

St. Mary's Church Centennial Celebration 1874 - 1974

To celebrate the centenary of St. Mary's Maidstone, we have tried, in the following pages, to trace the history of the church. In order to give substance to our history, we have shown a background of information, relating to the development of the settlement, itself and the earlier churches. From the first crude beginnings in the log church, with the first brick church, and finally, by the inspiring edifice today, the spirit of the parish of St. Mary's has proved to be one of generosity and helpfulness, true Christianity.

Without the people, the church would have been unnecessary; for, as we know, the church is not merely a building of brick, glass and wood, but the people, who give it life.

Many anecdotes recited here will truly depict how important the church was to the earlier settlers, whose hearts were surely larger than their pocketbooks. The numerous vocations from our parish have shown us that the parisioners have not lost their zeal with the passing of years.

Buildings do not maintain themselves and many organizations, for example, the Altar Society, have contributed much time and money to help in the upkeep of the physical structure of the building. The practical purposes of the organizations did not lessen their spiritual enrichment to the parish at all.

Some individuals have been included also, who stand out as having given more than ordinary service to the church and community.

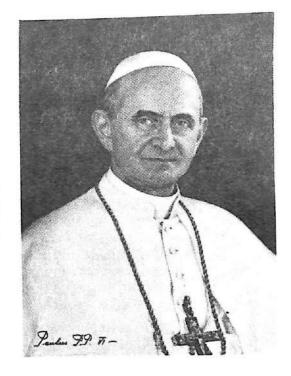
We have tried to provide a glimpse of the past through many old photographs included in the latter part of our text.

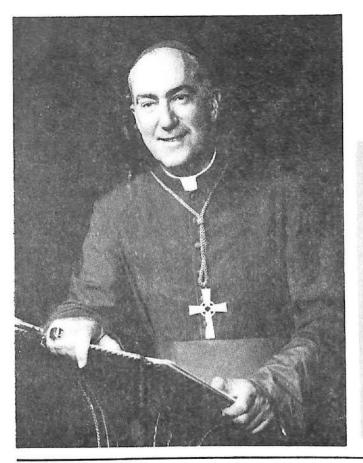
The centennial committee do now present, in all humility, our efforts.

"I was full of joy When I set out for the house of the Lord May peace be within your walls, And may all your homes be filled with joy Alleluia!"

Shepherds of Gur Flork

Our Pope His Holiness Paul VI



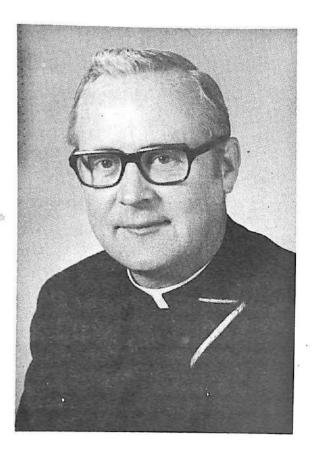


Our Bishop Most Rev. G. Emmett Carter

Our New Auxiliary Bishop

Most Rev. Iohn M. Sherlock

(Auxiliary Bishop of London)



October 1, 1974.

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary's Parish, Maidstone:

To celebrate the hundredth anniversary of a church is to be deeply moved by warm memories, profound hopes and pardonable pride.

Our memories are of the courageous pioneers whose faith in God and in one another created the parish and the church where the Catholic faith could be protected, nourished and proclaimed to other men.

Our hopes center upon the strengthening of this parish, as a place where the presence of Christ will be recognized, and the worship of God will flourish. The intensive growth of faith in each heart and mind, and the acceptance of the duty to give that faith to others, is our hope for each of the parishioners in this centennial year and it is our guarantee that the parish will live as a vital cell in the body of Christ for another century.

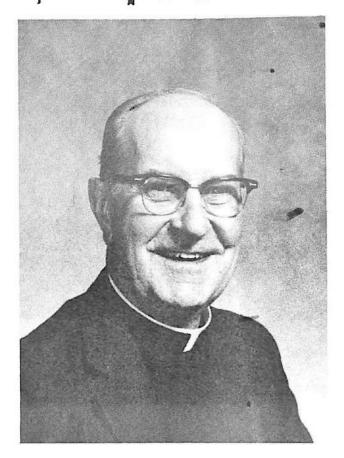
The pardonable pride is ours — in your faith, your loyalty and your love of Christ.

May Christ bless you all as you say to him on this happy anniversary "Lord for all that has been thanks; for all that will be, yes".

Devotedly yours in Christ

(Most Rev.) John M. Sherlock, Auxiliary Bishop of London.

Our Pastor Father A. Paul Marentette



Message from Our Pastor

In consultation with the Parish Council, it was recommended, that on the occasion of the centenary of the building of the present church, a general review be made of people and events of the past century in relation to this Hallowed Edifice.

It is Hallowed by the Presence of God, by His wishes, which was a dominant theme throughout the Old Testament. "They shall be my people and I shall be their God" and by His Legacy to us when He instituted the Eucharistic Sacrifice, "With Desire, have I Desired to Eat this Pasch with You"... "Do this in Memory of Me."

It is our hope, that the effort of the research committee, will have not been in vain, but may awake a chord of spirituality and make us more conscious and aware of this eternal truth. Only in the light of this can we appreciate the Strong Faith, Spirit of Sacrifice and Dedication of our Ancestors which brought about the present structure.

How do we compare with them?

The origins of the settlement of Maidstone

Essex County was settled from the outside in: the periphery of the county bordered the water, which was the most efficient of transportation available in the late 1700's. The interior areas were opened for settlement following highway or railroad development. Talbot Road or Number 3 Highway was originally an Indian path, useful because it followed the contours of high land from Sandwich to Pelee area. The government of Upper Canada ordered a survey of Talbot Road; it was carried out in 1818 by Mahlon and Burwell of Elgin County. Thus, this area was opened for settlement.

The British government considered immigration and thereby settlement of the Colonies important for security reasons. The Crown granted land to individuals, such as Col. Talbot, to hold for settlement purposes and also to corporations, such as, the Canada Company which sold land to many families in this area.

Col. Talbot was granted extensive land holdings as a reward for past military service. His personal land holdings were in the Talbotville and St. Thomas area; in Essex County he acted as a Crown agent, holding land in trust for settlers. It is said that he was somewhat of a dictator in deciding who would settle where; his prejudices were definitely anti-American.

The main means of promoting a viable settlement here was advertising in all the major papers of London England and probably some in Ireland also. The ads were unfailingly optimistic and usually neglected to mention any negative aspects of the territory. For example, the virtues of unlimited acreage, the fertility of the soil and the ease of cultivation were all extolled while the necessity of clearing the land first was omitted.

Between 1834 and 1838, the Canada Corporation was granted at least fifteen hundred acres along the south side of the lots on the south side of Talbot Road. These lots, where South Talbot Rd. now is, were considered less favourable than those lots having direct access to the highway. Therefore, they were often settled at a later date than the Talbot and Walker Road areas. We have an example of inflation even in those days. In 1851, The Canada Company sold one hundred acres on Lot 4, Con. 9 to Jeremiah Driscoll for the sum of seventy-five pounds; by 1870 the price of one hundred acres, the south half of lot 298 on the south side of Talbot Rd., was two hundred pounds to Patrick Connell.

Immigrants to the New World came by sailing vessel; "the journey required eleven weeks on the water" according to Michael McCarthy family biography. The voyage was generally by way of the United States; the travellers arrived tired, sometimes sick and usually penniless.

Lack of money often forced settlers to work for several years in the port cities of New York or Boston, before they could continue their travels.

In spite of the many hardships, the small group of mostly lrish families grew from 1824 onwards. By 1839 the Assessment Record of Sandwich shows interesting data about the Maidstone community. These excerpts are available from research done by John Battersby:

| Name | | cation Incession | Cultivated Acres | Number in Household | |
|--|------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--|
| JEREMIAH DRISCOLL | . W4 | 9th | 0 | 3 | |
| CHARLES COLE Wife — Ellen Driscoll (from Boston) Some descendants of this family include the Mrs. Fred Austin, Turton and Lepain families. | 12 | 7th | 6 | 8 | |
| MICHAEL HIGGINS Wife — Johanna Dunn Descendants of this settler include the Milford Dawson family. | 4 | 5th | 10 | 5 | |
| MICHAEL McCARTHY, SR. N. 301 Wife — Catherine Finn Richard McCarthy, brother of Michael, came to the parish during the 1840's. His descendants include the Emmett and Gerard McCarthy families, as wel as the Hebert and Lafferty families. | • | ot Rd. | 10 | 9 | |

ASSESSMENTS OF SANDWICH, 1839

| JOHN DRISCOLL | S 30 D Talbot Rd. | 4 | 4 |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|---|
| Wife — Mary McCarthy Mrs. Alfred Morrill of Windsor is among the descendants of this family. | • | | 10 |
| CORNELIUS SEXTON | N300 Talbot Rd. | 18 | 10 |
| Wife — Mary O'Connell The Ralph Sexton family and Mrs. Grace McCarthy are among the descendants of this family. | | | 11 |
| JOHN HALFORD, SR. Wives — 1 - Mary O'Brien 2 - Catherine Houlihan The late Robert Halford was the grandson of John Halford; Robert Halford's descendants include Mrs. Rosemary Sexton and Peter L. Halford and families. | N297 | 12 | |
| ABRAHAM HALFORD 21 year old bachelor son of John Halford. He later married Ellen Flynn. Abraham Halford was the grandfather of Miss Nell and Mrs. Mary Halford McGavin and the late James, Kate and Maurice Halford of this parish. | S297 | 6 | 1 |
| DANIEL DRISCOLL Wife — Mary Sexton | S304 | 10 | 7 |
| ALEX O'NEIL, SR. Wife — Margaret Houlihan The Lavin families are descendants of this family. | N305 | 10 | . 9 |
| TIMOTHY CONNELL Wife — Bridget O'Connor Late Peter Connell was a descendant of this family. | N999 | 12 | 7 |
| DENNIS O'BRIEN Wife — Catherine Cavanaugh | N304 | 8 | З |
| DENNIS COLLINS Father of Jeremiah Collins Descendants include the Bernard, Russell, Michael Collins families of the parish. | S292 | 0 | 6 |
| DENNIS DOWNING, SR. Wife — Honora Houlihan Descendants of this settler are Mrs. Harold Well- wood and family. | N302 | 7 | 7 |
| JEREMIAH R. McCARTHY Wife — Elizabeth Flynn Some descendants of this family include John Sullivan and Elmer McCann of this parish and Mrs. Myrtle Sullivan Stillman of Detroit. | S301 | 9 | 5 |
| MICHAEL McCARTHY, SR. | N301 Talbot Rd. | 10 | 9 |
| These settlers had to fulfill certain grant conditions before land they occupied became legally their own, and they were granted the deed. It was necessary to clear some land, to erect a home within twelve months, and to live on the land for most of the months of the year. The covernment dictated the minimum size of the | considered most | favourable and wa | d, the south half (one nt to the road was as granted first: granted to Richard |

Oct. 12, 1846 Crown granted to Richard McCarthy, 100 acres, south half lot 299

Feb. 18, 1850 Crown granted to Cornelius Sexton, 100 acres, south half lot 300

Nov. 10, 1847 Crown granted to Dennis Downing, south half lot 302

year. The government dictated the minimum size of the

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In several cases the north half of the lot, again one hundred acres, was granted approximately ten years later, indicating fulfillment of the grant conditions for another parcel of land:

Aug. 31, 1854 Crown granted to Richard McCarthy, 100 acres north half lot 299

June 9, 1857 Crown granted to Dennis Downing, 100 acres north half lot 302

Several references to Maidstone in the records of Assumption parish give us some information about our community. One of the first pastors of St. Mary's preached at the laying of the cornerstone of the present Assumption parish church in 1842; he was introduced as "the priest from the Irish settlement twelve miles away". In 1844 there is a reference to the five or six hundred Irish Catholics at Maidstone Cross.

The Middle Road, now 98 highway, was surveyed by Colonel Burwell in 1828; however, it was only a trail of blazed trees until well after the 1837-38 Rebellion. Most of the settlers along the Middle Road from Maidstone Cross to Woodslee were Irish Catholics. The earliest of these was James O'Connor who came in 1828; a short time later the Kavanaugh family arrived. By 1838 The Scully, O'Callaghan, Costigan and Moran families had settled there. Then in the early forties came the Monaghan, Gallagher, Conway, Farrel, Deehan, Hardigan, Geehan, Rushton, Slattery, Murray and many other families.

Neil Morrison's book "Garden Gateway to Canada" gives us some idea of the number and usefulness of animals in the pioneer community. "Oxen long continued in use almost entirely for draught purposes. The gradual introduction of horses served chiefly for riding, which was the only alternative to walking, if one wished to travel on land, because the side roads continued to be little more than rough tracks. According to the Assessment Poll for 1850 there were then in Maidstone Township, 140 horses, 175 oxen, 369 cows, 584 sheep and 995 hogs. The population was only 761, although the Middle Road had been settled for a quarter of a century." (page 21)

Later, according to the 1874 assessment many more Catholic families had come to reside in the Maidstone Township area of the parish. We find these names: Ouellette, Goulet, Gerrard, McIntyre, Farrell, McPharlin, Tiernan, Donovan, Kane, Miller, Plante, McHugh, Reiley, Mahon, Shanahan, Scully, Hayes, Allen, Bellaire, Maitre, Campeau, Perry, Lesperance, Papineau, Henry, Slattery, Conroy, Connolly, McCloskey, Burke, Deehan, Menard, Blanchard, Donnely, Lepain, Rourke, Martin, Markham, Quinlan, Cada, Villaire, Maguire, Mooney, Keane, McCann, Devlin, Flannery, Mognahan, Barry, Cavanaugh, Chittle, Hebert, McLean, Durocher and Marentette. A listing of present families in the parish would include many of these same names.

