living in Twp.

Nathaniel Roszel was a Methodist in religion, and his home was headquarters for the ministers in the early days. He gave land off his farm for a church, cemetery, school, Temperance Hall, and parsonage. And at this corner of the 7th line of Erin, and the townline between Erin and Esquesing Townships, the hamlet of Ballinafad sprung up. It is said to have been named by Thomas Merry after the village of Ballinafad in Ireland.

Settlers streamed into Erin Township through the 1820's and 1830's, until in 1841, there were 1,368 persons.

Donald McLean came from Scotland in 1834, and settled on E-1/2 lot 6, con. 9. In 1846, he bought E-1/2 lot 4, con. 6, from Daniel Wilcox. About 1878, this farm was taken over by his son, Donald, who lived to be 92 years of age. In 1943, the present owner, Donald McLean, took possession, and this is the only Century farm in the Peacock School Section.

Miss Bea Hilts wrote her "Memoirs" of the Ballinafad area, in the 1960's.

The first school was built about 1825, at Ballinafad, and church services were held in it until 1842, when the Methodist Church was built.

In 1869, the school site was moved to lot 5, known as Peacock Corners, because one of the local farmers kept peacocks, and they were often out on the road. In 1906, the new Peacock School was built of red brick. It was closed in 1964, and became the home of Dr. & Mrs. Clifford Reid, who also owned the farm on which it sat. Miss Bella Young was the first teacher in the log school.

First Store & Post Office

Across the street from the log school was built the first store believed to have been log, built in 1825. It was

operated by James and Thomas Stevens. Ballinafad Post Office was established in the store in 1832.

By 1880, a large two-storey, frame store was built. It had living quarters upstairs. In one corner of the store was the Post Office, and storage at the back for bags of flour, sugar, oatmeal, and barrels and boxes of supplies. Mr. & Mrs. John McKee were the proprietors for a number of years. She was a sister of Tom, Maggie and Tena Young. Their family included Maggie, Lottie and Fred McKee.

In 1905, that store was destroyed by fire which started in the storage room. Owned at the time by Mr. & Mrs. Frank Betts. There was a high wind, and Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Hilts also lost their frame house and barn. Hilts had the new store erected immediately, by the Smithurst Brothers, William, James, and Alfred, who were stone masons. Typical of rural neighbours, the whole community turned out to clean up the site, and hauled stone from the surrounding area. A fine, two-storey stone building was erected. A new barn was built at the back for horses, democrats and sleighs.

Butter and eggs were traded at the store for groceries. The storekeeper took the local produce to Guelph with his team of horses and light wagon. Each day he made a trip to Georgetown for mail, fresh bread, and other groceries. Later storekeepers were: E.H. Betts, Farnells, Kirkwoods, Merriams, Robinsons, Eddie Smiths, and Shortills. This fine store was destroyed by fire at the end of May, 1987.

The farm on which the store is located, W-1/2 lot 1, con.; 8, Erin Twp. was taken up by Nathaniel Brown, and later sold to the Shortill family. The late Harry Shortill always kept a yoke of oxen; and in later years, his son, Richard, had a fine pair that he trained as a hobby.

Hotels

First hotel keeper was John Frank. In the early days there were several hotels in the hamlet, all doing brisk business, on this main road leading south to Georgetown.

The main road from Guelph to Toronto, known as The Old York Trail, crossed from Crewson's Corner to Ballinafad, where it turned south. About the turn of the Century, the hotel business phased out, partly because the railroads had made teaming unnecessary, and partly because of the change in the liquor laws. Believed to have been the last hotel in operation in the area, the large building on the east corner of the intersection, burned to the ground one windy night.

Chopping Mill

James Kirkwood built a chopping mill on the site of the old hotel. It was operated by John Black from 1956-1967, when he sold to Keith and Harold Ford. In July 1992, the owners were obliged to remove the mill because it was too close to the busy intersection.

Blacksmith Shops

One was operated by Daniel Reid. Another on the Esquesing side was operated by Peter Ferguson, whose sons, Duncan and Peter, carried on the business.

The Temperance Hall later took the name of the Community Hall, and became the scene of Literary Meetings, debates and old time dances. The new community Hall was built in 1962.

The United Church - Suppers have become famous. Scout and Cub Groups are also active.

Klinks were the third family to settle in the southern part of Erin Twp. Stephen Klink introduced the first fall wheat, carrying two bushels on his back from Stoney Creek. He and his wife were buried in Ballinafad Cemetery.

From 1871 Directory

Ballinafad - had a population of 160 served by the Post Office.

Located on the boundary between Wellington and Halton Counties, and partly in Erin Township, it was 20 miles from Guelph, and there was a Stage running between Georgetown and Erin.

The Post Office was in the general store, where the owner and Postmaster was John Bennett. Another grocery store was operated by G.O. and Albert Sayers.

There were two hotels, the Commercial run by Robert Bennett, and the Mechanics Hotel, whose proprietor was George Gibbs.

Blacksmiths were Thomas Binnie, George Briggs, and Donald Matthewson. The wagon maker was A. Fletcher. The Pumpmaker was Adam Eckhart.

There was a shoemaker, Robert Hannah; and a carpenter, David Gibson.

Ballinafad Women's Institute Branch was organized about 1905, as a part of Halton County and has played an important roll in the welfare of the community. It was disbanded in 1918, and re-organized in 1952. And with their co-operation the Ballinafad people have tried to preserve their heritage through their Tweedsmuir Books. They marked their 40th anniversary in Oct. 1992.

An **Historic Plaque** commemorating the Early Settlement of Erin Township, was unveiled and dedicated in Ballinafad Cemetery beside the new Community Centre, on August 30, 1970, under the direction of Ballinafad Women's Institute and Erin Township Council.

A Memorial Stone was unveiled on September 24, 1973, in honour of the gift of land for school, church, cemetery, Temperance Hall, and parsonage by Nathaniel Roszel, the first settler. His son Benjamin was the first white child born in Erin Township. A younger son, Stephen, was the great-grandfather of Reeve Norman Roszell of Puslinch Township, Past Warden of Wellington County, and of Wilfred Roszell, former Reeve of Puslinch and retired Superintendent of Wellington County Home for the Aged. Wilfred Roszell brought greetings from the descendants of this pioneer family, noting that his father, Fred Roszell moved to Puslinch Township about 1883, and that Wilfred's son Keith of Fergus, has a son who is the sixth generation to have been born in Wellington County. He also noted the slight change in spelling of the name over the years.

Miss Luella Campbell of Georgetown spoke on the history of the Methodist Church.

"Providence Cemetery" is located on lot. 1, con. 9, Erin Twp.

A Micro Wave Relay Tower was erected by Bell Canada in July 1958, on E-1/2 lot 8, con. 7, Erin Twp.

Methodist Church

The log school was built at the corner in 1825, and was used as a church until 1842, when the community erected its church building. It began as a small frame church, that was covered with red brick in 1867. It was torn down in 1954. First ministers were "Circuit Riders" travelling by horse-back.

In 1850, a shed for horses was erected. Above it was a large meeting room called the "Good Templar's Hall". It

later became known as the Ballinafad Hall, and eventually became Ballinafad Community Centre.

Sunday School was organized in 1870, with twelve teachers and officers, and between 80 and 90 pupils. Prayer Meetings were held on Wednesday evenings, Tea Meetings were held during the winter in the old hall, while Garden Parties were held in summer at somebody's home.

A number of Presbyterian families came to the area, and the Methodist Church was shared with them, the Presbyterians meeting in the mornings, the Methodists meeting in the afternoons. Many people attended both services, the sermon often lasting an hour or more.

In 1878, the Presbyterians built their own church. Church Union came in 1925, unanimously, and the Presbyterian Church was used for worship because it was the newer and larger church.

Ballinafad had its own parsonage until 1884, when Episcopalian and Wesleyan Methodists were united; and Ballinafad Episcopalian was placed on the charge with Erin Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Picnics were held at the end of June for school and Sunday School at Stanley Park, Erin, with games and quantities of food. But the highlight of the afternoon was when someone who could handle the oars, took the children for a ride in a row boat. They circled the lower pond, then went under the bridge and circled the upper pond.

Hydro was installed in the church in 1936. Student ministers served Ballinafad, Melville and Churchill from 1948-1968. At this time Ballinafad United was placed on the charge with St. Andrew's United in Georgetown.

Anglican Parish

Anglican Parish was founded at Rockwood in the 1850's, and their rector served the Mission at Ballinafad and extended to Acton. Residents in Eramosa, Erin, Hillsburgh, and Garafraxa were also served by the Rockwood rector.

By 1872, the membership at Ballinafad had grown too large for one minister to handle. At that time Acton decided to have its own rector, and they built St. Alban's Anglican Church.

S.S. #5 - Coningsby

A Post Office was opened on Dec. 1st, 1865, in a store on lot 16, con. 6. The first Postmaster was J.W. Burt, who consulted with neighbours, and is believed to have chosen a name from a list supplied by the Postal Department in Ottawa. There is a village by the name of Coningsby in Lincolnshire, England, but there is no known connection. Mail was brought two or three times a week from Guelph to Brisbane by Stage Coach, and from there it was brought to Coningsby.

Later the Post office was moved into a frame store built beside the stone house, later occupied by Morgan Graham. Postmasters following J.W. Burt were: Mrs. Martinoni, Aquila Peavoy, and Walter McKinnon. The Post Office was closed in 1912, with the inauguration of Rural Routes #1 and 2 out of Hillsburgh. The Coningsby store gradually closed for lack of business.

A blacksmith shop was operated for many years by David Lighheart. He and his sister lived in a stone house on the corner of 17 sideroad and the 5th line. Other blacksmiths who followed were John Hill and George Ramesbottom. Henry Bang was a local carpenter.

Schools

About 1835, first school classes for children of the community were held in an upstairs room of the small log house on W-1/2 lot 19, con. 6, given by John Smith, and used until a school could be erected. The farm is now owned by Donald Mathieson, a great grandson, and a pear tree is the only mark of the location. Miss O'Rielly was the first teacher.

The first log school was built in 1845, near the lower gate of Coningsby Cemetery. About 1858, it was moved across the road to the church property where it was used until 1862. Sleigh-riding on this steep hill was wonderful entertainment at noon hour.

Half an acre of land was purchased in Nov. 1861, and the stone school was erected on the sideroad on W-1/2 lot 18, con. 6, with some of the stone coming from the stone quarry on lot 15. In the extension of the school grounds, the blacksmith property was included.

Something of a record for school secretaries was set when J.W. Burt, Sr., served for a period of 35 years, followed by James Burt for 40 years.

Cemetery

The original half acre for Coningsby Cemetery was set aside on lot 17, con. 5 by David Smith, whose wife's grave is believed to have been the first, and marked by a boulder. Another stone shows the death of a child in 1830. Four generations of the Burt family have served on the Cemetery Board, dating from 1846.

In 1925, J.W. Burt was appointed to the Ontario Rural Cemeteries Trust Association, which was the beginning of the Perpetual Care Program for Cemeteries in Ontario. In 1953, the Ontario Legislature appointed a Select Committee of eleven members, one of whom was the Hon. John Root of Erin Township, to travel through the Province to investigate the poor state of many of the rural burying grounds - closed, abandoned, neglected, those run solely for gain and methods of obtaining new lands.

From this committee and their findings, developed a three-man Advisory Board to the Minister of Health, Hon. Dr. McKinnon Philips, and his successor, Dr. Matthew Diamond.

The three men chosen represented three groups of cemeteries: Catholic Cemeteries, Larger Cemeteries, and Rural Cemeteries. The Hon. John Root was requested to select a representative for Rural Cemeteries, and chose a Trustee of Coningsby Cemetery in Erin Township, George C. Burt. Part of their duty was to help the Minister of Health revise the Cemeteries Act.

Across the road from the Cemetery is Coningsby Mortuary and Funeral Chapel. It was originally built as the "Union Church", on land deeded in April, 1873, by John W. Burt, Jr., to the Trustees of the Church. The deed stipulated that it was "to be open and free to all Protestant denominations, and open on all funeral occasions".

Built of red brick brought by C.P.R. to Erin Station from Milton, the brick was unloaded and hauled to the site, all in one day. The church was closed in July, 1938, due to small attendance. In 1959, it was transferred to the Cemetery Board, and made into the Mortuary and Chapel.

Coningsby Church of Christ (Disciple)

The Church of Christ (Disciple) is a stone building on 17 sideroad near the 6th line. It was erected about 1860, and used until 1911. Water for mixing the mortar was brought from a spring on the hillside of the Wilfred Burt farm through wooden troughs made for the purpose. The congregation dated back to 1836, when Rev. James Black of Eramosa held services in the log school, on the north-west corner of lot 17, con. 7, Erin Twp.

Soon after the first church was built, it was considered too small. When the stone church was built in 1860, the chosen site was in the middle of the Township, and was known as "Erin Centre", and had a membership of 250. The building was repaired in 1886, and gothic windows were installed.

Hillsburgh Disciple Church began in 1906, with 63 charter members, leaving 60 members behind at Erin Centre. Singing was conducted by a preceptor with a tuning fork, to give the proper pitch. James McArthur and William McMillan were two of these. At least three members became ministers or missionaries: D.D. Burt graduated as a minister; Ethel Smith, Mrs. Wilmer Monroe, went to India as a missionary, and was followed in 1904 by her sister, Dr. Martha Smith.

Industries

Several industries were in existence in this community: A sawmill was operated by water power on lot 16, con. 6, by the James Burt Family, running two shifts in May and June when the water was at high level. Operations ceased in 1910.

Ice was harvested from the mill pond in winter, by farmers of the community. Blocks were cut about 16 inches square, hauled home, and stored in ice houses for summer use. They were packed in sawdust to prevent melting, with a good thickness of sawdust at the outside walls. In spring the farmers drove their flocks of sheep to the mill pond, where they washed them before shearing. The 24th of May was a good day for this trip, as the school children were free to assist in driving the sheep.

The Stone Quarry was operated for some years on lot 15, on 5th line, by the Ashenhurst Bros. About 1933, they sold it and the farm to J.B. Ritchie of Toronto, who operated a cut stone business, employing up to twelve men. Rough blocks of stone were blasted out, and taken to Toronto where they were "dressed", (sawed and polished). Operations were discontinued in 1939, with the outbreak of the Second War.

A Lime Kiln was operated on the west side of the 5th line, lot 15, by Jacob Smith. Built on the side of the hill, the top was at ground level where the kiln was filled with limestones. The bottom was at the foot of the hill. A fire was kept going for about a week; then allowed to cool for about a week. Teams and wagons waited their turn to be loaded beside the fireplace at the bottom. Lime was used in the making of mortar and white wash for buildings. Lime, sand and horse hair were mixed together to make plaster for the walls of homes.

Will and Charlie Smith were stone masons, and were sons of Jacob Smith. They chiselled out fine slabs of stone for use as sills, steps and flagstones; loaded them on a small flat car, and pushed them along a narrow track by hand, out to where sleighs or wagons were waiting for loading.

Coningsby Branch of the Women's Institute

Was organized in 1905, in the school house with 17 ladies present. Miss Bessie Thomson, a local school teacher and member of a pioneer family, was the first President. The meetings were usually held in the evenings so the husbands could attend, which meant that the whole family came. It has been said that one large home hosted as many as 125 people at a meeting.

At a District Annual Meeting of Centre Wellington W.I.'s, held at the home of Mrs. Alex Orr of lot 19 on 6th line, in 1926, the Ontario Historical Society sent Laura Rose Stephens as the guest speaker. As a result, Miss Ada Currie was appointed the first Convenor of Historical Research.

Wellington County Historical Society was formed in 1928, with Miss Ada Currie as the first President. Miss Bessie Thomson became a member of the Executive, and from her Diary, we learn that she became the fourth President of the Historical Society.

