

OLDCASTLE

OLDCASTLE, a bustling stage coach stop, situated eight miles East of the city of Windsor on what was called the Cameron Road, back in the last half of the eighteenth century. This road led from Ouellette's Corners through to the town of Essex and later was named Talbot Road after Col. Talbot. Today it is known as No. 3 Highway, being named this after its paving in 1921. Oldcastle is four miles west of the village of Maidstone. In this era of early pioneering, the road was corduroy, with planks laid side by side. When the stage coaches became mired in low or swampy areas, the passengers would have to get out and even help to push so that they could continue on their way.

A post-office was established in 1862 at Oldcastle, with Michael McCarthy as its first postmaster. He suffered a stroke of paralysis, in 1912, and died at the age of eighty years, while still postmaster. This post-office was in a building on the property of Robert Sylvester, the present owner, directly across from the present Sandwich South Township Hall. This building was comprised of a hotel where the stage coach stopped and the writer understands changed horses here. Later the post-office was moved to the home of George Walsh, on the seventh concession, and Mr. Walsh was postmaster. It later was moved to the residence of Frank Lonsbrough at Paquette, then to the gas-station ~~and~~ and grocery store of John Prieur; and on March 1st, 1947, it was re turned to Oldcastle and established in Oldcastle China Store and Grocery with A. D. Kavanaugh, proprietor, as postmaster.

There was a toll gate at Oldcastle where A.D. Kavanaugh's store is located today. These toll gates along the Talbot Road, one at Essex, one at Maidstone and one at Oldcastle became a nuisance and aggravated the travellers and settlers alike; during the night a group of farmers gathered and burned the toll gates down around the year 1900. The toll gate at Oldcastle was kept by two sisters, Miss Hanna and a Mrs Pierce. The driver of the first stage coach through Oldcastle was Sol Wigle, father of Postmaster Wigle of Windsor.

The railroad which plies its way busily through Oldcastle was first laid in 1888 by the Hiram Walker family of Walkerville, out to their summer home in Kingsville, later laid to St. Thomas and owned and known as The Pere Marquette Railroad. It is now part of The Chesapeake and Ohio Railway System. On the old Frith homestead property located on North Talbot Road, there is a huge gravel pit which was dug out to build this railway and when it was finished they used to use the railway to haul ice

into the town of Walkerville for the residents. It was frozen in the winter time and taken in and stored for summer use. Many of the local yongbloods were hired to cut the ice, among them being Chas. and Percy Frith, brothers, who farm these acres today surrounding the pit, which is still on the farm and is mostly used by the neighboring children as their swimming hole in summer and to skate on in the winter. Ducks have been known to stop here on their way to Jack Miner's Sanctuary at Kingsville.

In the early 1920's following the first World War, when the automobile became a booming business and most every farmer owned his Model-T or longed to own one, many of the local residents thronged to the automobile industries in the City of Windsor and even to Detroit. Oldcastle lacking a direct route to the industrial side of Windsor, better known as Ford City, ^{later} then East Windsor, was given a new road through from the southern end of the old Walker Road which ended at the Third Concession of nSand. East, to what is now No. 2 Highway, then, through the Ferrari Farm to the Seventh Concenssion, Sandwich South, sotherly along the Seventh, past the Pelton Sytation, on over the Michigan Central Railway for over a mile the new road continued and at the corner of the North Talbot Road cut through the farms of Michael Robinson, Dale Atkinson, Geo. Walsh and Burton Collins to the junction of what is now Walker Road and No. 3 Highway, with a stretch continuing on another mile to the South Talbot Road and joining up with the road to Harrow and Colchester. This made a direct route from the east side of Windsor which was having growing pains at this time to the vacation spots on Lake Erie.

In 1927, the writer's home was built in October, the first home to be erected on this new section, part way between the North Talbot Road and No. 3. Highway, right in the middle of what had been a bush. In 1929, this new stretch of road was paved and the traffic increased steadily until today a steady stream of cars ply their way back and forth, some connecting with the three busy highways which cross its path i.e. No. 2 and No. 98 and No. 3 at Oldcastle, more going to and from Industry in the city each day and is a direct route for the milk caravans hauling loads of fresh milk to the city daily from a large section of the county farms. A steady stream of produce is transported each day to the city from the fruit and vegetable belts of Leamington and Kingsville and points enroute, also the fishing trucks ply their way into the city via this route. During World War 11 when so many of the county farmers went into industry and they had gasoline restrictions, a transportation system was started by the Greyhound Bus Lines from Leamington, Kingsville and Harrow to the plants who were mostly putting out munitions at that time. The buses were routed through Walker Road and are still operating, although after the war a great many took to their own private cars again. Sunday traffic, also holiday traffic is very heavy on this road, together with its daily quota makes it one of the most travelled stretches in Essex County.

With the opening of Walker Road through to Oldcastle, things began to hum in this locality. Several industries were started, with only a standstill during the depression years and again during World War 11. Directly following these and especially after the war many new homes began to spring up and our population has risen from

around 60 to 180 persons in the short span of ten years. This is within a one mile radius.

In comparison the population in 1890 was about 20.

The industries were: S. Duke - wagon maker
Michael McCarthy - Postmaster and hotel
A. Napier - blacksmith
J. Williams - hotel

In 1900, the population was about 45.

The industries: Meredith, Conn - grain
McCarthy Michael - postmaster.

In 1909 a rural post office.

The industries: Fenton, Frank - builder
Walsh, George - Postmaster

1953 Industries, when and by whom they were first established:

OLDCASTLE CHINA SHOP

Kavanaugh Albert D. - Oldcastle China and Grocery Store started a store in 1925, present location which burned - was re-built in 1932 and given its present name. Mr. & Mrs. Kavanaugh operate a lunch counter and built the first tourist cabins in Sandwich South around 1932 and have operated them ever since. They have and operate a gas station in connection with their other business. The Oldcastle Postoffice is operated by them and is housed in their place of business and serves as well as the village, on erural route. It coming here from Paquette, March 1st, 1947. Many of our young folk find summer employment here, this year of 1953, found Mrs. Melvin (Peggy) White, who lives here, employed at Kavanaugh's.

Oldcastle Farmers Co-Operative - A thriving business. Walter Jessop - manager; established May 11th, 1920. Has over 250 members and does a \$700,000.00 business yearly. Has elevator for grain, feed mill, coal yard, general store, seeds and seed potatoes, chicken feed, gravel, cement, sand, fence posts, etc. During the summer our High School lads seek employment with this local firm, many starting out in life for the first time. This year's newcomer to the Farmer's is Frankie Mills. In the employ also are the manager's two sons, Carson and Manson Jessop, who have practically grown up with the business, being there since the end of their school days.

Fawcett Builder's: Robert D. Fawcett, formerly employed with Chrysler Motor Compnay, established his business during the post war period of 1946.

