

# History Of The Village Of Brigden

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Written by

R.M. Brown and F. W. Lillywhite

This book may be purchased from Mrs. R. M. Brown, Brigden and

F. W. Lillywhite, Brigden

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**Note: Original spellings and grammar have been maintained.**

In the late 50's or early 60's there was erected on the corner of the Fourth Concession and 6 and 7 sideroad a hewed log school house in what was then almost solid bush. The first teacher being the Late Rev. John Gracy, then a student, who died in Toronto a few years ago at the advanced age of 90 years. He was followed by the late Roderick McKinnon who afterwards became one of Brigden's early merchants. He in turn was followed by James Watson who afterwards became the Clerk of Moore Township. Next came James Brown who was followed by Jane Farquharson. Then came Peter Grant. The first years of his teaching there was a frame school house erected on the north-east corner of the lot. James McKinnon followed Grant.

About the year 1879 or 80, the Late Charles Duncan took over the school site and gave in exchange a larger piece of ground where the present school house stands. The school then having two rooms. This school then became too small and the primary classes held school over Windsor's Furniture Store. Then later the south wing was added to the present school. The old frame school is now a residence on Jane St. and is owned and occupied by Mrs. Francis Brown.

The winter of 1869 and 70 the right-of-way for the Canada Southern Railway was cut out and grading operations commenced. The iron for the road was brought to Courtright by boat as well as the first engines and the laying of the track commenced in 1872. It might be interesting to say that it was difficult for the workmen to get places to board, some of them going as far as the 6th line. The men paid for board \$1.75 per week.

Soon after that the Late Nat. Boswell bought an old mill at Mooretown and moved it onto the line between the farms of Peter Coutes and John McKenzie which was the centre of lot 8 in the fifth concession. The station building was also erected there. Boswell however changed his plans and purchased the James Grant farm lot 7 in the fifth concession and moved his machinery to the present grist mill. He had a survey of part of the property made and sold a number of lots. He afterwards agitated for the moving of the station which was eventually loaded on two flat cars and moved to the site where it now stands.

In the early 70's Peter Duncan erected a frame store on the site of the present Balmoral Hotel. It was rented by D. L. McLean who conducted a general store for some years being the first merchant in Brigden. He was also the first post master. He moved to Emerson, Manitoba in 1881 and was post master there until his death in 1915 and died in harness as he died in P.O. In the meantime the village had erected a Town Hall where James Binder's garage now stands. In the winter of 1877 John Dawson came to Brigden and opened a store in the lower part of the building. The following fall his brother-in-law the Late John Armstrong came here and started a partnership with him and they erected the south half of the large brick store then later as business increased the north half was erected. This store was on the property where the Frank Kilbreath garage now stands.

About the year 1876 the old hotel known first as the Lorne House was erected by the Late J. V. Battram and conducted by him for several years.

About 1879 the Late Henry Windsor commenced business as a cabinet maker and undertaker in the frame building north of the brick block on the north west corner of Main St. and 4th concession. Later he built the brick block.

The year 1879 saw the Late Harry Leacock first, he and Wm. Lucas putting up the bank building and conducting a private bank. The south part of the building was equipped for a store and a good many different businesses have been conducted in there. W. J. Ward was the next to follow who also conducted a private bank. Then Vandusin & Faucett who sold out to the Metropolitan chartered bank.

## BLACKSMITHS

Mack Porter had the first blacksmith shop in the village on the old planing mill lot. Another early settler was Sam Bullock who had a shop where the Oddfellows hall now stands. He built the dwelling at the rear of the shop and the house stood there for several years. George Young a little later built a blacksmith shop on the Basswood Block property and sold out to Alex Canada, he building the small part of the house now owned by Dr. W. H. Johnston. McGillvary was the next proprietor, he selling to Simpson & Luck, who enlarged the building by adding a carriage shop. These buildings were burned during the early 80's and Simpson & Luck then built the large blacksmith shop on

the lot where J. R. Sinclair's house stands. Heartwell & Donahue then moved to Brigden from Bradshaw where they operated a shop and bought them out. Then shortly after W. H. Smith put in his first appearance and hired to Heartwell & Donahue, he ironed a buggy for them that took first prize at the Fair which was held that year back of bank building. This honor previous years being won by Sarnia workmen. Mr. Smith then bought out Donahue and he and Mr. Heartwell remained partners until Mr. Heartwell's death. Mr. Heartwell was a very fine speaker and always officiated as chairman at entertainments. The Late John Gibson who had a shop on 6th line moved to Brigden in the late 60's and built a large shop on the corner of Main and Jane Sts. He built his residence at the rear of shop, building the east part of the house first then later years built the west wing. Mr. Gibson was in business for a long time then he and Foster Johnston went in partnership. Previous to that time Mr. Johnston had his shop on the property were Sinclair's garage now stands. They conducted business until the big fire of January 1901. They then sold the lot to R. B. Brown who built the store which now stands thereon.

The late Thomas Leacock arrived in our town in 80 he built the shop which is still standing and operated by his son, Ham. Another very fine workman and an early settler in our village was Hugh Black, he being a carriage maker and woodwork. P. Allen was also one of our blacksmiths. It is almost impossible to make mention of all who followed that trade as in the early days there was great demand for blacksmiths.

Mr. Lemons was also a blacksmith in our village and was attached to the blacksmith shop on the fourth line.

#### BASSWOOD BLOCK

The Basswood Block when first erected was a one-story building and later the second story was added and used as a rollerskating rink and a hall. When this skating was going on, to the tenants below it sounded very much like a severe thunderstorm. It was also about this time that the toboggan slide on the Bear Creek hill east of the bridge was so popular.

#### CHURCHES

In the fall of 1877 the Methodist Church was built by Dawson, White & Wheeler, a new firm of builders that came in that year. It was the first brick structure in the village. The church was opened the following winter, Rev. Thomas Clark was the first minister.

The Baptist Church was erected in 1879 and opened in 1880.

The Presbyterian Church was built in 1880 by Duncan McPhale, who met with a severe loss as one of the worst hail storms this country ever knew occurred that year

and the stained glass windows were all broken and had to be sent back to London to be replaced. Wm. Marwick, of Watford did the brick work. The church was opened the following spring. Rev. John McDonald was the first minister.

Previous to the building of the churches joint services were held in what was then the town hall which stood on the Bidner garage property.

#### DOCTORS

In the middle 70's Dr. Hugh Ross commenced practice on the 6th line moving to Brigden a year or so later when he built the house now occupied by Dr. Bellamy where he remained until 1881, when he moved to Clifford, Ont. He was followed by Dr. Merrison, then by Dr. Ames, then Dr. Fisher, then Dr. Rice, then Dr. Galbraith, next Dr. Walker, the present being Dr. Bellamy. Dr. Seager at the north side of the village came here in the late 70's and remained until the time of his death at an advanced age. The house that Dr. W. J. Johnston lived in was where Dr. Seager lived and practiced, that building being moved from Oil Springs. At that time Nat. Boswell moved several buildings from that village. This was during the month of March there being exceptionally good sleighing. Dr. Irvine started practice 12 years ago. Dr. Jones, dentist started about the same time.

#### THE FAIR GROUND

The origin of the fair ground was almost an accident. Three of the largest shareholders met on the street one night and discussed the advisability of forming a company and purchasing grounds and preparing them for exhibition purposes. They were R. G. Shaw, Hiram Hales and R. M. Brown who decided to put in \$100.00 each. They were afterwards joined by J. V. Battram, T. H. Battram, Thos. Hayne, J. McBean and J. Armstrong who also put in \$100. A meeting was called and a committee appointed to solicit subscriptions a charter was applied for and company formed. Fifteen acres of ground was purchased from J. V. Battram who then owned the farm. The agreement being that he sell 15 acres of ground enclosed by a six foot board fence, a track graded, 25 pens for sheep and hogs and a suitable building for show purposes erected, the same to cost \$2500. The next largest stockholders were Henry Windsor for \$50. also Dr. Ames for the same amount, next came John Potter, James Grant, Mr. Battram and the Duncan boys, Charles, John and James with \$25.00 each. The others ranging from \$5.00 to \$15.00 each. The fall of 1888 saw the grounds completed. The first fair being held in the fall of 1889. The Late H. J. Leacock was Secretary of the company until he died in 1906, when R. M. Brown was appointed Secretary-Treasurer, which office he held until the grounds were sold to the Moore Agricultural Society in 1915. During the time the company had the grounds another building was erected and about another acre added. Just recently the fair board have added five acres on the east side and placed the track further east which is a decided improvement. The grounds now contain nearly twenty-one acres. Previous to 89 the fair had been held on

the lot back of the bank, also the rear of Brown's store, and on the property where the oatmeal mill now stands. The fair was held at different places in the township, sometimes in Corunna, sometimes in Mooretown and sometimes in Courtright. The last one outside of Brigden being held in Courtright in 1888. Previous to the starting of the fair grounds there had been a fair held here. The first being the year the Lorne House was erected, the inside exhibits being shown in the uncompleted building. Another fair we remember well was in 1883, when the battle of Brigden fair took place.

