

**THE LIFE OF
JOHN MILNE**



Introduction



The love of history in our family is clearly longstanding. John Milne understood the value of his contribution to the building of our nation. His stories are interesting, informative and are filled with humanity. Reading the autobiography gives us a very real representation of what life was like in his time when our country was young and virtually anything was possible.

There is much that we can take pride in when reviewing John Milne's contribution, but perhaps the lesson we can learn from this man's life is that we all have the ability to contribute to the building of Canada. John Milne's energy and accomplishments have become part of the very fabric of Canada.

John Milne's energy and spirit also became a part of his granddaughter, Barbara Katherine Wilhelmina Helen Luete Winterton, the child he essentially raised. Through reading about John Milne, we can understand where she got her entrepreneurial spirit and how she must have found compatibility with our grandfather, William Edward Winterton, another entrepreneur. Their children, William (Bill) Milne Winterton (father of Bill, Brock, Barbara, Susan and Sharon) and Douglas Karl Winterton (father of Tracy) have their own stories to tell and we, their children, will be a part of those stories.

I believe John Milne's story is one we should all be familiar with because it is a story about where we come from. It grounds us in the history of this country. I thought it important for us to retain the original character of the autobiography and so have had it published as it was typed, corrected and added to by his own hand. It is an unabridged copy of his original.

Enjoy the stories.

Brock Edward Winterton

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AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY
OF THE LIFE OF
JOHN MILNE

CONDENSED, COMPILED, AND TYPED BY
HIMSELF IN HIS 91st YEAR

He asks his readers to excuse his many errors in typing, by striking the wrong letters, and sometimes ommiting a word. He does not claim to be an expertTypewriter.

On the top of a page of one volume of my Father's Hawe Bible I found the following entry. " My son John was born in the village of Ellon, Aberdeenshire, Scotland on the 8th day of October A.D 1838 at 4.40 A.M.."

My father had a shoeshop in Ellon. I was told that I was about 3 years old when he brought me to Canada with him. My Mother as I understood died, and my father had decided to migrate to Canada. I was told that I had a sister, but she had died when very young, of scarlet fever. My father told me that we came out in a sailing vessel, and was about 12 weeks on the sea. He came direct to a Mr Logie's place. whom he had known in Scotland, Mr Logie had a farm in the Township of Woolwich in the Province of Ontario.

My father built a small house near Mr Logie's house and made that his home. At times he worked for Mr Logie, and at other times he worked at his trade, as a shoemaker. In those days it was a common thing for a shoemaker to travel through the country, and make shoes for the different families, and frequently they go to the villages, and get a sit, as they call it, making shoes by the piece or get wages by the day, from the resident shoemaker. They carried their own tools with them. In this way my father would be away from home for weeks at a time. During this time I was left under the charge of Mr and Mrs Logie who had no children. I would be a General errand boy doing what I could. The country at this time was infested by Wolves. We could hear them howling at night as we stood in the door of the house. Mr Logie had to get his oxen, cows, and sheep housed at night to protect them. I remember one night he could not find his oxen, they had wandered

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into the woods. Next morning he found them, one was dead, and the other was so torn and injured that he had to kill it. The first one was almost disembowelled by the wolves. They had evidently fought hard, for there were three or four dead wolves lying there. Mrs Logie took me out to see them, and I will never forget the scene.

Another instance -- I went out with them to boil down sap in their sugar bush one night. The saps in large kettles hung over a big fire, between two logs. He then built another fire about 10 ft away. This was to protect us from the wolves. We could hear them in the woods around us, and they would come near enough so we could see them. and Mr Logie would occasionally throw a fire brand at them to scare them away. I was very much afraid of them, and so was Mrs Logie.

Another circumstance I well remember --- My father was at home. Mr and Mrs Logie went out to a pasture field to milk the cows. I was playing outside, and thought I would walk down the lane to meet them coming home, but when I came to a piece of woods, I was afraid to go through it, and at a gap in the fence where the rails were turned around, there was a nice cosy corner, and I laid down to wait for them. I fell asleep. They went home, and my father asked about me thinking I was with them. They had not seen me. Then as it was getting dark the anxiety was about where I could be. My father thinking I might have gone to the next neighbour, s, went there but they had not seen me. Mr and Mrs Logie walked back to the pasture calling and looking all around for me. Now it was quite dark. It was about 10 O Clock when Mr and Mrs Logie were coming back the second time, wondering where I

could be. They could hear the wolves in the woods around. They happened to stop in the gap talking to themselves about me. The murmur of their voices awakened me and I was crying. They were delighted and asked me why I crawled in there. I half crying said "I crawled in here for fear of the Wolvies". The place was no protection. They told me all about their search for me. and my father when I got home gave me a good Thrashing, which made a strong impression on my mind..

About 1845 when I was about 7 years old my Father was away from home most of the time and I staid with the Logie,s. Their house was a one room log house, with a large fire place in one end, in which was burned regular 4ft cordwood. I have seen him haul on a hand sleigh a large 4 ft log, and roll it to the back of the fireplace, it would last a week. All the cooking and baking was done on this foreplace. At the other end of the room was their bed. I slept in the attic which was reached by a ladder at the side of the fire place. Mr Logie would chpp down trees in the woods, haul them up to the wood yard near the house, cut them into 4 ft lengths, and split them into cordwood for the fire place. I would generally go down with him when he went for logs with his oxen. He would sometimes let me have the gad, and I drive the oxen up. I thought I was doing something. One day at my request he let me alone take the oxen to get a small log that he thought I could put the chain around. I did so and brought the log up to the house. That day I was a proud boy. When my father was at home he diligently taught me to read, and when he was away Mrs Logie gave me lessons

on reading, Mr Logie and my father were str⁵ict Presbyterians, and in my father's absence went to church nearly 2 miles away. Mrs Logie did not very often go, for as she worked every day worked with her husband on the farm, she needed the sabbath to rest. One day Mr Logie and I went to the church, it was a hot day in summer. He carried his coat on his arm, and I trotted beside him bare footed. We arrived at church an hour before time for service like all the others. There were no newspapers in the community. The people were all in groups in the grave yard getting all the news of the country. When the minister came we all went into the church. The sermon in those days was very long. They first sang a Psalm, and then the minister prayed the congregation standing. He would pray at least a half an hour. Then he gave his text which he divided into 3 or 4 heads and each head into 3 or 4 particulars. He would elaborate on each particular so that his sermon would be over an hour. I would get sleepy and would get a dig in the ribs. It would be late before we would get home for a cold dinner. There was no cooking on the Sabbath day, not even a cup of tea. After I could not go out to play for that was thought to be sinful. We were all reading. Mr Logie was reading a book called Baxter's saint's rest. Mrs Logie was reading her Bible, and I was reading Bunyan's Pilgrim's progress, the next book to the Bible. Everything was perfectly quiet. Not a word was said, No idle conversation. But all at once there was a great bellowing in the barn yard, Some cow had hooked another. The old gentleman looked over his glasses to me, and said "Johnny gang awa dot and see what is the matter we they coos for they are making ower muckle noise for the Sabbath

I of course went out but didnot come back soon for I was glad to stay among the calves, and lambs for a time. You will see by this the religious restrictions I was brought up on. During this time I was given to night walking or Somnambolism., walking in my sleep. I would often get up in my sleep at night ,come down the ladder and go out and do what I was dreaming about. Mr Logie knew this and would hear me coming down the ladder. He would get up and follow me ,and finally wake me up by calling my name. this would cause me to fall down. he would watch when he could do this safely. When I was in this condition ,no matter how dark it was I apparently could see every step I took and was safer in the dark than I would be if it was day light so long as they did not call my name. I could tell if I had been up and got back to bed before I was wakened. because when I went back to bed I did not take off my clothes. I cannot account for these walks ,but as I grew older they disappeared . I did once after I was married. All these nocturnal walks when I was a boy was told me by the Logies.

About 1846 myfether decided that I must get an education. There were no schools near there ,so he took me to the village of Elora in Wellington county. and placed me with a tailor named ROY, to board and go to school They had no children. He was a very hot tempered man. He had a wooden leg, and if he got angry he would twist off his woodenleg and whack me over the back with it, If I did anything wrong either at home or at school I would get a thrashing and sent to bed without my next meal. I was always getting into some trouble and was sent to bed without my supper. He was very stingy.

There was a shoemaker in the village named Gerry who was a friend of my fathers. He found out how I was treated. One day he called me into the shop, and said to his wife " Give Johnny a slice of bread" She brought me a slice of buttered bread with Jam on it. I thought she was almost an Angel. After this it seemed that Mr Gerry had written to my father about how I was used, for he came and took me away. No one can know but those who have gone through it, what it is for a young boy to miss a mother. O how I envied the boys with whom I played, when I would see their mothers caress them and give them nice things. I was among strangers, and never had those loving attentions, Many a time when I was alone did i sit down and cry, till my heart seemed to break. because I had no mother like the other boys. I think it was about the year 1847 that my father went to Woodstock, and got a position to make shoes for a good firm. He did his work by the piece, and had his bench in the room we lived in, and I went to school. At that time woodstock was divided into two parts, that is there was a track of land in the middle of the Town. The teacher, s name was Somerville. The principal school was at one end of the TOWN and was taught by a man named Straghan. My father was a great reader, and I think he was studying to prepare himself as a school teacher

1848

This year my father got a position as teacher in the township of Mona. and we moved there, and boarded at a farm house near the school. The Presbiterian church was also near the school, and my father took an active interest in it. I have known him to officiate in the absence of the minister, I was very fond of school, and think for my age I was progressing rapidly. In fact my father would drive me out to play, when I would be studying after school

hours, I still had the habit of walking in my sleep, and I remember an incident in that connection that was the means of my breaking the habit. There was a steep precipice bank ran through the Township about 50 feet high. Our school was on a plateau near the edge of this ridge. On the edge of this ridge grew a large tree with branches hanging over the precipice, and on the outer part of one branch was a crow's nest. Boys like we were all anxious to get that crow's nest. We had all tried it several times, but as we could not crawl out towards the nest the limb would bend down so that we would back up. I was so anxious to beat the other boys, that I evidently had dreamed about it, for I rose in my sleep, and walked to the tree about 20 rods, climbed up the tree, and got the nest, brought it home and placed it under a tin dish in the kitchen and went to bed. In the morning I knew that I had been up for my clothes were on, but I could not remember my dream, and did not know what I had done till the woman of the house found the nest under the tin dish. I then realised what a risk I had run. I decided to try and break off the habit.

1849

My father did not like that part of the country, and came back to Toronto, where we lived in a small house on Shutter street, He engaged in shoemaking and I went to school. The teacher started me in Algebra. I was very fond of mathematics and when I started in Algebra, I was so delighted with it that my father would take the book out of my hand and send me out to play. We staid in Toronto for two years, and I was making good progress in my studies.

My father secured a school in the Township of Scarboro about 12 miles from Toronto. The only place we could get to live in was an old log house about half a mile from any neighbour, and it was about the same distance from the school. I was farther in my studies than any in the school, so I did not go into any of the classes, but kept at my studies alone. I was studying Algebra, Euclid and Mensuration, and my father was not conversant with these subjects. An important event happened this summer. It was very dry and a fire broke out among the stumps in the field where our house was. I staid at home for several days to watch and put out new fires that would break out and run in the grass. One day as I was fighting the fire in the grass, it ran into a hollow dead tree, and roared up the inside of the old stump, and threw fire pieces on to the roof of our house. The shingles being so dry caught at once and the first thing I saw was the roof on fire. I ran into the house and up stairs and saw the whole roof was on fire. I commenced to pull the furniture and things out that I could. Some of the things were heavy for a boy, but I seemed to get them out. I could not get them far from the house but I carried out the blankets off the bed and threw them on the furniture. The heat was intense. The upper floor fell down a few minutes after I came out the last time. Every thing was out before any of the neighbours came running down. They found me laying on the ground completely exhausted. My father secured another shanty in another part of the section. During this fall my eyesight gave out, and I was taken to the Hospital in Toronto. My case seemed to puzzle the doctors

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My eye appeared clear, but the trouble was at the back of the sight. Nearly all the medical students were called to see me I could just distinguish night from day. I could hear their consultations. They decided to make an experiment by cupping me on the back of the neck with 12 lances and then with burned liquor in the glasses they drew by suction those glasses full several times. At the same time they put 6 leeches on each temple, and as fast as they were filled they put another batch on. In this way they kept me bleeding till about 5 P.M. so that when I got out of bed to change my clothes I could not stand alone. Whilst this was going on I remember Dr Burns the minister of St Andrew's church who was a friend of my father's come to see me and staid about an hour. The next day I could see the shadow of a man passing before me, and my sight gradually improved. You may imagine how overjoyed I was. I was I think about 2 months in the hospital and went home. It was several months before my sight was as good as before. I did no studying the balance of the year

1852

Being now in my 14th year, after consulting my father, I decided that I would strike out and do something to earn money for myself. I packed all my clothes in a colored pocket handkerchief, put a stick through it and threw it over my shoulder walked to Toronto about 14 miles. I got a position in a grocery store on Yonge street kept by a Mr Smith. He did a large business. My wages was \$3.00 a month and my board. It was at this time that the great Cholera epidemic struck Toronto. Every day you could

see dray loads of coffins pass the store¹ going to the cemetery. They were buried a few hours after death. I believe there were many buried before they were dead. There was a general demand for Hennesy Brandy as a quick remedy to check the Cholera. We sold a great many bottles. In the fall Mr Smith did a lot of pork packing in the cellar, He placed me there to help the packer. Mr Jaffary I think a brother -in law became associated with Mr Smith. He was after connected with the Globe. The work in the cellar handling the heavy pork sides was too heavy for me. I was then set to delivering goods with a hand cart on the sidewalk, and many a time I would be delivering goods untill Midnight, having to wake up people, and often encountering savage dogs, of which I was very much afraid. I decided to find another situation.

1853

I left Smith, s employ and got a position with Magnas Shewan who kept a book store in the St Lawrence Arcade. I got the same pay as at Smiths . It was my duty at first to take ^{charge} of the stall in the arcade, where I would be selling papers, magazines, novels &c I would go first thing in the morning to the printing offices Viz The Banner (now the Globe) The Leader (now the Mail and Empire) and finally to a Cathlic paper. In each of these offices I would go direct to the old Washington press and count the number of papers as they come off the press at each of them for my store and carry them on my arm to the store, fold them up ready for sale. I was with Mr Shewan all winter. He associated with him a relative, who was a very domineering man, and I did not like him. So I decided in the spring to ~~I would~~ try to get a position

on a farm. I walked out about 10 miles on the Kingston road and hired with a farmer by the name David Farrell for a year for \$40.00 and my board. He had a 200 acre farm running down to Lake Ontario. He had an old man who did all the chore work and also a young man who did teaming. I took hold and practically did a man's work. I was strong and active. Mr Farrell was the first man in that settlement that bought a reaper. He went to Toronto on Saturday and brought it home. He had contracted with the farmers in the community to cut their grain for so much an acre. So on the Sunday after he had brought it home there were a lot of the farmers came to see the machine. It simply cut the grain and by a reel threw the grain on the table of the machine; While a man standing in a place on the end of the machine in a box made with scantling so that he would not fall off if the machine was jostled. Then with a long three tined wooden fork he threw off the grain in a sheaf. I was quite interested in it when Mr Farrell said to me John do you think you could throw the sheaves of? I said I would like to try it. He said you will get a chance. As soon as the harvest opened he started in his own fields I was put in the box to throw off sheaves, I soon got into the way of doing it good. He would change his horses every two hours, and kept right on steadily. When he was cutting for others he never stopped till he finished a field. even if it was after dark. I have known him to keep cutting till after 10 o'clock at night. We would hear the binders hollowing to each other as they followed the reaper. He cut a good many hundreds of acres of grain

Mr Farrell had a good sized orchard ,and in the fall he started 2 teams drawing Apples in barrels into Toronto to sell them. I drove one team. After the fruit season he sent myself and the young man to the woods to cut cordwood for sale next winters sale in the City. I could cut down the trees ,cut then into ~~4~~ 2 ft logs ,split and pile 2 cords of wood in 2a day. That wood would be hauled up to the barn to dry during thr summer. After the new year he started 3 teams to haul the dry wood into the city for sale. We sold a load of wood \$5.00 We drove into St Lawrence market put our horses in a hotel stable, and waited till we got a customer. As fast as we sold the teamster got his horses and delivered the wood. We would get up in the morning about 4 o clock, feed our horses, load our sleighs with wood, The other men helped me to load mine, Get our breakfast, and would be in Toronto before daylight. It was a cold ride sitting on the top of a load of wood, and also a cold job standing in the market. If it was a very cold ^{day} when going in we would stop at a hotel about halfway and there would find a big fire of cordwood. The men with me were addicted to drinking Liquor, I would take a glass of ginger ale, and sometimes they would get the bartender to put some liquor in my glass ,but when I tasted it I would tell the man that is not my ginger ale and make me another. It was sometimes difficult to get companions to start for home, They liked to hang about the hotel drinking. I have known us to start late to drive home, my team ahead the other two following with the men in the sleighs laying drunk. In such cases I would put out all of the teams in the stable and

say nothing. Mrs Farrell generally staid up till we got home. The boss knowing the faults of the other men told them that when they sold their load of wood they were to give me the money, So when we got home I always gave the money to Mrs Farrell

FOREIGN NEWS ITEMS

The Crimean war between Russia and Turkey began. Turkey was helped by England and France.

1854

During this winter after we quit hauling wood, I and one of the men thrashed a lot of peas with the Phail. In the spring my year was up and we had a settlement. Mrs Farrell taxed me \$4.00 for washing. I did not think she should have done so, but said nothing. I had now and then got a little money from Mr Farrell, but he still owed me 22 dollards. He paid me and I walked into Toronto and bought a suit of clothes and a pair of boots and walked back the next day.

FOREIGN ITEMS

The great battles of Balaklava and Inkerman of the Crimean war took place. In one the British brigade was nearly annihilated. Lord Elgin negotiated a repositivity treaty with the United States.

1855

Mr Farrell aske me if I would work for him for 6 months through the summer, and offered me \$7.00 a month. I agreed to do so I worked on the farm alls summer. During this time my father was teaching school in Markham village. He had rented one half of a house both stories. and after settling up with Mr Farrell I went to my father, intending to go to school in the winter. We had our bedroom in the front room and our kitchen in the rear.

William ~~PEAR~~RY the arctic explorer died.

I staid all winter¹⁸⁵⁶ with my father and went to school. I was studying alone on the subjects upon which I would be examined for a teacher. In the spring we were wakened by the cry of fire. When I looked up I could see the flames coming through the kitchen window. We both jumped up. My father got excited and could not find his clothes. I kept quite cool, got my clothes on and went out at the back door to see the situation. I told my father that the house was doomed and we began to save what we could. I went upstairs and soon had everthing hauled to the top of the stairs and slid down. The neighbours were carrying everthing out. There was no fire protection in the village. We got another ^{one} and were settled in a few days. In the spring I decided I would try and get work on a farm to make some money. I walked ~~of~~ the 8th concession and engaged with a Mr Koch a German farmer for the summer for \$15.00 a month. He and his wife were very fine people. They had no children. One day in the Oat, s harvest I asked him if I could have a couple of days off. he after thinking said " Johnny you know we are very busy" I said I know and did not like to ask you, but I would like to get two days. He asked me why I wanted and where was I going. I did not like to tell him, but finally I told him I wanted to go and stand for examination for a school teacher. He looked at me and said what you a school teacher. Do you think you can stand the examination. I said I would like to try. He asked where I was going. I told him I was going to New Market and was going to walk the 16 miles. He thought

awhile and then said . Well if that is what you want to get off for, you can take my horse and buggy and drive to New Market and come back when you can. I thought that was very kind of him and I thanked him very much. I stood my examination and got a 2nd class certificate good for 2 years. Mr Koch was just as much pleased as I was when I told him. Next fall I heard that there was to be a vacancy in the district. I applied for the position. It was the small brick school about a mile north of Markham village. It appeared that the present ^{teacher} could not keep the school in proper discipline. In those days the young men on the farms went to school to study principally Reading Writing and Arithmetic. and as a rule were hard to manage. They had got the upper hand of the present teacher. When the people of the district heard that I was appointed to teach the next year, and they knew me as I was working in the district. They objected on account of my age, and said I could not manage that school. I was very boyish looking. However the trustees stood by the agreement, and it was settled that I was to take charge of the school the first day of January next. My salary was to be \$300.00 for the year.

I was now 18 years of age. Before my year began I will state That my father was acquainted with the Urquhart family who had 3 sons and 2 daughters. They had known my father in Scotland. They had come from Scotland several years before. Mr Urquhart had a wagon shop in Markham village but before I began to teach they had moved to Stouffville and followed the same business there, Mrs Urquhart was a fine christian woman, and was really a mother to me in many ways. one day

she told me that my mother had not died as I had supposed, but that for some reason my father and mother had mutually agreed to part. My father was to take me with him, and my mother was to keep my sister. This was wonderful news to me. She did not know if my mother was alive or not. I had often asked my father to tell me something about his family history, but he always put me off by saying that some day he would tell me all about it. The above information Mrs Urquhart gave me was no doubt the reason he put me off. I knew he kept up correspondence with friends in the old country, and thought that if my mother was still living he would let me know.