Century Farms

Don Mathieson's Century Farm was taken up by Abram Smith whose ancestors crossed the Atlantic on the Mayflower in 1620, settled in Pennsylvania, then moved to Niagara, where they took part in the 1812-14 War. Then he moved to Erin Twp., taking up W-1/2 lot 19, con. 7. In their log house the first school classes and first church services were held. George Lane and his wife, the former Anne Ballantyne came from Ireland and settled on W-1/2 lot 16, con. 7. George Lane died of cholera in Quebec, while on Soldier's Duty in 1833. His wife taught school where Graham's Cemetery is now located, taking her two small sons to school with her. In 1845, her son, George Lane returned to the farm to complete the Crown Deed. He was followed by his son, Henry; grandson George; then great-granddaughter, Louise Lane who married George Tarswell in 1948. Donald Mathieson, a great grandson, married Jean Akitt.

Elmer McKinnon's Century Farm, W-1/2 lot 20, con. 6, Erin Twp., was taken from the Crown by his great-grandfather, Neil McKinnon, in 1860. But the first property owned by this family, was in 1835, when Alexander McKinnon took up E-1/2 lot 19, con. 5, owned in 1967, by Douglas and Gwen McKinnon. The family still had the Crown Deed in their possession.

Lloyd Lang's Century Farm - The Lang family came from the British Isles in 1830. Henry Lang settled on W-1/2 lot 22, con. 6, Erin Twp., in 1847. In 1849, he purchased W-1/2 lot 23, con. 6, from the Crown. The present stone house was built in 1864. In 1882, he sold the farm to his son, Henry, who sold to his son, Thomas Lang in 1904. Thomas sold to his brother, Andrew Lang in 1924. He and his wife, Lillian Gregson, had two children, Lloyd and Helen. Lloyd Lang married Mildred Parkinson, and took over this Century Farm which was marked in 1967. Lloyd was Warden of Wellington County in 1974. Mildred and one son live in the house, while the farm work is done by neighbours.

George Burt, 1795 - 1863, came from Fifeshire, Scotland, in 1828, with his wife, Bethia Wilson, and four children. He left them in Burlington with his brother, John Burt, a school teacher who had come to Canada some years earlier, and had been on the Survey Team of Erin Twp., in 1819. Some of his survey equipment may be seen at Wellington County Museum, R.R. 1, Fergus.

George Burt worked at Guelph for a short time, and in 1830, he brought his family to Erin Twp., taking up E-1/2 lot 15, con. 6. In 1836, he moved to E-1/2 lot 17, con. 6 and about 1850, he returned to lot 15, where he lived until his death. They had 9 children:

John Wilson Burt, born in 1822, married Mary Kennedy of Georgetown. He was active in Municipal Politics. He stayed on his father's farm, and was succeeded by son, John Wilson Burt who specialized in Registered Aberdeen Angus cattle and Clydesdale horses. He married Janet McKinnon. Goldwin Burt was their son.

James Burt, born in 1833, married Sarah Smith, and became a carpenter. he operated the sawmill on S-1/2 lot 15, con. 6, with his brother George until 1873, then bought George's share. The sawmill was closed in 1910. They had ten children.

David Burt, a merchant at Coningsby, died in 1879.

George Burt was a partner in the sawmill on S-1/2 lot 15, con. 6, Erin Twp., until 1873.

John Burt, brother of George Burt of the Coningsby area, school teacher and surveyor of Erin Twp., took lot 25, con. 6, Erin Twp., from the Crown in 1823. He was succeeded by his son, John Cranfield Burt who cleared the land and built the farm house in 1873. He retired to Hillsburgh, and the farm was taken over by his son, John Henry Burt. Succeeded by his son, George Chisholm Burt, and in 1952 by his son, Harry Parry Burt. His son, Claire Burt is the sixth generation to live on this farm. It was marked as a Century Farm in 1967, in Cedar Valley area.

Male Quartet

In 1945, a Male Quartet was organized with Harry Burt, tenor; Howard Graham, lead; Lloyd Burt, baritone; and Donald Graham, bass. They became known as Hillsburgh Male Quartet, and through the years have carried on with Ken Graham as baritone. He is the youngest son of Mr. & Mrs. Morgan Graham. Pianist was Miss Annie Burrows, an early Music Teacher. Others were Mrs. Morgan Graham, and Mrs. Donald Matthieson. Now Ken and Anne Graham's daughters have a Singing group.

People of note from this community:

- *Wm. John McLean* became a teacher and a School Inspector. He was interested in Sports, and became internationally known as a Judge of Boxing.

- *D.E. Thomson, K.C.* of Toronto, and his brother, Levi Thomson, also a lawyer, lived in Saskatchewan. Levi represented his Riding in the House of Commons in Ottawa for a number of years.

- Active in Municipal Politics were: J.W. Sutton; James and Neil McKinnon, Goldwin Burt, Donald Mathieson and Lloyd Lang.

S.S. #6 - Hillsburgh

Wm. How

First settler in the township was Nathaniel Roszel, in 1820. The following year, 1821, Wm. How and his family and his brother, came from Kent, England, to Little York, (Toronto), where they picked up the tickets for their lots, 22 and 23 on the 7th concession. Arriving at the Roszel home on lot 1, (later Ballinafad), they spent the night. Next morning they set out for their future home, accompanied by Mr. Roszel. It was necessary to cut a trail ahead of the team and wagon, through the bush for the next ten miles or so, arriving late in the evening, because they had to skirt the swamps, and by-pass steep hills. They propped branches against a fallen tree root to make a shelter for the night. The next three days were occupied in building a shanty. Seeing the How family settled in their new home, Mr. Roszel returned to his home. Snow came early that fall, on November 9th, so their yoke of oxen and one cow had to browse near the shanty all winter.

In an article written by Mr. How some years later, he said he came by way of New York, where he left his wife and two children, then returned for them. She carried one of the children, he carried the other, from Dundas Street, through the mud.

At that time the closest stores and Post Office were in Toronto. First Post Office to come closer was kept by Alexander Proudfoot on Dundas Street, (near Oakville). The next Post Office to serve the area was about the middle of Esquesing Township, kept by Mr. Fyfe.

Mr. How said, "We then formed a club, and each member took his turn on foot to go to the Post Office, as we had no horses in those days."

Later, mail was brought from Georgetown by Mr. Wm. Willis, who drove a span of mules, to the Post Office in How's store. A few years later the mail came to Alton, and Mr. James Hanna brought it by way of Reading on the Orangeville Road at the 14th line corner, (Gara.).

When development began to move to the Upper end of town the Post Office was moved to Donaldson's and Carmichael's store, later McLaren's, and Mr. Donaldson was the Postmaster. In 1911, Angus McMurchy became Postmaster. Rural Mail delivery began in 1912, with 2 Mail Routes.

The Telephone came in 1909.

Hydro was first used for street lighting in 1921.



How's Store, Hillsburgh

How's Store

Wm. How built a small log building on Main Street at south end of town, and used it as a general store. As more settlers arrived, business increased, and he built a much larger store slightly to the north. He set up a trading post where settlers could trade their butter and eggs for flour, sugar, tea, etc., which his sons brought from Oakville. This store was destroyed by an explosion while Edward How was the owner. Gunpowder was kept in open kegs, with just a paper cover; and while men were sitting around the stove, smoking and chatting, someone lit his pipe, carelessly tossed the lighted match, and it started to burn the paper cover. Mr. How grabbed the keg and started for the door, but it was too late. The explosion that followed, blinded Mr. How in one eye, and completely destroyed the store. The counters ran the full length of the store on either side, holding the weight of the fallen roof off the men, saving their lives.

This store was replaced by a smaller building, and operated by Wm. and Margaret How, who sold to Harry Hall. Then their daughter, Marjorie and her husband, Henry Beatty, took over.

The settlement was known for a short time as Howville; but in 1823, a family named Hill arrived on lot 25, and Nazareth Hill built the first hotel, where Ed Dymek's store later stood. From the Centennial History book, we quote, "He must have had varied interests, as it is noted that he began the first Sunday School. He made the Nazareth Hill survey of the village, and imposed his name upon the settlement. Thus Hillsburg, (without the "h" on the end) was named for the Hill family, and not for the surrounding hills, as many suppose. Ann Street was named after Mr. Hill's daughter."

The Police Village of Hillsburg was incorporated in 1899. The spelling of the name was changed about that time - The letter "h" was added.

Hillsburgh School - became S.S. #6

Records show there was a small rough cast house on Main Street in the southern part of town, later the home of Lorne Wheeler, that was used as a school as far back as 1844. In 1864, a new red brick school was built on a stone foundation of flagstones four feet across. The brick was made on Wm. Barden's farm, and built by Campbell brothers. This school was located south-east of the first one. Soon the Town Hall was used for the Junior grades. An addition to the red brick school was completed in 1878. This building was more recently used as a feed mill.

The new three-roomed school was opened in January 1960, and named the Ross R. MacKay Public School as a memorial to their much loved Principal from 1911 for a number of years, then again from 1941 to 1959. He died just two days before the school was opened.

The local rural schools began closing, and commuting to Hillsburgh. In 1963, a fourth room was added. Two rooms and a Principal's Office were added in 1960's.

Aaron Wheeler

Aaron Wheeler was born in Glastonbury, Somerset, England, in 1777, and came to Erin Township in 1824, having previously visited Newfoundland, but returned to England. He was accompanied by his wife and two daughters. They settled on lot 25, con. 8, the site of the Hillsburgh Community Hall, where he built his log house. The first baking his wife did, was after they arrived in Erin Twp. They built a fire on a flat stone, and after brushing it off, cooked scones on the hot stones. One wall of her log cabin was a huge fireplace, over which all the cooking was done for many years.

Aaron Wheeler married Betsy Lucans in England and they had two daughters, Ann and Mary.

First Wedding - in Erin Township was in 1825, when Ann Wheeler was married to George Henshaw by Rev. Dr. Jennings. The bride and groom had met on the trip up the St. Lawrence River. After the ceremony they travelled in a lumber wagon accompanied by the bride's father, to Toronto, then called York, where they visited the groom's cousins, Mr. & Mrs. John Riddell. The bridesmaid was Rachel Trout; the groomsman was Henry How. In 1842, George Henshaw was a representative to Wellington District Council.

George and Ann Henshaw's daughter, Sarah Ann, was the first child born to parents who had been married in Erin Township. Sarah Ann Henshaw married Archibald McAllister in 1847. He and his brother, Duncan, had settled on lots 19 and 20, con. 10, in 1830, Duncan being a blacksmith.

The other daughter, Mary Wheeler, married Patrick Riley. Their son, George Riley, started a sawmill in Erin Village, later moving to Esquesing Twp., and finally to Iowa.

Betsy Wheeler died a few years after her daughters were married. Aaron Wheeler's second wife was Leah Cox, and their family included: Isabella, Mrs. Robert Smart; Sarah, Mrs. Angus McArthur; and Robert Wheeler.

Mills in Hillsburgh

Aaron Wheeler built a grist mill soon after his arrival in Erin Twp. It was a very slow operating mill, so it was later sold, and became a woollen mill; and a larger grist, flour, and sawmill was built.

A sawmill was erected south of the present dam. This was a real boon to the early settlers in their building operations. Here the first drowning accident in the Township occurred. Thomas Nodwell, uncle of R.D. Nodwell, was drawing logs to the mill with a spirited yoke of oxen. The oxen ran away, and a hook on the end of the dragging chain, caught and pulled up a plank which lay across the flume. In his hurry to overtake the oxen, Mr. Nodwell did not notice the opening, fell in, and was drowned.

Soon, the How Brothers built a larger mill on 22 sideroad. It became known as the Lower Mill. Succeeding owners were: Bill Haines, Jim Barden, Howard Smith, Oswald Everdell, Dave Douglas, Charles Bellamy, Bert Awrey, who sold to Brampton Milling and Farm Supply.

About 1846, Gooderham and Worts of Toronto, seeing the need of a larger and better equipped grist mill, erected

one that would answer all requirements. The dam was built, and the grist mill was operated by an overshot wheel twenty-four feet in diameter. The power was augmented by an ingenious arrangement from a second dam, the water being conveyed to keep the buckets always full to capacity. For a number of years, a large trade was done, beside custom gristing. Wheat was ground into flour. A team was kept continuously on the road, delivering the flour to Oakville, the nearest point of transportation. A cooper shop was also established to manufacture barrels to contain the flour.

Business was handicapped by the lack of proper facilities of obtaining news quickly, there being no fast steamers. In 1853, the time of the Crimean War, prices of commodities went sky high. Wishing to secure as much wheat as possible before prices became prohibitive, Gooderham and Worts offered \$2.50 per bushel for it. The war ended suddenly, and all details were settled two weeks before the news reached Canada. The result was a staggering blow to all business. Prices declined rapidly, so that Gooderham and Worts could purchase the same wheat for 75 cents per bushel. This meant a tremendous loss for the company.

In earlier days the entrance was off the 7th line, but later a road was run north to the Station road. Fire destroyed this mill in 1870, and the site lay idle until the Awery Bros. bought it, and erected a stone grist mill about 1894. They also operated a cider press. Donald McGill ran this mill for about 16 years, followed by Hughie McLachlan, and finally Miles Bacon. Tractor-driven and electric choppers caused the demise of the milling business, and the mill became a summer home.

Other Businesses

John Viner established a furniture and undertaking business in the 1880's. Prior to this a Mr. Rihnhart was the undertaker.

John Byrne had a carriage and wagon shop and a blacksmith shop, and built up a good trade. It was carried on by his two sons, Bill and Jack. It was Jack who painted the fancy scrolls on the cutters, buggies, etc.

Archie Currie built a red brick factory in 1884, where he built buggies, cutters, wagons and wheel barrows. In conjunction with it, he operated a blacksmith shop to do the iron work. But when that kind of business got into the larger plants about the turn of the Century, the smaller shops found it unprofitable to carry on. This building became the Royal Bank.

Wm. Gaud operated a tannery just below 22 sideroad, where a house and pond are now located. He tanned the hides of livestock, wild animals and dogs. Shoes, leather mitts and harness were made, and he employed up to twelve men.

Near How's store, Liza Harding did weaving and made carpets in the early days. Jimmie Farquerson had a tailor shop nearby. Jim Torrie came later. He moved to Orangeville where he and William McMillan went into partnership. Others who followed in this business in Erin, were George Watson, Jim Carmichael, Andy Wallace, and A.S. McGowan.

Toll Roads and Hotels

In 1842, when the District of Wellington was formed, the winding road to Guelph had many detours to avoid swamps and steep hills. One of the first petitions for road improvement was from the Village of Erin, accompanied by a map sketch, showing the proposed route through lot 13. The petition was so ably presented by the first reeve of the Township, Mr. Henshaw, that it was approved, a by-law was passed, naming it the Guelph and Erin Road, and the road was cut through about 1844.

In 1867, the County assumed the oversight of the road from Guelph to Brisbane, and thence up the 7th line through Hillsburgh, continuing up the 14th line of East Garafraxa to Reading on the Fergus-Orangeville Road. They built the gravel road, which was quite an improvement over the narrow old corduroy road.

Oakville was the nearest lake port, named for its tall white oak trees shipped to England for use as ship masts. A Company was formed to build a road from Brisbane to Oakville, and soon a passable road was open to Silver Creek. From there to Oakville, a plank road was built, since good lumber could be obtained at \$5.00 per thousand. In 1862, this road between Ballinafad and Brisbane was taken over by the County of Wellington.

Toll gates were established about every eight miles along these roads, cost of upkeep to be borne by the user. One way of beating the toll charge, was to take two loads as far as the Plank Road, and there load all on one wagon. There were at least five toll gates between Hillsburgh and Guelph. In an effort to accommodate the travelling public, hotels or roadhouses sprung up close by, with sixteen hotels between the upper end of Hillsburgh and the town of Guelph. Teaming was done at all times of the year, in all kinds of weather, and the teamsters were glad of a place to rest their horses, and get feed, food and liquid refreshments. Blacksmith shops were also a necessity.

Until 1885, James Trott kept the Hillsburgh Toll Gate on the 7th line, below 22 sideroad, near Gaud's Tannery.

Main Street of Hillsburgh was paved in 1925, and officially opened with the fashionable street dance, a wonderful opportunity to wear the soles out of your shoes. the street was blocked off for the night, a good orchestra provided music, and the large crowd had a wonderful time good clean entertainment. In 1963, this cement street was resurfaced with asphalt.

Doctors and Drug Stores

In the days when the family doctor called on his patients in horse and cutter or buggy, in all kinds of weather, at all times of the year, they often put in 24-hour days.