In the Jesuit relations, letters that Jesuits wrote to their superior describing their activities in the mission field, the Irish settlement is singled out for the stability of their faith. They were always very grateful to whichever Jesuit missionary could attend to the spiritual needs of the community. Father Jaffré wrote that he enjoyed serving the Irish Catholics because of the great respect they show the priest, because of the great spirit of faith they possess, and because of their generosity. "While no one gives much, because no one there is rich, every single person gives something, and all the small portions put together form a considerable total." Thus it appears from very earliest days our community has been noted for its faith, its love and its generosity; may it ever continue to be so!

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Picture a lonely, tree lined log road, the forest broken, occasionally by rough log houses, perhaps a barn, a small cleared field or two. A <u>solitary man rides</u> his horse to make Maidstone by dark. This scene could have happened along the "Middle Road" from Belle River to Maidstone after Fr. Angus MacDonell was appointed pastor of Sandwich by his uncle, Alexander MacDonell, the bishop of York in 1831. His duties included visiting the missions of Maidstone and Belle Riviere.

The Catholic settlers had sought what spiritual ministrations they needed at Sandwich. They followed the blazed trail, carrying shoes in one hand and lunch in the other, and often times were compelled to jump from log to log to keep from being mired in the swamp. When they neared the church, they put on their shoes and assisted at Mass. Afterwards, they sat down in the shade of a tree and broke their fast; then set off on foot as they had come.

The missionaries were warmly welcomed when visits were made to offer Mass in some of the log homes of the settlers. Mass was said at John Halford's house. Lennon's, Michael Cavanaugh's and at Dennis Collins' home.

According to the writings of Bishop Nelligan, former history and french professor at Assumption College, Fr. MacDonell built the first log church at Maidstone. The exact date or site is unknown. Other missionaires who assisted Fr. MacDonell were Fr. J. Foley, Fr. J. Lostrie, Fr. Pierre Schneider, Fr. Jean B. Morin.

The boyhood memories of Mr. Lennon, as told to Fr. Charles Collins, describe this structure as having been about 40 feet long, 20 feet wide, 10 feet high on the corners, with a pitch roof surmounted by a cross, four or five windows on each side and two windows and a door at the end.

After the necessary number of logs was collected by the parishioners, a bee was held to raise the building, as was the custom in those days. The walls were chinked and daubed with clay to keep out the elements. Heating was provided by stoves in the winter and illumination by lamps, when necessary.

Fr. Lajeunesse, a retired professor at Assumption

College, mentioned the records of the laying of the cornerstone of Assumption Church. It was recorded that a priest from the "Irish Settlement" attended this ceremony in 1842. Bishop Nelligan recalls that Fr. Michael McDonnell, an Irish priest, began residing at Maidstone in the early 1840's. He found pioneer life unsuitable. In 1844 when he was recalled by the bishop, the Jesuits first began to attend Maidstone.

Fr. Chazelle came here regularly every two weeks, from June 1844 until Aug. 1845. At his death, assigned to the missions of Maidstone and Chatham was Fr. Jean Jaffré, S.J.

Bishop Nelligan, in his description of Fr. Jaffré's life, tells us that he was born in Auray, Brittany, France on Sept. 25, 1800. He was ordained on Aug. 15, 1835. He arrived in Canada on Oct. 22, 1844, after studying English in Lancashire, England for two years. His assignment was to have been pastor of Sandwich, but, according to Fr. Chazelle, Fr. Jaffré was not suitable to minister to the needs of the French Canadians of Sandwich. From then on he was employed in the English-speaking portions of the population. He was assigned to the missions of Maidstone and Chatham.

Fr. Jaffré was a hearty man, impervious to the fevers and agues plaguing the people in this swampy and undrained land. The forests had yet to be cleared from most of the area at this time.

Just before Christmas, in 1845, Fr. Jaffré gave an eight day mission at Maidstone. On this occasion it was shown to the priest and people that a larger church was needed. The pioneer Irish settlers were poor and it took three years to collect enough money to begin building. In 1848 a beginning was made.

The following is a letter, translated from the French, written during Fr. Jaffré's mission.

Father V. Fremiot to Father Provincial from Sault Ste-Marie — 24 June 1848

"On Pentecost, I went to say Mass at Maidstone, an Irish colony at 15 miles from Sandwich and served by our Fathers. I read the day's Gospel in English as well as a lesson on the feast. It was my first effort on my part; they told me that they had understood everything. May God will it! But I well understood that I had not received the gift of tongues, which would, however, be very useful. This excursion gave rise to an accident which almost became serious. I had been told that, with the exception of wine, I would find there all I needed. However, on arriving, we searched in vain: no hosts. Father Jaffré, on his last visit on Ascenscion Thursday, had taken everything to Chatham; a place 60 miles from Sandwich where he normally resides and where he is building a church.

Happily, my misfortune was not without remedy; a host was improvised — more or less — between two irons and our good Irishmen, having come in from all over to that little chapel lost in the middle of the woods, were once again able to break out in sighs at the elevation and the Domine non sum Dignus and to go back home, happy, with a good supply of holy water."

A description of the first brick church comes to us from the writings of Fr. Charles Collins, a Maidstone native.

The brick church was about seventy feet long, thirtyfive feet wide and about twenty four feet on the corners. There were five large windows of Roman style on each side a large rose window in the end, two doors swinging on hinges that permitted easy egress to the large congregation; a cross about six feet high on top of the church as well as a mission cross about fifteen feet high in the yard. The church was located about seventy five feet back from the Talbot Rd. and about twenty feet from the Middle Road. An addition for a vestry was made by Peter McLaughlin, of the Rear Road. Behind the church, was erected a belfry, thirty feet high with a roof over the belk In connection with the opening of the new church a cemetery was located about ten rods back of the rectory, along the middle road.

For about twenty-five years the church was well used and the congregation was dismayed to find it was in dangerous condition and needed to be replaced.



St. Mary's Church - 1874 - 1974 - Maidstone, Ontario

Development of the present church

In 1872, a movement had begun to construct a new larger Catholic Church at Maidstone Cross. The parish priest at the time, Father O'Shea, along with Thomas Moran, the village storekeeper, took up subscriptions for the building of the new edifice. Their efforts successful, the contract for the new building was given out, at a price just over fourteen thousand dollars.

Before long, Father O'Shea was replaced by Father Delahunty who bought the site of the present church from Geary farm. In August, 1874, he proudly laid the cornerstone of our church.

Along with initiating the building of the new church, Father Delahunty had the new cemetery laid out, and the bodies moved from the old cemetery (which was on our present day No. 114 highway). He also beautified the church grounds, planting maples and evergreens in profusion.

Father Ouellette superintended the building of the church. The brick was made on Hugh Lennon's farm (later Ed Sexton's and today owned by Robert Hergott). Ignatius and John Halford, assisted by other parishioners, hauled the gravel needed from Frith's pit. After much effort, the church was opened and dedicated to St. Mary. (According to some sources the log church and the first brick church were both called St. Patrick's. Other sources disagree. No decisive records can be found.)

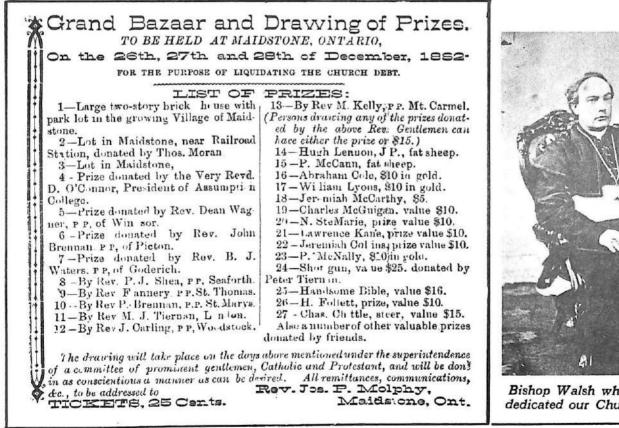
The old brick church and property were sold to Charles Kavanagh. He used the church as a carriage shop as well as making it his home. His children Arthur,. Mary, and Albert were all born in what had previously

been the church vestry. Descendants of the Charles Kavanagh family include: Father Tim Kavanagh, Mrs. Albert Kavanagh, Mrs. Nicholas Kavanagh, the Ray Kavanaghs, Clarence Kavanagh, the Ed Milligans, the Ted Hossacks, and Mrs. Ellen Dunn, Years later an upstairs was put in the old church and it was used as a roller skating rink (one could rent skates for 15 cents an evening). When Mr. Kavanagh closed his business he sold the property, and the church later burned down.

When Father Ouellette took over the parish, he worked to have the present stained glass windows installed. He canvassed the parish for families wishing to donate one hundred dollars to buy a window and have their name put on it. The windows today bear many names still familiar in this parish: Cole, Collins, Halford, McCarthy, Shanahan; and others, not so familiar: Cronyn, Higgins, Kilroy, Mooney, Moran, Ouellette (perhaps Father Ouellette's gift?) The windows on the west side of the Sanctuary were the gift of Bishop Walsh who had officiated at the opening of the church.

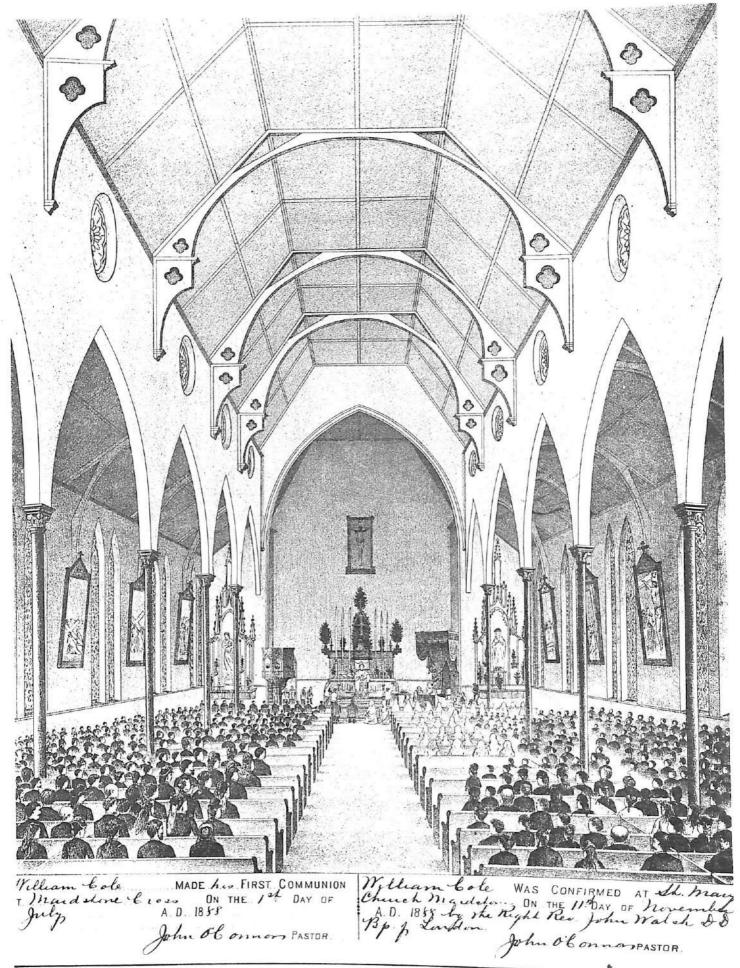
Father Ouellette also gave considerable attention to the development of the choir and, it is recorded, he was "rewarded with excellence."

Father Molphy succeeded Father Ouellette. During his pastorate (1882-1883) he built the new priests' home at a cost of about four thousand dollars. The old one, (built about 1867) had never been properly finished. It was the "Two story brick house" given in the "Grand Bazaar and Drawing of Prizes" Father Molphy organized to help ease the debt on the church. (Tom Shanahan's older brother Ed won a set of fine china in this drawing!)





Bishop Walsh who opened and dedicated our Church.



1574. 9, Tev, Fr. Fil lovember. Church, in the Riccese of London, have selemnly joined in 1 cording to the Rites of the Holy Catholic Church, harles Sole. Jan af Driscoll. iscoll. aughter a and the Presence of -13-53-6



The first wedding in the present church was solemnized between William Cole and Catherine Driscoll (picture left, marriage certificate above).

Some of the first baptisms recorded for the present church in 1874 include Richard McCarthy born Oct. 5, Thomas Ferry, born Oct. 9, Joseph Conroy born Oct. 29, Bridget McLean born Nov. 22, Margaret Mary McCarthy born Nov. 29, Charles Collins born Dec. 3, and Margaret McCarthy born Dec. 12.

Early 1875 baptisms include Henry Burke, James Byrne, Sarah Geehan, William McIntyre, Hugh Kane, Catherine Lyons, Ellen Conroy, Henry Lesperance, P. Thomas McCloskey, John McCarthy, and Francis James McAuliffe. Father O'Connor became pastor in 1884. He worked hard to pay off the large debt that remained on the church. (Frank McCloskey gave up his carriage shop for two weeks so that the church could hold a bazaar in the shop, today owned by Mrs. Mike John.) Shortly before he died Father O'Connor proudly announced that there was not a cent of debt left on the church.

Father McGee, in 1892, had the church decorated and a new heating system installed. The church was first heated by wood stoves which were not satisfactory because the space was too large for the inadequate supply of heat. Father McGee tried gas, but that too was inadequate. (The problem of heat wasn't solved until Father McCabe installed a steam heating system about 1908.)

Father McGee started the three separate schools in the parish and also bought the corner lot from Father Collins to build the parish hall. The hall was built by members of the C.M.B.A. (Catholic Mutual Benefit Association) including Eugene Sullivan, Edward Chittle and Frank Mero. Before the hall was built, parish organizations used the meeting room built above the vestry of the church. When it was no longer needed, it was closed off and the stairway removed.

Father McCabe, the next pastor, began immediate improvements. Besides the heating system already mentioned, he purchased a new lighting system. The church was newly plastered, roofed, and decorated. Outside a new front was put on the church to serve as a belfry and a new bell was purchased. (The church had been built with a tall steeple but it was lowered in the early 1900's after it was damaged in a storm and the parishioners feared it might fall and damage the main part of the building.) The priests' house was also decorated, a grove of maples planted behind it, and the lawns beautified.

