



A Short History

OF

Caledonia

VOLUME I (1950)

SECOND EDITION



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INTRODUCTION – SECOND EDITION

Written in 1950 to commemorate Haldimand County's Centennial anniversary, this novel has proved to be an invaluable asset to those researching Caledonia's history. It includes detailed historical accounts of Caledonia in its infant years. From stories of the natives who passed through these parts, to those of the original European settlers, *A Short History of Caledonia Volume I*, is chock full of interesting and worthwhile information.

Part of the popularity of this novel stemmed from the way that it was put together. There is no one author; rather, the entire community combined to piece together their history. General history by decade is followed by histories of local businesses and businessmen and women, written by the business owners themselves. Following this are histories of government, churches, schools, community service clubs, public works, and more.

Presented here in its entirety, this book, even after the passing of over half a century, is still as relevant as when it was originally published by *The Grand River Sachem* in 1950.

-Ian D. Thompson, U.E. 2014

A SHORT HISTORY OF CALEDONIA

INTRODUCTION

We have all read in our histories how, after the American Revolution, Captain Joseph Brant received a grant of land of six miles on each side of the Grand River from its mouth to its source for the Six Nations Indians. From this, most readers gain the impression that surveyors went out and staked out this grant by measuring back six miles from the bank on each side of the Grand River, (or, as it was then known, the Ouse River.)

The impression is entirely erroneous. The surveyors began by drawing on their maps a straight line from the mouth of the Grand River to Brantford and then measuring back six miles on each side of this line. The present north limit of the Township of Seneca marks the north limit of this old Indian grant and the present south limit of the Township of Oneida marks its southern limit and it is, of course, twelve miles between these two limits. All of the County of Haldimand, with the exception of the Townships of Rainham and Walpole, were included in this twelve mile grant and its old limits are still known in many localities in the County as the Indian Line.

The old County Atlas, published in 1879, gives an interesting account of the early history of the County. The following extracts seem particularly relevant:

“The Chippawas or Ojibways were the original inhabitants of Haldimand and the proprietors of its soil, but their claims were purchased and their title extinguished by treaty with the Government about the time of the American Revolutionary War. During that war the Iroquois, or Six Nation Indians, displayed the most steadfast devotion to the British cause, and under the leadership of Captain Brant had rendered important and acceptable assistance to the British forces.”

“After the close of the war, the Government promptly acknowledged the services of their Indian allies by granting them as a hunting and fishing ground a strip of land, twelve miles in width, lying on each side of the Grand River, and comprised between two parallel lines extending from the shore of Lake Erie to where Brantford now is, and including some of the finest land in Upper Canada. This grant, which covered 310,391 acres, was made by Sir Frederick Haldimand, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada after whom the County was named,) and dated October 25th, 1874.”

“During the Revolutionary War, the regular British troops were opposed by men long accustomed to frontier life, and to frequent conflicts with Indian tribes; they were as skilful in eluding their foes and scarcely less ferocious than the red men themselves. Against such an enemy the warriors under the leadership of the great Theyendenega (Brant) were peculiarly valuable allies. Brant himself was an educated savage, who, while not forsaking his tribe or the customs and traditions of his forefathers, availed himself of many of the advantages of his contact with white men, and acquired a tolerably fair English education. To this he added natural abilities of a high order, which made him a successful leader, and his naturally humane disposition, improved by education and the influences of civilization, had done much toward civilizing his tribe, and rendering their mode of warfare less ferocious and cruel. Early in this war, a band of irregular cavalry was organized, to act in concert with the Indians—composed of men who for the most part had lived among the Indians and had learned to endure fatigue and hunger, and to traverse the trackless forests without guides, surrounded by hostile savages, and depending on their own skill at the chase for their subsistence. This band of backwoods horsemen made themselves celebrated during the war for their promptness, their daring and their unwavering and active loyalty to King George the Third. They were under the command of a bold, dashing and indefatigable leader named Butler, who was a descendant and the heir to the unfortunate Duke of Ormand, whose devotion to the cause of the “Bonnie Prince Charlie,” the pretender, had in the previous century cost him his estates and titles.”

“Previous to the war, many of “Butler’s Rangers,” as they were called, lived in the valley of the Mohawk River, in the Province of New York, and were personal friends of Brant; and when the British Government made the grant to the Six Nations of the Grand River reservation, he invited a few of his old companions in arms to settle there, giving them tracts of land along the river. Henry Nelles, with his sons Robert Nelles, Abraham Nelles, William Nelles, Warner Nelles, and John Nelles, responded to this invitation, and were given a lease for 99 years of a block in Seneca, extending three miles back from the river and three miles broad, besides a small tract on the

opposite side of the river in Oneida. Adam Young and his sons John Young, Henry Young and Daniel Young, were also given a large tract of land in Seneca, between where York and Indiana now are.”

“The year of our Lord 1784, was the date of the first white settlement in the County of Haldimand. At that time there were literally no roads in the County, and no improvements of any kind; when the Nelles and Young families arrived and began their war with the unbroken forests of what is now the Township of Seneca, there were no white settlements nearer than Ancaster and Niagara, the nearest and in fact the only grist mill in all the west of Canada being at the latter place.”

“Besides the United Empire Loyalists, who received grants of land from the Indians, there were others who came in later and settled mostly in Oneida, and on various pretexts obtained small tracts of land from Brant. Charles Anderson built a mill and distillery in Oneida on land given him for the purpose. Nicholas Cook got a “Brant lease” for 200 acres. Thomas Runchy got a mill site from Brant, and Mrs. Dennis a small grant of land; these were all in Oneida.”

“Shortly after the year 1830 the Government decided with the consent of the Chiefs, to sell all the remaining portions of the reservation in Haldimand, except a small portion of Oneida, and invest the proceeds for the benefit of the Indians, paying them the interest on the investment, in guns, blankets, ammunition, Etc.; a treaty was therefore concluded, having that object in view, and resulted in the surrender of the lands to the Government and the opening up of the townships for settlement. After that date (1832) the townships within the “Indian lines” began extensively to be settled and improved.”

“In 1833, the Grand River Navigation Company began the improvement of the navigation of the river, between Brantford and Indiana, by building dams and locks, and by cutting short stretched of canal along the north-east side of the river; for this purpose they bought narrow strips of land along the bank, and on these their employees lived, and stores and mills were erected. David Thompson was a large stockholder in the Company and located in Indiana, where he engaged extensively in business, carrying on saw and flouring mills and a distillery, and doing a large trade in square timber and lumber. Indiana became a village of vast importance, owing to a great extent to Mr. Thompson’s energy and enterprise, but on his death it fell into decay and dilapidation. York owed its origin and much of its early growth to the water power furnished by the Company’s dam at that point, and to the plaster beds and mills of which York is the principal site.”

The Grand River Navigation Company was largely a by-product of the building of the first Welland Canal. This Canal was built from Lake Ontario to Port Robinson on the Chippawa Creek, (or Welland River) from whence it was indeed that boats would pass up the Chippawa to its mouth above the falls and then up the Niagara River to Lake Erie. The Canal had to pass through a high ridge of land about two miles in width to the north of Port Robinson. Excavations through this ridge had to be made to a depth of seventy feet in order for this portion of the canal to be on the same level as the Chippawa Creek; and this of course was essential in order that water from the Creek would flow down the Canal to the locks on the side of the mountain or escarpment; unless the south portion of the canal was as low as the Chippawa Creek enabling the water to flow north there would be no water with which to work the locks.

The upper portion of this high ridge was of clay but as excavations proceeded to the seventy foot depth quick sand was encountered. In the fall of 1828 when the canal was about completed and it was expected that in a few days water could be admitted from the Chippawa Creek, this quick sand caused the banks of the Canal to give way and a series of land slides occurred, completely filling the canal in many places.

In view of this quick sand formation, the Engineers were doubtful if they ever could build a canal through this ridge low enough to enable the water from the Chippawa Creek to pass down to the locks; locks that were all built but which were high and dry on the side of the escarpment.

It is at this point that the County of Haldimand comes into the picture. The Engineers now conceived the idea of sing the water from the Grand River for the purpose of working these locks.

The dam was built at Dunnville; the Welland Canal Feeder was built taking water from above the dam, crossing the Chippawa Creek by means of a wooden aqueduct at a point which was to become the City of Welland, 9Welland as a matter of fact was known originally as the Aqueduct) and then passing along west of Chippawa Creek to a point a short distance north of Port Robinson.

The landslides in the canal were cleared out but the excavations were no longer carried into the quick sand; instead two locks were built for locking the boats up from the Chippawa Creek to the higher level of the rebuilt canal. The feeder joined the Canal above these locks and the dam at Dunnville raised the water high enough that it would flow into the Canal at its new level. The waters of the Grand River from above the dam then flowed down the feeder and into the Canal, a small portion going south to work the locks that raised the boats from Chippawa to the level of the rebuilt canal and the balance going north to fill the locks that would enable the boats to pass up and down the escarpment.

The dam at Dunnville was built in 1829; its completion backed up the water in the river to a point beyond Cayuga. Boats could then travel from the Welland Canal up the feeder to Dunnville and then up the river past Cayuga to Indiana. A cut-off was also built connecting the feeder at Stromness with the mouth of the Grand River at which latter point a lock was built enabling boats to pass from the level of Lake Erie to the level of the feeder; and boats could then pass down the river and through the feeder into Lake Erie.

The Grand River Navigation Company was formed for the purpose of building dams, canals and locks so that boats could travel up the river from Indiana to Brantford. The Company built five dams in the County of Haldimand.

Dam No. 1 was built opposite Mount Healy from where a canal was dug to Indiana and which covered a fall of five feet nine inches; Dam No. 2 was at York and covered a fall of five feet nine inches; Dam No. 3 was at Sims Locks, covering a fall of eight feet six inches; Dam No. 4 at Seneca with five feet nine inches fall; Dam No. 5 at Oneida (Caledonia) with seven and one-half feet fall and the river was then navigable to within a few miles of Brantford, where there were three locks each with a fall of eleven feet. (Dam No. 5 is now owned by the Caledonia Milling Company and is the only one of the five dams still in existence).

The Navigation Company laid out small villages at most of their dams. At Dam No. 5 there was the Village of Oneida on the North bank and the Village of Sunnyside on the South bank. At Dam No. 4, there was the Village of Seneca on the North bank and the Village of South Seneca on the South bank. The Village of Seneca, the Village of Oneida and the strip of land between, together with a corresponding strip on the south side of the river, were to become the Village of Caledonia.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

THE VILLAGE OF SENECA

Jacob Turner came to the Village of Seneca in 1834 as a contractor with the Grand River Navigation Company. Dam No. 4 at Seneca was built 100 yards or so west of the mouth of the Creek. The lock was about at the bottom of the hill. Evidence of the old canal can still be seen.

Turner acquired a lease of the water rights and built a sawmill at the north end of the Dam and south of the canal. The surrounding district was all forest, a large part pine. With the completion of the Navigation works, lumber could be shipped down the river in scows and lumbering became the most important industry of the area.

James B. Holden and Benjamin S. Mills also acquired water rights and erected a grist mill with 4 run of stones on the north side of the river road, at the foot of the hill. The mill race crossed the road, a bridge being erected over it. After the water had turned the mill wheel, it flowed into the creek.

Alpheus D. Mackey also acquired water rights and erected a wool carding machine. It was also on the north side of the road, immediately east of the grist mill. Seneca also had a sash and door factory. James Little ran a store and was also the first postmaster.

John Jackson, an engineer with the Navigation Company, erected a brick house on the flats just east of Seneca bridge. This house was in existence until twenty or thirty years ago.

In 1843 the first church to be built in the district, a Methodist church, was erected at the north end of Tuscarora Street. The graveyard used in connection with it is still in existence although there have been no burials there for years. About the same time, a log school was built at the Northwest corner of Seneca and King William Streets. The deed to the school trustees is dated May 3, 1845.

In the forties, a bridge was built across the river at Seneca. A saw mill was erected at the south end of the Dam in South Seneca and Seneca was a prosperous and growing community. Wm. H. Smith's Canadian Gazeteer published 1846, describes it as follows:

"Seneca: A flourishing village in the Township of Seneca, situated on the Grand River one mile below Caledonia. It contains about 140 inhabitants. There is a Methodist Church in the Village.

"Professions and Trades: One grist mill (four run of stone), one saw mill, carding machine and cloth factory, planing machine, chair factory. One physician and surgeon. Two stores, three taverns, one cabinet maker, three shoemakers, three blacksmiths, one turner, one tailor."

The Village was still in the Township and Jacob Turner was Reeve of the Township in 1851 and 1852 and Warden of the County in the latter year.

THE VILLAGE OF ONEIDA AND THE VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA

Ranald McKinnon came to this district in 1835 as a contractor with the Grand River Navigation Company. At that time, there was a tavern kept by one Bryant and a couple of log houses built by Indians, one of which was occupied by a white named Crawford.

McKinnon built a saw mill in the Village of Oneida at the north end of Dam No. 5, (this was where the Shirra Milling Co. had their mill until it was destroyed by fire) and he had a store in the log building where he lived. He developed a large lumbering business and the district developed rapidly.

James Old came to the district in 1836. He ran a hotel for a time and then moved to a farm to the northwest of the Village, where he lived until his death.

McKinnon built a store on Lot one on the west side of Argyle Street, where the Caledonia Milling Co. offices now are. He took in with him a young man by the name of John Scott and carried on the store business under the name of John Scott & Co.

The bridge across the river was begun on its present site in 1842 and completed in 1843. It consisted of six spans, one of them a swing bridge. David Hager was one of the principal contractors on the bridge. He later built a hotel at the intersection of the Indian Line and the Plank Road and became the founder of Hagersville.

In 1843, the government surveyed the Village and its original limits have never been changed. It included the Villages of Seneca and Oneida, the two original Navigation Company Villages on the north side of the river, but did not include the Villages of South Seneca or the Village of Sunnyside on the south bank of the river.

Ranald McKinnon played a prominent role in laying out the Village. He chose a Scotch name, Caledonia, and most of the streets and squares bear Scotch names. The Village of Seneca still continued under that name, but the Village of Oneida became known as Little Caledonia.

The Plank Road was completed from Port Dover to the top of the mountain at Hamilton in 1844 and the road down the mountain two years later. In the 23 miles between Caledonia and Port Dover there were four toll gates and in the 14 miles to Hamilton, two.

With the building of the Plank Road, Caledonia forged ahead of Seneca. James Little moved his store to the south side of the River and took with him the Post Office.

McKinnon built a grist mill in 1844 on the site of the Caledonia Milling Company's mill on the north side of the river. The old canal was just to the south of the present mill race. The lock was about under the railroad bridge.

A new school was erected on the site of the present public school in 1846. It was a frame building of two rooms, one of which was for the common school, the other for the grammar schools.

Wm. H. Smith's Canadian Gazeteer, published in 1846, describes the Village as follows:

"Caledonia: A flourishing Village on the banks of the Grand River, 20 miles from Brantford, 14 miles from Hamilton and 23 miles from Port Dover; principally situated in the Township of Seneca with a small portion on the opposite side of the river in the Township of Oneida. The two portions of the Village are connected by means of a handsome swing bridge across the river. Caledonia was laid out as a Village by the Crown about two years since and the Village of Seneca was included in the town plot. The Plank Road from Hamilton to Port Dover passes through the Village. Stages run daily to Hamilton and Port Dover and a mail runs three times a week to Dunnville and from thence to St. Catharines. A settlement called "Little Caledonia" (where there is a grist mill and saw mill with two saws) is situated about a quarter of a mile distant. Population, including Little Caledonia – about three hundred. Post office (in Oneida) post daily. Professions and trades: one physician and surgeon, five stores, three taverns, two grocers, one saddler, two wagon makers, two cabinet makers, three blacksmiths, three shoemakers, three tailors, two bakers."

Throughout the forties business was booming. New dwellings were built and new enterprises started. McKinnon built his woolen mill in 1850 on the flats to the east of his grist mill. The mill race to run the mill was brought under the entrance road on the north side of the grist mill. The previous year both Presbyterian and Anglican churches had been built.

Settlement was proceeding rapidly along the Plank Road in both Oneida and Seneca. W.H. Smith in his history "Canada: Past, Present and Future", published 1851, refers to this as follows:

"Starting from Hamilton by the plank road, we enter the district in the Township of Seneca and soon reach the flourishing village of Caledonia. No better example could be shown of the advantage of making good common roads (that everybody may travel on) through the Province, than is to be found in the country bordering the plank road from Hamilton to Port Dover; when we first travelled some five or six years ago, shortly after the new road was made, the country between Caledonia and Port Dover was a perfect wilderness, scarcely a clearing to be seen, and a stranger would ask with surprise where the traffic was to come from to support the road. Mark the contrast: in five short years nearly every lot along the road has been settled and cleared, and fine farms supply the place of dreary forests."

Robert W.S. McKay's directory also published in 1851, gives us a picture of the combined villages of Caledonia and Seneca, as they appeared one hundred years ago.

"Caledonia: A village situated on the Grand River, in the Township of Seneca, County of Haldimand. C.W., - distant from Hamilton 14 miles – usual stage fare 2s 6d. Population about 80.. Alphabetical list of Professions, Trades, etc.

Holden & Mills, Caledonia Mills.

McKinnon, Ranald, Woollen Manufacturer, saw and four mills.

Turner, Jacob, General Merchant and Mill Owner, Seneca Mills.
Little, James, Postmaster, general merchant, carding and fulling mills.
Aldridge, James, tinsmith.
Bains, David, Carpenter.
Barnard, P.C., General Store.
Barry, Thos., Saddler.
Brown, George, General Store.
Buck, A.C., Chemist and Druggist.
Campbell, J., Taylor.
Chageriff, A., Grocer.
Cormisck, J., Shoemaker.
Dougherty, John, Butcher.
Dougherty, Hiram, Innkeeper.
Ferguson, Duncan, General Store.
Ferrier, Rev. A., United Presbyterian.
Fulton, S. & P., Blacksmiths.
Hannah, David, Blacksmith.
Henderson, Wm., Bricklayer.
Hess, Peter, Blacksmith.
Hibbard, A., Carpenter.
Hill, Rev. B. Cudmore, Church of England.
Hume, Wm., Cabinet Maker.
Jarvis, A.H. Tinsmith.
Knox & Cheney, Lumber Merchants.
Leith, Wm., Innkeeper
Leith, Wm. Jr., Innkeeper
Lowry, S., Saw and Planing Mill.
McDonald, John, Shoemaker.
McPherson, Wm., M.D.
Mead, Richard, Innkeeper.
Miller, William, Saw Mills.
Moore, E. & j.F., Saw Mills and Chair Factory.
Munro, Andrew, Tavern.
Peters, Timothy, Baker.
Phillips, George, Innkeeper.
Riddle, Henry, Innkeeper.
Scobie, Alexander, General Merchant and Clerk of Division Court.
Scott, John & Co., General Merchants.
Smith, Thomas, Saddler.
Walker, Lewis, innkeeper.
Woodbury, Edward, Cooper.
Young, Abraham, Innkeeper.

RANALD MCKINNON
HIS LETTERS 1844 – 1851

As we seek to picture to ourselves Caledonia as it was a hundred years ago, we are likely to think of a little village, largely isolated, living pretty much to itself, where the farmer brought his wheat to the mill and took away his flour and brought in his wool and took home his cloth.

And such a picture would be completely false. Caledonia was then richly endowed both commercially and industrially. It had ample power from the Navigation Company Dams to run tis saw mills, its grist mills, and its woollen mill. While by 1850 lumbering had passed its peak, there was still available in the surrounding district large stands of fine timber. It had excellent transportation facilities; steamers plied up and down the river; scows were carried down the river by the current, filled with lumber and flour to be drawn back up by horses walking along the tow path on the bank, and the Plank Road gave excellent access to the market and port at Hamilton.

Wool was being purchased from all over what was to become south western Ontario. Wheat was being purchased from the same area, and apparently at times from the United States, to be ground into flour and exported to both the English and American markets.

In another twenty or thirty years those advantages would largely vanish. Improvements in the efficiency of the steam engine would make water power of little importance and the construction of railroads would destroy the advantage of river transportation. Fortunately Mr. O.T. Scott has preserved Ranald McKinnon's letter book containing copies of these letters he wrote from 1844 – 1851. Some of the most interesting of these letters are reprinted in the following pages; from the letters in this book we obtain some conception of Caledonia as it was a century ago.

Ranald McKinnon was born on September 11th, 1801 at Ardelum on the Island of Mull in Argyleshire in South West Scotland. His grandfather John MacKinnon and his father Malcolm MacKinnon emigrated to Masonville (now Sydney Plains_ Delaware County, New York State in 1805. Malcolm MacKinnon came to Canada in 1820. Ranald as a boy and young man worked in Virginia and Kentucky. On the family coming to Canada, he followed and obtained employment in the construction of the Rideau Canal. On March 3rd. 1835 , he married his first cousin Euphemia MacKinnon, who was born at Masonville in 1813. This was either just before or just after he came to this district as a contractor for the Grand River Navigation Company on Dam No. 5.

As we read his letters we get some idea of the problems he must have faced building up and managing his different enterprises, his saw mill, his grist mill and his woollen mill. What a great optimist he must have been; it would seem doubtful if he had had any experience in running a grist mill; he expressly mentions in one of his letters that he had had no experience in the woollen industry. He was obviously at times hard pressed for capital. His agents at New York and Montreal were advancing him money for his flour while the wheat was still in the farmers' fields, and he in turn was advancing money to the farmers to aid them in harvesting their wheat.

He had all the problems of a new country to contend with. The Village was not surveyed until 1843 and it was some time before the government issued patents for the different lots. In the meantime people were squatting on the lots making improvements and buying and selling them with all the arguments which inevitably result from such a situation.

In his woollen business he had to build up a whole new organization. He had agents all through what is now south western Ontario buying wool. We read of him sending out his bags by stagecoach and getting back his wool by team or having sent down the river from Brantford by boat; and then after he had manufactured his cloth he had to find a market for it. And then of course, as if he did not have enough trouble, we find him in 1851 running in a by-election against the famous William Lyon Mackenzie, the leader of the rebellion in Upper Canada, and the almost equally famous George Brown, the founder of the Globe; an election, of course, which Mackenzie won.

Ranald McKinnon was, of course, an incurable optimist or he would never have tackled the problems which he did, and no doubt it was this optimism that in later years involved him in financial difficulties, as the economic currents began moving against the small industries of the villages in favour of the big industries of the cities.

We must look back upon him with considerable pride as being the founder of our village. When he came here it was a wilderness, at his death on Oct. 18th. 1879, it was a prosperous village with a population not so much

smaller than it is at the present time. As we to-day, with all our advantages, look back over his life and think of all the obstacles which he successfully overcame, our own problems must in contrast seem pretty picayune.

RANALD MCKINNON'S LETTERS

Caledonia, 27th Dec. 1844

John Cameron, Esq.,
Secty. G.R.N. Co.

Sir

I wish to rent a water privilege for a grist mill with two Run of Stones at Dam No. 5 (at my place) the water to be carried in a floom on the north side of the Lock.

The rent to commence one year from the first day of January next and on such terms as other water privileges are granted by the Company.

I would make other erections as soon as the necessary Race is finished which would be productive of additional Rent to the Company and wish the privilege to be given with that understanding and the Rent to commence as soon as such erections are made.

And would beg to add that such privilege was promised me in 1835 by the Companys directors when the place was a wilderness.

Your obdt. Servt.
Signed Ranald MacKinnon.

Caledonia 4 April 1845

To Jas. Kirkpatrick
My dear Sir:

That part of the Town flat which I have in possession I bought from John Wing about three years ago for which I paid him £150. John Wing bought of an Indian in the year 1834. I also paid Michael Handle £10 for Improvement and I laid out subsequently on the land about £100 in Improvement making in all about £260. The lot in Caledonia on which my store stands I bought of Mr. Thomas Bryant and hold his bond for a deed, since the purchase I built the store and the dwelling house in the rear of it which I suppose cost me about £300.

And I would here beg to remark that the flat along the bank of the River is too low for building lots and that as I am erecting Mills and other machinery near it I would be glad to buy it for a clothing yard and also the land in the rear of my dwelling house I think never will be required for building lots and I would like to be allowed to buy it as it is so near my buildings.

I am etc.
Signed R. MacKinnon

Caledonia 11 Dec. 1845.

James R. Shaw Esq.

Agreeable to promise I write to give you the refusal of my pine Timber for the coming season. I am offered \$12. For the three upper qualities and \$7. For the fourths by two or three different parties and if you will give the same delivered as usual you can have it with understanding that you advance me One Thousand Dollars on the first day of January next. I will wait your reply a reasonable time before contracting with my other party.

(signed)

Ranald MacKinnon

Troy N.Y.

Caledonia 2nd. April 1847.

Messrs. Peers and Allen
Gentlemen:

Having since I saw you in the year 1839 added a flouring mill to my former business of lumbering and finding that I cannot get sufficient wheat to keep my mill constantly employed in my own neighbourhood I write you to know how wheat can be got from your country, say one Cargo about the first of May next for Cash to be shipped to Dunnville at the mouth of the Grand River.

Have the goodness to mention the price per Bushel, your commission, freight, and all other charges to Dunnville and also the price of No. 1 Mess Pork that would stand N. York inspection and also let me know whether you think I had better buy a Bill of Exchange on New York or take our money in case the price should be such as to enable me to import from there.

Also the weight of the wheat per measured bushel.

I am, Gentlemen

Ranald MacKinnon.

Cleveland, Ohio.

Caledonia, 8th. May 1848.

Mr. John Ives

Sir

I have to acknowledge your letter of the 4th Inst. And in reply beg to say that a Boat well managed that would make a trip from Brantford to Dunnville, and return the same day no doubt would pay well on the River. A distance of fifty miles going up against a current of about two miles per hour. She could not depend upon more than two feet six inches of water and her speed would require to be not less than 10 miles per hour.

Charges of the present Boats for passage from Dunnville to Brantford, One Dollar, speed about six miles per Hour.

Brantford is owned by Mr. Andrew Thompson of Port Dover. The owner of Messmore (and Capt.) is Mr. Messmore of Dunnville.

Wood worth about One dollar per Cord. They both have high pressure engines, the Brantford is chartered by a man of the name of Soules at \$600. For the present season, but neither of these boats have the speed that is necessary to make them useful here. This route has been much spoken of lately in connection with a Boar from Dunnville to Buffalo twice a day, a distance of fifty miles on the Lake and such a line I have no doubt would yield a fair return.

I shall be happy to give you any information in my power at any time.

I am Sir

Your ob. Sert.

Signed R. McKinnon..

Kingston

Caledonia, 30th. August 1848

Messrs. Isaac Buchanan & Co.