#### THE NAME OF BRIGDEN

Brigden was named after an engineer of that name. He always contended that it was an uncle it was named for but no one believed him. The last I heard of him was in 1906. He was a noted walker often walking from St. Thomas in a day. If there was snow on the track he would walk the rail. He and his wife paid Brigden a visit in 1906.

The first station agent was Peter Brown, who had charge from the time the road started until about 1883, as the company wished to install a telegraph, and as he was not an operator he had to make way for one who was, John McLean was successor. McLean was followed by M. B. Johnston who remained until 1893 when he changed to freight agent on the train. He was succeeded by J. F. Grimes who held the position until the time of his death in 1932, thirty nine years of service.

#### THE BRICK AND TILE YARD

The Late Hiram Hales started making brick and tile on the farm now owned by Thomas Stark, Lot 8, concession 4, which was then owned by Peter Brown, in the spring of 1877. The first season he ground his clay in a pug mill with one horse and made the brick one at a time by hand. The following year he purchased a second hand mill from the Canada Southern Railway, one that had been used in manufacturing the brick for the St. Thomas station building. He hired a team from John Grant to operate it. Most of the brick used in Brigden was manufactured there. About the year 1884 he moved to the site of the present yards, where he continued until about 1912 when he sold out to McLean Bros. who operated until 1914, when the yard was taken over by R.T. McDonald, better known as "Bob", who remodeled the works and put things on a more modern basis. He was followed by Parson Bros. and they by the present owners the Howlett's.

The brick building on south-east corner of Main and Jane St., was built by Wm. McDonald who had kept a small store on the 6th line for a number of years and wanted to extend his business. It wasn't a success however and he did not remain. Two of his nephews, John McDonald and Lap McBean followed him for a short time, when R.B. Brown and David McDonald started and seemingly made a success of it. Brown continued there until he built the large building across the street and moved there about 1904. McDonald & Munroe in the mean time had opened a store in what is now

the drug store. A few years after the fire of 1901 McDonald put up his present store. The brick store now used as a drug store was built by James Demore in the late 70's and used by him as a boot and shoe store for a number of years when he moved to St. Thomas where he built a small store on a side street just south of Talbot St. and north of the railway and made a good living repairing until he died.

We must not forget Wm. Cowan who conducted a harness shop in the frame building, then on the Windsor property. He was a very capable man and quite successful while in business. He sold to Robt. Nicholson about 1894 or 95 who moved to the frame building, then on the site of the I.O.O.F. building, he did not remain long and sold to Wm. Blacklock, then followed John Lawson, when the building was burned. He then moved into the bank building and was succeeded by Mr. Switzer. Wm. Manley followed and now conducts a shop at the north end of Main St. Mr. Lamont also followed harness making and had his shop next to the post office building.

Another one we must not forget was Miss Humphrey who had a small store and dwelling in the building now occupied by Moore Telephone System.

Our first shoemaker was James Demore, then Wm. Pretty, then Fisher & Clemens. Fisher moved to Michigan and his son-in-law the present capable Alex. Smith followed him.

The Balmoral Hotel was built in 1903 and 04 by Frank Hyde, then of Courtright.

James Battram came to Brigden in the 70's and purchased the farm now owned by W.J. Manley, from Capt. Crawford. He later built the bake shop and learned baking from Cameron, he after several years sold out to Sylvanus Walker, Mr. Battram going east for a few years. He returned and Mr. Walker started a bake shop in the Alex Smith building. A few years later Geo. Battram followed father, then came Albert Smith then Geo. Smith then Watson then Robt. Haverstock, then Joseph Poland, then Jas. Broton, now we have K.K. Tye to keep us in the staff of life.

The planing mill was built by Wheeler, Dawson and Whyte about 1876 or 77 just west of the oatmeal mill. R.G. Shaw and his assistant, Donald Fasner came in the spring of 1886 and started a lumber yard and purchased the planing mill. Sim Malory & Johnie May accompanied them and worked in the mill. About 1912 Shaw moved to Sarnia where he still resides. Fisher if living is down about Windsor or Walkerville.

The house now owned and occupied by Frank Glancy, was built by the Late Peter Brown and presented as a wedding gift to his daughter, Mrs. J.B. Wynne.

Our first druggist, I think was Robt. Burwell. He had a store in the south part of the bank building. He was succeeded by Dave Bole, who afterwards was at the head of the Bole Drug Co. of Winnipeg. Dr. Seager had a drug store in the lower part of the old

town hall he later selling to E. C. Harvey who married Hattie McKinnon. He was followed by J. B. Wynne who for quite a few years was principal of the school, qualifying for a druggist studying at home. He first passed his examinations in Michigan and then in Toronto. He carried on a business in the old town hall which he had purchased until about 1897, when he sold out the business to Orlando Culver and moved to Leamington where he bought out a larger business. He afterwards bought out his brothers banking business in Watford which he conducted for a few years when he sold to one of the chartered banks and was retained as manager for a few years. He then moved to Toronto where he became associated with the Trusts and Guarantee Company. He died in 1915 on St. Patrick's Day.

Cris Ellison was also a former druggist here. He had a store in the bank building. It was he who built the brick residence where Mrs. Boyington now resides.

We had at one time a scotch couple John Newal and his wife they were weavers and quite an interesting pair. They lived where the Such family now reside.

The Hayne family carried on business since the early days in the grain and milling having operated both the grist and saw mills. Ed Clark was at one time associated with Thos. Hayne and it was he who built the brick house on Boswell St., where Grimes now resides and lived there for several years. He died in Toronto a few years ago.

We had at one time a small woollen mill owned and operated by the late Wm. Manley, Sr. on the east end of Boswell St., across from Jos. Sutton's home. Also a foundry and machine shop just east of the bank, it was built by Campbell & Louis. It was not a paying proposition and did not continue long in business. One of the buildings was converted into a dwelling and is now owned and occupied by Sherman Parr.

The house where Carlos Windsor resides was built by Thomas Nixon. It stands where the old log school house formerly stood.

Another of the old buildings is the store occupied by Howard Moore. The Farquharson sisters Isabella and Jane conducted a store there many years ago they were followed by the McKenzie brothers, John and James who were there in the early 80's. Then came Duffy and Hyland, then Handsen then our present townsman, Flaveous Seely, later C.C. Watson and now Howard Moore.

Billy McGuire for many years an interesting character carried on business as a barber most of the time. Billy came here from Kincardine in later 70's bringing with him five horses belonging to a man by the name of Cammeron and conducted a livery at the Lorne House. Mr. McGuire died a few years ago.

Our first band was organized in 1879, Joseph Tearney, being the leader. He came here from Alvinston once a week. He left about 1880 and was with a firm in

Chicago for nearly forty years. I saw his name in connection with the Waterford band who were playing in Toronto at the exhibition some four or five years ago. Thinking it might be our Joe, I wrote him to Waterford and received a nice letter in reply. I wrote again and did not receive any reply. The following year the Waterford band was under different leadership at Toronto, but the next year Joe's name appeared as leader. That was the last I heard of him. The Late Harry Leacock used to say the band was a d--d expensive luxury. The writer, R. M. Brown, is now the only one of that band living.

Although never a resident of Brigden he has passed it so often that he must have known it as well as any of the rest of us. I refer to Jas. Johnston of Courtright. He started on the first train as baggage man and remained continuously until the time of his superannuation. He was said to be the best feeling man in Canada.

Rob Knox, who was conductor on the first passenger train, was one of the finest men we ever had on any of the trains. He was loved by everyone but contracted lung trouble and died a comparatively young man deeply regretted.

About our first accident at the crossing on Main St., occurred early in the history of the road. A Mr. Richardson who was then road master along with Brigden the civil engineer, were going east on the hand car when their car left the rail. The road master, a very fine man, was standing behind and was thrown over the handle bars landing on his head. He was unconscious when picked up and never regained conscious and died in about two days. He was carried to the only available house, James Grant's where the United parsonage now is. Brigden who was standing in front escaped with a shaking up.

Another old timer, Malcolm McDonald came here in 1875 and was for many years associated with the saw mill as cutter and measurer. He was a very decent respectable man. His wife had the unique experience of being overtaken by a special engine on the railway bridge and had to jump, escaping comparatively uninjured.

