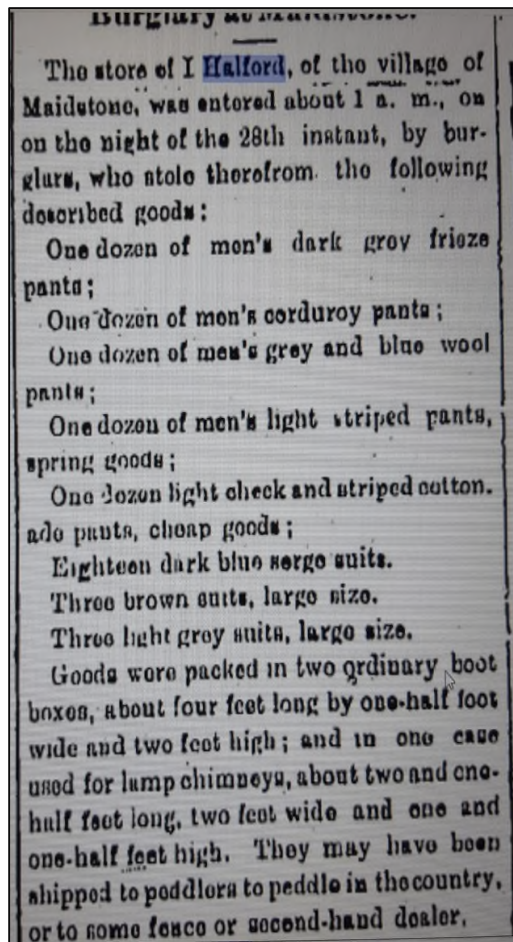


Nace Halford's Store

Nace Halford's store was located in the village of Maidstone, where the post office stands in 2021. It was a vital part of the community. Sandwich South Council minutes regularly report payments to Nace for gas, stationery and postage. There is also record of the Council paying for groceries for various individuals in the 1930's.

This article was taken from an April 1895 Essex Free Press.



In 1897 the Essex Free Press reported that he 'purchased a fine new furnace' for the store from J. McMurray in Essex.

From 1890, and for the next fifty-five years, Nace served as postmaster at Maidstone. He received the King George V Service medal for his service. After his retirement in 1942 his daughter and son-in-law, John and Walker, continued running the post office and store (Lucky Dollar) in Maidstone for another twenty years. It offered the coveralls and boots local farmers might need, as well as

having fresh produce and a meat counter. During the difficult war years, several local families who were in need were provided groceries despite having no way to pay. The store closed in the mid 1960's. The postal service continued until Canada Post bought the site, and tore down the store to build a new post office.

In 1910 Sandwich South decided to install a municipal telephone system. One hundred phones were ordered. Nace was appointed the first manager. In September of that year, he hired Croft Brothers to put an addition on the store to accommodate the central telephone office. By 1911 there were two hundred and seventeen telephone subscribers. Nace was paid \$91.25 per quarter for his services. Eventually the central office was moved to the home of Annie Markham, two doors west of the store.

Nace's store prospered, and was a benefit to the community.

Sources:

St. Mary's Parish Maidstone Ontario 1846-1996, edited by Rosemary Halford with the assistance of Carolyn Collins and Peter Halford

The Archives of the Essex Free Press

Robert Walker, son of John and Mary Walker, grandson of Nace Halford