FORIEGN ITEM

The Crimean war ended this year.

1857

After the new year I entered into my responsibilities of teaching school. The little brick school house one mile north of Markham village was an old fashioned building. Inside it had two rows of desks, one on each side of the room with the ends against the wall. Each desk would accommodate 3 Pupils, The girls on one side and the boys on the other side. In the middle of the room was a large box stove for burning wood. There were two benches about 8 ft long, one on each side of the stove, for the children to get warmed before school opened. I would go to the school about 8 oclock, put a good fire in the stove and sweep out the floor. The school would hold about 40 pupils. Some of the children would come about 2 miles, and the small children would be pretty cold. Often I would take off their mittens and rub

their fingers to get the blood in circulation. On the first morning I counted among ^{the} pupils 16 all older and larger than my self and there were some strong sturdy young men from the farms. I at once let them know that I must have order, and strict discipline. I soon got the school in good working order and the scholars seemed to be doing well.

About the middle of the winter ^{Trustee} Mr Koch and a Mr Hiesy whom I knew well came to the school just as I was dismissing it for the day, and asked me if I could arrange it that they could come to learn arithmetic, That they would like very much to do so. I arranged to give them a desk in front of mine which was at one of the room. So they came and I gave them lessons of arithmetic.

I had one pupil named Steward, who was not a bad boy but mischievous, and interfering with some of the smaller boys. I had warned him if he did not behave himself he would have to leave the school. One day early in the spring Mr Hiesy said he wanted to see me after school. When I had dismissed the scholars he told me that there was trouble brewing amongst a few of the larger pupils, But said Just keep a stiff lip, and if it comes to a head you just give a wink and I will knock the heads of any two of these boys together. he was a man that would weigh over 200 lbs. Soon after this the same boy was again making trouble for, one of the younger boys in his desk. I walked down to him and told him distinctly that if I saw any more of that he would have to pack his books and go home. The next day the same thing occurred. I walked down, ^{say in} that I had given him warning and pulling out my watch said I will give you Just 5 minutes to pack

his books and leave the school. He looked obstinate. I looked him square in the face if you refuse I will take you by the collar and put you out. I mean what I say. The time is nearly up. He commenced to pack his ^{books} and rose up to go. I stopped him and talked very kindly ly that I was very sorry to deprive him of an education, but we must have discipline in the school, and that if he would give a positive promise that he would behave himself and let the other scholars alone I will give you another. ^{that} He made me a promise that he would behave himself in the future. He kept his promise and was one of my best behaved scholars in school. I had no more trouble about discipline. When the superintendent the rev Mr Hill came in the fall to examine the school, he complimented me on the proficiency of my scholars. During the year I was studying in my spare time for advancement and again went to the teachers examination and got a first class B certificate good for 4 years

1858

I taught the same school this year. I again went to the teachers examination and got a 1st class certificate for life. The superintendent told my father that I was the youngest teacher in the county that had a life certificate. This year I also took two lessons a week in Latin and Greek from Dr Crowel who was the principal of the Grammer school. He charged me \$1.00 a lesson

FOREIGN ITEM

The Atlantic cable was laid

1859

Instead of teaching this ^{year} I had intended to go to the Grammer school for a year.

My father went to Toronto to teach a private school. I engaged board at Mrs Whites.. Mr Crowel put me in the Latin and Greek classes where the students had been for two years ,and I had only my private lessons.I was away behind and ^{to} study very hard on these subjects. I rarely took over 4 hours sleep and often less. With the other subjects I had no trouble. In fact Mr Crowel frequently gave me the Algebra and other mathematical classes to teach. He was an excellent teacher in the languages, but I often thought I was his superior in Mathematics. When any of the students went to him for explanation on any of these subjects, He would geberally send them down to me . My over study during this year was running me down so that some of my friends thought I was going into consumption. however at the end of the 6 months term I got a certificate that I was at the head of my classes. Just then the teacher of the school on the 9th concession was dismissed .I do not remember the cause, but one of the trustees came and offered me the school for the balance of the year at the salary of \$400.00 per year. I had intended continuing at the Grammer school for the whole year but in duty to my health I thought it best to take the offer. So I took charge of that school. My old Scholar Frank Wootten was teaching on the 10th concession and we boarded at the same place Mrs Burks, and I had about one and a half miles to walk to my school. I had a very pleasant year half year

CURRENT ITEMS

In U.S. John Brown the abolishinist was hung
 Lord Macaulley the English historian died
 The Victoria bridge near montreal was built

1860

I engaged to teach the same school for this year, at a salary of \$400.00. I had a pleasant year, and regained my former health. During the last two years I had become very intimately acquainted with the David Wismer family. 2 of their boys and 4 of their girls went to school to me when I taught in the little brick schoolhouse. I was made very welcome to their home whenever I went, and the result was that I became engaged to their daughter Barbara, who had been one of my pupils. On the 29th day of November we were married. Before the end of the year I had made an agreement to teach the school in the village of Stouffville at a salary of \$400.00. I had rented a house from a Mr Leany, during the Christmas holidays we moved into our house there and began the married life.

CURRENT ITEMS

The Prince of Wales visited Canada.
Abraham Lincoln was elected President Of U.S.

1861

The school in Stouffville was a large one, 60 pupils and no assistant. I was getting the largest salary of any teacher in the district. I made a little extra by giving private lessons in Latin to some outsiders. There lived ^{here} my wife's sister who was married to Mr Augustus von Buseck a harness maker and a prominent man in the village. And he had Partner Eli Wismer a brother of my wife. All this made it very pleasant for us. Also Mr and Mrs Urquhart who moved from Markham were here. Before the end of the year I had the offer of my former 9th concessions school, and on account of the size of my present school

and that the trustees did not work harmoniously I decided to accept the offer. While here I organised a large Picnic to Musselman, s lake. 10 other surrounding schools joined ,and we had a grand procession of over 2 miles in length. This picnic was remembered for many years.

This year my father came for a visit from Toronto, and showed me a letter from a friend in Scotland telling him that his wife (my mother) had died. This was a surprise to me and I felt a little annoyed that he had not told me before that my mother was alive and had not died when I was young as I was led to believe. He did not make any explanation but told me he wished to marry a schoolman in Toronto, and wished me to be present. I went to Toronto and was present at my father, s wedding. I acted as Groom, s -man. Here is a peculiar statement "The first wedding I ever attended was my own, and the second was my father, s" On the 27th day of November my daughter Florence was born in Stouffville

CURRENT ITEMS

The American civil war began.
William Lyon Mackenzie died
Prince Albert husband of Queen Victoria died

1862

I was now teaching the same school I had taught a year ago. The scholars were quite familiar and I had a pleasant year, Mr Heby Hand who was teaching the 10th concession school, and frequently visited us. He became acquainted with my wife, s sister Lydia Wismer. The result was that about the end of the year he and she got married. Also another sister Albertina was married to James Logie a schoolteacher in the township of Osprey.

During this year Mr Hand and I played chess, and became pretty good players. My health seemed failing, and the Dr advised me to take a year off, and get something that would give me more outdoor work, I took his advice and notified my trustees of my intention. I advised my brother-in-law Mr Hand to apply for the position so that he could take the same house I was in. My wife decided to go to her mother's while I was trying the insurance business. I engaged for a Mr Willis of the village of Markham. I was to go down to the county of Hastings, and write insurance for him. It was fire insurance. I had been in the habit of writing Life Insurance for an agent in Markham, and getting %15 of the Premium. Before the end of the year I went up several times to Stouffville and won the championship on several games of chess. During the Christmas holidays Mr Hand moved into my house, and I moved some of my effects to my Father-in-Law's place, leaving considerable of them with Mr Hand.

CURRENT ITEMS

Bismark became Prime Minister of Prussia
Lincoln issued his Negro emancipation act

1863

her Directly after New Year I left my wife at mother's and rode my horse to Whitby, and and put him in a car for Belleville, and arrived there at midnight the next day, and put up at a farmer's hotel. Next morning I was off for insurance, but it was bitter cold riding on horseback. I worked hard for a couple of days and only got two applications. The trouble was that about two years before an insurance ^{agent} of a ^{American} American

Company wrote up a lot of business in that district, and only a short time ago a house of one of the leading men of the community was burned down and on account of some technicality he did not get his insurance. Every farmer condemned all insurance agents as frauds. So one evening I drove into this farmer's place and asked if he could give lodging for myself and horse and I would pay him. He very kindly told his man to take my horse and look after him. We spent a very pleasant evening. Finally I introduced the insurance, but his wife was dead opposed to it. Next morning I tried again but no use. The next day I found the same difficulty amongst the farmers. So I decided that I must conquer this opposition or give up the job. One forenoon I drove into this man's place, and found him splitting wood in the shed. I said to him, I want your name on an application for insurance on your house, and I will pay the first year's premium out of my own pocket. I showed my reason for this and we talked the matter a little while. He consented and we went into the house. I really had his application written up. It only required only his signature and answers to a few questions. The wife came in and asked what we were doing. I told I was going to insure her house and would pay myself the first year's premium. She pitched right into me calling insurance agents every thing that was good. I shoved the application over to the husband, he signed I grabbed it and ran for the door the woman storming at me. The next two weeks I did a good business. For I would show the man's signature to an application, that seemed to be enough to satisfy them.

but it was bitter cold riding on horse-back, and my horse in some way became lame, and I decided to give up the Job. I sold my horse, and went into Toronto and engaged with a small candy manufacturer by the name of Davis. I was to sell his candies to stores in the towns on the Grand Trunk. I started and canvassed all the stores as far east as Kingston, and did very well, but Mr Davis would not send me my commission. To make my money pan out I walked between many of the stations, and only took 2 meals a day. When I got as far as Kingston I just had enough money to take me home. So I took the next train and came to Toronto. Mr Davis said he would not pay any commission till he his money for the goods. We had some words. I came to the conclusion that he was a sharper. and also came to the conclusion that school teachers do not know much about business in the business world, and that I was paying dear for my experience. I then struck out and wrote fire insurance for my former employer Mr Willis in the several towns and villages in the county and amongst the farmers, and did real well. Of course Mr Willis readily paid me my commission. My wife's brother Philemon was going for a trip to Osprey where my wife had 2 married sisters. I thought I would go up with him. My wife's brother Enos drove us to Richmond Hill where we took train to Nottawasago and we walked to John Burks 20 miles and got there in the evening. His wife was a sister of my wife. There was also in the village of Feversham near by another sister married to James Logie. We stopped with them about 2 weeks, and then walked back to the ^{Ry} for home. When we got home I found that my wife had the black throat and was quite ill

for some days. When well I told her that John Burke had made a proposition for he and I to start a store in Feversham village, and as he had a farm he was to be the security to the wholesale house for the goods bought. My wife thought we might try it. So I sold a lot of my things, and left my bookcase with my brother-in law Henry Hand. We went up to Osprey in April. John Burk met us at Stayner and took our things into Osprey in a waggon. We arrived at Mr Hogie, s about midnight. For a couple of weeks we discussed the store business. I secured a building in preparing for the event. In the meantime I was helping Mr burk on the farm, and built a fence around Mr Logie, s place. All this did me good physically. Mr Burk failed to satisfy the wholesale house to furnish the store on his security, and the whole scheme fell through, and I had a house on my hands, However I afterwards took Mr Fry a tailor in Markham up to Osprey and sold him the house. My wife and I were stopping with Mr Logie. I told her I would go down to Toronto and try to get something to do, and I would send for her. I packed my grip and walked the 20 miles to the train, and went to my father, s in Toronto. This was about the middle of June. I tramped the streets for several days, but could get nothing that would give me sufficient to keep me and my wife. My Father bought a small grocery store. I finally got a settlement with Mr Davis by taking what he owed me out in Candy for the store. We had just got started keeping store in about two weeks, when who should come in but Enos my wif, s brother and my brother -in law Henry Hand. He told me that there was to be a vacancy

in the school at Ringgood a few miles from Stouffville, and if I applied I would likely get it. So I went back with them and made an application for the Ringgood school and got it at \$200.00 for the balance of the year. I then sent money to my wife to come to Stouffville, where I was stopping with her sister Mrs Buseck. I drove to New Market to meet her which I did, and we boarded with Mrs Buseck just 3 miles from my school. Mr Buseck also had a store, and I posted his books at night. There were two weeks vacation in July, and I went out among the farmers and worked in the harvest fields. I took a couple of days and drove up to Mariposa to serve some summons on witnesses for my father-in-law on a suite he had with his brother who claimed he owned the farm he had been living on since his father died. I bought the wood on an acre of land in a woods between Stouffville and Ringgood. and hired a man to cut it into logs, I would get up in the morning and after breakfast go to the woods and chop till near school time. then again after school till quitting time. When I had all the wood cut into logs. Then I hired a sawing machine and the logs cut into stove lengths and split and then hired a man to haul the stove wood into the villages and sell it. I cleared \$50.00 after paying all expenses. Of course it was hard work.. This fall I engaged to teach the school in Markham village.

CURRENT ITEMS

Lincoln emancipated the negro slaves in U.S
 Albert Edward Prince of Wales married Alexandra daughter of Christian IV Denmark

1864

The school in Markham was a large one about 60 in number and no assistant, but I got along well with the help of monitors. In Feb my son Arther was born. During the winter a man by the name of A.J. Brown who had run away from the U.S. to escape being drafted into the war. My brother-in-law brought him down. He had been working among the farmers. I found he was a graduate of Victoria college in Ontario, He was good in Mathematics. I thought I might help him. I gave him the curriculum necessary for being a teacher here and sent him to stand his examination and he got a second class BI then gave him a letter to the trustees of the Ringwood school, and he made an agreement to teach that school next year. This year I again bought the wood on an acre of bush and hired a man to cut it into logs. I also as before went out chopped before and after school. then had it cut up and split into stove wood, and my brother-in-law Enos hauled it into the village and sold it I cleared on this about \$70.00 In the suit my Father-in-law had with his brother Henry Who claimed he had a deed for the farm My Father-in law was now living on .It was necessary to serve Henry Wismer with a summons to appear at court ,but he could not be found .He was evading service. During the holidays at Easter I told m my Father-in-law I would try and find him. I heard he had been seen in a place called Jordan where there were a number of Wismer families. I bought a disguise in Toronto a mustach and long beard because he knew me and if he saw me he would dodge me I took train for Jordan, and stopped at a Wismer place whom I heard would be friendly

They treated me very kindly. I made a confident of them, and told them my mission. I was told that Henry Wismer was a few days before treating some sick horses about 10 miles out. He professed to be a veterinary surgeon. I started on foot and asked for the horse doctor at every farm till I got on his track and reached the house he was in. I enquired of the lady if the horse doctor was in, and she sent me into the room where he was. I had the ^{summons} done up an envelope like a letter. I told ^{him} that there was a man down in the village had a sick horse and wanted him to come down. I then handed the summons and also \$10 for expenses. He looked surprised. He did not know me, but heard that he suspected it was I. He appeared at court, and was asked to show his deed. When he did it was shown that the paper mark imprinted on sheet the deed was written on, was not made till after the death of his father. The witnesses were both dead. The court ruled that the deed was a forgery. My father-in-law won his case but he did not prosecute his brother. During the summer holidays I made a trip to Erie Pennsylvania to see some of Buseck's relatives. I stopped all night in Buffalo changing my money into American money, I was astonished that I got for my \$25.00 I get \$2.50 for each dollar of mine. When I came back I traded my horse to Mr Von Buseck for an organ and a sewing machine. Cricket was the main outdoor game at this time, and I took a great interest in it. In the fall of this year I had some difficulty with Dr Doherty one of the trustees. I threatened to enter a suit against

him. My friends advised an arbitration. I however realised he being a trustee my position as teacher would not be very pleasant. So I notified my trustees that at the end of the year I would resign. This year My father had a son born to him whom he called Thomas.

FOREIGN ITEMS

Prussia made war with Denmark and annexed Scgwick Holstein giving the Keil canal to Prussia.

A swiss gentleman formed red cross societies
 Sherman,s march to the sea.
 The sinking of the Alabama.
 The American war ended.

1865

Last year I had engaged to teach the California school on the 10th concession. My brother-in law Henry Hand was teaching the 8th concession but was living in the village. I had a difficult in getting a house I had to take an old log house on an unoccupied farm. It was a cold house, and was infected by rats, so much so that often i had to drive them off the bed, and one time one of them nibbled at my toes. The rent was only \$5.00, and the living was cheap. I bought a quarter of beef 110 lbs for \$6.00. I hung it out in the shed, and it froze so hard that i had to take the axe to slice the meat off. Eggs in the summer was 10 cents a dozen, butter 12 cts per Lb, sugar was high 8 lbs for a \$1.00, Tea \$1.25 a lb. I attended the annual meeting of the Markham school to defend myself on the accusations of Dr Doherty. A motion was passed unanimously clearing me in every case. the arbitrators met during the month and gave

their verdict in my favour. As in previous years I bought an acre of wood and hired a man to cut it into logs. I chopped myself in the mornings and after school. I made about \$75.00 and that helped a lot. In the spring I bought a cow so as to have some milk and butter. During the vacation in July and August I worked among the farmers, and in this way saved a little money. In the summer the trustees of the Glasgow school in the township of Uxbridge wanted to engage me for the next year, but it was too early in the season. Besides my certificate was only good for the county of York. The examination for teachers for the county of Uxbridge was soon to be held, and I decided to take it. I took Brown with me and we both wrote. My average was 92.6% and Brown's 72.5%. I got a first class certificate. Next winter instead of remaining in the old cold house, I rented a house in Stouffville 3 miles away, and walked back and forth every day to the school. Next year my brother-in-law Mr Buseck, bought the Henry Wismer farm, which had to be sold on account of his losing his suit with his brother my Father-in-law. We got the 50 acres cheap. About this time the Pennsylvania oil excitement had reached Canada, and several people were going there. I was feeling that school teaching was too slow for a man to make much advancement in life, and concluded that if a man continued many years at school teaching he would be fit for nothing else. So I made up my mind that I would make an effort in the business world, and notified my trustees that I would not teach next year. They secured my old student Frank Wootten to take it. I sold my cow horse and buggy to

raise what money I could. I posted Mr Bus-
eck, s books, and arranged for my wife and
children to stay at her father, s when I wo
ould be away. My brother-in law Enos Wis-
mer got married to Jamima Young, and decie
-ided to go with me to the oil country.

FOREIGN ITEMS

Abraham Lincoln re-elected president of U. S.
General Lee of the southern states surren-
dered .

Lincoln assassinated by J.W. Booth
The Fenian insurrection in Ireland.

1866

This was a year of speculation. As Enos Wis-
smer was going with me, his father raised
some money for him. And on Jan .10th we
took train for Pithole in Pennsylvania and
arrived there in due time. This place grew
up like a mushroom. and I thought that all
the rough element in the country had sett-
led there. There were free and easy saloons
in every corner, with dancing girls and ga-
mblibg rooms running all the night. and
every man carried a revolver in his boot-
leg.. Houses sprang up in the night. Direct-
ly opposite the house I was boarding in I
saw a covered waggon stop on the other side
of the street. There were 2 men 2 women
and some children together with boxes bed-
ding and other house hold goods. They ca-
mped a little before dark, and soon after
there were several loads of lumber delivere
red. They worked all night and when I looked
out in the morning there was a house built
and all moved into it. Of course it was onl
ly a shack of a houselike many others. When
it rained the streets were regular bogs of
mud. on several instances horses drawing

heavy loadssank deep in their struggles to get out, had to be knocked in the head and left till they were tramped out of sight. Wages were high, a team would not haul a load a block for less than \$5.00. We met a number of Canadians there. After a few days we went to West Hickory a few miles away to prospect for oil. Enos got work at something and I was lookinh for smething to do. We took a contract from a mill man to put a lot of cordwood from the top of a mountain to the valley below near the mill. We constructed a chute with some timbers to slide the wood to the brink of the precipice so that it would land at the bottom near the mill. But the wood had to be carried on the shoulders to the chute, and some of it ~~qu-~~ ~~is~~ a distance which was heavy tiresome work. In about two weeks we finished the job putting over 100 cords of wood. We did fairly well. We had some difficulty in getting our money, but we finally got a settlement. We took a few days rest. Enos got other work and I thought I would try and speculate in oil. I had little cash, but I put on a bold face. I went down in the valley where there dozens of flowing wells. The United States well flowed 2000 barrels of oil a day, I called at every oil well and asked the price of oil. They would ask me how much I wanted. I would boldly reply 1000 barrels. The usual price quoted me was \$3.75 but the Homedon well quoted \$3.50 I did not know the cause of the difference. I asked for an option for 1000 Brls till tomorrow noon the conditions were to pay for the oil as it was taken away. The option was granted. Next morning I got up early and walked over the mountain 7 milesto the nearest RY depot.

where an oil man named Yost had an office. I asked him the price of oil. He asked me from what well I answered the Homedon. he replied Light. I then knew the cause of the difference in price. I sold him the 1000 brlshe to furnish the brls. I was to be paid for the oil as it was delivered. He told me of two men who had just finished a contract. I found the men and we made a bargain at 60 cts a brl.. they carry 6 brls and make two trips a day I was making a clear 60 cts a brl. I told them to be at Homedon well tomorrow morning and I would load them. I had in money a little more than would load the two teams. I rushed the oil over as fast as I could. When my money gained I put on another team, so that before I finished the contract I was running 8 teams. For the first few days I walked back and forth to collect my money as the oil was delivered, but I hired a team driven by a Canadian from Pickerin ont. I knew his people and I thought I could trust him. So he collected the money every day and brought it to me I found him quite reliable.