In the busy days of the building boom in Windsor during the 1920's he was a building contractor and built many homes and apartment buildings there. He employs several men permanently and in 1952 took his son Kenneth into the business with him. Kenneth being a valuable partner in the business end, graduating from Assumption College in 1952 in Business Administration.

OLDCASTLE GARAGE - B.A. Dealer - presently owned and operated by Ralph McCord and his son Robert. Mechanical repair work to cars being their specialty. This garage business was built in the early 1920's by Levack Brothers, who sold to Art Croft who operated it for seven years and Ralph McCord purchased it in 1947.

OLDCASTLE COLD STORAGE * Built in 1941 by two cousins i.e. Douglas and Hugh J. O'Neil, and opened for business Jan. 1st., 1942. Presently operated by Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Borrowman and their son Donald, a graduate of Assumption College. The business consists of Cold Storage Locker Service, Meats and Groceries, with apartment above where the Borrowmans are in residence. Located No.3 & Walker Rd.

KELLY HILL FARMS -PIGGERY: Owned and operated by Hugh J. O'Neil, since 1938, when this business was started. It consists of pig buying and raising by the feeding of garbage purchased from restaurants from the city of Windsor. Men are employed to haul the garbage each day with trucks, then the pigs are hauled to the slaughter houses for butchering. Mr. O'Neil does the buying himself. Located on S. Talbot Rd. & Snake Lane.

EDWARDS GARAGE & ELECTRIC APPLIANCES - Presently operated by Murray Edwards, who took over the garage business in 1952 from Del Cowell, who also conducted electrical welding on this premises. Mr. Edwards re-modelled the building and put in electrical appliances. He does electric wiring, installing, repairing, etc., sells small appliances and is planning to have show rooms for handling refrigerators, radios and televisions. He is a repair man for servicing appliances. The building is owned by Miss Jessie Collins of Detroit formerly of here. Located No.3 and Walker Rd.

WINDSOR DRIVE-IN THEATRE - John Dyzak- owner and operator. In 1949, the Dyzacks purchased 14 acres from the Geo. Walsh farm and built their open air theatre and food concession facing Walker Road near No. 3 Highway and opened for business the night of Aug. 16th, 1950. This business has increased the local traffic on Walker Road to nearly double most of the time and more than triples it at times during the evenings, from the early Spring opening until late in October. Many local folks are employed here.

THOMPSON SELF-REPAIR AND PAINT SHOP - Reginald Thompson and wife purchased three or four acres off the Chas. O'Brien farm facing Walker Road, next to the Windsor Drive-In, on what could be called the "Lowlands of Oldcastle", this being a very low piece of property. They moved in their house trailer in 1948 and built their business building with apartment upstairs in 1950 and opened for business, Nov. 18th, 1950. Have equipment for spraying cars and repairing your own car at hourly rates.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS - Buildings which house equipment for Maintenance of the highways are located on the Southwest corner of No. 3 Highway and Walker Road. The main building had been a winery and was erected in the early 1930's and purchased by the Highway Dept. around 1940. This year of 1953 another building used as a garage was built adjacent to the corner building on land purchased from Mrs. Stanley Collins. The present Highway Superintendant is Stanley Plant.

BEAVER POOL MOTEL - located just North of No. 3 Highway on Walker Rd. directly across from Windsor Drive-In Theatre. This lovely Motel was built through 1952-3 and opened in July 1953. Owners, who live on the premises are Stanislaus Bisson and his two sons, Conrad and Elie, who with their families came here from Quebec. This property on which the motel was erected was purchased from Stephen Collins and consisted of $1\frac{1}{4}$ acres. This Motel is unique in that it is the first one to be entirely equipped with television (17") screens.

OLDCASTLE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Away back in 1906, a branch of the Women's Institute was organized at Oldcastle by Mrs. Colin Campbell. The first president was Mrs. Geo. Walsh, and the first secretary-treasurer, Miss J. McCarthy.

In 1916, one of its members, the late Mrs. Charles Allen, moved to Jackson's Corners (now Roseland) and this branch was transferred there.

Not until the year 1950 was there another Women's Institute Branch formed at Oldcastle. It was on Oct. 3rd, 1950 that a new branch was formed here. Mrs. Wm. Sales who was president of North Essex District was largely instrumental for the organization. Organizer and speaker at the organization meeting were Mrs. A. E. Dodson, Tilbury, the Federated Board Member, Mrs. Lillian McCarthy, Roseland, the new Area Secretary, and Mrs. Wm. Sales, Roseland, District President, chaired the meeting.

Its first newly elected officers were: Mrs. Wm. Sales - Hon. President; Mrs. Wilfred Libby, its first President; Mrs. Chas. Plant, First Vice-President; Mrs. W. A. Crowder, Second-Vice-President; Mrs. Roy Jewel, Secretary-treasurer. Meetings were to be held in the Township Hall where the organization took place, on the third Tuesday afternoons of each month. This later was changed to evening meetings, taking place on the first Tuesday evening of the month commencing with the September meeting in 1952.

The 1953 officers are: President - Mrs. Fred Gray; 1st Vice-President - Mrs. Frank Mills; 2nd Vice President - Mrs. Guy Campbell, Secretary-Treasurer - Mrs. Howard White.

The Women's Institute Movement began in 1897, Feb. 19th, by Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, in Stomey Creek, Ont. It spread to England in 1915, and then to the continent.

BRIAN PETTYPIECE - Radio and Television Technician - Our newest business, opened in May, 1953 by Mr. Pettypiece who is carrying on his business from his home located on Walker Road, just South of No. 3 Highway. He took his technical course in Detroit.

GREENLAWN MEMORIAL CEMETERY - located on No. 3 Highway, half mile west of Oldcastle, was part of the farm owned by Chas. O'Brien and was purchased in 1929 and opened in 1930.

VICTORIA MEMORIAL CEMETERY - located next to Greenlawn on No. 3 Highway was also purchased from Chas. O'Brien at the same time and opened around 1931.

Oldcastle Anglican populace are served by St. Stephen's Anglican Church and The Church of Redeemer, who have as their rector, Rev. Gordon G. Dickin. Mr. Dickin coming to these two parishes Nov. 1947, after the retirement of Rev. Jos. Tully, who had been the rector for eighteen years.

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH (1953)

In the year 1841, learning of the spiritual needs of the people of "the Irish Settlement" in the township of Sandwich South, the Rev. Thomas Earle Welby, a man of wealth, and a Major in His Majesty's Forces before taking Holy Orders, gave freely of his time, talent and strength and opened up services in this new field.

The first building in which the pioneers in this parish worshipped, was hewn from the native oak and erected on what is now known as No. 3 Highway, on the western border of the farm belonging to the late G. B. Collins, a life long member of St. Stephen's church. This farm is still owned by various members of the Collins family, portions of which were willed to each of the G. B. Collins four children. This property is located at No. 3 Highway and Walker Road, here at Oldcastle.

Some of the timber in a good state of preservation may be seen today on this farm ~~today~~ where the first building was erected.