Gentlemen:

On the fifteenth of this month I shipped to you per Steamer Ottawa from Port Hamilton, 102 Bbl. Extra Super fine New Flour and I am anxious to learn the day on which the same was sold in your market as I believe it is the first lot sent from Hamilton this season.

I commenced harvesting wheat on the 11th. Day and ground new wheat on the 15th. Day of last month which I consider early for this Province.

I am now grinding daily 60 bbl. Which I am forwarding to you, and I am drawing you the funds to but the wheat and take the liberty of intimating to you that I much regret that you do not favor me with the usual information respecting the market.

I am, Gentlemen

Your Obt. Sert.

Signed R. McKinnon

Montreal

Caledonia 21st. Oct / 48.

Messrs. E.D. Morgan & Co.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed I beg to send you an order for Tea & sugar which I hope you will have the goodness to forward at your earliest convenience, as the season is so far advanced, as usual on credit.

And by the way of explanation I would here beg to add that in August last I took into my merchandise a partner a young man of the name of John Scott, and for the sake of more easily distinguishing my merchandise accounts from my milling & other business transactions that department is carried on in the name of John Scott & Co.

As soon as we receive your invoice we will forward you a Note for the amount and I would also thank you to make a definite agreement with the line for the transportation to Hamilton, Ont.

I have endeavored in the order to give you an idea of the prices but of course you will be, by necessity, compelled to use some discretion in that matter.

The goods will be marked John Scott & Co., Hamilton, Ont.

I am, Gentlemen, Respectfully,

Your Obt. Sert.

Sgd. R. McKinnon.

68 Front St.

N.Y.

N.B. the sugar to be of course at short Price.

Caledonia 11th March 1850.

E.S. Brainerd, Esq.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 21st Jany. Last was duly received. I now write you to say that if you could send me a draft for Two thousand dollars at three months so that I could use it here on the 25th instant – it would be an accommodation to me, but at all events I shall expect you by the first of April. Please to write in receipt of this whether you send the draft or not.

I shall have about 900,000 feet for you by the first of April and a greater proportion of the upper qualities than usual.

No sickness in this place – times good – money plenty as usual -.

Yours respectfully,

Signed R. McKinnon

Caledonia 13th May 1850.

Mr. Thomas Lowrie

St. Catharines

Dear Sir:

I write you to say that I am about to build a Woollen Factory below my grist mill and would be glad to get a plan from you and have you do the millwright work if you could do so, if you could not attend to it yourself, perhaps you could send your Brother. I think perhaps centre discharging wheels would be the most suitable, but of this you will be the best judge.

About the 25th inst. I expect to leave for New York and would be glad to see you before that time that we might agree.

Have the goodness to let me hear from you on receipt of this.

Yours respectfully,

(Sgd.) R. McKinnon.

Caledonia, Gore District, Ont.
17th. June 1850.

Messrs. Higginson, Day & Co.
New York,

Gentlemen:

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your favor unable to say whether our best market will be Montreal or New York. But I would thank you to let me know at your convenience on what terms you intend to do business with your Canadian customers and what you think the charges will be at New York. The amount of credit I have usually required for the fall business has been about Three thousand Pounds, drawn at not less than three months, and met at maturity with produce or cash.

I have generally used one thousand pounds in the month of July by the way of making advances to farmers to enable them to get off their harvest.

Have the goodness to let me hear from you before the end of the present month.

I am respectfully

Your Obt. Sert.

Sgd. R. McKinnon.

77 Broad St.

Caledonia 22 Oct. 1850.

Charles S. Starrow, Esq.
Treasr. Essex Co.
LAWRENCE, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I have got the machinery into the Factory this afternoon but was sorry to find that the half circle that conveys the yarn to the warper was broken and one ps. Of casting.

I was disappointed in your not sending me one sett of spools.

I wish when you send the other looms, you would send me a double & Twister of 25 Spindles.

Please let me know if you can furnish this article and if so, at what price. The charges to Buffalo on your machinery amounted to \$103.00.

Your Obt. Sert.

Sgd. R. McKinnon.

Caledonia 6th November 1850.

Messrs. John W. Williams & Co.
180 Main St. Buffalo, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

I beg to remind you that I have not yet received the remainder of the articles ordered from you and that I have not heard anything from you since I was in Buffalo – and have to beg that if you have not sent them, that you will do so immediately together with the Three Bbls. Of Oil ordered by Mr. Hineman, my Foreman. There will be a Canada Scow in Buffalo early next week belonging to Mr. Finlin of Indiana of the name “John H. Rodgers” and if you cannot get them sent by the Steam Boat I have to be you will get him to bring them as the season is now near its close, there is no time to be lost.

Please let me hear from you by mail on receipt of this.

I am,

Yours Respectfully,

Sgd. R. McKinnon.

Caledonia Feb. 22nd. 1851

A.M.D. Lockhart, Esquire,

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 2nd. December last enclosing £25.0.0. which I credited on your note and will be glad to receive the balance whenever convenient. As we must now of necessity have an Election in the County before the first of May next should I be in the field may I look for any support in your quarter, and if so to what extent do you think the people would support me. If I had had a fair chance last time I would not think of it again but you will agree with me when I say that I had not. Give me your opinion on the subject truly as I shall be governed altogether by the advice of my friends. Can any good wool be bought in your neighbourhood and if so how much (next clip) I shall want a large quantity for cash. I am making an 100 yds. Of cloth per day at present.

Yours truly,
Sgd. R. McKinnon.

Caledonia 1 March 1851.

Mr. Shannon,

Dear Sir:

I write to solicit your support and influence at the coming Election for this County, which must come off now in a few weeks.

And I do this most freely as I know your anxiety to see the country well governed and by men who are loyal and have some stake in the country and would do justice to all parties and especially to the farmers who have to bear the burden of taxation – Men who would uphold the connection with the Mother Country.

I have further to beg that you would make my intentions known in your neighbourhood and that you would give my respects to Mr. Sile and tell him that I shall expect his support. I will see you as soon as I return from Buffalo.

Let me know in the meantime what you think chances are of my success.

Yours truly,
R. McKinnon.

THE HALDIMAND BYE-ELECTION OF 1851

This Haldimand bye-election of 1851 in which Mackenzie defeated both McKinnon and Brown was quite famous, and next to the defeated candidates no person was more disappointed at the triumph of Mackenzie than Egerton Ryerson, the Superintendent of Schools, who had become involved in a feud with Mackenzie some eighteen years before. McKinnon's defeat made an important contribution to the strength of the rising Clear Grit Party whose relationship with Ryerson was not at that time particularly happy. C.B. Sissons in his book on Egerton Ryerson has the following to say on this situation:

“An incident ominous and symptomatic occurred in Haldimand County. Impatient of delay, as ever, Mackenzie had decided not to wait for the general elections to contest one of the Yorks, but had turned his attention to a bye-election in a riding which he had no previous connection. George Brown, who had been giving the administration fairly consistent support, was nominated as a Reform candidate, and a local man names Case also ran as a Reformer. Another local man, McKinnon, carried the Conservative banner. After a bitter campaign the electors voted as follows: Mackenzie 294; McKinnon, 266; Brown, 165; Case, 61. The spirit in which Brown accepted his first defeat is shown by his explanation of Mackenzie's success: ‘He was supported by “Mackenzie-men” from love of the animal, by Tories from hatred of the Ministry, by Annexationists in the hope that he would make a disturbance and advance their cause, and by not a few Ministerialists on the second day to keep out the Tory candidate. Mr. Mackenzie is in his element before a backwoods' audience - - in the House of Assembly he will, we imagine, be a much less important personage than he and the others expect.’

The success of Mackenzie and the failure of Brown had considerable consequences. The former became a gad-fly to the administration, and the occasion of Baldwin's leaving public life; while the chagrin of Brown at his

defeat, for which he blames the lukewarm support of the Government, made him from this time a frequent critic of its politics and turned his face towards the Clear Grit party. Lord Elgin's comment is interesting.

"I confess I do not view Mackenzie's return with much apprehension unless it should affect our credit with England. He will I have little doubt be about equally troublesome to every party and I think though Heaven forbid I should speak confidently of any one, is sounder on annexation than many who profess to be his betters."

CALEDONIA 1851 – 1880

The year 1852 when the first railroad was built marks the end of the old era based on water power and river transportation and the beginning of a new era based on the steam engine and the railroad. In describing the next thirty years of Caledonia's history we have largely taken extracts from Mr. B.E. French's history published by Mrs. H.B. Sawle in the Grand River Sachem at the time of the last Old Boys' Reunion in 1927.

"In 1852 Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway was built through Caledonia and people expected that it would greatly further the prosperity of the village. However, the opposite seems to have been the result, as the railway drew business from the Grand River Navigation Company, which had worked up a great and thriving business. Great flat-bottomed scows passed up the river, bringing merchandise of all kinds and returning loaded with lumber, grain and other products of farm and manufacturing industries."

"In 1853 the village was incorporated with its present limits with Ranald McKinnon as its first Reeve and A.C. Buck as clerk. Mr. Buck continued in office for one year when Mr. James Aldridge was appointed to continue till January 10th, 1898. The Population had increased to about twelve hundred and its assessed value \$210,030.00."

"About this time the Hamilton and Port Dover Railway was organized and there was much speculation as to its route. Caledonia and Cayuga made bids to the organization to have the railway built through their towns, and due chiefly to the influence of James Little, the route was finally decided to go through Caledonia. However, the village had to buy debentures in the venture to the extent of £10,000 and a heavy burden of taxation was laid upon the village. This was a heavy debt for a time when money was scarce and held back the building of walks, roads and other necessary public work for a very long time. To make the burden seem heavier, the road was not built until nearly twenty years later, and there was great complaint from the citizens of the village."

"The building known to most people as the Roper Block was built in the early 50's by Mr. Bryant and at that time was the largest building in the County of Haldimand. It was built on the northeast corner of Argyle and Caithness Streets. The building soon came into the hands of Mr. Christopher Young, who a year later, traded it to John Garlow, and Indian, who conducted a hotel in it. About the same time John Scott built an iron foundry on Caithness Street on the east side of Edinburgh Square in which he manufactured plows, stoves, mowing machines, water wheels, horse powers, threshing machines, and other kinds of machinery used at that time. This industry continued for many years and was of great advantage to the whole county."

"Thomas Messenger, an American, came to Cayuga about 1853 and began the publication of the Cayuga Sachem, which he carried on till 1855 when he sold it to Wm. DeCew, having previously begun publication of a paper at Caledonia, which he called the Advertiser. The first issue of the Advertiser appeared in February 1856. Mr. DeCew changed the name of his paper to the Sentinel and Mr. Messenger in November of that year re-christened his Advertiser the Grand River Sachem, a name that he and his successors have made illustrious, and which it still bears. In his first issue of the Sachem in 1856, Mr. Messenger stated his reasons for the change of names, the chief of which was that he liked it best, and he promised his readers that he would continue to publish an up-to-date newspaper from his wigwam. The name "Sachem" is the Indian name meaning "Chief."

"The Town Hall was built in the year 1857 at a cost of £800 and on January 18th, 1858, was opened by the first sitting of the Council for that year. The Reeve was John Scott and the Councillors, John Alexander, Neil McKinnon, R.G. Pole and Oliver Knipe."

"A Meat Market was run in the lower part of the Town Hall, stalls have been built there and Nat Wickett, who later lived for many years at York, was one of those who ran a stall there."

"The new Roman Catholic Church was built in 1858 and the dedication took place on Sunday, July 31st, 1858. The services were conducted by his Lordship Bishop Farrell of Hamilton, assisted by the Rev. Messrs. McNulty, La Rue and Northgreaves, the latter of whom preached the sermon. The singing was led by Mrs. Gordon of Hamilton accompanied by Miss Filgiano on the melodeon. The congregation numbered seven hundred people."

"For a number of years the post office, run by Mr. Little had been on the south side of the river, but repeated petitions from people of Caledonia to the Postmaster General caused him to direct Mr. Little to move the

office to the north side. Mr. Little moved the office to the building on the southwest corner of Argyle and Sutherland Streets about April 1, 1860.”

“In 1860 Shoots & Avery began the manufacture of wagons, buggies and fancy horse vehicles, a business which was destined to run for years and was of considerable importance to the village and surrounding country. Their plant was on the south side of the river, back of the old James Hayes Hotel. Many young men served an apprenticeship under this firm, became expert mechanics and passed on to wider fields.”

“Caledonia bridge, with a certain amount of repair each year gave good service until the spring freshet of 1861. On Saturday, March 2nd, in that year, the water commenced to rise very rapidly and continued to do so until Monday when it reached its highest pitch, which was two feet higher than it had been for years before. At that time the jam of ice, timber, flood trash (including a scow) came over the upper dam, crashing against the saw mill of Messrs. McKinnon & Scott, doing but little damage to the dam, but moved four or five feet out of its location and completely destroyed the circular saw and other machinery. The ice was piled as high as the road and completely filled the mill. It next struck the Caledonia bridge and completely swept away three arches of it and wrecked the remainder so badly that it was completely worthless. Fragments of the Caledonia bridge then struck the Seneca Bridge and completely destroyed the centre bent, leaving it impassable. The lower part of the village of Seneca was completely inundated, so that many of the people had to take to the upper stories of their houses. At Caledonia, William Slater, immediately ran a ferry which conveyed teams and loads across the river. By the end of the first week of April a temporary bridge was finished across the river and preparations were being made to build a new permanent bridge, which stood up against the annual spring freshets, which fortunately were not high at that time.”

“McKinnon’s grist Mill was burned to the ground in November 1862, the fire beginning in the smut room. It had been burning some time before discovered, the operators of the mill not knowing anything was wrong. By great efforts on the part of the employees and citizens, the flames were prevented from getting into the lumber yard and other surrounding buildings. Immediately there was agitation for the acquiring of a fire engine which was procured a year or two later. Mr. McKinnon immediately set about rebuilding and the new mill was completed and opened in September 1863.”

“While Mr. McKinnon was rebuilding his flour mill, he had also been rebuilding his woollen mill which had been destroyed by fire in the early 50’s. The new brick mill was finished in early 1864.”

“Although the loss of the mill was a hard blow to Mr. McKinnon and the village, yet the other industries were booming. C.E. Little’s Flour Mill and the Iron Foundry.”

“That the foundry was prospering at this time is shown by the following notice in the *Sachem* July 1862: “The Caledonia Foundry is now doing a fine business. Last Wednesday the proprietors of this establishment sent off a beautiful engine of 25 horse power to Messrs. Holmes, Sanford & Co., Oil Springs, which engine is to be used in driving machinery for manufacturing staves for oil barrels; and they also sent two box stoves, to be used for steaming purposes, weighing 1700 lbs. each with their pans, to the same parties. They are now finishing at the foundry a splendid circular mill which is to be shipped to Thunder Bay, Mich. – this being the 12th circular mill they have shipped out in a short time. We can but congratulate Messrs. Scott & Co. on their success, in not only competing with American foundries, but in surpassing them in the manufacture of circular mills, at least.””

The *Canadian Illustrated News*, published in Hamilton, gives us an interesting picture of the Village in 1863.

“Caledonia is situated on the Grand River, in the County of Haldimand, C.W., about thirteen miles nearly due south of Hamilton. It is connected with Hamilton to the north and with Dover to the south, (about 23 miles) by the Hamilton and Dover Road, now in course repair from end to end by the government, a sum of \$20,000. Or so having been appropriated for that purpose. Caledonia is also connected by the Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway with all the places on that line, from Buffalo to Goderich; and, by means of the Paris junction, with the whole line of the Great Western Railway.”

“Caledonia, although now included in the limits of one municipality, may be said to consist of two villages, or even of three, viz: First – Caledonia proper, on the north side of the river, and on the line of the Hamilton road, which is the leading and the business portion of the whole. Second – South Caledonia, as it is sometimes called, on

the south side of the river, straight opposite. Third – Seneca, which is a little short of a mile from the Caledonia Bridge, eastwards down the river, on the north side. The post-office was formerly kept at Seneca; and by that name if we are not mistaken, it is still in the official list. The best business portion of Caledonia suffered severely last winter, by a fire which swept both sides of the main street for a certain distance, destroying a large hotel, the post-office and a number of stores. It is a stirring, lively place, and has the custom and business of a large and fast improving section of the country to sustain it. It was formerly the centre of an extensive square timber and sawed lumber trade, which made it a place of great business activity, at a time, some years ago, when the surrounding country was but little cleared up. The lumber trade of the place is fast hastening to extinction; but that which depends on agriculture is meanwhile increasing, as land is cleared up. A considerable quantity of pine lumber is still shipped every year at Caledonia for Buffalo, going mostly, perhaps by railway, though formerly it all went down the river in scows, and some goes that way still.”

“There are within the limits of Caledonia three flourishing mills, one pretty extensive foundry, one woollen factory, and quite a lively sprinkling as a Yankee might say, of artisans and tradesmen’s shops. A woollen factory on a large scale, and with all the modern equipment, is now in course of erection by Randal McKinnon, Esq., and is expected to be in operation early next spring. This is the second woollen factory put up by Mr. McKinnon on the same site, the first one having been unfortunately destroyed by fire some years ago.”

“Caledonia has its local paper, The Grand River Sachem, a daily mail to and from the four cardinal points of the compass, a well drilled company of rifle volunteers, with an excellent band, and other evidences of a real “live town”, though as yet it goes under the modest appellation of a “village.” Its population is about 1,000.”

“So much for what Caledonia is and has been; what it is to be time will tell. One undertaking of great future importance both of Caledonia and to Hamilton, deserves prominent mention in this connection. A line of railway from Hamilton to Caledonia (part of the projected line which was to connect Lake Ontario, at Hamilton, with Lake Erie, at Port Dover) has been now for four or five years lying in an unfinished state, graded and ready, or at all events very nearly ready, for the ties and the rails. In this enterprise the city of Hamilton sunk \$500,000, and the municipality of Caledonia \$40,000. Owing to the want of money to go on with, the construction of the road came to a stop; and the amount expended has lain for four years unproductive. No direct return for the aid given the road is anticipated by either Hamilton or Caledonia; but steps have been already taken which will, it is expected, bring about the completion of the road at an early date. The consent of the bondholders of the Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway Company is, as we believe, yet required, to enable that Company, as has been proposed, to finish and work this short connecting link between their own line and the water-level of Hamilton and Oswego. The municipalities both of Hamilton and Caledonia have agreed to relinquish their whole claims for aid already furnished, subject to the condition of the now unfinished road being completed and operated.”

“The advantages that would accrue from the completion of this line are immense; Grain and produce coming from the West by Lake Huron line, is at Caledonia forty or fifty miles, (we cannot just state the precise distance,) from the head of the Erie Canal at Buffalo. When arrived there, (at Buffalo) it is still on the Lake Erie level, and has to descend the whole pitch of Niagara Falls by a series of locks, to the level of Lake Ontario. Now mark the difference. Supposing this line completed, produce at Caledonia would be within fourteen miles by railway of Lake Ontario of the level of Hamilton, Toronto, Kingston, and Rochester; and what is most of all to the purpose, of Oswego. The same descent is made, of course, in both ways; but, reckoning from Caledonia by the Hamilton route, fourteen miles of railway would be substituted for over forty, and lake navigation for canal navigation, for a distance of almost two hundred miles.”

The Hamilton and Port Dover Railway was finally completed in 1873. Its locomotives were of the wood burning type. Two of them were known as the John Scott and the Lucy Turner.

The great prophecies of what this railroad would do for Caledonia largely proved illusionary. The Canal system on the Great lakes was being constantly improved and additional railroads were being built from Western Ontario to the level of Lake Ontario and Caledonia notwithstanding the heavy indebtedness it incurred for the construction of this line was never destined to become a great railway divisional point.

If a railroad had not gone through Caledonia it would no doubt have declined to a position of relative insignificance; but the coming of the railroad destroyed the Village's comparative position of being situated on one of the only good inland waterways in south western Ontario.

With the advent of the railroads the works of the Grand River Navigation Company soon became obsolete. The Caledonia and the Dover, the two steamboats that had passed up and down the river for years ceased operations in the early 60's. In the early 70's the only boats coming to Caledonia were those which brought plaster from York to be teamed to the station to be shipped by rail. The locks and the dams (apart from Dam No. 5) fell into disrepair; mute reminders of the sacrifices which progress entails.

The railroads, were, however, merely one aspect of a rapidly developing industrial society. The development and improvement in the steam engine destroyed the importance of water power. The growth of big factories with their large scale production where manufacturing could be broken down into a series of simple operations which could be extensively mechanised meant the end of the small craftsman and the end also of the small factory whose production was too small and individualized to provide any scope for mechanization.

About 1880, the Scott Foundry quit manufacturing and in the following year Ranald McKinnon's woollen mill, which had passed into the hands of Barber Bros. was burned down and was never rebuilt. Apart from its flour mills, Caledonia no longer had any manufacturing concerns. Its population at this date was about 1250; it began to decline and did not again attain this figure for nearly forty years.

The County Atlas gives us a business directory of the Village as of about this date:

Name	Date of Settlement	Nativity	Business
Ball, James	1835	Canada	Lumberman
Booth, Jonathan	1840	Canada	Retired
Black, James	1840	Scotland	Presbyterian Minister
Clark, W.J.	1862	England	Soda Water Manufacturer
Cochran, Josiah	1840	United States	Barber
Dillabaugh, E.H.	1861	Canada	Physician and Surgeon
Doyle, John	1850	Canada	Grocer & license Inspector
Gayler, William	1843	Canada	Hardware and liquor Merchant
Garland, N. & T.	1835	Canada	Merchants
Hind, E.T.	1858	Canada	Proprietor "Union Hotel"
Hillyer, E.S.	1872	England	Physician and Surgeon
Harris, G.H.	1846	Canada	Undertaker and Furniture Dealer
Jackson, William	1835	Canada	Clerk 1 st Division Court
Leask, John		Scotland	Blacksmith
Leith, William	1850	Canada	Hotel Proprietor
Lawson & Smart	1860	Scotland	Merchant Tailors
Mattice, Wm. H.	1846	Canada	Retired and Councillor
Moses, Cark	1874	Canada	Public School Inspector
Martineau, Reuben	1846	Canada	Cooper
Munro, William	1842	Glengary, Can.	Mill Proprietor
McQuarry, Thorborne & Munroe	1848	Canada	Merchant Millers
McLernon, William	1856	Ireland	General Merchant
Nelles, Robt. L.	1842	Canada	Agent G.T. Railway
Nicholas, Thomas	1857	Canada	Gardener
Olds, James Jr.	1837	Canada	Merchant
Olds, F.W.M.	1838	Canada	Tin & Stove Merchant
Ryan, J.	1862	Canada	Hotel Proprietor
Stewart, John	1843	Scotland	Grain Merchant
Sawle, W.T.	1871	England	Proprietor "Grand River Sachem"
Seldon, Richard	1853	England	Baker & Confectioner
Scott, John, J.P.	1846	Scotland	Postmaster
Shoots, George	1857	Germany	Carriage Manufacturer
Taylor, Edward	1846	England	Gentleman

Wilson, Alexander	1861	Scotland	Merchant & Councillor
Walker, R.E.	1854	Canada	Tin & Hardware Merch.
Walker, J.A.	1854	Canada	Chemist & Druggist
Young, Fred W.	1843	Canada	Painter & Councillor



EIGHTY-THREE YEARS AGO

The old Presbyterian Church. The Manse. On the right the first drill hall, and in the background, the Catholic Church.

CALEDONIA- 1881 – 1950

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the eighties and nineties, Caledonia was on the down grade. Its only industries were the two grist mills which continued to operate under different managements. The only ray of sunshine was when John Clydesdale moved his cheese factory to this district shortly before the turn of the century. Essentially, however, Caledonia had become little more than a farm distributing point.

The tide turned early in the twentieth century when in 1905 the Alabastine Company from Paris began the development of their mine here,, and, while since that date, Caledonia's prosperity has ebbed and flowed with that of the country at large basically it has been one of progress as this Company continued to expand its many activities. The Census figures of Caledonia's population tell the story very effectively.

Year	Population	Year	Population
1871	1246	1911	952
1881	1242	1921	1223
1891	968	1931	1396
1901	801	1941	1401

Our present population according to Phil J. Norton, our assessor is 1,500. These figures of course do not tell the whole story as there has been in addition the increase in population on the north side of Orkney Street and in the Gypsum Company surveys.

We read a good deal about this being an age of steam and electricity and about every workman to-day having several mechanical slaves at his command and the industries of our village serve as a very good illustration of this.

The Caledonia Milling Company's Dam produces about 300 horsepower of which the Company uses about 200. It has 17 employees.

The Silverwood Dairies have installed 100 electrical horse-power and their boiler capacity is rated at approximately 200 horse-power. They have 25 employees.

The Gypsum Company have 1500 electrical horse-power installed and their boiler capacity is rated at 1200 horse-power. The Gypsum Company have 343 employees.

While the fall at different dams of the Grand River Navigation Company varied, it would seem reasonable to conclude that it would average 300 horse-power at each of the five dams. This would mean that the electrical power produced by all the dams of the Navigation Company in the County 100 years ago, (and if we add to this the potential power of their boilers and the electrical power and the potential power of Silverwoods Dairy, this would be double the water power produced by the Navigation Company.) In the following page these Companies set forth their histories.

THE CALEDONIA MILLING CO. LTD.

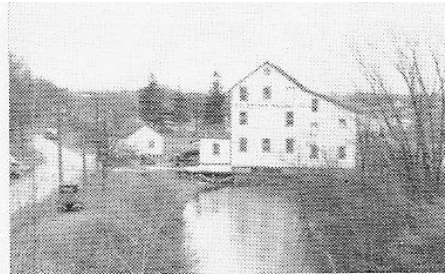
This Company is capitalized at \$65000.00 and the Stock is owned by Ninety Five residents of the Village and Community. There are four places of business, a 100 barrel Flour Mill on the south side of the River, a Feed Mill on the north side of the River, a Feed Store at the corner of Argyle and Caithness and an Elevator at the Station. The Dam which furnishes power for the plants was built by Ranald McKinnon in 1835. He built a Flower Mill on the north side in 1844 and the Flour Mill on the south side was built by J. Little shortly after this. The two Mills came under the ownership of McQuarrie, Thorburn and Munro in the 1870's but they got in financial trouble in 1880 and the north Mill went to Robert Shirra while the south Mill went to Scott Bros. In 1892 Wm. Scott organized the present Company and in 1929 the Company bought out the other Mill and remodelled it into a Feed Mill. The old wooden tumble Dam has been gradually replaced with a Concrete Dam and some of the pine logs which had

been under water for 100 years were sawed into lumber good enough for the finest millwright work. The present Manager is O.T. Scott and Douglas Scott of the third generation is Secretary-Treasurer.