One night when He called he told me he did not get any money that the remittance from New York did not arrive. This was a serious matter for me, for my teams will be at the well next morning to be loaded and I had not the money to load them, and I was not sure if the man at the well would trust me. In the evening I was walking up and down the hotel rotunda thinking what I would do.

about a week before this I became acquainted with an old grey headed gentleman. He did not seem to have any business but we had many chats together. He notice me walking back and forth in the rotunda and called

me and said Mr Milne "I can see that there is something troubling you. "I went over to him and decided I would tell him what I was troubled about . I told him all about it .Well he said you will get your money I said yes but That will not load my teams in the morning.I have all my money in the business. Then he asked me how much it would take to load your teams.I thought a few minutes and said about \$700 . With out any hesitation he wrote out a cheque for the \$700 and simply took My I.O.U.He was a friend in need I could never forget the incident. I completed my contract and paid Mr steel the \$700 and then bought another 800 brls on which i only made a profit of 50 cts a Brl In all on the two deals I realised about \$1100.00. Mr steel and I became very intimate, and he suggested that we go together and ship Oil down to Pittsburg. We would buy a barge and make our headquarters in Oil City. He said he could get a barge for \$700 . He would buy the oil on the creek and I could take it down the river to Pittsburg and sell it. The boat would hold 1000 brls in bulk and we would not have to carry the brls. This plan seemed to me good and we entered into partnership. Untill the boat was ready I thought I would like to take a trip home and see my family , and Enos would like to see his wife. We found our folks all right . We made a short stay and were back in Pithole on March 22. Mr Steel told me that Mr Yost had failed and I might have difficulty in getting the balance of my money.I got \$700 . Mr steel and I went to Oleopolis to see our boat. We ordered it shipped down to Oil City. Enos and I got

some tar pitch and caulked the boat good. We also built a small cabin on her with bunks for sleeping on for ourselves. We bought provisions to take with us. It was cold and rather hard sleeping on hard boards which made us stiff in the morning. We had to wait a few days before we got the oil to load with. Enos and I worked hard rolling the brels and emptying the oil into the boat.

We contracted to be towed down to Pittsburgh for \$50. We started with our first load only 586 brels on April 4th and reached Pittsburgh the next day. I sold and unloaded making a fair profit. Mr Steel wired me he had a full load for us when we got back. At a certain price and before I left I sold it. The next trip we floated down the stream in 2 days. We had always to be towed up. On the down trip I hired a Pilot and Enos and I managed to handle the rudder which was in the rear with a long heavy handle.

It would need us all on going round a bend in the river to keep the boat from going on rocks on the shore. We were going along making good time. After one of the trips while being towed back by a tug which generally took a number of barges at a time. On the second day we saw a man in a row boat pulling hard for the tug, and when he reached us he went direct to the captain. I was called and the man said his boat had sprung a leak and he was losing his oil, and he wanted an oil boat to take his oil on. I made a bargain with him that I would take his oil to Pittsburgh for \$100 he to settle with the ^{captain} for bringing us here, and when the oil is unloaded he was to pay for towing my boat from Pittsburgh to Oil City. We were soon along his boat, and a steam pump was pouring the oil into our boat which was built in

four apartments, so that if a leak occurred it would not affect the rest of the boat. In the hurry we forgot to open the slides, and the boat was not filling evenly. I hurriedly opened the hatchways and went down to open the slides. They were hard to open and in my breathing I inhaled a lot of hot oil steam. I managed to get them open, but I became unconscious, and they had to pull me up. Sick as I was I managed to get the boat discharged, got my money and the price of being towed up. I had to lay down on the bunk. I told Enos he would have to get me out of here that I needed medical help. He got me up to a boarding house on the hill. The lady gave me some toast and coffee and kept me all night, but would not keep me longer for she said she did not ^{know} what my trouble was and she had boarders. Enos got a cab and took me to the superintendent of the Mercy hospital. I told him I want the best attention he can give me. It was a catholic hospital. The first night I was terribly sick and suffered severe pains in my bowels. They thought I was going to die. They gave me emetics and I vomited almost clear crude oil. My stomach was poisoned with the oil vapour. In a short time as I was getting better I got the Typhoid fever and was unconscious for a week. I did not get out of that hospital for 6 weeks, but I must say I had good nursing. Enos staid in the city and visited me every day. As soon as I was able to get out Enos took the boat up the river, and I took train for Oil City. Mr Steel said that oil had dropped and there was no profit in shipping it. He said he would run

up home and if I wished I could ship oil on my own account. Enos my brother-in-law got discouraged and went home. About a week after this I thought I would try and ship some oil from the price at Pittsburg. I thought I could make something. I bought a load of oil and hired a river pilot and another man and we loaded and started down the river. On the second day rounding a bend in the river the pilot made a miscalculation and ran my boat over a hidden rock which tore some planks out of the bottom of the boat, and the water forced the oil through the hatches. We tried to stop it but the force of the water was too great. We were now standing in oil 2 inches deep, and no hope of saving the oil or the boat. I hailed a steamer going down the river and we got on her. At the next bend in the river I saw my boat dashed to pieces and the oil floating on the water. That represented to me a loss of \$5000.00 which meant all the money I had earned in the country, and left only a few dollars of what I brought into it. It was very discouraging. But I told my men it was no use in crying after spilt milk. What cannot be cured must be endured. I took them to the theatre in Pittsburg to take my mind from the loss. This was about the last of June I took the men with me by train to Oil City. I took a job from an oil man by the name of DOANI was to look after his tank cars of oil and to measure the capacity of each as it comes in, and report them by numbers. He was to give me \$3.00 a day. But he sold out in July 19th so my job ceased. I decided to go and try to get from Yost what he owed me. He was at Titusville. I met him and had a good talk with him but could not get

get any satisfaction as to when he could pay me. I then decided to go home, but I stopped off at Erie where I saw Clemens Buseck and Lawyer Camphausen all relatives by marriage to my wife. These men were both well off and I thought they might put me in the way of getting something to do. They gave me some encouragement if I were living here. I did not want to go back teaching in Canada. I started for home and reached my father - in laws and found all the family well. I visited my friends and finally made an arrangement with Mr Buseck to buy the half interest I had in the Henry Wismer farm which we had bought. I then decided that I would go to Erie and make another start in life at the bottom of the ladder. My wife with I and the children started by train from Toronto for Erie . When we arrived we met Mr Buseck at the refinery. he took us all to his home till we would get settled. I rented two rooms in a house for \$21.00 a month and what furniture was actually needed. Every thing was at War prices . Coal \$52.00 per ton. and every thing in proportion. Shortly after this my daughter Ariadne was born. The first was building a fence which took me about 2 weeks. I voluntarily offered the ladies Aid to build a chimney top in an old house in which they had placed an old man. As I was finishing it a man drove up and asked if I could run stills. I told him I could. He said I want a man to run stills at night and I will pay him \$2.00 per night, and wanted me right away to night . It was now about 6 O clock . I went home to get something to eat, and my wife put up a lunch for midnight , the refinery was about 1/12

miles away. When ^{I got} where the refiner was there to waiting to give me all the information necessary about the stills and the Engine. I did not know anything about machinery, and dared not tell them so or I would not get the job. The stills were run off and in the afternoon they had to be cleaned out. I threw some bricks to stand on among the hot tar. I would dip up the tar and hand it up to a man on the top. When the tar was all taken out I with an iron spudcut the caked tar from the bottom of the stills and hand it out. Then while the sweat was running down my back come out in the cold winter wind. It was hard on the constitution. I had three stills of 50 brls each to clean out and refill. These stills were run off 3 times a week. I worked every day and ran stills at night. I got \$2.00 for each day and \$2.50 each night. I worked 2 days and a night on a stretch. Mr Thayer the owner told me I would kill myself, but I was anxious to earn money and thought I could stand it. When I got home I would almost fall asleep at my supper, and turn at once into bed. I bought a frame house on a division of the DREXELS for 1200.00. I was to pay for it in quarterly payments of \$50.00 and no interest. The lot was not fenced nor the upstairs plastered. We got acquainted with a family by the name of Bull, who had been here for several years. Thus a year of mournful experience was ended.

Foreign ITEMS

The Atlantic cable was completed.
 War between Prussia and Austria. Prussia won.
 Andrew Johnson was elected President of U.S

1867

I continued at Mr Thayer,s refinery till about the middle of January,when I got a situation with the Boyer and Fuess hardware whole sale and retail business at \$50000 a month. It was not as much as I was earning at the refinery, but it was a much more pleasant business. I was the only one they ever had that was not a German clerk. I was at first a little bothered about the language for their customers were nearly all Germans who did not understand English. I took some lessons in the language and soon was familiar with the names and prices of all the goods in German. I was nearly all the time on the road selling to blacksmiths and others in the villages and Towns on the different railways for a distance of about 150 miles. In the latter part of July my Father-in-law and my wif,s sister Lydia came for a visit, I asked Mr Feuss if I could get off for a few days to take my visitors around and show them the city, which he granted. The old Gentleman helped me to Lath the upstairs ready for plastering. They went home in August. and just then Mr Thayer came and asked me to come and help him as his refiner had left him. He needed help till he could get a new refiner. I saw Mr Fuess and explained the matter to him and he consented that I could go for a time. This time I did all the treating of the oil and had nothing to do with the filling and cleaning of stills. In september My brother-in-law Henry Hand made me a visit for a few days. As soon as Mr Thayer got a refiner I came back to the hardware firm and travelled for them. In November I had

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to run over to Canada about some business with Abder Udell from whom I had bought a mortgage. I got it fixed and visited some of my friends and got back to Erie in Dec. 1st. I engaged to manage the refinery of Buseck and Kenedy as their refiner had left them. I had to do almost double the work because we were short of help. I generally went to the refinery about 4 in the morning to see that the stills were running all right, and I would often run the stills at night till Midnight when John Buseck a son of Clemens Buseck would relieve me this was my position at the close of the year

CURRENT ITEMS

Alaska purchased by the U.S. for \$7,200,000
The confederation of the Canadian Provinces adopted, and the British N. American act passed.

1868

In Jan. it was very cold and difficult to run the refinery. John Buseck was sick and I hired Abder Udell my old student who had come here and married a young lady here. but he was a green hand, and I had to watch and instruct him at midnight in addition to my day work. The oil business being dull they decided to shut down the refinery for the months of Feb. and March. I got some lumber and rigged up a bench in the kitchen, and built a combined book and writing desk. Then I went down to Lawyer Camp-hausen, s office and read Blackstone the law book of both England and America, and studied law during the -se two months. I took a couple of trips for Mr Fuess and helped him to take stock. In April we started the refinery again and continue till the end of June

When we had to shut down to repair the boilers. During this time I helped Fuess. I had a hint that there might be a vacancy in a school in the city. I had a talk with the superintendent of schools, and to prepare myself in case there should be a vacancy went to a teacher's examination and had no difficulty in getting a certificate. On the first of July John Buseck wanted to see his uncle A.V. Buseck my brother-in-law in Canada. My wife and children with myself went with him. We visited our friends and relatives, and I also spent a few days with my father, in Toronto, and we got back before the end of the month. John Buseck went before for he had got a telegram that his sister was sick. When I got home Miss Gaggin daughter of the oil inspector told me that I had been appointed principal of the south Erie school to commence on Sept 1st. A few days after the agreement was signed. during till this time school would start & took a trip for Mr Fuess. As the school repairs were not completed I did not commence teaching till Sept 7th. There were two teachers in the lower story and Miss Gaggin was my assistant up stairs I had a very pleasant school to teach. I soon got it well organised and continued till the end of the year. I engaged for the next year. I rented my house for \$10 a month and rented a room for ourselves over Althoff's store to be nearer to the school. During all my spare time I was studying law under Mr Camphousen. Also I was studying German so to be more conversant with the German pupils..

~~CURRENT ITEMS~~

CURRENT ITEMS

U.S. President Johnson was impeached
 The suez canal was opened.
 Canada bought the Hudson Bay territory
 for \$1,500,000 they retaining their trad-
 ing posts and 1/20th of the land 1869

1869

All this year I was teaching as Principal
 of the South Erie school and studying Law

CURRENT ITEMS

Ulysses Grant was elected President of U.S.
 The Canadian Pacific Railway was completed

1870

At the first of the year Mr Buseck one of
 the the firm of Buseck and Kennedy went
 into partnership with David Kennedy son
 of one of the partners to start a whole-
 sale and retail Oil and Paint business.
 They wanted me to manage the business, do
 the buying and take charge of the office
 department. I accepted the offer and gave
 up teaching, as I liked business better
 than teaching. My father and step mother
 came over and stopped a couple of months.
 Also My brother in law Henry Hand came
 over. He had a misfortune in his business
 in Canada and came to see if I could give
 him a job. I engaged as a traveller on the
 to sell our oils and paints. We dealt largely
 in Linseed oil. We boiled our linseed oil
 we also dealt in lubricating oils. We sold
 all kinds of paints and had a paint fac-
 tory established making all kinds of col-
 ors.. There were comfortable rooms over
 the store and we lived there free of rent.
 Mr Buseck was a quiet pleasant old gentle-
 man but Mr David Kennedy was a young stylish
 man

man and in spite of my advice would order large quantities of goods more than necessary which made it hard to meet the bills. He had no experience in business, was optimistic and domineering. However we were getting along fairly. My Hand did not like him and later left us, and engaged with another oil man who had a refinery. Hand travelled for him on the same territory that he had travelled for us, and was really taking our customers from us. I was afraid that Mr Kennedy by his recklessness would get us into trouble. I had a talk with Mr Buseck, but he being a quiet did not like to interfere with the son of his partner.. This was the position at the end of the year.

CURRENT ITEMS

The Franco Prussian war was raging. Napoleon III surrendered.

The German Empire was formed.

British troops were withdrawn from Canada

1871

I continued with the Paint and oil until the middle of the year. I saw trouble ahead and decided to resign my position. Although I was engaged as Manager, Young Kennedy absorbed that position. I at once went to the hardware firm, and Mr Fuess gave me a good position and good wages. I was half of my time on the road. Before the end of the year the Buseck and Kennedy failed. Their creditors came and sold them out. I was glad I left them when I did.

During this fall we got word that Eli Wismer my wife's brother was very ill. His wife was Mr Camphousen's sister. So we took train with Mr Camphousen and went direct to Stouffville and arrived the day before Eli died.

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His death was caused by blood poisoning from his mending a horse collar and getting a prick with an awl in the thumb

CURRENT ITEMS

The Franco Prussian war ended by Prussia getting the French provinces of Alsace and Lorraine and paying a Billion dollars Sir Henry Stanley was sent by the New York times to find Livingston, and he found him. The great Chicago fire occurred.

1872

During the early part of this year while I was working for Mr Fuess, Mr Tracy who was the purchasing agent for the Erie RY and to whom I had sold many barrells of lubrating oilsaid to me "You are a Canadian why not come and help, us to build the Canada southern RYA "I told him I would think about it..Next day he told me he was going to Fort Erie where the head quarters were and asked me to go with him and he would put me in the way of a contract that would make me some money. I got permission from Mr Fuess for a week, s absence. When we got get there Mr Tracey introduced me to Mr Cavanagh who had the contract to build the fencing for the whole road and told him to give me a good contract. Cavanagh presented to me a contract to build the fences on the road between Welland and Cayuga 30 miles with post and board fence. Cedar posts, Hemlock lumber 6 boards high. He ststed the price he would give. I started up to Seaforth where I knew there were Lumber mills and found what I could get the posts and lumber for. I figured the freight and cost of delivery on the road and the wages to build the fence. I then went back to Erie, and

met Cavanagh for he was an Erie man, I got him to increase the price so that I would have a decent profit in the 60 miles of fencing. I made a contract stipulating that the money would be paid monthly according to estimates less 10% till the completion of the job, and to be paid directly to the Canada southern RY. When I got home I told Mr Fuesse what I had done and that I would have to leave him. He was sorry and hoped I would be successful. I decided that I would leave my family in Erie till I got things in working order. I went over and made my head quarters at Canfield where the Grand trunk RY crossed the new road. I went to Peaforth and closed a contract for all the lumber and posts for the job to be delivered as fast as possible, so that I could deliver on the road bed in the winter, and to be paid for monthly. It meant a lot of money. There would be 850,000 ft of lumber and about 4000 posts. I gave the mill man the C.S. RY as reference. I had only about \$500 in cash. I went to Mr Taylor the treasurer of the road and got him to advance the payments for the lumber each month as delivered less the 10%. and in this way I thought I could finance it through. On Nov 1st I went to Canfield and began to hire teams to deliver the lumber and posts as soon as the snow fell. I pushed my work along making my first delivery on the long haul. When Christmas came I went home to Erie for a week. I had succeeded on the first snow to deliver a lot of my material.

CURRENT ITEMS

The Alabama claims between U.S. and Britain was settled. Horace Greely died aged 61

James G. Bennet founder of the New York herald died. King William I made emperor of Germany.

1873

After I came back from Erie, I secured a room owned by an old lady in the rear part of her house. The contractor who had occupied the room had finished his contract. I bought all his belongings in the room stove, bed, table, chairs, and kitchen utensils for \$5.00. I then went back to Erie and sold all my furniture except bedding dishes and sundry other things and brought my family to Canfield. We were very comfortable in a small way. My wife and 3 small children in one room. I finished my fence contract early in the spring and made a good profit. Then I made a contract to put on the side of the road 6000 cords of cord-wood. In the meantime not knowing of this contract I had given notice that I would not need the room we were living in, and it was rented at once. There was no other place to be got. There was beside the tract a big grain warehouse, I got some lumber and made some partitions, and put the stove pipe through the window. This was all right in the summer but when fall came and it was cold we could not keep warm. We got into a neighbour's house and boarded for a time. soon a house was vacated and we secured it. I was busy during the summer securing contracts for wood along the line. My father from Toronto made us a visit. I finished my wood contract in about two months. Mr O.C. Smith the purchasing agent of the road offered me a large

contract, to cut all the timber on each ^{side} of the road for 10 miles in the county of Essex. He offered me a big price \$2.00 a cord piled on the road side, with the privilege of selling any of the more valuable timber I wished, but the condition was that I would take in his brother-in-law Mr Peckham as a partner. Mr Peckham and I went up to Essex and walked through the woods. It was a big job, not less than 50,000 cords of wood. I closed the contract taking Mr Peckham as a partner. I then made contracts with Mr Crumb and Mr Green both of whom did some subcontracting with me before. They each agreed to cut 5000 cords of ^{wood} for \$1.00 per cord. at this time I bought a horse and buggy from a Mr Switzer a store-keeper in Canfield. and decided before I went west my wife and I would have a holiday. We drove to Toronto, Markham and Oshawa and visited friends and relatives, and for 2 weeks had a good time. We had left our children at Canfield. In August I drove my horse and buggy up, to Essex about 200 miles and reached there at about 5 P.M. on the third day. The place was on the Talbot road where the Canada southern crossed that road. There were only two log houses but there was a hotel being built. I put my horse in the barn and towards the evening helped to carry in a big load of furniture just come down from Windsor. I took my meals in the log house across the road till the hotel was fixed to take my family in. I then went down to Canfield to bring my family up. I charted ^{er} a car and had Mr Crum and Green get their tools, sleighs, waggons, horses and oxen

and what furniture they needed for housekeeping together and their men for cutting wood, in all there were about 20 of us on this trip to Essex. We reached there the second day. I had ordered a number of shanties to be built about 8 miles west of Essex for my men and contractors I brought a Frenchman by name Bordeau, and started him with a gang of men to cut the red oak into pipe staves, which I shipped to Buffalo and got a good price. I also had the large Balsam of Gilead trees cut down and hewed square the whole length. many of them would square 14 inches at the top from 4 to 5 feet long, I shipped these on double cars to Quebec to a timber dealer for the British market I made well out of all these extras. Mr Gordon Wight built a house in the village and I rented it from before he finished plastering it and afterwards bought it from him paying part down, and gave a mortgage for the balance. I arranged to let Mr Peckham have half by putting a partition through the kitchen for himself and wife. This fall there was a regular influx of settlers move into the village and built houses. Mr Rush moved his store from Maidstone to the corner of the Maidstone townline where Mrs Hall now lives. Dr Brien established an office, and a man from Buffalo built a mill on the main street. By the end of the year I had in addition to my extra shipments 7000 cords of wood piled up. and things were hustling along.