In 1871 a frame structure was built on the fifth concession of the township of Sandwich South, now addressed as Oldcastle. The land for the first site at this location was donated by the late Edmund Taylor, the site having been a portion of the farm now owned by Charles Dickson. This place of Worship was built prior to the setting apart of the Diocese of Huron from the Diocese of Toronto. Bishop Strachan presided over the whole of South Western Ontario and the Rev. Francis Gore Elliott was rector of St. John, Sandwich, and the mission of St. Stephen's.

The committee in charge of the erection of this place of worship was: George Vollans, Edmund Taylor, Robert Nicholson, Richard Walker, John Jessop, Messrs. Robinson and Bennett.

ST. STEPHEN'S (Continued)

It was during the rectorship of the late Duncan Hind that St. Stephen's Mission was made a separate parish, and on June 10th, 1900 the Rev. William H. Hartley, a graduate of Huron College, London, later the Venerable Archdeacon Hartley of Kincardine, became the first incumbent of St. Stephen's.

Rectors serving St. Stephen's Mission following Rev. Thos. E. Welby were:

Rev. William Ritchie	1843-1852
Rev. E. H. Dewar	1852-1859
Rev. John Hurst	1860-1863
Rev. Francis Gore Elliott	1863-1879
Rev. Richard W. Johnstone	1879-1887
Rev. Duncan Hind	1887-1900

The following clergymen have served the parish since it became a separate parish:

Rev. Archdeacon W. H. Hartley	1900-1905
Rev. F. F. Whealen	1905-1908
Rev. J. R. Newell	1908-1912
Rev. H. Dobson Peacock	1912-1915
Rev. F. K. Hughes	1915-1921
Rev. L. C. Harrison	1921-1926
Rev. E. W. McKegney	1926-1929
Rev. Jos. Tully	Nov. 3rd, 1929 to Nov. 1947.
Rev. Gordon Clark Dickin	Nov. 1947 and is the present rector in 1953.

The Rev. J. R. Newell, had in his time visions of a new Church to replace the one of his day and with the able assistance of a Committee, who afterwards took a leading part in the building operations, sufficient funds were raised to enable the Committee to erect the present fine brick structure. The following committees acted under the enthusiastic leadership of the rector of the day, the Rev. H. Dobson Peacock.

Works Committee

A. D. Curtis, E. P. Holden, Henry Banwell, J. Vollans, Geo. Vollans, Ernest Oliver, E. Holden, James Dickson.

Finance

Arch Hartley, Convener; G. B. Collins, Ed. Banwell, Treasurer; F. McKee, Secretary, and F. Vollans.

Building Committee

W. G. Jessop, Convener; Thomas McKee, Lionel O'Neil, George Holden, J. Banwell, secretary.

Thomas McKee and Newton Holden were at this time Wardens, while George Vollans was treasurer.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH (CONTINUED)

The new St. Stephen's was dedicated by the late Archbishop Williams on November 9th, 1913.

In less than eight years the mortgage on the new church was cleared and on February 27th, 1921 the church was consecrated by the Late Archbishop Williams.

Adjoining St. Stephen's is a beautiful cemetery consecrated by the late Bishop Baldwin in 1893. Since the removal of the rectory, built for the first rector, Rev. W. H. Hartley in 1900 to its present site and the erection of the present St. Stephen's, the last resting place of many former members has been extended. The first rectory was on the cemetery site. A Fund has been raised and vested with the Synod by means of which perpetual care may be provided. In the Spring of 1950 this cemetery was enlarged and was consecrated by Bishop Geo. Luxton, Right Rev. G. N. Luxton being bishop of the Diocese of Huron.

Outstanding Contributors of Service and Winners of Awards.

One, who has brought honour to her home parish is the late Ida Collins. A graduate of the Church of England Deaconess and Missionary Training House in Toronto, she was sent as a Missionary among the Indian tribes of the North. She spent years among the Blackfoot Tribes and spoke their language. Later she moved to the Yukon, where she worked under the famous Archbishop Stringer for five years. Later she worked among the Cree Indians and has served as Deaconess in this Diocese, as well as in St. Louis, Missouri.

Pupils who have made splendid showing in the examinations, set by the G. B. R. E. Miss Virginia Holden in competition with Schools throughout the Dominion, won the Maurice Cody Medal in 1939, while Miss Margaret Fawcett took the highest standing in the Diocese, winning the Bishop's Medal, having taken 100% on the examinations in May 1940. She also won a Bible from England for these same examinations. Miss Joyce Washbrook won this award in 1946. Miss Marion Bennett won the same award in 1947 and a large "Pilgrim's Progress" in 1949. Miss Joan Banwell was a winner in 1952.

Some of the Drama Festival winners in the Essex Deanery Drama Festival are: Lola Downs, Jean Bennett, Mildred Curtis. Special Mention: Helen Crowder, Gary O'Neil, Robert Jesson

ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CHURCH 1953-54 Officers

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OFFICERS

Rector: Rev. G. C. Dickin
People's Warden - Murray Mitchell
Rector's Warden - Stephen Esping
Vestry Clerk - Clemence Curtis
Treasurer - Vernon Redmond.

ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CHURCH (ST. STEPHEN'S) (Continued)

Ladies' Guild: Past President - Mrs. W. A. Crowder (1950-51)
 President - Mrs. Nelson Shuttleworth
 First Vice President - Mrs. Wilson Wright
 Second Vice President - Mrs. Chas. Washbrook
 Secretary - Mrs. W. A. Crowder
 Treasurer - Mrs. R. D. Fawcett

Women's Auxiliary (Sr): Past President-Mrs. Bert Bedford
 Organized: President - Mrs. Bruce Banwell
 Feb. 1948 First Vice President - Mrs. Lyle Banwell
 Second Vice President- Mrs. Manson Jessop
 Sectretary - Mrs. Eric Banwell
 Treasurer - Mrs. Russell Curtis

Sunday School: Supt. of Sr. Sunday School - Marshall Jessop. Mr. Jessop has been elected to Vice President of the Deanery of Essex Sunday Schools this year.

Supt. of Junior Sunday School - Mrs. Ralt. Wade (nee Margaret Fawcett).

Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. Elmar O'Neil

Essenar		
A. Y. P. A.	Past President - George Parr	{ In 1902 a young people's group was started with Harry O'Neil as president. Mr. O'Neil is one of our oldest residents.
Sr. Br.	President - Clemence Curtis	
	Vice Pres. - John Peck	
Named by Mr. Erle Banwell in 1924.	Secretary - Wendy Ollis	
A. Y. P. A. Jr. Br.	Treasurer - Mavis Herdman	

(A charter was granted Essenar on Dec. 15, 1925 by Dom. Gov. ~~xxxxxx~~)

This Branch of A.Y.P.A. was organized by Rev. G.C. Dickin in October, 1951, with Janet Banwell as its first president. Ages for admittance to the group is from 12 years to 15 inclusive.