The grist mill now owned and operated by the Brigden Milling Co. seemingly successfully, was one of the very earliest buildings erected. It has been remodeled and enlarged, but first structure is still there. It was built by Mr. Lipy a millwright from St. Thomas, assisted by his nephew, Jas. Lipy. Mr. Lipy was a great lover of music and gave the use of the second floor of the mill for the first entertainment ever given here, which consisted of singing, readings and dialogues by local talent, one of the early operators of mill was William Mustard. He I think was followed by Thomas Hayne, he by Peter Duncan, who had Donald Ross for miller. Then came the Hayne Milling Co., at which time they remodeled the machinery, changing the engine, and putting a roller system in place of the stones. It was next operated by John Hayne and John Wheeler, he afterwards going to Alvinston and operating the mill there until his death. We wish the present owners all kinds of success as it is a busy institution and a real asset to our village.



One of the first places of employment was the saw mill, which was built by Hugh Tims in the early 70's. He remained in business for a few years, during which time he cut a great deal of lumber, and to encourage building, lumber was practically given to employees. He sold to Coutes & Hewer, then later the partnership changed to Hewer & Shaw, who carried on business for a number of years, then Lucan & Leacock were the proprietor. Andrew Harkness then became interested in the business, at which time the mill devoted a great deal of attention to the manufacture of heavy barrel staves. Later owned and operated by John Hayne who manufactured staves and hoops. This mill was burned once and replaced. We must not overlook Mr. Cannon, George's brother, he was attached to the mill for a short time.

The first stock for the saw mill (which is now defunct) was put in the winter of 1873 and 1874. It was mostly oak from the banks of Plum Creek.

We also had at one time two grist mills. About 1890 the farmers built a mill on the property now occupied by the oatmeal mill. The mill was operated by Wm. Brown, who now lives in Mooretown, Vizzard & Sterling were the next to operate the mill, then came the Morrison Brothers after which John M. Brown was manager for some time. This mill was burned and John Hayne built the oatmeal mill which is now standing idle.

The heading mill which was owned and operated by Hayne & Fisher was built in the early 90's and at one time had to run night and day in order to fill the orders and gave employment to a large body of men and boys. This mill was burned and replaced by John Hayne which in later years was torn down and moved to Pt. Edward. John Hayne at one time controlled four mills in our village and when three of these mills discontinued operation it was a great loss of employment.

We must not neglect to mention the mill on Moore and Enniskillen townline, at that time known as East Brigden. This mill was built by McKewen & Stewart in the 60's and operated by them for a number of years. They sold to Savage & Dougan and later Chamberlin took an interested in the business and for years was called the Chamberlin mill. The last proprietors were H & N. Donald. It was a very busy mill and gave a great deal of employment to mill workmen of our village. In the winter months the men and boys often going to and returning from mill waded in snow two feet deep. George Cannon hauled a good many loads of listings to our village from this mill.

The Commercial Hotel was erected in 1874, it was built in three parts. The south-east corner was erected first and used as a store. Smith from Mandaumin was the proprietor. During that time Nat Boswell was preparing the ground for his hotel on the property where the Brigden Cheese and Butter Co. factory now stands. Frank Tye and John McDonald excavated the cellar but in the meantime Smith gave up the store and Boswell added the remainder of the front to the north, and not until Hackett became proprietor, when the wing to the west was built. Nat Boswell later sold to Thomas Huggard who was followed by Billy Hackett. Then a man by the name of

French, next came Jas. Hoskins who sold to Hayes & Spooner and returned to Wallaceburg. Spooner carried on until early in 1901 when he sold to Charles Matthews who put the hotel into good repair and conducted it for a number of years when his son-in-law, Ed Regan took it over. He later moved to Oil Springs when Mr. Matthews had to return. He eventually sold to Issac Hillier, he later selling to William Taylor who only remained a short time when Issac Hillier returned and is carrying on a very fine hotel. After he left the hotel Spooner went to Sarnia for a year or two when he came back he bought the Balmoral Hotel from Frank Hyde who had built it in 1904, Hyde going to Dunnville. Spooner died a few years later and left the hotel to his mother and sisters.

Sometime in the 70's J. V. Battram built the Lorne Hotel and conducted it until the early 90's when his son T. H. Battram took it over and conducted it until 1895 when he sold it to Charles Helmer, who remained for two years and sold to the Hayes Brothers, John and Alex. They remained for about two years and sold to old man Lario who only stayed one winter when Joel Shaw bought him out. Later Freeman Pettit took it over and Joel went to Wyoming. Local option came in during poor Freeman's time and caused him quite a loss. Eventually \_\_\_ McGuire came here from Oil City and took it over. He sold the building to C. C. Watson who tore it down and built the dwelling now owned and occupied by Thomas Blackman.

A. F. Wade, of Sarnia was another former townsman who was here in the early days first being employed in John Armstrong's store. He later was with W. J. Ward as teller in his private bank. He was married while here to Flora Anderson of Wyoming who died in Sarnia a short time ago. They lived in the house now occupied by Sherman Parr, and left here in the fall of 1902.

After he left the firm of Dawson, Wheeler & Whyte, the late James Whyte had a shop on Main St., where he carried on as a carpenter. This building stood next to Gibson's shop. It was arranged for a photo gallery upstairs. He built the brick cottage on Jane St., next to the church, where he lived for several years. He died over in Michigan in 1915.

Wm. Rewbotham was one of the very early citizens. He earned on as a gardener most of the years he was here. He eventually got too old to carry on and went to Michigan to live with a daughter where he died a few years ago.

Another old timer was Richard Osborne who was section foreman on the railway for many years. He died less than a year ago.

Although not in Brigden I think I will mention them. I refer to the late Dave Tait and wife Christina but called by themselves, Davit and Kerst. They must have lived a most lonesome life as they were hemmed in by woods on all sides being on lot 8 in the third concession. We owned lot 8 in the 4th concession in those days, and many a time

when a boy I was after the cows Kerst would come out to the fence to have a crack(talk). On Sundays he would hook his team on the wagon and away the old couple would go the 6th line church and if they overtook anyone on the road you may be sure they were offered a ride so that Kerst would have a crack. The late Robert Dreen who lived here was raised by them and eventually took over their fifty acres, when the old couple went to Bothwell where they had a nephew.

Another old building which we must not forget to mention is the mill which was built on the property on 4th line adjoining James Smith's residence. This mill was built for a grist mill by Wm. Farr (Joe's Father), it was never equipped with machinery and stood empty for a number of years. It was purchased and moved on the rear of D. Heal's property and was burned down in 1890 or 91.

George Young built the south half of the Red and White Store where he conducted a grocery store, later Miss Telford was the proprietor and was in business for many years. The north part was erected and used as a harness shop. Billy Lamont was in business also Mr. Boyce conducted a shop in this building. A.J. Walker removed the wall and made buildings in on[e].

Mrs. G. Smith (Alex's aunt) built the house now occupied by Colin Hewston. James Fitchett owned this property for a good many years, coming here in the early 90's.

In the early days we could buy a fine black walnut coffin for \$5.00. The late Alex Watson who lived on the north end of lot 3 in the 5th concession taking the measure and making them for that amount. We made the mistake of not dying then. He had a little water mill on his farm.

Peter Pryor was a very early dweller here and married one of Sandy Shaw's daughters, they lived on the Shaw farm in our old log school house which had been moved there. Later moving to village and building the small part of the Harry Leacock house which he sold to Leacock who then enlarged it. Pryor then built the Stephen Moore house.

John Knight was also a one time resident. He also married a daughter of Sandy Shaw's, Katy, they moved to Petrolia many years ago. Mr. Knight has been dead for a good many years.

J. Alex Shaw was for quite a few years a resident here and followed the carpenter trade. He moved to Sarnia some years ago, where he married Maggie Duncan of the twelfth line.

I have been told that the last wolves seen in this part of the country was in the spring of 1857.

John Gauld who now makes his home in Sarnia lived here for some time. He at one time had a farm in the 7th concession. His home was at one time the Presbyterian manse which dates back to the early 60's.

There was for quite a few years a very eccentric Irishman by the name of Paddy Root. "Eh what" He made his home principally with Jennie Stapleton. He usually carried a heavy cane and if you crossed him in anyway he was far more apt to hit you a bang on the head than he was to say his prayers. He contracted cancer and died some years ago.

Before the erection of the Armstrong's Hardware Store, Robt. Young built a frame store on that property and was occupied by Edwards as a hardware store. Later Abe Dawson purchased the building and enlarged it, adding a butcher shop. His slaughter house stood in the bush on the property where Roy MacDonalds house now stands. These stores were moved, one was the house that Wm. Rewbothan lived in and the other is the house Jack Walker lives in.