CURRENT ITEMS

ULYsses Grant re-elected President of U.S.
 Edward Bulwer Lytton the novelist died.
 D Livingst the African missionary died.

1874

During this winter I was pushing my work in getting as much wood cut and delivered at the track. Early in the spring I went down to St Thomas as usual to draw my money to pay my men. When I saw Mr Taylor the Treasurer he told me that he could not pay me, That there was a financial panic in New York and they could not get any money. This was a shock to me as I had all my money in the work and the men would want their pay. I told Mr Taylor that I really must have some money to pay the men. He answered me " Mr Milne I am sorry for you, but we have no funds and you cannot get money out of a stone " I cannot give you a dollar. I went home feeling very blue. My partner Mr Peckham had no money and did not have any when I took him in, which I did to secure a good contract I was paying him \$100 a month for really nothing. I decided that that I would throw the responsibility on him. When I got home I told him the difficulty we were in and what Mr Taylor told me, which staggered him. I told him he might have some influence with his brother-in law Mr Smith to help us out, and suggested him taken the train tomorrow to St Thomas and see what he could do. He started next morning. I saw my contractors and told them that Mr Peckham had gone down to get the money and would be back in the evening. I did not let on about the trouble. When He came back he told me he could do nothing. I knew the men would be down and I thought I would let him tell about the situation. So when they came I sent them in to to see him I could sitting in my kitchen hear the

the conversation on the other side of the wall. I knew by the angry voices that Peckham was having a hard time. I slipped out and went up the village to meet the men when they came out. They were not in good humour and I could see that trouble was brewing. I got them together and quietly told them not to get excited. that they could see that it was not our fault. That I would go down to St Thomas tomorrow and see what I could do. I got them quieted down. they saw the reasonableness of what I told them That I had all my money in this job. In the morning I went down and had a good talk with Mr Taylor. He made the remark "Mr Milne you have a good contract and if the Canada southern could live up to their part of the contract you would have a fair prospect of making all \$50.000 You have lived up to your part of the contract far better than many of the other contractors have, and I would like to help you" He went away and consulted with some other of the officials and when he came back he said. The only way I can help you is to give you notes at three months for the amount and you might discount them at the bank of Commerce where we have been dealing. I saw I could do no better so I took two notes of \$2000 each which was about what they owed me. after deducting the 10% Instead of going directly home I went down Canfield and saw Mr Haney an old friend. I had often borrowed from a few hundreds of dollars till my returns would come in. I told him exactly the position I was in He asked me how much I would need to help me I told him If he could let me have \$800 for 3 months it would help me very much.

He without any hesitation drove me to DUN-ville where he did his banking and gave me the money. Here is another incident of a friend in need. When I went home I called the men together, and gave each of a share of what I owed them, which satisfied them. Then I told Mr Peckham that as he could not furnish any money to carry on the work I could not pay him any more wages nor continue him as a partner. I offered him a small sum to assign all his interest in the contract. Next day he agreed, and I drew up a document for him to sign which he did and left for St Thomas, I now had the whole job on my hands. Mr Rush the store keeper had heard of the trouble and was much excited. I went to see him. Ry contractors had not a very good name for a number of them had left suddenly leaving debts. I explained to him the whole circumstance, and showed him the notes I had taken, and asked him to go with me to Windsor and try to discount the notes in the bank. I told him that he would not be any worse off than he was now. for I believed the whole trouble would be in time all right. He consented and we went up to Windsor and saw the manager of the bank of Commerce. After a little he discounted our notes by our endorsing them. I owed Mr Rush \$2000 for orders I had given the men for goods such as provisions as we had before arranged for. The Ry paid the first note and renewed the other. After that I took notes from ^{them} regularly, and they generally took them up or renewed them for a part. My work was now going on regularly. The man from Buffalo who had built the saw mill got into financial difficulties and was obliged to sell.

Mr James Irwin who owned a farm near here came to me and asked if I would join him in buying the mill, and said it could be bought for a bargain. After some negotiations we bought the mill. This was in the fall. I considered Mr Irwin good for his part. The mill had been shut down, but there were quite a lot of logs in the yard. As soon as the deal was completed, after dinner we started up the mill Mr Irwin getting the men together. A very unfortunate circumstance occurred that afternoon. I was setting up logs and riding on the carriage, James Oliver was at the edging saw and unfortunately lost his left hand. He and his wife lived in a shanty near the mill. I had the men carry him up to the hotel. We did not alarm his wife for a time. I wired to Amherst for a Dr. We shut down the mill for the rest of the day. I went up to his room at the hotel, and found it was directly over the bar and the railway men were very noisy. I had him carried down to my house and put in a room up stairs. We put his wife in a room directly across the hall so that she could attend to his wants. The Dr came in the evening and amputated the stump. He remained till he was all right. Mr Oliver remained in that room till his wound was healed. Then I placed him in my office as my clerk where he remained for many years. During the fall we put men in the woods to cut timber to supply the running of the mill next summer. We had bought the timber in the woods on different farms, sometimes for a lump sum and others by the thousand feet of lumber in the logs at a price per thousand feet.

in the logs as measured .

During the winter and spring I was getting the millyard stocked with logs for the summer work. This summer the Ry was not able to pay me on my contract. I managed to pay my extra men but Messrs Crumb and Green were financing on their account so that I was a considerable ^{sum} in their debt. I went to St Thomas and had a talk with Mr Taylor. He told me to bring Mr Crum and Mr Green down and he would try to fix things for them so as to relieve ^{me} you of any claim from them. In a few days I took them down and sent them in to see Mr Taylor. He fixed with them to take a 2nd Mortgage bonds for the amount I owed them. This freed me of that debt. I took first mortgage bond for what they owed me about 6000 dollars. I saw that I would have to abandon the contract which was a heavy loss to me. I tried to get them to allow me some damages for the loss but could not, and I thought it would be no use to go to law, so concluded to take what I could get and close up the transaction. I held those bonds for 5 years and sold them for 85 cents on the dollar. This summer I did well in the mill, and bought out my partner's interest from Mr Irwin. So I now had full control of the mill business. I was now taking an active interest in the public affairs of the village. Finding that the division court for the settlement of all small debts was held in Harrow 20 miles away, which meant very much expense to the litigants. I took the matter up and got a division ^{court} established in Essex centre. Mr Billings a prominent farmer and a magistrate living at North ridge was made

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clerk of the court. After two sittings he got sick of it and offered to retire in my favour if I would take it. I took it and was appointed by the Judge as clerk of the division court. There were no lawyers nearer than Windsor. And as I was well acquainted with conveyancing and had a general knowledge of law business. I did an office business in that line in hours after mill working this year of about \$1000. My summer work in the mill cleared me about \$6000. I also bought land and divided some into village lots, and built on them small houses for working men and sold them on the monthly instalment plan of from \$8 to \$10 per month

CURRENT ITEM

The Housac tunnel in Massachusetts was completed costing \$10,000,000

1876

I was elected the only councillor in the northern part of Calchester Township.

I kept my mill running steadily. I also built a number of houses for rent or sale. My father made me a visit, he was not feeling well, and thought he had Erysipilis in his toe. I called Dr Drake and he thought it was Gangrene. He was not bedfast. One morning as I was going to council meeting at harrow, I called in his room to tell him that I would see Dr Grake at kingsville and send him up. I ran over to the mill to leave some instructions to my watchman. I was not gone over 10 minutes, and when I was on the way coming back I saw my wife wavering hand for me to hurry, I hurried and when I went up to see my father he was dead. The trouble had gone to the heart.

I had him buried at North Ridge cemetery after his wife and son came in answer to my telegram. This year I added a planer to my machinery in the mill and kept a good stock of Pine lumber, shingles and lath. My business netted me this year about \$8000. The Wismer Golden Wedding day took place. I took my family down and read an address to the old couple.

CURRENT ITEMS

The Centennial exhibition was held in Philadelphia at which Alex. G. Bell exhibited his telephone.
The Custer Massacre took place.
The international Railway was opened.

1877

This spring I decided that I should have a complete planing mill outfit, so that we could make doors, sash and everything necessary for building purposes. I met in with Alexander and William Laing who were expert planing mill men. They were living and doing business in Leamington. I suggested their coming to Essex and joining me in a partnership. After some negotiations they agreed and sold out their interests in Leamington. We ordered a complete outfit from Messrs Goldie and McCulloch in Galt. Mr Goldie himself came up and took the order, I added quite a large addition to the mill to accommodate the new machinery. In the fore part of the year I was re-elected councillor in Colchester township for the north part. I had a very successful year clearing about \$8000.

CURRENT ITEMS

The Russian Turkish war settled by the treaty of Berlin.
The fall of the Turkish power in Europe.

1878

Having associated the Laing Brothers with me. I decided to form the business into a joint stock Co and got a charter for "The Essex Centre Manufacturing Co". I built an office in the corner of my lot where I did my office work, and also my Division court work. I had James Oliver as my clerk. I made the building 2 stories high, and got a party to start a news Paper and gave him the upstairs to start with, and thus began "The Essex Chronicle". He put in a Washington press. After he had run it for about 6 months I bought him out and became the owner of the paper. I was urged to run as Reeve of the Township of Colchester against Mr John Iler. He had been reeve for many years, and he was a good friend of mine and I refused and was again elected as councillor. In the mill we had done a good year's work

1879

My office business was increasing very rapidly, so that my clerk and myself were busy. I was running the manufacturing to full capacity. Then my division court and my newspaper kept me up at night. I also was interested in politics, The south riding of Essex had been conservative for many years. first in the legislature, and then in the commons by Lewis Wigle. The wigle ^{family} had about 500 wigle votes, and the large portion of them were conservatives. I was a reformer and was chosen as president of the reform association. There was an agitation to divide the township of Colchester into two townships

North and South. The southern had the larger population, and the northern did not think that they got their fair proportion of the monies spent for roads and improvements. A strong petition was sent to the council which was discussed and the petition was granted. I was appointed arbitrator for the north, Alanson Elliot for the south, and Mr Geo . Morris of Leamington was chosen as third arbitrator. We met and appointed a clerk to make a full report of all the receipts and expenditures of the township for 20 years back. That took him several months, after which we met and fully considered every thing and made our award. We sent a copy to each of the portions of the Township. This award was ratified by both sections and a proclamation was made declaring the north part of the Township of Colchester as a separate municipality.

1880

In January of this year the municipal elections took place as usual, and Colchester north elected their first Reeve and councillors as a separate municipality. I took no part in this. In the later part of last year I wrote to Mr Kerr a shoemaker with whom my father kept up correspondence with a view of finding any information he might have about the death of my mother and where she was buried. Now in this year I got a reply from him that after my father had left for Canada, my sister whom my mother kept died. Then my mother had gone to Edinburg where she had a sister and was for several years a house keeper for a wealthy grain merchant, who had a very fine home. Then when she was

unable to fill the position. He placed her in an old ladies home and liberally provided with all her needs and other ways during her life time. and a friend of his written him that she had died, which information he had sent to me. and which my father had showed me when he visited me in Stouffville. Mr Merr also referred me to a Mr Allen in Edinburg who might be able to give some further information. In the spring of this year I wrote to Mr Allen. His answer came stating that my mother was alive and well, and in the old ladies home. That in that home there was another lady by the name of Milne had died, which was no doubt the cause of the information which my father received. This information was a shock to me. Here I was 40 years old, and had believed that my mother was dead. had never known what it was to have a mother. and here was my father had married again. I am sure that he was firmly of the opinion that my mother was dead. He was a man of unpeachable character.

They had evidently dropped all correspondence with each other for many years. My step mother and her son were largely dependent upon me for their support. I had an intense desire to see my mother and take care of her during the balance of her days. My business was such that I could very well go to see her. I wrote to her in care of Mr Allen, asking her if she would come to Canada if I sent her the funds, necessary to bring her here. I got an answer in a very nice letter that she would like to see her boy. I at once sent forwarded the funds in care of Mr Allen. and being informed of the steamer she was to take. My wife and I went to New York and met her and brought her to Essex

In the meantime I had written to my step-mother of the peculiar situation, and informed her of my desire to see my mother and take care of her which was natural. but that I would also take care of her and her boy during her life. Although she fully believed that my father had been honest in doing what he did, She was completely broken down. This year my mill yard was too small for the stock of logs that we required, and we decided to build a mill about a mile west on the corner of a 50 acres I owned. which would be nearer the timber lands I had bought. I made arrangements with the C.S. Ry to put in a siding into the mill which they did We furnishing the rails and making the grade. Before the season was out we had a larger mill built with a good yard and a siding in, so that we could ship our lumber out, and ready for the next seasons work Our business for the year was good.

CURRENT ITEMS

Hon. George Brown head of the Globe was shot by a discharged employee in the Globe office. The Canadian Pacific was incorporated securing from the government \$25,000,000 cash and 25 million acres of land. The Grand trunk Ry took over the Great Western Ry.

1881

This year I had a large stock of logs in the yard. and with the many other businesses I was getting run down, and the Dr told me that I should take a holiday and get away from business or I would be a sick man. I decided I would take a trip to Europe. My wife would not go She was afraid of the water. I did not want to go alone. so I suggested it to

my daughter Florence then about 18 yrs. old. She gladly accepted. My Mother had been with me a year, but she did not like this country, and wished to be back amongst her old companions in Scotland so I decided to take her along, I arranged all my business with a good man at the head of each department so I thought they would get along while I was gone. We sailed from New York on May 7th and landed at Greenock about the 14th and took train for Edinburg. I left my mother there where she had a sister Mrs Crawford. Florence and I visited all the principal places in Edinburg. Then we took train for Aberdeen and Balmoral castle where we staid several days and saw the Queen several times. Then we went to Liverpool and London, and saw all the leading places. Then took train for the Continent under Cook's tickets. We visited Holland, Belgium and the battle of Waterloo, through Germany to Clogne on the Rhine, up the Rhine to Strasburg up Mt Riga over lake Lucerne there took a diligence over the Alps to Milan, Venice, Florence, Rome, Naples, up Mt Vesuvius, Piza, Turin, Genoa, through Mt Cennes tunnel, Geneva, Paris, and back to Edinburg. A full description of this route will be found in a diary of the trip now in my library. When in Edinburg I secured a comfortable room of her own choosing for my mother where she would be near her old acquaintances, and arranged for remittances for the rent and her comfort. We then took the steamer for homewhere we arrived in August. This fall there was a contest for the

legislature. Balfour of Amherstburg and Peter Wright of Colchester. I was president of the reform association and took an active interest, Balfour was elected as the reform member, I was very busy the balance of the year with ny various matters. The year was a successfilone financially

CURRENT ITEMS

James Garfield was elected President of the U.S. and was assasinated the same year. Alexander II of Russia was assasinated.

1882

This year I built my new house in Essex called Maple Villa. I attended to the details in addition to the business of the factory the mill, Division court work and the publication of the Chronicle. I had a very successful year

CURRENT ITEM

The celebrated Poet Longfellow died

1883

MI was running mysaw mill and stave works day and night. I had a very large stock pf logs, And had good contracts for both staves and lumber. I had an independent telephone constructed between my house and the mill so as to be in direct communicatuonwith the mill. In April I got a message from my foreman Reamer Wigle that the mill was on fire. I ran down and it seemed that all the people of the town was running down with buckets and pailss as it was sunday but the fire had got so good a start that there was no chance to save the mill. Ramer had some difficulty in getting the horses out of the barn. I had a large dry kiln to dry my staves before they were ship

ped They were dried by steam pipes and there
 there were about 10 carloads of dry staves ready
 to ship next day, but a fire brand fell on one
 end and it ignited at once and the staves became
 dry and hot the fire went to the far end of
 building as fast as you could walk. the build
 The building and the staves were all con
 sumed. The piles of lumber were saved by the
 people throwing water on any brands they
 saw falling on any piles. The foreman's
 house was saved. The mill, and the dry and
 barn were all wrecks. I figured my loss
 at \$15,000 I had no insurance for I was
 keeping a watchman continually and the
 insurance Cos asked 7%. That night quite
 a number of the business men came to the
 house to sympathise with me on my loss.
 Of course they would feel the loss be
 cause my pay roll every week was a heavy
 one and the merchants got the most of it
 I think they felt it more seriously than
 I did. I never allowed myself to worry
 over losses I slept just as sound that
 night as at any other night. It simply
 meant that I must put a little more ener
 gy into the business to make it up.
 On Monday morning I phoned my banker in
 Windsor that my mill was burned. He asked
 me how much insurance did you carry. I said
 none that I had kept watchmen. Then he sa
 id what about your account. I answered that
 I would take it up as soon as I can as I
 will build a new mill at once. Well he said
 very sharply I will expect you to take care
 of your notes as they fall due. I said no
 more. I then had Mr Alex being one of my
 partners make a draft of the mill. He had
 a list of the timbers of the old mill.
 I sent my foreman with gangs of men in the

woodsto get out and hew the timbers that
 Mr Gaing would give him a list of. I then
 went to Toronto to see the firm that made
 mill machinery and from ^{whom} I had bought before
 I presented to them my case and explained
 my circumstances and the stock of logs I
 had ready to cut. They told me to give an
 order for just what I wanted and they would
 carry me till I could sell my lumber, So I gav
 them a list of what I required and they woul
 ship it at once. On my way home I called to
 the manager of the Imperial bank in St Thomá
 I knew him. I stted my case exactly and my
 standing and what the bank at windsor told
 me I then asked if he thought that his bank
 would take my account and let me have the
 money to take up the notes at the windsor bank
 as they fell due. He said he would write to
 his head office and let me know In a week I
 received a letter from the Imperial bank
 saying they would take up my account on the
 conditions we had talked on. I went down to
 St Thomas and signed the neccessary ^{and}
 got a draft for \$2000 to take up a note soon
 falling due also some money to keep me going
 When I went to Windsor to take up my note
 I went into the manager's office and laid
 down the draft for \$2000. he said Mr milne
 what is this for I said You have a note of
 mine which I think falls today, and you told
 me that I must take care to meet my notes as
 they fell due. he said "O I did not mean that'
 we would of carried you". Well I said you did n
 not say so. He fely very cheap for they had
 made in interedt and exchange from me quite
 a sum. His year I had a better mill built in
 less than three weeks and we had a very succ
 essful year .
 I received a cable from Mr Allen in Scotland

that my mother had suddenly died. I cabled him to secure a place and see to all that was necessary for her funeral, and draw on me for the amount. In the fall of this year Mr WMLaing and I took a trip to look for timber lands as they were getting short here. Henry Richinson of Detroit his brother-in-law went with us. We visited lands in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana but I did not think I had money enough to handle the offers. Mr Richardson was a wealthy man but I would not like him as a partner so we came home. Mrs Milne, s Mother Mrs Wismer died and we all went down to the funeral.

CURRENT ITEMS

Moody and Sankey evangelists went to Edgeland.

1884

This year I tore down my old Saw mill, at one end of which was my planing mill, and built a large brick two story building about 200 ft long. On one end of the first two stories I made the planing and sash and door business. In the other end of the first floor I established a regular machine shop. I had bought a full machine shop from the MacMasters who moved their machine-inery from Ridgetown and took stock in the company for its value. They were practical machinists and they took charge of that department. Back of this building I put up a wooden building for a foundry and and moulding shop. We made boilers engines and some tractors, and did all kinds of repairs in that line. The second half of the second story I converted into a

Handle factory to make all kinds of wooden handles such as Axe, Pick, hammer, and fork handles made out of hickory and ash timber that had been scrap^d which was quite successful. These combined industries were known as "Essex centre industrial works" and employed a good force of men. This year the village of Essex centre separated from the Township of Colchester. I was appointed arbitrator for Essex, and Alanson Elliot for Colchester north and George Morris of Learnington was chosen as third arbitrator. We audited all the accounts since the division of the Township, and made our award which was ratified by both parties, and a proclamation issued declaring Essex a separate municipality. and could thus spend her taxes on her own improvements. Enos Wismer my Brother-in law married his second wife, Robena Mc Conachie.

CURRENT ITEM

The Imperial bank opened an office in Essex they rented my office, and I moved over to my office in my new building.

1885

This year I added to our works the machinery to make ploughs. I got a man who was an expert in selling plows who said he knew just what the farmer needs. I hired him first to Superintend the making of the first batch, and then he took the road to sell them. They became very popular and sold readily.