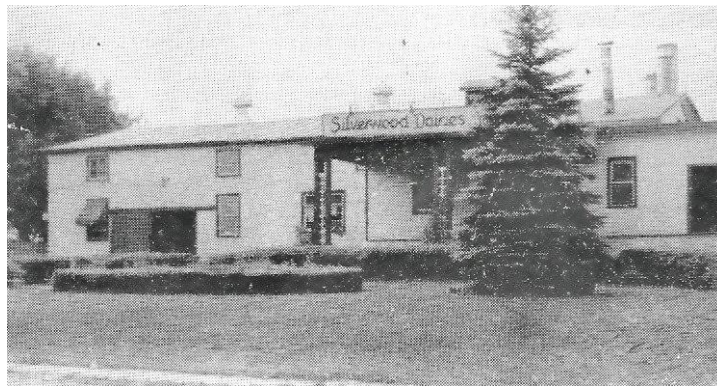
SCOTT MILL

**The original structure as built by
J.S. Little about 1850.**



SHIRRA MILL

**Replacing Ranald McKinnon's mill
which burned about 1876.**



Silverwood Dairies, Limited, Caledonia Branch

HISTORY OF SILVERWOD DAIRIES, LIMITED CALEDONIA BRANCH

Mr. John Clydesdale, who formerly operated a cheese factory at Tyneside, decided that Caledonia would be a better centre for his business and bought a lot where the Caledonia Branch, of Silverwood Dairies, Limited, now stands. Mr. Clydesdale moved his equipment in 1897 and successfully carried on the cheese making business until Mr. Matthew Richardson purchased the factory, and with Mr. Hainer as Cheese Maker, successfully extended the factory.

Mr. Richardson, realizing the possibilities of the dairy industry in this vicinity of Caledonia, got in touch with the Laurentia Milk Company, with Head office at Toronto, and finally sold out to it. This company branched out considerably, but owing to overhead, found it expedient to dispose of assets in Caledonia to a few farmers in the vicinity and business men in the town. These men organized, in 1915, the Caledonia Dairy Limited. The Laurentia Milk Company was instrumental in organizing and consolidating the Caledonia Dairy, and eventually became Managing Director. During the summer of 1926, the Hamilton Dairies, of Hamilton, Ontario, (later Borden Limited), desired to obtain a couple of creameries. Negotiations were commenced and with the unanimous approval of the shareholders of Caledonia Dairy, it was sold out to Hamilton Dairies, Limited, and they controlled the dairy until 1932 when it was purchased by the Aldrich Company, Tillsonburg, who operated for two years. In September, 1934, the Borden Company again became in control under the management of Mr. E. Sproules, of Hamilton. On October 1st, 1935, the business was purchased by Mr. C.O. Hand, and through his untiring efforts it was again brought up to the standard for which the creamery had been known. It was under his management that the creamery began to manufacture Honey Butter and Cream Cheese. However, the manufacturing of these two items had to be discontinued during the Second World War (because of the difficulty in obtaining certain articles used in their

manufacture). After 12 years of successful business, Mr. Hand sold the creamery on July 1st, 1947, to the Silverwood Dairies, Limited, London, Ontario, who appointed Mr. C.D. Johnson to be Manager of this branch.

Mr. Johnson received his high school education at Caledonia and first became connected with the creamery under the Borden Company in the summer of 1935 while on holidays from the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, and was again employed the following summer by Mr. Hand. He has remained with the creamery since that time. Mr. Johnson is married and has one son.

Silverwood Dairies, Limited, are a Canadian firm with branches in various centres of Ontario and Western Canada. In the year 1949, the Caledonia Branch alone handled almost 800,000 pounds of churning cream, and over 20 million pounds of milk, with a total value of three-quarters of a million dollars, which was distributed to farmers in this locality. This company will doubtless occupy an important place in the dairy business of this district.

GYPSUM, LIME AND ALABASTINE, CANADA, LIMITED CALEDONIA PLANT NO. 1

The Caledonia Mine of the Gypsum, Lime and Alabastine, Canada, Limited is situated about one-half mile north of the town of Caledonia and includes several hundred acres of land and leases on several farm lots adjoining lots 9 and 10, range 1, Seneca Township. The lands owned or leased by the Company lie on both sides of Highway No. 6.

The first discovery of gypsum in Ontario was made in 1822 by William Holmes on the banks of the Grand River about 1 miles below the town of Paris. The gypsum taken from this original deposit was for use as landplaster or fertilizer. During the next fifty years seven other deposits were opened up along the Grand River below Caledonia.

In the year 1886 The Alabastine Company, the predecessor of the present company, was formed at Paris to manufacture a water paint called Alabastine, which used gypsum as a 'filler'. Soon afterward they purchased the original Paris gypsum deposit which they worked until 1905. In the 1890's the Company took several leases on gypsum deposits along the Grand River below York and in 1905 they opened the mine at Caledonia which is still operating. Entrance to the mine existed on the surface, on a grade of 1 in 10 and in a due west direction. Production commenced early in 1906. The gypsum rock was loaded into a one-ton car, hauled to the surface by a horse, and dumped into a storage bin from which it was moved in wagons to the G.T.R. station at Caledonia.

In 1906 a crushing plant was erected close to the G.T.R. tracks to the west of the station, and rock was hauled from the mine to the crusher over a tramline. Some of the crushed rock was sold to cement manufacturers and the balance of the output went to the Company's plant to be calcined, an operation now, of course, performed at the Caledonia Mill. At the first level opened in the mine, there was a bed of gypsum eight feet thick, which was overlaid by six inches to six feet of limestone which, in turn, was overlaid by hardpan. The bed of gypsum was intermixed with layers of shale, which made it necessary to handpick the rock. The waste material, which amounted to one-quarter of the rock mined in this bed, was left in the mine for fill. The mine was extended over an area of four acres, the work being done on the staggered pillar system. Great quantities of timber were used to support the roof, which, in places, reached the hardpan. The output was sixty tons a day, and twenty men were employed.

To prospect for better rock a small shaft was sunk to a greater depth and a bed of higher grade gypsum was found about thirty feet lower. Following this discovery the inclined adit was extended to that lower level. The new deposit was so much better that the first level was abandoned in 1910 and its entrance sealed up. The second, and present, level is 87 feet (vertical) below the surface, the roof of the mine being four feet below the normal level of the Grand River. (The elevation of Caledonia above mean sea level is 660 feet and the adit entrance 694 feet.)

A third level, 20 feet vertically below the second was opened in 1913. Access to this lower level from the second level was gained by an incline sunk 400 feet north of the main adit. A 3-foot bed of good quality clear gypsum not intermixed with limestone was worked. This deposit was underlaid by a drab-coloured limestone. Some 4000 tons of gypsum were extracted but owing to the difficulty of working a 3-foot layer no work has been done on this level since 1916.

In 1917 the Ontario gypsum Company was formed by an amalgamation of the Alabastine Company and the Crown gypsum Company. The Crown Gypsum company had operated gypsum mines at York and at Lythmore, and had recently built a new mill at Lythmore. The York mine was abandoned at about the time of amalgamation but the Lythmore deposit and mill were continued in operation by the Ontario Gypsum Company until the 1930's at which time all operations were moved to the Caledonia plant.

The first mill built by the Alabastine Company at Caledonia was intended only for the crushing of gypsum rock which was then shipped to Paris to be calcined. In 1910 construction of a plaster mill was undertaken at Caledonia and completed in 1911. The shipping of wall plaster and plaster of Paris was begun in July of that year. In 1913, additions were made and the shipping room was provided with sidings so that railway cars could be loaded from both sides of the building.

In 1916 (or 1919) the manufacture of gypsum wallboard or (plaster board, as it is sometimes called) was begun at Caledonia by another firm called The Canada Plaster Board Company. They obtained their supplies of plaster of Paris from the adjacent mill of the Ontario Gypsum Company. This was the first wall board plant in Canada. Production carried on there under considerable difficulties with a short belt system which necessarily limited the output. The gypsum boards were cut with saws, then stored on pallets while the plaster core set, and then the boards were run into a kiln on small cars.

In 1920 the Ontario Gypsum Company took over the plan of the Canada Plaster Board Company. To make the plant more efficient and to increase the output, the wallboard plant was extended to accommodate an increased length of belt and longer drying kilns. Eight years later further additions to the plant became necessary, to take care of the rapidly growing market. The result was that in the spring of 1928 a complete new dryer was installed, which, at that time, was the most modern piece of equipment for drying gypsum in existence and which greatly improved the quality of the product.

Another development in the market for calcined gypsum was its use in the production of gypsum blocks or tiles. A separate plant for the manufacture of such blocks was built by the Alabastine Company in 1921 (some small hand production had been carried on since 1913). In the following year, 1922, the block plant was sold to the Ebsary Gypsum Company, who enlarged it, but after three years (in 1925) the interests of the Ebsary Gypsum Company were taken over again by the Ontario Gypsum Company. In 1926 an automatic block machine was added. During the war years of the 1940's scarcity of labour made it necessary to temporarily discontinue manufacture of gypsum tile and up to the present this has not been resumed.

In 1936 the Company built, at Caledonia, one of the first plants in Canada for the manufacture of rock wool insulation. In 1940 a second and much larger unit was built and in 1946 a third and even more modern unit was installed and housed in a new large concrete block building to the south of the wallboard plant. These three units are working to capacity supplying the huge demand for building insulation.

During the years the original Alabastine Company of Paris expanded, becoming a nation-wide organization. Amalgamation with other plants took place so that from time to time new names appeared over the old Caledonia plant. In 1917 after amalgamation with the Crown Gypsum Company it had become The Ontario Gypsum Company, then in 1928 the name was changed to Canada Gypsum and Alabastine Limited and finally in 1930 the Company adopted its present name, The Gypsum, Lime and Alabastine, Canada, Limited with offices, mines, mills and quarries extending right across Canada.

When gypsum operation first began in Caledonia in 1907, Mr. H.J. Haire was plant superintendent. In 1911 Mr. A.J. Parkhurst came to the Caledonia plant to assist in the expansion of the mill and the construction of the first calciners after which he became superintendent of the mill. He was followed, on retirement in 1925, by Mr. L.V. Robinson (Bob) who is still in charge of the Company's operations at Caledonia.

MAIN STREET

The toll house was built as a residence for the toll keeper about 1875 when the steel bridge whose arches were cast in Scott's Foundry, was erected. It must be one of the most substantial reminders of the toll gate days in the Province and is the most distinctive building on our main Street.

MAIN STREET

Mention has been made previously of the disastrous fire in 1863. This burned both sides of Argyle Street from the Bridge to Caithness Street. In 1885 another serious fire occurred, burning all but two stores on the east side of Argyle Street. Then in December 1914 a fire burned all the stores on the west side of Argyle Street to the Avery Building, now occupied by Keith Lamb. In January, 1927, the building now occupied by the Chainway Store was extensively damaged by fire. In 1932 fire burned out the inside of the Caledonia Milling Co. building; and the last fire on our main street was in June, 1947, in the Opera House Block; the reconstruction of this building is now just being completed.

More interested than the material factors are the human factors. Who are the business men of Caledonia; where did they come from; how long have they been here. We are prone to think of life in a village community as being comparatively static, yet it is surprising when we examine the matter in detail how extensive are the changes in the ownership of different businesses. There are in the community only one or two third generation business men who are carrying on enterprises started by their grandfathers, and it is surprising how comparatively few there are even of the second generation who are carrying on a business started by their fathers.

In the following pages most of the business men and women of our community have set forth the history of themselves. We trust that both will be of interest; and at our next centennial in 2050, we have no doubt our descendants will read with a good deal of interest of the composition of the business community in the year 1950.

SHAW'S SHOE SHOP

The business now known as Shaw's Shoe Shop was started by the present owner's father, William Shaw, in the year 1884. The main feature of the business at that time was the making of high cut made-to-measure boots for farmers. These work boots were made of French Kip and they were waterproof when properly greased. For fine boots the men at that time wore high cut boots made of French Calf with a few fancy insertions of coloured leather.

Some of the old-timers who helped make these boots were "Dick" Reid, "Pat" Corish, Tom Daley, a Mr. Montgomery and many others who were known as "tramp" shoe makers and who drifted along to make a little money during the winter months and then started out in the Spring to enjoy their favourite pastime – "tramping". The shoe-makers were paid one dollar a pair for the boots they made and these French Kip boots were sold for \$5.00 a pair.

The most colourful of the shoe-makers was "Dick" Reid who was a cripple but who was able to enjoy himself on a two-months' "bender" at least once a year. "Dick" was very generous when on his "vacation" but extremely frugal during and his working and saving season.

In those days working hours were from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., and in the evenings the writer has seen six or seven men besides the shoe-makers get so hot over politics that they would not say good-night to each other when the time came for them to go home. Some of the old-timers who gathered each evening to set the country right were "Jimmy" Inglis, George Harris, Jim Gordon, Frank Patterson and others whose names I cannot recall.

The Shoe Shop at that time was situated about 20 feet South of the present site but it was the same old building and I believe it was bought by William Shaw from a Mr. Elwood.

It was perhaps the year 1908 that the first "ready-made" shoes were put in stock and from that time on the retail business gradually replaced the hand-made shoes, although the shoe repair department was continued and some orthopedic shoes were made for customers whose feet were not normal.

William Shaw suffered a fatal heart attack in the year 1920 and since that time the business has been carried on by the writer, with the shoe repair department in charge of Mr. Lloyd Parkin.

-C.E. Shaw.

RIVERVIEW DAIRY

In the early twenties, Mr. A.C. Phipps sold milk to the factory in Caledonia for \$1.00 per hundredweight. Upon request of the late Dr. A.E. Roszell for delivery of two quarts daily at 10c per quart, Mr. Phipps realized the business possibilities of a regular milk delivery in town. Consequently in 1923 he purchased the farm and dairy business of Mr. Volland. Previous to this time, milk was delivered in cans to be dispensed into containers at the home, but immediately after buying the business Mr. Phipps erected a dairy (914 x 28) and began bottling milk. Metal tokens were used instead of tickets until 1930. The Pasteurization of milk was begun on the farm in 1936. In 1944 Mr. Phipps bought the home formerly occupied by Mr. George Miller, and Mr. and Mrs. Phipps and their son Clifford moved to town. During this year a dairy (928 x 50) was built on the property by Messrs. Pettigrew and Salmon. In 1947 Mr. Phipps purchased the retail milk business from Silverwoods Ltd. From its beginning, when one man was employed in the dairy and one man delivering milk, the business has grown until at present three men are employed within the dairy and five men delivering milk. A modern milk bar is located in the front of the dairy for the convenience of the public.

NELLES' DRY GOODS

The Nelles Dry Goods Store is located on the north side of the river two doors north of the old Toll House.

The Crown Deed for this property was dated November 19th, 1845 and given to Thomas Bryant. Up until 1921 the owners were consecutively, Peter McKeracher, James Mimno, Peter Barnard, Henry Titus, Alexander Wardell, Oliver Hartwell, Horace Old.

Horace Old's father, F.W. Old had a Singer Sewing Machine Shop in the front of the building. The back was a residence. After Horace Old took it over it became a tinsmith business. A few of the older citizens remember that Mr. Old used the south walk to store larger pipes and salt barrels. One citizen remembers helping Mr Old carry a stove along this walk to the back.

IN 1921 George Harris bought the building. He rented to Charles Porter who carried on a boot and shoe repair shop. When Mr. Porter was ill for a time Harry Marshall helped out by coming in and sharpening skates for his customers.

For the next twenty-five years Cairns carried on a Dry Goods business. After about five years the partition was taken out, and for a short time groceries were sold at the back.

In 1944 Elgin Harris sold to Alfred Tweedle. He improved it by closing up a large back window and modernizing the show windows. He sold to J. Edward Stubbs in 1946. In 1948 Cairns gave up their lease.

In May 1948 Mrs. Olive Nelles leased the store for five years. In May 1946 her husband, Clark Nelles had been killed when kicked by a horse. Mrs. Nelles and daughters, Joyce, Patsy, Jessie and Nancy, sold the farm and moved to Caledonia. May 8, 1948 was the opening day for Nelles' Dry Good and Ready-to-Wear.

A year and a half later Mrs. Nelles and daughters bought the building. In the autumn of 1949 Mrs. Nelles and Mr. O. Arnold Anderson were married. At the time of writing Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are carrying on the business together.

CALEDONIA 5c TO \$1.00 STORE

Caledonia 5c to \$1.00 Store was founded by the late A.K. (Bert) Humble in 1935. Born in the Falkland islands off the south-east tip of South America, where his father was a British resident official, Mr. Humble came to Canada at about six years of age. He was one of a large family and he and his seven brothers were initiated into the Masonic Order at the same ceremony in 1924, becoming members of Brant Lodge, Brantford.

Starting with Stedman Brothers Limited in 1919 as a buyer, he later managed stores for the company in Wingham, Thorold and Fort Erie. As well as being a prominent business man, Mr. Humble was very active in community activities in Caledonia, being at various times president of the Red Cross, president of the Business Men's Club, and Treasurer of the Junior Hockey Club.

A history of Humble's store would not be complete without mentioning Edward "Pop" Newton, who capably assisted his son-in-law for many years and at eighty-four is still actively engaged in the business.

Since Mr. Humble's untimely death in 1947, the business has been carried on by his widow, Mrs. Mabel Humble.

RONALD RICHARDSON, BUILDER

The flourishing business known as "Ronald Richardson, Builder" was established and built up by a Caledonia boy, born in 1920. During the time he spent at S.S. No. 1 Oneida at Caledonia Public and High Schools, Ron had a liking for tools.

Called up for Army service during the war, he spent just short of six months at Toronto Exhibition Barracks. After his discharge he served a short apprenticeship with Mr. Ernest Young, a master carpenter. In 1944 Ron started on his own. It proved a most opportune time as skilled labour was at a premium. The business has grown rapidly owing to the use of modern power tools, modern building ideas and personal attention to each job.

Ron has a number of brothers and has not had to look far afield for assistants. In 1945 brother Charles joined the enterprise and at the present time besides the two senior members there are two brothers working as plasterers and another brother is being trained as a carpenter. Ronald Richardson now builds from the ground up, exclusive of Wiring, Plumbing and Heating.

Mr. Richardson is building a new home and workshop on the South Side of the river. From this new location he will carry on his building business in Caledonia in an efficient and up-to-date manner.

NELSON P. MORRISON

Nelson P. Morrison was born in Caledonia June 30, 1898, the second son of Wm. Morrison and Minnie Aldridge. He attended Caledonia schools and was the first employed with the Shirra Milling Co., both in the Mill and the Flour and Feed business. He spent two years as assistant superintendent in the wallboard department of the Gypsum, Lime and Alabastine Co. and left this position in 1930 to become a salesman with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., Brantford district. This year, after twenty years service, he became a veteran with this same company and was presented with a gold watch by his associates.

In 1928 he married Laura Hamilton, and has one daughter, Jo-Anne who was born April 22, 1935.

JOSEPH WILLIAM VICKERS

Joseph William Vickers was born in Farningham, Kent, England, one of four children.

He came to Brantford, Canada, in 1913. Early in 1915, he enlisted in the 1st Battalion and served his country in France and Belgium. He was a casualty at Passendaele, and was invalided to England. There he met his future wife, Daisy Marsh of Liverpool, and they were married in 1918. They returned to Canada in January 1919.

Taking the advice of his medical doctor he farmed for five years at Chiefswood, the birthplace of Pauline Johnson. He later bought the Von Gunten property on Argyle Street, just north of the toll house, and went into the life and general insurance business in Caledonia and the surrounding district.

Joe has taken his full share in community affairs. He is a past president of the local Legion, a former member of the school board, a past secretary of the Bowling Club, a member of the Select Vestry of S. Paul's Anglican Church and a member of St. Andrew's lodge.

Mr. and Mrs. Vickers have one son, Kenneth, who is practising medicine at Dunnville.

COON'S DRUG STORE

The Rexall Drug Store, now situated on the west side of the main street, about mid-section of the block just north of the bridge, it operated by its genial owner Mr. Harold Coon. The store is now commonly called Coon's Drug Store.

The building occupied by Mr. Coon was re-built by Mr. James McAlpine in or about 1915, after a fire had swept the entire block during the same year. Upon completion, Mr. Leslie Farrell opened up the Rexall Drug Store,

and he operated the same until November 1916 when he sold it to Mr. G.R. McColl. Mr. McColl in 1918 bought the structure from Mr. McAlpine, and it has been in his possession to the present day.

In the fall of 1937 Mr. McColl retired and the business was taken over by Mr. G.R. Hawkins and he remained here until March 1948 when Mr. Coon, who previously had been employed as Chief Chemist for Moore Thompson Pharmaceutical Chemists of Hamilton, bought out the business.

Upon coming to Caledonia, Mr. and Mrs. Coon with their family of three boys, Harold, William and Paul David took up residence in the upstairs apartment owned by Mrs. Fred Forster just south of the river. In the spring of 1949 the family moved into the apartment directly over the store where they now reside.

NIAGARA CAFÉ

The building in which the restaurant is located was built about 1910 by Mr. "Barney" O'Rourke. Mr. Hannah was in charge of construction, and the cement blocks were supplied by Messrs. Wm. Shepherd and Wm. Flowers.

The first occupant of the side now occupied by the restaurant was Mr. Cohen, who had a men's furnishing shop here for about five years.

Among other occupants was Mr. Morley Forster who operated a variety store and sold harness and Singer sewing machines in this location from 1919 to 1923.

In July 1923, Dave Sparham opened a restaurant and operated it until September 1924.

At this time, Lang Wing opened the first Chinese restaurant in Caledonia and ran it for a few years, after which it was taken over by Mr. Dong, and later by his son, John. John Dong, who is well educated, well known and highly respected in the community still owns the business. In 1948 he left for an extended holiday and Wilf. Chong has been managing the restaurant in his absence.

CALEDONIA TRACTOR AND SUPPLY COMPANY

In all good farming communities there is a well established farm implement company ready to serve the farmer with efficient and sturdy machines. In Caledonia, the Caledonia Tractor and Supply Company, displaying a full line of Allis Chalmers machinery, Fleury-Bisseand many other products, stands ready to meet the needs of the modern farmer.

The home of the Caledonia Tractor and Supply Company is located just North of the C.N.R. Tracks on the east side of No. 6 Highway.

Mr. P.C. Nelles was responsible for the erection of the building and it was contracted by Mr. Eric Young. Shortly after its completion it was taken over by Mr. J.H. Janzen in April 1940.

Mr. Janzen was raised on a farm near Ruthven, Ontario. He received his education in Windsor, and after completing a business training he took over the work of sales and service of farm machinery in Caledonia.

Mr. Janzen is a citizen of the village of Caledonia, supporting a home in which there are four children, three girls and one boy.

CALEDONIA AUTO BODY

The name of Frank Doxtador is known to every car owner in or near Caledonia whose car requires body or fender adjustments or a paint job.

Mr. Doxtador is a native of Caledonia and district, but spent years of his life in the body work of cars in the city of Hamilton before setting up business for himself in Caledonia in July 1947. His workshop is located at the rear of Mr. Mike Keefer's barn and he employs two or three helpers in order to keep up with his contracts.

Mr. Doxtador is a well known and esteemed citizen, with a wife and a son, 22 years of age. In his early youth he obtained his elementary education in the Caledonia Public School. For nine seasons he was a valuable member of the Onondaga Royal Reds Lacrosse team and like all other veterans, he was forced to give up the stick

because of advancing years. However, he is still keenly interested in call kinds of sport and follows the games with much enthusiasm.

Last year Mr. Doxtador was a member of the Six Nation Council but had to retire on account of the pressure of business.

He was also a member of the Caledonia Concert Bans.

SMIT AND SONS

Smit and Sons is a new business established in Caledonia in March, 1950, by Mr. Stephen Smit and his son, Felix. The Smits are recent arrivals from Holland and bring with them the European tradition of a family trade handed down from father to son for several generations. Mr. Smit's grandfather was a tailor in Groningen, the business passing to his son, and later to his grandson, Stephen Smit, now of Caledonia.

Mr. Smit's father started him sewing when only a school boy. At the age of eighteen he was sent to London, England, to learn about cutting and styling. For a few years he worked fro Henderson Shappard before returning to his own country. Mr. Smit joined the family business in Groningen and was later assisted by his three sons, Felix, Harry and Johnny.

In Caledonia, Smit and Sons, were the first business tenants in the recently rebuilt Opera House block, where they have an attractive shop facing Caithness Street. At present Mr. Stephen Smit and his son Felix are working alone but they hope to expand the business sufficiently so that Harry and Johnny may be taken into partnership.

THE ALDRIDGE COMPANY LIMITED

The Aldridge Company Limited was formed in 1920 by the two brothers, C.N. and T.H. Aldridge. Both these men had gained practical business knowledge, Tom having worked for the Shirra Milling Company, owning and running a livery stable, and also farming in the West; Nelson having taught school at Middleport, Ontario, and Plumas, Manitoba, farming while out West and by working in the office of the Shirra Milling Company.

The Aldridge Company originally consisted of a lumber yard, West of Inverness Street, and a feed store where the local Gas Company is now situated. However, as with all prospering businesses The Aldridge Company was expanding and in a few years took over the Shirra Mill and Sawmill.

In 1930, it was agreed that the Caledonia Milling Company take over the feed business and the Aldridge Company, the lumber business. The Aldridge Company continued to operate the sawmill until it was completely destroyed by fire in 1942.

During the growth of the business, the Company purchased two farms, the Dalton farm, being the brothers' old homestead, and the Smith farm which adjoined it.

In 1936, the two brothers decided to dissolve the partnership arrangement, and Tom Aldridge took over the farms and C.N. Aldridge continued to run the business until his death in 1942, and the business was continued by his two sons and two daughters, who each commenced work with the Company at the completion of their education.

During the period that C.N. Aldridge took over the business, many improvements were made, notably the building of a new and modern lumber shed, and also new equipment and trucks were added to facilitate the ease of doing business and speeding up deliveries. It is notable to mention that when the brothers started the business, all the delivery system they has was two teams of horses, but around 1927, the first truck was purchased. Now the delivery system consists of a fleet of five trucks and two tractors and trailers.

At the present time, The Aldridge Company limited is in the process of completing a new, modern office and showroom which it is hoped will again assist in the faster service to customers and also give the customers the opportunity of seeing many varied lines carried and needed to completely construct and furnish a new and modern home, and also to show how you can remodel an old home to look like new.

The Aldridge family have played an important part in the early settlement of this community.

In brief, James Aldridge, St., grandfather of C.N. and Tom came from Sheffield, England to Caledonia and settled on the Gypsum Company farm in approximately 1845. He had a tinsmith business near the present residence

of Mrs. Bruce French. He also had a potash plant on his farm. James Aldridge was Clerk of the Village of Caledonia from 1854 to 1898, and a church warden from 1851 to 1872, and lay delegate from 1881 to 1889 and again in 1894, in the Anglican Church.