One of Father McCabe's assistants, Father McMahon, worked with Father LaBelle of Woodslee to start the North Essex Baseball League. Teams in the league, besides the already well established Maidstone Shamrocks, included Woodslee, Essex, Harrow, Amherstburg, McGregor and Lukerville. Local stars included Frank McCloskey, Charles O'Brien, Leo Greeneway. It is said that whenever Maidstone needed a relief pitcher, Father McMahon would take off his Roman Collar and become an excellent ball player! The ball diamond was located where it is today, but it wasn't until years later that the quality ball park we have today began being developed.

In 1928, Father Stroeder took charge of the parish and built the spacious convent for the Sisters of St. Joseph who he invited to come to Maidstone and take charge of the schools. The main floor, which has since been renovated, included a large well-furnished chapel (the white altar was the gift of Miss Nona McCarthy) the Community room, refectory, kitchen, and pantry. There were nine bedrooms on the second floor. The attic or third floor, could easily be finished if more bedrooms were required. The full basement was used for laundry as well as fruit and vegetable storage.

In 1933, Father Gleeson became pastor. He stimulated interest in developing the ball diamond and encouraged the ball team. Twice while he was pastor the church caught fire. First the roof caught fire when one of the corn cobs, used to start the coal fires, was carried up onto the roof. The fire was put out by men carrying buckets of water up through the tower, then, by straddling the roof, carrying the water to where the fire was. The second time the altar rail caught fire from the votive candles. This was extinguished by some men who were working on the ball diamond.

Father Gleeson had the interior of the church decorated in approximately 1947. The crucifixion scene was painted over the Sanctuary around the large crucifix hung there. This crucifix was donated by Mrs. Jake Simons in memory of her husband who had been killed in a farm accident at their home which was later owned by Bob Schwertner. The Crucifixion and ornate gold trim was done by Mr. Rholand Jobin, a church painter who moved from Montreal to this area in 1935. He painted many of the churches in this area. Parishioners today remember seeing him holding a small picture in his hand, his guide, as he did this gigantic reproduction.

Money spent on repairing the church was raised by picnics, bazaars, and plays. At the start of World War Two, when some food supplies became rationed and others very expensive, the annual church picnics ended. Instead a subscription of at least ten dollars was asked from each family in the parish, and put into the "Picnic Fund" to be used for maintenance of the church. This was taken up annually until the bishop proposed the system of tithing instead of taking many collections.

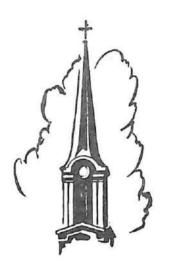
In 1949, Father Chisholm had the Rectory remodelled and redecorated. After his death, in 1953, Mrs. John Chittle donated a consannto organ to the church, in his memory. (This organ was used until the late 1960's, when it had to be replaced.)

Also, in 1953 the outside of the church was repaired and cleaned by sandblasting. Sidewalks were laid up to the front of the church and a new light was put over the front door.

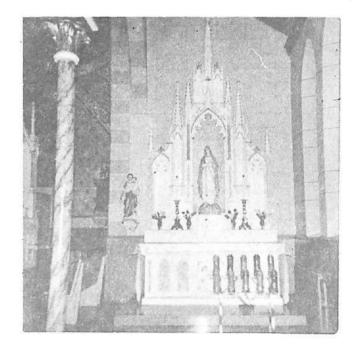
In February of 1956, Father Jordan began the interior decoration of the church, and it was finished by Father O'Neil. Churchgoers moved under a maze of scaffolding as from floor to ceiling the church was redecorated. New lights shone from high in the beams. New light birch pews were installed. The huge framed stations were trimmed to half their size and mounted in light birch frames to match the pews. (Harold Felix was the craftsman). The parishioners viewed their "new" church with mixed emotions. June of 1960 saw Jim Markham, chairman of the schoolboard, turn the sod for the new two room brick school being built between the convent and the cemetery. Only three years later, with the closing of the three old schools, eight rooms were needed.

In 1961, Father Mackesey had the parish hall moved back from No. 3 Highway. It was painted and a new wing, including a kitchen and washrooms, was added on (much of which was accomplished by the donations of the Catholic Women's League.)

Father McNab, besides building the monument in the cemetery, had sidewalks put in from the convent, by the Rectory, to the church. This project was most appreciated by the Sisters, who often stepped through mud and snow on the sidewalk along the highway. The Second Vatican Council, and the Diocese of London Synod had pronounced effects on all the churches in the diocese. Ours was no exception. The ornate altar with its many alcoves for flowers, candles, or statues, was removed. Carpet covered the terrazzo floor of the Sanctuary. The crucifixion scene and ornate gold trim above the sanctuary disappeared behind a coat of paint. The side altars, one dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, the other to the Sacred Heart, were gone. The communion rail, with its bronze gates that clanked shut, was removed. Gone, the high, straightbacked bishop's chair. Gone, the statues of St. Michael, St. Patrick, St. Ann, St. Anthony, the Infant of Prague. Gone, the sanctuary lamp that seemed to hang from Heaven.



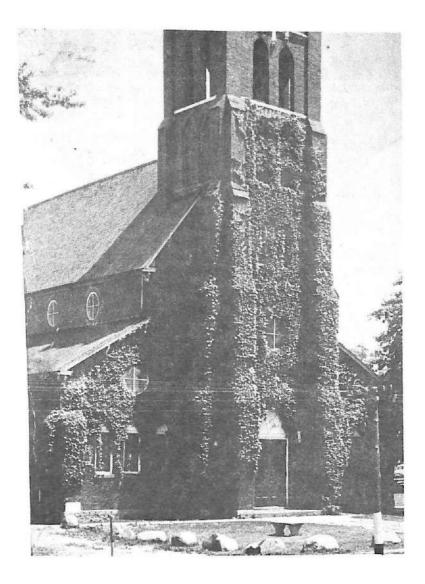


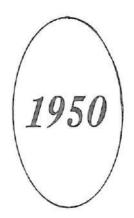


The side Altars of The Sacred Heart (left) and Blessed Virgin, early 1960's



The Sanctuary in 1952 - Pastor: Fr. Chisholm





Ivy covered the Front of the Church.

The Rectory and Convent.



St. Mary's Church - 1874 - 1974 - Maidstone, Ontario

OUR PRIESTS.

MISSIONARIES TO MAIDSTONE

FR. ANGUS MacDONELL, 1831 assisted by FR. J. FOLEY, FR. J. LOSTRIE, FR. PIERRE SCHNEIDER, FR. JEAN B. MORIN FR. MICHAEL McDONNELL, 1840-44 FR. CHAZELLE, S.J., 1845 FR. JEAN JAFFRE, S.J., 1845-55

PARISH PRIESTS

FR. CONNILEAU, 1855-59 FR. ROBERT KELEHER, 1859-61 FR. BAYARD, 1861-62 FR. LAURENT, 1862 FR. CANNON, 1862 FR. VIRGILIUS DEVLIN, O.S.B., 1862-65 FR. W.B. HANNET, 1865-67 FR. JOS. SCANLAN, 1867-68 FR. O'DONOVAN, 1868-69 FR. GAUTHIER, 1869-72 FR. P.J. O'SHEA, 1872-73 FR. DELAHUNTY, 1873-74

What do we have in our Church today?

> Baptismal Bells'', A new Generation . . . A new Tradition . . .

What do we have in our church today? The simple altar of sacrifice, facing the congregation. The Tabernacle raised behind it, with a backdrop of crimson velvet drapes. To our left, the pews for the altar boys face the altar of sacrifice. On our right, the white marble baptismal font donated in memory of Rt. Rev. C. E. McGee by his nephew, Father Lowry. The same tall stained glass windows, the votive lights, the confessionals, the statue of the Canadian Martyrs, given in

FR. FITZPATRICK, 1874 (6 mos.) FR. J. OUELLETTE, 1875-81 FR. J. SCANLAN, 1877 (assistant) FR. JOS. MOLPHY, 1881-84 FR. E. HODGKINSON, 1884 FR. J. O'CONNOR, 1884-90 FR. D.P. MCMENAMIN, 1890-92 FR. C. McGEE, 1892-1904 FR. W.P. L'HEUREUX, 1897 (assistant) FR. PETER McCABE, 1904-1928 FR. J.L. QUINLAN, 1924-28 (assistant) FR. E.J. McMAHON, 1927 (assistant) FR. A. STROEDER, 1928-33 FR. J.P. GLEESON, 1933-47 FR. J.M. CHISOLM, 1947-53 FR. J.A. JORDAN, 1953-58 FR. M.J. QUENNEVILLE, 1958 (6 mos.) FR. I. O'NEIL, 1958-59 FR. J.P. GLEESON, 1959-60 FR. J.A. MacKESY, 1960-65 FR. J.P. GRAHAM, 1965 FR. W. McNABB, 1965-66 FR. J.M. FOGARTY, 1966-69 FR. A.P. MARENTETTE, 1969-



Norm Jobin

announces

Philip's Christening.

memory of Ignatius and Christine Halford. Statues of the Sacred Heart, the Blessed Virgin and St. Patrick. The gas fired trane heating system Father Marentette has installed replaced the noisy old radiators Father McCabe had installed. The prayers aren't Latin, the hymns are new. Would our forefathers recognize their church today?

Last year Father Marentette had the church bells repaired. Now they ring at seven o'clock in the morning, twelve noon, and six o'clock in the evening. They are tolled as soon as Father learns of the death of one of the parishioners, nine times for a man, seven times for a woman.

Father Marentette has started a new "tradition" also:

following a Christening the proud father is invited to ring the bells to announce to the world that his child is now baptized!

Time changes the appearance and customs of our church, but the descendants of the men who built it, and and the families who have joined them in Maidstone continue to congregate here. They come to share the joy of new life, the promise of marriage, the sorrow of death. For, all of us who share the common gift of faith, share also in the treasured heritage of our St. Mary's Church.

Speaking of new traditions . . . what other parish can boast having one of its sexton ring the angelus at 2:00 a.m.





The Present Altar

Parish Priests



Fr. Gauthier 1869-1872



Fr. Hodgkinson 1884



Fr. D. P. McMenamin 1890-1892



Fr. L'Heureux 1897 (assistant)



Fr. C. McGee 1892-1904



Fr. Peter McCabe 1904-1928

Parish Priests



Fr. James Quinlan 1924-1928 (assistant)



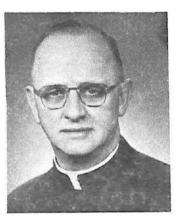
Fr. J. P. Gleeson 1933-1947 1959-1960



Fr. J H. Chisholm 1947-1953



Fr. M. J. Quenneville 1958



Fr. I O'Neil 1958-1959

1966-1969



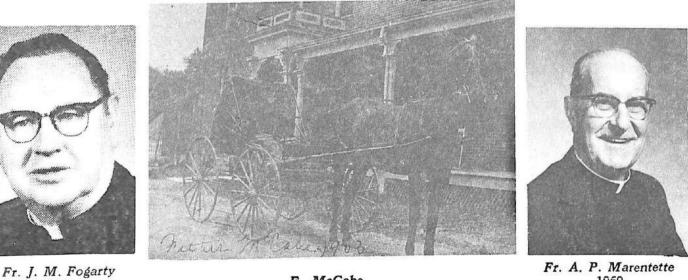
Fr. J. A Mackesy 1960-1965



Fr. J. P Graham 1965



Fr. W. McNabb 1965-1966



F. McCabe

Fr. A. P. Marentette 1969

St. Mary's Church - 1874 - 1974 - Maidstone, Ontario

Vocations from the parish

Father Michael Tiernan was the first priest from St. Mary's Parish, his parents, Peter Tiernan and Minnie Nevin, are commemorated in stained glass windows. We were unable to locate further information, living descendants or a picture of this priest.

> Father Nicholas Dixon was born in Maidstone February 4, 1857, the son of Nicholas Dixon and Mary Goodall. He was the pastor at Kingsbridge in the Goderich area at the time of his death June 21, 1900. Representatives of his relatives still living in the parish include the Milligan and Kavanaugh families.



Fr. Nicholas Dixon



Fr. Charles Collins

Father Charles Collins was a well-known Basilian from this parish, the son of Jeremiah Collins, Sr. and Ann Cavanagh. He was born on a farm near Maidstone on December 3, 1874; it is appropriate that a son of two of Maidstone's earliest families was one of the first infants baptized in the present church. He was ordained a priest of the Basilian Order, August 15, 1899. He taught in Texas, did parish work in Owen Sound, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan but spent the greatest part of his life at Assumption College. He taught, wrote poetry and was a good public speaker; many of his reminiscences were published in the alumni papers of Assumption College and in the Basilian papers. He died June 2, 1947.

Unpublished manuscripts of Father Collins are now in the general archives of the Basilian Fathers in Toronto. Unfortunately Fr. Scollard, the Basilian archivist, had no knowledge of a history of Maidstone, written by Fr. Collins. This is referred to in the 1934 Essex Free Press history of Maidstone; perhaps this manuscript is now in someone's attic or perhaps it only existed in verbal form.

There are several Collins families and descendants in the parish at the present time; they can all include Fr. Collins in their family tree.

Fr. Timothy Kavanagh, O.F.M F - Arthur Kavanagh M - Margaret Fields

Fr. Christopher Quinlan F - Edward Quinlan M - Ann McCann

Fr. Tim Kavanagh



St. Mary's Church, Maidstone, means a great deal to me. I was baptized, received First Holy Communion and Confirmation, offered my First Holy Mass after ordination on June 9, 1946, and was presented with my Missionary Cross ... all at the foot of the altar in St. Mary's Church, Maidstone.

Of course, I really miss the beautiful painting that once drew your attention the moment you stepped inside the door ... the beautiful painting of the Crucifixion, right over the Tabernacle where the dear Lord dwells . . . in commemoration of that Crucifixion.