A handle maker came up from St Thomas and stated that he had to buy his timber in this part of the country and pay freight on the loads which was expensive, and thought he would build a factory nearer the timber. He examined my machinery for this purpose, and then said he would like to buy out our

handle machinery ,and pay us ^{for} rent and power, rather than built another factory. We thought the offer and decided we would sell rather than have an opposition factory started. He gave us full price for all our handle machinery ,and all our stock on hand, and we agreed upon a price for the room and power. This was the first sale of any part of our business . This year My wife and I made a trip to the Cotton centennial at New Orleans ,and went from there to Daytona Florida to see her sister Mrs Handliving there. Mr Hand and I were old school teachers in Markham. We staid there a week. and I bought from him 10 acres of ~~him~~ for a grove and also 2 lots in Ormond on which to build a house. This summer I received a letter from a friend in Scotland that there was quite a sum of money left to the Milne estate. This was left to my Grand-father and heirs after my grand father had died, and my father was advertised for in Next of kin Gazette. I therefore decided to go over there and investigate. This time my wife went with me. We went direct to my birth place Ellon in Aberdeenshire. I found there was a considerable sum in the court of chancery of unclaimed monies of different estates of which the Milne estate was one of them. I then tried to trace up my grandfather, s estate record . I believe I really ^{got} the records of all the brothers and sisters leaving only myself and my cousin Mrs Mc Guire in Toronto, but the difficulty was to prove that what I found was all there were. There were no one living now that could prove that. I went to London and had a talk with the official of

unclaimed monies. and he informed me that there was belonging to the Milne estate in money and property which with interest would amount to about two million Pounds sterling, but you must give positive proof that what you have found is all the children that your Grandfather had. I suggested that a portion of the estate might be distributed holding the larger portion in case any others should turn up., but he said the court would not do that. I spent considerable in getting certificates of births and deaths, but so far they were not proofs of all. I therefore came home with all my memos ,intending some time to try again. We had a very fine journey home and found the business had been doing well. in my absence. There was nothing special to note during the balance of the year.

CURRENT ITEMS

The first electric street RY was in Essex.
 The Canadian Pacific RY was completed.
 Gen Grant died
 Grover Cleveland elected President of U.S.
 Gen. Gordon murdered at seige of Kartoon.
 Water works established in Essex
 A High school established in Essex.

1886

This was the year of the Manitoba Boom, and all the young men flocked there to obtain property cheap. During the past few years in addition to my regular business I had made some money by buying and selling Real estate Through my conveyancing I had become acquainted with every farm and piece of property in the southern part of this county, and knew their values. When any of the loan companies had a mortgage sale they would come to me to come to the sale and give them a start

which I did, but if there was a 50 or 100 acres to be sold and that I thought I could handle it, I would get their upset price, and I would bid up to that or perhaps a little over, it would be knocked down to me. I could use my money better in my business, so I would pay them down a reasonable sum and give a mortgage for the balance expecting to soon sell and get a sum down they assuming the mortgage. In this way I soon accumulated a lot of different lands on my hand, but when the boom came on I could not sell: there was no one to buy. The farmers had all the land they needed, and their sons had gone to Manitoba. The value of land went down to about 60% of its former value. Although I had bought the lands cheap I could not sell even at a loss. I was paying interest on the mortgages and taxes on the lands. It was eating into my savings and my capital. I saw that I would get into trouble and decided I would have to get rid of some of my enterprises. A brother of the Laings sold his farm in Tilbury and they wished to take him into the Planing department with them. They proposed to me that they would buy the planing plant and pay for the rent and power. We talked the matter over and they paid the cash for all the machinery and the stock of material on hand, and paid a sum agreed upon for rent and power. This relieved me some. This year my daughter Ariadne married Mr O.C. Barrie. I took them for their wedding trip to Florida where I cleaned up my grove and bought the young orange trees from BEED KNOX AND BEED.

1887

A Mr De Cew whose father I knew well when in Canfield. He had sold out his interest in lumber business in Tilbury. He asked me if I had ever thought of selling my saw mill. I said I would think about it. He said he would be here a couple of days examining the timber lands and will call again. I consulted with my partners and we thought if we sold the mill now we might get the full price for it, but if we keep it till the timber is all cut our mill would not be worth much. So when he called again, I put my price on the mill, and its machinery, and the siding together with the stock of lumber and logs on hand. He thought for a while and said I will take it. He paid a good sum down, and I took notes falling due at different dates for the balance. I used the notes at the bank and he met them as they fell due. This helped me. I wanted to pay my debts, but I could not sell the lands I had. I owned about 350 acres of land adjoining the village of Esse. The interest on the mortgages fell due. I went to Toronto to see the lawyers for ZOWSKI and MACPHERSON from whom I had bought the lands for \$30 per acre. I told them the position I was in and asked them to foreclose and sell the land at as little cost for selling as possible and try to get something over their claim for me. They sold the whole block for \$12 an acre to John Curry of Windsor. He inside of 3 months sold them for \$25 an acre. This shows how much I lost. These lands are worth now \$150 an acre. I sacrificed on all of my lands similarly. I mortgaged my big house which cost me over \$12,000 to help me out. Now since I had disposed of most of my business interests I put all my energy into the Flow works and the

demand for our plows were more than we could meet. I met a few of the principal business men of the village and tried to get them to form a Joint stock Co to manufacture the plows on a larger scale, but they did not seem to be interested in the idea. We were shipping Plows to Vancouver and the maritime Provinces in fairly sized lots. The other Plow manufacturers were feeling our opposition and were beginning to cut prices. This fall The manager of the Iron works of St Thomas came up to see me. They manufactured all kinds of agricultural implements but they did not make plows, and what they sold to their customers they had to buy. He said he knew the reputation of my plows and wanted them. He offered to pay the full price for my plow machinery and patterns with all my stock on hand, and give me a reasonable sum for the good will of the business. I had a talk with my old partners and next day I closed a bargain with the Erie Iron Works he staid till I had every thing shipped, he gave me a cheque for the whole thing together with a fair price for the good will of the business. All that I now owned was the building bringing in a fair rental and the machine shop. I was practically out of business. The machine shop was busy with repair work.

My son Arthur married Celinda Robinson a neice of Dr Brien

CURRENT ITEMS

Before the close of last year Dr James Brien was elected a member of the Commons against Lewis Wigle It was a close Election. The famous singer Jenny Lind died. Rev Henry Ward Beecher died. Queen Victoria Jubilee was celebrated.

As the business of the Essex Industrial works were all sold except the Machine shop foundry and the building, and as I held 90% of the stock. I decided it was best to dispose of it all by making under the act a voluntary liquidation which we did by appointing Mr Russel of the town of Essex the liquidator. There were no outstanding debts to pay. So by giving due notice, he sold the Machine shop, foundry and book accounts. I through a friend bought the building, machine shop and foundry with all the machinery I also took some of the book accounts. This ended the company. Shortly after I sold the machine and foundry with all the Machinery to Mr Goldie of Galt. He continued the business in Essex for some time paying a rental for room and power. I now simply hold the building under rentals from the different renters. I carried a local banking business I got a liberal line of credit from the Imperial bank. Through all these I made a comfortable living and attended to the sale of the rest of my lands, and my division work. I still owed the \$4000 on my house Ina Wismer daughter of Levi Wismer died.

CURRENT ITEMS

Gen Sheriden of the U.S died.
 William I of Germany died .
 His son Frederick III of Germany died after a few months reign.
 Willian II made Emperor of Germany
 Commercial with U.S was discussed
 The High school was finished in Essex.

1889

I attended the meeting of the Grand lodge of the A.O.U.W. and was re-elected Grand Foreman. On account of the heavy expense of

delegates coming from the western and eastern provinces it was decided to form each of these into Grand Lodges, and a committee was Appointed to look into the matter and report at the next meeting. I was busy attending to my division work which was now bringing in about \$1200 a year. I was also doing some private banking, I made a trade with some Detroit men I conveyed to them two houses I had got upon which there were mortgages, and they conveyed to me 10,000 acres of timbered lands in West Virginia. I valued the lands at 5¢ cents an acre. I expected to exchange them for something else in the shape of property.

CURRENT ITEMS

Benjamin Harrison elected President of U.S.
 John Bright the English statesman died.
 Jefferson Davis ex-President of the confederate states died.

1890

This year I was attending to my division court work and banking business, and getting my affairs in better shape. We got word of my wife's father being very ill. We went down to see him. After a few days I left Mrs Milne there as I had to attend the General Conference of the Methodist Church in Montreal. When there I got word of his death. In February I attended the meeting of the Grand lodge of the A.O.U.W. I was elected Grand Master. During the year I visited a great number of the lodges and delivered to them addresses on Insurance. When in Montreal the lodges of that city and adjoining territory made a big gathering in my honor, and I delivered an address to them.

CURRENT ITEMS of 1890

Two nephews of my wife, Edward and Charles Wismer were married. Edward to Miss Nellie Beaty, and Charles to Miss Clara Robinson. My Grand daughter Millie Barrie was born. Lucinda my wife's sister died in hospital. Bismarck the iron chancellor of Germany was deposed. The U.S. adopted the McKinley tariff.

1891

In Feb I attended the Grand lodge of A.O.U.W and officiated as Grand master and was re-elected for this year as Grand master. The matter of making the Western and Eastern Provinces as separate Grand Lodges was again discussed and after consulting with the executive committee we sent out Mr Winton Manitobato try and organise a number of lodges so as to make a grand lodge for the west. He was a fineman, and a good platform speaker, but he could not make a go of it. He could not organise, he came home. My grand son Meland Barrie was born. Arthur ^{Wismer} my wife's nephew married Miss Agnes Wallace. I was attending to my small affairs during the balance of the year. Sir John A Macdonald very prominent, died.

1892

This Feb I again attended the Grand lodge of the A.O.U.W. and at first officiated as Grand Master but according to custom retired after serving two years. At this meeting the delegates from the west asked the executive committee to send me to the west to organise a Grand lodge. When the Committee interviewed me I was doubtful as we ^{sent} one man and he failed, so I stated that I would only undertake it if they would guarantee a salary of \$75 a month and all expenses.

or I would take the charter fee of \$100
 each Lodge I put in which would be \$100
 for each new lodge and I would pay my
 my own expenses, but I would decide *only*
 which of the two propositions I have made
 I would take *year* ~~the~~ the work was completed
 They thought I should decide now They
 did not hire me then. My family had ~~alred~~
 ready gone to Florida. and I followed.
 When I reached Ormond Florida I had Mr
 sanford hire a number of colored men and
 we would clear the timber off the 10
 acres I had bought for a grove. In about
 3 weeks we had it all cleared and ready
 for planting the 1000 two year old or-
 ange stocks which I had already engaged
 from Beed Knox and Beed. About this time
 I got a letter from the executive Comm-
 ittee of the lodge stating that they
would accept my proposition to organise the
 western Provinces. I left with Mr Sanford
 the planting of the orange trees, and
 started for home to get ready to go west
 I left my family in Florida to follow
 when they desired.. I went from direct
 to Winnipeg and put in a new lodge there
 Then to Calgary and organised a new lodge
 there. I then left Calgary to attend the
 Supreme lodge of the order as I was a
 delegate from Canada. The supreme lodge
 was to be held at Helena. Montana, I went
 by the way of Vancouver where I met ot-
 her defegates and also delegates from
 the pacific coast in the states. After 2
 days journey we were stalled at Missouli
 on account of a washout on the road, We
 were delayed about two days and finally re-
 reached Helena. I was at that meeting eke-
 cted an officer of the Supreme lodge

The meetings lasted about a week. I then started for Canada to continue my work. On account of the washouts on the road I had to travel over the mountains by buss till I could reach some place where I could get a railway that would take me into Canada. I reached a Railway and got to Great Falls where after waiting for two days I got a train for Lethbridge in southern Alberta. I put in a lodge there. In each lodge I placed I had a delegate appointed to go to the meeting that would be later made to form the Grand lodge. I worked hard and put in 16 new lodges in the western Provinces. I got a dispensation from the Supreme lodge to organise a grand lodge for the western provinces. I called the delegates of each lodge to meet at Winnipeg, and with the help of our Recorder Mr Carder from Toronto we organised the grand lodge. I then decided that I would take the charter fee of \$100 for each new lodge which would be \$1600 and with the \$150 allowed by the Supreme lodge made \$1750 and my expenses were about \$500 which left me for my 3 months work \$1250.00 but it was hard work.

When I arrived at Winnipeg I received a lot of letters, One of them informed me that my daughter Florence had married Frank Leute. An impression came to me forcibly that it was a mistake which ultimately proved to be true. I felt very blue over it. My son Arthur was attending to my office work in Essex.

CURRENT ITEMS

Hon. Alexander MacKenzie died.
The first trolley line started in Toronto

1893

At the meeting of the Grand Lodge of the A.O.U.W., I was requested to organise the Provinces of QUEBEC, NEW BRUNSWICK And NOVA SCOTIA into a grand lodge like I did the western Provinces, I agreed to do so on the same terms as the other.

I first went down to Florida to build my house in Ormond. William Laing, James Laing, and William Robinson wished to see that country. I told them if they paid their fares I would give them wages to help build my house. I had previously by correspondence ordered all the lumber delivered from the mill at Daytonatomy lot in Ormond. and we found it there when we got down. I also hired two other carpenters, and we rushed the building up and in a short time we had it ready for plastering. I engaged this to be done after we had gone. I had bought all the furniture for the house at Jacksonville on our way down. in April we all started for home. and very soon after I started for the lower Provinces.

During the next three months I had put new lodges in all the principal cities in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and as before called the delegates to a meeting at Montreal to form the Grand Lodge.

With the help as before we organised the Grand Lodge of Quebec and the Maritime provinces. I made nearly as much as I did in the west. After I got home Mrs Milne and I visited the Columbia exhibition at Chicago where my daughter Mrs Barrie and her husband were living

CURRENT ITEMS

Grover Cleveland elected President of U.S

1894

I as a Supreme officer of the A.O.U.W. together with Mr Inwood of Toronto, Mr M.D Dawson of London as representatives from Ontario, Also Mr Archibald of Truro N.S. as representative from the New grand lodge started for the Supreme Lodge meeting to be held at San Francisco. The special train for all Canadians and the eastern delegates was made up at Chicago. I took Mrs Milne with me to Chicago and left her with her daughter. Our train stopped off at a number of places, especially at Denver, Salt Lake, and Sacramento. We were shown around to see the sights and Banquetted. We were about 10 days in session at San Francisco and had a good time. We had several excursions out of the city. When we took train for home every berth in the train had a basket of fruit in it. There was about 160 of 'em on the special train. We visited Portland directly after the flood. There they gave us a trip up the Columbia river, where we saw farm houses with only the roofs seen, and in many villages the water was up to the second floor. From there we stopped at Seattle where they took us out to an Island for an Oyster Coast. We started east from Tacoma. I stopped off at Duluth where my daughter Florence was living. He was a train dispatcher. There I met Mrs Milne. She had gone there from Chicago. We stopped there a few days till after July 4th. I then took boat for Fort Arthur in Canada to continue my work as Grand Organiser to which I had been appointed by the Grand Lodge of Ontario. When at Fort Arthur I received a telegram that my Grand Son Karl was born. I instituted a lodge in Fort Arthur and also one in Fort William.

I continued my work, instituting lodges in nearly all the villages and Towns along thr C.P.R.ry, and throughout the eastern towns of Ontario. This year I personally wrote 997 applications for 2000 of insurance each for the order in organising new lodges and adding members to the old lodges. I had splendid success and was styled in the official organ of the order as the "King of organisers". My son Arthur attended to my division court and Banking business very satisfactorily.

CURRENT ITEMS

President Carnot of France assassinated.
China and Japan were at war.

1895

On the first ^{day} of January my wife and I attended the "Golden Qedding" of her sister Nancy Von Buseckin, Stouffville. I in the paper ^{gave} that there ^{had} been a heavy frost in Florida the week before. I had personally received a letter a little before forefrom my man there that I had been offered \$2500 for the crop of oranges on the trees, But he advised me not to sell till after the holidays and I would get more. As I was engaged for another year as Grand organiser for the A.O.U.W. I could not go down. So i told my wife to go home and pack her trunk and go down to see the result of the frost. When she got there she reported that the grove was covered with frozen oranges on the ground, and the trees badly damaged, and many of them ruined. This was another heavy loss for me. I worked all the year energetically in visiting the lodges and with the help of the district deputies had added largely

to the membership. I also organised new lodges wherever I could. My brother-in-law Hugh Barrie at Ann Arbor Mich. died. He had been a commercial traveller, and one night about 2 years before was sand bagged and robbed. This affected his brain so that we had to place him in an assylum where he died.

CURRENT ITEMS

Mr W.D. Balfour M.P.P. for Essex was made speaker of the legislature.
Mrs Milne, s sister Mrs von Puseck died from pneumonia takendirectly after golden wedding

1896

This year I moved from Essex to Toronto to be nearer my organising work. To do this I resigned my division court position in favour of William Laing. and he got it. I also closed up my banking business. I arranged with William Laing to collect my rentals from the industrial building. Every year I was being convinced that the Fraternal insurance was not sound because they did not collect sufficient to provide for the future calls, and though I was engaged at a salary of \$2000 a year I could not consciently urge young men to join so I resigned. I at once was offered a position for the mutual reserve Insurance Company of New York for the state of Ohio. I took it and moved to Dayton Ohio. I worked diligently for 2 months and during that time I visited the head office and found there was considerable graft amongst the officials of the company and made up my mind that this institution was also unsound. I was beginning to learn something about Insurance and I resigned my position. I had for the last few years been

working very hard, and under much anxiety about my affairs and at the request of my family was induced to move to Chicago where I could for a time have a rest. There was my daughter Mrs Barrie and her husband and family who were boarding in an apartment. I rented a house on Marshfield avenue and boarded the family and in the meantime was on the outlook for something that I could take hold of to make a fair living. I remained the balance of the year, but nothing turned up that I thought I could engage in profitably. During this time I received a telegram that my grand daughter Barbara Leute was born in St Augustine Florida. Where Mr Leute was working as telegraph dispatcher. He later took charge of the Ormond station on the Florida East coast RY and they lived in my house in Ormond. In the summer I attended the Supreme lodge in Buffalo. At this time there was a discussion about the Grand lodge of Ontario withdrawing from the Supreme body and have only their own death claims to pay for which we thought would be much lower than we have been paying. So at the next session of the Supreme body we withdrew from the Supreme body.

BURRENT ITEMS

W.D. Balfour M.P.P died.
 Li HUNG Shang visited Canada.
 William J Bryan ran against Mc Kinley for President of U.S. on the dilver question but was defeated
 Gols in large quantities found in Klondike

1897

In January this year still in Chicago. Went to Toronto to attend a committee of the A.O. U. W. to adjust the rates. After the meeting I called to see Mr T.C. Irving an old friend. In our conversation I made the remark that from my knowledge of Insurance I believed I could manage a new Insurance Co if one were about to be started. He at once stated that he had just taken some stock in a new company just starting in London. The Hon David Mills is forming the Co. He advised me on my way home to stop off at London and see Messrs Park and Furdonsolicitors and have a talk with them. I called on these parties and had a long talk with Messrs Park and Furdon. I gave them the names of parties as refereneces to whom they could write to. I gave them cashier of the Imperial Bank, Judge Horn and A.H. Clarka solicitor in windsor. I then went home to Chicago. During ^{my stay} I had several offers of assistance from parties who knew of my circumstances. They were willing to give me any financial help I needed to again go into the lumber business in Michigan, and another to go into real estate in Winnipeg which was very active at present. He would furnish all the money needed and I was to do the work. These were very nice offers, but I was always diffident in being under any obligation to any one to assist me with money for fear of them losing. I never during my stay asked any one to even back a note for me. In a few days after I got back I got a letter from Mr Furdon asking me to come down to meet their executive committee at London. I went down and met them consisting of Messrs Park and Furdon, Dr Balfour, John Ferguson, Major Leys and Hon David Mills.

At this meeting I was engaged as manager of the NORTHERN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY. This was on Jan. 10 and I was to take charge on Feb. 1st. I went to Chicago, packed our things and moved to London. I at first stored our things and boarded with George Laing for a time..and on Feb. 1st I took charge of the Company, Nothing had been done but a list of the names of the subscribers and the amounts of cash paid on the stock. I got a desk in Mr Purdom's office and put in my own desk. I at once began to fill all the different forms for applications, medical forms and others. I also prepared a temporary rate book. Miss Carpenter was appointed my assistant and stenographer. In a short time we got an office on the ground floor, and about April began to write business..After boarding a while I sent for my family and rented two rooms and later rented a house on Queen's avenue. Being well known in Canada for my connection with the United workmen I travelled each week writing and appointing agents, I would leave Tuesday morning and back Friday night. During Saturday and Monday I would attend to all correspondence held over by Miss Calander. During this year I personally wrote most of the applications. I figured that the commissions allowed to the agents would more than pay my salary which to begin with was \$2000 .. In June of this year I attended the Grand Lodge of the A.O.U.W., and met many of my old friends and among them got some agents. The resolution to separate from the Supreme Lodge was carried. I got a letter from my son Arthur who was working in the Toledo Bicycle works.