First record of a doctor in Hillsburgh was Dr. Burnham. In 1886, Dr. J.H. Hamilton had a residence at the corner of Station Road and Main Street. Later he moved to Erin Village.

Dr. Archie McKinnon was coroner for Wellington and Dufferin Counties in 1890. He died while in Hillsburgh, and was buried in Huxley's Cemetery. Dr. A. Skippen married Miss. Dyer, and they moved to the U.S.A. He was followed by Dr. George McKinnon, a son of Dr. Archie McKinnon.

Dr. Allan Gibson came in 1895, with his bride, the former Harriet Irvine. They lived in the house that became the McPherson Nursing Home. Dr. Gibson built the drug store in 1907.

In 1924, he sold his home and the drug store to Dr. E.C.A. Reynolds who sold the house and drug store to Ken Ferrier in 1946.

Following 1946, Dr. B. Prior, Dr. Currie, and Dr. Russell were in the village for a short time, each.

Since there was no residence for a doctor, nine business men put up one thousand dollars each, bought a lot on George Street, and had a house and office built. Dr. Ross was the first doctor to live in the new building. Dr. Witton of Erin had an office in Morrish Leader's apartment building for a short time.

Dr. John Steer bought the doctor's residence in 1953, and he sold it in 1966, to Dr. Green.

Hillsburgh Medical Centre was opened in 1972, with Dr. Norman McClintock and Dr. Ken Wilson as the first two doctors. Dr. McClintock's dedicated services to the community before his sudden death in a car accident, was recognized when a Memorial Plaque was erected in November 1976. Dr. Ray Green and Dr. Ray Lake carried on; while Dr. Chuck Minett was the dentist.

Dentist - Dr. Skinner, a dentist from Erin, came one day a week, to pull teeth. He was followed by Dr. James M. Abbott of Erin, on the same basis. About that time, Dr. H.N. Rathbun lived on a farm at corner of 4th line and 22 sideroad, where he did dental work in his home.. Later, he and his wife, Rachel Awery, moved to Hillsburgh, and he had an office in their home.

Dr. Allan J. Buchanan was the dentist from 1925 to 1929, when he moved to Acton, but he returned to the Hillsburgh office once a week until 1948. Dr. Bonar Bracken came once a week for two years from Grand Valley, and was followed in 1950 by Dr. John Hollinger for two years. After 1952, Hillsburgh did not have a dentist for a time.

Veterinarians - Dr. T. Babe had a Veterinary office in Gales Hotel (The Exchange) in 1890. Others were: Dr. Thornton, Dr. Charles Davis, Dr. Ashley of Brisbane also served the area.

Banks

Alexander Richardson of Grand Valley had a private bank in Hillsburgh and Erin Village, keeping each open one day a week. He sold to the Union Bank about 1905,. and they kept the bank open two days a week for a time. While C.E. Hilton was manager, the Royal Bank of Canada took over. The new bank building was erected about 1922, when Wm. Beatty was manager. Other managers included: Walter Duthie, Percy Roberts, Edgar Good, Harry Richardson of Grand Valley, (grandson of the first banker), Wallace Napper, Archie Pow, and Hugh Oxley.

Hillsburgh had two bank hold-ups. The first was in 1944, when Mr. and Mrs. Hilton were forced at gun-point by three masked bandits to leave their apartment above the bank, and go down to open the bank vault at night. They got away with only \$25.00 as the vault had a time lock.

The other happened at noon on an April day in 1960, when robbers got away with about \$4,000. They were captured at Palgrave within an hour, because Muriel Dymek had the presence of mind to jot down the car license number. Mr. Oxley and his staff Isobel McDonald, Iolla Roszell, and Laverne Swift, had more than their share of excitement that day. Laverne was a West Garafraxa boy, now retired in the Drayton area.

Town Hall

The location of the first town hall where early Nomination Meetings were held has not been established; but the second one was erected in 1887, as a joint effort by the Oddfellows and The Workmen Societies. It was a two-storey brick building located on Main Street, with the second storey being used for lodge rooms. The date and name stone is a work of art, showing two maple leaves and a beaver. The old Town Hall was purchased by Bruce Morette in 1962, and there they upholstered chairs and chesterfield suites. In 1958, Morette began his furniture factory in the large cement potato storage building erected by John Awery near the C.P.R. tracks.

Township Offices

A new Township office was erected in 1959 at a cost of \$27,000.

On June 10, 1995, the new Township Municipal Office was officially opened. It is located south of Hillsburgh beside the Township Works Department building on six acres of land, and replaced the one on Main Street, Hillsburgh, that was built in 1959.

Arena

Hillsburgh with its many ponds, did not suffer for want of open air ice space, even in the early days. \$1,000 was

raised at the street dance in 1925, to be used for the erection of a Skating Rink. An efficient committee formed a stock company, selling shares at \$10 each. "Then, as now, people of the Burg got behind their undertakings, and with everybody helping, the arena was started in late October, and finished by Christmas". "In 1952, hockey regulations called for a larger ice surface, and a 30-foot extension was added to the arena. This cost \$3,000 and was handled by notes". "In 1966, an artificial ice plant was installed at a cost of \$16,500. As usual, local men turned in to help, cutting costs, and by the end of the first season, it was paid for". Hillsburgh has always been a sports-minded town.

In late February, 1976, Hillsburgh was brought up with a jolt, along with a number of other local towns, when their arena was designated unsafe for use, according to modern Government safety standards, and the building was closed. Changes and rebuilding were promptly done to bring the building up to modern safety standards.

Churches

Hillsburgh has long been noted for its great number of churches. First religious services were held in a 12-foot square room for a few years in the early 1830's, regardless of their previous denominations.

Union Church - was built beside a small graveyard about the middle of the village, to accommodate the Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, and Anglicans. There was Sunday School; and Bible Class was held for adults on Thursday evenings.

The **Methodist Church** - was a large frame building on Church Street. It later became the large double residence of Mr. and Mrs. A. McConnell and Mrs. John McFee.

Baptist Church - in Hillsburgh. The congregation was formed in October 1853, as Regular Baptists. First church was erected in 1862, on a lot purchased from George Henshaw. The present church was erected on the same site. A tuning fork was used for leading the singing until 1888, when the first organ was purchased.

Presbyterian Church - Services were first conducted in the area in 1840, by Rev. John McMurchy who was visiting relatives. Through his influence, a student, John Goodwill, was sent in 1860. In 1865, Donald Strachan came as a student, and in 1868, he became their first ordained minister. He brought his family, and in 1871, his wife, the former Margaret Ravee, died and is buried in the churchyard beside the Old Union Church, in which services were being held. In 1869, the new church was erected on a lot purchased from the estate of Robert Maw, and was named St. Andrew's. In 1871, the congregation of Price's Corners in East Garafraxa was added, to make a two-point charge, an arrangement that has continued through the years. On Feb. 24, 1965, fire gutted the church; but plans were made to re-build on the same site at once, using the walls that were still standing. The congregation worshipped in the Community Centre until the new edifice was completed in April 1966. The manse was built in 1882.

St. John's Anglican Church - Records are gone, but may be in the Church Archives in Toronto. It is not known when this church was built, and it is believed it was closed about 1918.

Christian Church (Disciple) - was built to replace the stone church on 17 sideroad on the 6th line corner, known as Erin Centre, although it didn't work out that way for some years. As early as 1900, families in the northern part of the township, and as far away as Reading on the 14th line of Garafraxa at the Orangeville Road, began holding Sunday evening services in Hillsburgh Town Hall. The church was built the summer of 1906, and opened on Feb. 27, 1907. Rev. G.O. Black was the minister on the charge. Miss Minnie McMillan was the organist. In 1948, an electric organ was installed, with Mrs. Morgan Graham as organist, and Miss Helen Akitt, assistant. The church parsonage was bought on Ann Street in 1955; the interior was damaged by fire in Nov. 1963, but was soon renovated.

United Church - Hillsburgh was built in 1926, following Church Union. It was on the Erin-Hillsburgh-Coningsby Pastoral charge, with the minister, Rev. Edward R. Hall, living in the Erin Manse. The Brown Methodist Church in Eramosa near Mimosa had been closed, and Hillsburgh congregation purchased it, dismantled it, and moved it on sleighs during the winter of 1926, to land donated by Mr. and Mrs. Donald McConnell.

Cemeteries

First cemetery was the little churchyard surrounding the Union Church in the middle of town, where many of the early settlers of the Township were buried, dating back to 1831. This was a neglected cemetery until 1954, when Dan Gray and R.D. Nodwell were instrumental in restoring the cemetery and having the old grave markers embedded in a concrete base near the front of the cemetery. Among the pioneers whose stones have been preserved are: the founders of Hillsburgh, Wm. How, who died in 1854, aged eighty years, and his wife, Betsy, who died in 1858, aged eighty-six; Alexander Gray, died in 1880, and his wife, Isabella, in 1887; Richard Davis, 1862, and his wife, Jane, in 1858; the wife of the Rev. Donald Strachan, first minister of St. Andrew's Church, who died in 1871; and others. This cemetery has not been used since 1900.

There was also a small cemetery on the lot where the Old Methodist Church stood on Church Street.

Huxley Cemetery - In 1884, the seventeen year old son of Thomas Huxley died of a fatal illness. He had expressed his wish to be buried on a small hill on the farm, lot 28, con. 7, and the father had followed the wish. Many residents realized the beauty of the site, and expressed the wish to use the same spot, so Thomas Huxley gave one acre of land for the Cemetery that now bears the family name.

Additions were made to the cemetery in 1941 and in 1958, bringing the area up to three acres. In 1949, the plots were put in Perpetual Care.

Newspapers

"The Bee" was first published September 27, 1881, by George Lacey, a loan agent, land agent conveyancer, auctioneer, and issuer of marriage licenses, apparently a very versatile chap. "The Hillsburgh Wasp" was first issued October 8, 1881, when the spelling of the village's name was still without the "h". The editor was D.E. MacMillan.

By 1887, George Lacey called his weekly paper, "The Beaver", and one advertisement was the Monthly Cattle Fair, a sale not a show.

Livery Stables

From the Erin Township Centennial Booklet, we find: "Before the day of cars, every town had need of someone with a stable of fast horses and rigs for hire. Salesmen coming in on the noon train were driven to Marsville and Orton, or other points, and boarded the evening train again. Ball teams needed transportation to neighbouring villages. Freight needed to be transported to and from the station by dray.

"Wes Faulkner kept his horses first in the small barn of Morrish Leader. The story is told of a break-in at the Donaldson and Carmichael store, when jewellery, consisting mainly of men's watches, was stolen. The robbers escaped with one of Mr. Faulkner's rigs, boarded the train in Rockwood, and left the horse tied to a hitching post there.

Faulkner was followed by Wm. McLachlan, who used the barn where Mel Barden later kept his show horses. Others in the Livery Business were George Barber, John McLachlan, John Souter and Harold Morrison."

Railroads

With increased crops, the long hauls to Oakville or Guelph became a burden. The community began discussions

regarding a railway. Various schemes were proposed. It was first thought to bring one north from Georgetown, having connections with Guelph, Hamilton and Toronto. Another proposal was to have a direct line from Toronto, but the proposal to raise a bonus of \$40,000 to assist in building it, was defeated.

Negotiations began about 1877, to bring the "Credit Valley Railway" from Cataract Junction to Elora, and it was completed in November 1879. At first the time table was a bit irregular, but four passenger trains passed through each day, two each way. First freight was carried in 1881. In 1933, the train service was reduced to two trains per day. Passenger trains were discontinued in 1958.

The station and grain elevators were burned in fall of 1932, and the small station was built the next year. The shipping of potatoes by freight did much for the farmers of Erin Township. This light land produced fine flavoured potatoes, that came from the ground in clean condition. The first carload of potatoes was shipped to Toronto in the fall of 1881. It contained 210 bags, all that could be found in the neighbourhood, but it was a good introduction to the city market. Farmers began to produce potatoes, and by 1922 there were 200 carloads shipped. Hillsburgh potatoes developed a world-wide reputation.

The Credit Valley Railway was purchased by the CPR in 1884 and became one of the best paying lines in the system. The Elora Branch was efficiently managed, the employees were courteous and obliging.

Eastern end of the line was Orangeville, connected with the Hamilton train at Cataract, it came through Forks of the Credit to Erin Village, then to Hillsburgh, Orton, Belwood, Fergus and Elora. There the engine changed directions on a "turn-table", and returned.

First potato buyers were C.J. McMillan and son Fred, who were also cattle buyers. Others who shipped potatoes by train were Barbour Brothers, and Bill and Frank Gray, all shipping at one time, with as many as 3,000 bags going out on the evening train.

The C.P.R. tracks were torn up in 1988.

Women's Institute

Was organized in 1904, as Erin-Hillsburgh W.I. District until 1922, when Erin withdrew, and Hillsburgh Jr. and Hillsburgh Sr. were formed as two separate groups. In 1948, the name was changed to Hillsburgh Auxilliary and continues to flourish.

Century Farms

There are only two Century Farms in this area of the Township.

The **McMurphy family** came from Argyleshire, Scotland, settling on lot 23, on the 8th line about 1841. Son Donald married Mary Green and purchased lot 26, con. 7, in 1855, for \$800, buying from Alexander Grant. The log house was replaced in 1875 at a cost of 1,500. Their youngest son, Charles married Fannie Reed in 1903, and took over the farm. The barn was built in 1911. A Delco Lighting System was used until Caledon Electric Power came to the Hillsburgh area in 1920. Their son, Donald, married Mae Folliott in 1936, and took over the farm. They have three children: Robert, Charles, and Mary.

The **Nodwell family** were Presbyterians from Londonderry, Ireland, but the original name was spelled "Nedwill". Having lost a valuable stock of horses by Anthrax, they decided to come to Canada. They landed in Quebec City in the fall of 1838, and are said to have travelled all the way to Erin Township by wagon and teams of oxen. Wm. Nodwell and his second wife, Letitia Dunn and their family settled on lot 24, con. 8. Within a year the log house was destroyed by fire, and everything was lost. A new log house was built near the site of the present buildings. It was replaced by the large brick house in 1868. The frame barn was built in 1857, to which additions have been made. Wm. Nodwell died in 1845, leaving the property divided between two sons. Robert bought 100 acres in East Garafraxa Township, and traded it to Thomas for his half of the homestead. Robert's son, R.D. Nodwell, took

over the farm in 1895, when he married Lillias Young, and the brick house was built at the road gate for his parents. R.D. and his son, Mungo, went into the growing of seed potatoes. About 1926, Mungo took over the farm, married Lillian Ferguson, and kept a dairy herd. Mungo died in 1963, and his daughter, Mary and her husband, Dick Buckles, are operating the farm known as "Homestead Farm".

S.S. #7 School - Cedarvale

The first log school was built on lot 8, on 5th line,. There was no floor, and the children sat on benches.

The second school was a frame building with a cottage roof, erected in 1865, on lot 8, near the first one. Water was carried from a spring half a mile away. In 1867, a small brown metal Confederation Plaque was presented to all the rural schools. An early teacher was Mr. Christopher Hamilton.

In 1873, a new frame school was built on lot 11. Miss McDonald was the first teacher in this school, followed by Miss Young. While Mr. Homer McLelland was the teacher, the school was veneered with brick.

The first dug well produced water unfit for drinking, so water was carried from Colon McMillan's on lot 10, until about 1910.

The school was located in a small clearing of cedars, and received its name because of its location. In the 1880's, fire was started in clearing operations and got out of control on lot 12, con. 4. Swept along by the wind, the whole bush and swamp were burned over. The present stand of trees is new growth.

Some of the pupils who have gone into the professions are: David Burt, became a Disciple Minister; Wm. J. McLean, a School Inspector in Alberta; Dr. Martha Smith, a Missionary to India; Dr. Samuel Johnson, of Toronto General Hospital; Robert Thompson, an engineer in a large American flourmill; Hilliard McMillan, civil engineer.

Cedarvale School won the silver cup in three successive years for the best decorated float at Erin Agricultural Fair, and retained it in 1934. When Cedarvale School closed in 1962, the cup was taken to Brisbane for display.