The building now owned by Alex Smith was built by a man by the name of Howard for George Ross for a tailor shop. He conducted a shop for a couple of years. Then an old man by the name of Shaw ran a candy store for a while. The boys would congregate in the store and kick watermelons from the front of the counter to the door and quietly leave and have a feed at this old gent's expense. He was followed by Miss Olive Telford who sold home baking and kept a boarding house. Then Sylvanus Walker built a bake shop at the rear and operated a bakery and confectionery store. He was followed by Hathaway's who carried on in the same line of business. Later Harry Lillywhite had his shop and dwelling in this building. The Alex Smith purchased the building and has conducted a shoe store for a good many years. After the fire of 1901, Fred Selman had a part of the building for musical instruments. Before the fire on east side of street this building stood one lot north, it being moved to enlarge property for garage which was built by Thos. Poland.

The building which stood on the property now occupied by A. Smith's Shoe Store was a frame building was a solid glass front. In the late 70's Mrs. George Fitchett had a store and lunch room in this building. Later Stephen Moore had an implement shop for a number of years. This building was also the home of our first paper to be published in the village the "Public Opinion" which was moved here by Finlay, of Courtright, Malcom Ferguson, who came here from Toronto to work in the office bought the business and published the paper for a considerable time. It was during his reign as editor and chief that Fred Lillywhite was "devil" he called the paper "the weekly struggle". Will Leacock, Will Gibson and Edgar Baker were also employed at different times. The office was moved to the Sheppard building in 1902 and a couple of years later Mr. Ferguson moved the plant to the west where he published a paper until his health failed and returned east and spent his last days in Corunna. He died a couple of years ago.

Our next printing office was moved here by Jerome, who published the "Brigden Progress". He later sold to Jack Burns, then Fluety was the next to publish. In 1914 W. J. Brownlee bought the office and published the paper until it burned out in 1919. Back in the 70's Brigden had a paper called the "Brigden Beetle", this paper was published in Alvinston. It was not in circulation very long.

In 1889 we had a matched horse race between two local horses. This race attracted a large crowd and horses and rigs were tied on all streets. James Burns and his mother drove to town and Jim tied his horse to rail fence opposite the Baptist Church. The horse being restless he unhitched it from the buggy, on returning for his outfit the horse and rig were missing. He at once advertised and his horse and rig was located in Drumbo, Ont. George Cannon accompanied James and the party was arrested and brought to Brigden. He was tried in Sarnia and given 14 years.

A.D. Armstrong when a boy was down to the Lorne House and having some candy in his pocket was giving the bear a treat. The bear standing up, was eating the candy and licking his chops. After the last candy was gone the bear wanting more, like a flash, grabbed A.D. by the legs and threw him down and then began to chew at his leg. Screams brought Tom Battram to the scene but not before the bear had wounded the leg and had torn the trousers. This was A.D.'s first pair of long trousers.

The house now occupied by Russell Smith was built in the early days. It first stood very close to bakery and later moved north. This building was built by Sheppard, his daughters being dressmakers, worked at that trade. Penington also had a tailor shop in this building. It had had a good many different tenants. Dick Adams had a watch and clock repair shop in this building in 1888 and 89. He married Annie Battram and went east about 1890. The young men of our village had a club room at one time on the second floor. About 1910 Dr. B.C. Smith purchased the property and had his office and dwelling there.

The school lot which was in the late 80's and early 90's a vacant lot was the village playground. Many a good game of football was played on those grounds. The old goal posts are still standing which were the two hard maple trees in front of Carlos Windsor's house.

The broom handle factory on the old Watson farm was one of our early places of employment. The proprietors were Jerry Watson and Kirk. The factory was run by water power. Buglers are now living in the Watson house which they moved out to the 4th line.

The Masonic Lodge is the oldest society in Brigden, it was dedicated in 1882. The lodge room was over Culver's drug store at the time of fire in 1901. Then practically all their belonging was burned. The lodge then moved to the Windsor block which they have since purchased. Mr. Milner was the first master, he being followed by Dr. Seager.

The old foundry building which was used as a barn by W. J. Ward for a good many years was moved out on Main St., by Thomas Nixon who used the lower part for an implement shop. The upper story was used as a band room. The building had a large verandah which the band gave concerts from. Later the upstairs was equipped for lodge rooms, which were occupied by the Orange lodge, Macabee Lodge and Eastern Star Chapter at the time the building was burned. Mr Postil also conducted an implement business in this building. At the time of fire J. R. Sinclair was the proprietor.

#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

Battram's Bear... Farley's Goat... the race between Archie McIntyre's horse and Billy Pretty's horse... Will Leacock the poet... Hugh McDonald pulling the vessel over George McKenzie's head ... the Bicycle Club in Brigden ... the Liberal convention in Agricultural building ... the man with the wieners and ten dollar bills on table fork ... John Welsh and Alex McPherson, wagonmakers ... Haggie the insurance agent ... Tigner the clock and watch repairman ... Fred Shaw the drayman, before Bob Grant's time ... the day Harry Leacock went speeding down Main St. on his bicycle with his coattail on fire ... the day the jointer at the heading mill broke and landed a piece of metal weighing almost 100 pounds in chicken house at rear of Mrs. Charles Brown's house, a distance of over 200 yards ... the skating rink in the Agricultural building ... when gas was 25 ¢ per thousand ... the night some of our young men got the chasing and one almost severed his head on a clothes line ... the night the boys broke Jim's thumb ... Tigner's wooden pump works, at rear of Luck's blacksmith shop ... 12<sup>th</sup> of July celebration in our village in 89 or 90 ... young men's club ... Bedford the druggist ... the house which stood at the rear of Jim Whyte's carpenter shop ... Parr's team of oxen ... July celebration in Welsh's woods ... when David Parr and Jack Miller were our baseball battery ... Jink's Neal, pitcher, "you'll have to hurry" ... the night Battram's bear made Ernie Nightingale change his mind ... the high bicycle Dan Fisher had ... Wm. Battram's furniture store ... the time Dick Donahue stole the cake made for the winning captain at Parr's barn raising ... when Ivason had a meat market in house now owned by E. Steadman ... Fred Davis and James Morrison the photographers ... the barber shop that was wrecked and contents piled up on the 4th line corner ... Sylvanus Walker's potash factory on the hill ... Charlie Humble the baker ... Dan Commings the pie maker ... when James Grant's barn stood on the property now occupied by the Armstrong residences ... train wreck over 30 years ago ... Jakie Cassol the high wire walker ... Jim Pie the baker ... the time Peter McCoy went into the shoe repair shop and cut off a toe that was giving him trouble ... Seager's crow ... Lintop the barber ... Dr. Dolman the veterinary ... the Saturday night that Billy Regan devoured the ice cream ... at B. Johnston's bow kite ... the wonderful kite maker Johnie May was.

Frank Tye was one of the real early settlers, he first settled on the second line in 1872, having his log shanty just west of the property where the Brigden Cheese and Butter Company factory stood. He became acquainted with John McDonald and

assisted him with the erection of a log house which stood on Thomas Poland's property, and later made his home with the McDonalds. The two of them cut the timber and removed the stumps for the roadway to the station which was on the property above mentioned. Their pay for the task was the wood, which they sold to the railway. Mr. Tye had a great deal to do with the work about the village in the commencement of Brigden. We regret he is now in the west as he could no doubt recall a good many happenings of real interest. Mr. Tye married and built the brick cottage across from Presbyterian church. For many years he fired in saw mill and later was fireman and engineer for Haynes grist mill for over twenty years.

John McDonald (Happy Jack) came here in 1875 when Brigden was almost solid bush. He and John Mitchell, Alex's father, cleared the bush from Jane St., to 4th Line on west side of village. He assisted in the erection of a good many of the dwellings as each one helped the other after work in the evenings. Mr. McDonald planted the Boswell orchard which then extended from Commercial barn to Irvine's house. He later worked as head sawyer in East Brigden saw mill. Brigden saw mill, also Dayles mill. He speaks of cutting balm of gilead logs seven foot through. Mr. McDonald is in his 89th year, his memory is exceptionally clear and has taken a great deal of delight in giving a lot of this history.

Alex Blakie was for many years an occupant of the house where the Capes live. He was a carpenter and carried on for a number of years. He left here and went to Inwood quite a few years ago and died out there. He and Geo. Baker were at one time thought to be the champion euchre players of the village.

Another former resident was John Mannen who lived in the east end of Boswell St., He passed to the great beyond some years ago. He used to farm on the 6th line. His daughter Agnes now occupies the house.