This letter showed me that he was 85
anxious to go to the Gold fields in the
Klondike region. My wife and I ran down and
took Christmas with them. He and two others
with him had long talks about the prospects
there. I saw that they had the gold fever, and
although I did not like the idea, yet I saw
that it would be unwise to strongly oppose
it, I decided to let him go.

CURRENT ITEMS

Wm McKinley elected President of the U.S.
There was a war between Turkey and Greece.
The Spanish American war was started.
The Behring sea award was made.
The African war broke out.
The preference tariff with great Britain ^{made}

1898

This year I spent as much time as possible
in writing business and engaging new agents
I see by my notes that during the year I
personally wrote applications for 35,000 of
life insurance. My son Arthur, ^{called} on his way to
the Klondike. I gave him what money I could
and saw him off. I felt very blue.
At the Provincial election one of my direc-
tors Col Leys was elected for London.
I established an office in Ottawa and put
a Mr Hall in as agent. As was my custom with
other agents I staid with him for a few days
to show him how to write Insurance.
My daughter Florence and her 2 children
came from Daytona Florida in may. We had a
Mr Colwell selling stock, and one day he
came in and asked me to advance \$1200 on
account. I said I will look up your account.
I did so and found that we just owed him
\$300, and I paid him that amount, but refuse
to advance him In august the Co engaged Mr
Findly from Montreal as superintendent of

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agents. This was a good move as it allowed me to give more attention to the office work. I sent him out at once to go to Ottawa and the surrounding towns to get more agents to work. I told him it is business that we want. In Dec. I was very busy. Miss Carpenter fell and broke her wrist, and Leonard Smith the other help was sick. So that the work caused me to be up late at nights. Towards the last part of the month Mr Findley came home and helped me out

CURRENT ITEMS

On Jan 3rd After the election there was a large gathering in the city hall up stairs in London. The flooring gave way precipitating the mass of people down killing 21 persons. Our city agent was one of them. The battleship Maine was destroyed at Havana. War declared between U.S. and Spain. The Spanish armada surrendered at Santiago. Manila surrendered and the Philippines was ceded to the United States. Bismarck the Ex-German chancellor died. Sir Wm Mullock established 2 cent postage

1899

I had some trouble with the loan for about the mortgage on my house, but I got it adjusted.

Finally kept travelling amongst the far away agents, and I frequently visiting the near by ones. At the office we bought an Arithmometer which was a great help. On Nov, 13th Mr Park President of the Co died and was buried. In handling the body Mr Ferguson the undertaker and one of our directors got blood poisoning, but he was enabled to check it. The Boer war began.

1900

In Jan^r Mr Purdom and I went to New York to consult Mr Fackler (the most prominent acary) in America) about some insurance matters. In Feb. when I was in Toronto my son John wired me that the Temple building in which was my office was burned. I went back next morning and got a n office in the Hiacox building. We lost all our furniture, but the things in the vault were safe. My desk with all my private papers, and my memos about the Milne estate were burned. In April my grandson Karl Leute had scarlet fever and had to be taken to the hospital. He was very ill and his Mother Florence had to go and stay with him till he got well. I sold my safe in Essex to Messrs Bret and Auld who published the Essex paper. Col Leys r-esigned as director of our Co. In June I visited all the western agencies wrote business and collected a lot of old balances of accounts against Agents. In July I attended the meeting of the life officers association. I took a trip east east as far as Halifax and added some more agents. When I got back and had caught up with my work. I took a week end and went up to Chicago to bring my wife home. She had gone up there when I was east. When there I visited the Bang sisters and Mrs Jackman great spiritualists, Our Co were negotiating to take over the Farmers Insurance Co and bid them 110 for their ^{share} but The Continental Life Co bid them 115 and got them. but their manager engaged with us as superintendent of agencies. We had a very successful year

CURRENT ITEMS

Galveston was destroyed by a hurricane
 King Humbert of Italy was assassinated
 The Boxer, s rising in China
 Lord Robertraised the seige of Ladysmith

1901

Aenette Buseck a ne~~ph~~e of my wife, s was visiting us and had Dr Balfour perform an operation for cancer. In march we got se settled i n our new office in the temple building after the fire, The annual meet- ind of the Co went off fine.

In July I got a letter from George McHuire of Toronto stating that His mother had died died in England where She and his father were on a trip. my wife went downto sympa- thise with Mille and later I went down to attend to the funeral. In Aug. My wife and I with little Harlmade a trip to the Pan American Exhibition at Puffalo. We stopped at Mrs Holcombe ,s (Lillian Crandle) and then spent a few days at Lilly dale camp Mr Findly our superintendent of agencies had to resign to take care of his father, s business in Montreal..

John Johnson and Mary Coleman made us a visit on their Honeymoon.

A company of Essex folks went with Mrs Milne and I to the Toronto fair .They were James, Joseph and William Robinson and their wives We all had a good time.

In Nov I made my regular trip amongst my agents. I had a family gathering at Christ- mas .Lennie and children were with her u^d Arthur was in the yukon

CURRENT ITEMS

Mrs J.W. Whitney of Essex died.

Queen Victoria died June 22

Mc Kinley re-elected President of U.S. but the same year was assasinated at the Pan.

Theodore Rosevelt elected President of U.S.

1902

In Jan Lennie and her children, also Adne and her children made us a visit. The day was a regular blizzard. In Feb I went to Stouffville to see Arnette Buseck but arrived just a few hours after she had died.

In April Mr Mc Williams was engaged as secretary in Mr Findly's place who resigned.

Our annual meeting was held in March. In May I took my regular trip amongst my eastern agents and came back by New York where by agreement I met Mr Purdom and we saw Mr Fackler. In July I made my Western trip amongst the agents. When in Vancouver went out to Whatcom to see Albert Jones and wife.

In Sept Mr and Mrs Logie made us a visit also Mrs Vanzant of Leamington Mrs Milne was very poorly and I called Dr Balfour.

In Oct. We had a directors meeting after which I went to Toronto with Mr Long one of our Directors. I had in Toronto a case against our agent Hunt for stealing funds of the Co. I got a verdict against him.

Mrs Milne's Brother and wife spent Christmas with us.

CURRENT ITEMS

The Coronation of King Edward took place.
The Earl of Dufferin died. Cecil Rhodes died.
Mrs Milne's Brother-in-law A.V. Buseck died.

1903

The attending to my Insurance business in office work and visiting my agencies was my year's work. When at Vancouver I went out to Westminister and saw the Welch family, then to Billingham to see the Jones family and a number of Essex people. I got home about the end of August. When I was on this trip my son Arthur got home from the Klondike.

The foregoing clause under the head of 1903 should be read at the first of 1905
Now I will proceed with 1903

On my trip to Ottawa I called at Bellville
-ille to see my agent there I saw in the
paper that our President The Hon. David
Mills had suddenly died. I at once took
train for ^{home} to make arrangements for our
directors to attend the funeral which we
did on May 14.

Mr T.H. Purdon was elected president to
take the place of the late David Mills.
In Aug. Adne and the children came home
from Chicago. Then a little later, I with
Adne, Lennie and Mrs Brien took a trip
to the Lillydale camp where we saw some
spiritualistic manifestations.

In Nov. I made a deal with some parties
in Detroit by which I conveyed two houses
I had in Essex to them and they conveyed
to me 10,000 acres of land in West Virginia
this was agreed upon some years ago.

Through this I got my release from the
mortgages on the industrial building and
my residence. I now went to Sandwich and
registered these releases which cleared
me of all my debts. At one time my friends
advised me to make an assignment and get
a new start, but I wanted to pay my debts
and thus maintain my good name and credit.

This I then told my friends

My company had a good business year

CURRENT ITEMS

The Alaska boundary was settled by Arbitration.
The Grand Trunk Pacific RY chartered
Herbert Spencer a noted Philosopher died

1904

91

The usual routine of business in connection the insurance was gone through.

My son John who was travelling for a Trunk Co in New York state made us a call.

In March the Thames river in London overflowed so that they had to be taken out of their homes in the second floor by boats. Inaug, we had visits from Dr Brien from Essex who came for his first Auto to take it home, From Mrs Oliver from Windsor, and from Mr Donald Douglas and his wife from Guelph.

During the later part of this year My daughter Florence was statistical clerk in the office .I also was very busy on actuarial work on the mortality tables. Our business for the year was very satisfactory.

CURRENT ITEMS

Mr Graham one of our auditors committed suicide by throwing himself before a train .

Russia and Japan at war ,Russia defeated Sir Henry Stanley died.

The great fire in Toronto on front street was bad

1905

The first clause written in 1903 can now be read for this year.

I bought a house on Adelaide st and Arthur helped to move .In April our manager in Winnipeg Mr Lewis died and was buried in Toronto to I went down to his funeral. .At our meeting of Directors the proposition was made to place a premium on our stock of 25% and a committee was appointed to thoroughly consider it .That committee met in Sept.

I went to Chatham to talk over the matter with Mr Wilson and Mr Stephens .Before the end of the year at another meeting the bylaw was passed making a premium on the stock of 25%. Early in Dec. My son Jack and his girl

92 friend with her mother made us a visit
and staid a couple of days.
Our company had a good year.

CURRENT ITEMS

Amunsdun a norwegian discovered the S pole
Joe jzffersonwho played Rip, von winkle
died..H.P.Hand my bro-inlaw died in Florida
Mr T.H,sPurdom,s mother died .

1906

The business of insurance went on as usu-
al. The directors engsged James E. Macdou-
galto visit all the stockholders and exp-
lain to them all about the 25% on the st-
ock and collect as much premium as possi-
ble. He was a good man for that purpose.
Mr Findly came back and acted as Secretary
in place of Mr McWilliams who left.

The Royal commission who are examining all
life insurance Co,sThey arrived in London
and forst examined the London Life and
then ours. I appointed Ralph Miller to
go to Winnipeg and take charge of the Off
ice there. He was one of the clerks in
the head office. We had a suite against
Gardner our Agent,s Bondsmen for shortage of his
accounts . sS Iwent to winnipeg to attwnd
the court. I took with me Lennie ans Ethel
wives of Arthur and Jack my sons as far
as Winnipeg and saw them on the proper
train for Mundane in Alberta. We won the
Gardner suite and got in cash \$1200 and
\$350 for expences.

On Feb. 2nd of this year My daughter Flo-
rence died at 2.30 A.M..I buried her in
the cemetry at North Ridge and after the
funeral Mrs and I went up to Windsor and
staid all night with Mrs Oliver. Next day
we took the morning train for London to
be in time for the meeting of the board
Directors. We arrived in good time.

I had Mr Richards put an upper story over our kitchen to make room for Florence's children. In June my son John married Ethel Mc Neil in Syracuse. We went down to the wedding, and there met Nellie my wife's sister. We went home the next day. Jack and his wife made us a visit from Detroit where they went for their Honey moon.

In July when I started on my regular westren trip My son John and William went with me all the way to to Edmundton where I met my son Arthur. William Laing from here went home. Arthur John and I took down the line of the C.N.R.Y which was just built looking for a place to start a hardware store, which they were anxious to do. I bought a lot in Mundare where there was only a shack. Then we went back to Edmundton where I made a list of all the materials necessary to build a store a two story building so that they could live over the store. And told them to order this material from the saw mill here have it shipped down to Mundare. Then take a tent and a carpenter with you and sleep in the tent till you build your store. Then I went with them to to the wholesale firm of ROSS Bros. and orderes a small assortment of such goods and would do to start with in the settle of Mundare to the amount of about \$1200. I then left them to complete my trip.

In Dec Bertha McNeil who had been with us since she was a little girl. Was married to Wm Glen in our own home in London. He had come from southern Alberta for that purpose

CURRENT ITEM

San Francisco destroyed by an earthquake.

1907

The business of the Co was about the same as former years, office work and agency visiting. In May I had a meeting of the agents Mr Purdom and Dr Balfour went down. At that meeting the agents presented Mr Purdom and myself with large oil paintings of ourselves which we both appreciated very much.

In order to get rid of the impairment of capital which is always the case of a new company, because we have not sufficient renewal premiums to cover the overhead expenses. Mr Fackler advised us to sell a certain percentage of the renewal premiums to some one who could buy it. He would pay his purchase money in monthly payments and would get credit for his renewal premiums as they fell due and he assured us that the sum received from the purchaser would not be considered as a liability.

Acting on this advice we sold to Mr Ferguson renewal premiums to the amount of \$20,000. He paid this in monthly payments of \$500.

But after the Royal commission when the agreements became known, Mr Fitzgerald the superintendent of insurance said he would call the Ferguson account a liability. We submitted the matter to the department of Justice and they afterwards declared it not a liability any more than the renewal premiums paid regularly to the agents, but Mr Fitzgerald insisted on making it a liability in the insurance reports and this would prevent us from declaring a dividend. I got the directors to buy a block of stock and pay down the premium on the stock sufficient to pay back to Mr Ferguson what he had advanced for renewals. At our ^{meeting} in June we declared our first dividend at the rate of $6\frac{1}{2}$ per annum or $3\frac{1}{4}$ for the half year.

I omitted to state that when I got back from the agent's meeting in May I found Mrs. ^{my} very ill and under a nurse's care. The Dr. said he could pull her through if her Heart would hold out, but on the 28th of May she passed away at about 10 P.M. It was a sudden shock. and here I was left with Florence's 2 children. I buried ^{her} also at North ridge cemetery near Essex. She was very highly respected and all the stores closed during the services. there were present from Chicago O.C. Barrie and wife and her sister Mrs. Logie from Harvey Ill. She was a widow having lost her husband some time ago. she came home with me for a time to help keep house. I very shortly started on my regular trip west. She went as far as Chicago with me and went to Harvey where she lives with her daughter. When on this trip I ran down to Mundare to see the boys. They had only been in business about ⁶ months. After I came home I went up to Essex to attend the funeral of my old friend Dr. J.W. Brien who died in the terrible Dynamite Explosion at the station. It caused terrible destruction. I took Mr. Furdon up to Orrillia to examine Mr. Curran about a debt his son owed my son Arthur in the Klondike. I finally got a settlement by collecting about \$600. My grandson Karl went back to the college after being home on account of Small pox among the pupils. In the later part of the year and had the two children to take care of I decided to marry again. So by mutual agreement I quietly married Mrs. Logie my wife's sister. This year my grand son Wilber Jack, son was born.

CURRENT ITEMS

The Hon. G.W. Ross was made a senator
 Hon. G.P. Graham made leader of liberal party

1906 1908

OUT side of the usual routine of insurance The Government was submitting a new Insurance bill and Mr Furdum and I went Ottawa to hear the discussions. On my way home I called at Oshawa to see Frank Coleman and his wife. I called Ralph Miller from Winnipeg to come to head office to take the place of Miss Carpenter who was going to get married. In the early part of the year I had written the boys to take stock so that I would know how the business was doing. In June the Directors declared a dividend for the half year, I had a general meeting of the agents in London. When I went west and called at Mundare I found the boys had very poor business. They owed as much as their stock inventoried. I decided that the business would not keep two. I told them that one of them will have to look for another job. I left it with themselves to decide which. Jack chose to step out and I gave him a cheque for \$200 to keep him till he got a job. I took him up to Edmonton and drew papers dissolving the partnership leaving Arthur to assume all obligations. I took a deed from the boys as I had paid for all the materials up to date. I also paid up the mortgage the wholesale men had against the property and thus discharged the mortgage and thus started Arthur with a clean sheet. When I got home Mrs Brien Dr Brien, a widow had some trouble with Dr Doyle who was a partner with Dr Brien about her share of the business estate. I went up and finally made a settlement by which Dr Doyle paid Mrs Brien \$2000 in notes of \$500 each payable every three months apart.

1909

There was the usual routine of work in the insurance business. We had Mr Macdougall out selling stock and collecting Premiums. He was all right if he would keep from drinking. Early in the year I got a letter that he was in Ogdensburg in trouble and out of funds. So I had to go down and settle his affairs and bring him home

In July I started on my western trip and took Mrs Milne with me. On the train we met Mr Lewis and his daughter going to Winnipeg. I left Mrs Milne there with her friends and went on. She caught up with me at Regina.

We called at Mundare and saw Arthur and Lennie. We also called at Nanton and saw Bertha and Wm Glen and John McNeil. We stopped at Banff and Glacier for a day each. Then on to Vancouver, and from there went to Seattle where the exhibition was. Spent a couple of days then on the way home we stopped at the Yellowstone Park. Where I got a cut in my head by the upset of a bus going into the Park. We stayed there two days and got doctored up. We saw the mammoth Hot springs. We reached Chicago where we stopped over Sunday with my daughter Adne and family and finally reached home. This year the Traction electric Co was sold under the hammer. McDougall bought it in for our syndicate for the sum of \$53,500.00

on Dec 29 my son John had another son born he called him John Edward Wismer a nephew of Mrs Milne, was made Judge at Barrie.

1910

In addition to the usual routine of the insurance I may mention..Mr Purdom Mr Wilson and myself went to Ottawa to attend the Senate committee on the Insurance bill. We all spoke and gave our opinions of the bill. W also had an interview with Hon G.P. Graham.

We engaged Mr Craig who had been with the Excelsior Co to take charge of the Province of Quebec. In April we had a meeting and incorporated the "London and Lake Erie Ry and transportation Co."

We settled up with Macdougall for his commissions. and he opened a broker's office in the building we are in.

I was elected a director in the Fidelity trust Co. We went to Toronto and saw the Ry bonds signed by Mr George as President.

now of my personal affairs.
The year opened with a regular blizzard. In March I arranged my affairs and business so that Mrs Milne and I could take a trip south. We went by Detroit, Cincinnati, Chattanooga and reached Daytona Florida. We had a nice visit with Mrs Hand Mrs Milne's sister. She was failing having lost her husband and her two sons..I got home the first of April. I had a hot water system put in my house. also a new chimney and a fire place. I had a long talk with Mr Macdougall and found that he was completely bankrupt and had used his clients money for himself and lost it. I gave him \$25 and told him to get out of the country. "You are not safe here." he started for New York

We got word that Mrs Hand in Florida was very ill. I sent Mrs Milne and her bro.

Enos Wisner right down and told them to keep me posted. Mrs Burk Mrs Milne, s sister came up from Brougham to keep house when the others were away. In a few days I got word that Mrs Hand was failing fast and thought I ought to come down. I took the night train and landed in Daytona the third day. I transacted some business for Mrs Hand that she wanted attended to. In less than a week she passed away Nov, 25 Mrs. daughter Mrs Rundle came a few days before. I attended to the funeral matters. I was made executor of her will. I squared up all her accounts in the Town from the money she had in the bank. and had it all transferred to me as executor. Enos and I drove to Deland the county town and had the will probated. We got back on Dec 4

CURRENT ITEMS

King Edward VII of England died.
Peary discovered the North pole.

1911

Francis Love one of my directors died Jan 9
In Feb we had our regular annual meeting but there were some absent on account of the Blizzard. The usual routine of office work and visiting agents took place. We engaged Mr Fitzgerald son of the superintendent of insurance as Actuary. Previous to this I have done all the actuary work. Our Manager at Winnipeg Mr Lewis died and was buried in Toronto. Mr Govenlock and I went to the funeral. It was decided that Mr Govenlock would take Mr Lewis, s place in Winnipeg. I got word that the Hand property needed some improvements before it can be sold. I went down to Daytona. Mr Ferguson and Mr Colos went with me to see the country. I was glad of their

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I saw my agent in daytona and gave orders for the necessary improvements and we got back inside of 10 days absence.

In making my eastern I took Karl with me we went by New York, Boston, Yarmouth and St John, s New Brunswick. then home by Montreal and Ottawa and Toronto.

In July I made my usual western trip In Aug the old boys had their week and Mary butchart and her son Logie was with her when they visited us.

In oct Mrs ^{McLean} and i went to brougham to the wedding of Emma Purk In the same Enos Wisner and wife made us a visit

In Nov I took a weeks trip to Florida about the ^{land} estate.

1912

The usual routine of office work and field work. In Feb our annual meeting went off well. Our railway board went to Aykmer to discuss an extension . In July I made my western trip stirring up the different agencies . i met my son John and family and also Arthur and family.

In oct I took my eastern trip Went with Mr Purdom to attend the meeting of the Life insurance Presidents This year My Grand son Karl went to Detroit to look for a job as he did not ^{see} any chance of promotion in the office.

In Feb. Addie and Lennie came .Lennie went to the hospital for an operation. The operation was performed in March and we brought her home April 6 By correspondence I sold my lot at Ormondbeach.

O.C. Barrie and family moved into a house on Adelaide st in London

CURRENT ITEMS

London

The duke & duchess of Cornwall visited Woodrow Wilson made President of U.S.