A Sunday School was organized about 1903 under the guidance of Dr. Martha Smith, and continued for over 60 years. First Superintendent was George Griffin. It was an undenominational group held on Sunday afternoons. Between 60 and 100 people attended regularly, from the surrounding area, Mimosa, Coningsby, Ospringe, Brisbane and Ballinafad.

During the Second War, a Women's Institute was active from 1937-1947, knitting for the soldiers, and sending parcels overseas.

Cemetery

Not being satisfied with the original offer of 1,000 acres of land in the Binkham school section, for his work as surveyor of the Township of Erin, Charles Kennedy received from the Crown a grant of 400 acres, lots 11 and 12, on both sides of the 5th line. On the highest point of Mr. Kennedy's land a Pioneer Cemetery was located on lot 11. Pioneers buried here were the Kennys, Kennedys and Griffins. Later the stones were moved to Coningsby Cemetery.

A blacksmith shop is believed to have been located on lot 9, about across from the site of the second school, and that the old gateposts at the entrance to the farm may have been hitching posts or some posts connected with the blacksmithing business. In replacing the gate posts, horse shoes and other blacksmith irons were found, by the Lightle family. They had purchased the farm from Wm. Chisholm, whose father, J. Chisholm had also lived there.

Some made a weekly trip to Brisbane Post Office for the mail, distributing it in the community. Rural mail delivery did not begin in this area until 1917, which seems quite late.

An old Methodist Church was located on lot 8, con. 5. There was no organ, and singing was started by the precentor, John Kennedy. Little is remembered about this church, except that it had an unusually narrow front door. In later years the building was purchased by Jack Harris, and moved to his lot, where it was used as a driving shed.

Century Farms

Settlement of this area took place early in 1820's, and three Century farms were marked in 1967.

The Smith farm, W 1/2 lot 10, con. 6, on 5th line, was taken from the Crown by Abraham Nellis, and sold to Alexander Cross in 1821. Matthew and Mary Smith who were United Empire Loyalists from Pennsylvania, purchased the farm in 1852. They crossed into Ontario through the Niagara Peninsula. Their son, Matthew Thompson Smith and his wife, Rachel took over the farm in 1904. Their son, Samuel Edward (Ed) Smith and his wife, Aggie took the farm in 1933. Dr. Martha Smith, the Missionary to India, was a sister of Ed Smith.

The Leitch farm, W 1/2 lot 13, con. 6, was taken from the Crown in 1824, by Hamilton Goring, and followed by Arthur Goring, who lived there until 1846 or longer. The farm was purchased by John Leitch in 1855. At various times through the years, pieces of land have been purchased to straighten or improve the road, now #24 Highway, and more recently to widen it. Malcolm Leitch succeeded to his grandfather's farm in 1883, but he was in poor health, and died in 1887. At that time it reverted to John Leitch, and his wife, whose son, Donald, a widower, were all living on the farm. James M. Leitch and wife purchased it in 1929, followed by his son Keith and his wife and Alberta Leitch.

The Griffin farm, W 1/2 lot 11, con. 6, 5th line, was in the family since 1838. It was taken from the Crown in 1832, by Matthew Tallman who never came to live on it. He sold to Smith E. Griffin of Smithville in 1838, for the sum of 50 pounds. He moved to the farm, and raised ten children. In 1859, he died, leaving the farm to his son, Wm. M. Griffin, who retired to Erin Village in 1901. He left the farm to his son, Smith E. Griffin, who lived to be about 100 years of age, and very active all his life. He turned the farm over to his son, Harold Griffin, but made his home on the homestead. Harold and his son, Smith R. Griffin, specialized in growing Registered Seed Grain, turnips for waxing, and Certified Seed Potatoes, for many years. They were members of the "Old Guard" of the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto, having exhibited continuously since that Show started. They were Life Members of Erin Fall Fair, and bought their first Registered Shorthorn Cattle in 1915. Harold was Reeve of Erin Twp. from 1955-1958.

Smith R. Griffin was the 5th generation to live on this farm. He died suddenly on Sept. 1st, 1987, and was buried in the family plot in Coningsby Cemetery. Smith had married Joanne Julian Turner in Aug. 1986, but Joanne died of cancer of the bone in June 1987.

The Griffins were of Welsh descent. In October 1635, an early member of the family, Edward Griffin, was on a shipload of young men who came to Virginia. Later, Edward moved to Long Island, and then to Flushing, N.Y., in 1657. Three of his grandsons, Richard, Thomas, and Obadiah, fought with the Loyalists in the American Revolution in 1776. Thomas and Obadiah moved to Nova Scotia, where descendants still live.

Richard Griffin married Mary Smith, daughter of Judge Abraham Smith of New York. They came to Ontario as U.E. L.'s in 1786, in a canvas-covered wagon, cutting a trail through the unbroken bush. The journey took six months, and they were fortunate to advance three or four miles in a day. They came by way of Rochester, which consisted of a blacksmith shop and a tavern at that time. For his faithfulness to the British, Richard Griffin was granted 800 acres from the Crown, in Lincoln County, south of Grimsby. The site selected for their home was the present

location of Smithville, which was named after his wife, Mary Smith. It was their grandson, Smith E. Griffin who settled in Erin Twp., in 1838.

S.S. # 8 - Greenock School

This section was known as Leslie's School for many years, because all three buildings were located on Leslie property. In 1875, the school was officially named Greenock.

The first log school was situated on the corner of lot 5 and the first line, close to the present dwelling of Miss Elva Pearen, a great-granddaughter of James Leslie, the first owner. The first grant of money came through on August 2, 1851, for a total of seven pounds, six shillings and eleven pence.

In 1859, a frame school was built on lot 6, across the road, on property rented from Peter Torrie. The lease was drawn up for twenty-five years, with a rental of one shilling per year. In 1869, the property was sold to James Leslie, and the rent was paid to him. Regular attendance ran between 80 and 90 in summer, and up to 120 pupils in winter.

The new brick school was built in 1875, on one acre of land on lot 5, near the centre of the concession, purchased from J.W. Leslie for the sum of \$50. At that time, the name was changed to Greenock, in honour of John Duff, an active member of the building committee, who had come from Greenock, Scotland. The special opening was marked by a Tea Meeting, with the Acton Brass Band to provide the music. J.W. Leslie had taken his team and wagon to bring them.

Through the years, this school was the social centre of the community. It was the scene of many political meetings. The Literary Society formed in 1906, sponsored debates, concerts, box socials, and oyster suppers. Proceeds from these were used to buy books for the Library which was placed in the school.

In 1964, the attendance again grew to the extent that a second teacher had to be hired, and a partition divided the school into two classrooms. Greenock was one of the last rural schools in the Township to close. In September 1965, the pupils were taken to Ospringe Public School.

In November 1965, the school was sold to James Ledger, and converted into a door factory; but on the windy night of March 1st, 1966, it and the machinery were destroyed by fire. Enough bricks were salvaged to erect a cairn across the road from the school site, and the name stone, and the bell which had been removed at the time of the sale, were assembled into the cairn, around which is a small picnic area.

Claire Mathies has erected a modern home on this spacious lot.

Farmers' Club

Greenock had its own branch of the Farmers' Club through the First War, and from it was organized the Greenock Branch of the United Farmers of Ontario in 1918, continuing until 1923, with J.E. Pearen as secretary and buyer.

Through the Second World War, a group of twenty local ladies formed a Red Cross Branch, with Township headquarters in Hillsburgh.

The Greenock Branch of the Women's Institute was organized in January, 1948, to fill the gap left when Red Cross Meetings were faded out.

Early days in the Greenock area saw Clydesdale horses imported from Scotland by John Duff of W-1/2 lot 8, con. 1, before 1900. He owned one of the first threshing machines with a straw blower. James McLean of the first line, also purchased a threshing machine about the same time.

James Kirkwood, of lot 9, con. 2, a former reeve of Erin Township, was elected as M.P.P. for East Wellington in 1891, and remained for three years.

George C. Wallace of W-1/2 lot 5, con. 1, was reeve of Erin from 1958-61, and was Warden of Wellington County in 1961.

The White Tannery of W-1/2 lot 7, con. 1, started in 1958, in an old building that was burned the following year. It was rebuilt by the owner, K.G. Mance, who developed a thriving business.

Churches

Greenock community was served by several churches: Bethesda Methodist Church at Crewson's Corners; Siloam Methodist Church, also known as the Brick Church, at the second line corner, on the Esquesing side of the townline; The Congregationalist Church at Churchill, at the 3rd line on south corner. Others attended the Church of Christ, (Disciple) at Everton; or the Presbyterian Church at Ospringe. Families were buried at Churchill or at Everton Cemeteries.

Century Farms

There were five Century Farms marked in 1967:

The Allan Farm on lot 7, con. 3, was one of the earliest to be taken from the Crown; but the Allan family did not come until the spring of 1855. John Allan came from Hamilton, and was a carpenter who had learned his trade in Scotland. He paid 287 pounds for the 200 acres, built a house and barn and a shed for drying hops. He planted hops, and packed them in large bales when dry. On a good year a democrat load would bring \$600. The old house was burned in 1889, and replaced by the brick house. From 1860-1862, a lumber company had a mill on this farm, and bought up all the hardwood in the area. It was hauled to Acton by Oxen, and shipped to England and Scotland for ship building. John Allan married Jane Moore. In 1890, the farm was sold to their second son, John Allan, who married Rubina Auld, and there they lived the rest of their lives. Mrs. John Allan sold the farm in 1929, to son Chester and his wife, the former Florence Johnston. They had six children.

The Aitken Farm - E-1/2 lot 5, con. 1, was taken from the Crown in 1822, by Benajah Williams, and sold in 1835, to James and Lydia Leslie, his son-in-law and daughter. The Leslie's came from Glen Williams with their family of nine children. The first log house was built where the present house now stands. Farms on the other three corners were purchased by James Leslie, and are still owned by his descendants. The barn and the second log house were built nearby. After the death of James Leslie in 1873, the youngest son, Joel Williams Leslie, took over the homestead and lot 5, con. 2. His first wife, Mary Catharine Kennedy, died two years after their marriage. His second wife was Mary Swackhammar. Their only surviving child, Alice Leslie, married Edward Pearen, soon after the present brick house was built in 1899. They resided with the Leslie's. The large bank barn was built in 1884, and had a skylight topped with a weather-vane and brass ball. The Shorthorn cattle were registered under the Leslie and Pearen name, and took many prizes at fairs and exhibitions. There was a good Maple bush on the farm, and it became known as Maplewood Farm. The Pearens had three daughters, Evelyn, Elva and Alice. Elva died December 31, 1996, aged 98 years.

Joel Leslie died in 1934, leaving the homestead to Alice Pearen, and they lived there until 1949, when they retired to a new home on the corner of W 1/2 lot 5, con. 2. The farm was then purchased by their son-in-law and daughter Calvin and Evelyn Aitken of E 1/2 lot 7, con. 2, which is also a Century farm, dating back to Calvin Aitken's Grandfather, James Aitken who settled there in 1850. The Aitkens have a family of two daughters and three sons.

The Leslie Farm - lot 6, con. 1, was taken up by James Leslie in 1833, before it was surveyed. His wife was Lydia Williams from Glen Williams, where he had first settled. There they remained for a few years so the children

could attend school. About 1835, he settled on lots 5 and 6; and about 1869, he bought the W 1/2 lot 6, con. 2 from Peter Torrie. At one time, James Leslie owned 850 acres in Erin Township. He had nine children: John, Elizabeth, Mary, Benajah, George, Margaret, Martha, Joel and Sarah. James Leslie died in 1873, leaving lot 6, con. 1 to his son, George. Having previously bought lot 6, con. 2, he was an established breeder of Registered Shorthorn cattle, and a lover of fine carriage and draught horses. The large brick house was built in 1882; the barn in 1887. George Leslie operated a potash manufacturing business on lot 6, con. 2. Bars of soap were bartered for hardwood ashes which were leached, and the liquid boiled down, cooled and packed in barrels to sell for the manufacture of soap, etc. George Leslie married Amanda Stafford. In 1909, two sons, Joel and Ira, took over the two farms, but due to Ira's ill health, Joel carried on. He showed Registered Percheron horses at the C.N. E. and Royal Winter Fair, winning many prizes. In 1913 he built the fine stone house on lot 6, con. 2, where his father, brother Ira, and sister Amy, lived. Joel married Ina Seymour and lived in the brick house on lot 6, con. 1. He died in 1957, and since then the farm has been operated by his son, Gordon Leslie and his wife, Annie Aitken. They have two sons and three daughters.

The Johnston Farm - E 1/2 lot 2, con. 2, was taken from the Crown in 1823, and changed hands several times before it was purchased by James Leslie in 1841. In 1873, at the death of James Leslie, this 100 acres was willed to his daughter, Martha and her husband, Robert Johnston. The first log house was built far back from the road, with part of it being over a never-failing spring. A new home was built by Robert Johnston, closer to the road, with the front part being added in 1892. Married in 1865, Robert and Martha Johnston had a family of six sons and six daughters. Robert died in 1911, and the youngest son, Basil, succeeded to the farm. Three years later he married Catherine Gray, and they had one son and one daughter. In 1939 Basil Johnston died, as the result of an accident. His son, Elwood purchased the farm in 1943. He married Mary Cutts, and they have a family of 3 daughters and one son. They operated a dairy farm, and also own 100 acres, lot 3, 3rd line.

The McArthur Farm - lot 4, con. 1. The first log house was built in 1822, Duncan McArthur purchased it from James Jones in 1846, built the first barn, and brought Shorthorn cattle from Scotland. Duncan McArthur and his wife the former Flora McKechnie, came from Islay, Scotland. They had a family of nine sons and three daughters. The stone house was built about 1858. The oldest son became a tailor in Acton. The second son met with a fatal accident at a barn raising on the neighbouring farm of George McBain. Neil McArthur took over the farm from his father, and after his death in 1902, his brother, William and his wife, the former Mary Jane Carnochen bought the farm. They had twelve children. The new barn was built in 1906, and Wm. was assisted by his son, Lorne. After William's death, his son, Neil came home, and he and his sister, Donalda live on the farm.

Crewson's Corners

Was a hamlet at the southern corner of the Greenock School Section, built on the corner of four townships and in two counties: Erin and Eramosa in Wellington County and Esquesing and Nassagaweya in Halton County. The name was given in honour of a local family about 1845.

It was first called Ryckman's Corner, named after Samuel Ryckman, the surveyor of Eramosa and Nassagaweya Townships. In 1822, Morgan Crewson purchased W 1/2 lot 1, con. 1, Erin Township, and in 1845, the family purchased E 1/2 lot 1, con. 1. The stone house was built on the West half, in 1833, and the stone barn was completed in 1845, having taken ten years to build. These two buildings are still in use by recent owners, Mr. and Mrs. Abram.

The Old York Trail was the main road from Guelph to Toronto.

Railway

In 1852, the Grand Trunk Railway came through from Toronto to Guelph, just missing Crewson's Corners by a few rods. It is believed that Railway officials approached Morgan Crewson for land on which to build a station and sidings. Upon refusal the station was built at Acton, and the tracks were run in a straight line to Rockwood.

Store and Post Office

In the early days a hotel was situated on the south corner of this hamlet; and it was later converted into a dwelling. In 1893, a store was added by Wm. Anderson, and on Dec. 1st, 1893, the Post Office was opened with Mr. Anderson as first Postmaster. George Cann operated the store and Post Office from 1897-1900; Robert Cripps from 1900-1903; Wm. Lambert from 1903-1914, when the Post Office was closed and rural mail delivery was inaugurated. Wm. Lambert died in 1916, and his son, Charles continued in the store until his death in 1938. The store continued in operation under Mr. and Mrs. John Airdrie until 1943. The store was torn down in 1947, and the remainder used as the dwelling. The Town Hall was built across the road.

The weigh scales were on the west corner. In 1907, Alex Cripps was operating a sawmill and shingle mill. His brother, Wm. Cripps, used the same engine for grinding grain. The blacksmith shop was on the west side of the town line.

Bethesda Methodist Church

Also on the west side, was built in 1861, and served the surrounding community, including Greenock. The name was changed to Crewson's Corners Church in 1875, and services were held until 1919. A Sunday School was continued by Mr. Lambert for some years. The church became the Orange Lodge, but it too, has closed.