On the other side of the family, the mother of T.H. and C.N. Aldridge was Janet Smith, whose father, John Smith, came from Inverness, Scotland, and settled in what is now "Green's Community". They cleared approximately four farms and the original home was on the property that is now the Jack Marshall farm. This land was purchased for \$4.00 per acre and was purchased several years before the Indians actually turned the land over to the white men. To get flour, when the Smiths settled here, they had to carry the grain on their backs through dense forest to Niagara Falls. Later a trail was blazed and horses were used. Eventually, a mill was erected at Ancaster which is still in use.

Brothers Tom and C.N. took an active interest in the local municipal government. Tom was a member of the local School Board for over 25 years and C.N. was a member of the local Council and Reeve from 1928 to 1933, and again in 1942.

Brothers Charles and John, sons of C.N. are presently managing the Aldridge Company.

THE MCGREGOR INSURANCE AGENCY

During 1950 the McGregor Insurance Agency celebrates seventy-five years of insurance service to this community.

The founder, Donald McGregor, received an agency with The Royal Insurance Company in 1875, believed now to be the oldest Royal agency in Canada. His interest in insurance had been manifested earlier, by promoting The Oneida Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company, a project of The Farmers' Club, or Fair board, of which he was an organizer, and the first secretary.

His parents, Donald McGregor and Margaret Kennedy, had left the historic town of Scone, Scotland, for Canada, and suffered shipwreck off Newfoundland. Their first home hereabouts, was the Hugh Thorburn farm, and later, the Tothe farm. Community and church claimed their interest, and much of the timber in the Argyle Street church was hewn from the McGregor woods. They planted, as well as hewed, and the trees about the Manse, the Presbyterian Church, and the Public School, stand as monuments to the sons, Archie and Donald. Another son, George, was well known locally.

Donald married Jean Davidson of Glanford, and they with their six children lived in the house on the hill, now the home of Jessie, Jean and Verna. A combined hardware and insurance business was conducted for many years on Argyle Street, now the Vlachos store. Margaret (Mrs. A.E. Jones) and James assisted their father. Other insurance Companies were; Phoenix, 1881, North British and Mercantile 1903, London and Lancashire 1917, Hartford, Perth and others.

James took over the business, and he became president of the Ontario Hardware Association; he was a charter member of the Ontario Insurance Agents' Association; clerk of Session of the Presbyterian Church, and of Grace United Church. He gave many years of devoted study and service to Masonry, in which he held a thirty-second degree, and was District Deputy Grand Master of Hamilton District.

Jean now conducts the business. The vision and long-range planning of her predecessors, has gained for this agency A1 grading by the Canadian underwriters' Association, of which she is the president. She has served on the Board of Education, and on that of the Children's Aid Society.

James and Donald McGregor were Justices of the Peace. The clerkship of the First Division Court has been held by the family continuously since 1883.

ALBERT EDWARD JONES

Albert Edward Jones is the oldest and one of the most successful business men in Caledonia. He has carried on the bakery business in the same location for forty-six years and is still active in business. He was born in the Township of Seneca on the 8th of September 1878, the son of David Jones and Maria Richardson who were born in

Canada. He was married to Margaret McGregor on the 6th day of June 1900 and he has five daughters and one son, Harold, who has been associated with him in the business for many years. Mr. Jones learned the bakery business with Seldon's Bakery here.

The Central telephone office was in his store from April 1904 to August 1905. He opened business in his present location in April 1904 and his business steadily grew until, at the time he transferred the bread business to the Canada Bread Co., he had nineteen employees.

He installed an acetylene light plant in his store and on Saturday evening August 5, 1905 when his store was filled with customers there was an explosion which blew the front out of his store and many were injured. As a result Mr. Jones lost all he had but with the support of the business men and his friends he repaired the premises and resumed business.

Mrs. Norris Humphries, nee Miss Martha Wigg, built the premises and carried on a millinery in the north part of the store and the south part was occupied by David Turnbull afterwards by the Western Bank. After the Western Bank moved to another location Mr. Jones occupied the whole premises.

Mr. Jones has taken an active interest in the Baptist Church ever since it was built. He has been a very enthusiastic supporter of the baseball club for many years and is one of the most popular men in town. A.E. Jones and Harrison Arrell attended green's School in Seneca at the same time.

CHARLES S. SPRINGER

Caledonia without "Charley" Springer would hardly be the same.

For thirty years he has played a prominent part in the conduct of the affairs of our Village.

He came to us from Calgary in 1919 and was made treasurer of Caledonia. This position he held for 28 years giving splendid service to our village in these years.

He was Sec-Treas. Of the Board of Education from 1919 to 1948 and also Treasurer of the Hydro commission here for 21 years. He is a Charter Member of the Royal Arch Chapter of the masonic Order.

Charley is one of the men responsible for the organizing of the bowling club in town. He thoroughly enjoys and enters into the spirit of the game and even to-day bowlers speak of the "Springer wick" when Lady Luck smiles on a player.

He came of United Empire Loyalist stock and has a daughter Kathleen and a granddaughter Lois Lane Stewart. He purchased a General insurance business from G.H. Hornibrook in 1919 and he still carries this on in the Eino Mackie building.

CONE COTTAGE REFRESHMENTS

Mr. Walter Richardson, owner of this popular stand in the "Y" between the McKenzie Road and the Hamilton-Port Dover Road, has been a resident of Caledonia for fifty years. His mother, Mary Jarvis, nee Lyon, was of united Empire Loyalist stock, and was born on the Lyon farm at Dundas, deeded by Crown Grant to this family and still in their possession.

Mr. Richardson came to Caledonia in 1900, purchasing the Haldimand House from Mr. J. Hayes. This hotel was issued licence No. 1 for the County of Haldimand.

The Haldimand House was built in 1836 by James Little and is marked on an old map of Caledonia compiled in 1854. It was later owned by Mr. Britton, followed by Mr. Hayes. It ceased being a licenced hotel about 1905 and was a rooming house for many years. It is now divided into apartments.

Mrs. Richardson, the former Caroline Trenwith, was born of Cornish parents from Redruth, Cornwall, England. There are four children, two sons and two daughters.

MILLER'S FUNERAL CHAPEL

Caledonia is proud of a splendid up-to-date Funeral Chapel situated on the North side of Caithness Street.

In January 1938 Harold Miller of Jarvis purchased the Undertaking business of the late J.H. Howden. At this time the business was located on the South side of Caithness in the Howden building. There was not much accommodation for the holding of funeral services as in those days most funerals were held in the homes of the deceased. Mr. Miller felt that there should be a place where preparations and funeral services could be carried out with dignity and reverence. To this end he bought a home across the street and next to it built a beautiful Chapel in the year 1946. This has been a real service to the community.

There are two other real conveniences available to the public. The one is a fine Ambulance which is on call at any time. The other is the fact that Mr. Miller has several hospital beds and several times of invalid chairs that may be had for the use of such patients as need them.

It is indeed a great contrast to the way funerals were conducted in pioneer days. In those days the private home had to accommodate the friends who so often failed to even get in the house.

In the 1850's John Builder carried on an undertaking business. He was succeeded by Reuben Willer who lived in a house where Pendrey's Garage now is on Argyle Street. In 1879 the Haldimand Atlas shows G.H. Harris as undertaker and furniture dealer. In 1892 James Burrows and Sons bought the business and in turn sold to Howden and Young in 1892. Mr. Young retired from the business in 1908 and J.H. Howden carried on until his death in 1937.

Harold A. Miller is one of our very active and public minded citizens. He has taken a keen interest in any undertaking the people were carrying out. His aid in the Red Cross work was invaluable and also in the Victory Loan campaigns. He is an asset to the Bowling Club and at present is working hard on the Centennial Celebrations. He has a fine family of two girls and a boy and is continually improving his equipment and ability to carry on his profession.

ROSS HUTTON'S MEN'S WEAR

Mr. Ross Hutton originally opened his business in October 1946 in the building owned by the Canadian legion on Caithness Street. In about 1948 he moved to his present location in Mr. Eino Mackie's building on the east side of Argyle Street. The building was formerly an implement shop until Mr. Mackie had it converted into two modern stores.

Immediately prior to opening his shop Mr. Hutton served as an officer in the R.C.A.F. Before that he had been employed by the department of highways and later by Imperial Oil. He was married in 1942 to Mary Williamson. They have two daughters Sandra 5, and Beverly 3.

WRIGHT'S SHOE STORE

Mr. Vernon A. Wright of Wright's Shoe Store is the second generation of his family to operate this business. Mr. Everett Wright, Vernon's father was born on a farm in Binbrook, purchasing the Shoe Store from the late Fred Forster in 1924.

The business was founded when Mr. Forster bought the stock of a general store carrying dry goods, boots and shoes, which was located where Nelles' Store now operates. Mr. Forster purchased the Opera House Block from the late Mr. Donaghy and sold the shoe business to Mr. Wright. It was then located in the Opera House Block in space now occupied by Smit and Sons. In 1931 Mr. Wright moved his store to an Argyle frontage in the same building and continued there until the Opera House Block was destroyed by fire in 1947. The business was temporarily carried on upstairs in the LaFortune Building until the present store was remodelled by Mr. Mackie in 1948.

C.F. "BILL" HOWDEN

The son of the late Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Howden, "Bill" was born in Caledonia in 1911, educated in the Caledonia Schools and then received his B.A.Sc. degree from the University of Toronto in 1933. Entering the insurance business in 1935, he received his Chartered Life Underwriter degree in 1939 and is a past director of the Hamilton Life Underwriters' Association. Bill has been granted the National Quality award which reads "In

recognition of quality life underwriting service to the public as evidenced by an excellent record of maintaining in force and extending the benefits of life insurance.”

In 1945 Bill married Enid Skinner of Toronto and they reside on Banff Street with their daughters Pamela and Leanna.

In 1946 he was Master of St. Andrew's Lodge No. 62 A.F. & A.M.

CLARK'S GROCERY STORE

About 1900 Mr. Hugh Clark bought the building that is now Clark's Grocery Store. He enlarged the building and carried on a grocery business until 1910 when his son George took over the business. Mr. Hugh Clark had previously kept a grocery store at the south end of the bridge for about nineteen years. He died in 1921.

Mr. Hugh Clark's two sons, John and George, had clerked in their father's store. John died in 1910 and George took over the business, carrying on a successful grocery business until his death in 1935.

Hi widow, Mrs. Jessie Clark, has carried on the business and now runs the only grocery store south of the river. Mrs. Clark's two daughters, Norene and Dorothy, clerked in the store while they were attending the Caledonia High School. Dorothy is now a chemist, working at Buckingham, Quebec. Norene and her husband, Mr. Douglas Otterman live with Mrs. Clark in the apartment over the store. Mr. Otterman is a carpenter.

Mrs. Clark has improved the building, adding a side verandah and booth in 1940. In 1943 the building was remodelled, adding an apartment over the store. In 1945 the front of the store was completely renovated with plate glass windows and a new entrance being added.

CHARLIE'S BARBER SHOP

Mr. Charlie Maniex, who, with his son Martin, owns and operates Charlie's barber shop, was born in Hamilton on April 28th, 1889. He came to Caledonia as a very young man and worked first for Mr. Tom Aldridge, driving a bus from the railway station to the Union Hotel, the bus being a surrey drawn by a fine team of black horses. Mr. Maniex then worked for a short time for Mr. Tom Spratt in the butcher shop. In 1910 he began to work for Mr. Joseph Stubbs, learning the barber trade.

On December 23rd, 1924 the building burned down but was rebuilt the next year by Mr. Ed. Hannah and Mr. James Housego. In 1941, following the death of Mr. Stubbs, Mr. Maniex bought the building and business from Mrs. Stubbs.

He is at present time living in his apartment over the Barber Shop. Mr. Maniex has three children, Madeline, Donald and Martin.

REGENT THEATRE

On January 13, 1950, the Regent Theatre building, which had been closed for six months, was purchased by Mr. Gerald Vecsi from Mr. Murray Rosenblood of Hamilton, owner of Murray Auto Parts. Mr. Vecsi spent one month renovating the theatre. He installed a new heating system with air-conditioning, new seats, new projectors and a new sound system. On February 13th, 1950 Mr. Vecsi opened his modern theatre to Caledonia theatre goers.

Mr. Vecsi came to Caledonia from Otterville where he had operated his father's tobacco farm for one year. He had managed his father's hotel in Courtland for three years previous to his tobacco farming experience.

He is married, living on Wigton Street in the house formerly owned by the Rev. Mr. Copeland. He has one daughter Rosemary, two years old.

SENN & McKENZIE

This Furniture Store was opened up in Caledonia in February of 1942. The building which was purchased in December 1941 has an old history. After the great fire of 1886 which swept away all buildings in this vicinity a Livery and Veterinary Stable was built and occupied by Doc Gardiner. This was of frame construction. Later the brick building was erected and occupied by Copley, Noyes & Randall of Hamilton as a woolen goods factory.

Later on it had a new brick front and became McGregor's jewellery Store. After a period of remodelling into apartments it was purchased by the present owners.

Senn & McKenzie came here from Hagersville where they operate a splendid Furniture Store and Undertaking business. Mr. Joseph Senn passed away early in this year and Mr. Lorne McKenzie is now carrying on the business.

CALEDONIA RESTAURANT

The Caledonia Restaurant is owned and operated by the Vlachos brothers, James H. (Jimmy) and Theodore H. (Ted). They took over the business from their father, Mr. Harry Vlachos, on October 1st, 1948 Mr. Harry Vlachos came to Caledonia from Mitchell, Ontario, where he had been in the restaurant business. He purchased the building which is now the Caledonia Restaurant from Mr. James McGregor who had used it for his hardware business and his insurance agency. The building was built about 1885 for a hardware store. Mr. Vlachos and his sons have made progressive changes in the building until it is now a very modern restaurant.

The Vlachos brothers, Jimmy and Ted, were both in the services during World War II. Jimmy was with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders overseas and served with the army of occupation in north-western Europe.

He was discharged from the services in September 1946. Ted served in the R.C.N.V.R., receiving the British Empire Medal for his services.

He was discharged from the navy in August 1945, following service as a Senior Warrant Officer at Harbour Grace in Newfoundland.

ARRELL & ARRELL

Harrison Arrell, K.C. opened a law office in Caledonia, 1898 and has practised here ever since and is still in active practice.

In 1898 Mr. S.E. Lindsay of Hagersville and John McKean of Hamilton each had a branch law office here. There had not been a resident lawyer for some years. At one time Edward Furlong who afterwards moved to Hamilton and W.R. Smart who afterwards moved to Portage La Prairie both practiced here at the same time.

Mr. Arrell had his office first over Ed. Reid's store and then where Gordon Pattison now carries on a business and afterwards over Leith's Store (now the Bank of Commerce) and from 1905 to 1932 in the Donaghy Block. In 1932 he moved to his present location in the Caledonia Milling Co. Block.

Mr. Arrell was born in the Township of Onondaga on November 14, 1874. His father Samuel Arrell was born in Belfast, Ireland and at the age of 19 years he came to Ontario in 1862. His mother Elizabeth Arrell was born in the Township of Onondaga, the daughter of Thomas Brown, a native of Kilmarnoc, Scotland and Jane Grey a native of Yorkshire, England. Mr. Arrell was married on October 31, 1907 to Eva M. Arrell a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H.B. Sawle. In 1914 he was appointed County Solicitor and County Clerk and in the following year he was appointed Crown Attourney. He was created a King's Counsel by the Drury Government in 1921. His eldest son Alex was called to the Bar in 1932 and has practised with his father since. His son Hugh enlisted in the Army at the outbreak of the Second Great War and served throughout the European campaign and was discharged in November 1945. After his discharge he attended the Ontario Law School and was called to the Bar in June 1949 and is now practicing with Ross & Robinson, Hamilton. His youngest son Kenner, who was a graduate of McMaster University, was killed in the Second Great War while on active service December 27, 1943 at Ortona, Italy.

FARMERS' SUPPLY & EQUIPMENT LTD.

Farmers' Supply and Equipment Ltd. Is one of the newer businesses in Caledonia and brings to the farmers of the surrounding district the complete machinery lines of the Cockshutt Plow Co. and Harry Ferguson Inc. Numerous other lines are carried to help meet the farmers' requirements.

The Farmers' Supply & Equipment Ltd. Was started as a single dealership in Brampton, Ont. In 1946, opening up stores at Brantford and Caledonia in January 1949. The Company itself has several wholesale lines which it distributes throughout Ontario by way of a network of over one hundred dealers.

Mr. Wm. (Bill) A. Burton, one of the partners in the Company, is manager of the Caledonia branch. Bill came from Saskatchewan previous to spending four years in the R.C.A.F. and two years with Cockshutt Plow Co. at Winnipeg and Brantford.

The building in Caledonia was built by the late H.E. Booker of Brantford. It has recently been painted and is now among the best dealer premises in this area.

Well equipped with both building facilities and trained personnel Farmers' Supply Co. face the future with confidence that they can continue to build the business by service and an understanding of customers' requirements.

J.S. JOHNSON HAULAGE

Behind most successful men lie a heritage of strength, fortitude, and foresight, and in J.S. Johnson there is no exception. The grandfather, Mr. James McAlpine, was a mason and a builder, and the works of his hands are seen as evidence along the main street of Caledonia. He rebuilt most, or all of the block, just north of the bridge, which was destroyed by fire in 1914.

The grandson, J.S. Johnson, began his early work as a transport driver for Mr. Raitar, and at this work he stayed for eleven years. In March 1946, he decided to branch out on his own, and he started a haulage business in Haldimand County. At the present time Mr. Johnson owns a fleet of five trucks, a tractor and front end loader, and a snow plough. At all times these trucks are kept constantly in demand hauling stone, sand, and gravel for large and small contractors. The Department of Highways depends very largely on the able assistance rendered by Mr. Johnson's trucks in maintaining the roads and highways over a wide radius about Caledonia.

Mr. Johnson is a citizen of Caledonia, supporting a wife and three children, two boys and one girl.

J. KEITH LAMB

On Argyle Street and in the former Avery Carriage Shop, J. Keith Lamb owns a Flour & Feed Business and Frosted Food Locker Storage. This building is one of the oldest left untouched by fire, in the business district.

Mr. Lamb purchased the building in 1941 from Keith R. Burke. Extensive alterations were undertaken throughout the building. A refrigerated room was installed complying with regulations for the grading of eggs. Thus it was possible to ship large consignments of eggs for overseas, during the war years. Eric Small's radio shop, and Patsy Brock's printing office were demolished to enlarge the feed warehouse – this Feed industry being Keith's main business.

The second floor was occupied by the Canadian Legion for Club rooms until 1947. This is now Smith's Laboratory operated by Ronald Smith.

In the rear of the building, a Locker Storage Plant for frozen foods was installed by Murray Clark and operated by Murray and Keith. In 1947 Keith purchased this plant and modernized and enlarged it.

Standard bred horses are Keith's hobby. In his stable is the noted trotting sire "Mr. Van" whose foal are well known, particularly in the States where so many are exported. Mr. Van's colts won the Futurity Stakes in Ontario in 1945-46-47 and 1949; a record unequalled by any sire. Also stabled is "Holyrood Celia", dam of "War Glory" who held the world's record until 1949. This mare's recent colt is named "Caledonia Van" – probably the last foal of this now aged mare.

After the American Revolution Keith's ancestors came from Buck's County, Penn. To Canada with the United Empire Loyalists. Abraham Doan, maternal great-grandfather, settled near Sandusk Creek about 1809. In the Selkirk Cemetery the name Doan is still discernible on the headstones. Charles Lamb, grandfather, married Keziah Pugsley (relative of the evangelist) about 1855 and cleared the land now known as Lamb's Corners.

Keith was born on this farm, the son of the late Charles and Mary Roop Lamb. On the farm twelve gas wells were drilled, among the first in Haldimand County.

Keith married Reta Marie, daughter of Albert E. and the late Margaret McGregor Jones, in 1935.

H.S. MERRALL HARDWARE

This business was first opened by R.E. Walker in the year 1862 in a frame building on the south side of Caithness Street about a block east of Argyle Street. Mr. Walker was a tinsmith and in that year bought his first stock of hardware, bringing it home from Hamilton in a one horse democrat. In a few years it had developed to considerable proportions, people driving as far as from Lake Erie to have their wants supplied. In 1879 he moved to the present site, corner of Caithness and Argyle Streets.

When Mr. Walker retired in 1905 the business was acquired by Clydesdale and French and so continued until January 1912 when Mr. Clydesdale retired from the firm. The firm was then carried on by Mr. B.E. French until October 1942 when it was purchased by Mr. H.S. Merrall who has continued to run a hardware business as well as a wide range of electrical appliances.

Mr. Merrall was born in Middleport in the year 1899 and moved with his parents to Caledonia in the year 1902 where he attended the Caledonia Public School. In 1909 his parents moved to Hamilton where he lived until 1941 when he returned, with his family, to make his home in Caledonia.

WILLIAM H. MOYER

One of Caledonia's splendid plumbing and Hardware men is "Bill" Moyer. His store is on Caithness street next to the Public Library and he displays an extensive line of Stoves, gas and Electrical Appliances, Washers, Refrigerators, Stable Equipment etc.

Bill was raised on a farm near Fisherville but at thirteen years of age commenced learning his trade with Ed. Kendrick of Selkirk. He then spent eleven years with Reid & graham of Hagersville at the end of which time he bought out their business in partnership with his brother. In 1919 he sold his interest in this business to his brother and came to Caledonia to work for C.P. Montgomery. On November 20, 1927 he opened his own store in the Ionson building and on August 6, 1948 he purchased his present building from the J.H. Howden estate.

The building was originally situated next to Fred Avery's Garage and was owned by Miss Gordon who taught school here for many years. Fred Avery bought it from her and sold it to J.H. Howden who moved it to the present location. An addition has been made and the upstairs made into apartments, one of which is occupied by Mr. Moyer.

Mr. Moyer was married in 1916 to Annie Arnold and has two children, Jean (Mrs. Harold Downey) and lois (Mrs. Thos. Reed). Bill has always been fond of sport, baseball, bowling and curling. After 27 years of baseball he managed the Caledonia team that won the Championship of Ontario in their class. He was a member of the Fire Department and came through the position of Deputy Chief to be made Chief in 1925 and 1932.

DIETZ GROCERY

Mr. Edwin Dietz came to Caledonia from Wiarton, Ontario. For fifteen years he worked as a bread salesman for A.E. Jones. In June 1942 he purchased the grocery business on the west side of Argyle Street from Miss Bessie Elliott.

The building had been a men's clothing store operated by Herbert Berscht and latterly by Wilson Clark. In 1947 Mr. Dietz purchased the building from Mrs. Hugh Anderson who had enlarged it by adding a store-room.

An interesting note is the fact that Mrs. Dietz, the former Irene Draper, worked in the same store twenty-five years ago for Mr. Berscht. They have two sons, Harold, who is associated with his father in the business, and Billy.

THE GRAND RIVER SACHEM Harrison and Arrell Martindale, Publishers

The Grand River Sachem presently owned by the Martindale brothers has been an institution in Caledonia since 1855. It was at this time that Thomas Messenger, an American who had been publishing the Cayuga Sachem at

Cayuga, sold out and moved to Caledonia. The first issue was published on February 6, 1856, in the same building as present under the name of The Advertiser. But in November 1856 when Wm. Decew, the Cayuga owner, changed the name of his paper to the Sentinel, Mr. Messenger changed the name of the Caledonia paper to The Grand River Sachem, a name which it kept ever since.

The name 'Sachem' is the Indian name meaning 'Chief'.

Thos. Messenger published the Sachem until 1870. Mr. W.T. Sawle edited and published the paper until 1878 when he bought it and continued until 1881. For a few months it was edited by Mr. Claus who died in 1882 when the paper was purchased by Mr. H.B. Sawle who continued its publication until his death in 1923. The Sachem was then owned and published by his widow, Mrs. H.B. Sawle until January 1st, 1945 when it was purchased by its present owners Harrison and Arrell Martindale.

These brothers were born in York, five miles east of Caledonia, and attended Public School there and High School in Caledonia. In 1927 Harrison joined the Sachem. In the same year Arrell entered the University of Western Ontario, graduating in 1931 and taught High School until 1945 when he joined his brother as co-publisher of The Grand River Sachem.

Harrison was married in 1939 to Miss Ruby Moffat who died in 1942. He has one son Chester. Arrell, who is single, and Harrison moved to Caledonia in October 1944 and have lived together ever since.

That the Sachem is continuing to fill an increasingly important place in the community is evidenced by the fact that both circulation and job printing are at an all time high.

BOOSE DRUG STORE

Osborne Boose, whose forefathers were United Empire Loyalists that settled on farms near the banks of the Grand River in South Cayuga Township, attended S.S. No. 5 South Cayuga Public School and Dunnville High School.

After serving a four year apprenticeship with R.E. Reynolds, Hamilton, he attended the Ontario College of Pharmacy and graduated with his Phm.B degree in 1924.

He worked in Hamilton, Galt, and Toronto for a number of years. After selling his Hamilton Store, McMaster Pharmacy, he returned to Haldimand County purchasing the drug business of W.E. Roberts, Caledonia in 1938. This business was started by J. Stewart Laing about 1928 in the Opera House block. After the Milling Company Fire Mr. Laing moved over to that block and in 1932 sold the store to Mr. Roberts.

The present Drug Store staff includes Mr. G. Stanley Parke, Mrs. John O'Rourke, Misses Ethel Parkin, Marcia Moffat, Eleanor Vernon and Angele Legere.

Mr. and Mrs. Boose and children, Mary Elizabeth, and Robert Osborne, reside on Banff St.

EINO'S BILLIARDS

Eino's Billiards has been operated since November 1934 by Eino Mackie, who bought the business from Charlie Wong, successor to the late Joseph Lawrence. The building, formerly owned by Mrs. Bernard O'Rourke, was purchased by Mr. Mackie in 1948 and since that time it has been remodelled to make room for two attractive new stores, now occupied by Hutton's Men's Wear and Wright's shoe store.

Eino was born in Tyrva, Finland, coming to Canada in 1927. His wife, Nora, was born in Iisalmi, central Finland, emigrating to Canada in 1928. Their only child, Helen, is the first child of Finish parentage to be born in Hagersville. She attended Caledonia Public School and high Schools and is now a student at Victoria College, University of Toronto.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Mackie were naturalized in 1939 and in spite of their European birth and upbringing seem typically Canadian in outlook.

H.Y. WHITEHEAD, M.D.

The practice at present carried on by Dr. Harry York Whitehead, was established by the late Dr. Herbert Maw. In 1907 Dr. Maw, who had been in Middleport for three years opened an office in the Overend Hotel, now the building owned by Mr. Michael Kiefer. Then a bachelor, he rented a Consulting Room, Dispensary and bedroom in the hotel, using the entrance on the west side of the building. After his marriage the following year, he bought the property next door and occupied what was known as the Roper Cottage.