John Regan was quite an old timer, having come here in the early 80's. He died a few years ago. He earned his daily bread principally with the spade, although he was a very fare man with the axe. Mr. Regan also worded for a good many years in R. G. Shaw's lumberyard.

The house on the hill where Joseph Poland resided was built by Roderick McKinnon in the later 70's and was said to be the cause of his failing in business.

Although he is not an actual resident of Brigden, James Stapleton has been associated with us so long as a live stock dealer and shipper that it would seem strange not to see his name in this narrative. He has been doing business for the past fifty or more years and has always been a just and fair buyer.

Wm. Mills is another who resided here quite a long while ago. He was a builder and leaves as a monument to his skill the home on the hill in which Alvin Blacklock resides.

Tom Munroe was here quite a few years ago, having clerked for Brown & MacDonald, later in partnership with MacDonald in the Demore block, while here he married a lady in Huntsville, who came here and lived in the house now occupied by George Rogers. He was very fond of a good house and usually kept one. Some years ago he went west where he died.

James Norwood used to live among us, and was a mason by trade, and built the house spoken of namely the one now owned by George Rogers.

Wm. Roane was at one time a dweller here and carried on in company with George Smith as shippers of livestock.

Harry Bone, as a young man learned his trade with Fisher and later built the post office building where he run a repair shop for several years. He also built the dwelling formerly owned by the Late Thomas Sinclair. Harry is now living in Blenheim.

The Glovers who were here in the early days were shoemakers and carried on on the east side of Main St., somewhere near where the meat market stands.

Dick Heal carried on as a well driller for some years. He eventually went west and died a few years ago.

W. J. Brownlee who passed on just a couple of months ago was a quiet unassuming man, and was a very highly respected. He came here from Oxford County a good many years ago and clerk in the late John Armstrong's store, later managing a store at Bradshaw. He also worked through the north-west as a traveller for several years, after returning when he was appointed clerk and treasurer of the township. He was deeply interested in his son, Premier John Brownlee of Alberta.

Our old townsman, W. J. Johnston, V. S. came here about 1880 or a little later, succeeding his brother Jim, and carried on for a number of years successfully. His son Billy or W. H. is carrying on successfully in his \_\_\_s.

Joseph Taylor is another of the clerks who kept things moving at the Armstrong store. He was a nice congenial chap, and well liked, but like all other good things he has passed on.

The house on Boswell St., formerly owned and occupied by the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Matthews was built by Foster Johnston where he resided until he left here in 1901.



John Ettles was another of our builders, and a good one, his last work was the building of the John Armstrong residence on Sydenham Ave., before he went to the north-west.

R.G. Shaw now in Sarnia, built the house now owned by Joel Shaw. He also built the house to the west for M. B. Johnston.

One John McKenzie, who was not here very long, did the mason work on the house now owned and occupied by R. T. McDonald for the late H. Hales.

Wm. Colborne was one of our earliest painters. He and his brother carried on quite early in the history of the village. Robert has been in \_\_graining and paneling trade until recently when he moved to Sarnia.

Phil. Colborne another brother was in a different line, being a tinsmith he left here in the early part of the present century.

William Aiken was for many years among us and carried on as an engineer even after he had passed the three score and ten. He at that age used to walk 3 1/2 miles morning and night and heavy firing all day in a saw mill. His family are all gone but Mrs. Wm. Shaw and a son, Joseph who has been in the barber business in Detroit for many years.

Previous to the fire of 1901, James Morrison was in Andrew Harkness' store as a clerk, but of course the fire threw him out of a situation, so he went to Inwood and started in business for himself and I have been told he made a lot of money during the war. He had to leave it behind however, as he has passed on. During his years here he was married to Mary Blakie who is now living in Sarnia.

Mrs. Bechtel another one of the very earliest, being here long before Brigden was thought of and residing here and raising a large family of boys and girls. Later years she lives with her daughter in Chicago coming back for about six weeks during the hot months. Her birthplace was Kirkentualla, Scotland and is now in her 88th year and still going strong.

John McDonald was a resident among us for some years in business, first in the old Heartwell building then in the I.O.O. F. building which he built. The lower part was arranged for a garage and machine shop and the upper for a hall and concert room. He went to Sarnia a few years ago.

I just recently learned that Dr. Albert J. Fisher who used to be here is now living retired with his sister, Mrs. Dan Fisher and her daughter at nine Ridley Gardens, Toronto.

I have mentioned one or two of the real old ladies, so am going to speak of at least four more. They are Mrs. Donald Shaw who has passed the four score and is seeming content to go on. Mrs. Harry Lillywhite and Mrs. David McDonald and Mrs. John Watson though not quite so old are all well advanced in years. They are all estimable old ladies. Another one we might mention is Mrs. Newman, also a very fine specimen of womanhood.

In the early days of travel in the township the road to the north at what used to be known as Grant's hill, did not cross the stream in a direct line as at present, but wound round to the north west and crossed a bridge about 100 yards west of the present line. About 1880 or possibly earlier the hill on each side was cut down and the flats graded and a wooden bridge erected across the stream. The work was done by L. Green and Sam Witherell of Sombra, which remained in use until sometime in the teens in the present century when the present iron structure was erected by the Kirkpatrick Brothers.

Mr. Snell, a farmer on the Croft farm was killed while hauling water from the creek in the early 70's. He had a high spirited team which took fright and ran away, throwing him out of the wagon.

Harry Parr, Dave's brother was the first of that family to run a meat market here. He learned his trade in Bothwell and returned and opened a shop on Walker's corner. Later the building was moved on the present site, it was enlarged and for years the property was leased from George Young's sister-in-law. They later bought the property, Dav has been the cutter for many years there being very few butchers that have cut as much meat as he has. Parr's have been in business for over fifty years in the exception to the \_\_\_ Highwood was in their stead. The butcher shop was burned during the fire of 1902 and Parr's rebuilt the present shop.

Charlie Bloom (?) was here in the late 70's and was an employee of the one mill. He built the house George Maynard lives in.

Mr. and Mrs. Stonehouse, an old scotch couple, who lived in the house now owned by Dr. Jones, were here fairly early and spent their last days here.

Mrs. Ellis and her boys, Issac and Bill and daughter, Mamie, were here fairly early. Mrs. Ellis built the house now owned and occupied by Mrs. Williams and her daughter.

Wm. Long was also one of our early mill hands. He worked for R. G. Shaw in the planing mill as fireman for a long time.

John Farquharson, a lumberman and farmer residing on 6th line spent his last days in Brigden. He floated a good many thousand feet of logs down Bear creek. He always got lots of assistance from the Brigden kids who got many a good ducking in the cold water in the spring.

Mrs. McIntyre, sister of John Gibson's, built the house where Mrs. R. Johnston lives. She and her son, Charlie lived there in the late 80's.

Charles McLean was also an early settler, he came here in the early 80s and for years run a threshing machine, later he was a marine engineer. Mr. McLean also fired in saw mill for years. The built the house at east end of Jane St.

Back in the early 70's Hewer's run a brick yard near the present yard. The brick in the Methodist parsonage was manufactured there.

Tim Kitchen built the small part of house owned by Ham. Leacock. Thomas Leacock later purchased the dwelling and added the larger part.

Bill Whittet built the house now owned and occupied by P. Randall.

Mrs. Hewer and family were here for the early days of Brigden. They lived for years in the house now owned by Mrs. Jake Duncan, later moving to Front St., Mrs. Hewer worked at dressmaking and for years taught the trade to a good many young ladies. The residence now owned by Dr. Irving was built by Mrs. Hewer and stood on ground adjoining E. Steadman's residence. The family moved to the north-west where Mrs. Hewer died a few years ago.

Joe Rose came here in the early 70's and made his home with the Bayless. He was an employee of the Brigden and East Brigden saw mills. He built the house now owned by Mrs. Carter.

James Taylor (Fiddler Jim) although his home was near Bradshaw often drove to Brigden, as a boy, when the Main St., was a trail through the bush. He moved his family here several years ago and the house he now owns was moved by Boswell from Oil Springs.

Mr. & Mrs. Abbey a very fine couple, lived in a log house on the property where Denett's live. They came here from Kincardine in the early 70's. They had two daughters, one married George Cope and the other Jas. Bullock. This old couple adopted Ham and Bob Stewart who were twins, their mother dying at their birth. Mrs. James Bullock, who was a girl then, went out working in order to assist in the keep of these boys. Ham when he became a young man went west with Mr. Coutes and now lives in Emerson, Manitoba. Bob married Julia Bechtel and worked for years at the mills here and East Brigden. He was a first class stave jointer. John and Jim Stewart, older

brothers, were also adopted and lived around here. John was blind, losing his sight from the kick of a horse. He was married and made his daily bread by making willow baskets. Jim went west and died about a year ago in Red Deer. What fine deeds of kindness we can recall when going back to the early days. What noble hearts were within the early settlers. To know Mrs. James Bullock was to like her.