S.S. # 9, Awery's School

John Awery Senior was a blacksmith in New Jersey, and fought in the American Revolution of 1776. He came to Beamsville in the Niagara Peninsula as a United Empire Loyalist before the 1812 War.

The Pioneer in Erin Township, John Awery, was a son of Nicholas Awery. He too was a blacksmith at Beamsville. In 1827, he purchased 500 acres in Erin Township, and made his way through dense forests, hills, steep ravines, and fast-flowing streams, to the property he purchased from the Crown. He had seven son.

On lot 22, con. 2, he built a log house, and brought his wife and family: John B., Gideon, David, Stephen and Peter, who grew up and settled on adjoining farms.

He cleared land to grow wheat, and carried it in a bag on his shoulders to mills at Oakville and later to Norval, to get it ground into flour. He cut trees to make corduroy roads through the swamps. He was the only blacksmith in the area for many years. He built a water-powered sawmill on their farm, the remains of the dam may still be found on the farm.

Schools

In 1833, the first school was built in the Section. It was built of logs on the west corner of lot 18, on 2nd line. One of the teachers in the log school was Edward Stephens, father of Rev. John Stephens.

The second school was built in 1840, on lot 22 at 2nd line corner, on the Awery homestead. It was also used as a church, as the Mimosa Methodist Church was not built until 1860. A twelve-foot addition was soon built to it. The third school was built in 1873, of red brick. After much discussion, the site chosen was again on the Awery farm on 22 sideroad. Trustees were John Awery, Hector Parker, and Thomas Tolton. First teacher in the new school was Margaret Reid of Coningsby. On Arbor Day, about 1895, some of the boys went to a local hardwood bush, dug up small maple trees, and planted them around the school yard. Now tall trees, they have provided much shade through the years. In the early part of the century, some of the boys rode horse back to school, turning the horse loose to find its own way home. Should the roadside grazing be good, sometimes the boy got home in the afternoon almost as soon as the horse.

In January 1963, the children were taken by bus to Hillsburgh Consolidated School, and Awery's School, S.S. # 9,

was closed.

Brickyard

In the 1860's there was a brickyard on lot 20, con. 2, the farm owned recently by Albert Awery and his son, Bert. These bricks were used in building the Awery house, and several others in the community.

Sawmill

A sawmill was operated by Henry Patton on lot 22, con. 4, in the latter part of the 1800's. It burned down about 1893, and another was built on the same site, operated by Charlie Skusky and Alex McKinnon, and later by Alex McKinnon alone. Mr. Collin Patton was fatally injured at this mill. It was burned in 1913, and rebuilt by Alex McKinnon, where he sawed timbers, lumber and made shingles, but also operated a chopping mill. The business was carried on by his sons, Arnold and Ross. In 1930's Ross changed the operation of the sawmill into manufacturing basket bottoms. Finally the mill closed, and was removed. Ross operated the C.R. McKinnon building supply business in Hillsburgh.

About 1910, King Cooper operated a steam-driven sawmill on lot 21, con. 3, later owned by Root Brothers. About 1915, the mill was bought by John Tarswell, who moved it to lot 23, con. 3, later owned by Louis Passant. A gristmill was also operated on this site. Roy Tarswell who operated the mill on lot 19, con. 6, worked with John Tarswell as a young man.

Telephone

In 1910 the telephone came to this community, with the farmers cutting poles, and helping install them; other men helped string the wire. The main line was across 17 sideroad, and up the Townline as far as Mimosa. There it had connections with Belwood and Fergus.

In 1912, Thomas Dearing was the first mail courier on R.R. 1, Orton.

Cemetery

Beside Awery's School there was a little cemetery, where seven people were buried. When Mimosa Methodist Church was built in 1860, a cemetery was started in the churchyard, and the bodies were transferred to it. One coffin which had contained the body of a four-year old girl, was very heavy. On being opened it was found that the body was petrified, causing the weight.

Century Farms

Awery Century Farm - Taken from Crown in 1827. In 1844, John B. Awrey bought W 1/2 lot 21, con. 2, from his father, and built a log house and barn. In 1845, he married Ann Root, and later bought the E 1/2 lot 21.

They had four sons, Robert, Smith, John Root, and Edwin. In 1865, a brick house was built on the farm from brick made on the Awery farm, and four other brick houses for the boys. Smith Awery married Martha Ann Dyer in 1875, lived for a few years on W 1/2 lot 19, con. 3, then moved to his father's farm in 1885, when his father retired to Hillsburgh. In 1906, the new barn was built, the timbers being sawed in the sawmill on the farm. In 1908, Albert Awery married Mary Robertson, and bought the homestead from his father, who retired to Hillsburgh. For several years while Albert Awery and his wife and family were in the West, his two sisters and their husbands were in charge of the farm. In 1949, their two youngest sons, Bert and his brother took over the farm.

The **Lowry Century Farm**, is known as "Silver Spring", lot 24, con. 1. First settler was James Turkington from County Tyrone in Northern Ireland. He and his wife and family took up 200 acres before 1846. At the same time, a young Irishman, also from Tyrone, took up the adjoining 100 acres, W-1/2 lot 25, con. 1. He was James Lowry, and he married Eliza Turkington. Soon after 1846, James Turkington divided his 200 acres among his family, and James and Eliza Lowry received their first 50 acres in 1863. These small parcels of land frequently changed hands among the brothers and brothers-in-law. By 1878, the pioneers had passed away, and were buried in Everton Cemetery. In 1883, the McDonalds sold their 50 acres to John Bailey, leaving James Lowry with 150 acres, plus his original 100 acres on lot 25.

James and Eliza Lowry had six girls and four boys. Their son, Thomas, was born in 1863, and married Jane Murray Hume of lot 26. They lived on E-1/2 lot 24, con. 1, which he farmed with his only child, Roy, until his death in 1938. The log barn was replaced in 1890, and the house built of field stones found on the farm, was built in 1915. The water system is unique. Both house and barn are supplied by a pipe-line from a powerful spring of good water situated about 1200 feet back of the buildings, with a gradual slope providing sufficient pressure for water bowls in the stable, a bathroom on the second floor in the house and a fountain in the yard.

In 1916, Roy Lowry married Eliza Boggs of East Garafraxa Township, and lived on lot 24. They had five girls, and one son, James, who with his wife, Doris Robinson of Guelph, took over the farm in 1946, where their four children were born.

The **Root Century Farm**, lot 20, con. 3 - According to Robert Root's Diary, he paid the first taxes in 1847, but he did not secure the Deed until October 30th, 1852. In 1849, he built the first house on the hill beside the spring. In 1851, he brought his wife, Elizabeth Haun. The clearing was so small, that when her husband was felling a tree, she would leave the house, in case the tree would fall on it. The next year he built the barn, and bought a wagon from Root's wagon shop in Erin Village. In 1865, the present red brick house was built from brick made on the John B. Awery farm. Also erected were a brick oven for baking bread, and a brick smoke house for curing pork. In 1850, the taxes were 4 shillings and 4 pence, (about \$1.04). The ten-roomed house cost about \$1300.

In 1896, Robert Root's youngest son, David, took over the homestead. He married Gertrude Watson of Snelgrove. The barn was replaced in 1920. In 1932, David Root's two youngest sons, John and Haines formed the Root Bros. partnership. They concentrated on two phases of farming, production and marketing, and established a trucking business to handle livestock, feed and fertilizer. In 1940, the brick house was remodelled to serve two families. When John married Lillie Toop of Ottawa, Haines was best man. The following year, Haines went to Ottawa to marry the bridesmaid, Pearl Toop. Here on this Century farm, both have raised their families.

In 1965, John Root's second son, George, married Ann Hall, and became a third partner in Root Bros. Over the years the E-1/2 lot 20, con. 3, and the W-1/2 lot 21, con. 3, have been added to the farm operations.

In 1951, John Root entered the Ontario Legislature as Progressive Conservative Member for the electoral riding of Wellington Dufferin, and was elected in succeeding elections until his retirement in 1975. For three years he served in Premier Leslie Frost's Cabinet. In 1961, he was appointed to the Ontario Water Resources Commission. In 1967 he became Vice Chairman and Chairman from about 1970. John Root was also President of the Baptist Convention for Ontario and Quebec.

One of the prized family possessions to be found on this farm, is the old lynch pin wagon that drew the grinding stones for the first mill in Erin Village. Other heirlooms are the iron maple sugar kettle, some cooking utensils, a clock still keeping time, and the Bible containing the records of the Root family.

Descended from a Mennonite family in Switzerland, Henry Ruth arrived in 1717, in America, where four generations lived in Pennsylvania. The Henry Rott family moved to the Niagara Peninsula as U.E.L.'s in 1799. There have been changes in the spelling of the name. Henry was buried at Beamsville. There were twelve children.

John Root, the oldest son, came to Erin Twp. in 1826, and settled on lot 17, con. 7. He married Elizabeth Smith (See Brisbane area).

Robert Root settled on lot 20, con. 3, Erin Twp., about 1847, and brought his wife, Elizabeth Haun, to the farm in 1851.

The ***Reed-Rowan Century Farm***, - Henry Reed took up 200 acres in 1855, E-1/2 lot 23, con. 1, and W-1/2 lot 23, con. 2. These two farms were separated by a blazed trail that ultimately became the 1st line of Erin. The buildings were built close to this trail. A barn, 60 x 30 feet in size was built in 1862, and many of the timbers ran the full 60 foot length of the barn. The siding was of dressed pine, and painted red with white trim. In 1863, the stone house was built on the opposite side of the trail.

Henry Reed's sons, Robert and Nathaniel, took over the farm, and in 1868, Nathaniel was married. Robert stayed on the homestead where his parents died. Robert raised a family of 6 girls and one boy. In 1893, he retired to Hillsburgh, and his son, James took the farm. James Reed married Lydia Johnson of Acton, where James died in 1960, at age of 93. Upon their retirement to Acton in 1903, their daughter Martha Ann and her husband, William Rowan, took over the farm. William had been teaching in Hillsburgh for 20 years. In 1924, they retired to Hillsburgh, and their sons, Robert and Ewart took over the farm as partners. After her husband's death, Martha made her home with her family of 3 daughters and four sons. She died at age of 92, in 1962.

Ewart married Olive Miller, and moved to an Eramosa farm. Robert took over the Century Farms. He married Mary Dickieson of Guelph Twp. Their family were: Allan, Douglas, Barbara (Mrs. Beatty McLean), and Kenneth. After Robert's death, Mary moved to Guelph. Allan married Eleanor Hosking of Rockwood, and took over the farm in 1966.

S.S. #10 - Woodside Section

Churchill Church and Cemetery are located on 3rd line of Esquesing Township, on lot 32, on the Erin Township line. First settler was Jacob Swackhamer who was born in Pennsylvania and came to Canada in 1812, as an U.E.L. He served as an orderly for General Sir Isaac Brock in the Niagara Peninsula. He received a grant of land and came to it in 1819. Other settlers who followed quickly had names of Russell, Denny, Snyder, Kennedy and Brownlee. A descendant, Wallace Swackhamer owned this homestead until he retired in the late 1970's.

Known as Swackhamer's Corners, it never had a store, Post Office, hotel, or industry of any kind - only a school, church and cemetery.

On February 4, 1838, Rev. Hiram Denny organized the Congregational Church, using the old log school, which was located in the present cemetery. Churchill Congregational Church was built between 1840-1843. Rev. Denny also organized Congregational Churches at Speedside, Simpson's Corners near Belwood, at Alton, and he held services in an upstairs hotel room at Ospringe. Rev. Hiram Denny left Churchill in 1854, but his descendants still live in the area - Denny's Bus Lines.

Churchill Church became a United Church in 1925, but was closed by the United church in 1968. Almost immediately it became a Nondenominational Church, supported by former members. It remains a very active Community church, serving families south of #24 Highway.

The first log school served as a community centre, and church for a few years. It was replaced by a new log school on the Donald Swackhamer farm, lot 2, on 4th line, Erin Twp. Robert Brownlee was first teacher, and because he had a farm on lot 6, on 5th line, he taught school only in winter time.

The Cemetery opposite the church is not connected with the church, but is a Community Cemetery. It was started in 1827, when John Swackhamer asked permission from his older brother, Jacob, to bury a small child on the corner of Jacob's farm. Soon after, a Small Pox epidemic broke out in the area, with several rows of graves attesting to the toll it took. In the early survey the rows of graves are at an angle to the road, facing directly east;

but in the new survey the rows are parallel with the road.

A marker nearby shows the area to be 1,200 feet above Sea level, at the edge of the Niagara Escarpment. From here to the south, the water all runs into Lake Ontario; from here north, it is in the Grand River watershed, and flows into Lake Erie.

Woodside School

Woodside frame school was built in 1872, on the Abraham Nelles farm, lot 3, on 4th line. It was named "Woodside" because it is located beside a beautiful woods. It was closed in 1888, and became the residence of Wm. Smith.

The brick school was built in 1888, on lot 5, con. 5, on the sideroad, a site recommended by Inspector J.J. Craig. The bricks were made on the Given farm, lot 6, 6th line. Water was obtained for the school, from a spring just outside the school grounds.

With Centralization, Woodside School was closed in 1965, and the pupils were taken by bus to Ospringe. Grant Robinson is the present owner of Woodside, where he has made his home for the past few years. He is also an historian, interested in its history, and the history of all the schools in Erin Township.

With a local committee, Grant Robinson planned a School Reunion for June 10th, 1995. Two of the six former teachers to attend: Vera Denny was the last teacher when the school closed 30 year ago. She taught from 1958-1965. Grace McEnery taught at Woodside in 1947, as well as at Peacock School and at Tenth line School, Erin Twp.

Mail came to local Post Offices, Acton, Ballinafad, and Ospringe, until 1912, when Rural Mail Delivery was inaugurated.

A blacksmith shop on 5th line was operated by McLean who also had looms for weaving blankets and offered them for sale. There were brick kilns on the Kennedy and Given farms on 6th line; a lime kiln on 3rd line at 5 sideroad; and a soap factory on lot 1, on 4th line. A sawmill was located on lot 1, on 3rd line. Kenney's shoe repair shop was on lot 5, 5th line.

Students of note have gone out from Woodside School, and into almost every profession: Bishop Warne, a Missionary to India; Rev. Hector McLean, a Missionary to China; and Rev. Mathew Cree, a Presbyterian Minister.

This was an early-settled part of the Township, spilling over from Esquesing Twp. to the west of Ballinafad.

Century Farms

McLean-McEachern Century Farm, was taken from the Crown in 1824. In 1845, it was purchased by Angus McLean, aged 47, who had come with his parents from Island of Islay. His wife, Euphemia Smith, and three children born in Scotland, came with him to the farm, where six more children were born. Here the family had a blacksmith shop and weaving business. Six of the nine children were unmarried, and stayed on the farm.

John McLean was a carpenter, cabinet maker, and framer, building many barns in the area. He built the house in 1868.

Mary and Janet were the weavers, making blankets, fancy bedspreads, and woven carpets from rags. They worked early and late, but Janet did most of the housework.

Alexander was a stone mason, building barn foundations.

Angus was a farmer.

Duncan moved to Wisconsin, U.S.A.

Donald was the blacksmith, and farmed across the road, lot 4, con. 5. He married Sarah McKinnon, and had nine children.

Annie, a dressmaker.

Effie married John McEachern and lived at Harriston. Her sons inherited the homestead.

Alexander and Angus McLean inherited the homestead in 1870; and in 1917, their nephews, John, Norman and Herbert McEachern inherited the farm from Angus McLean. Owners in 1967, were Mrs. Herbert McEachern and her son, Angus McEachern. They also inherited a love for threshing machines from their uncles.

Cree-Leitch Century Farm, W-1.2 lot 2, con. 6, Erin Twp., was taken from the Crown in 1826. In 1859, it was purchased by James Russell, and in 1863, it went to Marion Russell, who married Andrew Cree in 1866. In 1913, James Cree bought from his parents; and in 1946, it was bought by daughter Sarah Jane Cree, Mrs. Bruce Leitch, the owner in 1967.