1913

The regular business of the Insurance was going on nicely. Ralph Ferguson son of John Ferguson committed suicide. His father with Mr Callard was in Florida. On the middle of Feb. Mrs Milne started for our usual holiday south. We went this time via Philadelphia, and when we reached ^{Daytona} we met Mr Ferguson and Mr Callard. Mr Ferguson was feeling very bad about his son committing suicide. We only staid a few days in Daytona but went to Palm beach, Miami, and over the railway that Flagler built over the kays to Key we then took boat to Havana Cuba we staid there for a few days and saw all the principal places. Then started back the same route and arrived at Daytona. I consulted with Mr Oats a lawyer about the title to the Hand estate. Coming home we stapped at Charleston N.C. and at Washington for a few days, then at Mauch Chunk a day then by train direct home I began to realise that I was in the way of the Purdom Interests, and he was making things unpleasant for me. He wanted me to retire. I agreed to do so if I had a guarantee that I would be granted for life the sum of \$3000 per annum. He agreed to do so and a special meeting was called to receive my resignation. A resolution was passed granting me \$200 per month for life. It was not as much as Mr Purdom promised, but I thought it better not to object. They then appointed Mr Mc Murtry of Toronto as my successor I was to get three months salary to be in the office and give Mr Murtry any advice he might need about the business. He was to take charge of the business on the 1st of June. Although I would not be manager I would be a member of the board for some time.

Although I was a couple of hours each forenoon and afternoon in the office for giving him any information about the business of the company. He did not ask for any advice but went on making changes without consulting me about any thing. He was not a success as a manager, and did not know as much about insurance as any one of my newest agents.

In sept My agents made me a surprise. About 20 of them presented me with a fine grand father, s clock, and an upholstered chair. Mr purdom took us all to the Tecumdeh hotel an gave us a dinner and we had speeches there till 2⁴⁰ clock.

shortly after this the office staff presented me with a nice reading Lamp and s stand. In Oct, Mrs Milne and i made visits to Toronto, Markham, Stouffville, Brougham and oshawa and had a pleasant time with old friends.

In Novther were a number of fierce storms on the lakes. many vessels were wrecked and hundreds of lives lost

in Dec. We went to Essex to see my Granddaughter Addie Milne Married to DR Arch. Naylor of Detroit. At Christmas we had Enos Wismer and wife with us

O.G. Barrie left the northern and went with the Advertiser as Financial secretary.

CURRENT ITEMS

The fair buildings in London were burned Dr Ross of St Andrew, s church killed in New York by an automobile.

H. MFlagler who really made the East coast of Florida. died May 20th

1914

I am now a free man and under no business although I will for a time be on both the Insurance and Railway boards..

We had the Barrie family and Lennie for New year,s dinner. This month was very cold the thermometer going down as low as 15 below Zero. On the 12th it was a blizzard. In Feb we went south to Daytona and on the 14th took a room at the Pines hotel. I had a good deal of trouble getting the Hand title adjusted .It cost me about \$600 before I got an order from the court making the title good. I made a trade with Mr Rowland for his Bungalow. I gave him a deed of the beach portion of the Hand property and \$250 cash for his Bungalow and all its furnishings. and we took possession at once. I got my discharge as executor of the Hand estate, .During March we met a number of Canadian friends who had come south . In April we started for home. staying over one night in Jacksonville , one in Cincinnati and one at Toledo and arrived in Detroit on the 14th. We went direct to Dr Naylor's where we met Lennie, and went home to London the next day. .The week after this the Dominion Savings building was burned .This of course included the Northern Life, but they got quarters on the third floor of the London life. I helped them to move. My successor did not appear. I got a letter from my son John that he had another son born in his Family In July I did some bowling and won some prizes. .Mr Carpenter one of my old agents was killed by falling from the upper story of a building. My wife and myself made a trip by boat to Cleveland, and then to Camp Brady for a few days, Mr Richards who built my house. and now living in Toronto

made us a visit and told us of his trip in Europe. Mrs Oliver came and staid a week in Nov. In Dec .it was Zero weather We had our Christmas all alone, The Barrie family were down in the evening. On the lsat day of the month we had our trunks packed for the south.

CURRENT ITEMS

Dr. Balfour medical of N. Life died
 June 28 The ass-sination of Archduke Francis and wife brought on the great war.
 July 20 Austria declares war on Serbia.
 Aug 2 Germany declares war on Russia.
 , 3 Germany declares war on France.
 4 Great Britain declares war on Germany
 Belgium overrun by Germany and many cities occupied till the 26th
 Aug. 21 The battle of Mons.
 26 British naval victory in Heligoland Bight.
 Germany destroys Louvania
 St Petersburg changed to Petrograd.
 Sept 6 Battle of Marnelasting till the Germans were driven back to the river Aisne.
 Oct 9 Germans occupy Antwerp.
 16 Battle of Yser begins and lasting several days.
 17 Battle of Ypres
 Dec. 10 Austria takes Belgrade, but Serbians recover it in 4 days.
 German crousier Emsden destroyed.
 24 The first German air raid on England.

1915

Arrived in Daytona Janth and found the house all right. Erick planted 3 orange trees .Had a man grubbing a few days I planted my Potayoes. In Feb had my chimney lengthened to prevent smoking.

I began painting the fence around my lot. Mrs Butchart my wife, s sister with her son Logie came from Minnedosa in Manitoba to stay with us all winter. After a few day I took her over to the Clarendon Hotel so she could see the sea. I excavated my basement by the help of two colored men, Mr Lyons did the cement work. Mr Hillard from Waterloo and Mr Blackadar from Ottawa came and I located them at Hotels. I had Mr Meachum a carpenter build a porch over the cellarway. We all spent a very pleasant winter in Daytona. In the later part of April we all went up to Ormond and had dinner there. Then to St Augustine to see t-he city. Then to Jacksonville and and saw the Alligator and Ostrich farm. From there we started for home. We stopped over night at Chattenoooga and went up Lookout mountain. Then for Cincinnati. Here where Mrs butchart took her train for Chicago. We staid all night and took train for Detroit. and staid all night with Mrs Oliver in windsor. We arrived home in London April 29. and soon got settled. In May I went to Toronto to see my half - brother Thomas who was very sick. July I started for a trip west. At Winnipeg saw the Ovas family. At Minnidosa saw thr Butchart family. At Springside saw Dr Wismer and staid a day. At Saskatoon I stopped with My son John. Here having a bath I fell on the edge of the bath-tub and broke a rib. Had the Dr fix it up next day, The rib had sprung back in place but he bound my body snuggly. I went to Mund-dare and stopped a week and nursed my side. Arthur decided to go with me to Nantonto see the Glen, s At Calgary we stopped off ^{to see} Lawyer Clark an old Essex lawyer. we

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found the Glen, s and John Mc Neil all well
well had a nice visit over Sunday. After leaving
leaving there Arthur left me at Calgary
for home and I went on my way homeward
I stopped at Empress where I had bought
some lots. I arrived again at Winnipeg
and was met by Mr Ovas. The next day took
train for home and arrived at London and
found Mrs Milne all right In Sep. I had a
long talk with O.C. Barrie and Adne. their
life was not harmonious and they decided
to Part. Adne thought she would go back
to Chicago and keep boarders.

It was too bad. I got a telegram that my
half brother Thomas Milne died. I went to
Toronto and attended to the funeral

On the last day of the month I attended
to the shipment of Adne, s goods for Chi-
cago. and next day saw the two Adne and
millie on the train for Chicago. It was a
sad circumstance to me. Next month Mrs
Milne and I went to see the play "The bi-
rth of a nation" In Nov. I rented my house
to Mr and Mrs Yerex for the winter for
\$22.50 per month. They took possession on
the 17th but we reserved our bedroom
till we went south. We started for the
south on the 20th and stopped all night at
Mrs Oliver, s at Windsor and arrived at Day-
tona on the 28th and found Mr and Mrs
Hough cleaning up. We had our Christmas
dinner at Mr and Mrs Jarecki, s

CURRENTS WAR ITEMS

Jan 24 British Naval victory in north sea
Feb 4 Germany proclaimed war zone around
Britain.

March 17 Russians Capture Pzyenyel

April 17 Second battle of Ypres.

26 Allied troops land on Gallipola

May 7 Lusitania sunk by German sub 1154 lives

WAR ITEMS CONTINUED

June 3 Przmyśl retaken by Germans.
 Aug. 4 Germans capture Warsaw.
 Oct 4 England declares war against Bulgaria
 Dec 2 Austria, Germany and Bulgaria
 conquer Serbia.
 Sir Douglas succeeds Sir John French in the
 command of the army

1916

New years day we had our dinner in Daytona
 and had Mr and Mrs with us. We went over to
 beach to see the high waves after the storm.
 The Saracene band play every evening in the
 and in the morning for the benefit of the
 public free. Mr Willis from Toronto, Mr Got-
 -les from London and Mr Scot from Histonwell
 all Canadians that I knew well. I got them all
 located at the Lines hotel across the street
 I this winter decided to have my up stairs
 floored and divided into rooms I hired a
 carpenter and I helped him. We made two bed
 rooms a bath room and with a hall down the
 centre with a den in the front. We made a
 stairway down to the lower floor for Conven-
 -ience. I made the walls of Plaster board and
 papered the walls and ceiling. All this took
 till about the later part of March.
 I took The Coles and Scott families for a
 trip up the Komoka river to see the Alligator
 I put a board walk down the lot and put up
 a wire clothes line. I rented my Bungalow
 for the summer to Mr and Mrs Hough and in
 April started for home. Staid all night at
 Jacksonville over night and took train for
 Chicago, but stopped on the way for a day to
 see the big steel mills at Birmingham. We
 reached Harvey Ill. and staid 2 days with
 Mr and Mrs Kundle.

Then went up to Chicago to see my daughter Mrs Barrie we also met Mrs Polard and old Essex friend and Mr and Mrs Bel-fry. Then we took train for Detroit and saw the Naylor family. then over to Windsor to see Mrs Oliver. Went down to Essex and saw a lot of old friends. We arrived home in London May 15th and found every thing all right.

In June I was busy making some repairs to the house and doing some painting. In July the Powell family came and staid a few days before they started for Los Angeles where they were to live. There was a general meeting of the Northern life agents and I saw a lot of them I had Mr Fraser stay with us Mr and Mrs Wiemer from Markham and Mr and Mrs Donald Douglas all nephews of Mrs Milne, called to see us. I went to Toronto to visit my cousin The McGuires and to Oshawatosee Kate Coleman. Then to Stouffville to see old friends there. In Oct Barbara came home on a week end from Glencoe where she was teaching. Then I went to Goderich to see John Mc Neil and the Glens. I rented my house again for the winter to Mr and Mrs Verex, on Nov 15 we started for the south. We went by Syracuse and saw Nellie Barrie. Then to New York and bought all the furniture for my upper flat in Daytona. We reached Daytona on the 20th and found it in good shape. The balance of the year I was helping Mr Meacham to build the rear porch.

CURRENT ITEMS

The Canadian Parliament buildings were burned down. Mr Burgoyne the Millionaire who did so much for Daytona died suddenly

Feb The battle of Verdun. All the ground lost was recovered by the French.

March 26 Steamer Sussex torpedoed.

April U.S. delivers ultimatum to Germany

June Lord Kitchener drowned.

The naval battle of Jutland.

July The battle of the Somme raging.

Aug. Romania enters the war with the Allies

Sep. The allies have not yet broken the German Line

1917

In Daytona we had gith us for our New Year, s dinner Mr and Mrs Jerecke .I rented the up stairs to Dr Romaine for the winter for \$175 . For a number of days I was busy in the garden and painting. Fred Rundle, s Auto came in a car from Chicago. I got a man to help, me get it out of the car and placed in a garage. In about a week his wife and daughter came ,and on the last day of the month they drove it up to Jacksonville and got back late at night nearly frozen. On Feb 3 there was a heavy frost which destroyed a lot of vines and Orange trees. Matthew Wilson one of my old directors from Chatham, and I got him into the Seville Hotel. on the 22nd came the heaviest frost since the great frost 22yers ago. When Fred Rundle came he and his daughter started for Havana Cuba. Fred Coles and I took a trip to Lake Helen camp where we met Mrs Wreight from Detroit. We with Mr and Mrs Smith took a trip by Auto and Chauffier to Deland, Mt Dora, Orange City, Sanford, Orlando and Home 161 miles. On May 7 we started for home. stopped a night in Cincinnati and then to Detroit. We visited the Naylor's in Detroit, and the Oliver's in Windsor and got home on the 10th

In June James Hicks a delegate to the Conference came and staid with us. near the end of the month I went to Toronto and saw my son John, the Mc Guires Florence Milne, P.M. Fraser and others. Mrs Glencame down to see her Husband before he left for the war. I took her to the depot to see her Husband get on the train with the soldiers for the war. Then she took train for home. Barbara went by boat to Duluth to meet her brother Karl. In Aug. I rented my house for the winter to Mrs Holland and daughter at \$40 per month. The balance of the month I was painting the house and had it all papered. Mr and Mrs Dutchart came for a visit. They were in much sorrow for the death of their son who was killed in the war. He was their only child. after a few days they went to Toronto to see some relatives and when they came back I took them to Detroit and had a fine sceance where he had a nice visit with his son. They took tjeir train for Winnidosa in Manitoba. In Oct. Mrs Bell and daughter took possession of the house and we started for the south. We arrived at Daytona Nov. 17th and found that Mrs Perkins had left the house and we were minus 2 spreads and 2 quilts. I rented my upper flat to weeks for \$200 for the winter. I got Mr Weachum to build a dormer and Balcony on the front of the house. I helped him every day. Karl came for a visit, and bought a second hand Ford. and he and Barbara had a good time. heavy drost last night.

War notes

- Feb. 3 U.S. severs diplomatic relations with Germany.
 24th Kut-el a- Amara captured by British.
 Zar Nicholis of Russia abdicated.
 Ap. 6 U.S. declares war against Germany.
 June 26 First american troops reach France
 Greece declares war against Germany.
 Sep Germany captures Riga.
 Oct. Brazil declares war against Germany

1918

Had New Years at Jerecke, s .The carpenter finished the balcony in the front of the house. Barbara left for home. In Feb I painted my fence The Coles family came and at the pines hotel Mr and Mrs Barbaer from Ess called also Mr and Mrs Gousins from detroi I built a gate in the rear of my lot. On April I rented my bungalow for the summer to Mrs Reid. On the end of the month of April we started for the north. When we had passed Atlanta our train was wrecked The engine , tender and baggage cars were in the ditch. No one was injured but there was a delay of 7 hours. We reached Cincinnitti in the morning stopped at Toledo. Arrived in London at 4 P.M. and found everthing all right I had a bad cold and was in bed for a few days I did some painting about the house In July made a trip to see the children. In Toronto we met Addie and her brother .Carlyle and Mr and Mrs Charles Wismer. At Winnipeg met the Ovas family. At Minnedosa met the Butcharts. At Saskatoon met Jack and family At Raddison met Wm Logie and family. Then came back to Saslatoon and took Jacks children to the fair. At Mundare and visited Arthur and Lennie. Also Carlyle and family

112 This day July 24th there was a wonder-
ful crop of wheat but a heavy frost came
and ruined it all. From there went to
Olds and saw Donald Douglas and family.
Then back to Winnipeg and again met the
Ovas family. Then by St Paul to Chicago to
to see my daughter Mrs Barrie. Then to
Harvey and saw the Rundles. Then to De-
troit and Windsor. Arrived home at Lon-
don Aug .9 and there saw Barbara. On the
19th Adne and Millie came to stay. She and
her husband had made up. I went up to
to Goderich to see John Mc Neil and the
Glens. John was in bed. On the 8th Oct.
I had my dinner at the Barries I rented
my house for the winter to Mr Cap Juff
He was a Dr at the Carling, s haight..
At the end of the month there was an epid
Epidemic of influenza raging in the coun-
try. Started for the south and landed
in Daytona on Nov. 11 the day of the
Armistice. being signed. Mrs Ovas and
her son Allencame to stay all winter.
During the past week I painted the Flo-
ors of the down stairs while we lived
up stairs. Then painted the up stairs.
On Dec 20th we went to hear the Scotch
Hoglanders concert. William Logie came
to settle in Florida. He had sold his
farm in Saslatchewan. On Christmas day
we had the Logie family with us

WAR NOTES

Pres. Wilson presents his 14 articles
The Lusitania torpedoed 317 Am soldiers
Germans drive allies back for a month
Ap. Foch made commander of Allied forces
May German U. boats sink 19 vessels.
The Allies driving Germans back.
Americans take Chateau Thierry.
The Germans are now on the run
The Czar of Russia reported executed

All July the allies are driving the Germans
 Sept. the Belgians are driving the Germans
 Ludendorf German commander resigns
 Nov. The Kaiser and Crown Prince abdicates
 and flee to Holland.
 Nov. 11th Armistice signed. Mons captured.
 Thus ends the great war.

1919

New Years day We had for dinner Mrs Ovas and
 son, Wm Logie wife and 2 sons, And Mr Jerecke
 Wm Logie and I took a trip to Wauchula ab-
 out 150 Miles S.W. to see some properties
 Was there for 3 days but he did not buy.
 When we got back we found Mrs Ovas had a tel-
 egram that her son Colon had died. She was
 prostrated and was going to go home but we
 told her that it would not be wise. ^{day}
 Mrs Milne was quite sick and had every other
 to go to the hospital to be treated.
 I had the roof of my house painted.
 In April I rented my bungalow for the
 summer for \$100. All this month I was
 making repairs about the house..
 May 3rd I started for the north. On the way
 staid a night at Cincinnati and reached home
 on the 8th. We found the house very dirty and
 it took a few days to get it in shape. I
 Advertised my house in London for sale, and
 finally sold it to Mr Crocker for \$4300
 cash. Then I was busy selling off my furni-
 ture by private sale. What I could not sell
 I sent to the auction room for sale. I pa-
 cked ^{and} other things I wished to take south
 and had them shipped to Daytona Florida.
 In the meantime I was staying at my daug-
 hters Mrs Barrie. Before I started for the
 south I made a trip to Toronto and other

places to see old friends. On the 24th of Aug. we started for the south and on arriving at Daytona found that Mr. Fuller had left the house but neglected to pay the balance of the rent. On the later part of September we made a trip to Manatee to see Wm Logie and family and had a good time. When we got back I decided to put cement blocks under the walls of my house. I got a man to help me to tear off the shingled aprons. In doing so a Scautling struck my leg heavily. I had to go a doctor to get it treated. A Mr Vandewood put in the blocks which improved the house. In the later part of Oct, My goods came and I was busy for some days getting them unpacked and assorted. I decided to build a Garage on the rear of the lot to accommodate visitors who came to see me. I got my Carpenter Mr Meachum to build it I helped him every day. Then he put on the siding on the lower part of the house above the cement blocks I rented my upper flat to Messrs Winchell and Taylor for the winter. After the carpenter had finished his other work He made me a bookcase Mr Sullivan put in a cement floor in the Garage. On Dec. 17th My daughter Adne and Millie came from London. The day after Christmas I was suddenly ^{fallen} very ill with influenza of the bowels.

CURRENT ITEMS

Jan. Theodore Roosevelt Ex -president died. Sir Wm Crooks chemist died 87
 Aug. Andrew Carnegie steel man died
 Sept Adelina Patti singer died 74
 The Canadian Government bought the G.T.Ry

1920

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When the day after Christmas i was very sick, for 10 days i was dilerious and knew nothing I was over 8 weeks in bed and under the Drs care .in fact the Dr did not think I would recover, but i did finally get over it, Adne was with me and she wired ny two boys Arthur and Jack . They came down, Jack could not stay long but Arthur staid about a month. Many of my friends visited me during that time. In march Ramer and William, s garage was burned down and 22 autos with it. The balance of the monthe i was busy in the garden. I rented my up stairs during the summer for \$100 In May the Baseball first series was played and I went to see some of them. I did not go north this summer . In the month of June I built an arbor for my Bougainvilla vine to run upon, In aug. I had a man to paint the eves and high places places about the house.. The rest of the building I painted myself working a few hours a day. In Sept. my wife had a bad attack of heart trouble . I called the doctor over the Phone but in less than 15 minutes she passed away. It was a shock . I wired her people and they decided to burry her along side of her sister Mrs Hand in Daytona besch cemetery. My daughter arrived to stay with me during the winter In Oct , I put in a new range and did other work about the house I rented my upper flat for the winter for \$400 I caught a bad cold and was under the Drs care for some time. In Dec. I met James ^{Uyghat} and his wife They were old friends, I knew in Stouffville. I mailed to Arthur ^{Uyghat} so that if he got a chance to sell He could do it without delay. We went to see the Johnny Jones show. *Uyghat*

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CURRENT ITEMS

The German chancellor "Holloway" who called the neutrality of Belgium a "Scrap of paper" died
Feb Lawrence Thompson of Daytona my real estate agent died
Admiral Perry who discovered north Pole died.
Mrs Mills widow of the Hon David Mills died
The U.S. gave the women the right to vote
The first meeting of the League of Nations was held in Geneva Switzerland.