#### HOW IT LOOKED IN 1870

The writer quit school in the spring of 1870 and will try to describe the appearance of what is now Brigden at that time. On the east side of the sideroad on the Duncan property the timber, including beautiful oak trees had been cut down and left to decay to the extent of about ten or twelve acres. The road was ditched on the east side with a large open ditch. In front of where the post office now is, was a deep muck swamp with a long corduroy bridge. The right-of-way had just been cut out the previous winter and looking from the crossing it looked like a great wide street, even on the west side, there being so much bush at that time. There was a family by the name of Snell on the south side of 4th con. about where the present Croft home now stands. On the west side of sideroad and south of 4th line another family by the name of Young, then further west also on south side, another family by the name of Bayless. Further west on what is known as the George Potter place was a family by the name of McKinnroy on the same farm further west was David Griffin who lived alone in a small house. To the north was James Grant, his house being on the site of the present United Church parsonage. Where John Poland now resides was the Charles Duncan family. The Grants lived where Alvin Blacklock now resides, west on the north-east end of lot 8 in the 5th con. was the John Coutts family, across the creek was the John McKenzie family and further west on lot 9 was the John Galloway family. On the south end of lot 9 was the Peter Brown family, and west across the creek was his father, Robert Brown and family. The Whittet family lived on the north end of lot 6, just east. Then west Jarvis Duncan's family lived on the north end of the Stewart Johnston farm, then further east the Watson's, Scott's, Shaw's and Johnston's all settled along the creek.

There are still living eleven of the pupils who attended the log school in the 60's, namely: Mrs. Archie Nesbit in Brigden, John McKenzie on 2nd line; John Holland in London; Mrs. John Knight (Kattie Shaw) in Petrolia; Gilbert Brown in Sarnia; Willie Coutts in Winnipeg; Finlay McKenzie in Regina; John Johnston in the State of Wyoming; Alex Watson in Detroit; Mrs. McIntrye (Jessie Galloway) in Courtright and R.M. Brown just outside of Brigden.

#### JUST FIFTY YEARS AGO

I wandered through the village, Tom, I sat beneath the tree,  
Upon the school house ground which sheltered you and me.

But none were there to greet me, Tom, and few were left to know,  
Who played with us upon the green, Just fifty years ago.

The old school house is altered now, the benches are replaced  
 By new ones very like the same our pen knives had defaced.  
     But Master sleeps upon the hill, which coated over with snow.  
     Afforded us a coasting place. Just fifty years ago.  
 The river's running just as still, Tom, the willows on its side  
 Are longer now, the river seems less wide.  
     The grape vine swing is ruined now, where once we played the beau,  
     And swung our sweethearts, Just fifty years ago.  
 The spring that bubbled 'neath the hill, near by the spreading beach,  
 Is very low, t'was once so high, that we could almost reach,  
     And stooping down to get a drink, I started so to know,  
     How much that I had changed, Since fifty years ago.  
 Near by the spring upon the birch, you know I cut your name;  
 Our sweethearts just beneath it, Tom, and you did mine the same.  
     Some heartless wretch has peeled the bark, t'was dying sure but slow,  
     Just as the one who's name was cut, Died many years ago.  
 My eyelids had been dry, Tom, but tears came in my eyes.  
 I thought of her I loved so well, those early broken ties.  
     I visited the old church yard and took some flowers to strow  
 Upon the graves of those we loved. Just fifty years ago.  
 Some now are in the church yard, some sleep beneath the sea,  
 Few are left of our old class excepting you and me.  
     And when our time shall come, Tom, and we are called to go.  
 I hope they lay us where we played, Just fifty years ago.

The late James Gibson was born on the 6th line and came here with his \_\_\_\_\_?  
 when a child he followed the carpenter trade but died comparatively young. Jim  
 learned his trade with James Whyte. Bill Gibson is another of our boys, he worked in  
 Armstrong store for years and made a lot of friends. Bill is now working in a hardware  
 store in Kingsville.

We must not neglect to mention the rock well and windmill which stood on the  
 corner of Main and Jane Sts. At times the water was both food and drink. The windmill  
 came to grief one Halloween night.

To you remember the Relay Bicycle Race over thirty years ago? The \_\_\_? was  
 sponsored by the C.C.M. which was three time around race track to the 6th line and  
 return and once around track. There was three weekly heats and the large cup was won  
 by William Farr.

D.P. Shaw, one of our prominent townsman has been in the building and  
 contracting trade for a number of years. He has just recently been appointed to the  
 clerkship and treasurership of the township made vacant by the death of W. J.

Brownlee. He is to be assisted by his son, Earl, who has a considerable experience with Mr. Brownlee.

We speak of the first band in the early 80's the second band was started by Dr. Fisher in the 90's, he canvasing the business people for this wherewith. The following are the members names: Roy Battram, Walter Smith, D.P. Shaw, George Battram, A. D. Armstrong, Joe Harkness, Will \_\_\_\_\_, David Parr, Charlies Seager, Ed Hart, Will Boyington, Harry Lillywhite, John Nelson, Jack Webling, Tom Rumford, Fred Leacock, Thomas Bicknell, of Petrolia, leader.

George Cannon came here in the 70's but first settled at East Brigden where he run a boarding house. He then came to Brigden and traded his boarding house to Bob Grant for the draying business. Mr. Cannon has now been in the United States for a number of years. He paid Brigden a visit last summer.

John Smith, (Alex Father) moved his family here from Bradshaw in 1885. He first built the house now owned by Joe Farr, later building the house where Alex now resides. Mr. Smith was employed at Hayne's mill for over eighteen years.

To continue with the McKinnon store, after Abe Dawson had vacated the building it was turned into a livery stable, Jack Duncan being the first proprietor, then Doud & Whiting who was followed by Bob Parr, who ran the livery for a good many years. The fire of 1902 burned this building, also a dwelling to the north, a dwelling and tailor shop, the butcher shop and the building that the printing office was in, the office had just previously been moved in the Sheppard building.

There has been a good many liverymen in our village. About the first was Wm. McGuire in the barn at the Lorne House. Then followed Battram's then Sterling & Doud, then Jack Duncan. The Commercial Hotel had Boswell, Hackett, and Bob Whiting. John McIntosh run a livery when living where Mr. Jarrott resides. Wm. McGuire also had a livery on the property now occupied by Wes. Carter's garage. The last livery we had was owned by McDonald Bros. (Bill and Shiner) they were in business for several years and then along came the automobile which was disastrous to the livery business. Bill and Hugh are two of the youngest old boys we have in our village. Bill being a child when the family moved here and Brigden is Hugh's birth place. The boys were both saw mill workmen and knew that business from a to z. Bill was a first class culler and Hugh a butten sawyer. Bill also worked when a boy at the broom handle factory. He has taken a great interest in this history, and like his father, can recall the old timers and happenings of years ago.

How many can recall the athletic sports the young men had back of Parr's meat market in the sawdust at noon hours? How hard the boys would work to make a long, run and jump or hop, step and jump and the Jack Donavan, who was in the professional class, would bound far over their mark and laugh at the little effort he had to make.

The late Wm. Boyington was one of our old boys and since his death has been missed a great deal. He was one of the chartered members of the band and from boyhood took an active part in church work and choirs.

The Armstrong general store was one of the busy places years ago. This is a number of the staff at different times: A.F. Wade, Wm. Dawson, Wm. Brownlee, Jack Easton, Jack Hudson, George McKenzie, Charlie Seager, Hugh McDonald, Will Gibson, Wm. Sinclair, Fred Lillywhite, Harry Horne?, Oscar Colborne, Purv Dawson, Harry Walker, Taylor, Pegley, Fred Pasley, Mac Hewer, Albert Walker, Harry Glover, Billy Neal and others.

R.B. Brown's general store was also a busy place years ago. The following staff clerked in the store at different times: David Alexander, J.S. Brown, Alex Cowan, Harry Horne, Almond and Art Monteith, Fred Seager, Bill Henry, Jack Thompson, Bob Beck, Fred Raper, Fred Whiting, Thomas Cubbin, James Martin, Soveren, Frank Ames, Glen Wilson, George Aiken, Charlie Brown.