Kerr Century Farm, W-1/2 lot 3, con. 6, Erin Twp., was taken from Crown in 1827. In 1845, James Kerr and his wife, Mary, came from Ireland, and purchased the farm. In 1850, it was deeded to their son, James Kerr, Jr., and at his death it went to his wife, Margaret Brownlee, until their son, Robert, reached the age of 21 years. The farm was turned over to him in 1898. In 1959, he deeded it to his son, James Archibald Kerr. In 1965, the original farm was deeded to his son, Robert Caldwell Kerr, making the fifth generation in direct line, owning the homestead, in 1967.

The brick house was built in 1878, replacing the original log house. This house was deeded to Robert's sister, Lydia Marie (Kerr) Anderson in 1965; and Robert and his bride, the former Pat Knox, built the new house. Through the generations the Kerrs have owned Show Horses, particularly Hackneys; and they have a large herd of Holstein cattle.

S.S. #11 - North Erin, 9th Line

Commonly known as the Ninth Line School Section, it is in the most northerly corner of Erin Township. Early settlers were McLachlan, McFee, McDougall, Rowan, Smith, White, Barbour, McKinnon, and Ferguson.

The McLachlans, McFees and Smiths came in 1833 and 1834, from Argyleshire, Scotland. McLachlans settled on lot 30, con. 10, the running stream being the deciding factor in the choice. Their deed was obtained in Hamilton. Smiths took up lot 29. Three of these are Century Farms.

Century Farms

Mr. & Mrs. Duncan McDougall and their family of six boys and four girls, came from Scotland, and took up W-1/2 lot 29, con. 9, in 1832. Their son, Donald, took over the farm in 1880, in partnership with his brother, Neil. Donald's son, John McDougall, took over the farm in 1908. In 1941, John's nephew, Archie McDougall, bought the farm, and he and his brother, Alex, had beef cattle. Archie and his wife, the former Edith Irvine, had one daughter, Joyce, (Mrs. Fred Duncan), who was the fifth generation of McDougalls to live on this farm. Archie sold in 1975. In 1996 the will of the pioneer Duncan McDougall was located at Wellington County Museum & Archives, listing all the children in proper order. A McDougall family tree was completed in 1997 by Yvonne (McDougall) Kirk

of Fergus.

Archibald McFee and his wife, the former Sarah McLachlan and five children arrived from Scotland in the spring of 1833, and settled on E-1/2 lot 32, con. 9. In the fall of 1833, son, John was born. The farm went to John, who married Sarah McDougall in 1868; then to their son, John, who married Ethel May Awery in 1913. They had five sons and one daughter, and of these, Archie and Miss Mary McFee lived on the farm all their lives. In 1949, it became the property of their brother, John. Then it went to Mr. & Mrs. John McFee's third son, Donald. He and his wife, the former Isabelle Barbour, have three daughters, Marion, Ruth and Anne, who are the fifth generation of McFee's to make their home on this farm.

The Rowan Century Farm, lot 31, con. 11 - Thomas Rowan, Sr., was born in Ireland of Scottish parents. He came to Canada in 1830 with his wife and four children. His wife died soon after their arrival. He lived first at Woodbridge, then at Sand Hill, and finally took up E-1/2 lot 31, con. 11 Erin Township in 1840. Their first home was a log cabin. His son, Thomas Jr. built another log house on the farm, and he and his wife, the former Anne Menary, had twelve children. Thomas Jr's brother, John Rowan, and his wife, the former Jane Clarke, built their home on the W-1/2 lot 31, con. 11, where they raised ten children. John Rowan sold his farm to his son-in-law, William Henderson.

Thomas Jr.s' son, Robert, had taken over the East 100 acres, and in 1914, he purchased the west 100 acres from Wm. Henderson. Robert Rowan's son, Arthur, and his wife Nelda Reith of Grand Valley, took over the farm about 1955, and sold it in 1974, moving to Orangeville. The large brick house on the Rowan farm was built in 1881.

Schools

The first log school in this section was built on lot 31, con. 10, then owned by Dougal McFee. A large fireplace heated the room. Firewood was cut and brought in by the pupils.

The second school was a frame building, built on John McLachlan's farm, W-1/2 lot 30, con. 10, the site that later became Pleasant View Cemetery. Attendance varied from 75 to 91 pupils. The school also served as a church and Sunday School, and community centre. Singing classes were conducted by Mr. Borland, and Eddie Dyer. The Patrons of Industry, the forerunner of the present day Co-ops, held Literary meetings led by Archie McLachlan.

The brick school was built in 1888, at the corners of Eddie Dyer's and John White's farms, lots 30 and 31, con. 9. In 1960, this school, S.S. #11, was closed. Andrew B. King was the last teacher. In September, he and his pupils went to Hillsburgh to the Ross R. MacKay School.

Cemetery

When the brick school was built in 1888, the site of the frame school on lot 30, con. 10 was reserved as a cemetery for the community. Tombstones in Pleasant View Cemetery bear the names of McLachlan, Smith, Ferguson, and McNiven.

Two Wardens of Wellington County came from this section: James Milloy in 1922, and John McFee in 1938.

This community was served by rural Mail delivery first from Erin Post Office, and later by Rural Route #2, Hillsburgh, to part of the section.

North Erin Congregational Church, located on the E-1/2 lot 32, con. 11, was built before 1877.

S.S. #12 - May's School Section

The earliest pioneer in this section of Erin Twp., was John Burt, a surveyor of the Township, a school master in Hamilton, and a Native of Scotland. He paid 100 pounds for lot 25, con. 6, in 1823. His son, George Cranfield Burt, cleared the farm, and built the present house in 1873. He was succeeded by his son, John Henry Burt, and grandson, George Chrisholm Burt. George retired to Hillsburgh in 1952, and was followed on the farm by son, Harry Parry Burt. His son, Gordon Clare Burt is the sixth generation of have lived on this homestead. Marked as a Century Farm in 1967.

May's School

The first school was of log construction, and was located on north corner of 25 sideroad and the 5th line, on the Somerville homestead. A new brick school was built in 1861, on the west corner of the May farm, lot 27, con. 6. The first teacher was Miss D. McKinnon of Erin Twp. Another early teacher was E.F.B. Johnston, who later became a prominent lawyer. Another early teacher was Miss Agnes McPhail of Grey County who became famous as the first woman elected to the House of Commons. She was a U.F.O. Member.

The Bill May family was living on lot 27, 5th line, Erin Twp., in 1839, when cousins, Mrs. John May and her three sons, moved to 10th line of Garafraxa Twp. and stayed with Bill Mays for a time.

At the beginning of January 1962, the pupils were taken by bus to the Ross R. MacKay School in Hillsburgh. In July 1961, a School Reunion was held, with over 400 attending.

Barnes Century Farm

In October 1855, John A. Barnes purchased W-1/2 lot 30, con. 7, Erin Twp. Taxes at the time were \$6.75. John built a log cabin, and began clearing his farm, walking from his home in Georgetown. Eventually he married and raised a family of six. The present red brick house was built in 1886. Son, Miller Barnes took over in the early 1900's. In 1942, John Clifford Barnes, J.C., took over the homestead. He married Florence Stinson, and they are still living there.

Watson Century Farm

William Watson, a Scottish yeoman, purchased E-1/2 lot 27, con. 4, Erin Twp., on January 11, 1867, from the Crown at a cost of \$480. Taxes at the time were \$5.50. They raised 12 children. One daughter, Mary, Mrs. George Bolton, of Orton passed away in January 1976. The first log cabin was built at the 4th line corner. The present bank barn was built in 1886. Son, Richard Watson took over the farm, and in 1913, he and a neighbour, Thomas Somerville, dug a well 20 feet deep. It still supplies the house and barn. Another good supply of water is a never-failing spring near the middle of the farm. Richard Watson had six children, and the second youngest, David Watson, took the homestead where he raised 2 boys and 2 girls.

Cedar Valley

Cedar Valley is the little settlement at the eastern corner of May's School Section. Located at the corner of the 5th line, and 24 sideroad, better known as The Station Road, leading west from Hillsburgh Station.

Cedar Valley was known as Slabtown for many years, because of the sawmill which was operated by water power.

First Sawmill was built in 1853, by George Tarswell who sold lumber at \$7.00 per thousand. He was followed by his son, Robert Wilson Tarswell, and grandson, Kirby Tarswell. In 1900, a grain grinding mill was added. They also made shingles. In 1924, a new sawmill was erected, but it was destroyed by fire in 1941. It was rebuilt the following year, but Mr. Tarswell died in 1948, and R.E. Price took over. It was operated for a time by Renwicks,

and in 1950, the Mill was closed. It was remodelled into a summer home.

A small Community grew up around the corner. Wm. Sheperdson and Sons owned a pump manufacturing business on lot 25. He also had a planing mill and blacksmith shop. For his planing mill, he needed water power. First telephone came in 1910. Rural Mail Delivery in 1912, Hydro came to this farm community in 1940's.

A Grocery Store was operated by James Tarswell from 1895-1902, in the house later owned by Alvin Cutting. In 1933, Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Hall started a Grocery Store in the front part of the same building. That year they erected a store at the top of the hill. It was moved on sleighs, drawn by a tractor, in April 1940, to the east corner of lot 24. In 1945, this store was purchased by Mr. & Mrs. Burt Price, and they added the house. Succeeding owners were Harry Churcher, Wm. Reeves, and James Ritchie.

A welding Shop was opened in 1946, on the northern corner by Elton Hubbs. Following his death it was sold to Rudy Garbotz.

Street Lights were erected in Cedar Valley in 1962. The road to Hillsburgh was hardtopped in 1965. The Henry Wheeler farm buildings were set on the west corner of the intersection. The hamlet is surrounded by cedar swamps and hills that provide many springs. This community has many small lakes, sites for beautiful summer homes.

Church

Cedar Valley had one church, The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Cedar Valley branch began when Elder John Shields came to preach to a small group gathered in the home of George Tarswell. The church was built in 1888, on top of the hill across from the mill. About 1888, Robert Wilson Tarswell was appointed pastor, and served until his death in 1941. At that time the church was closed, and it became a Community Hall for some years. More recently it was demolished.

S.S. #13 - Ospringe

Settlers around this corner in 1842, were the Webbs, Anderson, and Baldics. They came from a little village by the name of Ospringe, a suburb of Canterbury, in the County of Kent, England. Earliest settlers in the area came in 1831, The Munn family took up lot 18, con. 3, Erin Twp. The George Campbell family came with several sons, in October 1831, from Islay, Scotland, to lot 15, con. 3 and 4. It was too late in the fall to build a house, so they spent the winter in a "dugout" in the hillside. Dugald Ferguson and his family came from Argyleshire, Scotland, and settled on lot 10, con. 3, in 1831.

In 1832, Duncan Robertson came from Lord Breadalbane's Estate at Dull, Perthshire, Scotland, and settled on lot 13, at 1st line corner, where he built a shanty. He became the great-grandfather of the Robertsons, Hindleys, Van Normans, and Aitkens, still living in the community. He married Mary Ferguson in November 1834, and they moved into their new log house.

School

The upstairs of this house was used as a school room, as soon as there were enough children to warrant hiring a teacher. In 1845, Miss Buck became the first teacher. Later the school was moved to the home of Robert James, on lot 13, con. 2, where John Butchart was the teacher.

A log school was started on lot 15, con. 1, on the townline between Erin and Eramosa Twps. but before its completion, plans were changed, and a frame school was built half way across the 1st concession on the north side of the Guelph Road, on the Robertson farm.

A new brick school was built in 1871, and the frame structure became the Robertson's driving shed. Hydro was

installed in 1937, and an addition was put up, in 1955. Ospringe School Bell was placed in a Cairn, and unveiled in June 1961, by Mrs. Archie Sinclair, aged 83, a former student. Ospringe W.I., served lunch.

The modern Consolidated School was built in 1965, on 2nd line, above the corner: The two-roomed school was sold to the Department of Highways, and removed. The Cairn and bell were moved to the new site.

Currie's Hill

The widow of Lachlan Currie, and her ten children, came from Islay, Scotland, in 1830, and settled in Caledon, when her youngest son, Alexander, was eight years of age. When he grew up, he chose lot 13, con. 4, Erin Twp. for his farm, and brought an older gentleman to see the property. It was virgin forest with stoney soil, and the older man said, "I pity the girl you bring here as your wife." He was thinking of the number of stones to be picked. However, two years later, in 1845, Alexander Currie married the gentleman's daughter, Ann McDougall. Miss Ada Currie, first President of Wellington County Historical Society, and her brother, Errett Currie, of this farm were grandchildren. Currie's Hill was named after the Currie family. Alexander's brother, Neil, took up E-1/2 lot 13. Another brother was Duncan Currie who opened a General Store in Belwood in 1856, and went to Saskatchewan with his son, Sandy, in early 1900's.

Erin and Guelph Road

Now #24 HIGHWAY - It was built through the farms in lot 13, in 1844. Not only did the pioneers give the land for the road, but it is said they worked together to clear the trees, and open the road. Men who worked between the 3rd line and the Eramosa Townline, were: George Anderson, John Webb, John Moon, Samuel Dunbar, Jacob Snyder, and Duncan Robertson. The first route to Guelph from the Hillsburgh area, had followed an Indian Trail from Mimosa along the Speed River.

A toll Gate was situated about half way between Ospringe and the Eramosa River, and kept by the Donald McNeill family. In 1875, the toll house was moved to Ospringe, and became the home of George Anderson and his mother.

In 1848, Hugh McNair and his brother-in-law, Mr. McKenzie, settled on 2nd line, below Ospringe. They built the 2nd line through the swamp, by hand because it was too soft to use oxen. In 1963, this road was taken over by the Dept. of Highways, and #25 Highway was extended from Milton to Ospringe.

Hamlet of Ospringe

Located six miles from Erin, and fourteen miles from Guelph, on #24 Highway, at 2nd line of Erin Twp., it once did a thriving business. There were two blacksmith shops, one operated by John Hawkins until his death about 1908; the other by Dugald McNair. A woodworking shop was owned by Duncan McKenzie. Wm. Harris was a shoemaker and had his shop on 2nd line below the store, then operated by Wm. Symons, and more recently it has been Bullock's China & Gift Shop. In 1897, there was a population of 110.

First Grocery Store

Was on south corner, and was owned by F.S. Clarke. He sold to John Fielding who enlarged the building, and made it into a hotel, called the Anglo-American Hotel. Later Charles Anderson bought the hotel, and carried on for many years.

The Stage Coach called here on its way from Erin to Guelph, three times a week.



Horse drawn Stage Coach, 1908, in front of Willis' Hotel at Ospringe.

Another General Store

The Hotel was sold to Josiah Stewart in 1910, and turned into a grocery store and dwelling. It changed hands several times, until 1925, when it was purchased by Mr. & Mrs. David G. Robertson of Guelph. The Guelph Road, usually called the "Gravel Road", was taken over by the Dept. of Highways, and paved in 1952. Because of this busy intersection with Highway #25, the Dept. of Highways purchased the store, and removed it to provide a clear-view corner. In 1966, in the demolition, the quality, size and sturdiness of the timbers were observed. They were like barn timbers and well preserved.

Mr. and Mrs. Robertson built a modern Marketeria on north side of the Highway, beside Ed Stewart's Service Station, which had been built in 1949.

British North American Hotel

Also known as "Fielding's Hotel", was first owned by Thomas Fielding, and later owned by Hiram Swackhammer, who sold to Robert Young in 1908. It was torn down, and built into the Josiah Stewart house. This is the site of the Robertson Marketeria.

Second Store

In this community was on the east corner, owned by John McBain. The first Ospringe Post Office was established in 1854, in this store, with Francis Clark as Postmaster. A new two-storey building was erected and used until 1909, when John Cunningham sold to James Kirkwood. The latter was Reeve of Erin Twp., for four years, before becoming an M.P.P. in 1891. In 1909, the Post Office was moved to the store on south corner, then operated by Josiah Stewart. The Post Office was closed on October 30, 1947, and Ospringe was served by Rural Mail Delivery, from Guelph. Hydro came to the Hamlet in 1948.

