

HISTORY OF ROSELAND

Up to 100 years ago the community we now call Roseland was covered with forest, and was the home of bears, wolves and Indians. One of the largest Indian camps in Essex County was on what is now the Jessop farm. An Indian Cemetery was situated where Howard, North Talbot and Dougall now meet. Indians camped at what is now Cabana and Howard and also on the site of the old Allen farm.

The timber in those days was real timber and was mostly oak. The early settlers in these parts built their cabins of the oak logs, some of which can still be seen here and there around the country. The stumps were left in the ground to rot, except those used as posts on which the settlers built their cabins.

The settlers homes, barns and even stables were all shingled with split stave oak, home made.

Wild animals were quite numerous and cattle would be attacked and killed if they wandered from the clearing. Owing to the many stumps farming was difficult and corn and potatoes were the usual crops.

There was a scarcity of water here, the nearest spring being about where Pelton Junction is now located.

One of the pioneers who helped to cut Howard Avenue through from Burk's Corners (Howard and #3 today) to Windsor, was John Jessup, who was a Magistrate, and whose farm home was also a Post Office, known as Wimbleton P.O.

John Jessup received from the Government, through Col Rankin, a Crown deed to his land.

His sons, Will, Frank, and a daughter, Mrs. Matt. Collins, lived in this vicinity until their deaths.

Howard Avenue was originally a corduroy road i.e. logs flattened on one side-laid side by side. It is said that in building the road, stumps 6 feet through had to be removed. This road was under the supervision of the famous Col. Talbot, who installed Toll gates and collected a toll of 5¢ per single horse and 10¢ a team. Gates were installed at Jackson's Corners (now Roseland) and at the Grand Marais.

When the district was divided into Townships this road became 'The Town Line' or 'The Gravel Road'. The name Howard was given to the road after a Mr. Howard- who had a farm at Tecumseh Road- through which the road passed. The name Jackson's Corners came from an old coloured man a Mr. Jackson- who had a shack at the Corners (where Hutson's Block now is) and who made and sold soap.

The first man of whom we have record as being Toll Keeper here was Duncan Douglas, later by a man named Vanderbinder.

Over 50 years ago, the farmers tired of paying toll, burned down the toll gates, and the road was opened.

Stage coaches used this road and the first coach through Jackson's Corners was run by Mr. Sol. Wigle, father of the late Postmaster Wigle of Windsor. In those early days oxen were often used to pull the farmers wagons, especially in the winter and spring when the roads were really terrible.

Among the early settlers were Dumouchelles, Jessups, Dennisons, Lauzons, Morands, Allens, Burks, Ouellettes, Cahills, Meros, Vollans and others whose names played an important part in Jackson's Corners.

The social life consisted mostly of old time dances which usually followed a logging or chopping bee. For the young folks, the visiting between settlements and farms was by horseback, and life was indeed rugged. Later on Howard Avenue was gravelled and the first road foreman was a Mr. Sam McDonald.

In the days of the stage coach - in order to rest or change horses and to allow the passengers to eat, there were "Rest Stations" along the way. These were usually Taverns, often combined with livery stable, blacksmith shop, grocery store and Post Office.

THE ROSELAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

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~~ was Miss J. McCarthy. *Mrs. Josephine McCarthy*

In 1916, one of its members, the late Mrs. Charles Allen, moved to Jackson's Corners (now Roseland) and the branch was taken there. Meetings were held in the homes of members until the membership grew too large to be accommodated.

In 1925, the name Jackson's Corners was changed to Roseland, and the Institute became the Roseland Women's Institute.

In 1929, a drive for funds was put on with Mrs. Percy McConnell and Mrs. Leo Russette as Captains. Card parties were held, some of the men paying in \$10.00 bills for admission. In two months \$408.34 was raised.

In June, 1930, the lot on which the hall now stands was purchased from the late Mr. Charles Allen for \$800.00.

Mr. Joseph Hennin drew up the Incorporation Papers, the Charter was presented and each member signed the Bond guaranteeing payment for the land. Members that were on the original Roll in 1930 and are still on the Roll are:

Mrs. L. Russette
Mrs. F. Libby
Mrs. J. Hennin
Mrs. M. Herdman
Mrs. S. Esping
Mrs. O. Washbrook
Mrs. Esther Archibald
Mrs. J. McCarthy

Meetings and parties were held in different houses and many good times were had in the public school and in Mr. Hennin's and Mr. Vicary's basements.

In 1933, a building-the present hall- was purchased on Prince Road near the Sanatorium, and put on the lot, on November 29th.

The first meeting in the hall, was held on the 1st of March, 1934. Mrs. Blanche Wright was hostess and Mrs. Ed. Bondy of Mount Clements, was the first visitor. A housewarming was held March 30th, 1934.

In 1945 an addition was built and on Nov. 14th of that year, the second housewarming was held. In 1947, a stage was constructed and a loud speaker installed, which adds greatly to the hall's usefulness and value to the community.

The Institute has always shown an interest in, and provided assistance to the Blind Institute, the East Windsor Hospital, various charities and local needy cases. A donation was made towards the Roseland Library and the Roseland Home and School Association was sponsored and organized in October, 1946. Sponsoring also the Roseland Girl Guide Company - Brownie Pack - Wolf Cubs and Boy Scout Troop and allowing them all the use of the hall free. The boys and girls have always respected this privilege and have never damaged the property in any way.

Through the loving efforts of an Institute member, Mrs. Carl Kenny, the Roseland United Church was organized and Sunday School for the first few years.

The Institute is linked with the Government through the Dept. of Agriculture and the Motto is 'For Home And Country'.

The first Institute was founded at Stoney Creek, Feb. 19th, 1897, in the Province of Ontario, Canada, by Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, but now is world wide and affiliated with the Associated Country Women of The World.

During the war, the Institute operated with the Red Cross to provide garments, knitted goods, jams, jellies and Supplies.

The proceeds of a Turkey Dinner on April 16th., 1947 paid off the mortgage in full.

The following is a list of the Presidents since 1922:-

Mrs. Charles Allen, Mrs. Dan Burgess, Mrs. Chas. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Percy McConnell, Mrs. William Wood, Mrs. James Shuttleworth, Mrs. Ernest Souliere, Mrs. Ron Allen, Mrs. John Humphries, Mrs. William Sales and the present President in this year of 1953 - Mrs. Eric Bowyer.

The Institute welcomes new members - the Organization being Non-Partisan and Non-Sectarian. Its object is to make better homes and its program specially tuned to the needs of the rural districts; Home Extension Courses being set up by the Director of the Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics Service from the Dept. of Agriculture.

Several members of Old Country Institutes, who are now living here, have joined the Roseland Institute to their mutual benefit.

The Institute Hall has been an asset to the community in many ways, it being the only hall of any size in the community, many wedding receptions, farewell receptions, Banquets by the various churches, etc. being held there. For a good many years most of the A.Y.P.A. Banquets sponsored by St. Stephen's Church were annually held there until Tully Hall was built in 1950.

Forty Years Ago

Items Culled From Essex Free
Press Files of May 1st, 1925

The name of the village of
Jackson's Corners was changed
to Roseland.

Officers Jackson's Corners
W.I. Pres. Mrs. C. Allen; 1st
V.P. Mrs. R.O. Allen; Secy.
Treas. Mrs. L. Russette.

Items Culled from Essex Free
Press Files of April 10th, 1925