This cottage was later moved through the back of the lot to Sutherland Street and, now greatly altered in appearance, is the house occupied by Mr. Bud Clark. Dr. Maw then built the house and office which are located on the property at the present time.

Dr. Whitehead, a graduate of the University of Toronto in 1932, came to Caledonia from Hagersville in April 1937 to be associated with Dr. Maw. After Dr. Maw's sudden and unexpected death the following month, May 26, 1937, Dr. Whitehead purchased the property and goodwill from the estate.

Active in athletics during school and college years, he continued this interest by organizing and coaching a junior hockey team in the village, which made a creditable showing, winning their group in 1940 and 1941 and being nosed out by Preston in 1942.

WOOLLEY'S GROCERY

In August 1936, Mr. D.T. (Tal) Woolley came to Caledonia from Hagersville and took over the grocery business operated that time by the Blair sisters, Jennie and Jentie. He purchased the business from Mr. Nelson Aldridge who had first owned the building in 1909. The building was originally a livery stable, operated by Mr. Dan Hinds, who ran the Union Hotel next door. The livery stable was next owned by Mr. Bob McMullen and then by Mr. Tom Hammond. Following a fire in the building in 1909, the building was purchased by Mr. Nelson Aldridge. The Shirra Milling Company were the first tenants. A few years later the business was changed to a grocery business, when it was purchased by the Ramsay brothers, Clark and William. Later owners of the grocery business at this site were Mr. Frank Nelles and the Blair sisters.

Mr. Tal Woolley was born in Hagersville. He worked in Hagersville for Charley Brown in the grocery business, two years for Mr. T.F. House in the Gent's Furnishing business, and one year for Frank Kett in the garage business.

He played Intermediate O.H.A. Hockey for Caledonia, group winners in 1930. He played Intermediate Hockey for both Caledonia and Hagersville in the 1930's. He was a member of the famous Hagersville Villains, Intermediate O.B.A. finalists in 1933. He made a hockey comeback in 1948 as goal tender for the Caledonia Intermediates.

Mr. Woolley played in Hagersville band and on coming to Caledonia became a member of the Caledonia Concert Band. He is second vice-president of the Caledonia Agricultural Society. He is keenly interested in harness racing, having owned two trotters himself. He was a charter member of the Caledonia Hunters and Anglers Association.

In 1940 Mr. Woolley bought the Blair house on Orkney street east. The same year he married Miss Margaret Jonson of Jarvis. They have three boys, Dan aged seven and David and Douglas, twins aged three.

In 1942 a new front was added to the store, the entrance being moved from the side to the front. In 1947 the store was changed into a semi self-serve, made fifteen feet longer and fluorescent lighting added. In 1948 he bought the part of the building that houses his store and the apartment above from the Nelson Aldridge estate.

W.G. CLARK

Mr. W.G. Clark was born in Seneca Township on the farm his grandfather settled in 1855, and received his early education at Petch's School. He has lived in Haldimand County all his life except for five years previous to 1910, in which year he came to Caledonia and became associated with Mr. J.H. Howden. Since 1912 Mr. Clark has

been in the farm implement business, ten years were spent as a travelling salesman. He has had many activities outside his business. As a young man his ability as a ventriloquist called him to help with many local entertainments.

Mr. Clark has served as chairman Haldimand Board Mother's Allowance and Old Age Pension; Member of Caledonia Council; President of Caledonia Baseball Club, Caledonia Liberal Club, C.A.A.A.; Manager of the Caledonia Arena for twelve years.

Our business motto is "What we Sell we Serve".

WILLS' MOTORS LIMITED

The large modern cement block garage known as "Wills' Motors Limited" was built in the year 1949, south of the Grand River, on the east side of No. 6 Highway, within the limits of Caledonia. It was built by its owners, to be the headquarters for general Motors Products Chevrolet cars and GMC trucks.

Mr. George W. Wills came from England in 1919 and started the garage business at Binbrook, Ontario, in the year 1920. Later with a large family of boys the business expanded to other Ontario centres, and tradition. However, the entire family are joint owners of the business in Caledonia – John, Richard, Peter, Thomas, Philip, Harold and George. John has built a fine home adjacent to his place of business, where he lives with his wife and family and his brother Peter who is associated with him in this new undertaking.

With young and energetic mechanics as established in the Wills' family the garage business in Caledonia is started on a sound and prosperous footing.

HARRY K. MARSHALL

This business was begun by C.H. Marshall, father of the present owner, in 1903. Before opening his own store, Mr. Marshall had worked for R.E. Walker, whose store was on Caithness Street about a block east of Argyle. In 1902 the store and tinsmith shop was purchased by Mr. Marshall and in 1903 moved to the present site on the east side of Argyle in the first block north of the bridge.

In the old days, Mr. Marshall would hire Mr. Overend's old white horse "Billy" and drive many miles to hang eaves troughs or deliver stoves. The store was never closed on Caledonia Fair Day, since on that day the farmers would come in with their democrats and wagons and go home with them laden with goods.

Eavetroughing was then made of 14 in. and 18 in. lengths of tin soldered together. Now they are made of 8 ft. galvanized lengths. In the winter, they used to make all the shelf goods – cake pans, pails, strainers, etc. – and they were made to last. No factories were operating at that time.

When gas was first discovered in the district, Marshalls began installing gas pipes in homes. Mr. James Old purchased the first gas heater from this store on January 20, 1906.

In the year 1920, Mr. Marshall's son, Harry K. Marshall joined the business which they carried on together until the father's death on December 5, 1931.

Since then, the tinsmithing has been discontinued and the store has been modernized to accommodate a complete line of hardware, refrigerators, stoves and wallpaper. An attractive show room has been built at the back to display merchandise.

These improvements have been made with the able assistance and co-operation of Harry's wife, the former Laurena Johnston, daughter of Otis L. Johnston of Caledonia, whom he married in 1925. From the time that she became associated with the business, her charming personality and cheery attitude towards the public has been of inestimable value in encouraging trade. Her willingness to serve makes a visit to the store a pleasant experience.

In these pleasant surroundings, Harry welcomes his friends, whether they come to buy or merely to pass the time of day.

CORMANS' STORE

In September 1903 Mr. Isaac Corman, a descendent of the United Empire Loyalists, of Stoney Creek, bought the general store business from William Trotter, which he carried on until his death in May 1939.

The family still carries the name on as one of the oldest establishments of Caledonia. As far as can be ascertained the building is one hundred and fifty years old and has always been a general store.

SMITH DAIRY SERVICE

Smith Dairy service was organized in 1940 by Ronald G. Smith, to give the small dairy the facilities of a modern laboratory for bacteriological analysis of milk.

Ronald Smith was born on the First Line in Oneida Township, the youngest son of Adam and Catherine Smith (formerly Katie Mitchell of Caledonia.) He graduated from Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph in 1935 with a B.S.A. degree. After spending three years in Toronto dairies on market milk production, he started with Kennedy Laboratories of Brantford, supervising their laboratory testing of dairies.

The present laboratory for Smith Dairy Service is located on the second floor of the building owned by Keith Lamb. That which was formerly the old Legion Hall has been transformed into a modern laboratory with all the scientific equipment necessary for the testing of both raw and pasteurized milk.

The staff includes Mrs. Roy Elliott and Mrs. Claude Silverthorne as technicians, Miss Bess Avery, stenographer, and Mr. J.H. Wilson of Hamilton, who with Mr. Smith, visits the dairies and collects the milk samples each month.

Over one hundred and fifty dairies throughout Ontario avail themselves of this service, which means that the milk used in thousands of homes in the province has been tested for safety and quality right here in the village of Caledonia.

DUNNVILLE CONSOLIDATED TELEPHONE COMPANY

The Dunnville Consolidated Telephone Company has been in existence since 1908. It was at this time that the local business was purchased from the Bell Telephone Co. The head office is in Dunnville.

In 1908 there were less than ten phones locally. This number increased steadily until about 1930 to just over 600. During the depression years phones were taken out in rather large numbers. In the late thirties however the trend was again reversed until to-day there are 683 phones serving Caledonia and district. This is an all time high.

Mr. Joe Clark was local superintendent for some thirty years until Mar 1943 at which time Mr. George Grinyer, present superintendent and his wife took over.

On March 16, 1949 the company changed over from the magnetic to the common battery type of phones and moved from over the Bank to their present location on the east side of Argyle Street just north of Sutherland Street.

MARIE BERRY

Marie Berry was born in Glanford Township and attended public school at S.S. 3 and 5 Seneca. She worked as a sales girl for five years for Mr. E. O. Boose in his drug store. After graduating from the Marvel School for Hairdressers she worked two years at the Murtell Beauty Parlour, Hamilton. On June 1st 1950 Marie started in business for herself in Caledonia at the corner of Orkney and Banff Sts.

HAROLD BERRY

Harold Berry was born in Seneca Township and attended Welcome School. He worked at the Horton Steel and Bridge Works, Fort Erie and was brakeman for the G.T.R. out of Bridgeburg. He farmed at Tyneside for seventeen years. In 1941, with his wife and daughters Doris and Marie, he moved to Caledonia where he worked with C.T. Hewitt builder. In 1946 he started on his own as builder.

EVERY'S GARAGE

I was born in Caledonia and have lived here all my life. In 1911 my parents purchased a new five-passenger Buick touring car. This was the main factor as to why I am still in the automobile business today. At that time, and in this part of the country, you could count all the cars, or horseless carriages, as some people called them, on one hand. Being mechanically inclined, I worked during my school holidays in Avery Bros. carriage shop and, by the way, for \$3.00 a week, and I have never worked harder since. Whether the Buick needed it or not, during my spare time I was fixing it up, and often when it came time to take my folks for a spin, with their dust coats, goggles, peaked caps and long gauntlets, Freddie had the car apart, and of course was in the dog house for some days.

Gasoline was a problem at that time, as there were no gas pumps, and we had to order our gas from Hamilton by the barrel (wooden barrels). This would be shipped out by freight, and Dad and I would go over to the freight shed with a two-wheeled cart and bring the barrel over and empty it into a sheet metal tank, and then return the barrel, as we were charged extra if kept over. Before putting the gas in the car it was always strained through a chamois to take out the water and other impurities. Gasoline at that time was 14 ½ cents a gallon and the oil salesman thought he was doing a big business in selling a barrel of gasoline. They did not know what to do with the stuff.

As I said before, being mechanically inclined, I decided I was not getting anywhere by going to high school. I was in third form when I decided to go to Hamilton Technical School. I did this for one and a half years, going to and from on the train, for five cents a single trip (for students only). I was interested in mechanical drafting, machine shop practice and electricity. Before I terminated my course, which was to be two years, Hydro Electric was being installed in Caledonia, and I took on a job in electrical wiring with Mr. Reginald Fralic who at that time was Telephone Supervisor and Hydro maintenance man for Caledonia. We worked together wiring houses, etc. for some time. Then Mr. Fralic left town, leaving the wiring and maintenance to me.

It was not long until I was confronted with another job. I was really the only person in this part of the country who knew anything about an automobile, and that wasn't very much. Any time trouble started with a few cars around, I was called to try and rectify it.

Presently I was approached by Mr. G.H. Hornibrook (who was one of the earliest car owners) as to starting a small repair shop. He said it was something that would be on a big scale some time and I might as well get in on the ground floor. So in the year 1914 Mr. C. A. Alderson, (who now lives at Ryckman Corners) who was in the implement business where Mr. Jack Forster, Mr. Alex Mellon and Carroll's store are at present located, asked me to rent the back part of his building as a repair shop, as he was thinking of taking on the agency for Ford cars. I did this and with a few small tools started the first garage in Caledonia. Mr. Alderson sold quite a few cars. At that time a mechanical starter came on the market. It was a cable affair which worked on a ratchet on the front of the crank shaft. The driver pulled up on the cable and if everything worked all right, the Ford would start. As I look back, it was quite a sight to see people yanking on this cable. I installed many of these, and then came the electric starter, called the Gray & Davis starter and generator system. This was quite cumbersome thing which bolted on the left side of the engine near the front and turned the engine over with a chain attached to a sprocket gear on the crank shaft. Everybody thought this was the real thing as it did away with the magneto lights and used a battery in somewhat the same way as the present day system.

I operated this repair shop until October 1915 when Avery Bros. and myself went in as partners on the sale of Chevrolet cars which came on the market at this time. These were all touring cars and sold at \$640.00 to start with. Many of them were shipped to us on flat cars covered with tarpaulins. Car sales were good and seldom did we go out to sell one. They were all cash and nothing to give away. The big drawback was having to teach every buyer how to drive. The racetrack in Caledonia was the best place for this purpose. Some picked driving up very quickly while others required many lessons.

I was now situated in the north side of Avery Bros. building, where Mr. Keith Lamb has his egg grading station. I well remember the one gallon gasoline pump which I had in front of this place, and on Saturday nights I was the busiest man in town pumping gas for the week end spins. Business went along fine for a while and then on account of the war, things got quiet. I sold my interests to Avery Bros. and went to work for King George.

In June 1920 I bought the present building which I am in now from Dr. Thos. Arrell, who ran a livery barn there along with his veterinary practice. Along with the automobile repair business I carried on with the electrical wiring. Some of the bigger jobs which I did in later years were the Caledonia bridge, the Arena, United Church and others.

In 1922 Avery Bros. dissolved partnership and I secured the services of Mr. Haviland Hanson, their mechanic. Mr. Hanson has been with me all these years and still is. He is known as the best mechanic in the business.

Nothing much happened in my life, except working and selling cars, until 1924 when I was married to Frances Nelles. We have one daughter Avonne who is a dental nurse.

At the present time 1950 I am in the same business and the same location. As I look back through the years, I have seen many a competitor come and go. Some sold out and others failed. I owe my long stay to business in the same locality to always being fair and square with everyone. I have never knowingly tried to cheat or put it over, for the sake of gain, financially or otherwise.

To finish my story, and on looking back again, I have always prided myself on being first to have different things in the community such as an electric fan, electric iron, electric vacuum cleaner, electric refrigerator, neon sign, florescent lighting, and the second radio and the second gasoline pump.

--G. Fred Avery

FLEMINGS MOTORS

Flemings Motors pays tribute to the founders of Caledonia and of Haldimand County whose foresight and diligence have contributed to steady development. One hundred years is a long time and our corner has featured in the transition from horse-drawn vehicle to the modern automobile.

The earliest records show that John Builder, a cabinet-maker, operate a furniture factory on our present site. This building was destroyed by fire. Later the property passed through the hands of Wm. McLernon, George Leach and Malcolm Heddle.

In January 1910, it came into the possession of Thos. H. Aldridge. He erected the present building and here operated a livery stable. In those days faithful Dobbin supplied the horse power and ten miles was considered an impressive distance.

But time marched on. The horse and buggy era passed and in 1920 Mr. Aldridge sold this property to Peter Anderson and Norman Simenton – Dealers in Ford Motors.

Still another change of ownership. In 1931 this property was purchased by Ralph Fleming, the present owner, who has carried on a successful franchise for the Chrysler Corporation on the premises for the past nineteen years.

Ralph Fleming was born in Hagersville, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Orloff Fleming. He attended Hagersville Public and High Schools and Waterford Business College. He came to Caledonia in 1929 as book-keeper for Kett Brothers Garage. He This position he held for two years before going into business for himself.

In 1935 Ralph Fleming married Edith Slack, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Slack and the late Mrs. Slack of Hagersville. Mrs. Fleming has charge of the book-keeping department of Fleming's Motors.

On this centennial occasion Flemings Motors look forward to Haldimand County's continuing growth and prosperity.

DANIELS' GARAGE

Several years after the beginning of the present century I was born of Pennsylvanian Dutch parents in Paris, Ont. Here I received my education and earliest business training.

In 1927 I moved to Caledonia where I started to work as a mechanic for the Caledonia Motor Sales which at that time carried on a business in the Avery Building, now owned by Mr. Keith Lamb. I remained for six years at the end of which time I moved to New Hamburg and went into partnership in the automotive business with the late Oswald Dennis.

Caledonia still beckoned however, and in 1935 I returned here and joined the Caledonia motor Sales as a partner. It was in this same year that the firm secured the Ford and Imperial Oil agencies. The partnership carried on a successful business until 1940 when my partner enlisted in the Royal Canadian navy. From that time on I have owned and operated my own business under the firm name of "Daniels' Garage", still handling the familiar Ford and imperial Oil products.

The business is carried on in the building built by Mr. Lorne Gilmour on the site once occupied by the Campbell Hotel, a familiar old landmark in the history of Caledonia and Haldimand County.

REID'S GROCERY

Reid's Grocery Store is situated on the west side of Argyle Street next door to the Canadian bank of Commerce. This store was formerly the Dominion Store and was operated by Mr. Thomas Ledger for a number of years.

Mr. Edgar Reid came to Caledonia from Hamilton with his family in 1939 to take over the managership from Mr. Ledger. Prior to coming here he managed a Dominion Store in Hamilton for ten years.

In May 1940, after a year and a half in Caledonia, Mr. Reid purchased the business, which he has operated as an independent grocery for the past ten years. In November 1947 he bought the building from Mrs. J.M. Stubbs.

Mr. and Mrs. Reid were married in 1922. They have three children; Clarence, a teacher in Hamilton; Lillian (Mrs. Morley Teskey) living in Caledonia; and Marilyn who attends Caledonia High School.

J.I. CASE SALES & SERVICE

Mr. Leo Bain was born at Sims Locks, and received his education at Cayuga. After leaving school he spent some time in the West, around Calgary and Edmonton, and later returned to Cayuga. He married Marjorie Reicheld of Hagersville, and a few years after their marriage moved to Hagersville, where they lived for about ten years before coming to Caledonia. They have two daughters, Beverly (Mrs. Ed. Thompson) and Sonja at home.

While living in Hagersville Mr. Bain was engaged in trucking and contracting. In March, 1944, he moved to Caledonia and opened an agency here for J.I. Case implements and Repairs. At this time, Mr. Bain, assisted by Mr. Wm. Reicheld, built a storage building on his property just west of the Seneca Bridge. Another building which also was used for storage was burned to the ground in August, 1948, and was replaced by a new office building in January, 1949.

SMITH'S BUTCHER AND GROCERY STORE

Smith's Butcher and Grocery Store is situated on the west side of Argyle Street, three doors north of the bridge, in what was known as the Thompson block. Prior to 1914 when a fire destroyed the block, the building was a restaurant and before that housed the Post Office. It was rebuilt in 1915 by James McAlpine for a butcher shop.

Consecutive owners were Gladys and Agnes McAlpine, William greenwood and Samuel Atkinson. Mr. greenwood took over the lease from Silas Flowers in 1925 and carried on a butcher business for 12 years.

William L. Smith came to Caledonia from Cayuga in May 1937 and rented the shop, having learned his trade with Harold Reece in Cayuga.

In February 1944 he purchased the building from the Atkinson Estate. He then enlarged it by building a store-room on the back. He built shelves to display groceries and vegetables which had not formerly been sold. Several new pieces of modern equipment were added including an electric grinder and a slicer, modern scales, and cash register, and finally an electric meat saw. Recently a pasteuray light, the rays of which kill bacteria and cut down meat spoilage, was installed in the refrigerator.

Mr. Smith was married in 1938 to Laura Webb of Hagersville, and they have three children, Valerie 11, Brian 9 and Laurel 3.

SPRATT'S CONGRATULATES HALDIMAND COUNTY

This year, as Haldimand County celebrates its 100th birthday, Spratt's store has served Caledonia and the surrounding community for over half a century. The business was begun by Thomas L. Spratt in 1899, when he built his butcher shop on Argyle Street, next door to Seldon's Bakery.

Thomas L. Spratt was married in 1898 to Clara A. Harris. Of their two sons, the elder, Dr. L.M. Spratt, of Beck Memorial Sanatorium, is now in London; Roy C. Spratt continues his father's business in Caledonia.

In 1924, Roy Spratt married Frances Nelles. He opened up a grocery business in the store formerly owned by F. Simpson. After the death of his father in 1927, he combined the two businesses and moved to the store's present location.

They have a daughter E. Marie and a son Thomas E.

September 1949 marked the beginning of a third generation for the business when Thomas E. Spratt became associated with his father.

Marie is a graduate of McMaster University and the Ontario College of Education and this year will be teaching in Wallaceburg.

Ralph Gillan, at present employed as a butcher, has been connected with Spratt's from 1901-1906 when he worked for Thomas Spratt Sr. and from 1946 for the present owner.

1919

FORSTER'S VARIETY STORE

1950

Owned and operated by Mrs. Janet Forster and son Jack, the present business was started by the late Major Morley E. Forster, upon his discharge from the army, in 1919, where he had served overseas as a Lieutenant with the 114th Battalion.

The first place of business was part of the store now occupied by Ed. Reid, but at that time occupied by Mr. J. Howden. After a short stay at this store, he found better location in the O'Rourke building, in the part now occupied by the Niagara Café. The stock at that time consisted of harness and accessories, pianos, victrolas, treadle and hand sewing machines.

In July 1923, Mr. Forster moved from the O'Rourke building to the LaFortune building, but was there only a short time when the building was sold to Reg. Gillan who turned it into a garage. The next move in 1924 was to a store in the north side of the Opera House, formerly occupied by Mr. Simpson.

The Opera House at that time was owned by Mr. Fred Forster, Morley Forster's uncle. Business and stock began to change with the times. Radios, china, tobacco, magazines as well as several other items were added to the stock.

Mr. Forster is reported to have shown the first radio on display in Caledonia at the Fair in 1924. This radio was shipped from Montreal and had an extra large speaker so it could be heard all over the arena.

Mr. Forster continued in business at the Opera House until his death in 1943, then Mrs. Forster took over with the help of Miss M. Meredith and Miss J. Beckerson, operated the business until sons Jack and Alex returned from overseas late in 1945.

Alex Forster served as a stoker with the royal Canadian Navy, and Jack with Royal Canadian Engineers. In 1946 the name of the business became known as "Forster's Variety Store" and operated as a partnership by Alex, Jack, and Mrs. Janet Forster.

Late in 1946 the Opera House was purchased by Mr. A Johnson of Hamilton, from Mr. Ralph Fleming who in turn had purchased it from the Forster Estate. In June of 1947 fire of unknown origin broke out in the dance hall of the opera House and despite efforts of both the Caledonia and Hagersville Volunteer fire departments the building was destroyed.

The Forster's were fortunate in securing temporary space in the show room of the P.C.W. gas Office through co-operation of Mr. Alex Blackwell, local manager. In March 1948 the Forester's moved into the present location, a store in the LaFortune building formerly occupied by Briggs and Roddick second hand furniture business.

Alex Forster joined the Provincial Police in January 1948 and the business has since been operated by Mrs. Janet Forster and Jack.

Once more the stock changed with the times and a new line of Yard Goods and sewing notions was added to the already ever growing variety of stock. A visit to the store will prove that it is associated with many well known and old reliable firms such as McBrine Luggage, Monarch and Guelph Yarns, Kayser and Phantom Hosiery, Sovereign Potteries, and many others.

A warm welcome awaits you at this store during Centennial Week or any time you are a visitor in Caledonia.

J. EDWARD STUBBS, LAWYER

J. Edward Stubbs, or Ed, as he is known to his friends, was born in the Township of Seneca in 1903. After graduating from Caledonia High School he went to Osgoode Hall. He graduated as a lawyer in 1924. In 1929 Mr. Stubbs started his own business in the Sachem Office building where he practiced until 1946. In 1946 he bought the Hewitt building on Argyle Street and moved his offices there.

Mr. Stubbs lives on Shetland street with his wife and six children. He has four daughters and two sons. The oldest daughter, Adele, works with her father doing secretarial work. The second daughter Pat attends High School, the third daughter Eleanor is in Public School and Gaye, the youngest at home. The oldest son, Edward lives at home while working his father's farm in Seneca. Jack is attending public school.

GEORGE'S DINER

One of the newer places of business in Caledonia is George's Diner. Situated in the North end of the Town the building was built by Robert Thompson and used as his Office. In 1949 it was bought by George Gaber and opened up as a Diner.

George was born in Winnipeg, joined the Army in 1940 and spent five years overseas. He saw service in France, Germany, Belgium and Holland and holds the 1939-1945 Star, the CVSM and Clasp, Defence Medal, Victory Medal, French and German Star. He married a Winnipeg girl in 1947 and has one son, Brian, George keeps a good place to eat.

MARTINDALE'S HATCHERY AND FARM

Five miles east of Caledonia on the south shore of the Grand River, is Martindale's Hatchery and poultry Farm. Founded by G. Benjamin Martindale on the farm on which he lived, the hatchery had a very humble beginning. Small incubators heated by coal oil lamps, were used and Barred Plymouth Rock and White Leghorn eggs from the farm flock were hatched.

In 1929 a suitable building was erected at the road equipped with hot water heated sectional type incubators with a capacity of 13,000 eggs. With the coming of hydro electric power forced draught electric machines were substituted and the capacity increased to 60,000 eggs.

As the need arose new buildings were added – an office, a two storey laying house, round brooder houses and a large steel timber-rib building, which is at present used for brooding chicks. A gas well was drilled to supply heat for brooding and an auxiliary power plant installed, for use in case of power interruption.

Many of the chicks and hatching eggs are sold locally, while others are shipped to all parts of Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and the Maritimes. A recent shipment of hatching eggs was sent by air to Zurich, Switzerland. While a few years ago 75% of the chicks hatched were pure bred Barred Plymouth Rocks, popular demand has so changed, that cross-bred chicks now compromise the larger percentage of chicks hatched.

G.B. Martindale is the younger son of the late Featherstone Martindale and Mary Short, now resides in Caledonia. His son George F. admitted to partnership in 1949, resides on the farm.

MELLON'S MEN'S SHOP

Mellon's Men's Shop was started by Alex and Norma Mellon on June 19, 1948 in the building presently owned by J. Edward Stubbs on the east side of Argyle Street. It was previously occupied by George Lyall and operated as a bakery for several years.

According to older citizens of the village the property was, at one time, used as a stable for the Union Hotel. The stage coach from Hamilton to Port Dover often stayed here overnight.

SELDON BUILDING

Built for Richard Seldon in 1876 for combined residence and bakery, an addition was made in 1905 for an ice cream parlour.

A.E. Jones used the bakery shop from 1933-1949.

The wing of the building is now used by St. Andrew's Lodge as a meeting hall.

The sole surviving member of the Seldon family, Miss Emma Seldon occupies the apartment.

The Bakery Shop is now used by Caledonia Radio and Appliances as a sales and service shop run by Jim Callaghan.

Mr. Callaghan is formerly from P.E.I. and came to Caledonia in May 1949 from Hamilton where he was employed by the Canadian Westinghouse. He is a former R.C.A.F. Radar Mechanic having served four years in Canada and the United Kingdom.