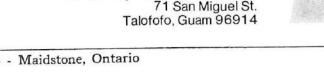
One of my great joys, each time I return for a visit, is that first Sunday back, when I offer the mass and say a few words to the people of my home Parish. How wonderful to see so many of the old familiar faces . . . they get fewer each time I return; faces that saw me grow up and know what a rascal I was. As I write this I recall what dear old Mrs. Grace McCarthy once told me. My mother once said to her, "I don't know what's going to become of that boy!" I guess that was after one of my many "rascal moods". What I am now, I owe very definitely to the prayers of a devoted and motherly mother . . . the result of her prayers, sacrifices, and guiding example and advice in the days of my restless youth.

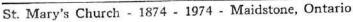
I recall other influences in my life, centered around St. Mary's. I recall grandpa Kavanagh shuffling up the side aisle each Sunday morning . . . and now his grandchildren are nearing the shuffling stage of life. I recall the inspiration two great Sisters of St. Joseph gave me, Sister St. Peter and St. Omer. They are retired now. They gave me so much encouragement in the pursuit of my cherished goal of the Priesthood. My Capuchin vocation is another story. I recall the many times I walked from home to church to attend First Communion and Confirmation instruction. I recall riding the milk truck of Mr. Andy McCarthy on First Friday mornings to go to Mass . . . with a sandwich in my pocket to eat after Mass as I trudged down the highway to No. 7 School. That is gone now, as a school.

Oh, yes, I could ramble on and on in memories, of episodes and episodes of people and places, centered around the dear old home Parish. I have loved it, and still love it tenderly, as the cradle of formation for my present Missionary "Career", still centered around the Tabernacle . . . in Commemoration of the Crucifixion.

My priestly Blessing to all the People of God in the God-Blessed Parish of St. Mary's, Maidstone.

> Fr. Timothy Kavanagh, OFMCap. 71 San Miguel St. Talofofo, Guam 96914







Fr. Christopher Quinlan

When I think and reflect on my home parish of St. Mary's, Maidstone, there wells up in my heart, mind and emotions many pleasant memories — my home, my family, my many friends who are always there to support me, my community — the Church — the family of God. — my brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus. However, I think that I can best express my appreciation for my home parish and for all the people that surrounded me by gratitude to God, the Father for the life of Jesus that was given to me through sacrament and Eucharist and what that life of Jesus means to me.

In February, 1936, the new life of Jesus was given to me through the sacrament of Baptism, making me a member of the family of St. Mary's Maidstone — the Church. At that time, God, the Father reached out to me, as an infant, through his Son, Jesus, my parents, God-parents and the priest and made me a follower of Jesus, for which I will be ever grateful.

During the month of May, 1943, after months of preparation, I shared in the life of Jesus in a fuller way by receiving Him in Holy Communion for the first time, kneeling at the altar rail, supported by my parents on either side sharing in the Eucharistic meal — eating the Body and Blood of the Lord. This life of Jesus was renewed weekly at the parish celebration of the Eucharist because as a child of God — something which I still am, I needed His Life.

In my growth process as a Christian, I came to a greater recognition of my sinfulness, my emptiness, my poverty and at the same time a recognition of the need for the forgiveness, mercy and compassion of Jesus which was celebrated many times in the sacrament of reconciliation — the sacrament of Penance.

And then in the spring of 1950, I became an adult member in the life of the Church through the fullness of the gift of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of confirmation, celebrated by Bishop John Christopher Cody. There was and still is, in my life, a great need for the power of Love, the Spirit, in my following of Jesus.

Through the fraternal support and prayers of the family of St. Mary's, Maidstone, I felt that God, the Father was calling me to a life of service through the Priesthood of Jesus Christ. After seven years of preparation in St. Peter's Seminary, London, Ontario, I was ordained to the service of the Church through the priesthood of Jesus Christ on June 2, 1962. And then came one of the greatest days in my life — Sunday — June 3, 1962, when I returned to my parish family of St. Mary's, Maidstone and celebrated the life of Jesus through the sacrifice of the Mass — taking bread and wine in my human hands and changing it into the Body and Blood of Jesus — so that my family of God — St. Mary's, Maidstone, might eat of the "Bread of Life".

And now — 1974 — the Centennial of the building of our parish home — the Church, let us pray for one another that each one of us in our life of service and love might build up the Body of Christ — the Church — with His help.

ST. JOSEPH ORDER







Sister Mechtilde (Susan McCarthy) F - Jeremiah McCarthy M - Susan McMahon Entered - March 19, 1881 Died - June 12, 1943 St. Joseph Order

F - John Halford M - Ellen Barrett Entered - August 15, 1892 Died - February 27, 1948 St. Joseph Order

Sister Vincent (Margaret Halford) Sister Adelaide (Thelma McAuliffe) F - James McAuliffe M - Ada Halford Entered - August 16, 1932 St. Joseph Order



Sister Agatha (Genevieve Halford) F - Robert Halford M - Elizabeth McCloskey Entered - August 16, 1932 St. Joseph Order



Sister Elaine Flood F - Donald Flood M - Eileen McCloskey Entered - January 3, 1959 St. Joseph Order



Sister Elizabeth Sexton F - Ralph Sexton M - Rosemary Halford Entered - July 2, 1966 St. Joseph Order

Sisters of St. Joseph (Living) who have served in Maidstone

Sister Alberta Sister Alexandrine Sister Alma Sister Aloysia Sister Antonia Joris Sister Benedicta Sister Berchmans Sister Bernadette Kerrigan Sister Bernice Hennessy Sister Bertha Sister Brendan Sister Catherine Cunningham Sister Cecilia Sister Clarence Sister Clotilde Sister Columbia Sister Dionysia Sister Edmund Sister Eileen Cronyn Sister Eileen Foran Sister Elzear Sister Emmanuel Sister Ernestine Sister Esther Sister Eugene Sister Eulogia

Sister Febronia Sister Florian Sister Francis Teresa Sister Geraldine Sister Helen Noonan Sister Helena Sister Hildegarde Sister Immaculate Heart Sister Isabelle Girard Sister Jeannette Leahy Sister Kathleen Gleeson Sister Loretta Hagen Sister Lucille Dwyer Sister Lucy Sister Lutgarde Sister Madeleine Sister Margaretta Sister Marguerite Sullivan Sister Marie Laprise Sister Marie Vianney Sister Marietta Sister Maura Sister Mildred Sister Monica O'Reilly Sister Mary Walsh Sister Mary Alice

Sister Mary Angela Sister Mary Catherine Sister Mary Cornelius Sister Mary Edward Sister Mary Francis Sister Mary Immaculate Sister Mary Louis Sister Mary Kieran Sister Mary Pius Sister Patrick Sister Perpetua Sister Regina Sister Rosary Sister Rose Theresa Sister Sabina Sister St. Charles Sister St. Dominic Sister St. Hubert Sister St. Leonard Sister St. Martin Sister St. Omer Sister St. Peter Sister St. Teresa Sister St. Thomas Sister Thecla Sister Wenefreda

Sister Sabina — Theresa Kelly

(Deceased)

Sister Alphonse — Katie Sullivan F — Michael Sullivan M — Catherine Kelly Entered - July 29, 1876 Died - November 8, 1884 St. Joseph Order

Sister Agatha — Mary McCarthy F --- Jeremiah McCarthy M - Susan McMahon Entered — March 19, 1881 Died - December 28, 1931 St. Joseph Order

Sister Benedict — Alice Spring F — John Spring M --- Mary Downing Entered - August 25, 1880 Died — February 23, 1933 St. Joseph Order

F — Christopher Kelly M — Theresa McDonald Entered — January 3, 1921 F --- Thomas Higgins

St. Joseph Order Sister Elizabeth — Mary Higgins M - Mary Cavanagh

Entered - August 25, 1880 Died - November 20, 1938 St. Jospeh Order

Sister Addolorata McDougall Sister Alonzo Murray Sister Augusta Fuerth Sister Baptist Stafford Sister Bertrand Langan Sister Bonaventure White Sister Borromeo McManus Sister Brendan Doherty

Sister Emily Shanahan Sister Fidelis Fortune Sister Florence Said Sister Isabel Tobin Sister Josephine Fallon Sister Leocrita Faubert Sister Magdalen McCarthy Sister Marcelline Tully

Sister Mildred Henry Sister Pauline McGuire Sister Remigius McIntyre Sister Rosalie Joly Sister St. Alban Quinlan Sister St. Gerald Mulligan Sister St. George Murray Sister Thomas Aquinas Kelly Sister Ursula Dalton







Sister St. Ferdinand (Ellen Halford)Sister St. Timothy (Katie Sullivan)Sister St. Joseph (Anne McCarthy)F - Abraham HalfordF - Timothy SullivanF - Richard McCarthy M - Ellen Flynn Presentation of Mary

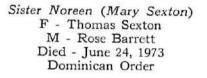
M - M. McCann

M - Cantherine McCann Died - January 16, 1928 Hotel Dieu Order



Sister McCarthy (Mary McCarthy) Sister Mary Edmunda (M. Brazill) Sister Rose de Lima (A. McCarthy)F - Richard McCarthyF - Daniel BrazillF - James McCarthyM - Catherine McCannM - Theresa HalfordM - Bridget O'Connell F - James McCarthy M - Bridget O'Connell Died - August 1, 1937 Died - 1929 Died - 1954 Hotel Dieu Order Sisters of Providence Mother Seton Order of Charity







Sister Amelia (Stella Lepain) F - Joseph Lepain M - Amelia McLean Ursuline Order



Sister Thomas (Clara McCarthy) F - Thomas McCarthy M - Lillian ? Died - 1960 Holy Name Order



Sister Marie Lennon F - Edward Lennon M - Catherine Moynahan Grey Sisters (Pembroke)



Sister Clarice Lennon F - Edward Lennon M - Catherine Moynahan Ursuline Order



Sister St. Philip (Eleanor McLoskey) F - Vincent McLoskey M - Delia ? Died - October, 1973 Servite Order

PICTURES NOT AVAILABLE

Sister Mary Monica McMahon F - Thomas McMahon M - Hary Heaphy Entered - March 8, 1883 Died - May 8, 1950 Ursuline Order

Sister Mary Xavier (Mary M. Cole) F - Abraham Cole M - Mary Margaret McGuigan Entered - November 11, 1921 Died - 1966 Ursuline Order

Sister Laurentia (Catherine Halford) F - Abraham Halford M - Ellen Flynn Holy Name Order Sister Estelle (Anna Mae Halford) F - William Halford M - Rose Kelly Immaculate Heart of Mary

Sister Clarissa (Ettie Halford) F - William Halford M - Rose Kelly Immaculate Heart of Mary

Sister Marie Patrice Janisse F - Frank P. Janisse M - Claire Durocher

Sister Marie Cecile Janisse F - Frank P. Janisse M - Claire Durocher Died - 1970

Sister Cl. Marie (Mercedes Conroy) F - Stephen Conroy M - (unknown) Lottice Collins, Ursuline Order

O'BRIEN SISTERS

Mother Mary St. Peter (Mary Cathe. O'Brien) F - James O'Brien M - Martha Dixon Died - December 29, 1960 Precious Blood Sisters

Sister Mary of Precious Blood (Jane O'Brien) F - James O'Brien M - Martha Dixon





Sister Elaine Flood, Sister Elizabeth Sexton and Sister Agatha (Genevieve Halford) are cousins as well as Sisters of the St. Joseph Order. This picture, on the occasion of Sister Elizabeth's first vows in 1966, shows their habits before the Vatican II Liturgical Reforms. Sister Margaret Ann Beaudette F - James C. Beaudette M - Helen Garrod Entered - July 2, 1966 St. Joseph Order



Societies and Organisations

Altar Society

St. Mary's Altar Society came into being sometime in the 1890's when Fr. McGee was the pastor. The basic duties have always been to maintain, repair and replenish the sacred vessels, linens, altar veils and surplices for the altar boys. We also order and make available religious articles and books, and for special occasions decorate the church with flowers.

We have been blessed with a sacristant who gives generously of her time and effort to keep the linens laundered and the sacred vessels clean and polished.

There is a mass offered in the event of the death of a member, and a mass offered each month for the living and deceased members.

It is both the duty and the privilege of the officers and the members to maintain a fund for these expenses. We now have 297 men and women members who sponsor the annual lenten series card parties to raise funds.

Many years ago the annual keno parties were a popular way of raising money. Then came the annual picnic suppers, with everything being donated, prepared and then served by the ladies, but with the second world war came rationing and the end of the picnics.

This story from one of our parishioners who recalls some 70 years ago when a storm damaged the bell tower; The ladies went from door to door asking pledges to raise money to repair the tower and purchase a new bell. All those who gave a pledge had their name embroidered on a patch of material. Later the ladies sewed these all together and made a large quilt to be raffled. The money pledged paid for the tower repairs and the new bell, and the money made from selling the tickets helped to pay the fuel bill for the church. A two-fold blessing and you have to admire their ingenuity.

All of these endeavors take time and sacrifice and it is with many thanks that we remember the apt leadership of people like Mrs. Christine Halford, the first Secretary Treasurer; also Mrs. Robert Halford, Sr., Mrs. Mary Renaud, Mrs. Marie Allen, and Mrs. Edna Chittle who served as president for 25 years.

Space allows only mention of these pioneer few but with God's help we will continue to prosper and serve.

Parish Council

Following the Diocesan Synod a directive was issued to the parishes to establish a Parish Council. In 1967 Father Fogarty organized the first group with Francis Langan, chairman, Clare McLean, Secretary, James Markham, Thomas Mullin, Frank Renaud, Francis St. Louis, Emmett McCarthy and Raymond Shanahan. Rev. A.P. Marentette, the present pastor appointed Mrs. Geo, Markham as a representative of Societies in 1971. The purpose of the Parish Council is to assist and advise the parish priest when requested; sometimes making recommendations in temporal and spiritual aspects of the parish. The members preferably from different walks of life, are a lay body of representatives for the parishioners in such matters.

In October of 1973 an election was held in the parish to elect the present members who are, Emmett McCarthy Gerard McCarthy, Francis Langan, Mary Milligan, Ella Mae Markham, Shirley Belleau and Donald Flood, (replacing the Late James Markham).