The following is a list of the boys who enlisted at Brigden during the winter of 1915 and 16 for the great war. Fred Lillywhite, George Regan, Jack Young, Fred Raper, Frank Price, James Bidner, Bert Nelson, Frank Bastaw, Thos. Brimacombe, Garnet Nelson, Robert Sinclair, Jack Murphy, Robert Silver, Alvin McDonald, Norman McDonald, Edward Fourney, Guy Postil, Clarence McLean, Wilfred McGregor, Clifford Duncan, Clarence Shaw, Carl Ward, Floyd Postil, Dick Witherall, Frank Hamilton, Frank Kilbreath, Mason Taylor, Lyle Bennett, Roy Bennett, Harry Goff.

About the first builders to come to the village was George Welsh who put a frame store on the site of the present post office which was occupied by Jake Smith as a hardware store about 1873 or 74. He sold out to John Schooler in the early 80's and moved to Regina. Welsh also built the house owned by Gordon Taylor and the one across the street where Wm. Silver lives. This store above mentioned was the store that Andrew Harkness owned for years.

Jarv. House was an early mill hand he worked here in the 70's also Wm. Windover was another early workman at the mill. Bill Pottenge is another early workman, he worked in the saw mill here.

John McIntosh built W. E. Jarrott's and Mrs. W. Brown's houses. James Woodwark built Roy MacDonald's house. Jack Beer built Joe Sutton's house. D. McLean built house which stood next to Fisher's shoe store, Wm. Manley, Will Manley's uncle, built Mrs. Duncan's house, Bill Hewer built Les Lester's house, it first stood on the planing mill lot. Tom Eyre built Will Selman's house. Bill Pottenger built Mrs. Hall's house, R. G. Shaw built Mr. McCallum's house, Johnie May built Will Carter's house. Tommy Allan built Collier's house, John Dow built Beemer's house, John Armstrong built

Frank Kilbreath's house. Dave Humphrey built small part of Oscar Bidner's house. Malcolm McLean built George Greer's house, Bill Galloway built George Pickard's house. Andrew Harkness built George Miller's house and the two cottages to the east. John Sinclair built Dan Mundy's house, John Limburner built Mrs. Ford's house, Jerry Watson built Mrs. Taylor's house, R. Dawson built George Miller's present home. William Hewer built W. H. Smith's house, James Campbell built Fred Whiting's house, it first stood on opposite side of street. Mrs. Fader built Mrs. Bruce's house.

Among those that have passed the four score is Samuel Huff, who came here a few years ago. He came from the farm south of Brigden, his daughter, Annie is keeping house for him, his wife having died a few years ago.

Dick Croft is a bachelor who at one time farmed on Black Creek, and lives alone most of the time. John Croft, his brother, who lives on the original Shell property is a carpenter and works for D. P. Shaw. He is married and has raised a family.

We have a most up-to-date meat market conducted by Sherman Parr, who succeeded his father and uncle the "Parr Brothers" who were in business for a great many years.

Both of our barbers are fine respectable citizens and highly respected. Gordon Taylor has been wielding the razor for quite a few years now. David Hackney has not been here so long.

Wm. South, Stanley Capes and J. R. Sinclair are our shippers of live stock, also at intervals James Duncan and Ed Nicol who operate by rail. The Co-Operative Co. do their shipping by truck.

Robert Ballantyne who recently returned from the west to live among us is a scotchman, you would almost know it to hear him speak. He is a veteran of the Boer war, having had part of one thumb shot off while engaged in those wars.

David Turner, though not now a resident, but is on the farm with his son George, has been for many years a resident, and has conducted himself in such a way as to demand respect.

James Smith who has lived here and raised a large family has been identified with the railway for quite a few years, and is still going strong.

James Piggott has not been such a long resident here but demands mention on account of his age and exemplary life. He built the residence which he occupies.



A few years ago Joseph Potter acquired the old Jimmy Grant farm from Les Lester. He has built a very fine residence which they now occupy. He also moved the barn nearer the road and put a fine basement under it.

Eli South has a fine farm adjoining the village and is a successful farmer. We are sorry to learn that he has been in poor health recently.

Louis Blackman who was a successful farmer just north of Kimball for many years retired a few years ago and came here to live with his daughter. Mrs. Jas. Ford. He did not survive long and has passed on to the great beyond.

J. R. Duncan is another of the aged men who has died. He used to farm on the 6th line. His widow survives him and is living on Jane St.

W. J. Grey has a very fine tailor shop and has been one of us for a good many years. He purchased the business from Ben Schouler, earlier Jack Schouler was proprietor of this shop. At that time the shop was over R. B. Brown's store in the Armstrong building.

Wm. Selman is also living on Jane St. and has quite an extensive piece of ground for gardening purposes.

Wm. Williamson is another man, although not here as long as some others yet deserves mention.

Alex McCallum, another not here as long as the above, should be mentioned as he is an a 1 citizen.

Billy Carter, although not old seems quite an old time resident, having come here when a child. He is a carpenter, and quite a capable one.

Colon Huston, who is operating the old James Fitchett gardens, has only been in our village for a few years.

The Talman brothers, William and John have been long residents here, and have been quite useful in their lines.

Flaveous Seeley is a remarkable man for his age, he is following a lively team and doing lots of work. He has quite a piece of land, part of the saw mill property, also a farm four miles east.

Peter Sutton is a native born and has been here for quite a number of years, he is at present employed at Brown's store.

Wm. Such is a comparatively new comer. He is at present in the employ of the Ontario Government in the capacity of live stock inspector. He lives on Sydenham Ave.

Roy MacDonald who for several years operated a ditching machine is now following the painting and paper hanging trade.

Justin Sinclair is employed in the Ford Garage. His wife is a fine musician and has recently established an orchestra of young boys, who are quite entertaining.

John Thompson used to farm on the 6th line on lot 8. Since coming here, he has been employed in various capacities, he is active in the Presbyterian church.

The Armstrong boys, Bob and Arthur, have resided here all their lives. They are sons of the late John Armstrong.

Charlie Boyington is operating the garage for the Co-Operative. He is quite a useful man in the musical line.

We have spoken indirectly of two of the garages, but we are not overlooking James Sinclair and Wesley Carter.

Charles Capes, who farmed for years at Waubuno, has been in our area for several years. He is exceptionally smart for his age.

Rev. J. D. Bannatyne, minister of the United church, has been here several years and has made a good many friends. He has a very large congregation.

Billy Davidson is our taxi driver. He also delivers the Sarnia papers at the river front and to our village.

Wm. Edward, though not a dweller in the village, has been so identified with it, deserves mention. He has been quite an active worker in the Presbyterian Church. He was for several years in the township council. He conducts a farm east of the village.

Fred Sharpe is also a farmer on the 4th line east and is at present a member of the township council.

Permanus Randall, was in Hayne's Cooper shop for several years until he had to retire on account of ill health. Since then he has been in the milk business.

George Pickard has been a dweller among us for a number of years and has followed well boring for most of the time and has brought relief to man and beast in providing the aqua pura.

The Bayless farm, better know as the Tye farm, was purchased from Robert Brown in 1855. Ken has the deed and the purchased price is marked in Shillings and Pence.

John Burton came to Brigden in the early 80's he worked on the sewer when it was first constructed. Jack laid the tile under the railway one night.

Tommy Burnett was an old man well known to Brigden people and was handy man around the hotels for some years.

W.E. Jarrott has been principal of the school here for more than 25 years. He is also a successful poultry breeder and has been carrying on that line for a number of years.

Dave Gray is a useful man in town and is very much in vogue as a singer.

James Aiken, who died a few years ago, was for many years employed as a joiner, and a good one. He left a widow and family on the north side of Jane St., his oldest son, Billy is in the Brigden Cheese and Butter Co. factory. His other son, Minto is employed in Sarnia at the Imperial.

Wm. Blacklock has been conducting an implement business also dealing in cream separators along with his son Alvin, on the east side of Main St.

George Fergue, who for many years carried on as a blacksmith in Bradshaw, is now domiciled here and has been in the implement business and cream separators. He also owns a farm in Black Creek settlement.

George Miller farmed for a number of years but eventually came here and now lives in the house adjoining the Capes house.

Isaac Hillier is the proprietor of the Commercial Hotel and attends to the wants of the travelling public.

Billy Regan who has been in Brigden since childhood was always very creative around Hiram Hales tile and brick yard and Haynes' heading mill. We are very sorry to state that Billy is in very poor health now.

Peter Duncan was born here and resided on east side of Main St., but \_\_\_\_\_ moved to Sarnia where he died.

Bill Tigner was an employee of the mill here in the early days and then \_\_\_\_\_ a wooden pump factory on the rear of the Simpson & Luck blacksmith located on the 4th line.

One of the first home was a lean-to erected by Jim Barry on what was at that time a high spot from the swamps. It consisted of a large balm of gilead tree that was down and a number of boards and stood on the Grimes property. This was an 1875 dwelling.