STEWART J. THOMPSON

Imperial Oil Agent

S.J. (Stew) Thompson was born on a farm in Seneca Township on Highway No. 6, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Thompson. He is one of a large family, having five brothers and three sisters.

As a young man he left the farm to work for Aldridge and Company for six years. In August 1938 he took over the Farm Trade Commission Agency with Imperial Oil. In May 1941 he enlisted with the 2nd Armed Brigade R.C.A.S.C. On August 15, 1941, he was married to Beth Kett, Caledonia and proceeded overseas in July 1942. Stew served in England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, and returned to Canada in November 1945 and was discharged the following month.

In January 1946 he returned to the Imperial Oil and received his 10 year Service Button from this company in October 1949.

Although serving large numbers of farmers and village residents with Imperial Oil products Stew always manages to find time to devote to hockey and baseball both as a player and in an advisory capacity.

He also takes a great interest in the local branch of the Canadian legion where he is serving his third year as secretary and is also an officer of St. Andrews Lodge No. 62.

He has two children Lynne 3 and Richard 1.

BILL'S SERVICE STATION

Bill's Service station, operated by Bill Elnisky, is situated on the highway, north of the railroad tracks. The building was originally built by Mr. Ernie Anderson for a service station.

Mr. Elnisky rented the building in June 1946 from Reliance Petroleum following Mr. Earl Miller. After taking over the business, Mr. Elnisky remodelled the service station with a grease pit and an extension on the back of the service bay. He also installed a lunch served in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He is unmarried.

JOHNNY'S PLACE

The lunch room in conjunction with Bill's Service Station, known as "Johnny's Place", is operated by Mr. Johnny Francis. Mr. Francis came to Caledonia from Hamilton with his family in 1946 and in May 1949 he took over the business formerly operated by George Gaber.

He was formerly employed as a transport driver for Crawford Cartage. Prior to that he served with the Argyles in the army from 1943 to June 1946. Mrs. Francis also served in the Canadian Women's Army Corps from 1943 to 1945. They have one son Wayne.

THE PORT COLBORNE-WELLAND GAS & OIL CO. LIMITED

Head Office - Port Colborne
Plant - Caledonia, Ont.

In 1859 Col. Drake drilled the first oil well at Titusville, Pa. Oil had been discovered at Oil Springs in 1857 but Drake has always been looked upon as the first to discover what at that time was known as "rock oil".

This discovery brought on a great impetus of drilling for oil over the whole of U.S. and Ontario. In the drilling of these "oil" wells gas was encountered and for a number of years was regarded as a dangerous nuisance. In 1870 Titusville was piped and gas was sold for commercial purposes.

In 1866 an oil well was drilled west of Port Colborne when gas was struck in large quantity. This entire pool was absolutely wasted because no one at the time knew how to burn it efficiently. In 1889 gas was struck by the Provincial Co. in the Township of Bertie and a pipe line was laid to Buffalo and this was the beginning of the Natural Gas business in Southern Ontario.

In 1891 a company formed in Caledonia to drill for Natural Gas. The originators were James Old, John Avery and others. Wells were drilled in the centre of town, not one but several, and Gas was obtained, as they thought, in paying quantities. The town was piped and gas was distributed throughout. At that time ordinary domestic meters were not common use and gas was sold to all consumers at \$1.00 per month per stove; this was the average price throughout Southern Ontario where gas was obtained. Port Colborne had had gas before this and the late James Old and a delegation went to Port Colborne to get some information as the regulators and distribution by did not get much information as I believe the P.C. people did not know any more than the delegation. A number of wells were drilled in all parts of the town, some very close together; some were not properly cased while others were "shot" by nitro glycerine to increase the flow. At one well the entire string of casing was blown clear of the well. Luckily no one was injured nor much damage done. In drilling the well in the rear of Fred Avery's garage one man was fatally gassed and another had a narrow escape.

In 1905 J.H. Smith of Port Colborne formed a syndicate and leased most of the Townships of Glanford and Seneca. He put down two wells in the Township of Glanford without success and then moved to Seneca Township with the idea if gas were obtained in enough quantities a pipe line would be laid to Hamilton. In fact he asked for a franchise of the city of Hamilton and about the time he was assured of same the Ontario Pipe Line Co. obtained the city franchise.

A fairly good well was drilled on the Martindale farm near York, and from this, drilling operations began in the Township. The syndicate was known as the Port Colborne-Welland Gas Syndicate which was formed made up of citizens from the two places and when a company was formed foolishly kept the same name.

The plant of the Caledonia Gas Co. had not been paying owing to the ridiculously low rate for which gas was being sold and was offered to the P.C. Company with the understanding that they would bring the gas from the township. A two inch line was laid from York and meters were installed, much to the chagrin of the consumers. After the first month's bill the average consumer turned off the gas to cool his house instead of raising the windows (this practice was common in all plants where meters were installed).

New pools were hit at Middleport and Tyneside and the Company laid 1" lines to both pools. The gypsum opened their mine and gas was used in their engines to develop power.

During all these years the Company had been able to purchase any gas needed to take care of their consumers and Caledonia has had the finest gas service of any town in the Natural Gas belt.

At present there is not enough gas produced in Southern Ontario to take care of all consumers. Oil plants have been installed for peak loads – this gas costs about \$1.90 per M. to manufacture. Now a movement is on foot to bring gas from Texas to supplement the supply. If this is done (which I hope) the consumers of Southern Ontario will be able to depend on the greatest fuel on earth for light, heating and cooking.

Unfortunately in the early days the Gas Conservation Act was not in force and I would say that 70 per cent of the original Natural Gas supply of Southern Ontario was absolutely wasted owing to being sold at a ridiculous low price and appliances not getting nearly 100 per cent efficiency from gas. Today the average consumer gets from 1000 feet of gas the same result as the average consumer did of 10,000 feet at the turn of the century.

Mr. G.A. Blackwell is the local manager of the P. C.-W. which I hope will continue to serve the people of Caledonia and vicinity as it has in the past.

-Written by G.H. Smith, Secretary.

CALEDONIA WATERWORKS

By G.A. Blackwell

Since Caledonia was established over 100 years ago, the residents have depended on wells and cisterns for their domestic water supply.

Sometimes the wells were good, sometimes bad. No one knew just what would come out of some of the so-called "public wells". In summer many cisterns went dry. People could not depend on the Grand River for drinking water as it was usually dirty, and as time went on, became more or less polluted by sewage and industrial waste from the municipalities up the river.

Around 1885 the Grand Trunk Railway built a small system to supply their engines. From the river bank a 4" main ran up Argyle St. to the elevated tank at the station. This main was re-laid in 1905. The water was not treated in any way except to screen out the fish that entered the intake box. About 75 consumers, near the main were able to buy water from the Railway Co. for household use, except drinking.

A few fire hydrants were also connected to the main.

Around 1930 the people of Caledonia began talking of installing a waterworks.

On a vote of the people, the proposal was accepted and a firm of Engineers was engaged to prepare plans and specifications.

Owing to a diversity of opinions the plan was shelved.

Caledonia still had no water supply for all purposes. In 1945 Reeve Stanley Magnan again brought up the waterworks question. The council of that year decided to proceed with the preliminary work and engaged the firm of Proctor, Redfern and Laughlin to prepare plans for a water system.

This was done and after much work by Reeve Magnan the plan was adopted by Council in 1946.

The Municipal Board held a public meeting on the question to hear the pros and cons. After hearing evidence from many people relative to the unsafe water conditions, the Board issued an order to proceed with the work. Council got busy. Tenders were called for debentures, well drilling, pipe, pump house equipment, elevated tank and installation of mains.

In the Spring of 1947, the contractors, Scott-Jackson Co. started to lay water mains, Horton Steel to build the elevated tank and other subcontractors came on the job when their parts were ready.

The completed system has over 7 miles of 8", 6" and 4" cast iron main: a 50,000 gallon elevated tank; 3 wells connected to two electric and one gasoline driven pump. Forty-five hydrants provide fire protection to the town.

Total cost was \$150,000.00, financed by debentures. In 1948, water was pumped into the mains and people of Caledonia were assured of an ample supply of water for all purposes. The best materials and workmanship available were procured, to ensure a first class system being built. There are now nearly 300 water consumers in the village and 35 in Seneca Township being served by the water system. The water works is being operated in conjunction with the Hydro system and is proving a great benefit to our people.

The building of the waterworks marks another step forward in the progress of Caledonia. Besides the great convenience of town water, one must consider the health angle and fire protection provided by a water system.

To the Reeves and Councillors who worked so willingly to complete this great project, the people of Caledonia and the generations to come can say –

"Well done, thou good and faithful servants."

Reeves and Councillors identified with building the Caledonia Water Works:

Reeve Stanley Magnan.

Reeve Alex Blackwell

Councillor Charles Fearman

Councillor Cecil Johnson

Councillor Ed. Beckett

Councillor L.T. Watson

Councillor Gordon Lyall

Councillor C.O. Hand
Hydro and Waterworks Superintendent K.R. Baird.

HYDRO IN CALEDONIA

By Mrs. W.M. Stafford

In January 1912 a by-law was passed and a contract entered into with the Hydro-Electric Power Commission for Hydro for the Village of Caledonia. The by-law called for an expenditure of \$4600. Also, extra money was to be raised to supply Laurentian Milk Company with power. The first contract was for the delivery of 25 Horse Power and was delivered in October 1912.

Meters were installed for the first consumers of Hydro in the Village December 18, 1912, and consisted of: C.E. Donaghy, Mrs. P. Patterson, McGregor & Co., Wm. Lottridge, Malcolm Heddle, H.G. Haire, Ivan Smeltzer, Richard Berry, Laurentian Milk Lighting, Laurentian Milk Power, Mrs. Carrier.

The first system of billing hydro consumers was on a square foot basis, being 4c per kilowatt hour.

In 1917 the load taken by the Village of Caledonia had risen to 49 horse power and the number of consumers to 75. The rates had been changed to 3c per 100 sq. feet and all additional at 1.5c. The value of the system had increased to \$8500. There were 69 street lights.

In 1922 the load taken by the Village had risen to 117 Horse Power and the consumers to 158. The rates remained unchanged, but the value of the system had increased to \$12,057.36. The street lighting had increased to 101 lamps.

In 1927 the load had risen to 260 Horse Power, and the number of consumers 291. The rates were a service charge of .33c per month plus consumption charges of 2.5c for the first 60 hours per month use, and 1.5c per kilowatt for the remaining consumption. The value of the system had increased to \$23,140.56, and the number of street lights had increased to 150.

In 1932 the load had risen to 320.7 and the number of consumers had increased to 423. The rates remained unchanged, but the value of the system had increased to \$30,361.03. The number of street lights were increased to 181.

In 1937 the load had risen to 332 Horse Power and the number of consumers was 487. The system increased in value to \$34,805.57. The rates were 2.7 for the first 60 kilowatts per month plus .9 for the remaining consumption with no service charge for domestic use. There were 184 street lights.

In 1942 the load had risen to 359.3 Horse Power and the number of consumers was 557. The rates were reduced to 2.5c for the first 60 kilowatts per month plus .8c for the remaining consumption. The number of street lights remained the same.

In 1948 the Horse Power taken by the Village had risen to 573, and the number of consumers 605. The number of street lights increased to 195. The value of the system had increased to \$55,344.36.

CALEDONIA PLAYGROUND

On July 22nd, 1946 the Village Council composed of G.A. Blackwell, L.T. Watson, Ed. Beckett, Charles Fearman and Stanley Magnan (Reeve) purchased 2 ½ acres of land from Mr. Walter Bird on Caithness Street West to be used as a playground.

The planning and installing of waterworks with resulting higher taxes prevented the Council from immediately undertaking any major expenditures.

However in 1948 the local band built a bandstand and in 1949 a magnificent bandshell, with contributions from citizens, Provincial Government, and friends far and near, under the direction of C.A. Martindale, business manager of the band.

During the past two years large numbers have attended band concerts, garden parties and carnivals in this location and children and adults alike have used the playgrounds for softball.

On May 16th, 1949 a by-law was passed establishing a Community Centre in Caledonia and appointing the following Board to administer the playgrounds, Reeve G.A. Blackwell, Councillor Fearman, Gordon Saunders, L.T. Watson, Jim Philip, Eric Small and C.A. Martindale.

They immediately applied for a government grant and to date have received \$1000.

This year a nucleus of playground equipment is being installed and it is planned that a modern playground will follow as quickly as the money is available.

THE CALEDONIA CEMETERY

By O.T. Scott

Caledonia receives many compliments on its Cemetery. It has certainly changed its appearance over the last twenty-seven years.

In 1922 the Cemetery was surrounded by the remains of a high board fence and was overrun with wild roses, hazelnut bush, thorns and weeds. The graves were mounded up and the lots in many cases were fenced in with dilapidated wood or iron fences.

Some of our citizens got together and asked the Town Council, under whose care the cemetery then was, to turn it over to a Caledonia Cemetery Commission which was set up in accordance with Government recommendations. This was done and the first officers were – Chairman, A.W. Parrish; Vice-Chairman, Mrs. D.Z. Gibson; Sec-treas., O.T. Scott. The other members of the Commission were Mrs. S.A. Moore, Mrs. J.W. Richardson, C. Christensen and R.N. Berry, Reeve of the Village. There were no funds to work on but the lot holders held bees and the town have a grant of \$300.00 a year for a few years. The lots were levelled down, the iron fences removed and used as re-enforcing for a cement wall which was built across the front of the Cemetery. Gradually things improved under the Perpetual Care Plan which was set up and there is now \$15000. In Victory Bonds being held in this account.

The original Cemetery Lot is nearly filled up and we have a much larger population sleeping over there than there are in our Village. Another Lot of the same size has been under improvement for some years now and is to be opened up this coming year. We hope some day to have a Chapel in this Lot if we can find some friends who will lend a helping hand.

The Secretary Treasurer, O.T. Scott has been with the Commission since its start and hopes that some day soon he can pass on this job to some younger man who feels he might serve his Community in this way.

A HISTORY OF THE CALEDONIA LIBRARY

By Myrtle A. Renwick

Many years ago, the reading public of Caledonia obtains its books from the organization called The Mechanics Institute Library. Later this library was disbanded and the Caledonia Public Library took its place. This was housed in the upper story of the present fire hall with the late Colonel Gould as librarian. For some reason this organization fell into disuse and for twenty years the village was without a library until the late Mrs. Elmer Senn, who was then president of the Women's Institute, with great foresight and enthusiasm, revived interest in the project and with the more interesting and valuable of the old Mechanics Institute and Public Library books as a nucleus and with a small grant from the Provincial government to provide a few more up to date books, the Caledonia Public Library Association was born.

The first meeting was held in the Town Hall on November 6, 1935 with Mrs. E. Senn as chairman, the late Rev. J.M. Smith as Secretary Treasurer and Mrs. M. Neilson as Librarian.

In 1938 the library having outgrown the facilities of the Town Hall was enabled through the generosity of the Town Council to move to its present quarters on Caithness Street.

The library now boasts a collection of 2000 volumes and is financed by membership fees, municipal and provincial grants.

The members of the present executive rate as follows: Mrs. John Renwick, chairman; Miss Mary Thorburn, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Thos. Peart, librarian; Mr. M. Rice, Mrs. O.T. Scott, Mrs. Gordon Saunders, Mr. Alex Arrell, Mrs. E. Beckett, Mr. A. Blackwell and Mrs. M. Neilson.

**CALEDONIA COUNCIL
REEVES OF CALEDONIA 1853 – 1950**

Ranald McKinnon	1853	H. B. Sawle	1897-02
Alexander Scobit	1854	John Avery	1903-04
J. McDonald	1855	William Shaw	1905-07
John Alexander	1856	John Avery	1908-10
John Scott	1857-60	James McAlpine	1911
John McKinnon	1861	John Avery	1912-13
John Scott	1862	James McAlpine	1914
C. Young	1863	Robt. F. Aldridge	1915
William R. Smart	1864	James McAlpine	1916
John McKinnon	1865-66	H.B. Sawle	1917-19
William R. Smart	1867	Dr. R.N. Berry	1920-23
John McKinnon	1868	B.E. French	1924-27
John Scott	1869-72	Chas. N. Aldridge	1928-33
R.A. McKinnon	1873	A.G. Emerson	1934-38
John Scott	1874-77	R.N. Montgomery	1939-41
D. McQuarrie	1878-79	Keith Burke	1942 (4 mos.)
William T. Sawle	1880-81	C.N. Aldridge	1942
Thos. Nicholas	1882-83	Gordon Lyall	1943
Robert E. Walker	1884-92	Stanley F. Magnan	1944-46
Thos. Hassard	1893-96	G.A. Blackwell	1947-50

CALEDONIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief, J. H. Forster; Assistant Chief H. Gingrich, H. Draper; and 13 firemen.

Fire Chiefs 1919-1950: Bill Moyer, Tom Aldridge, John O'Rourke, Jack Forster.

The first fire truck was purchased in 1925 and kept in use until 1945 when the present truck was purchased. The fire department was re-organized in 1934 under Chief O'Rourke who was chief until 1949 when Jack Forster was appointed.

EQUIPMENT

1 – 1400 g p.m. pumper with 200 gal. tank carrying 1500 feet 2 1/2" hose, 100 feet 1" hose from booster pump, 42 feet of ladders, 200' rope. A two patient inhalator and 2 salvage covers purchased by the members of the present fire dept. Other equipment includes a row boat on a trailer with rescue equipment, hose reel with 600 feet 1" hose; old ladder wagon is being repaired for use in an emergency.

DO YOUR PART TO PREVENT FIRES

CALEDONIA SCHOOLS

By A.J. Fawcett

The Village of Caledonia is divided by nature into three parts, the main part on the North side of the Grand River, a suburb about a half mile East, and another on the South Side of the River. The Easter Part, once called Seneca, was the most populous school section of the village from 1840 to 1860. In 1848, each School section of the Village had a common school, but the schools on the South side of the River and at Seneca were destroyed by fire some time between 1850 and 1860. The Caledonia Public School, in what is now the main part of the Town, was built of wood

about 1840. Part of it was used at that time for a Grammar School. The School House was also used as a place for Worship until 1848, when the Town Churches were built.

When the other Schools were burnt, the pupils attended the Caledonia School, making it necessary to have some of the classes in another building.

To relieve the congestion caused by this, a new Brick School House was erected between 1852 and 1860. It had two rooms below and two in the upper storey, the rooms above being given to the Grammar School. This arrangement continued from 1872 until 1877, when a large wing of four rooms was added to the Grammar School leaving the whole of the original building for the Public School. Since that time there has been no change in the building.

From 1877 to 1924 high school classes were carried on in the west end of the public school in conjunction with the Grammar School. There were three and sometimes four classrooms and a science room. After many appeals from the Department of Education through the high school inspectors an actual beginning was made towards the building of the first high school in Caledonia in 1923. The site was chosen on the south side of the river after many others had been rejected in other parts of the village.

Work on the excavation began in October 1923 and the school was opened on September 6, 1924. The architect was J.E. Walker, the general contractor was Vellely and Sons and the contractor for the heating system was Thos. Foster Co., all of Toronto. The official opening was Nov. 12 1924 with the Minister of Education in attendance.

When the new school was opened there was an attendance of 176 students and a staff of four teachers. The staff consisted of Mr. T.J. Hicks, Principal, and Misses Edith Leckie, Julia Sexsmith, Eleanor Fox and Beatrice Brain the assistants. Mr. William Simpson was the janitor, and Mr. Wilson Avery the Chairman of the School Board. Mr. Moore, a landscape gardener from Toronto, laid out the plans for the shrubs and trees for the front campus while the Cannon Nurseries of Stoney Creek supplied the materials.

Plans were drawn up in 1935 for the addition of a shop room, a home economics room, 2 extra classes and a lunch room in the basement. A vocational board was formed in spite of the fact that large grants were offered by the Department of Education, opposition arose and the idea was dropped. Later two rooms at the public school were made into make-shift shop and home economics rooms for the high school.

From 1885 to the present time the names of the Principals of the high school appear in order: L.A. Kennedy, J.R. Street, S.C. Lockhead, A.R. McRitchie, E.T. Seaton, J.L. Mitchener, J.H. Cantelon, A. Campbell, T.J. Hicks, A.J. Fawcett.

The members of the present staff are J.E. VanLoon, Wm. Duxbury, C.D. Ward, G.A. Armstrong, Beatrice E. Campbell, Lily P. Hunter, Mary L. Johnson, Valda MacLeod.

The present enrolment at the High School is 230.

The County was divided into High School Districts effective January 1st, 1949, and Caledonia became part of the west Haldimand High School District; Morley Haller has been Caledonia's representative on the Board and is at present its chairman.

With the removal of the High School to its present location, the Public School began using the rooms vacated by the High School. Later two of the old Public School rooms were used for shop work and Home Economics. These rooms are used by the Public School as well as the High School.

Due to increased enrolment, a building was purchased from the airport at Dunnville and a classroom and auditorium were built as an annex; this was completed in the summer of 1949 and the extra classroom was used in the fall term.

The following are the names of the Principals of the Public School during the last eighty years: Clark Moses, R.C. Cheswright, Isaac Rowat, Ernest Rowlands, Robert Thompson, A.B. Shantz, John B. Widdis, W.J. Ferguson, A.C. Swayze.

The members of the present staff of the Public School are: Gordon Saunders, Miss Margaret Taylor, Miss Audrey Woodley, Miss Ruby Brown, Miss Mildred E. Speers, Miss Norma Smith.

The present enrolment at the Public School is 228.

The following are the members of the Public School Board:
H.S. Merrall, Chairman; G.B. Martindale, Vice-Chairman; A.M. Rice, Mrs. Herbert Bentley, E.O. Boose, Reg. M. Hudspeth, Mrs. G.W. Douglas, Secretary-treasurer.

HISTORY OF THE METHODIST CHURCH, CALEDONIA

By Lillian Whitehead

Of the four branches of early Methodism, two were active in Caledonia – the Wesleyan Methodists and the New Connexionists. From 1838 to 1844 Seneca was part of the Walpole Mission (Wesleyan) which extended to Port Maitland and Nanticoke and included Walpole, Oneida, Seneca and Glanford. By 1842 there was already a thriving Wesleyan congregation at Seneca Village, including, among others, James Little, the storekeeper, John Jackson, engineer for the Grand River Navigation Company, Samuel Gray, Wm. Youell, John, Henry, Michael and Susan Norris, James and John Greenley, Jacob and William Thompson, John Lawrence, John Bell, Daniel Clark, Thomas Musson and Hannah and Peter Young.

The Wesleyans built a frame chapel in Seneca on King William Street east of Mr. Martineau's present residence. The outside of the chapel was finished in 1844, but owing to lack of funds they were unable to build the inside gallery, the seats, altar and pulpit. Sylvester Hurlburt, stationed at York, was the minister.

In 1851 the ladies of the congregation held a large and very successful tea meeting to raise funds to complete the interior of the church the proceeds amounting to \$100. After all expenses had been paid. Speakers included Jacob Turner, contractor for the Grand River Navigation Company, who was running for Parliament, Rev. Messrs. Wm. Creighton and George Washington, Mr. H.J. Moore, R. Fisher, Sam Gray and Rev. Wm. Haw.

Rev. Thomas Demorest, stationed in York, followed Sylvester Hurlburt as minister in 1847, but in 1848 the Seneca church was so flourishing that Demorest's successor, Thomas Cosford was stationed at Seneca, as was John Baxter a year later. In 1850 the Walpole Circuit was divided in two, Nanticoke and Glanford, with Seneca part of the Glanford Circuit. Ministers included Geo. Young, Wm. Haw, Wm. Creighton, Isaac barber, Simon Huntingdon, Andrew A. Smith, Wm. Richardson, Thos. Williams, Jas. M. Clarke, James Hughes, George B. German, Isaac B. Tallman, Thos. Cobb, Jonathan E. Betts, Wm. H. Laird, Hugh McLean, Hall Christopherson, Thos. S. Keough, Geo. H. Cornish, Reuben E. Tupper, Thos. D. Pearson, Daniel Perrin, B.A., Richard Potter, John W. Savage, Thos. S. Howard, John W. German and others. The Parsonage was the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Ted Ratchford.

In 1874 the Wesleyan and New Connexionist Methodists in Canada united.

The New Connexionist was the other branch of Methodism active in Caledonia. In April 1845 Thos. Rump, a New Connexionist minister, reports preaching in Caledonia to about 200 people. In his letter he says that a tavern-keeper prepared a very large room and was very kind but he hopes the New Zion's chapel will be opened before the conference. Miss Mary O'Neil, who attended Sunday School in this chapel, reports that it stood on the South side of the McKenzie Road on the corner of the road running past the late John Beattie's old home. It was a brick building and a Mr. A. gave the ground for its erection and a burying ground in addition. Mr. Rump describes him as very liberal hearted and very anxious to see the church completed as he employed a man a month at his own expense to work at it. There was also a Parsonage.

In 1848 the New Connexionists maintained 20 Canadian mission stations, employing 41 missionaries who preached in about 350 places. Mt. Healey and Caledonia were in the Cayuga Circuit with Rev. F. Weaver, stationed in Cayuga as minister. He was followed by W. Peston. On the collection lists we find the names of Jacob Young, who led the singing, John Corner, Thos. Lawrence, Mrs. Wm. Wintemute, Geo. Walker, John Young, Isabella Nicholas, Mrs. C.F. Johnson and Mr. Avery.

After the union of New Connexionists and Wesleyans in 1874, it was decided to sell the New Connexionist chapel. A record of money received up to 1879 includes \$225 for old church, Caledonia, and \$90 for old church, Seneca. The united congregations now proceeded to build a new brick church on Caithness Street, which was formally opened on February 3rd, 1878. The Historical Atlas of Haldimand County, published in 1879, describes it as a handsome structure. The amount of money expended on the new church was as follows:-

Contract \$3,500.00-Leach and Forrester.

Architect	\$90.00
Furnace	\$143.00
Shed	\$225.00
Extras – Forrester	\$68.65
Extras – Leach	\$125.00
Furnishings	\$150.00
Land	\$500.00

Caledonia was still part of a Circuit, the minister preaching in Caledonia both morning and evening only once in four weeks. The membership was divided into classes under local leaders as follows:-

Seneca Class 1 -	David Lindsay
Seneca Class 2 -	John Alexander
Caledonia Class 3 -	Thos. Nicholas
Unity Class 4 -	John B. Hull
Unity Class 5 -	William Old
Fisher's Church 6 -	Wm. Thompson
Seneca West Class 7 -	John Thompson
York Class 8 -	Robert Davis
Zion Church Class 9 -	John Senn
Indiana Class 10 -	James Montgomery

The ministers were Wm. Willoughby in 1876, Wm. Morton 1877 to 1880, and Thos. Stobbs. The boy who pumped the organ was paid 10 cents a week.