Senior and Junior Sodalities

While Fr. A. Stroeder was pastor of St. Mary's in 1930, the Sr. Sodality of the B.V.M. was established by Sister St. Martin shortly after the Sisters of St. Joseph arrived at the new convent. Twenty-five single young ladies between the ages of sixteen and thirty were enrolled. The election of officers was held April 27, 1930.

A few of the early officers were Estelle Kavanaugh, Pauline Halford, Marjorie Brown and Mary Markham.

The Sodality flourished under Fr. Gleeson and in 1935 during the presidency of Mary (Tom) McCloskey, a Bazaar was organized to raise money for the new burglar proof Tabernacte (still present in the church). The convent chapel was painted and decorated at that time also.

Two ladies were appointed as librarians for a few years when Fr. Gleeson opened a small library in the church The Jr. Sodality was organized for 42 girls, from 9 to 15 years of age in May 1935 under the guidance of Sister St Leonard. Their secondary patron was St. Theresa and Elizabeth Chittle was the first president. On the third Sunday of each month, the Sodality sang the hymns at Mass and received communion in a body while their banner was displayed in the Sanctuary. Each year in May, the members, wearing veils and carrying lighted candles and flowers marched in a procession from the hall to the church to crown the statue of the Virgin Mary. Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament followed. This was the highlight of the year, the church was filled with families and friends.

The greatest privilege of a Sodality girl was being permitted to be married in the Sanctuary.

This Society is no longer active.

Banners

In 1973-74 the Spiritual Branch of the Parent Teacher Committee of St. Mary's School was formed under the jurisdiction of Sister Loretta. A small group of volunteer parents guided each class of students in making original Religious Banners to be displayed in the church and school.

Lay Commentators

Influenced by the Vatican Council lay commentators assisted in church services starting in 1965, under the direction of Father Mackasy.

This year's members are John Hebert, Leo Shanahan, Gary Deehan, Francis Langan, Tom Mullin, John Bissonnette, Pat Hayes, Frank Renaud, Tom Markham and Peter W. Halford.

Ushers

The ushers have not been organized and are volunteers. However, those participating on a regular basis at present are: Frank McCloskey, Alex Grondin, Jack McAuliffe, Orville Bellaire, Emmett McGuire, Sylvester McGuire, Jr., Francis St. Louis, Malcolm McCann and Raymond Shanahan.

St. Vincent de Paul

The St. Vincent de Paul Organization was introduced in St. Mary's Parish in October, 1958 under the direction of Rev. Ignatius O'Neil, its spiritual director.

The original officers were: President - John Hebert, First Vice-Pres. — James Markham, Second Vice-Pres. — Ralph Sexton, Secretary — Pat McCauliffe, Assistant Secretary — Peter Halford Sr., Treasurer — Emmett McCarthy.

The alms box at the back of the church was constructed and donated by Charles Sexton Jr.

Organists

The organists for the present St. Mary's Church, down through the years have been: Minnie (Nevin) Tiernan, Miss Traher, Lucy Allen, Mary Collins, Hattie Phelan, Kate O'Brien, Miss Orendorf, Clotilda (Halford) Chittle, Mrs. Stephen Conroy, Belle Allen, Ann Warren, Rosemary Chittle, Odella Deehan, Mary John, Elaine Flood, Marie Mullin, Judy Bellaire, Catherine Bellaire, Tim Hebert, Rose Marie Deehan and Mary Ann Bellaire.

Mary Lou Hossack is choir director for special feasts.

The Catholic Women's League

St. Mary's first Parish Council of the Catholic Women's League was organized by Father Peter McCabe in 1922, with Mrs. Robert Halford as President.

In 1940, Father J. P. Gleeson re-organized the group with Mrs. Albert Huneau as President and Mrs. Anne Quinlan and Mrs. Chas. Allen as her executives. St. Mary's C.W.L. had an unique history of a president, Mrs. James Markham, serving for nine years under seven consecutive directors: Father J. Jordan, Father M.J. Quenneville, Father M.I. O'Neil, Father J.P. Gleeson, Father J.A. Mackasy, Father J.A. Graham, Father Wilfred McNabb and Father J. Fogarty when the charter was surrendered.

The League was active sponsoring an annual bingo, bake sale and card parties, and at one point a red shirt was passed around with each member enctosing a donation sewn under a patch. The monies raised dressed needy children for First Communion, Confirmation, Assisted deserving families with food and clothing, helped educate young priests, sent money to Father Tim Kavanagh when typhoon Karen struck Guam, served the dinner for Father Quinlan's first mass as well as meals when the directors died, renovated the convent and chapel as well as renovating the parish hall.

Grade VIII pupils were given a mass and graduating pins annually and the league also sponsored the annual public speaking contest at St. Mary's school awarding prizes and a plaque with the winner's name to be left at school. The last undertaking of St. Mary's League council was to establish, in conjunction with the United Church women, a senior citizen's friendship club for the enjoyment of all people within the community. Hobbies, games, shuffleboard and checkers were participated in with lunch, tea and coffee served by the members.

When the charter was surrendered a balance of \$583.00 was given over to church funds.

Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society started in St. Mary's Parish sometime after World War I while Father Peter McCabe was pastor. A few of the early officers were Robert Halford Sr., John McAuliffe Sr., and Thomas McCloskey and Mike McCloskey. Their main functions were to give good example by honouring the name of Jesus and by receiving Holy Communion in a body the second Sunday of each month.

Each year on the second Sunday in June a rally would be held for the entire county, each parish taking its turn to host the special occasion.

One year shortly before World War II, hundreds of men marched from downtown Windsor to Jackson Park for Benediction in the open air. The rallies were suspended later because of gas rationing and were never held thereafter.

Foresters

The Catholic Order of Foresters held their meetings in the Club Room over the Church Vestry. The stairs leading there have long since been dismantled and the area closed up.

This organization probably began around the turn of the century in Father McGee's time. It consisted of a religious group of men who did charitable work and had an insurance policy available for members. A couple of the officers were Raymond Scully and Thomas McCloskey. After the Knights of Columbus came to the area this organization folded.

C.Y.O.

The Catholic Youth Organization was established in Maidstone Parish in 1958 under its original director Harold Wellwood. It provided youth activities, including dances, hay rides, skating parties, etc. Later directors were John Hebert, Ted Hossack and Larry Donald. The C.Y.O. disbanded around 1964-65.

League of the Sacred Heart

The League of the Sacred Heart was organized in Toronto for all of Canada and was begun in St. Mary's, Maidstone in 1894, in Fr. McGee's time, with Mrs. Ignatius Halford as Sec.-Treasurer and Mrs. Nellie Turton as her first Promoter. In 1937 when Christine Halford passed away, her daughter Pauline Halford was asked by Father Gleeson, to take over and she continued in that post until 1969. During that time, Mrs. Charles Sexton Sr., was named President and Mrs. Frank Kane was Vice-President. Catherine Austin became Sec.-Treasurer in 1969 and is the only officer at present. There have been many promoters through the years, with Mrs. Dan J. McLean and Mrs. Emmett McLean both serving for many years.

St. Mary's Cemetery Board

The land for the cemetery is said to have been donated by a Mr. Patrick McNally, who is buried there. The first adult burial in the new cemetery was on July 15, 1874. John McFarland died on July 13 at the age of 65. The Priest officiating was Rev. E. Delahunty. Rebecca Costigan, age 6 months, daughter of Daniel Costigan and Anne McCloskey was the first child buried on Sept. 2, 1874. In 1939 the cemetery board was formed by the pastor, Rev. Fr. J.P. Gleeson. The charter members were: Fr. Gleeson, Director; Miss Margaret (Mame) Robinson R.N., President: Mrs. Andrew McCarthy (Grace Sexton), Vice President; Mrs. Joseph Perrin (Alice Cole), Secretary-Treasurer.

The board and parishioners did away with the Pine Trees, fallen markers and the general clean up gave the cemetery a new look.

The board and parishioners did away with the pine trees, fallen markers and the general clean up gave the cemetery a new look.

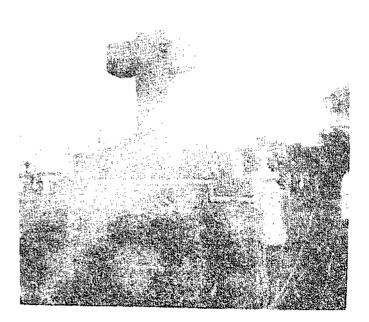
In 1946, Fr. Gleeson appointed Mrs. Dan J. McLean (Bernadette Halford) to replace Mrs. Perrin on her resignation.

In 1947, Rev. Fr. Chisholm had the cemetery retiled and had Thomas P. McCarthy and Melvin Markham place markers on each corner of the lots. Fr. M. Quenneville was appointed administrator on the death of Fr. J.A. Jordan and had the board take over the selling of graves and lots.

In 1958 when Fr. Ignatius O'Neil was pastor, he had the Board erect the wrought iron fence on Highway 3, and the erection was supervised by Joseph P. Hayes. The President, Miss Robinson, donated the sign erected at the front gates. Fr. J.A. Mackesy had plans drawn up for a Building and Crucifixion scene, but was moved away before its erection.

Rev. Fr. W.P. McNabb followed him as pastor and erected the present Crucifix on the Building. Under the present Director Fr. A.P. Marentette, on the death of Miss Robinson appointed James Markham as Vice President. Mrs. McCarthy, as President, is the only charter member on the Board. Fr. Marentette also decided to only sell graves and lots to parishioners, on account of so few lots left to be sold. In 1959 the Ontario Government directed the Board to set-up the Perpetual Care Fund, only to be used in case of emergency. Said Fund, held in Trust and only the interest derived, can be used for yearly care of the cemetery.

Cemeteries now come under the Department of Health and Welfare in the Province of Ontario.



Tombstone of Patrick McNally, who donated the land for the cemetery.

Present Altar Boys



Back Row: Fr. Marentette, Paul Kosokowsky, Richard Markham, Robert Markham, Joe McCarthy, Todd Kavanagh. 2nd Row: Case/ Hossack, Michael Fortowsky, Donald Bissonnette, Michael Bissonnette.

1st Row: Terry Hossack, Daniel Bissonnette, Sean Collins, Glen Kosowkowsky, Chris Fortowsky and Tim Hossack.

Some of our former Altar Boys



Back Row: Norbert Kosokowsky, Victor Bellaire, Leonard McCarthy, Frank McCloskey, Francis Kotow, Ron Bissonnette, Gary Deehan, Vincent (Spin) Brown, Joe John, George Markham, Peter John, Richard Bissonnette, Leonard Collins, Terry Collins, Joe Mullins, Jim Mullins.

2nd Row: Rev. A. P. Marentette, Leo Kosokowsky, John Bissonnette, Dan Mc-Guire, Mark McGuire, Joe Kotow, Orville Bellaire, Raymond Vandongen, Jerome St. Louis, John Mullins, Emmett McGuire, Dick McCarthy, Jack Vandongen, Michael Collins, George John, Joe McCloskey and Charles Sexton Sr.

World War 1 Veterans

FRANK A. BELLEAU PATRICK BRAZILL THOMAS CHITTLE MILFORD DAWSON WILLIAM DONOVAN

PATRICK DONOVAN WILLIAM DUROCHER * FRANK GRONDIN RUSSELL JONES FRANK LEPAIN

JOSEPH McCARTHY Dr. W. NESBITT HOMER O'NEIL EDWARD SEXTON RAYMOND SULLIVAN

World War 2 Veterans

* A. DEANE ALLEN WM. J. ALLEN GEORGE BACHMEIER ORVILLE J. BELLAIRE FREDERIČK H. BELLEAU WILFRED BROCKMAN **IOHN BROWN** DONALD J. BURKE BERNARD W. CHITTLE L. J. CHITTLE ALBERT J. COLLINS CHARLES V. COLLINS MICHAEL C. COLLINS WILFRID J. COLLINS

AGNES M. CONROY T. N. CONROY WILLIAM DERBY GERALD DOYLE **JOHN DOYLE** * HENRY DROUILLARD HAROLD B. FELIX M. E. HUNEAU JOSEPH G. JOHN M. GEORGE JOHN PETER M. JOHN H. D. KAVANAGH OSWALD KAVANAGH GEORGE J. MARKHAM

TIMOTHY J. MARKHAM JOHN M. MCAULIFFE Jr. JAMES R. McAULIFFE FRANCIS A McCARTHY JOHN W. McCARTHY ELMER M. McCANN Wm. C. McCANN Wm. C. MCCANN
* EDWARD J McCLOSKEY GERALD J. McCLOSKEY JOHN C. McLEAN JOHN Jos. McLEAN JOHN McPHARLIN

- DEL J. QUINLAN
- * Those who gave their lives.