Past President - Janet Banwell and Gerald Collins
 President - Eleanor Santos
 Vice President - Edwin Crowder,
 Sectretary - Janet Banwell
 Treasurer - Erlan O'Neil

First Baptisms in St. Stephen's -1842

Robt. Watson, Elizabeth Taylor, Edmund Taylor, Matthew Nicholson, Anna Vollans, Eliza Jessop, Phyllis Jessop, John Robinson.

First Wedding

Stephen Collins and Mary Rhodes. Witnesses: George Collins and Susanah A ustin.

OLDCASTLE (Cont.) Page 10.
ACTIVITY GROUPS IN CONNECTION WITH
ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH - OLDCASTLE.

Essex Deanery Local Council Softball League. (Seniors)

This league's St. Stephen's Branch Manager 1953 is Clemence Curtis. Last year this branch won all games played and thereby set a record and were given the trophy.

Essex Deanery Local Council Softball League, (Juniors)

Organized this year, 1953 with Kenneth Bennett and Milton Hartley as branch managers.

ST. STEPHEN'S CUB PACK - 49th Windsor Pack.

Organized in 1947 by Mr. J.J. Mennell. In 1948, Margaret Fawcett, became their leader until her marriage in July 1949, then George Parr became leader and is the present leader.

ST. STEPHEN'S BROWNIE PACK - No. 2 Roseland.

Organized in 1947, with Miss Dorothy Haines as leader, followed by Donna O'Neil, then Mrs. Arthur Mann, Mrs. Wm. Code and the present leader is Mrs. Wm. Hartley.

ST. STEPHEN'S GUIDES - NO. 2, ROSELAND

Mrs. Arthur Mann

Organized in 1947, with Miss Dorothy Haines as Leader. The present Leader is Mrs. Jas. Drysdale.

St. Stephen's Organist and Choir Leader is Mrs. Clyde O'Neil who is paid an annual salary of \$250.00 per year. The Janitor is Mr. H. Chamney at a salary of \$275.00 per year.

Situated on the Townline between Sandwich South and Colchester North on what is more commonly known as the Essex Townline. The church is on the Colchester North side but with its address as Oldcastle. Nearly all its parishioners reside in the township of Sandwich South and have Oldcastle as their address. The Rev. Gordon Clark Dickin has been their rector since Nov. 1947, when he succeeded the Rev. Jos. Tully, who was superannuated at that time, having served the two parishes of St. Stephens and The Church of The Redeemer for some eighteen years.

In 1899 Mr. Frederick Hewitt, then a student of Huron College and assistant to Rev. D.H. Hind of St. John's Church, Sandwich, had charge of the Mission of Redeemer Church. Services were held at that time in the Orange Hall Sandwich South. These two servants of the church thought that it would be fulfilling the spiritual needs of the people here to have a church of their own.

In 1900 Rev. W. H. Hartley, came to St. Stephen's Church as rector. He continued to conduct the services and to preside over the Sunday School in the Orange Hall. He, too, saw the need of a church for the Redeemer Congregation.

Accordingly, under the enthusiastic leadership of the rector and committees in charge, building material was hauled for a church to be erected on the present site. Bricks were hauled from as far away as Elmstead. The land for the church site was donated by the late Robert Shuel Senior.

The committee in charge of the erection of this place of worship was: Albert O'Neil, William Lounsborough, John Huggard, Sr., Thomas Pettypiece, Richard Hartley, Sr., John Webster, and Richard Allen. At this time Bishop Baldwin was Bishop of the Diocese.

The following spring, the church building was completed, and was dedicated on Friday, May 31st, 1901, by Canon Hincks, assisted by Rev. D. H. Hind, Rev. Racey and Rev. Murphy. Thomas Pettypiece and John Webster were the first wardens of the congregation.

Mrs. Benjamin Libby (Mabel O'Neil) and Mrs. Lionel O'Neil (Irene Webster) were the first organists. The rectors always acted as the vestry clerks until 1907, when Thomas Pettypiece was elected the first vestry clerk. He remained in office until 1913, when John R. Shuel was elected vestry clerk. He still holds this position in 1953.

The first marriage was solemnized in Redeemer Church in December, 1901. William Jones and Emma Stevenson were married with William Shepley and Winnifred Stevenson as witnesses.

In four years the mortgage on the church was paid off. On Monday, November 6th, 1905, the church was consecrated by the late Archbishop Williams. At this service twenty three candidates were confirmed.

The following clergy have served the parish during the past years:

Rev. F.F. Whealen - 1905-1908
Rev. J.R. Newell - 1908-1912
Rev. H. Dobson Peacock 1912-1915
Rev. F.K. Hughes - 1915-1921
Rev. L.C. Harrison - 1921-1926
Rev. E. W. McKegney - 1926-1929
Rev. Jos. Tully - 1929-1947
Rev. G. C. Dickin - 1947 and is the present rector in 1953.

LADIES' GUILD

The first organization at Redeemer was started by Mrs. W. H. Hartley and was called the Ladies' Aid. The first president was Mrs. Richard Allen, and the first treasurer, Miss Flossie Allen. In 1921, Mrs. L. C. Harrison reorganized the Ladies' Aid into the Ladies' Guild and she was elected its first president. The present officers of the Guild are:

Past President: Mrs. Glen Webster
President: Mrs. Clifford O'Neil
Vice Presidents: 1st. - Mrs. Arthur Essery. 2nd. - Mrs. Otto Boose
Secretary: Mrs. Alex. Morrison
Treasurer: Mrs. Ed. Lounsborough

S. S. No. 6 (Cont.)

The total expenses of running the school were \$611.32. At that time, G. B. Collins and Charles Herdman were trustees, with Geo. O'Neil, as secretary. Also Mr. Frank Burke was a trustee at this time.

In 1929, the present bungalow school was built of frame construction at a cost of \$1500.00. This was to take care of the overflow of pupils as families were beginning to move into the area from the city and take holdings of small acreage thus avoiding the high taxes. Most of these were industrial workers who built small homes and became permanent taxpayers. This movement was mostly concentrated along the main arteries to the city, namely, Howard Ave., No. 3 Highway and Walker Road. At this time there were eighty some pupils trying to be accommodated in the one school room of the Senior School. When the bungalow was built, up to grade (4) was taught there, dividing the school attendance practically in half. Mrs. Fred Herdman was the first teacher in the bungalow and taught her classes in the basement of the Senior Room for a month until the bungalow was ready. She had taught since about 1918 in the Senior Room prior to her marriage. Following her in 1936 the Junior Room teacher was Miss Muriel ~~XXXX~~ Wilson, (now Mrs. John Beldean) who taught until 1942 and then was transferred to the Senior Room for two years. Mrs. E. Dixon then taught the Junior Room, followed by Dorothy Miller for two years and Miss Clugston for one. Afterwards, Mrs. Wm. Coutts taught and the Junior Room was closed for a period following 1945 when the attendance dropped back to less than fifty for the school section following the second World War. Mrs. Coutts then was transferred to the Senior Room, where she taught one year (1945-46). Mrs. Stanley Holden followed her in 1946 and is the present teacher in the Senior Room.