Ospringe United Church

To quote from the History of the Church, "Rev. Hiram Barker, an early Congregational Minister, used to pass through the village on his way from Speedside to the White Church in Caledon. He was invited by Thomas Fielding, to hold church services in the ballroom of his hotel, in a room above the bar room. The minister consented. Fielding advertised the meeting, and provided seats. First church services were held on a week day in January 1858. Rev. Barker continued to preach there until 1861. Mr. Fielding interested himself in building a church. Land was given by 'Dad Webb' on the north-east corner of his farm."

The church was built in 1862, by community labour. Mr. Fielding boarded the men at the hotel, free of charge, and also made cash contributions. (It is known that Mr. Fielding limited the drinks at his hotel, to one a traveller, and none to a neighbour). This accounts for an hotelkeeper being interested in the church.

The first seats were logs of wood, rudely hewn. About 1873, Wm. Webb collected money to install church pews, and paint the church. It was always considered a "Union" Church, but the Deed was always held by the Congregationalist church.

The first Sunday School was organized by John Hindley, then a student minister at McGill University. He preached here for some time after Rev. Barker gave up the charge. It was linked with Everton Mission until 1876, then with Erin Presbyterian Church, an arrangement that has continued through the years.

The new red brick church was built in 1888, on the Guelph Road. Permission was given to the Ladies' Aid to purchase an organ in 1890. The church shed was built in 1891. This has since disappeared, as has the church steeple.

Always a community-minded settlement, the Sons of Scotland Brotherhood was organized in August 1899, by H. McDonald, and called the McDonald Camp, #15. They held Garden Parties, and in 1901, admission was 25 and 10 cents.

Literary Meetings were organized in 1937, for the winter months. One evening there were 340 in attendance.

Orchestra

Ospringe had an Orchestra: George Anderson, violin; Oscar Locker, guitar; and Gertie Sunter on the organ. They were most generous with their talent.

Ospringe Women's Institute

Was organized in 1905, with Mrs. Horace Tovell, President, and Miss Emma Baldic, Secretary-Treasurer. They were in continuous operation until March 1975, when they disbanded. But Miss Doris Fines has kept their Tweedsmuir History Book up-to-date, most beautifully.

Street Lights were installed in Ospringe in March 1967.

A John Deere Farm Equipment building was erected east of the intersection, facing #24 Highway, in the early 1980's. It is still in operation, although the owner has changed.

S.S. #14 - Mimosa

Post Office

Originally called Dublin after the number of Irish settlers who came from that area about 1840. The closest Post Office was Fergus, and the community applied to the Government for a local Post Office. It was granted under the name, Mimosa. Henry Reed was the first Postmaster, with Post Office in his own home on E-1/2 lot 28, con. 2, Erin Twp., the farm later known as the Ernest Awery farm. Mail came once a week, brought from Fergus by Edward Mooney, who delivered mail to several Post Offices on his way to Orton.

Store

The Post Office was moved to the store when it was established in 1840, by Duncan McDougall. Later storekeepers and Postmasters were: John H. Reed, Duncan Campbell, A.D. Farr, Samuel Gibson, Isaih Cawthra, and George Hudson. Gibson turned the grocery store into a dwelling, and it later became the residence of Cecil Warmington.

At its peak, Mimosa Hamlet had two stores, two hotels, a shoe shop, blacksmith shop, chopping mill and several homes.

The coming of the Credit Valley Railway in 1879, brought a station and Post Office to Orton, which was the downfall of Mimosa.

Schools

The first log school was built in the 1840's, in John Small's field, later the Clayton Bacon farm, E-1/2 lot 28, 1st line. This was replaced by a brick school in 1872, on the same farm, but on 27 sideroad. In 1922, the new red brick school was erected. It became the meeting place for the community. Many prominent men and women began their education at Mimosa School. One Native son was Fred A. Hamilton, Director of Education at St. Catharines for many years, and later he was Chairman of Wellington County Board of Education.

When the new Central school was opened at Ospringe in 1965, Mimosa Rural School was closed, and children were transported by bus.

Mimosa Women's Institute

During World War I, a Red Cross Society was organized under the name of the Patriotic Society. At the close of the war in 1918, the same ladies formed the Mimosa Women's Institute, with 26 Charter Members. They marked their 70th Anniversary in Sept. 1988. Mimosa W.I. folded in 1993, and another local club carried on under name of Mimosa Friendship Club.

Gibson's Blacksmith Shop

The blacksmith shop was operated by Sam Gibson for over 40 years. He was a skilled workman, and was also the dentist, should need arise. The late Leonard Awery told the story of an Election Day in 1890, when some twenty farmers gathered at the Gibson blacksmith shop, awaiting returns. Sam Irwin arrived with a terrible tooth ache. Using a pair of hand-made forceps, Sam Gibson pulled out the offending tooth, but in the forceps were two teeth. One of them slipped up Sam's sleeve, and he held up the other, saying, "There she is". Jim's remark was, "Many thanks". Then running his tongue around his mouth, Jim stated that the space was large for one tooth, but he was not aware that Sam had something up his sleeve.

John Small, Sr., came from County Antrim, Ire land, to Canada, in 1842, and settled on lot 27, con. 2, where he lived except for four years spent in Brampton. He died at Mimosa in December 1902, at the remarkable ago of 104 years.

Two Historians, Leonard Awrey and Melvin Grant, kept records from which much information was available.

Churches

The Mimosa Community was well supplied with churches: Disciple, Methodist and Presbyterian, the latter two becoming United.

Mimosa Disciple Church - was organized by Disciple families who were attending Erin Centre or Everton Disciple Churches, who felt the need of a closer place of worship. In 1863, Henry Reed donated land from the east corner of his farm, E 1/2 lot 28, con. 2, where a frame church was erected. In 1873, Henry Reed sold the land for the adjoining Disciple Cemetery.

From 1863, to 1883, the elders took charge of the services, with the aid of visiting evangelists. Beginning in 1883, Mimosa was on the Everton Charge. The building was enlarged, remodelled and bricked; and was ready for dedication in 1890. Their Sunday School was organized in 1877. From this congregation, five men went into the ministry: Robert Stewart, John D. Stephens, H.F. Reed, Norman H. Robertson, and Colin J. Robertson.

Regular church services were discontinued in August 1939, after seventy-six years. The membership was transferred to the Hillsburgh Disciple Church. In 1951, the church was sold to the North Erin United Church, with the proceeds placed in trust for the up-keep of the Cemetery. The Cemetery is under Perpetual Care, the late Rev. N.H. Robertson being instrumental in reconditioning the grounds.

Mimosa Methodist Church - Religious services were first held in the log homes, then in the school houses, Orange Lodge Halls, old hotels or where ever there was a large enough room for the gathering. For a time services were held in a small log building on the Jessop farm. In 1860, a small group of men, including Wm. Cox, Peter Mathews, Levi Allen, John Grasley, Gideon Awrey, and Humphrey Jessop purchased a quarter of an acre of land from John Small, and a frame church was erected. The surrounding yard was a Cemetery.

In 1890, the church was replaced by a brick building with basement and furnace. On a blustery Sunday in February 1905, the church was burned to the ground. But before fall, a new church stood in its place. For some years they were linked with Stone Church. Later they were on the Grove-Victoria Charge, to which Orton was added in 1901, when it was built.

Methodist families included: Awrey, Grey, Jessop, Langford, Lowry, Morris, Reed, and Sanderson.

Church Union seemed to offer the answer to the problem of dwindling rural congregations, and in 1925, Mimosa Methodists, joined with the Presbyterians and Bethel Methodists, after sixty-five years of existence. In 1938, Mimosa Methodist Church was used in the renovation of Mimosa United Church.

Mimosa Presbyterian Church - Later known as Mimosa United Church, it is located in Eramosa Twp., on the Erin-Eramosa Townline, opposite 27 sideroad of Erin Twp. The original frame church and sheds were built in 1864 and were on a charge with Everton. The new stone church was built in 1884.

In 1875, Mimosa Presbyterian Church was placed on a charge with Belwood, and "continued a happy relationship for fifty years", until Church Union in 1925. At that time Mimosa was placed on a charge with Orton and Marsville United Churches. (See Eramosa Twp. for Mimosa Church in greater detail).

Drumhill - was a little hamlet in the early days, located on the Erin-Eramosa Townline, on lots 25 and 26, Erin Twp. In 1861, it had an Orange Hall, hotel, store, blacksmith shop, and several homes.

Century Farms

Bailey Century Farm - W 1/2 lot 25, con. 1, was purchased in 1861, by Wm. Green and his wife, the former Ann McClennan. He had come from Ireland, she from Scotland. Their first child, Wm. Green, Jr., was born on this farm in 1862. Upon his father's death in 1892, Wm. Jr. took over the farm. In 1916, he retired to Guelph, having sold the farm to his sister, Sarah Green's husband, John Bailey. He farmed until 1924, when he moved to Fergus, and his son, George Bailey took over. Then followed his son, Keith Bailey and wife and family.

Jessop Century Farm - lot 29, con. 2, was purchased in 1833, by Humphrey Jessop Sr., who came with his wife from Dublin, Ireland. They had four boys and five girls. At his death, his sons carried on, with Humphrey Jr., taking the east hundred; and Thomas taking the west hundred acres. Later Thomas moved to Kansas. Humphrey married Mary Ann Grasley, and had seven children. Their eldest son, Wesley, bought the homestead in 1899, and his father moved to Fergus. Wesley married Bertha Leslie of Acton. In 1916, the modern brick house was built, and lit by a Delco Plant, until hydro came in 1945. At Wesley's death in 1927, he was followed by son, Earl Jessop who married Marjorie Cox of Eramosa Twp. In 1966, they moved to Guelph, and their second son, Kenneth, bought the farm. Ken married Jessie Kemkes of Branchton, and their children are the sixth generation of Jessops

to live on this farm.

Orton Village-U.S.S. #2

First called "Little Chicago", the name of "Orton" was given in honour of Dr. George T. Orton of Fergus, who so faithfully looked after his rural patients in those difficult horse-and-buggy, or horse-and-cutter days.

Orton was located on the Townline between Erin Twp., and East Garafraxa Twp., with this Townline forming the Main Street of the village. This Townline also formed the boundary between Wellington County and Dufferin County. The location was just east of the 2nd line of Erin Twp., and east of the 10th line of Garafraxa. The site was owned by John Leeson on the Erin side, and by John Glover on the Garafraxa side. Both sold lots to early settlers.

John Glover lived in a little log house that later became the small harness shop operated by John Watson. Henry Little was the first settler, and built several log houses in the early days.

Mooney's Store - The first store was built by Wm. Mooney on north side of Main Street at corner of Church Street and was only 10 x 12 feet in size. The business thrived, and a larger store was erected with living quarters above.

Benjamin Roszell was the first white child born in Erin Twp., (in Nov. 1821). He married Elizabeth Reilly of Erin Twp., in 1848. One of their daughters, Mary Elizabeth, married Wm. Mooney, a merchant at Orton. Mooney's General Store was at the centre of Orton's early life. Wm. Mooney was an enterprising young man. He bought and shipped carloads of live stock, and in the fall of the year he shipped carloads of potatoes and turnips, fowl was also handled. He ran a grain elevator which had been built by an Orangeville Syndicate. With Mooney, Orton prospered.

In an essay written by Mrs. Wm. Ballentyne in 1966, she said, "butter and eggs were exchanged at the store for groceries. Vinegar and molasses were sold by the barrel. Soda Biscuits, cookies, raisins, currants, sugar, oatmeal and spices were sold in bulk. Many a neighbourly chat was enjoyed while sitting around the pot-bellied stove, which sat in the centre of the store. For convenience of the customers, chairs were provided for them while they waited for their chop or groceries. The store carried everything from curry combs to men's celluloid collars and patent medicines.

Post Office - At first, mail was carried from Alton to Orton, where it was sorted. The first Post Office was located in Wm. Mooney's Store. The Post Office brought extra business, and Wm. was joined by his two sons, John and Ben. Wm. died in 1916, at age of 64 years. Ben became the Postmaster, continuing until 1928, when he moved to Toronto. John continued in the store until his death in 1937. His widow and daughter carried on until 1944, when they sold to Norman Cook.

In 1937, Thomas M. Hayward, a veteran of W.W. I, became Postmaster. After his death, he was followed by his wife and daughter, Mrs. Wilfred Till.

In 1937, a new, separate Post Office was built, down the street beside the railway track. It was closed in 1990, and mail was delivered daily from Hillsburgh to mailboxes beside the store.

Rural Mail Delivery was inaugurated at Orton in 1912, and there were three Rural Routes.

Credit Valley Railway - The Railway came from the Cataract, through Erin and Hillsburgh to Orton, and on to Belwood, Fergus and Elora, in November 1879. It burned wood for fuel. The Station was on the Garafraxa side of Main Street, not far from where the Post Office was later built. Upon withdrawal of Passenger Service in 1958, the

Station was removed, and taken to a lot on the Orangeville Road, at 5th line corner of West Garafraxa Twp., where it became the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Chamberlain.

On the opposite side of the tracks, there were two sets of weigh scales. One was behind Watson's harness shop, which later became a service station, and was attended by Bill Watson; the other set of scales was farther back along the track and attended by Thomas Dearing. The Stockyards were back there, close to the tracks, and from them, cattle and hogs were loaded directly onto the freight trains.

A small grain storage house was built, and later replaced by a larger one, complete with elevator. This was built close to the tracks at Main Street on the Erin side. It was erected by a Syndicate of Orangeville business men. In 1928, Jim Courtney began using it for Potato and Turnip Storage, ready to ship by the trainload. About 1940, he began waxing turnips, for the American Trade.

Royal Bank - Wm. Mooney had Enoch Price of Marsville erect a cement building adjoining his store, and he rented to the Royal Bank of Canada for their Branch Office from 1916-1932. At first it was open only two days a week, with clerks coming from Hillsburgh. Later, the shipping business grew to the extent that the bank was open five days a week, with living quarters provided.

2nd Store In Orton - The second store was built on the Erin Side of Main Street, by a Mr. Cooper. It was run by the McKee Brothers, one of whom married the first school teacher, Miss Isobel McKechnie. McKee's Store was later owned by H. Stuckey, Sydney Purvis, Bill Shaw, Elwood Galbraith. It also was a General Store, with its business increasing even through the 1930's. Bill Shaw had his own private shed, where horses might be tied, while one half of this building was needed for storage of hardware, woven wire fence, as well as mixed feeds, concentrates, bran, shorts, middlings, and salt. Bill Shaw also unloaded grain by the carload, directly onto the farmers' sleighs or wagons.

Unwrapped Bread - arrived daily by train, in large wooden slatted boxes, from Trought's Bake Shop in Inglewood. Later bread was delivered by a Hillsburgh Bakery. Much later, the wrapping of bread became mandatory through efforts and resolutions of the Women's Institutes who have always pressed for better food standards and cleanliness.

Blacksmith Shop - Elizabeth Street led back to several private homes. On the other side of this corner, Lorenzo Warden built a harness shop. In later years the business was changed to a blacksmith shop, and Mr. Warden was joined by his son, Osbourne Warden. They continued until about 1924, when Harry Raven bought the business. This building was purchased by Ernie Hall, and he operated a service station.

Bill Lane's Chopping Mill - was next door.

Community Hall - At the eastern edge of the Village, the Community Hall was built in 1890. It was torn down in the 1960's, but had been the scene of many happy times.

Sawmill & Shingle Mill was beside the swamp, behind Hurd's house, owned by Nathaniel Leatham. He was in business in 1897, and may have been taken over from John Hurren.

Hotel - East of the Railway Tracks, on the Erin side of Main Street. The hotel was built by John Near, and operated by Thomas Hodgins for a short time, and by John Bennett at turn of the Century.

Before the Credit Valley Railway came through, Commercial Travellers arrived in Orton from Hillsburgh, by livery, bringing stacks of trunks full of wares or yardgoods, for display at the hotel. The storekeepers came to see what was available, and gave their orders about six weeks in advance of the expected date of delivery.

With the advent of the railway, Commercial Travellers continued to use the hotel for display purposes, until the

automobile came into common use about the close of the First World War. The hotel became a private residence.