DEANE ALLEN son of Mr. & Mrs. Alex Allen Died in action - April 10, 1945



HENRY DROUILLARD son of Mr. & Mrs. Harry Drouillard Died in action - overseas



FRANK GRONDIN son of Mr. & Mrs. Alex Grondin Died - November, 1918



EDWARD McCLOSKEY son of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McCloskey Missing - July 5, 1944

Diamond Anniversaries - 60th



Maurice and Mary Mullins



Frank and Ellen Ferry



Robert and Mary Katherine Schwertner



Medric and Amanda Belleperche

Golden Anniversaries - 50th

William and Catherine Cole Francis and Mary McCloskey John and Rose Shanahan John and Anne Sexton Jerry and Anne O'Connell Robert and Mary Greenway Walker and May Grant

Thomas and Alice Shanahan

Frank and Mary Mahon Fred and Catherine Austin Alex and Josie Dawson Charles and Marie Allen Roy and Lillian Hayes Charles and Ursula Sexton Herman and Beatrice St. Louis john and Edna Chittle Kenneth and Verlie Borrowman Gordon and Sylvia O'Neil Attilio and Teresa Nossio Joseph and Anna Seech

St. Mary's Church - 1874 - 1974 - Maidstone, Ontario

Our Senior Parishioners

Grace McCarthy Ellen Halford Thomas Shanahan Josephine Robinson Robert Sylvester Herbert Hancock Ellen Mullins Fred Austin Catherine Austin Charles Sexton Ursula Sexton Sylvester McGuire Mary McGuire Grace Kavanagh Rose Hergott



Grace McCarthy

Diane Lafferty, Grace's great-granddaughter, tells us that Mrs. McCarthy is one of our oldest parishioners, having been born August 27, 1883 here in Sandwich South, the daughter of Rose Barrett and Thomas Sexton. In 1901, she was married to Andrew J. McCarthy in St. Mary's Church. They had seven children; Emmett and Rosemary (Hebert) still reside in the parish. Following her husband's death in 1949, Mrs. Mc-Carthy has continued to reside on the farm, taking an interest in family and social activities. Bernadette McLean Milford Dawson Kenneth Borrowman Emmett Quinlan Marguerite Kavanagh Camily John Eva Dumouchelle John Sullivan Roy Hayes Lillian Hayes Charles Allen Marie Allen Frank Kane Adelle Charbonneau Edna Chittle

Nell Halford

Miss Nell Halford was born April 21, 1883 in Maidstone; the Halford family were among the earliest settlers in this area and have maintained a long tradition of service to the Church and community. Nell Halford's deceased brothers and sister, Maurice, Kate and James lived in the parish all their lives; a younger sister, Mrs. Mary McGavin just recently moved from the parish. Anyone who is acquainted with Nell Halford knows the Christian gentleness of a true lady.



Annie Palencar Heman St. Louis Frank Hayes Attilio Nussio Teresa Nussio

80 YEAR OLD PARISHIONERS WHO DIED THIS CENTENNIAL YEAR

Medric Belleperche Alice Shanahan Beulah (St. Louis) Lansfield Ellen Hurley



Tom Shanahan

In writing of his grandfather, Ronnie Garrod relates that Tom Shanahan was born in 1886, the youngest of the ten children of John Shanahan and Rose Smythe. He married Alice McGuire in 1911. They had fifteen children: Leo, Gerald, Raymond, Helen, Sarah, Rita, John III, Vincent, James, Thomas II, Mildred, Dorothy, No.man, Donald and Rose Mary, many of whom still reside in the parish. Both Tom and Alice were active in the church and in local politics. Tom continues to reside on the family farm with his sons Tom and Jim.

Do you Remember?



ANNIE MARKHAM

In any small community there are always certain individuals who played a prominent role in its everyday activities. In our own community, a prime example of this would be, "Mrs. Annie Markham." She was born August 4, 1879, the oldest daughter of the late Timothy McGuire and Sarah McHugh of Maidstone Township. On October 1, 1901 Annie married George Markham of Belle River. They resided in Windsor for a few years and then moved to their farm in Maidstone Township to raise their family of eight children. However, George passed away in August, 1922 and in 1923 Annie and her young family moved to the Village where she became the telephone operator for the Sandwich South Municipal Telephone System, a position which she held until March 30, 1957.

It was during this period that she played such a prominent role in the community. For in this capacity, as telephone operator, she was doctor's helper, nurse, ambassador of happiness and a tremendous source of information concerning the activities of this area. Her family and the community all mourned her passing on March 27, 1964. Some of Annie's descendants still residing in St. Mary's Parish are her son George Markham and family, Ria, wife of her late son Ted (1973) and also Marie, wife of Annie's oldest son, the late James T. Markham (1974) and some of their children.

NELLIE MOYNAHAN

According to Beth and Vicki Jobin, their great-aunt Nellie Moynahan was born on March 31, 1865, daughter of Jeremiah Moynahan and Mary Brennan. At the age of 7, Nellie came to Maidstone with her parents from Ireland to reside in the McGuire home. She began teaching at the age of fifteen at No. % and later No.'s 5 and 8. She taught forty years in Maidstone and was known as a strict disciplinarian. After moving to Windsor, she taught for the Ursulines. In 1940 Nellie passed away at the age of 75. Although Nellie never married, a large family of six sisters and two brothers has left many descendants in Maidstone.

JOHN McAULIFFE

John McAuliffe was one of our early community spirited men. After graduating from London Normal School, he taught in Woodslee and for a short time in Maidstone. In 1910 he began working on the railroad and in 1913 he began farming along Hwy. 3. It was then that he became clerk of the township, a position which he held for forty-two years. He was also an auditor and active in the Oldcastle Co-op. He and his wife, Margaret Hennessy, raised eight children, Albert, Agnes, Cyril, Gerald, Ursula, Margaret, Eleanor, and John, a present deputy reeve of Sandwich South. John McAuliffe died in 1966, having lived a full rich life.

"The Village" Maidstone Cross Today

One of the most familiar landmarks in the village of Maidstone is Mrs. Camily John's grocery store, which was at one time an old carriage shop. Mr. and Mrs. John rented the bottom half of the store from Mr. Tom McCloskey in 1915 and went into the general store business. They later purchased the store and in 1924 they opened a gas station in conjunction with the store. Mr. and Mrs. John purchased the lot just south of Charles Sexton's (old church property) from Vince and Leo McCloskey and they also bought, from Frank Hayes, the old hotel, where Josie (John) O'Neil lives today. In 1927 the family built a garage on the corner of Talbot and Hwy. 114, which they later sold to B.A., who in turn leased it to Harry Brown. This garage was later repurchased by the John's family at a later date. Mr. Mike John died in 1952 and since his death, Mrs. John has continued to run the store with occasional help from members of her family of ten, and her grandchildren. Mrs. John said that she liked Maidstone and that she often thinks back to the days of Father Peter McCabe when the five hundred families in the parish showed so much community spirit and such strong faith. Mrs. John has two daughters and families living in this parish, Josephine (Mrs. Gerry O'Neil) and Rose (Mrs. Wm. Gould).



Camily John



One of our hardworking parishioners is Bernadette McLean, daughter of Ignatius Halford and Christine Rourke. In 1921, Bernie married Daniel J. McLean (deceased 1957). They raised five children, John, Clare, Daniel, Christine and Gerald on Hwy. 3 in Maidstone. As secretary-treasurer of the cemetery board for the past twenty-eight years, she has rendered priceless service to the parish. Her column in the Essex Free Press, "Maidstone Cross" has been a source of community news since 1940. She has been active in the Catholic Women's League and the Altar Society. She has been and continues to be a good Christian woman.

'Bernie' McLean

Frank McCloskey

You have all heard people say, "People don't care about others today. There just isn't the same neighbourly love shown today as in the good old days." The people of St. Mary's are fortunate because we have a good neighbour in Frank McCloskey. Frank (Smokey, as he is known by baseball enthusiasts) is a true Christian. One might find Frank not only attending mass but often times serving during the weekday services. Little children gather round when they see Frank as he carries out a tradition of his father before him, handing out candies or gum. He's Father Marentette's personal mailman and he also delivers mail to those in the village unable to get out to the post office. You'll often find Frank brightening the day with his wit for some patient in the hospital or perhaps you'll receive a cheerful card. He's as at home pushing a lawn mower in the ball park as he is pushing a niece or nephew in a carriage. You'll know Frank's a Christian by his love.

Ignatius Halford

Ignatius Halford ("Nace") was born in 1860 of pioneer Irish stock, son of John Halford II and Ellen Barrett. His store which had been used as a post office for about a hundred years, was a village landmark, only recently replaced by a modern building.

Nace and Christine Rourke, his wife, had nine children Margaret, Bernadette, Frank, Agnes, Dennis, Pauline, Gertrude, Helen and Mary, who with her husband John Walker, carried on the family business and post office. Nace was actively involved in many church organizations as were his brothers Robert and John. Eugene Sullivan and Nace brought the cornerstone of the present church from Windsor and John and Nace Halford helped haul the brick at the time of construction of St. Mary's Church in 1874.



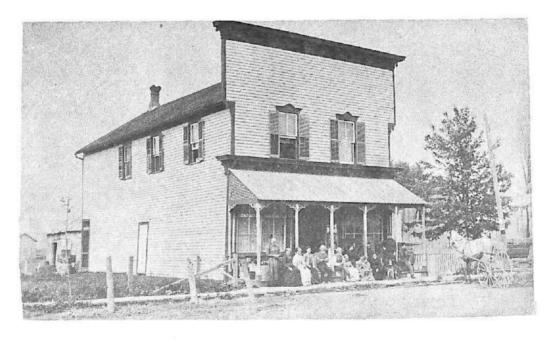
IGNATIUS HALFORD

Quotes from Thomas P. McCloskey's "My life since March 15th, 1875"

The first job I had was tending the switch lamps on the M.C.R., taking them into the station in the morning, filling them with oil, cleaning them, and putting them out before dark. There was one semiphore about opposite the church, and another the same distance from the station west. These were operated from the station, with a cable. My wages were \$8.00 a month.

My next job was working at the church and going to school. I had a horse and cow to look after and four stoves in the church, of which three of them was not used on week days, except for funerals and holy days. There were three stoves in the house, one upstairs (all wood stoves) and I had to get wood enough in at night to last the next day. When my father died he had \$2,000 life insurance in the C.M.B.A., so my mother gave me enough money to start a store in the present building where Mrs. Mike John keeps a store. I had groceries, dry goods (mostly prints) which I sold for 10c and 12c a yard; work shoes for adults and children. The first order of groceries I bought, peas and corn sold for 5c a can and best of tea sold at 25c a pound, 25 lbs. of sugar for \$1.00 and everything else was cheap.

Before starting the store I worked on the M.C.R. section for \$1.00 a day, for 10 hours' work. People lived on those wages then. Now it just means you are handling more money.



S.S. No. 7, Sandwich South - May 1924



ROW 1

Rose Mary O'Keefe Clara Mae Kavanagh Nora Perrault Kathleen Beahan Rose McCarthy Mary Irene Sexton Catherine Kavanagh

ROW 5

America Thompson Geneva Deslippe Nina Deslippe Roberta Halford Estelle Kavanagh Mrs. Andy McCarthy Rose Halford

ROW 1 Raymond Perrault John McLean Clare Duquette Leon O'Brien Francis Kavanagh Ed Kavanagh - Fr. Timothy Jimmy Teron

GIRLS

ROW 2 Ellen Kavanagh Betty Deslippe Helen Sexton Norene Kavanagh Helen Schwertner Rita Kavanagh Betty Collins Ruby Teron

BOYS

Teachers Miss Dovle Miss McLaughlin

ROW 2 Harry McLean Harold Kavanagh Maurice Collins Wafer Keelan Ford McLean Francis Keelan

ROW 3

Audrey Duquette Pearl Bondy Rose Rosnovan Catherine O'Keefe Mary Kavanagh Margaret Brandenberg Helen McLean

Group around statue of Blessed Virgin Mary Top Mary Dawson - left Mary Halford - right

ROW 3 Emmett McCarthy Johnny Jobin Wilfred McCarthy Jack Sexton Jack McAuliffe Doyle Keelan Mr. Thompson

ROW 4

Geraldine Halford Mary McCarthy Pauline McCarthy Alice Jobin Jessie Bondy Eunice Thompson Catherine Perrault

Holding banner Lennon Twins Front Margaret Kavanagh - left Alma Dawson - right Priests - seated Msgrs. Parent & Langlois Father McCabe - standing

ROW 4 Stanley Sexton James Sexton Gerard McCarthy Bernard Kavanagh Michael Teron Charles Teron Ralph Sexton

ROW 5 Gerald Sullivan Charles Kavanagh Bill McLean Emmett McLean

St. Mary's Church - 1874 - 1974 - Maidstone, Ontario

The schools of St. Mary's parish in the late 80's

by Thomas P. McCloskey (written circa 1940)

Those schools were all Public Schools but were taught by Catholic Teachers. No. 7 was the only one in this district until around 60 years ago when the present school was built on the corner of the Malden and South rear roads. Then the present division between this School and No. 7 was made on the line between Ed Deehan and Robert Schwertner's. So the children from the village attended the school on the Malden road (the writer being one of them) until No. 7 was made a Separate School. One of those who left this school to attend No. 7 was Father Arthur Finn.

The teachers who taught in the school on Malden Road were Miss Lewis, J.B. Fuerth, who later moved to Milwaukee and died there, John Sullivan (brother of Eugene who died here recently) and is at present living in California.

The teachers who taught in No. 7 were Moran Morrison, Alfred Halford, Mary Sullivan (who later married Alfie Halford), Nellie Moynahan, Rose Barrett, Agnes McCarthy (who became a nun), Maggie Halford (Sister Vincent), John McAuliffe, Mary McCarthy (Sister Agatha), and the last to teach No. 7 school before it was built on the present site was Mary Jane McHugh (Mrs. Thomas P. McCloskey). The school was then located on the west side of the Tom Lennon farm where Pat McLean lives and it burnt down during vacation. This site was given for school purposes by James Halford who owned this property before Tom Lennon. No. 2 when it was a Public school stood on the opposite side of the road on the McPharlin farm.

The other schools in the Parish were located at the corner of Highway 3 and 6th concession and two at the extreme north side of the Parish which the children of Tecumseh Parish also attended.

There was another one on the West side of Parish in the O'Neil settlement taught by John Moynahan who was the first Clerk of this Township (which was part of Sandwich East before) and later Clerk of Ojibway until his death. Nellie Moynahan taught the longest of any of the teachers. She taught in Byrnedale (which is in Woodslee Parish) in the school on North rear road near McGuire's and in 5 & 8 and No. 7. She taught all of the R.A. Halford family including the Father and Mother. She also taught me and also Mrs. D. Flood and the only slap I got all the time I went to school was from her, that was shortly after I started. Something was done in the school and she could not pick out the guilty ones so she gave all of us a slap.