The frame store which was built by Peter Duncan on the Balmoral site in the early 70's was first occupied by D. L. McLean and followed by R. McKinnon. Then Fisher & McPherson run a store in this building and then Abe Dawson who later moved in the Demory block. Mr. Dawson was handy with a paint brush and painted on the board sidewalks foot prints leading from all directions to his front door. James Bullock, the old gentleman that supplied Brigden with charcoal for many years, said, "all marks going in and none coming out."

Hugh Mundy came here as a young man, he being section foreman on the railway for a good many years. The family moved to Sarnia several years ago.

Capt. Crawford lived here over forty years ago. He first lived on farm now owned by Wm. Manley. After James Battram bought the farm he moved to the village and lived in the house Mrs. W. Brown now owns. This dwelling was built by John McIntosh.

The shop now owned by Blacklock & Son was used as a meat market for several years. McKay Bros., then C.C. Watson, the Jas. Duncan were proprietors at different times.

The frame store which stood on the south half of property now occupied by MacDonald's store, was built by Howard, after he had completed Ross' building on opposite side of street. If you remember, these buildings were a good deal alike, though the one on the west side, was higher and larger. It is one of the places of business that is hard to trace back. Farley for years run a store, also Lennox, then Dutcher, then George Baker had a meat shop there for years. The upper story was used for lodge rooms. Andrew Harkness had the hardware store to the north, and after Baker went out of business, purchased the building and remodeled the interior and opened up a general store. George Baker, when he first came here, built the house now owned by Rufus Traxler and farmed there for a year or two, afterwards coming to the village.

The house which Fred Lillywhite lives in on Jane St., originally stood on the north-east end of lot 8 in the 5th concession, having been built in the 70's by Peter Coutes. It was moved by him to the south end of the lot in 1878. It was moved again to its present location some years later.

Mrs. Archie Taylor and John McDonald (Happy Jack) are the only ones living here previous to 1880 at least of the adults at that time.

The Presbyterian church pulpit is vacant at time of writing, but it is expected a call will be extended very soon. The previous ministers were Revs. Scott Campbell and Mitchell.

Jack Walker and George Nesbit are trappers. They gather good many hides during the winter months.

Jack and Clarence Taylor are truck drivers for the Co-Operative Co.

Lloyd McDonald was born in Brigden and works on the section. Mr. Newby, a new comer, is the foreman on the section.

Bob Nesbit is an employee of the tile yard. Brigden is his birthplace.

Jim Farr is one of our young men, he is a mechanic in Bidner's garage.

Les Lester has been here since childhood. He is an employ of tile yard.

Oscar and Charlie Bidner moved to our village a couple of years ago. They were farmer west of Brigden.

Dav. Davidson has been a Brigdenite for several years.

William Silver is one of our fairly early settlers, he has always been a handy man about our village. We are sorry to say Will is in poor health.

Mrs. Arthur Jenkins (Hattie May) of Detroit, visited our village on Decoration Day. The very few people that are here now that Hattie knew 40 years ago. Hattie was a sister of John and Henry May.

Clayton Shaw is one of our young men, his birthplace is on the 6th line. He is working for the Co-Operative Co.

Dennis McDonald is also an employ of the Co-Operative Co. He has been in our village for several years.

Frank Hamilton has been a Brigdenite for several years. In the winter months Frank is our Hot Dog King.

Frank Glaney, who gathers cream for Petrolia, has been in our village since childhood. He has collect a good many thousand cans of butter fat.

We have in our village as fine a drugstore as there is in Lambton. This business was first owned by Dr. Fisher, who was followed by Jarvis, then Ramore, then the present proprietor, Percy Seager who is one of our old boys.

Jos. Sutton who for years devoted his attention to farm implements is now in the taxi business and selling products.

Ham Leacock is one of the old boys, coming here when a child. He is --is father's old stand, he also has a very fine berry and fruit farm west of the village.

George Greer also arrived here when a boy, he served a good many years in the heading mill. He is now working at the tile yard.

We wish to make a correction. Mrs. Bechtel was born in Camsie, just out of Glasgow, Scotland.

The Brigden Co-Operative Co. under the managership of Byron Young is a busy place and employs a large staff.

Art Shaw supplies the farmers with chop. He came from Kimball.

George Boyington is one of our implement agent, he took charge after the death of his father. George also does custom trucking and auto repairs.

Otis Bush, manager of the Brigden Cheese and Butter Co., has been living in our village for a number of years. They have an up-to-date factory and a very large output.

The Mutual Creamery owned and controlled by G. Phillips is also a busy factory. Bud Mason is the buttermaker and turns out first-class butter. The creamery was originally built for a cold storage by J. Armstrong.

Lorne Collier and Wilfred Perkins are employees of the railway section. They have only been in Brigden for a few years, coming here from Petrolia.

Carlos Windsor is another or our old boys. He and his family spent several years in the north-west.

Howard McDonald, our postmaster, was borned in Brigden, he has devoted a lot of time to boys work.

Wm. Beemer is our station agent, he came here from Amherstburg. There have been several agents here since Mr. Grimes Death.

Albert Walker who conduct the Red & White Store has a very attractive place of business and keeps an up-to-date stock. Albert was born in Brigden and served his apprenticeship in Armstrong's store.

We have two very efficient tinsmiths, George Rogers and Dan Mundy, who attend to our wants in that line.

W. H. Smith has been a successful blacksmith for many years, during the past few years he has added a hardware store, and now claims they can buy anything in that line from a needle to a threshing machine. He is \_\_\_\_\_ by his son Carl and grandson Russell Smith.

The Steadman Bros. who are conducting a furniture store and undertaking establishment, are seemingly carrying on successfully.

Fred Lillywhite is another of the old boys, he has a job print office and watch repairing.

We have only one bank here. The Bank of Nova Scotia which is at present under the management of E.E. King. The clerks are Howard Sudden, Jack Carter, Miss Pearl Forster and Robert DeMoya.

John Young who has retired from the farm is working for his Imperial Majesty, he is also our street manager.

William Shaw who is an ex-farmer from the 6th line has lived here for several years. He is caretaker in the Bear Creek Cemetery.

Joe Farr has been quite a while among us. He is a tile yard employee.

We are sorry if we have omitted anyone who feels that their name should be mentioned.

Lawrence the tailor who had his shop in building between Andrew Harkness' hardware and Whyte's carpenter shop was one of Brigden's early tailors. It was in this shop that Samuel Thompson (John's brother) learned his trade. Lawrence's lived in the McKinnon house.

In 1872 the late John Taylor arrived in Brigden and lived on the Ed McLean farm. He worked as section man for a good many years, when the wage was ninety cents per day. He purchased the Abe Dawson butcher shop which is the house now occupied by Jack Walker, and moved it on the present site. Mr. Taylor also lived at East Brigden for several years, where he worked in the mill. He after moved back to the village and

worked until well up in years in the saw mill. Mr. Taylor could give some good items for this history if he were still living.

Wm. Dawson who is now manager of the liquor store in Sarnia was for years one of us. He was with John Armstrong as a helper in the store, later going to Inwood to manage the store there which he eventually took over.

John Nelson who was with Windsor here for so many years is now operating a shop in Sarnia.

Robert Dunn was one of our early citizens and carried on as a mason and plasterer, being quite efficient especially as a plasterer. He died in 1912.

The oatmeal mill was erected by the Hayne Milling Co. a good many years ago, early in the present century. Rueben Taylor of Sarnia did the work. It has never been a paying proposition however.

Maggie McDonald, a daughter of the late Malcolm McDonald was a very useful woman here for many years as a needle woman. She has quite a business head and made some extra dollars dealing in real estate. She sleep with her parents now in the Bear Creek Cemetery.

Harry Lillywhite arrived in Brigden in the spring of 1888, his first shop being in the lean-to adjoining Stephen Moore's implement building. He was a very handy man to the village and could repair anything from a ladies wrist watch to a shot gun, and even as far as repairing binders. He was also a lover of music and devoted a lot of his time in promoting the same in choirs and band. In the early days he taught on the violin and organ.

John Boyington was an early settler, he lived in the log house on the Rumohr farm. He was a man of great strength and real hard worker. He worked in Hewer's brick yard, also saw mill here and East Brigden mill. He died when comparatively a young man when his children were quite young.

Dan Shaw was here in the early 70's he came here from the east and built his home on the Methodist Church property and when the church was built the house was moved and is now occupied by Wm. Farr.

Robt. Humes a driver, who built the brick house now owned by Geo. Boyington, was an early citizen.

Jim Taylor, John's son, who live in the north-west should have his name mentioned, he is one of our old boys.