Township Area System was organized during the summer of 1945. In 1946, the first township school area of Sandwich South Board was formed. Officers were as follows: Chairman - Marshall Jessop from S. S. No. 6, Trustees - Russell Pettypiece of S. S. No. 10, Orville Farough of No. 5, Kenneth McKenzie of No. 2, Hubert Shuel of No. 4. The Area Secretary being Mrs. Harry Pettypiece of No. 10. In the formation of the Area System there were to be five trustees, one from each section, as there are six sections in Sandwich South, No. 1 section were not represented the first year. The Area System became part of the municipal governing body with the election of officers taking place at the same time as the township Municipal Elections are held each year in the township hall, which here in Sandwich South is the first Monday of the month of December.

The present officers of the Area are: Chairman - Kenneth McKenzie, Trustees - Arnold Axcell, Henry Hartley, Howard Shider, Bruce Banwell, with the secretary who is Miss Eleanor Campbell, Ellis St., Windsor, Ont.

In the year 1940, on Feb. 12th, parents and teachers of the school gathered for the organizational meeting of the first Home and School Association formed in the township. Its prime object to create a better understanding between teachers and parents, and children. Organization was comprised of several meetings with Mrs. W. A. Crowder as secretary, and the Organizers being: Mrs. Lorne Rogers and Mrs. E. W. Lancaster who at that time was president of Windsor Council of Home And School Associations. The first regular meeting was held on March 18th in the school. The charter members numbered eleven, and were as follows: President- Mrs. George Martin

Vice Presidents - Mrs. Chas. Washbrook and Miss Muriel Wilson,

Recording Secretary - Mrs. W. A. Crowder,

Corresponding Secretary - Mrs. R. D. Fawcett,

Treasurer - Mrs. Glenn Walper,

Executive and other members - Mrs. Frank Mills,

Miss Dorothy Miller, Mrs. A. A. Walsh, Mrs. Gordon

Williams and Mr. John Jessop.

Mrs. Frank Mills arranged for the first meeting and the organization. Our first party was held at the home of Mrs. Geo. Martin, the president on March 1st, 1940. The Martin family, with their four children, William, Norman and James, and wee daughter Irene, lived on Walker Road, the property now owned by Leo Finnegan. This house was built by Mr. & Mrs. Dale Atkinson, residents of this area for many years. Was the second house built on the new section of Walker Road, in 1929. and is one of the most imposing homes in the district. The first home built right in the middle of a bush along this new stretch was that of the writer, the W. A. Crowder's home in 1927.

S.S. No. 6 School (Cont.)

Early teachers at S. S. No. 6, were Mrs. Fred Herdman, (Nellie Fleming Miss Agnes McLaughlin; Miss Ruby Emmerson (now Mrs. Hugh O'Neil) who resides in this community and have built for themselves a lovely new ranch type home this year on South Talbot Road near Walker Road; the Fred Herdman's reside here also, these being two of the teachers to marry into pioneer local families and remain here. The Herdman's also have built a lovely new home on Ducharme Ave., Roseland, after having farmed in Sandwich South for a number of years. Nine years, Mrs. O'Neil taught at the school, 1927 to 1936, followed by Miss Phyllis Raymond, now Mrs. Raymann, who lives in Michigan. Miss Muriel Wilson, transferred from the Junior Room (now Mrs. John Beldean and lives in Detroit); ~~Mrs. Wm. Coutts~~ Miss Marian Smith, who married a Philadelphia lawyer by the name of Edward Knause and now resides in Harrisburg, Pa.; transferred from the Junior Room, Mrs. Wm. Coutts taught for one year and in 1946, Mrs. Stanley Holden was engaged to teach and is the present teacher. Mrs. Holden is another of the techers who married a local resident, they live on the Holden Road or 6th Concenssion.

In 1944, a piano was purchased by The Home & School Association from Mrs. Beldean, the teacher at the time and brought from her home in the Ottawa Valley to the school. Later the school board paid for it when music became a compulsory subject in schools. The price paid was \$25.00.

In 1939, the school was wired for electricity and we had our first electric lights.

In 1951, a delegation from S. S. No. 6 Home and School Association went to the Sandwich South Council and inquired about a health program for the schools, explaining that not even a nurse visited the schools and that a doctor only visited about once a year. The Council promised to look into the matter and they then engaged a nurse to visit the schools regularly. Miss Annie Boyle was engaged in 1952 and set up a program and charts on innoculating the children and also vaccinating them. The Home and Schools then undertook to do some of the clerical work in connection with the system.

The highest marks in the Entrance Examinations for Essex County in the year 1937 was won by Margaret Fawcett, now Mrs. Railton Wade, who resides on Cabana Road, Roseland. The same award was made to Mae Banwell in 1939. She is a Medical Doctor, married last June to Dr. and resides in Little Rock, Arkansas. Entrance Exams. were eliminated in 1951.

Awards received in the Annual Music Festival since they were started in 1950 were received by Jimmie Chamney in 1951 for solo; Jimmie Chamney and Frank O'Neil for duet in 1952, Harry Fraser for solo in 1952 and Karen Mamm for solo in 1953. The instructor is Miss Agnes Hartley.

The Art instructor is Mrs. Edith (Atkinson) Shearer.

The Junior Room was re-opened ~~in~~ again in 1950 and Miss Eileen Munk was engaged as teacher. She was followed in 1951 by Harry Knappen and in 1952 by Mrs. Snelling. In the early 1940's there was a shift of a large amount of the Catholic pupils from S. S. No. 6 to S. S. No 7 or Ragtown School (Separate). They were transported by car by their parents to this school. Up until this time all the Catholic children attended S. S. No. 6 from this vicinity.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS - Buildings which house equipment for Maintenance of the highways are located on the Southwest corner of No. 3 Highway and Walker Road. The main building had been a winery and was erected in the early 1930's and purchased by the Highway Dept. around 1940. This year of 1953 another building used as a garage was built adjacent to the corner building on land purchased from Mrs. Stanley Collins. The present Highway Superintendant is Stanley Plant.

BEAVER POOL MOTEL - located just North of No. 3 Highway on Walker Rd. directly across from Windsor Drive-In Theatre. This lovely Motel was built through 1952-3 and opened in July 1953. Owners, who live on the premises are Stanislaus Bisson and his two sons, Conrad and Elie, who with their families came here from Quebec. This property on which the motel was erected was purchased from Stephen Collins and consisted of $1\frac{1}{4}$ acres. This Motel is unique in that it is the first one to be entirely equipped with television (17") screens.

OLDCASTLE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Away back in 1906, a branch of the Women's Institute was organized at Oldcastle by Mrs. Colin Campbell. The first president was Mrs. Geo. Walsh, and the first secretary-treasurer, Miss J. McCarthy.

In 1916, one of its members, the late Mrs. Charles Allen, moved to Jackson's Corners (now Roseland) and this branch was transferred there.