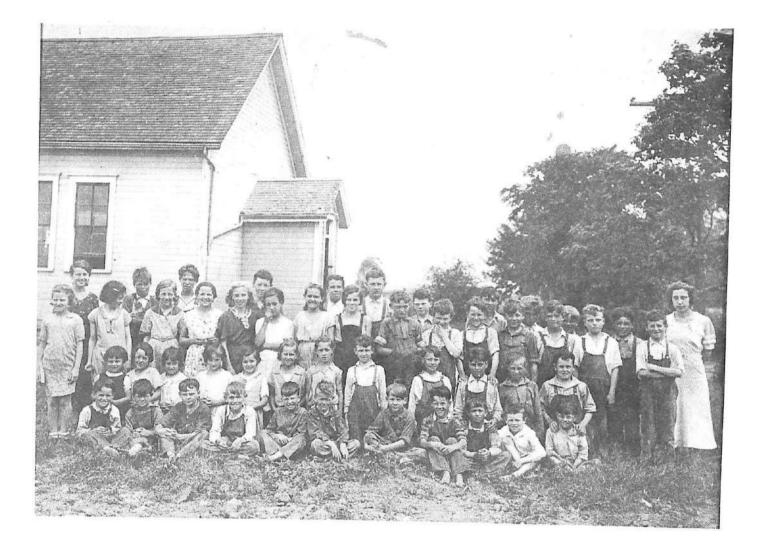
S.S. No. 5 & 8 [Six Corners] 1910



Left to Right — FIRST ROW — Sitting - Clarence Grondin, Jimmy Costigan, John Walsh, Chas. McCann, Lorenzo Brown, Helen McCann, unidentified, Margaret McCloskey, Marie Brown, Agnes Costigan, Dennis Halford, Clarice Lennon, Catherine McCann, SECOND ROW — Kneeling - Ward Larkin, Ann McCann, unidentified, Agnes Broderick, unidentified, Gertrude Russette, Frank Halford, Joe Kane, Leo Greenway, THIRD ROW — Mary (John) McCann, Marie Grand-

maison, Margaret Lennon, Marie Lennon, Irene Brown, Rita McCann, Agnes Halford, Mary (Andy) McCann, Bernadette Halford, Corinne Eyraud, Agnes Donovan, Ned Doyle, Vincent McCann, FOURTH ROW — William Greenway, Lewellyn Dunne, Leo Russette, Frances Eyraud, Josie Doyle, Laura Grandmaison, Margaret Costigan, Rose Brennan, TEACHER, Estelle Birkett, TEACHER, Margaret Robinson, Irene Russette, Thomas Chittle, and Peter Clarke.

S.S. No. 2, Maidstone Township - 1933



Front Row: 1. to r. - sitting Jim Shanahan Bill Quinlan Bill Allen Peter Toporosky Morris Mullins Charles Quinlan Robert Muyhaert Vincent Shanahan Bill Glowa Donald Mooney Norman Little Second Row: - kneeling Dorothy Shanahan Rita Shanahan Mary Theresa Mahon Rita Quinlan Marie Leclaire Annie Martino Dorothy Martino Raymond Seguin John McPharlin Francis Little Harold Mahon Harold Allen

Third Row: Catherine Mullins Margaret Little Mary Muylaert Sadie Shanahan Noreen Allen Beatrice Kennette Sophie Glowa Semone Crevets L. Roellens John Mooney Thomas Shanahan Oscar Muylaert Jerry Martino Deane Allen Joseph Mooney

Fourth Row: Gertrude Mullins Philip Quinlan Francis Kennette Thomas Mooney Charles Mahon Alphonse Morand Neil Mullins Rob. Roellens John Zack Peter Martino Edmund Mahon Angela Vickerd - teacher (now Sister Frances Clare Vickerd)

Nellie Moynahon Class of 1911 - S.S. No. 7 Sandwich South



Back Row: left to right Elizabeth Kavanagh Mae Sexton Ilene McCarthy Clarice Sullivan Stan O'Connell Vera Sullivan Charles O'Connell Joseph O'Connell Elmer O'Connell Joseph Deneau Georgina Fields Ray Sullivan Bill Durocher Robert Halford Charles Small Dominic McCarthy

Front Row: - sitting Harold Sexton Ross Marentette Albert Baumer Albert Sexton Florence McAuliffe Harold Fenton Elmer Sexton Anthony McCarthy Harold O'Connell Percy Durocher Unidentified Charles Halford Leonard McCarthy Unidentified Leo Sullivan

Harold Kavanagh Unidentified Warren Sexton James O'Connell Harry Barrette Clifford Deslippe George Sexton

Second Row: - centre Myrtle Sullivan Clarice McNeil Annie Durocher Marie O'Connell Genevieve Hayes Clare McCarthy Sylvia Deslippe Gerald Deslippe Evangeline Halford Monica McCarthy Bernadette McCarthy Mary Small Grace Barrett Grace Lynch Mary McCarthy Frances Pero Mary McCarthy (Joe's) Clarice Pero Alma McCarthy Eleanor McCarthy Florence Sexton Genevieve Halford Angela Halford Agnes Broderick Annie Fenton

S.S. No. 5 & 8 - Six Corners - 1924



First Row: - kneeling Patricia McCann Josephine John Philip John Ted Markham George Langlois Ted Deehan Edward McCloskey Jack Brown Wasley Melnik Ernie Siefker George John Clarence McCann Second Row: Mary Ann Taylor Mary Grant Frances Deehan Phoebi Grant Nellie Dubinsky Henriette Durocher Marjorie Brown Eleanor McCloskey Aileen McCloskey Edna Deehan

Third Row: Mary (Tom) McCloskey Kathleen Grant Lucille Siefker Alva Langlois Eva Lee Gregory Collins Thelma McAuliffe Leo Siefker Stan Russette Harry Collins Frank (Pank) McCloskey Leo Gilbert Victor Dubinsky Will Langlois Remi Hart

Fourth Row: Hilda Ducharme Margaret Deehan Gertrude McAuliffe Mary (Vince) McCloskey Clifford Buhler Homer McCann Roy Smith Gerald (Haley) McCloskey Joseph McCloskey Vincent (Spin) Brown Miss M. J. Nolan - teacher

S.S. No. 5 & 8, St. Joseph, Six Corners, 1936-37



GRADES 6 to 10 Left Row: - front to back Harold Allen John McPharlin Harold Mahon Deane Allen Margaret Cutting John McLean Mike Collins Second Row: Jenny Kotow Clare McLean Rita McGuire Catherine Mullins Ella Mae Belleau Rose John

Third Row: Robert Sexton Donald McCann Wilfred Brockman Clifford McGuire Jack McCann Marietta Godin Anna Doyle Annie Melnik Fourth Row: Lucretia McCloskey Vera Deehan Bill Godin Lawrence Garant Stanley McGuire Bill Barry Jack Doyle



GRADES 1 to 5

Right Row: Andy Kotow Mary Melnik Aurelia Belleau Wilfred Belleau Catherine Deehan Alexandra Melnik

Second Row: Mildred Sexton Virginia Vidican Lillian Garant Christine McLean Agnes Brockman Helen John

Third Row: Mike John Norman Kane Charlie Sexton Jr. Jimmy Barry Sylvester McGuire Jr. Stanley Deehan

Fourth Row: Theodore Garant Danny McLean Wm. Zackara

Firth Row: Delores John Patricia McCann Everette McGuire Rollo boy Eddy Barry Charlie Grace

Sixth Row: Odella Deehan Mary Margaret Kane Charles (Bud) McCloskey Paul Sexton James Markham Jr.

Seventh Row: Raymond Belleau Lawrence Campeau Johnny Vidican Theresa Garant

Insert Mrs. Thos. Barry (teacher)

S.S. No. 7, St. Mary's, 1936 - 1937



Back Row: - standing Ozzie Kavanagh Gordon Tousignant Earl Cahill Rita Austin Robert Kavanagh Mary Austin Winnie Collins Gladys Hayes Aloyisius Brockman Pete John George Markham Charles Collins

First row of desks - sitting - - - Tousignant - - - McCarthy Robert Hergott Agnes Tousignant

Second row of desks: Ursula Hayes Steve Herman Violet Teron Steve Santo Third row of desks: Mary Weston Rose Mary Brandenberg Willie Hayes Louis Collins Alphonse Drouillard

Fourth row of desks: Raymond Niblett Teddy Girdler Donna Hayes Anna Marie McCarthy Ed Hayes

S.S. No. 5 & 8 1948

Fifth row of desks: Adelaide Kavanagh Helen Hayes Patricia Hayes Tom Kavanagh Eva Dank Catherine Dank Rose Mary Deehan

Sixth row of desks: Frances Tousignant Rose Mary Halford Albert Collins Virginia Kavanagh Raymond Kavanagh Robert Halford



Back Row: Theodore Robinet Lawrence Campeau George Stone Thomas McCloskey Pat Stone Pat Flood Norbert Kosokowsky Garnet Jobin

Second Row: Pat McCann Jay Walker Pearl Lavin Agnes Sexton Kay Collins Kathleen Lavin Chris Quinlan Bob Flood Martin McCann Terry Collins

Third Row: Mac McCann Joe Desjardin Bob Lincoln Leo Kosokowsky Billie McCarthy Clem Fortowsky Frank Melnik Bernard Belleau Norman Desjardin

Fourth Row: - front, sitting Mary Lou Markham Cecile Dahl Doreen Sylvester Mary Lavin Marian Sexton Dolores Sylvester Shirley Walker Mary John Carol Cloutier Eleanor Kosokowsky Loretta Quinlan Mary Dahl

Taken September, 1947

St. Mary's Church - 1874 - 1974 - Maidstone, Ontario

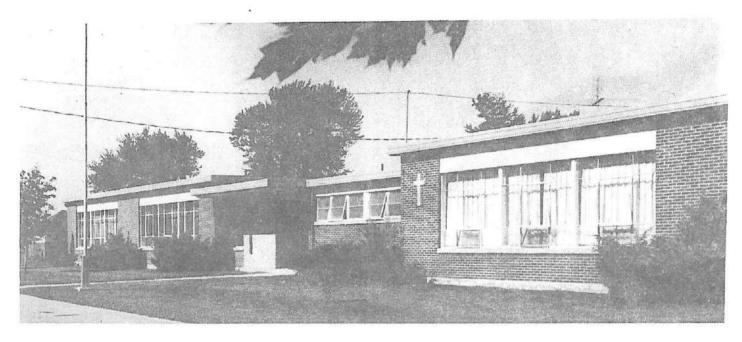
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Ground Breaking Ceremony Of St. Mary's School – Maidstone



Left to right: Earl Cahill, James T. Markham, Ed Byrne, Tom Mullins, Rev. J. P. Gleeson.

Present School and Staff



.....

Teachers of 1973-1974



Top row - left to right: Dennis Rivard, Yvonne Lajoie, Terry Collins, Ray Lucier, Pat Bondy, Jean McGuigan, Theresa Robinet (sec.). Bottom row - left to right: Gail Lykoff, Elaine Richter, Sister Loretta Hogan, Ken Bezaire, John Armaly, (principal), Sister Bernice Hennesy, Judy Robson, Kathy Charlton.

Maidstone Shamrocks O.B.A. Intermediate "B" CHAMPIONS 1943

O'Brien's Squeeze Bunt sends in Winning Run



Back row: Emmett McCarthy, Norris Sudds, Marsh Jessop, Joe Penner, Ossie Kavanagh, Mans. Jessop. Front row: Carson Jessop, Doug Gaughan, Bud O'Brien, John Robinson, Mgr., Art Miller, Spike Hillier, Bebe Dunn and Dan Sexton, bat-boy.

At the request of Father J. P. Gleeson, Mike McCloskey and Pat McAuliffe, the ladies of the parish served a delicious dinner to both ball clubs, following the ball game which attracted 2,000 spectators.

| | R. C. A. F. | | | | | | MAIDSTONE | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---|-------------|---|--------------|---|--|---|------------|-------------|---|-----------------------|------------|-----------|
| Patterson, ss Everest, lf McLaughlin, 2b Lee, c Bugg, 3b Richars, 1b Campbell, rf Johnston, cf Hannigan, p * Stransman | AB 4433433331 | R 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 | HOOMOOOOONO | 0 3 1 3 4 2 9 0 200 | A 4030310020 | E 0010000000000000000000000000000000000 | Hillier, ss O'Brien, 2b Sudds, cf M. Jessop, 3b Penner, p Dunn, p Butler, rf McCarthy, c Kavanagh, 1b C. Jessop, If | AB 4 4 3 3 1 3 4 3 3 | R200000011 | H2121003022 | 0 1 2 1 0 1 0 1 0 0 0 | A 1 3 0 2 1 1 0 1 0 0 | E100000000 | The Crowd |
| | 31 | 2 | 5 | 24 | 13 | 13 1 | 1 | 31 | 3 | 11 | 1 27 | 9 | 1 | |
| | * Batted for Johnston in 9th | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | R.C.A.F. Maidstone | | | | | | and the second | - 2 - 3 | | | | | | |

St. Mary's Church - 1874 - 1974 - Maidstone, Ontario

Community Minded Parishioners



FRANCIS McCLOSKEY FAMILY

Standing left to right: John, William, Kate Hines, Charles, Frank. Sitting, left to rt: Tom, Mary McKeon, Francis & Mary 'Sheridan' McCloskey. Lower: Margaret Welsh, Elizabeth Halford.

Catholic Reeves of S. S. & Maidstone Township

Sandwich South Township

Abraham Cole, first Reeve, Warden; John Halford, Reeve; John Webster, Reeve; Robert Halford, Reeve and Warden; Joseph Hennin, Reeve and Warden; Ed Dumouchelle, Reeve; Jack McAuliffe, Deputy-Reeve.

MAIDSTONE TOWNSHIP

James Markham, Reeve, Deputy-Reeve, Elmer Quinlan, Deputy-R., Reeve

Sandwich South's First Council — 1893



Edward Mooney, Chas. McGuigan, Abraham Cole (Reeve), John Greaves. E. J. O'Neil, John Moynahan (clerk).

Confirmation Class of 1910



Front row, left to right: Agnes Halford, Genevieve Barrett, Alma McCarthy, Bernadette Halford, Myrtle Sullivan, Bernadine Dunn, Aglae Jobin, Corinne Eyraud, Sylvia Reaume, May Dunn, Florence Sexton, Marguerite Lennon, Irene Brown, Loretta Deslippe.