St. John's Methodist Church - Erected on Church Street, St. John's is a stone building, with a manse across the street. First minister was Rev. E. Whitworth, whose charge included Little Heaven on lot 10, 10th line, and Victoria, on lot 15, just east of 10th line, both Methodist churches in East Garafraxa. In 1901, a whole ox was roasted, on the occasion of the opening of the new Orton Church. There was a charge of 10 cents per person for supper, and a large crowd gathered. Organization of the congregation had been urged by John Near, the Hotel owner.

Due to low attendance the Church was closed in June 1969, and it became a Community Centre.

Orton School, U.S.S. # 2 - Orton had no school until 1892, but through arbitration beginning about 1888, the new school section was carved out of four former sections, two in E. Gara., and two in Erin. It became known as Union School Section # 2, Erin, because it was built on the Erin side of the Townline, on E 1/2 lot 32, con. 3, just east of Orton. The red brick building was erected in summer of 1891, and was ready for classes in January 1892. The first Board of Trustees were John Near, Warren Jestin, and Thomas Ballentyne. Three of the first pupils were John D. Mooney, Wm. Ballentyne, and Norman Dearing.

Orton Public School was closed in June 1964. In September, pupils were taken by bus from Erin Township to the Central School in Hillsburgh; and pupils from East Gara. were taken to Marsville. Orton School is now a private residence.



The Orton School was known as Union School No. 2, and is now a private residence.

Police Village - Orton was a Police Village for 60 years, having acquired that status in 1907. The Telephone came in 1912, and Hydro came in 1932. The village was served by a Power House, Skating Rink, Fire Hall, and it had its own very efficient fire protection system.

Orton was governed by a Board of Trustees, the last being Ernie Hall, John Cherwatiuk, and Wm. Nevills, with Harvey Morrison as Secretary-Treasurer.

On April 15, 1967, the Police Village of Orton was dissolved by the Ontario Municipal Board. One advantage was that the residents would not have to pay for the maintenance of their Main Street which is a paved County Road. Hence forth Orton will be known as a Hamlet. In 1967, there were 57 residents, and it is said there never were more than 100. With a small subdivision in progress at western edge of town, there could be a small increase in population.

Ball Park - Rev. A.L. Atton, minister from 1936-1943, gets credit for the fine recreational facilities at Orton. Eight acres of land were purchased at eastern edge of Orton. Volunteers cleared the shrubbery, and levelled the area. Electric Lights were installed, and a Ball Diamond was measured off. The Park is used for skating in winter.

Union School Section, U.S.S. # 15

This was a new school being built on the west corner of 14th line of E. Gara., and the 7th line of Erin, on the Townline between E. Gara. and Erin Townships. The new section was carved out of several adjoining school sections. In the fall of 1900, a survey was made of the pupils in the area who had long distances to walk to school, with the result a new section was formed.

It was from Orton, Marsville and Stone School on Nodwell farm in East Gara., and from U.S.S. # 11, on 9th line of Erin, Hillsburgh Village, and S.S. # 12, May's School in Erin Twp. Sam Huxley was the first Secretary. First Trustees were: W.H. Nodwell, Albert Dyer, and Abraham Everson. Robert King sold one acre of land for \$115., in January 1901, and school opened in September, with Miss Ella Lamont of Ethel, as teacher at a salary of \$285. She stayed until June 1904, when she married James Milloy, who later became Reeve of Erin Twp., and Warden of Wellington County. Archie Milloy, Superintendent of Ontario Secondary Schools was a son.

Erin Township School Board was formed in 1963, when boundaries of Union Schools had to return to Township lines. The Erin Twp. pupils were taken by bus to the Hillsburgh Central School in 1964. The rural school became known as S.S. # 17, East Garafraxa, and continued in use until 1965, when the students were taken to the new Central School at Marsville, and the old school building was sold.

Century Farms

McGill Farm - Lot 32, con. 6, was purchased from the Canada Company in 1831, by Donald McGill, who came with his family from Scotland. They stayed in Toronto for a short time, then came to Erin Twp., where they cleared the land, and built a frame house.

Their son, Donald, had been left in Toronto with friends as he had been stricken with cholera, and was not expected to live. About seven years later, they returned to Toronto, and found their son had not died. He came to the farm with them, and in 1847, the farm was registered in his name. He married Jane Barbour and they had eight children. Son, William, took over the farm, and about 1899, he left it to his son, Donald III. This Donald married Estella Barnes, and they had two girls and a boy. In 1925, their son, Elwin McGill took over the farm, and married Gladys Nodwell. They had two sons, Robert and Harry. In 1953, Elwin turned the homestead over to his eldest son, Robert, who married Jean Sinclair. They had four children, Beryle, Debbie, Sharon and David, who are the 7th generation of McGills to live on this farm. Something of a record.

Huxley Farm - W 1/2 lot 29, con. 7, was taken from the Crown in October 1832, by Nathon Horton, who with his family, cleared three acres of land, and erected a small house. In 1967, this original house was part of the present house. In 1856, Lydia Horton, widow of Nathon, sold to Thomas Huxley, who gave up his trade as a wagonmaker in Orangeville. Later Huxley purchased lot 28. In 1889, Samuel Huxley took over the farm, and in 1920, it became the property of his son, Edgar Huxley. In 1951, he and his son, Ross became joint owners of the homestead until 1962. Then Ross Huxley became the owner.

Wheeler Farm - E 1/2 lot 29, con. 7 - James Wheeler was born in 1834, and grew up on W 1/2 lot 21, con. 7, south of Hillsburgh. About 1857, he walked north and chose a piece of Crown Land, lot 29, con. 7, and cut some trees. He returned the next spring to sow some grain among the stumps, and build a house. He married Mary McMillan, and they had three sons. Their son, George, born in 1868, married Harriet Ann Barden, and settled on the homestead. Their family: Albert, Henry, Bruce, Ida and Norman, moved to lot 31, in 1909.

James Wheeler died in 1915. About that time, George's son, Albert, married Ethel Sinclair. He operated the

homestead for 37 years, retiring to Hillsburgh in 1952. He sold the farm to his brother, Norman who married Emily Hall in 1930. They had four children: George, Bert, Marjorie and Julie Ann. In 1956, Bert married Myrna Hamilton, George, in 1957 married Catherine Anderson, and in 1957 Norman and his wife retired to Guelph. Until about 1990, Wheeler Brothers, Bert and George, were in partnership operating these farms, Bert and his family living on the Century Farm.

Huxley's Cemetery

Thomas Huxley obtained the Crown Deed for lot 29, con. 7, Erin Twp., about 1856. Later he purchased lot 28. In 1884, his seventeen-year-old son, was stricken with a fatal disease said to have been TB. He had expressed a wish to be buried on a small hill on the farm. The land was seeded to peas at the time. To grant his son's wish, Thomas Huxley used the scythe to pull a small area of peas, and dug the grave for his son.

Many neighbours, realizing the beauty of the site, expressed their wish to use it as a cemetery. So popular has it become, that no burials have taken place in the Old Cemetery in the centre of Hillsburgh since 1900. Thomas Huxley gave one acre of land for the Cemetery. Additional land was purchased in 1941, and in 1958. Since 1949, Perpetual Care has been included in the price of a plot. The local Horticultural Society provides plants, and Hillsburgh Women's Institute Auxiliary cares for them.

Brisbane--S.S. #16

Brisbane is located on the Guelph Road, now No. 24 Highway, at the 7th line corner, two concessions west of Erin Village. Brisbane was surveyed as a village in 1854, and was at first named "Bristol". There were several streets: King, Queen, James, Nelson, St. Paul, and Concession Street. A Service Station now sits on the site of the old Post Office, where Joshua Ashley was Postmaster. For the convenience of those who called for their mail, he sold tobacco, gum, candy, school supplies, etc. At one time the population reached 27 persons. The Stage Coach driven by Wm. Nevills, brought Mail from Guelph, two or three times a week. Later, mail arrived every day except Sunday. The Stage supplied transportation for six or seven passengers.

Brisbane School - Brisbane Section was the last to be established in the Township. It was formed in 1900, taking part of the surrounding Sections: Peacock, Cedarvale, and Erin Village. The site was part of W 1/2 lot 13, con. 8, and was purchased from J. Binnie. First teacher was Miss Mary Reid at a salary of \$350. per year. Hydro was installed in 1942. A new four-roomed school was opened in September 1962, on # 24 Highway, between the 7th and 8th lines, on property purchased from Frank Cunningham. Two rooms were added in 1963, and a Portable was brought in, in 1966.

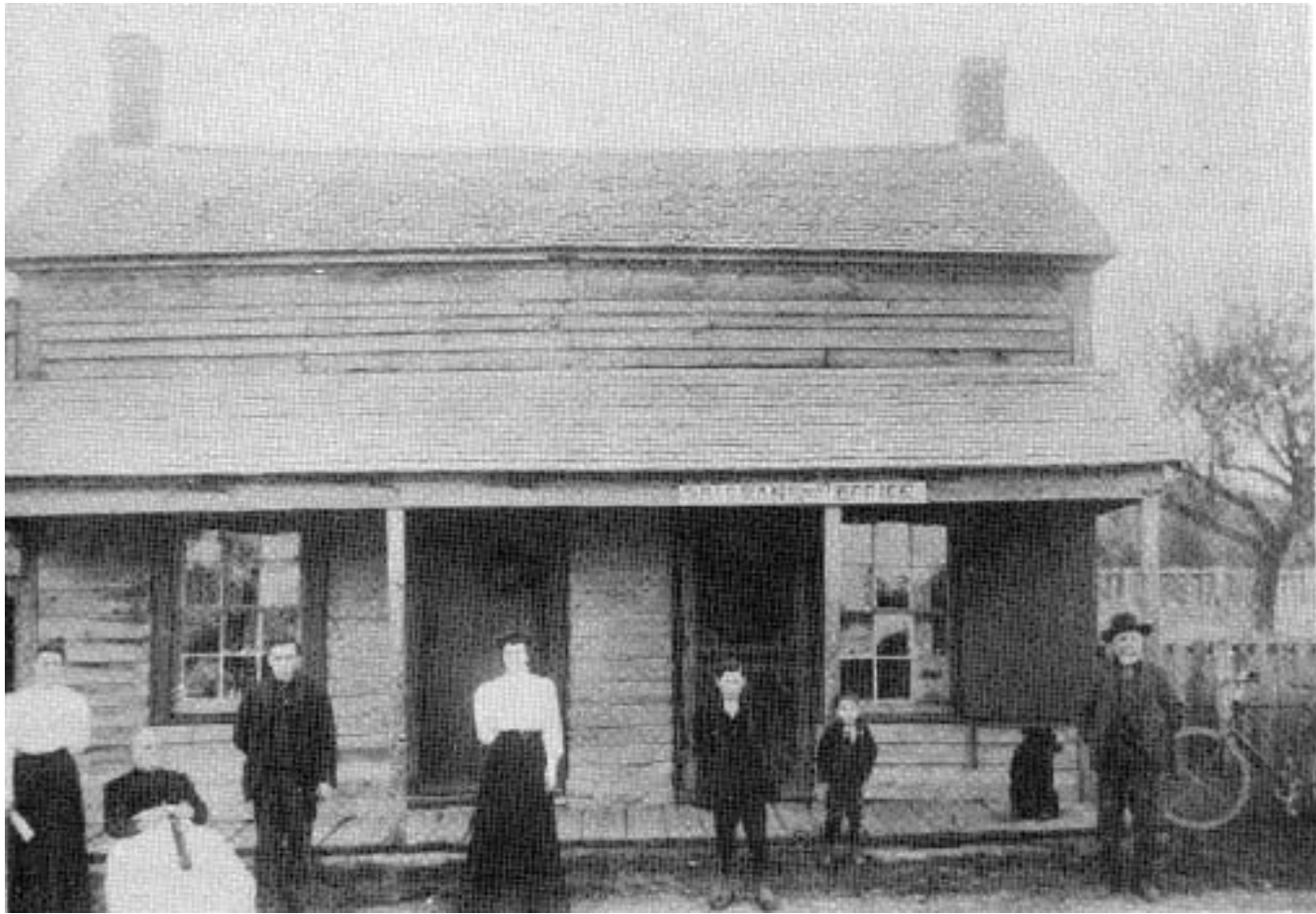
Centennial Celebrations - As part of the Centennial Celebrations in 1967, a Cairn was erected in a Park on the site of the first Brisbane School. It contained two Plaques: one commemorating Confederation, the other outlining the Historical facts of Erin Twp.

Hamlet - In the early days, Brisbane had a blacksmith shop, gunsmith, woodworking shop, and two hotels. Thomas Bush of Erin built the hotel on the south corner. It was built of white brick, made right on the site. Later that hotel burned down.

Another hotel was operated in 1864, by Ben Aldous, on 7th line, at 17 sideroad. It was believed to have been in operation from 1854-1888. Later it became a butcher shop, then a dwelling, until it was torn down 1933, by the owner of the farm, Frank Root.

On the Ephriam Barbour farm, on 7th line, stood a tall tower, said to have been built by the Germans. It was removed at the beginning of W.W. I, but the prop erty is still known as the "Tower Farm". From the top of the Tower, one had a tremendous view of the beautiful countryside.

Robert Armstrong, a well-known photographer, had a studio in his home on the Guelph Road at the 8th line corner, for many years. When needed, he would walk to his appointments, carrying his equipment.



Brisbane Post Office on the Erin-Guelph Road, at the 7th line on the south corner. While the exact year the photo was taken is unknown, it is believed to have been about 1900.

Century Farms

The Brisbane Section had four Century Farms, marked in 1967:

The Nurse Farm - Henry Nurse and his wife, Margaret of lot 15, con. 8, Erin Twp., purchased lot 13, con. 8, from Samuel Gunn of Toronto, but he did not move to the farm until 1878. Moving Day over the corduroy road on the 8th line was a terrifying experience, especially for the children. Henry Nurse was a shoemaker, and continued to carry on his trade, as well as clearing his land, with the help of his wife.

In 1878, they built a large addition to the barn. A sixty-foot mudsill of hand-hewn rock elm, was hauled from Caledon by a yoke of oxen. These oxen were sold to be exported to England, but during a violent storm while crossing the Atlantic, it was feared the ship would capsize, and the oxen were thrown overboard, to lighten the load.

The present house was built about 1847. It is believed to have been a hotel at one time, and is said to have had 35 rooms. Two fires have partially destroyed it, bringing it to its present size of six rooms. On the lower storey, the stone walls are two feet thick. The upper storey is built of logs, with a rough-cast outer coating.

At Henry Nurse's death in 1906, the farm went to their youngest son, Samuel. When he died in 1963, the farm passed to Samuel's daughter, Margaret, and his step-daughters, Etta and Rhoda McLennan.

Harper Farm - lot 14, con. 6 - In 1847, Adam Harper came from County Antrim, Ireland, and settled first at

Norval in Peel County. He came up the 7th line of Erin Twp., looking for land, and inquired at "Bristol". He was directed to lot 14, where he found a clearing and a small log house, with a roof of split hollow logs, and a fire place. He travelled to the Registry Office in Dundas, to inquire for the owner. A good spring supplied water. Grain was hauled by oxen hitched to a "jumper". His first cow cost \$5.00 in 1848. Tea was one dollar per pound.

Root Farm - lot 17, con. 7 - John Root was born in Pennsylvania in 1800, and moved to Beamsville with his parents. In 1826, he came to Erin Twp. The frame house adjoining the brick one, is the original house on this farm. The corner stones of the brick house, and the window sills, were quarried at the 5th line quarry. Owned by Frank Root in 1967, Bill Root is the fifth generation to live on this farm.

Delaney Farm - W 1/2 lot 15, con. 8 - James Delaney Sr., came from Ireland, and settled near Brampton in Peel County. About 1850, he purchased this farm in Erin Twp. The log house was built in a hollow behind the present buildings. The first barn was destroyed when struck by lightning. It was replaced, and fourteen years later, it was struck by lightning, and burned. The present barn was built in 1909. The brick house was built in the 1890's.

Telephones

Telephone service came to Brisbane about 1912.

Brisbane Women's Institute

Was organized about 1905. On two occasions they held Garden Parties in the School Grounds. They did a great deal of Red Cross work through W.W.I, but soon disbanded. The new W.I. book gives the dates 1921-1931.