Not until the year 1950 was there another Women's Institute Branch formed at Oldcastle. It was on Oct. 3rd, 1950 that a new branch was formed here. Mrs. Wm. Sales who was president of North Essex District was largely instrumental for the organization. Organizer and speaker at the organization meeting were Mrs. A. E. Dodson, Tilbury, the Federated Board Member, Mrs. Lillian McCarthy, Roseland, the new Area Secretary, and Mrs. Wm. Sales, Roseland, District President, chaired the meeting.

Its first newly elected officers were: Mrs. Wm. Sales - Hon. President; Mrs. Wilfred Libby, its first President; Mrs. Chas. Plant, First Vice-President; Mrs. W. A. Crowder, Second-Vice-President; Mrs. Roy Jewel, Secretary-treasurer. Meetings were to be held in the Township Hall where the organization took place, on the third Tuesday afternoons of each month. This later was changed to evening meetings, taking place on the first Tuesday evening of the month commencing with the September meeting in 1952.

The 1953 officers are: President - Mrs. Fred Gray; 1st Vice-President - Mrs. Frank Mills; 2nd Vice President - Mrs. Guy Campbell, Secretary-Treasurer - Mrs. Howard White.

The Women's Institute Movement began in 1897, Feb. 19th, by Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, in Stomey Creek, Ont. It spread to England in 1915, and then to the continent.

OLDCASTLE - A bustling crossroads and railway hamlet situated six miles east of the centre of the City of Windsor, in the County of Essex and the Township of Sandwich South, on Highway No. 3, midway between Windsor and the Town of Essex and four miles west of Maidstone, commonly called a village but is really just a hamlet also. The city of Windsor has crept up to within two miles of our Hamlet of Oldcastle since amalgamation of a part of Sandwich South Township on Jan. 1st., 1966. There are approximately 200 people living in Oldcastle and within a radius of one mile.

The land surrounding Oldcastle is flat but well drained with diversified agriculture being carried on extensively, but small industries and commercial projects are slowly creeping out from the City of Windsor and swallowing up farm land, also lovely new suburban homes are much in evidence. Grains such as corn, wheat and soya beans are grown as well as crops of sweet corn, peas, and tomatoes are grown in large acreages for local Canning Factories.

County Road 11 (Walker Road) crosses No. 3 Highway at a junction about a quarter mile west of the hamlet leading out of the city on its way to the Town of Harrow, some 14 miles distant. This is one of the busiest highway corners in Ontario, in the summer months especially. Many summer vacationers; people just going to the beach, and the proverbial Sunday drivers, all pass through Oldcastle on their way to Harrow and Colchester to the south and those going east to Kingsville and Leamington beaches, where city dwellers as well as many come over from Detroit and Michigan who own cottages on our long Lake Erie shoreline. Many American tourist taking the scenic route to Buffalo, pass through Oldcastle with scarcely a second glance, not knowing the vital part the community played in building the county.

The Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, formerly Pere Marquette, helped open the interior of the county in the late 19th century and passes through and within Oldcastle Hamlet where spurs have been built into the only really large business within the hamlet, the Oldcastle Farmers' Co-Operative. This thriving enterprise had its beginning way back in May, 1920 and has steadily improved its facilities until it has become an Agri-Mart of great proportions. Last year in April of 1974, it opened a huge new facility which houses their offices, dispenses all farming needs, fertilizers, seeds, furnace and stove oil, gasoline, agricultural hardware, small appliances and lawn-mowers. City gardeners come out to purchase their bulk seeds here including grass seed, and seed potatoes which are becoming more scarce.

The business contains a feed and grist mill, coal yard, elevators for grain, chicken feed, gravel and cement, sand, fence posts, some farm clothing and a general store. It is busiest in harvest season when long lines of trucks loaded with grain line up to be served at the elevators. Walter Jessop had foresight in starting this enterprising business and managed it until his death when his son Manson became Manager. Several family members have down through the years been employed in the business and many local lads looked to it for summer jobs. The business celebrated its 50th year in business in June, 1970 with a banquet and dance held at the K. of C. Hall, McGregor, a nearby village still in the hands of the Jessop family. Walter Jessop passed away in March, 1956 and his son Manson in Dec., 1970. It is now managed by Ken Hartley, with a Board of Directors.

The railroad, built partially by the late Hiram Walker and runs from the Walkerville Junction to St. Thomas, helped the early pioneers move their goods and crops and purchase the much needed city products to assist them in living a worthwhile life. At the same time, the early pioneer shipped his goods out by rail, he cleared the swampland and bushland and made the interior of the county the prosperous farmland it is today.

OLDCASTLE WAS CALLED "THE IRISH SETTLEMENT", in the early days and got its name from OLDCASTLE, IRELAND, located in MEATH COUNTY, where some of the settlers came from originally. Through the Official Plan set up by the Township of Sandwich South where Oldcastle is located, land has been set aside for an Industrial Mall, which heretofore was farm land and in the past five or six years it has boomed with small industrial and commercial projects all along Walker Road and both east and west of Walker Road on North Talbot Road, which is just one concession North of Oldcastle Hamlet.

A Post Office was established at Oldcastle in 1862 with Michael McCarthy as its first postmaster. He suffered a stroke of paralysis in 1912 and died at the age of 80 years while still postmaster. This postoffice was in the McCarthy home on the South side of what was then Talbot Rd., now No. 3 Highway, at the railway tracks. A hotel was in connection and the stage coach which plied between Windsor and Leamington carrying mail and passengers stopped here to feed their horses and replenish themselves. Often in the wet weather the horses would be changes here and sometimes the coach and its passengers had to bed down for the night. This property is now owned by the Robert Sylvester family. Later the Post Office was moved to the home of George Welsh on the seventh concession, now known as the Oldcastle Road. This was only about three quarters of a mile away from its original home. Mr. Welsh was Postmaster for six years, from Mar. 13th., 1908 to Mar. 13th., 1914. It later was moved to the residence of Frank Lounsbrough at Paquette, then to the gas station and grocery store of John Prieur, and on March 1st., 1947 it was returned to Oldcastle and established in the Oldcastle China Store and Grocery, with A. D. Kavanagh, proprietor; Mrs. Kavanagh becoming Postmistress. When Mr. Kavanagh retired from his business, the Post Office was moved to the residence of the Kavanagh's, next door to the China Shop and Mrs. Kavanagh remained as the Postmistress. They enlarged and built-in their large front porch to serve as the P.O.

Mrs. Kavanagh retired in 1965 and the Jos. Rice family who had taken over the China Shop, grocery store and by this time a lunch room retired after about ten years, the business was purchased by Jack Tasker and the Post Office was again housed in the building with the business and Mr. Tasker became Postmaster and his wife operates the lunch room. Mrs. Kavanagh had been Postmistress 10 years, from Aug. 1st., 1955 to May 10th, 1965 when Mr. Tasker took over. He also became the Rural Route Mail Courier. There were two Routes out of Oldcastle P.O. for some time prior to Annexation in 1966, but following Apr. 1st., 1966, part of R. R. 2 Route went into Windsor R. R. 2, and the rest of Oldcastle Route 2 went into Route 1, Oldcastle. Mr. Tasker is still the Postmaster and the R. R. 1 Mail Courier in 1975.