2nd row: Evangeline Halford, Bernadette McCarthy, Marie Fitzpatrick, Helen McCann, Georgina Fields, Agnes McAuliffe, Angela Halford, Veronica Sullivan, Grace Barrett, (unknown), Frances Eyraud, Florence Costigan, Marie Grandmaison, Lyons.

3rd row: (unknown), Grandmaison, Mary McCann, (unknown), Agnes Donovan, (unknown), (unknown), Clotilde Halford, Elizabeth Kavanagh, Margaret Costigan, St. Louis.

4th row: (unknown), Deslippe, (unknown), Mary Greenway, Ida Kane, (unknown), (unknown), unknown), Charlotte Scally, (unknown). Last row: Beulah St. Loius, Annie Battersby, Millie Eyraud, Sadie Barry.



Front row, left to right: Fred McCann, Frank Jobin, Roy Russette, Darrel Reaume, Charles Kane, Ward Larkins, Joe Deslippe, Charles O'Connell, Harold Sexton, Gerald McAuliffe, William Greenway.

2nd row: John Hayes, Frank Kane, Joe McNorgan, Stanley O'Connell, Joe Kane, Dominic McCarthy, Russell Coffee, Russell Sexton, Charles DeLisle, Arthur McPharlin.

3rd row: Frank Lepain, William Donovan, Joe Hayes, Basil Cunningham, John Sullivan, Fred DeLisle, Charles Conroy, Laurier Stowe, Joe McCann, Llwellyn Dunne, Fred Fitzpatrick, WilfredKane.

4th row: (unknown), Joe O'Connell, Fergus Cunningham, W. Sexton, N. Conroy, Andrew Taylor, (unknown), (unknown), Clarence Grondin.

Back row: Irvin Jones, Louis Wagner, Bernard Deslippe, Frank Grondin, Gordon O'Neil, Albert Kane.

First Communion 1947



REV. HARRY CHISHOLM

Girls — Back row: Jean Collins, Joan Collins, Nancy Turton, Theresa Desjardin, Mary Ann McCloskey, Maureen Lyons, (unknown), Shirley Quinlan. Front row: Leona Kosokowsky, Maureen Collins, Bridget McCann, Dorothy Hayes, Agnes Durocher, Anna May O'Neil, (unknown).

Boys — Back row: (unknown), (unknown), Leonard Bezdan, (unknown), Tony Ostrowski, Norbert St. Louis.

Middle row: Wayne Robinson, John McCann, John Markham, Stanley Durocher, Don Lavin, Francis Desjardin, Jim McAuliffe, Jack McAuliffe, Norbert Desjardin, (unknown).

Front row: Dennis Grondin, John Grant.

First Communion 1951



PRIESTS - on left, Fr. CHISHOLM, right, Fr. DWYER

Boys — left to right: L. Quinlan, T. Halford, R. McCarthy, W. Robinson, L. Adams, C. Doyle, J. McAuliffe (altar boy), M. McCloskey (altar boy) E. O'Neil, D. Hebert, P Hayes, J Flood, P. Eyraud, D. O'Neil.

Girls — left to right: J. Lepain, M. Belleau, M. Spidalieri, R. Croft, J. Grondin, S. McAuliffe, S. Dydzak, P Kettels, Frances Lecuyer, M. A. Turton, L. Grant, R. O'Neil, R. Jobin, J. Walker, J. Renaud, J. Markham, M.Flood. Work in a Farm Community



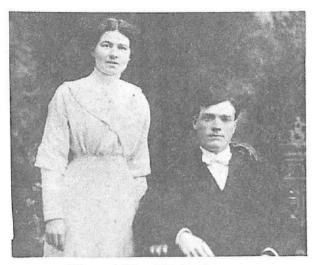


The last threshing 1953



Ralph, Stan Sexton , Phil O'Mara, Harold Robinson.

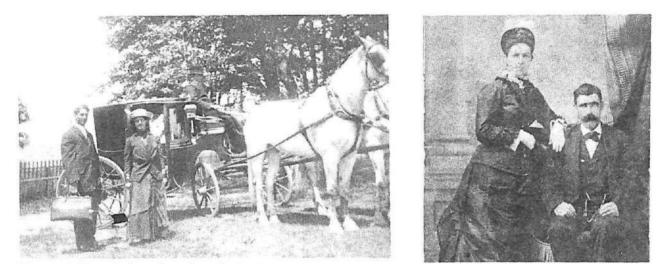
Weddings & Anniversaries



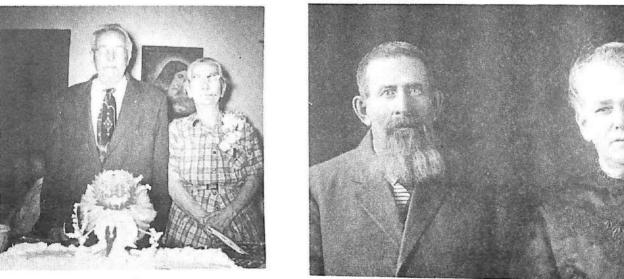
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Deehan.



Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah Collins (Kitty Kerby).



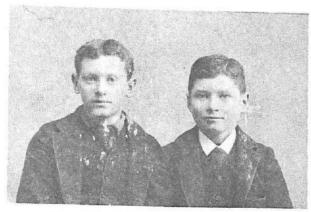
Mr. and Mrs. Loftus Lepain (Catherine Downing). Mr. and Mrs. Timothy McGuire (Sarah McHugh).



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mahon

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Dufoe. St. Mary's Church - 1874 - 1974 - Maidstone, Ontario

Oldtimers



Frank McAuliffe, Jerry Collins,



John Moynahan, Henry Collins.



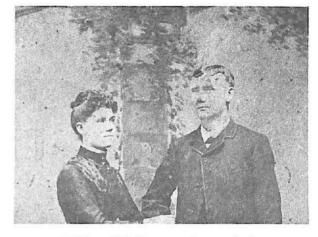
Patrick McAuliffe (Frank's father).



Left to right: Maggie (Kane) McCann, wife of Andrew, Agnes (Kane) Deehan, Theresa (Kane) Donovan.



Fr. McCabe, right foreground, Loretta Kane, Mrs. Vesty McGuire (Jane McCann), 3rd from left, Mrs. Wm. Kane.



Bridget McCann and son Andrew.

Oldtimers



John and Rose Shanahan (1913) - Family of 4 generations.



Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Halford (Ellen Flynn).

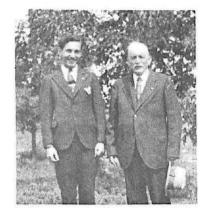


John and Mary McKeon's Anniversary Celebration during the 6oth year of the Church (1934), with Bishop Kidd.



Philip Quinlan





Charles Kavanagh and Ed



Florant Eyraud



Kavanaghs, Halfords, Collins', Greenways, McAuliffes.



Quinlans, McGuires, O'Connells, Mahons, Allens, Shanahans, Reillys, Mitchells, McShearers, Renauds.

Oldtimers



T. McGuire, T. Shanahan, F. Mahon, S. McGuire, Mary Mahon, Sarah McGuire, Alice Shanahan, Helen Markham.



John Halford, upper right, and friends.



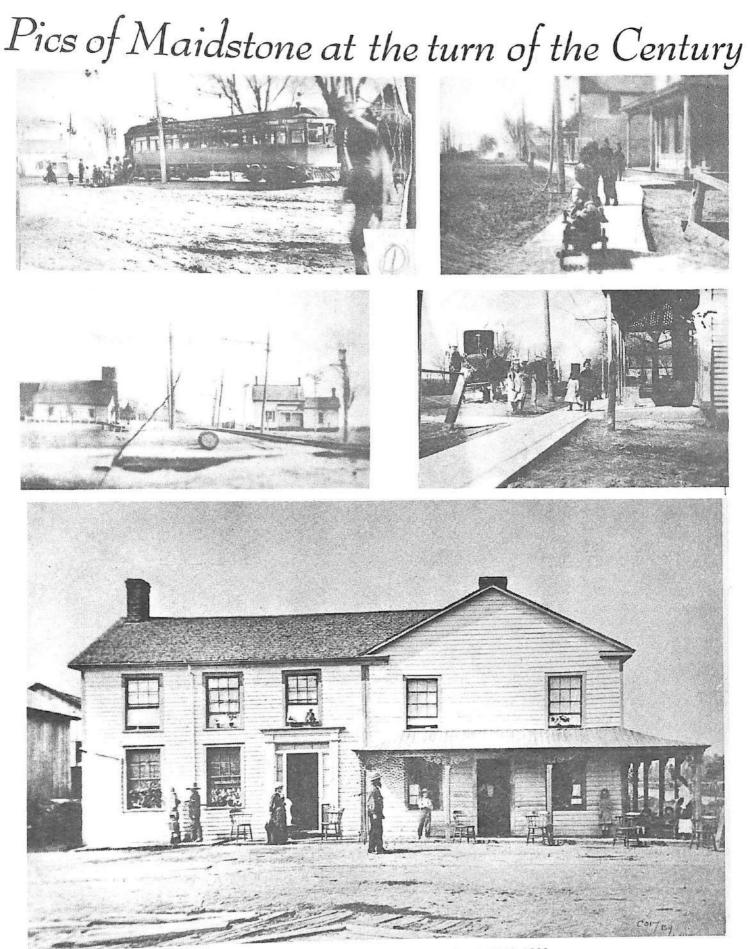
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Austin and Mr. & Mrs. Tom Dunn.



Mr. & Mrs Roy Hayes, Mr. & Mrs. John Chittle, Mr. & Mrs. Ed Chittle, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Byrne.

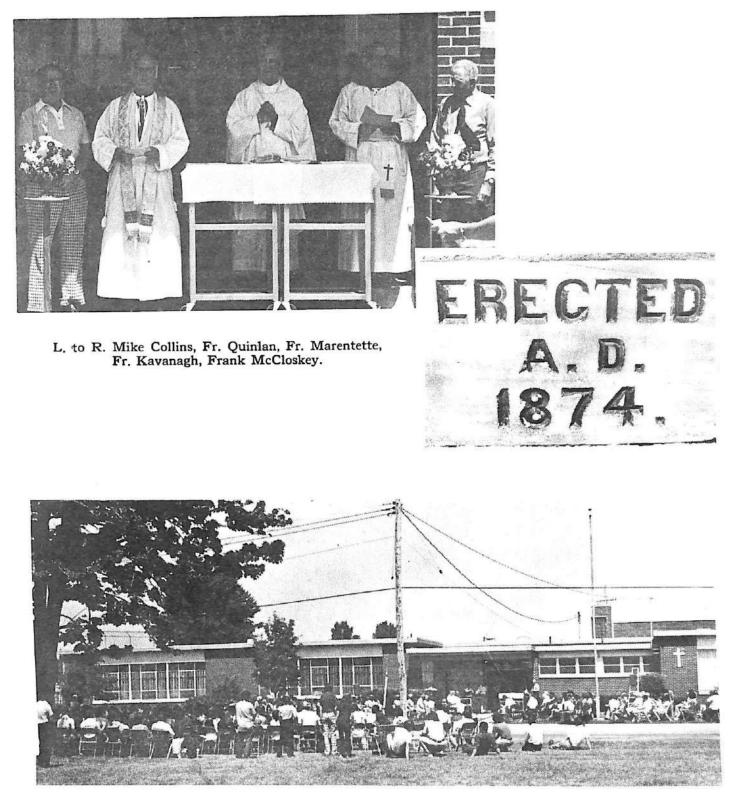


John McAuliffe at a family party.



The Jeremiah Collins Sr. Hotel — about 1880-1890





On Sunday, August 18, an outdoor Mass was held on St. Mary's school grounds. Fr. A. P. Marentette, our pastor, concelebrated the Mass with two native sons, Fr. Tim Kavanagh and Fr. Chris Quinlan. The lay reader was Leo Shanahan, and Mrs. Tom Mullin, accompanied by Tim Hebert, sang the Ave Maria. Refreshments were served afterward, at the hall.

OUTDOOR MASS



Acknowledgements

The History Committee of St. Mary's Parish would like to thank the following people:

John Battersby for the knowledge gained from many years research in local history and genealogy.

Fr. E. Lajeunesse, author of "The Border Cities Region" and David Botsford, former curator of Fort Malden Museum, for their assistance in having our work historically accurate.

Sister Mary Angela, Mount St. Joseph, London, Ontario, for her work compiling information about the St. Joseph Sisters who served in Maidstone or entered from this parish.

The Austin Family for their generosity and trust in lending momentoes from the early days of the parish.

Margaret Flood for access to her invaluable scrapbooks.

Mrs. Bernie McLean for the use of some of her old photographs and for her assistance in identifying people in those photographs.

Tom Fuerth for his patience and photographic work.

Typists — Mrs. Tom Halford, Mrs. Leo Kosokowsky, Mrs. Louis Valmossoi, Miss Christine Belleau, Miss Kate Milligan.

Mrs. Mary (Barry) St. Louis for her information.

Terry Collins, Peter W. Halford, Judy Robson and

class for their help on biographies.

Mrs. Grace McCarthy, Miss Nell Halford, Mr. Emmett Quinlan, Mr. Tom Shanahan and Mr. Bob Sylvestre for their memories — which have been source materials, better, in many ways, than printed matter.

Fr. A.P. Marentette for his unfailing support and encouragement.

The History Committee hopes that all readers of this effort will appreciate that this project grew to a much larger endeavour than that originally foreseen by the Parish Council. In this light, we vouch for the accuracy of those facts reported in the text. However, our work depended not only on such relatively concrete sources as The Essex County Registry Office, but also indeed, above all - on the goodwill contributions of parish members and others interested in this project. Thus, there are probably some oversights or incomplete reportings of events and families which could be of major importance to some readers of this history. In all honesty, we admit to this possibility and apologize for it. However, we do hope that the results of our research will become a part of the public treasury of our common past; for it is by knowing the past that we may better judge the present and future.

> Mrs. Terry Collins Mrs. Peter W. Halford Mrs. Larry Jobin Mrs. George Markham Mrs. Ed Milligan