For some years the house on Orkney Street now occupied by Miss Mary Thorburn, was used as a parsonage. On Dec 5, 1887, the Trustees of the various congregations in Seneca Circuit borrowed \$500.00 to build the present parsonage. The trustees were – David Lindsay, Wm. H. Hull, David Young, Francis Iles, Matthew Richardson, Wm. John Burch, Wm. Rolston, Francis William Old, James H. Burrows.

In 1883 the Primitive Methodists and the Methodist Episcopal Church joined the Wesleyans and New Connexionists to form the Methodist Church of Canada, which continued until 1925 when a union of the Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian Churches became the United Church of Canada.

HISTORY OF BAPTIST CHURCH

By Mabel Howard

The Niagara Association recognized the Baptists as an organized religious group in 1896.

For two years, the members met over Scott's Feed Store. Mrs. Thos. Spratt and Mrs. J. Howden (then Clara and Mary Harris) were the original organists. At this particular time there was a drive on for additional Baptist churches. Rev. J.M. Smith, then of Port Colborne, was anxious that Caledonia should have one of its own. It was he along with Mr. Harry Cowie and Deacon Carter who was mainly responsible for its founding.

The lot for the church was purchased from Dr. Burns. At that time it was just a huge hill. Near the present site of Pendrey's garage there was a twenty foot drop.

The actual building of the church entailed a great deal of work and it is interesting to note that a great deal of it was done gratis.

In 1898 the church was officially opened. It was called a Missionary Church, and as such has never failed to raise its allotment. Dr. John Macheil (then a student and later a professor at McMaster) was the speaker. It is interesting to note that he spoke not only to a crowded church, but also to a crowd of approximately 250 gathered at the windows and door.

The Parsonage lot was donated by Mr. Harry Cowie. It was built in 1906. Mr. Cross was the first minister to occupy it.

Each minister tried to improve the church. During Mr. Brace's ministry it was declared self-supporting and free from debt. It was, during this time, the parsonage was cleared too.

During Mr. Spidell's ministry the present pulpit, platform and choir seats were added. It was during his ministry too, that Onondaga Baptist joined.

So many members have given so much the develop the spirit and strength of the church that to mention anyone in particular would be unfair. Their reward lies in the fact that their children have continued in their footsteps.

ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

By Harrison Arrell K.C.

Rev. Bold Cudmore Hill, M.A., who was a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, came from Ireland as a Church of England Missionary to the County of Haldimand in 1838. He settled at York as it was the largest place in the County, at that time, and had a population of 300.

The first Church of England clergyman of who visited these parts was the Rev. John Stuart, a native of the State of Virginia who had been educated in England. His headquarters in 1790 were at Niagara but his mission extended to the Mohawk Indians on the Grand River.

The Rev. Robert Addison succeeded Mr. Stuart at Niagara in 1792 and his wide territory included the Grand River.

There were no churches. Services were conducted as the clergyman passed through; in the school house, if available. If not, in private homes which were in those days for the most part merely log houses.

Rev. Ralph Leeming was sent by the Society for propagation of the Gospel in Foreign parts to Upper Canada and he settled in Ancaster in 1816.

Rev. John Miller came to Ancaster in 1830. He was an Irishman, a graduate of Trinity College at Dublin and born in 1798. It is interesting to note here that Rev. Mr. Hill was born in 1798 and he was also a graduate of Trinity College at Dublin and it would seem fair to conclude that these two men attended Trinity College at the same time. One might conjecture that Mr. Miller had written to Mr. Hill and that Mr. Hill came here as a result.

Mr. Hill resided at York until the time of his death in 1870. He did all his travelling on horseback and died as a result of injuries received by a fall from his horse. He was a noted classical scholar and besides faithfully performing the arduous duties of his pastoral work over an unusually wide field, he prepared students for the Universities and professional life generally.

Rev. E. Horace Mussen succeeded Mr. Hill and remained here until 1874. He took up residence in Caledonia in the house now occupied by John Meier as this Village had then a population of about one thousand.

The following have been Rectors of the Church here since 1874:

Rev. H.F. Mellish, 1874-1902

Rev. Canon Wm. Bevan, 1899-1902

Rev. J.K. Godden M.A., 1902-1913

Rev. Capt. W.P. Lyons, 1913-1925

Rev. C.M. Dumas, Acting Rector during the absence of Capt. Lyons on Active Service 1916-1919

Rev. P.W. Richardson, 1925-1933

Rev. P.A. Sawyer, 1933-1944

Rev. W.R. Symons, M.A. is the present Rector.

Mr. Mellish and his family resided first opposite the Presbyterian Church and afterwards where Dr. Berry now resides until a Rectory was purchased on Orkney Street just West of the Canadian National Railway at present occupied by Mrs. George Miller and her daughter. This was only a cottage but when Canon Bevan came here in 1899 with his wife and six children a second storey was added. This property was sold in 1944 and the present rectory was purchased.

The original church was built in 1849 and was used until the present Church was built and completed when the old church was torn down and removed. The cemetery still remains where the old church was. In 1927 the present church was built during the time Rev. Mr. Richardson was rector at an approximate cost of \$22,000. The first service was held in the present church on December 8, 1927. It is interesting to note that some of the fifth generation of the original members are now worshipping in the present church.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF CALEDONIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

By Evelyn Gillespie

In the year 1846 the Rev. Andrew Ferrier, a minister of the Scottish church visited Caledonia and organized a congregation in a schoolhouse. Shortly afterwards he settled in the community in the home he called "Salem Cottage" after which the Women's Missionary Society Auxiliary is named.

About 1849 a church was built on the site of the present church, influenced by the controversy that raged in Scotland between Established and Free Churches, Dr. Ferrier and those who sympathised with his stand left the Argyle Street Kirk and built another church on Edinburgh Square. This became known as the Sutherland Street Church or the Old Kirk. In Dr. Ferrier's Kirk there was no organ or "Kist o' Whistles". The choir stood in the centre of the congregation and the precentor, William Brown, "raised the tune". Dr. Ferrier was a scholar of first rank and a leader in the educational activities of the community.

In this congregation Dr. Ferrier was succeeded by a relative, Rev. Thomas Wilson, a man of scholarly attainments and spiritual power.

Meanwhile the Argyle Street congregation had called for the Rev. James Black whose faithful and fruitful ministry lasted for thirty-three years. He was of the pioneering spirit and did a tremendous work both in the spiritual realm and in establishing the educational system of the county. "Black's" Church became an influence for right thinking and graceful living in the community. During his long and successful ministry in Caledonia he is reported to have received into membership nine hundred communicants and married over six hundred couples.

In the year 1887 the division was healed and the two churches happily became one congregation.

The corner stone of the present church on Argyle Street was laid on June 24, 1898, and the united congregation built a manse on the site of the Sutherland Street Kirk.

The following ministers have served the congregation since the ministry of the Rev. James Black:-

Rev. John G. Shearer D.D.	1888-1891
Rev. J.S. Conning D.D.	1891-1898
Rev. D.D. McDonald	1898-1902
Rev. William Wallis Ph.D.	1903-1910
Rev. Neil D. McKinnon	1910-1925
Rev. David Jack M.A.	1925-1936
Rev. M.E.R. Boudreau S.T.D.	1936-1938
Rev. A. Norman McMillan	1938-1950

On December 12th, 1878 the Women's Foreign Missionary Society was organized in Caledonia. This organization later became known as the Women's Missionary Society. Since the early days it has performed a valiant service. Their motto has ever inspired them to higher endeavor.

A great debt of gratitude is due the women of every generation for their kindly service to the church. This congregation has long been served by the Ladies' Aid, and also in recent years by the Brant Auxiliary and the Young Women's Club.

The young people's Christian Endeavor flourished during Dr. Shearer's and Dr. Conning's ministry. In the years that Dr. Wallis served the congregation a Young People's Guild was formed. In more recent years this has become the Presbyterian Young People's Society. In all these groups young people have been trained for leadership and many so trained have occupied positions of prominence in church and community life.

Mission Band was first organized in the Manse by Miss Ferrier. The girls chose the name of Salem Cottage Band and the boys were the Golden Rule Band. Later both were united under the name of Farther Lights Mission Band, the name of the original band being retained by the Auxiliary of the W.M.S. The Farther Lights Mission Band is still flourishing under faithful leaders who are endeavoring to inspire the children with missionary zeal.

During the years various other youth organizations have served the youth of the congregation.

The choir has added much to the service of worship. The church has always enjoyed the services of a faithful choir and excellent leaders. For many years there have been both Junior and Senior Choir.

Our memories of our days in Sunday School are pleasant. We shall cherish in our hearts the memory of those teachers and officers who lead us in pleasant pastures, beside the still waters, and pointed us to the Good Shepherd, the Lover of children.

In the present church there are two Rolls of Honour on which are inscribed the names of members and adherents of the church and Sunday School who served King and Country in the World Wars of 1914-18 and 1935-45. In October 1949 a new organ was dedicated to the memory of those who made the Supreme Sacrifice.

HISTORY OF ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, CALEDONIA

By Rev. J.B. Ryan

More than a century ago Catholic families began to settle in the Caledonia district. United by the bond of a common faith, they began at once to plan for the erection of a Church. The site was secured August 18th, 1849. Whoever chose it had great vision, for St. Patrick's Church stands to-day on a commanding site overlooking the Town. Ten years later construction of the Church began. During the interval Mass was said in the old theatre and for a time in a warehouse across the river.

Finally, after three months of construction, the present St. Patrick's Church was completed. On July 31st, 1859 Bishop Farrell blessed and dedicated the Church to the service of God. For transportation, even the Bishop rode horseback.

Rev. William Fitzgerald was the first resident Priest, and the first child baptized by him was one – Patrick Lynch.

Succeeding Pastors were:-

Rev. Wm. McNulty, Rev. J.P. Doherty, Rev. P.J. Maddigan, Rev. J.T. Kelly, Rev. E.M. Carre, Rev. Francis O'Reilly, Rev. L.M. Lynch, Rev. A.C. Walters, Rev. Wm. E. Gehl, Rev. G.J. Cleary, Rev. J.J. Traynor, Rev. B.A. Harris, and the present incumbent Rev. J.B. Ryan.

Catholic Old Boys of Haldimand, back for the Centennial Celebrations, will recall the days and deeds of their childhood. "Fond memories will bring to light the other days" – as they visit St. Patrick's Church and Cemetery.

HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICES

By Earl Gillespie

Caledonia and district has always been active in the Militia and services of its time. The first militia was organized by the Caledonia Rifles under command of Capt. R.L. Nelles and were gazetted on August 27th, 1862.

In the fall of 1865 and early 1866 great excitement prevailed, a Fenian raid was anticipated and all the boys were subject to military drill. Two hundred wooden guns (painted red) were made at Scott's Foundry and John Builders Furniture Factory. The boys were drilled by the schoolmaster, Mr. Chrystall and Capt. Wm. Jackson. When the raid actually came the Caledonia Rifles, along with the York Rifles, formed part of the defending force in the vicinity of Ridgeway. On Friday, June 1st., the raid on Canadian soil began and continued for forty-eight hours, by which time the Fenians had either been driven across the line or taken prisoners. The Caledonia Rifles were given honourable mention for their coolness in action by the correspondent of the day for the Toronto Globe in his dispatches.

The Caledonia Rifle Company and the York Rifle Company reached Caledonia on the return of June 21st, and received a great ovation from a great crowd of people from Caledonia and surrounding country, when they debarked from the train. The companies were drawn up, headed by their respective officers, just within the enclosed grounds of the English Church, adjoining the station, when the reeve of Caledonia, Mr. J.M. McKinnon, who was accompanied by the other members of the Council, read an address and a resolution of the Council.

The following were the men of the Caledonia Rifle Company as published in the Sagem: - Capt. Jackson, Lieut., Thorburn, Ensign Chrystall, Sergeants Roward, Thorburn, Campbell, Pay Sergeant Knipe, Corporals, Marr, Howard, Wilkinson, Bugler Aldridge, Privates Hicks, Galer, Latimore, Corner, J. Montgomery, Doyle, Ketts,

Seewright, Agnew, Robertson, Wren, T. Townsend, Forrester, G. Montgomery, Bailey, Anderson, Jeren, Sanders, E. White, McDonald, Jamieson, Young, Cooper, Bingham, Campbell, Walker, Totten, Leach, Potts, Aldridge, Hannah, Howard, Grinyer, Doherty, Messenger, Kelk, Jones, Roward, Green, O'Brien, and Ensign McKinnon (now at Military College).

The 37th Battalion, Haldimand Rifles, was gazetted Sept. 28th, 1866, with the Caledonia Rifles becoming No. 3 Company. A few months later, on Nov. 20th 1866, 2nd Caledonia Rifle Company was gazetted as No. 7 Company of the 37th Battalion under the command of Capt. R. A. MacKinnon.

The Battalion held regular summer camps each year and was mobilized again in 1870 for guard duty in the Fenian Raid scare of that year. No. 3 Company was on duty at Port Colborne and No. 7 Company at Dunnville.

In the year 1866 began the building of Glasgow Hall, as a drill shed. It was finished and opened Nov. 22nd, 1867 on Glasgow Square and remained there a few years when it was moved to Sutherland Street just east of Edinburgh Square. About 1876 the building was moved to the Fairgrounds and stood there until 1924 when it was torn down to make way for the Caledonia Arena.

The Battalion remained very active throughout the years and many local men passed through its ranks. The original eight companies were reallocated to districts over the years and by 1900 all Caledonia old boys belonged to the No. 3 Company. A number of Haldimand men were recruited for the South African War through the 37th Battalion. Among them was the Co. Wm. Henry Nelles of Caledonia who had served as a Lieutenant in the North-West Rebellion and went to South Africa with the Lord Strathcona Horse. He was decorated for outstanding bravery and later died from wounds on active service.

In the Great War of 1914-1918 the 37th Battalion recruited a great number of overseas service although it was not itself mobilized. From it was mobilized the 114th Battalion for overseas service.

After the war the 37th Battalion maintained its position in the Canadian Militia until the national re-organization in the nineteen thirties when it was amalgamated with the Dufferin Rifles of Brant County forming the Dufferin Haldimand Rifles.

In the Second Great War the Dufferin Haldimand were not mobilized until late in the war and most of its original members found their way into other units.

A great number of Caledonia boys in both wars saw a service with the Navy and the Air Force. Especially in the last war a great number of local boys served with the various units of the R.C.A.F. and the R.A.F.

Since the end of the war and the subsequent relocation of militia units Caledonia is not now represented in any of the present Canadian Militia Units. There are, however, a number of local men in "The City of Hamilton" Auxiliary Squadron, R.C.A.F. which is based at Mount Hope.

To the front and west of the Town Hall is erected this cenotaph in memory of those who laid down their life for King and Country.

HONOUR ROLL

1914-1918

Bunton, Henry
Baker, Franklin C.
Brettingham, Geo. A.
Bedwitch, John
Burrell, Edward
Chidley, P. Fred.
Clark, Chas. F.
Edwards, Geo.
Flowers, Norman
Ferguson, W.R.
Fortune, F.H.
Hanna, Jos. J.
Halfpenny, Wm.
Jones, Robt. N.

Love, Alfred
Lambourne, Frank
Laidlaw, James
Maniex, Daniel
McDowell, J.
Parkin, Chas. L.
Parrish, Geo. Lt.
Pettigrew, Merrit
Pettigrew, T.W.
Sawle, H.K.R.
Smith, W.J.
Simpson, W.A.
Thornton, Arch. C.
Young, James

1939-1945

Allan, Walter H.
 Arrell, Kenner S.
 Barnhardt, Frank
 Bates, Donald
 Douglas, Kenneth A.
 Duns, Joseph P.
 Gibson, J. Lewis
 Kelly, Ivan W.
 Lee, John R.
 McAlpine, James

Moffat, William K.
 Norton, J. Shield
 Parke, C. Arthur
 Rumbles, Charles
 Samuel, James
 Spencer, Douglas
 Stelman, Alexander
 Tate, John C.
 Thomson, George R.

THE LEGION

The Caledonia Branch of the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League No. 154 is proud to participate in the Centennial celebration of Caledonia. No other organization is so representative of the citizens of this community, as all racial groups, nationalities, religions, occupation and ages are represented by our members.

Our branch is not old compared to many local organizations but the Canadian legion was formed only in 1929. In that year, Field Marshall Earl Haig visited Canada in an attempt to form all Service organizations throughout the British Empire into one. Canada had the Great War Veterans Association which had been formed immediately after the war of 1914-18 and this became the nucleus of the Canadian legion with Sir Arthur Currie as first Dominion President.

The first local legion organization meeting was held in the Opera House on the 9th of August 1929 and the Charter for Branch No. 154 was granted on the 18th day of September, 1929, at which time the funds of the G.W.V.A. were turned over to the Canadian Legion. The first officers elected were: President, Major G.M. Thomson; 1st Vice-President, G.B.S. Jones; 2nd Vice-President, Frank Montour; Secretary, Dr. K.C.W. Dean; Treasurer, Morley E. Forster; Sgt.-at-Arms, Arnold Moses. Alf Smees, President of Hamilton East Branch conducted the initiation and addresses were given by M.C. Senn, M.P.; D.Z. Gibson; L. Carter of Hamilton Central Branch; H.M. Bell and Col. J.C. Massie of Dunnville Branch and Dr. R.N. Berry of Caledonia.

Other charter members were: W.H. Anderson, Wm. Leger, A.C. Fraser, Gordon Patterson, R.P. Rogers, Frank J. Robinson, Thos. P. Shea, T.W. Wallace, Wm. Winegard, A. Zuber; and others among those recorded as being present at the first meeting were: Robert Woodward, Wm. Morrison, Victor Bishop, Wm. Simpson, Joseph W. Vickers, Wm. White and ted Beckett.

The first memorial service was held on Sunday, September 8, 1929 and this has since become an annual event, until now with the co-operation of the Council and the Caledonia Concert Band this is one of the most impressive events held in the town during the year.

The meetings of the newly formed branch were held in the Town Hall until the old Legion Hall was acquired, which is now Keith Lamb's Feed Store, in February 1931, through the generosity of Wm. Winegard. In 1943, the J.H. Howden building was purchased from Harold Miller to accommodate the large number of members who joined following the last war.

PRESIDENTS

Major G.M. Thomson, 1919-32	B.B.S. Jones, 1938-1942
G.B.S. Jones, 1933	George Anderson, 1942-44
Wm. Winegard, 1934	J.W. Vickers, 1945-46
Wm. Anderson, 1935	Fred Brown, 1947-49
Geo. Cain, 1936-37	Earl Gillespie, 1949-50

The Legion strives to benefit its members and families by dispensing welfare, negotiating for pensions and hospitalization and providing social and recreational facilities for the community. We are anxious and willing to co-operate in anything for the betterment of the town and the welfare of our members while emphasizing the part the

citizens of this community have taken in the defence of our country, and the great losses that have been suffered by them and those left behind.

SCOUTING AND GUIDING IN CALEDONIA

“Who Hath smelt the wood-smoke at twilight?
Who hath heard the birch-log burning?
Who is quick to read the noises of the night?
Let him follow with the others
For the young men’s feet are turning
To the camps of proved desire and known delight.”

-Rudyard Kipling.

There are hundreds of old boys and girls of Caledonia who will recall the happy days they spend in the Guides and Scouts. They were joyous days and the memories of those far-away days are precious.

The 1st Caledonia Scout Troop was organized in the years following the World War of 1914-18. The Troop continues to attract boys who find the delight in the great outdoors.

Later the 1st Caledonia Wolf Cub Pack was organized to meet the demand of the eight-to-twelve year old boy. Rovers came into existence when it was realized that something must be done to hold the interest of the older boy.

In 1942 the 1st Caledonia Girl Guide Company was organized and two years later the 1st Caledonia Brownie Pack was formed.

Since the inception of the five branches of this world-wide movement many hundreds of boys and girls have passed through its ranks.

Many are the leaders who have given gladly of their time and abilities to this work, both as Scouters and Guiders and as Committee men and women. Old boys and girls will recall the names of Rev. H. Gibson, Ernie Cooper, Les Grinyer, Jack Avery, Horace Griffey, Tom Harding, Earl Main, Lloyd Parkin, Les Richardson, Jack Forster, Rev. W.R. Symons, Rev. A.N. McMillan, Keith Dean, Bill Winegard, Geordie Thomson, Harold Pattison, Arnold Thorne, Tom Pettigrew, John Mellish among the Scout and Cub leaders.

Among the Guide and Brownie leaders: Mrs. A.N. McMillan, Marion Vlachos, Mrs. John Mellish, Doris Pattison, Pat Fletcher, Mrs. Fred Welsby, Mrs. Butcher, Mrs. Wallace, Pat Parkin and Mrs. Hugh Arrell.

Outstanding among the Scout and Guide Committee men and women are: David L. Dick, Ted Ratchford, James Kerr, A.K. Humble, A.M. Rice, L.T. Watson, Dr. and Mrs. Dean, Mrs. Stewart Merrall, Mrs. W. Salkeld, Mrs. Arthur Thompson, Mrs. Gordon Saunders, A.G. Blackwell, Mrs. A.N. McMillan, Mrs. Harrison Arrell.

During World War II service decorations were won by the following Caledonia Scouts:

British Empire Medal – Telegraphist Theodore H. Vlachos.

Bronze Star Medal (U.S.) – Radioman James D. Kerr

Mentioned in Despatches – Lieut. Kenner Sawle Arrell.

Military Cross – Lieut. John William Ritchie.

The following members of the 1st Caledonia Troop made the Supreme Sacrifice in World War II:

Kenner Arrell, Joseph Duns, Shield Norton, Jas McAlpine, Charles Rumbles, George R. Thomson.

Do you remember the hikes to Mackenzie Creek?

Do you remember “Island Haven” and Kincardine?

Do you remember Evans’ Point?

“God gave us memory that we might have roses in December”

- A.N. McMillan

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE No. 62 A.F. & A.M.

Caledonia was incorporated in 1853 and on December 12, 1855 a number of Masons assembled and started St. Andrew's Lodge. On Wednesday, February 21, 1856 M. Wor. Bro. Wm. Mercer Wilson installed the Officers, W. Bro. J. Cornick being the first Master and Bro. A. Goldie the Secretary. A banquet was given at Corey's Hotel. The Lodge met in the Roper Block now the Oliver Block. The rental was about \$40 per annum. Next the Lodge met in the McDonald Block, then in the Marshall Block, then in the Roper Block and now in the Seldon Block.

The history of St. Andrew's Lodge has been a long and varied one yet the Officers have made it a real asset to the community. The oldest member is V.W. Bro. Harrison Arrell who was Master in 1901.

Grand Lodge has honoured the Lodge with various Officers as follows: Rt. Wor. Bro. Jas McGregor was D.D.G.M. and so was Rt. Wor. Bro. T.J. Hicks, D.D.G.M.; V. Wor. Bro. Jas. Old, V. Wor. Bro. Harrison Arrell, V. Wor. Bro. Robert Cranston, V. Wor. Bro. Harry K. Marshall.

The Lodge suffered a disastrous fire in June 1947, all of the furnishings as well as its charter being destroyed.

Lodge was held for several months at York. Then permission was granted to hold the Lodge in the I.O.O.F. Hall.

The new Lodge Room in the Seldon Block was dedicated on March 17, 1950.

The membership is 165. W. Bro. Ross Deagle is Master, V.W. Bro. Fred Brown is treasurer and T.J. Hicks, Secretary.

CALEDONIA CHAPTER 236 R. A. M.

Caledonia Chapter was instituted on April 11, 1922 with the following officers: Rt. Ex. Comp. Geo. H. Britton Z.; Rt. Ex. Comp. D.W. Evans J.; Rt. Ex. Comp. J.H. Bates H.

The following officers were appointed: Ex. Comp. Chas. Fortune Z.; Ex. Comp. J.G. Duns H.; Ex. Comp. D. Smith J.; Com. C.S. Springer, Treas.: Com. T.J. Hicks S.E.; Comp. J Douglas S.N.

On June 6th an Emergent Convocation was held and the following Grand Chapter Officers consecrated and dedicated the Chapter room which was in the Masonic lodge room in the Roper Block.

M. Ex. Comp. R.H. Spencer, Grand Z.; Rt. Ex. Comp. Henry T. Smith, Grand Scribe E.; Rt. Ex. Comp. W.G. Verity G.D.C.; Rt. Ex. Comp. W.H. Davis, Grand H.; Rt. Ex. Comp. Robt. Buchanan, Grand J.

A banquet followed in the Opera House.

Our first regalia was purchased from A. Kent & Sons, Toronto.

At the Grand Convocation in 1930, Rt. Ex. Comp. Chas. Fortune was elected as Grand Supt. Of Hamilton Dist. 5. At the next annual convocation V. Ex. Comp. Peter Anderson was appointed a Grand Chapter Officer. In 1940 Rt. Ex. Comp. T.J. Hicks was elected Grand Supt. Of Dist. 5 and V. Ex. Comp. Fred Brown was appointed a Grand Lodge Officer the next year.

Fire destroyed the Roper Block in June 1947 and the Chapter lost practically all its regalia and its Charter. Chapter was held in the Eastern Star Hall until moving in 1950 into the new Masonic Hall in the Seldon Block.

The officers at present are: Ex. Comp. Ed. Burke Z.; Ex. Comp. A.T. Lang, Scribe E.

CALEDONIA LODGE No. 253 I.O.O.F

The time and place of the birth of Odd Fellowship is unknown, some believe that it occurred in the palmy days of Egypt. Others that its birth occurred in the golden days of Greece.

The first Canadian lodge was instituted in Montreal in 1843, from there it spread westward and on June 8th, 1852 Victoria Lodge No. 27 was instituted in Caledonia. The first officers of this lodge were Neil McKinnon, Richard Walton, Wm. McCargow, Albert Henry Jarvis and John Stewart. The lodge however, went defunct in 1856.

Caledonia Lodge No. 253 was instituted on April 29, 1886 and since that time it has continued to thrive, and we hope and believe it will continue to thrive until time shall be no more.

On April 12th, 1932 fire destroyed the building in which our lodge rooms were situated and most of our valuable records were destroyed. Upon reconstruction of the building however, we returned to more modern lodge rooms which were dedicated to our use on August 29th, 1932.

Regular meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of every month. Visiting Odd Fellows will always find the open hand and heart of Friendship, Love and Truth awaiting them in Caledonia Lodge No. 253.

NO SURRENDER L.O.L 2140

The first official record of an Orange Lodge in Caledonia as we know it today was organized at a place called Oneida across the river from the Seneca Village, the Warrant being issued to Nath. Boggs in 1850.

Another one, No. 876 was organized in Seneca Village to the Rev. Painter in the year 1852.