Municipal Government as a separate unit in Sandwich South Township began following division of Sandwich East Township, when out of it came Sandwich South in 1893. The first Council meetings were held at the home of Michael McCarthy for three years, until the first township hall was built in 1896. It was a brick structure, contracted by John Wortley on Sept. 28th, 1896 for the sum of \$640.00. It was located near the railway tracks on property now owned by the Robert Sylvester family just opposite the McCarthy homestead, on Talbot Road, now No. 3 Highway, in the Hamlet of Oldcastle, Ont. This was a central location in the township and the seat of government stayed here until the second hall was built. In the minutes of Sandwich South Council of May 9th, 1927, Morand and Russette were authorized to build a new township hall and in the August 1st., minutes, payment of \$3,038.28 was authorized. The official opening was listed for Aug. 5th, 1927; the hall being built on the site of the old one.

This Municipal or Township Hall was in use for 45 years, until March 18, 1972. The third township hall was acquired by the Township Fathers purchasing the former Frith Public School (S.S.No. 11) Sandwich South by tender for \$27,050.00 as stated in a letter received by them, October 28th, 1971. After renovations and parking facilities completed to the sum of approximately \$10,000, official opening of the new township hall was slated for March 18th, 1972 from 2.00 to 5.00 p.m.

It was from this building (Frith Public School) that on a bleak and cold December 21st, 1966, residents of Oldcastle and surrounding community were suddenly thrust into shock and bereavement by a school bus-truck accident which took the lives of eight small students and left the area in no spirit for the upcoming Christmas festivities a few days hence. The school bus loaded with some thirty five wee pupils, ages 6 yrs. to 9 years, was approaching No. 3 Highway & Walker Road Junction for a stop to unload several of its passengers when a gravel truck loaded with sand and gravel came also approaching the intersection, making a quick turn onto Walker Road, tipping the truckload into and on top of the school bus, injuring several pupils and eight of them became fatalities. The Sandwich South Council together with the Area School Board a 16" x 20" bronze plaque in the school in memory of the deceased victims. The plaque was erected on the wall in the teachers' room by W.A. Crowder, husband of the writer. Following the tragic accident, he and the teacher, Mrs. Marion Tiers had the sad and traumatic experience of going over to the school and taking down the decorated Christmas tree with the gifts underneath. The school concert was to have been the following day, the last day of school before the Christmas holidays. The surrounding neighborhood rallied to the assistance of the many families by taking in holiday goodies to the bereaved and grief stricken parents. It was Oldcastle's darkest hour that December day at 3.30 p.m.

The school was only ten years old and named after a pioneer Oldcastle farm family, Charles and Percy Frith, who sold 2½ acres off their farm for the school site at \$500 per acre and located one half mile east of Walker Road on North Talbot Road in Sandwich South Township. It cost in the neighborhood of \$38,000 and was officially opened Dec. 9th, 1960 and phased out in June, 1971 by the Essex County Public School Board (who by this time was in charge of all Sandwich South Area schools). By June, 1972 all schools in the township (public) were phased out, sold, and the pupils transported to four different sections outside the township, by bus.

In the early 1920's following the first World War, when the automobile became prominent and most every farmer owned his Model-T or longed to own one, many of the local residents thronged to the industrial factories in the City of Windsor and even over to Detroit. Oldcastle, lacking a direct route to the industrial side of Windsor (this part better known as Ford City) and later East Windsor, and became a part of the city proper following annexation in 1966, was given a new road connecting up with the old Walker Road. It was an extension from the Third Concession through and across farm lands, crossing over No. 2 Highway, through the Ferrari farm to the Seventh Concession Sandwich South, southerly along the seventh, past the Pelton Station and on over the Michigan Central Railway for over a mile the new road continued and at the corner of the North Talbot Road cut through the farms of Michael Robinson, Dale Atkinson, George Welsh and Burton Collins to a junction of what is now Walker Road and No. 3 Highway. It continued on another mile running through the Sylvester farm and Frank O'Neil's farm to the South Talbot Road, joining up with the old road to Harrow and Colchester. This made a direct route from the east side of Windsor, which was having growing pains at this time, to the vacation spots on Lake Erie.

The first residence to be erected on this new stretch of road was the writer's home built in 1927, we moved in on October 28th and we pioneered for two years until a well could be drilled, Hydro installed and telephone and gas facilities made available.

The threesided parcel of land containing one acre more or less was right in the middle of what had been a bush for pasturing cattle with an open well in there as well, with nothing but a bridge over a ditch so that we could get on the property. It was still fenced in front with a gate at the driveway. The road was not paved for two years and surely was welcome when it was finished and my husband did not have to haul our water supply from a neighbor's about a mile away after coming home each day from his work at the Ford Motor Company where he was a plant supervisor. Some 47 years later we are still here but one could never have comprehended what was to be. Now we are surrounded by industry with factories all about us and the Hamlet of Oldcastle ends at our property line, with a new factory built along side of us in what used to be a corn or tomato field. In the half mile stretch up to the Junction close to Oldcastle there has been erected a Drive-In-Theatre and across the road a Motel with a public swimming pool, a business for all sorts of aluminum products, a body painting shop for cars, a sales showroom for snowmobiles, a Contracting and Building Enterprise, a Unit-Precast factory which makes molded cement steps and iron railings, a large Tool and Mold plant and at the junction a building which contains two apartments on the upper level and a cold storage, butcher shop and grocery store below, as well as ten homes.

Following the great depression in the 30's and World War 2 when things slowed to a stand-still, many new homes began to spring up and the population rose from around 60 to 180 persons in the short span of ten years within a one-mile radius. In comparison the population in 1890 was about 20. The industries were: S. Duke-Wagon-maker; Michael McCarthy, Postmaster and Hotel; A Napier, blacksmith; J. Williams, Hotel.

In 1900 the population was about 45. The industries were: Conn Meredith - grain; Michael McCarthy, Postmaster; in 1909, a Rural Post Office, Frank Fenton, Builder; George Welsh, Postmaster.

In 1953 the population was around 100. Industries: Oldcastle China Shop, grocery, lunch counter, tourist cabins and gas station owned and operated by A.D. Kavanagh with Mrs. Kavanagh as Postmistress; Oldcastle Farmer's Co-Operative, Walter Jessop, manager; Reg. Thompson Self Repair and Paint Shop; Beaver Pool Motel and Swimming Pool built by Conrad and Elie Bisson; Oldcastle Cold Storage, built by Hugh and Douglas O'Neil -cousins. General store in connection operated by Kenneth Borrowman; Murray Edwards Garage, Electrician and Plumber, also selling Electrical Appliances; Oldcastle Garage with Ralph McCord, owner and operator; Highway Dept. Garage and Storage with Stanley Plant, manager; Windsor Drive-in-Theatre, John Dydzak, owner and manager; Brian Pettypiece, Radio and T.V. Technician; Greenlawn Memorial Cemetery and Victoria Memorial Cemetery, side by side, established on the Charles O'Brien farm property; and these extra ones which are here in 1975: Steiler's All-Star Body Shop, Keith Steiler, operator; Elmara's Construction Co. Ltd. Residential, Commercial and Industrial Contractors, also sell pools and pool ceramics, lawn ornaments, Mario Baggio in charge; Suburban Landscaping Service, Robert Pulleyblank, owner and operator; Parr Brothers Electric and Plumbing, with Allan and George Parr, owners and operators; Flora Gardens, a Greenhouse Enterprise with Stephen Papp, owner and operator, Windsor Sawdust Company, started by Ovid Chartrand who died in 1971; Grow-Rich Organic Fertilizer Co., Ltd., Pierre Phillippe, owner and operator; Cory's Market, produce, now operated by the Joseph family, a sales office has been established in the building owned by Keith Steiler which sells Snowmobiles. The new Road's Dept. office and Fire Hall was built in 1963 and officially opened Feb. 8th., 1964.

In 1965 one of our residents visited Oldcastle, in Meath County Ireland and found it to be a bustling town much larger than our hamlet. It contained about 7000 people and had had an Oldcastle Co-Operative very much like the one here. He brought back a picture showing a portion of the town with the Co-Op in view.

Pioneer History

The French had settled along Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River, pensioners from the British Army settled near Amherstburg. Colchester and the southern part of the county was being cleared by United Empire Loyalists and folks who came direct from England in many cases, and the vast interior of the county including Oldcastle and Maidstone was left to the Irish and other immigrants, who had little but their bare hands and a prodigious capacity for hard work. The great grandchildren of these first settlers in many cases are still on the land today and till the finest farms in the county. Where was once bush and swampland, are broad, flat, fertile acres and well built farms. Its hard to believe that the transformation has taken place in a little more than a century. The Halford families settled midway between Maidstone and Oldcastle and Cornelius Beahan, who lived on No. 3 Highway, near Oldcastle remembers when they planked Talbot Road (now Hwy. #3) at the low spots. Eventually wagons and horses wore out the planks in the centre and they sank in the middle of the road. Mr. Beahan remembers as a boy going to school pulling the planks out of the mud. He remembers the first settler in the community as Squire Cornelius Downey.

Cornelius was a common Irish name and was the name of a great uncle of the writer whose family settled in Maidstone Township, a bordering township to Sandwich South, our township (Cornelius Danaher) and who near the end of the 1800's and early 1900's was a "Pack Pedlar" and roamed the countryside in these two townships carrying his pack on his back from house to house selling such wares as thread, needle, pins, both men's and ladies' small accessories and generally homestead articles, pencils, pens and points, mits,

(4) OLDCASTLE - continued.

caps and Rundle's Liniment, etc. One of his brothers (James) also did some of this pack peddling and would take over when sickness overtook Uncle Connie as he was known. They were bachelor brothers. Uncle Connie would put himself up over night just wherever he happened to land at the end of the day. He was well known all along the northern part of the county including Oldcastle. Mrs. Harry O'Neil who until she passed away had in her possession a little red spool of thread, some needles and pins and a needle holder in a box which she had purchased from him before she was married. She was somewhat of an accomplished sewer. Uncle Connie mostly lived with relatives who were also pioneer farmers and when not plying his wares or when the weather restricted his journeys, he sawed and chopped wood and otherwise did farm chores for his keep wherever he happened to be staying.

There was a Toll Gate at Oldcastle where A. D. Kavanagh later built his store on what was then known as Talbot Road. These Toll Gates were stationed all along Talbot Road from the outskirts of Windsor to Leamington. The Toll Gate here at Oldcastle was kept by two sisters, a Miss Hanna and a Mrs. Pierce and was burned down along with all the others around 1900. Citizens of the day became incensed with having to pay to go beyond these toll gates and many interesting and conflicting stories have been told about the actual burning of them. The driver of the first Stage Coach through Oldcastle, was Sol Wigle, father of the late Postmaster Wigle of Windsor. The family name is still prevalent throughout the south-eastern part of the county of Essex.

The railroad (Pere Marquette) in the early days and previously mentioned in this article, plies its way busily through Oldcastle; was first laid in 1888 by the Hiram Walker family (the well known family brewers of Walkerville, which got its name from them) out to their summer home in Kingsville, later laid to St. Thomas. On the old Frith homestead property located on North Talbot Road, just east of Walker Road there is a huge gravel pit which was dug out to build this railway and when the railway was finished they utilized it to haul ice into the town of Walkerville for the residents. It was frozen and out in the winter time and stored for summer use. Many of the local youngbloods were hired to cut the ice, among them, Charles and Percy Frith, brothers, who until quite recently farmed those acres. In the last year progress has taken another toll of farm land in the area as several of those acres have been sold to an Italian Ethnic Group who plan to develop it into a community enterprise consisting of entertainment facilities, hall, offices, and swimming pool. The pit was included with the deal. It was extensively used by neighboring children in summer as their swimming hole and as a skating rink in winter. Many wild ducks and Canada geese stop there each summer on their way to the Jack Miner's Bird Sanctuary at Kingsville.

One of the prominent organizations here at Oldcastle is the Oldcastle Women's Institute which is celebrating its 25th year of organization in October of this year. The Women's Institutes are sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture & Food (Home Economics Branch) and most all of them have a curator who compiles in a book for that purpose area history with pictures included. The organization saw the light of day right here in Ontario, Canada and spread around the world until there are 8,000,000 members. It was on Feb. 19th, 1897 at Stoney Creek, Ont. when Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless and Erland Lee was instrumental in forming the first Women's Institute. Back in 1945 when Lord Tweedsmuir was Governor General of Canada, Lady Tweedsmuir was invited to speak to a Provincial Annual Meeting of the Institutes and suggested each community keep a record of the history as it happened and to also try to gather as much pioneer history as they could of the district in which each branch was located. This is why they are named "TWEEDSMUIR HISTORIES". I was chosen Oldcastle's curator when we were organized 25 years ago and am still at it and this is why I am sending you this article. It is taken out of my Tweedsmuir Book, only I have brought it up right to the present date for you. We have only one branch in our township of Sandwich South and I have kept the history of the whole township since our organization on Oct. 3rd., 1950 and explored into the past a great deal. Perhaps my book or books would be somewhat of a larger territory as some and most townships have several branches and they only stay within a given area.

Your project sounds interesting and I wish you luck with it. We have done this for other students and I feel what a grand way to understand and know people and communities from other areas of this vast country of Canada of which I have travelled over most of it.

Thanking you for inquiring about our community here in Oldcastle and I will have something to report on my convenership at Annual meeting time.

Sincerely,

Mrs. W. A. Crowder
Curator of Oldcastle W.I.