A Warrant was also issued to W.M. Smith, January 13, 1852, for the purpose of organizing a Lodge in Caledonia.

On March 2, 1910, another Orange Lodge was started in Caledonia, the Warrant being issued to Mr. Albert Martineau, as Wor. Master.

The first 12th of July parade was held in Caledonia on July 12, 1879; the next parade on July 12, 1912; and the last one in 1936.

The Chapter Room at the time was in the old Opera House and all old records were lost in the records that destroyed it. The Orange Lodge moved in 1935 to its present location in the Eastern Star Hall.

The Master at the present time is Wor. Bro. Rober Holt, Jr.

GOLDEN STAR CHAPTER No. 209 O.E.S

Golden Star Chapter No. 209 was instituted on Feb. 18, 1931 by Mrs. Carruthers. Worthy Grand Matron and Dr. Cation, Worth Grand Patron of Ontario. Mrs. Grace Merritt D.D.G.M. and Binbrook Chapter No. 117 under the leadership of Mrs. Edna Fletcher W.M. and Mrs. Charles Bartlett W.P. helped with the organization.

The first Officers were installed as follows:

Worthy Matron – Mrs. Annie Gibson	Assoc. Patron – Roy Spratt
Assoc. Matron – Mrs. McBurney	Treas. – Mrs. Albert Jones
Sec. – Mrs. Mark Senn	Assoc. Conductress – Miss Jessie McGregor
Chaplain – Mrs. H. Arrell	Marshall – Mrs. F. Salmon
Organist – Mrs. N. Morrison	Adah – Mrs. Mehlenbacher
Ruth – Mrs. J. Smuck	Esther – Mrs. C. Ramsay
Martha – Mrs. Gordon Moore	Electa – Mrs. A.T. Lang
Warder – Mrs. T. Aldridge	Sentinel – James McGregor
Wor. Patron – Major G. Thomson	

In the Spring of 1932 our rooms were destroyed by fire but were re-built and Chapter met in their present rooms in September 1932.

PAST MATRONS AND PATRONS

Mesdames Gibson, McBurney, Spratt, (Miss) McGregor, Mehlenbacher, Forster, C. Lang, Williamson, Hawthorne, U. Thompson, Douglas, Smuck, D. Martindale, Viola Young, M. Moore, G. Brown, Reid, Velma Young, Emerson. Messrs. Thomson, Spratt, McGregor, T. Aldridge, W. Clark, M. Brown, Forster, P. Anderson, Mehlenbacher, R. Lang, Emerson, Preiss, Clarence Young, E. Reid, P. Young.

Mrs. Jennie Deagle W.M.

1950

Mr. Edgar Reid W.P.

WARDENS OF THE COUNTY OF HALDIMAND FROM CALEDONIA

John Scott 1862-71-72-75
Robert E. Walker 1887
Dr. R.N. Berry 1923

Thos. Hassard 1900
John Avery 1910

UNITED CEMENT, LIME & GYPSUM WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION LOCAL 276

Organization of Trade Unionism in Caledonia

The first union to be organized in Caledonia was started by a group of men at the local plant of Gypsum, Lime and Alabastine Canada Ltd. In 1935. The men on the night shift in the mill at that time, being dissatisfied with working conditions and long hours (thirteen hours per night) decided to investigate the possibilities of improvement in conditions by organizing themselves.

The men made contact with several prominent labour men in Hamilton and Toronto and eventually a meeting was convened in Caledonia and Local 260 Quarry Workers International Union was organized.

The first officers of this Local Union were:

Ainley Moffat, President
Roy Elliot, Vice-President
David Joseph, Recording Secretary
Percy Gowland, Secretary-Treasurer
Joseph Szabo, Conductor
Wm. Main, Door Man.

The first regular meeting was held on November 30, 1935. There were only a few men affiliated with the union for some time, most of them being afraid that management would discriminate against them because of their union membership. However, as time went on and the relationship between management and union improved they gradually overcame their fear until at the present time union membership at the plant is approximately one hundred percent.

The original Union however did not prove satisfactory, as quarry workers and miners have very little in common and our business is mining and processing gypsum. Therefore other organizations were investigated and finally in 1948 we transferred our affiliation to the United Cement, Lime & Gypsum Workers Union A.F. of L. Our present International Union is composed of over 300 local unions in the U.S.A. and Canada.

Through our annual negotiation of contracts with the management of the company, working conditions have improved immensely, to the benefit of the workers but also the company. The relationship between union and management at the present time is one of mutual understanding, each side endeavoring at all times to see the others point of view in an effort to settle our problems in an amicable manner.

The object of the Union is to give a fair day's work for which it expects a fair day's pay. If these two conditions continue to exist both parties should enjoy some of the comforts and necessities of life and at the same time profit by such.

The Company's financial statement for 1949 shows an all time high profit.

CALEDONIA SENIOR WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Caledonia Senior Women's Institute is no longer existent but it has an enviable record of worthwhile accomplishments throughout nearly forty years of activity.

The Women's Institute was organized in Caledonia in May 1906, four years after the first branch was started in Haldimand County. At that time the membership recorded was forty-nine and included many from the surrounding country.

Mrs. M. Richardson and Miss F. Hudspeth were the first officers and their work was continued by the following presidents and secretaries: Mrs. H.B. Sawle, Mrs. Bessie Scott, Mrs. J.W. Richardson, Miss Mable Parke, Mrs. (Dr.) Wallis, Miss Gladys Hudspeth, Mrs. D. Lindsay, Miss Laura Weylie, Mrs. S. Avery, Miss A. McAdam, Mrs. J.W. Old, Miss Grace Richardson, Mrs. M.J. Burns, Mrs. I. Weylie, Miss A. Hull, Mrs. D. Young, Miss Thompson, Mrs. R.N. Berry, Mrs. D.Z. Gibson, Mrs. S. A. Moore, Mrs. C. Christensen, Mrs. H.J. Clark, Mrs. E. Senn, Mrs. Jas. Deagle, Miss Jennie Blair, Mrs. H.K. Marshall, Mrs. Harrison Arrell, Mrs. Mac Neilson, Mrs. C.M. Jackson, Mrs. M. Forster, Mrs. R. Histed, Mrs. E. Dietz, Mrs. H. Hanson.

During both World Wars the Women's Institutes were very active and Caledonia Branch was no exception. In co-operation with the Red Cross Society hundreds of knitted articles were made as well as quilts and clothing. Large sums of money were raised by various means to send food parcels, smokes and comforts to those in uniform. A substantial contribution was made towards the Caledonia Cenotaph.

Many improvements in our village were accomplished through efforts of the Women's Institute members. In 1930 signs were erected at each highway entrance to Caledonia. A few years later the renovation and re-decoration of the upper story of the Town Hall was undertaken and was furnished and made into a modern assembly hall where all meetings of the late years were held. In this building the Caledonia Public Library was re-established too. In 1939 name signs were procured for Caledonia Streets. The Women's Institute was instrumental in starting medical inspection in the public schools and in restoring the cemetery.

In May 1943 the Senior Women's Institute disbanded and we are pleased that this good work is being carried on by the branch that was formerly the Junior Women's Institute (now called the Caledonia W.I.)

CALEDONIA JUNIOR W.I.

The present Caledonia W.I. was organized as Caledonia Junior W.I. at the close of a Three Month's Short Course in Home Economics in February 1926 with the following officers: President, Annie McConachie; 1st Vice President, Wilhemina Whicher; 2nd Vice-President, Myrtle Corner; Secretary-treasurer, Bessie Keefer; Directors, Edith Howden, Betty Elder, Laurena Moore, Kathleen Miller, Edna Beckerson.

There was an active participation in Household Science judging Competitions. In 1926 Frances Fearman and Betty Elder brought the cup from the C.N.E. to Haldimand County. Other members winning trips to the C.N.E. and the Royal Winter Fair were Annie McClung and Selene McCauley 1930; Christina Marshall, Vera Bothwright, Jessie Shannon 1931; Joan Richardson and Olive Stark 1932; Marjorie Lang, Isobella Lang, Evelyn Johnson 1935. In 1929 Bessie Keefer and Annie McClung were first and second in Haldimand County Garden and Canning Club – the prize a two weeks' course at O.A.C. Mrs. Lewis Keefer won first prize in a public speaking contest at the District Annual in Canfield and Caledonia Juniors won the Choral contest at the same meeting.

Several Homemaking Clubs were organized over a period of years, and a second Three Months' Short Course was held in 1934-35.

During the war, members took an active part in the Red Cross workrooms, sponsored the registration of blood donors, assisted at the clinics, taking responsibility for linen and condition of the hall, and made donations to various worthy causes.

In July 1946, this organization became the Caledonia Women's Institute.

Prizes are presented to pupils in Home Economics in Caledonia Schools, contributions are made to various local and national appeals, chaperons are provided for teenage dances and assistance is given at the annual Community Halloween Party.

Programmes of educational and timely interest contribute to the continued success of a thriving organization.

OFFICERS – 1926 – 1950

Year	President	Secretary
1926-1928	Annie McConachie	Bessie Keefer
1928-1929	Wilhemina Whicher	Kathleen Moore
1929-1930	Annie McClung	Mrs. Fred Wilson

1930-1931	Annie McClung	Mrs. Lewis Keefer
1931-1933	Gladys Hagan	Mrs. Lewis Keefer
1933-1934	Vera Bothwright	Mrs. Lewis Keefer
1934-1936	Mrs. Lewis Keefer	Marjorie Lang
1936-1937	Christine Marshall	Marjorie Lang
1937-1938	Christine Marshall	Irene Brewer
1938-1939	Mrs. Alex Mellon	Doris Smuck
1939-1940	Mrs. Alex Mellon	Isobella Lang
1940-1942	Marjorie Lang	Mrs. William Williamson
1942-1943	Mrs. J.C. Yule	Mrs. T. Erskine
1943-1944	Mrs. William Williamson	Mrs. Earl Gillespie
1944-1945	Mrs. W.L. Smith	Mrs. Chas. Richardson
1945-1948	Mrs. C.F. Ratchford	Mrs. Ross Deagle
1948-1950	Mrs. Alex Arrell	Mrs. Gordon Douglas
1950	Mrs. Murray Clark	Mrs. Morley Haller

A HISTORY OF THE CALEDONIA FAIR

By Reginald M. Hudspeth

The result of a meeting held on January 16th, 1873 was the forming of the Caledonia Agricultural and Arts Society for the purpose of holding fairs with Captain Hugh Stewart as President. The first Fair was held on October 15th of that year on the town square. Six Fairs were held there before the Society in 1878 purchased the present Fairgrounds from the dominion government for \$250.00. At once the Militia Drill Hall was moved from the Square to the new grounds which was fenced and cleaned up and became the site of Caledonia's first two day fair. In addition to holding fall fairs a spring show and grain exchange was held each year from 1882 till 1908. As this fair grew in popularity many improvements were undertaken, a race track was formed and fenced and a judges' stand built, wells were dug and pumps installed and shade trees and willows on the riverbank were planted. In 1893 the grandstand was moved to Caledonia and erected as it is today for \$150. Special trains were run from all directions and as many as 20,000 people paid admission to the Caledonia Fair. Already these grounds had become too small and additional lots were purchased on the west end of the grounds. Stock sheds and horse stalls were built and in 1909 a two way tunnel was constructed under the race track. New offices were built and turnstiles were installed to accommodate the crowds. In 1923 the Drill Hall was deeded to the Caledonia Arena Co. who replaced it with a modern ice arena which provides a spacious exhibition hall for the Fair. Each year this Fair has grown, prize money has increased from a few hundred to over seven thousand dollars which has attracted many new exhibitors. In 1949 the Caledonia Fair was recognized by the Dominion Government and was elevated to a Class B Fair which allows them to enjoy annual grants from that source. It is now the only Fair in Haldimand County; it is truly an agricultural fair and the show window of the fine community which it serves.

A cordial welcome awaits you at Haldimand's Centennial Fair at Caledonia on September 28, 29 and 30.

THE CALEDONIA MEN'S CLUB

By Douglas Scott

The Caledonia Men's Club was organized in 1935, following disbanding of the local Lion's Club which had been active for some years previous. Keenly aware of the opportunities awaiting a service club with primarily local interests, a group of enterprising men of the town launched this new organization. Known first and simply as the Caledonia Club, it continued to grow and flourish, and during these fifteen years has constantly widened its sphere of influence and activity.

Visitors have remarked on the cosmopolitan character of the Club – uniting men of all walks of life in the bonds of purposeful good fellowship. The roster of past officers and directors reflects how the interest has been shared over the years by almost all the business and professional men of the town, and many farmers of the district have happily found their places as members and executive members of the Club.

Not many years had passed before the Club found itself part of a community at war. The Red Cross appealed, and organization of Blood Donor Service was sponsored; eventually the Local Blood Donors' Clinic expenses were underwritten. In 1942 the Club undertook local sale of the Second Victory Loan, with members serving voluntarily and turning in their commissions. In succeeding years, five more bond issues were sold on the same basis, establishing firm financial resources from which many charities benefited during the long emergency. The climax of the Club's war-time activities came in January 1946 when all returned servicemen and women of the vicinity were entertained at a banquet in recognition of their glorious achievement.

With the coming of peace the Men's Club was able to give greater attention to the needs of our own community – assisting many different families crippled by sickness or misfortune, and aiding where possible in every worthwhile community enterprise. Nor have these philanthropies been restricted to Caledonia alone; the Club has given increasing response to appeals of provincial and dominion-wide status, contributing to these charities and working for their recognition by our own townspeople.

Meetings of the Club were held originally in one or other of the local hotels; for the past eight years they have rotated among the Anglican Parish hall, Presbyterian Sunday School Room, and the Easter Star Hall where the various ladies' groups have given splendid satisfaction at these monthly evening dinner-meetings. Many fine speakers have been heard, including not a few national known names as well as some of our own members who are none the less appreciated. In May 1947 the Club adopted a new Constitution whose high ideals should continue to inspire community action assuring a lasting place for The Caledonia Men's Club.

CALEDONIA HUNTERS AND ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

By Gordon Saunders

On Tuesday night, February 1, 1945, a meeting was held in the Caledonia legion club room for the purpose of organizing a sportsman's club for Caledonia and district. The Caledonia branch of the Haldimand County Hunters and Anglers Association was formed that night. In April 1950 the name was changed to the Caledonia Hunters and Anglers Association.

The purpose of the club is to conserve where possible, and restore where necessary, the natural conditions that provide a home for game animals, fish and birds. Because trees either form influence the living conditions of practically all wildlife, the planting of trees has been one of the main activities of the club. Tens of thousands of trees have been planted in areas that are wasteland without trees, but with trees become homes for rabbits and pheasants. The planting of trees helps prevent erosion, and tends to lessen the spring floods that do so much property damage. In 1947 the conservation work done by the local club won for them the Mary Pickford trophy which is presented each year to the club or individual who has done the most during the year to help the conservation of natural resources. The trophy is presented each year by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, with whom the local club is affiliated.

Club meetings have been held regularly since February 1945, the first three meetings being held in the Legion club rooms. From April 1945 until January 1948 all meetings were held in the Caledonia Town Hall. The January meeting of 1948 and all subsequent meetings have been held in the club house on the club property.

The club house was built during the summer of 1947 on a three and a half acre property purchased from Mr. Stewart McBlain in May of 1947. This property is about five miles west of Caledonia on the river road. The club house is built of concrete blocks, panelled on the inside with natural finish fur plywood. It is comfortably equipped having hydro, cooking facilities, comfortable chairs and a radio. The grounds have been planted with many kinds of trees.

Special activities of the club include an annual dance and draw, the money from which is used to carry on the conservation work. Fireworks displays for the people of the district are put on every year on May 24th. A fishing trip is held every year. Every summer a picnic is held for the children of members and friends. The riflemen are members of the Niagara District Sporting Rifle League and take part in regular scheduled matches.

Mr. Howard Gingrich was the first president of the club and has been active in club work during its five years of existence. He was succeeded in 1946 by Dr. Harry Whitehead who carried on the reins during the formative

years. Dr. Whitehead was succeeded in 1949 by Mr. Eino Mackie who had been a charter member of the club and an active worker. In 1950 Mr. Fred Forbes took over as president. Mr. Forbes is a farmer and is actively interested in all phases of conservation. The first secretary was Mr. reef Wilson, who was succeeded in turn by Mr. Gordon Douglas and Mr. Willard Burton.

THE CALEDONIA CONCERT BAND

Records show that Caledonia has had a Band Intermittently since the 1860's. In 1892 Phillip Young was leader, in 1900 Thomas Emerson and in 1926 Cecil Shaw.

The Band, prior to the present one, disbanded in the early 30's and the present Band held its first practice in January 1947 with Dr. R.S. James as leader. He was succeeded in January 1948 by Mr. Eric Small, a very talented local musician, as leader.

Under the energetic leadership of C.A. Martindale, business manager, ably assisted by an excellent committee and liberal public support, the Caledonia Concert Band has made rapid strides. In 1947 new uniforms were purchased, in 1948 a bandstand was built and in 1949 a modern bandshell, costing some \$5300 was completed.

In January 1950, Reverend J.A. McKim commenced instruction in band instruments to the juniors of our community and has met with excellent results.

The local Band is filling a very necessary and important place in the life of the community. The present members are: Eric Small, leader, Everett Small, Claude Small, Donald Gibson, Bruce Baker, Jim Philip Sr., Jim Philip, Jr., Lawrence Whitelaw, Dr. R.S. James, Dr. D. Parkes, Harold Cruickshank, secretary-treasurer, Lloyd Parkin, George Wooster, Douglas Renshaw, Monroe young, Rev. J.A. McKim, Len Dutton, Robert Ridge, Joe Kendi, William Scott (Bus. Mgr.) Robert Lang, Jack Lang, John Bain, William Fearman, John Parkin, Don Morrison, Donald Emerson, Tom Spratt, Ed. Stubbs, Jr., George Cruickshank, and Helen Cruickshank. Executive members – Reeve G.A. Blackwell, Gordon Saunders, L.T. Watson, and C.A. Martindale. Drum Majorettes – Helen Mackie, Bev Morrison and Virginia Moore.

The great majority of above players had never played an instrument of any kind until they came into the band. It is interesting too to record that fifty percent came from the surrounding rural area and that more than sixty-five percent of the members are less than twenty-five years of age. There are several father and son, and brother combinations which would indicate that Caledonia should have a good band for many years to come.

We are looking forward to entertaining many of our out of town friends, who assisted in making this band possible, during Centennial Week.

“Wherever there is good music there is harmony, wherever there is harmony, there are good citizens and therefore we must provide all the good music that is possible.” – J. Hampton Moore (Mayor of Philadelphia).

CALEDONIA IN BASEBALL IN THE LAST THIRD OF THE CENTURY

By Robert Gordon

The name of Caledonia has been symbolic of baseball during the last third of a century in Haldimand County.

With the advent of organized baseball in 1918 Caledonia first came to the fore when they were defeated for the provincial crown by Picton in 1921 on a snow covered field in Peterborough. During the next ten years they won county honours so often they retained possession of the Haldimand Cup permanently. From 1930 – 1933 they played a ball in the Hamilton and District loop and always more than held their own. This team disbanded and a Junior team was formed which was the nucleus of the outstanding ball club of 1935-1938. This team reached the finals both in 1937 and 1938 forcing a third game in each series. Caledonia was without Intermediate ball in 1939 but rebuilding was begun in 1940 and reached a peak in 1942 when the Caledonia Club was defeated in the Ontario finals by Essex. From then on till the end of the war organized ball was at a standstill but with the return of the boys the old spirit was revived and Caledonia began the long march towards the Ontario Crown which was finally

accomplished by that splendid bunch of ball players in 1948. In the third game in Clinton we were behind, the umpiring so bad that Neil Potruff was forced to retire. Flt.-Sgt. Gibb of the R.C.A.F. relieved him on the mound and with the first ball asked for time, walked in to the umpire and said, "what's wrong with that pitch"; Umpire, "too wide"; Andy, "I thought it was too high" and from then on we had the breaks and won the game in the 8th and 9th innings. Boy what a reception when we returned to town. I don't think any of us will ever forget the looks of joy on all the fans' faces around the bonfire on the main corner.

MINOR BASEBALL

By Earl Winger

Minor baseball was organized in the Spring of 1947 with the following executive: Roy Spratt, Ed Dietz, Earl Winger, Eino Mackie and Tom Morrison. The 1950 executive consists of the same men along with John Morrison, Howard Gingrich and Ron Moffat. Ron has been active as coach since the beginning.

In 1947 a 3 team town league was formed and after a very successful season a picked team with great promise represented Haldimand in the O.B.A. Play-offs. They were eliminated by Tillsonburg.

In 1948, due chiefly to the efforts of Mrs. Mackie and Mrs. T. Morrison uniforms were made for the lads. In this year a town league operated and a team was picked to compete in the Haldimand League against Hagersville, Dunnville and Cayuga. The locals won the group and defeated Simcoe in the first round of the playoffs. They were eliminated by Thorold in the second round.

In 1949 a bantam team was organized as well as a juvenile team. This team was equipped by the Juvenile Club and uniforms were provided by the Hunters and Anglers. This year the Juveniles were eliminated by Cayuga and the Bantams, group winners, by Hagersville.

This year, 1950, further expansion is taking place and there will be Midget, Bantam and Juvenile teams. Entries have been made in the newly formed Norfolk-Haldimand league and minor baseball in Caledonia is truly on the march.

THE BAIN FAMILY – HILL HOUSE FARM Hill House – Fifth Generation

One of our oldest Pioneer Families is the Bain family and the Farm that has been theirs down the years has a very interesting story.

It consists of the south half of Lots 19 to 23 River Range in Seneca Township, two miles east of Caledonia on Highway 54. The House and Buildings are situated on a hill about sixty feet above the river level and affords a splendid view of the river.

The first white man to live on the farm was Colonel John Norton. The land was granted him by the Indians among whom he worked as a Missionary. He married an Indian girl, Katy Mous, in 1813. This marriage was recorded by Rev. Addison of Niagara Falls. After a duel in July 1823 Col. Norton left the farm in charge of Robert Thomson.

In 1835 Charles A.D. Bain, who had come from Scotland in 1831 with his wife Elizabeth Robertson and was keeping store at York, purchased the improvements at Hill House from Robert Thomson and in 1838 bought the land from the Government. The surrender, which the Bains still have, is signed by forty Indian Chieftains, and the money went into a fund on which the Indians draw interest. In 1840 he built the present Hill House. The old Norton house burned down in 1845. Chas. Bain was appointed Superintendent of Indian Affairs and acted until his death in 1858. He was also Government appointee on the Board of Directors of the Grand River Navigation Co. for 18 years. In 1837 he was a Major in the MacKenzie rebellion and in 1851 was made Lt. Colonel. He was a Presbyterian and a member of the Sons of St. Andrews.

The first school in the community was built on this farm in 1852 and was taken down in 1894. Miss Mary Bain, daughter of Charles Bain, was one of the teachers. The Clergy Fund made a grant of \$40 per year to this school.

In 1872 the Farm passed to James Bain and his wife, Helen Scott Bertram. James Bain, known to so many of the Community as “Uncle Jim” specialized in pure bred sheep. Born in 1838 he died in 1929.

The third generation to own the farm was Arthur Bain and his wife Nettie Holden Young. Arthur born in 1883 and his wife in 1886 are still in good health. Arthur followed his father in the sheep breeding. A son Neil McKinnon Bain, was lost in action at Caen July 25th, 1944.

The Farm is now in the hands of the fourth generation, Angus Borden Bain and his wife Dorothy I. Harvey. Angus served three years in World War II in Italy, was twice wounded, received the King’s Citation and C.G. Medal. Born in 1922 he married in 1948 and specializes in pure bred Holstein Cattle and sheep. Their children are now the fifth generation on Hill House Farm.

And so Old Farm be just as kind, we humbly pray,
To those who come, as to the loved ones gone away.

CONCLUSION

The first 50 years of the 20th century has been on the whole very good to our Village and now at the half-way mark we can look forward to the balance of the century with a good deal of confidence. If Canada is to develop the City of Hamilton as the centre of its steel industry is bound to prosper; and in view of the building which has already taken place along number six highway it would not seem unduly optimistic to believe that some of that prosperity will spill over into Caledonia. As a matter of fact, we probably have a good deal to fear that in 50 years we will be absorbed by Hamilton much as Toronto today absorbing towns and villages that half a century ago had a vigorous and independent life of their own.

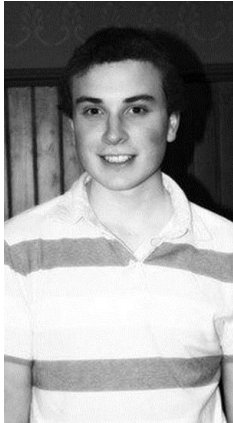
But as we look back over the past and consider the future we think of something more than mere material prosperity. We think of all the fine men and women who have served our village; we think of the ministers who have laboured in our village seeking to preserve its spiritual values; we think of those who have served as reeve and councillor and members of our school board; we think of all our faithful village officials; we think of all those who have worked in our churches and in our societies.

We think of Dr. R.N. Berry who is the only Member of Parliament Caledonia ever had who served us well for a good many years. We think of the late B.E. French who during many years was either councillor, reeve or member of the school board and who vigorously supported all worthwhile projects for the village, and whom we mention in particular because it was he who first wrote up the history of our village and it was from this that we have borrowed most freely in this publication.

And as the Caledonia Old Boys and Girls return to help celebrate Haldimand County's Centennial our mind turns to our last re-union and we think of two of our public spirited citizens, Dr. H. May and J.H. Howden, who took such a prominent part in it who will not be with us this time.

And as we think of all these we have a haunting fear that we are not the men our fathers and grandfathers were, and we wonder if our sons and grandsons will come up to even our standards. We call down the century: "Caledonia 2000 A.D. with your atomic energy plant and all your material prosperity have you as fine men and women as you had in the year 1900?"

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Ian D. Thompson
U.E.

Written in 1950 to commemorate Haldimand County's Centennial anniversary, this novel has proved to be an invaluable asset to those researching Caledonia's history. It includes detailed historical accounts of Caledonia in its infant years. From stories of the natives who passed through these parts, to those of the original European settlers, *A Short History of Caledonia Volume I*, is chock full of interesting and worthwhile information.

Part of the popularity of this novel stemmed from the way that it was put together. There is no one author; rather, the entire community came together to piece together their history. General history by decade is followed by histories of businesses and businessmen and women, written by the business owners themselves. Following this are histories of government, churches, schools, community service clubs, public works, and more.

Presented here in its entirety, this book, even after the passing of over half a century, is still as relevant as when it was originally published by *The Grand River Sachem* in 1950.

This publication is part of *The Caledonia Archives*.
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