1921

Jan 1st Just heard that my Granddaughter Barbara had married Wm Winterton at the house of my son John Milne in Edwinton. Next day we had Mr Jerecki for dinner. Mr and Mrs Urquhart took us for dinner at the Ivy Lane hotel. For the next weeks I was canvassing the merchants and others for funds to build a Bowling court. The people here did not know anything about the game. I raised \$245, and started men to work on it. Norman Laing who had just come down from Detroit came and took Adne, Millie and I for a trip to St Petersburg 205 miles across the state. On the way we drove through the streets of Tampa. On our way back we stopped at Orlando and drove to Rundles drove and got home 4 P.M. On Feb 6th Adne and I went up to see Mr Meachum who was getting better after his accident. Lennie came on the 7 P.M train. Present-elect Garding came off his Yacht, and took train for St Augustine Hector, of Springfield came. He is a brother of James. I had a nice talk with him. I finished building my Bowling court made of Marl.

and shortly the Bowls came and the people were delighted with the game. During the first week in march I was steadily at the court teaching the players how to play the game. We all went up the Tomoka river, and when we got back we met O.C. Barrie from London. On the 13th The Mills family took and Mr Nusbam took us all for a drive to the grave of John Ormond in the woods. In a cement box. On the top of a slab was the inscription "Died Dec. 30 1829 an honest man" On Dec. 25th The Mill family and Mr Nusbam took us all on a trip to Miami. We reached Fort Pierce the first day. Then to Palm Beach stopped a few hours and reached Miami the second evening. We stopped at at the Peacock Inn at Buena Vista. visited Miami the next day and in the afternoon started for home. We stopped one night at West Palm Beach, and next night at Melbourn, and reached home on the 29th. On April 2nd Fred and Eva came for a few days, s visit. Mr and Mrs James Urquhart left for their home St Louis Mo. O.C. Barrie went back to London. I started a man to build cement steps up to the porch in front of the house. I shipped a Brl. of dishes to Adne at London. During the balance of the month was busy working about the house. During the first week in May was busy packing to get ready for the north. Started on 12th, landed in Detroit on the 14th. staid at the Naylor's a few days as I had a cold. Lennie staid for several weeks. Adne and Millie went on to London. I went down to Essex and visited the friends there. Got to Adne, s place on the 19th in London and staid there the balance of the month.

In June Adne and I went to Toronto and visited the Mc Guires. I called and saw a number of my old friends. Then to Markham and saw Mr and Mrs Elijah Wismer and up to stouffville and met old friends. Then to Oshawa and made a visit with Catherine Coleman and the Lick family. Then took a trip to Holmesville to see Bertha and Wm Glen and John Mc Neil. In July the weather was very hot and I staid in the house a good ^{deal} reading, and made some calls on some friends. On the 25th Lennie came from Detroit. I met her at the train in London and went with her to her western home. At Winnipeg we had an house visit at the depot with her son Carlyle and family. Had 20 minutes at Saskatoon and saw Barbara and her husband. Arrived at Mundare on the early train where Arthur met us. Lennie was pretty tired. The last day of the month My son John ran down from Edmonton to see us. I staid two weeks with Arthur helping him to make up his reports as returning officer after the election just passed, in which the farmers carried the day in the legislature. During this time Carlyle and family came up for his holidays. Aug 15th Arthur Lennie and I drove up to Edmondton and next day he took Lennie to Banff hot springs. On the 19th with Jack and family we visited Donald Douglas and family. Then we met Arthur when he got back from Banff. We went to the Photographers and got a picture of the four generation taken. They were Myself, Arthur, Carlyle and his son Arthur. John and his partner Mr J.G. Waggate organized "The shoe finding Co" I went down to Banff and staid a few days with Lennie. Then we both started

for Edmondton in a snow storm. Then the next day I with Arthur and Lennie went to Mundare. On Sept, 14th I took train for Saskatoon and stopped a couple of days with Billy and Barbara. Then to Minneapolis to see my Grand son Karl for two days. On the 20th took train for Chicago where I saw Karl Barrie and family. Then to Detroit. I called on the Naylor's and went down to Toledo and had a sceance with Mrs Chalons. Went to Essex and saw my old friends and reached Adne, s Place in London and was there for the balance of the month.

On Oct 1st Went up to Holmsville and saw Glens and John Mc Niel On the 8th my birth day took dinner with the Barrie family. On the 11th Leland Millie and I took train for Daytona and arrived there on the 14th and found everything O.K. In about a week Leland started back for home, In Nov, for a week I was very busy about the place I rented my up stairs to Mrs Kirby and Mrs Newton. On Thanksgiving day Millie and I took dinner at the Ivy Lane hotel. The next day I planted my potatoes. the balance of the month was busy in my garden.

CURRENT ITEMS

At the Dominion Election last month the Liberals won the day,

Jan. 24 Mrs Belfry an old Essex friend Died,

Sept. 17th Mr and Mrs Elijah Wismer celebrated their wedding day in their home in Markham.

Nov. 27th Alex . Campbell Essex friend Died aged 84.

1922

Jan. In Daytona . I put a coat of Tarvia on the bowling court to make it ready for playing on. Leland came down and went to Miami to try and get a job. Millie kept house.

Mr C.E. Naylor from Essex came with his bride came down and I located him at the Osburne house. On Feb I heard that my Grand daughter ^{Barbara} had a son born to her.. O.C. Barrie and Adne came down. He went down to Miamito see Leland. They bought 2 lots in Hialeah a suburb of Miami. In the Bowling club I gave a tournament of 140 silver cups as prizes to the winning team. O.C. Came up and was one of the winning team. Mr C.E. Naylor and his bride went home. Mr and Mrs ^{Smith} were daily callers at my house. April O.C. Barrie started for London. Adne took charge of the house and Millie went down to keep house for Leland. On the 14th I superintended the erection of a monument for my wife's grave in the cemetery. I rented the lower part of the house for the summer to Mr Hutson. On May 1st Adne took train for Miamito be with her children and in an hour after I took train for Essex and arrived there on the 3rd. I rented two rooms from Mrs Fallis and boarded with her. I found it very pleasant. Mr Fallis is failing in health. He seems to be losing his mind. I met a great many of the old friends. I occasionally ran up to Windsor to see the Olivers and over to Detroit to see the Naylor's. June 12th I took boat at Detroit and went to Goderich to see the Glens and Old John Mc Neil. Mr Glen met me at Goderich and took me down to his farm where I spent several days. Then to London to see Mr Barrie, Dr Wismer and others. Then to Toronto and visited the Mc Guires and Mr and Mrs Morris. Fernly and Fraser. Then to Markham to see Elijah and Susie Wismer, and then home. In July Karl and his lady came

came down to see me. I had a sick spell 121
for a week or more with my bowels, I called
Dr Brien. On the 27th Mr Coles and I went to
Chesterfield Camp near Anderson Ind. We spent
three days there and had many fine talks
with our departed friends. In Essex there
was held the chaut-augua for 4 days and I
attended the meetings every day and was much
pleased with the Programm. During the next few
months I was busy Re-writing my Christ Bible
with the intention of having it Published.
I wrote to several Publishing houses to
find what it would cost. In sept. The Laing
family took me for a ride, and at Harrow I
met Mr Russ who had his first charge in
Essex and boarded with Mrs Milne and I. I
went to London and saw a number of friends and
O.C Barrie. Then went to Windsor and visited
the Olivers and, and over to Detroit to see
the Naylor. Mr C.E. Naylor of Essex went to
Detroit to have an operation for rupture.
On Oct. 8th Mrs Fallis gave me a birth day
dinner with a number of friends. On the 9th
I started for Daytona in Florida and arrived
there on the 13th and boarded with Mr and Mrs
Hutton till Adne came from Miami on the
22nd. The balance of the month was busy about
the place. I sold my Beach lot at Ormond
for \$225. Adne took the Dangu fever, but
soon got over it. I was busy building another
bowling court.

1923

Jan. Still in Daytona and busy superintending
the completing of the new Bowling court.
About the end of the month Bella Notman
formerly Bella Mc Guire came down to spend
the winter with us. Feb 18th Dr Myers bought
my house and paid me down \$100 to bind the

bargainThe price was \$8500.00 cash and no commission, The balance to be paid on or before the first of may When I agreed to give him possession. The furnishings except what I reserved was included on March he paid me \$4400 more on the deal. O.C. barrie came in the afternoon He with Adne, Bella Notman and myself took train for Miami. Leland met us there at 11 P.M. took Bella to a hotel and drove us to their home in Hialeah. We staid there for a week on Sunday Leland drove us all over to Miami beach. next day we all went up the Miami river. On the 15th Millie and I took train for Daytona. Adne and O.C. remained, and Bella staid a little longer in Miami. In less than a week Bella arrived in Daytona. Mr and Mrs Harry Smith had a visit from their son and his wife and children. They staid a month. He is one of the vice Presidents of the Standard Oil Co.. I took Bella and Willa up the Tomoka for a trip. April I was busy packing my books and other things that I reserved. Bella took train for Atlantic city to meet her sister. Adne and Leland drove up in the Auto and staid over Sunday. Then Leland went back and took Millie with him. Adne remained with me. I took my big chair, writing desk, and cheffener over to Simmons furniture store, to have them crated. I carefully packed my big clock in its box, put my feather bed on top and screwed the lid down. I left my bookcase at Simmonds store for sale I finally got \$25 for what cost me \$75. I shipped my goods to Essex paid the freight \$76.82. I also shipped Adne a box of things to Miami Dr Myers paid the balance

due me on the house . On may 5th we all
 went to the depot. Adne took train for
 Miami, and about an hour after O.C. Barrie
 took train for Essex Ont. Reached Cincinnati
 very late, and was held over all night
 Took the train for Detroit. The engine
 broke down and we reached Detroit too late
 for the train to Essex. Went over to Windsor
 and saw the Olivers, Had a lunch and
 took the electric car at 9 o'clock for Essex.
 Mr and Mrs Fallis were both in bed, but
 got up. Next day O.C took train for London.
 I had written Mrs Fallis that I would
 need a larger sitting room on account of
 my Library and writing desk So she gave
 the big front room up stairs I had Mr Hicks
 put a picture moulding round the room
 I also bought from Jas Hicks 9 sectional
 book cases for which I paid \$95 . I pers-
 uaded Mrs ^{Fallis} to put a partition through my
 former sitting room so as to make it
 a private room with a hall through to the
 Bath room. I got Mr Imri to help me and we
 had it done in a few days. On the last day
 of the month my goods came from Daytona.
 I got a drayman and with Wm Robinson and
 John Imri we got everything unpacked and
 moved into the house. My mahogany lamp stand
 was missing and the Ry could not find
 it I put in my claim, but I only got \$10
 During the next two weeks I was busy read-
 ing proofs on My Christ Bible. On the 15th
 I started on my summer trip To London and
 saw O.C. Barrie , Dr Wiamer and a number of
 old friends. Then to Holmesville to see the
 Glens and John Mc Neil. From there to Osh-
 awa to see Kate coleman and the Licks. Then
 back to Toronto and spent a few days with
 the McGuires, and from there home to Essex

My Grand father clock had been badly shaken on the journey from Daytona and had some trouble in getting it in shape again. The first two weeks in Sept I was busy writing a history of the Bible. Sep. 13th Dr Maylor had to take his boy to Philadelphia to an expert to have peanut crumbs removed from his Bronchial tubes. I went to Windsor and ordered a suit of clothes. The new Highway from Windsor to Essex was opened. Carlyle made us a visit for a few hours. He is now Superintendent of the National RY telegraph lines. In Nov 17th started for the south and landed in Daytona on the 16th staid there 5 days to see all my old friends. Then went down to Hialeah and rented a flat from Adne at \$50 a month and insisted on paying \$5 a week for my board. I bought a Corona typewriter and for 2 weeks was busy typing a number of my Manuscripts. Beland drove us all through Coral Gables. I was learning to play the chinese game of Mah Jobgg.

CURRENT ITEMS of 1922 omitted

Pope Benedict XV died 68
 Knicker broker hotel roof fell in 100 lives
 Wm Laing an old Essex friend died 73
 Dr Peebles noted spiritualist died 100
 March A 10,000,000 fire in Chicago
 Alex Bell inventor of telephone died 75
 Enos Wismer my brother-in-law died 79
 Elijah His brother died in Markham 76
 Karl Leute my Grandson married Mayme Smith

CURRENT ITEMS 1923

Mr Woolworth of 10 cent stores died 57
 Sarah Bernhart actress died 78
 Tremendous earthquake in Japan 1000s killed
 The Allies owe Britain \$10,000,000,000
 Lord Schanhusy great C.P.R Mandied 70

1924

Now living in one of Adne,s apartments. in Hialeah.About the middle of the Month OcC Barrie came. I bought 6 Bougainvilla trees and had them planted on the front lawn. On Sunday Leland took us for a drive to the beach and back..Feb 1 st I saw that if some thing was not done they might lose their property. There was a mortgage of \$4000 at 8% interest, and over a years interest in arrears, and they owed quit a sum on the furishings. So I negotiated with the firm that held the mortgage, and sent to Canada for the money to to take up the Mortgage, and both O.C. and Leland agreed that the property would be deeded to Adne. and I would take a mortgage from her on easy terms. This was agreed to and the tranxaction was completed .I met Mr N.H. Ruthven one of my old agents down in the city and had a long talk with him..On the 23rd of march Adne and I went up see the sugar Mill. I had no social talks with O.C. He seemed to avoid me. I was very anxious to see him get a position, and would suggest several plans to him. He construed these as finding fault, with him. and although he agreed, he was annoyed at the property being put in Adne,s name, and blamed me for playing a trick on him, to deprive him of having any authority over the Property. I realised that from what O.C. said I was not a welcome guest. So I went down to the city and secured my reserve on the night train. I got a drayman to take my trunk down and although I had payed my April rent in advance I left Hialeah for good. Reached Dayton on the 8th and put up at the Orange Villa I saw all my old friends and left on the 17th for Essex. Arrived at Mrs Fallis,s place on the 19th.

I bought an Overcoat and a table for my typewriter and was soon settled. I now made Mrs Fallis place my home and hope I will not have to move again. I was busy reading and and typing. My Grandson Karl and his wife occasionally visited me. June 12th took Boat from Detroit for Goderich where Mr Glen met me and I visited with them and John McNeill till Monday and then went to Toronto to Carlyle's place and had a visit for a few days. Then went down to Oshawa to see Kate and the Licks. When I went back to Toronto Carlyle drove me up to Barrie to see Judge Wismer and wife and got back the same day. Then Carlyle drove over to The Mc Guires where I staid a few days. I got a telegram from Mrs Fallis that Mr Fallis had died. next day I took the morning train and got to Essex at 4 P.M. Mr Fallis was buried the next day at Kingsville. He was in his 80th year died June 23rd. In July Mrs Snider (a widow) the daughter of Mr and Mrs Whitney called to see me. Mrs Fallis and I visited the Boltons at Ruthven. On Aug. 15th Mr and Mrs Pickles of London called on their way to Windsor. The Chataugua was held here for 4 days and we went to see it everyday. I got an awful letter from O.C Barrie calling me anything but a criminal. An old Essex friend Mr J.B. Belfry came to see me. Addie Naylor and children were down and when they went home Mrs Fallis went with them. I went up on thursday and Dr Naylor drove us home on Sunday. We all went down to James Hicks for tea. On Sept 15th Dr Naylor brought Barbara down because Little Arthur had scarlet fever. I and Wm Holroyd made a stairway down to the cellar.

At the Essex fair this ^{year} there was a Pageant played representing the history of the county of Essex.. On Oct 8th my birth day Mrs Fallis gave me a dinner with some friends. In Nov, Wm Holroyd took suddenly ill and had to be taken to the hospital and operated for appendicitus.. We took our Christmas dinner at the Naylor's in Detroit. It was very cold 8 below Zero. The ferry boat was frozen tight in the river with 250 passengers on the boat. They were 4 hours in getting over till 3 o'clock in the morning.

Current Items

Feb Woodrow ^{Wilson} Ex President died 57
 Mar. My cousin Bella Notman died 50
 Harold Jarvia noted singer died 59 Detroit
 Ap. Hugo Stines Germany, s richest man died 54
 June Tremendous tornado in Ohio 100 lives
 July The Cursh union bill passed the senate
 Sep. Great earthquake in Armenia.
 Oct Toronto bought the city RY \$13,000,000.
 Nov. Calvin Coolidge made President U.S..

1925

I decided not to go south this winter for an account of O, C. Barrie, s action I could not go to Adne, s. This was a cold winter some times as low as 10 below zero. My son John on his way from Chicago called to see me. We arranged to try coal in the furnace but Mrs Fallis thought it was more expensive than gas. On Jan 20th she put a new ceiling on the hall. In Feb tok Wm to the Father and son banquet. On the 12th we went up Detroit and with Karl and Mayne had dinner at the Naylor's. Next day had lunch at Karls and then came home. On the 20th I went up to Windsor and settled the suit against William Holroyd. Went to Walkerville to see an old

scholar of mine but found he had passed away. I had a loud speaker put in my Radio. Feb was a cold month. The old inhabitants said it was the coldest Feb they could remember. In March 7th I took Wm to the movies "Jakie Crogan" The Rev George Fallis made us a call. Was typing Scottish character. On April 13th Henry Ford started his Airship from Dearborn to Chicago .going in the forenoon and back in the afternoon. On the 18th tok train to Oshawa to see Kate Coleman whos was very ill. Got there Sunday morning . She was alive and knew me nut could not talk. The next day I visited the Mc Guires. Kate died on the 29th.. I was busy for some days adjusting Mrs Fallis, s title to her property.

May 1st I was not feeling well Dr Brien ordered me to bed and for a week I had my meals brought up to me. On the 26th My son Jack and his family having driven from Seattle in his little Ford car in 3 weeks. They staid all night and next day left for Syracuse N.Y . I was very sick all the month, the Dr. attending me daily. The great Union of the churches was completed. My son Arthur bought Mrs Fallis, s grocery store and discharged the Mortgage. I got Mr Laird the surveyer to put in boundary stakes at Mrs Fallis, s store and Wm and I put up a short fence so as to take possession of her part of the alley and prevent disputes.

In July I took my eastern tripto London and other places .At London I stopped at Dr Wismrr, s and visited all my old friends. Mr and Mrs Pickles called in the evening. Then I went to Holmesville and had a few days visit with John mc Neil

and the Glens. On this trip my rupture
trusses went wrong and I was forced to come
right home. Had a talk with the Dr and
It seemed that I would ^{to have} have an operation.
I made a Journey to Marshall Mich. to a tr-
uss factory and got a new truss which at
first appeared all right, but on my way to
Detroit it went wrong. Karl Leute met me at
the station and drove me to his place. Next day
I came home and managed to to fix my truss
to do fairly well. On the 29th had tea with
Mrs Alex Laing. In August I visited my friends
in Toronto and Oshawa. and took train for
Syracuse to see my son Jack and family and
other friends. Then came home.
I kept William with the help of some men
took the water tank out of the Bath room.
I went up to Addie's in Detroit and till
Tuesday's morning and got my truss fixed.
On Oct 10th Karl and Mayme came down for
dinner. Mrs Fallis had Mr Tully the carpen-
ter repairing the Verandah. I was binding
a number of books whose covers were off.
On the 29th was the Federal election. The
liberals were defeated.
The church choir made a supper to raise some
money for surplices. Mrs Fallis offered her
house. It was a great success. 185 took sup-
per. They raised \$92.50. Dec. was a cold mon-
th. Mrs ^{got} got an Electric Washing machine.
Mrs Fallis and I had our Christmas at
Addie's in Detroit. The next day Karl and
Mayme came over there to see us. On the 31st
The London street cars stopped at midnight.
The busses were robbing their income so
they stopped.

CURRENT ITEMS

James Johnson an old Essex friend died
Norman Laing and Karl gave me a radio.

CURRENT ITEMS continued

Feb J. Fleishman the great yeast mander died
 Mar. Madame Thousands wax works in London
 were burned
 May Lawyer Geddes of Essex died suddenly
 M.H. Hall an old Essex died 82
 Flammarion the great astronomer died 80
 July W.M.J. Bryan prominent man died .
 Aug Sir Adam Beck Hydro Knight died 65
 Disastrous fire in Montreal
 Sept J.M. Ferny my Toronto manager died
 Oct Bank of England sent U.S. \$4,000,000
 Nov . Rev John Gray an old school mate
 died 82. Her Majesty Dowager Queen Alex-
 andra died 87
 Dec John Booth Lumber man died 9t

1926

Jan. This month was very cold, but with
 my gas stove I can keep my room very
 comfortable. I was busy typing on some
 manuscripts. In Feb I went to hear a Re-
 cital on the Flabo by Mrs Green. In Mar-
 -ch I attended the High school commence-
 ment. In April I heard over the Radio
 President Coolidge's address to the da-
 ughyers of the revolution.. Mrs. had her
 butterfly supper for the Ladies aid. It
 was quite a success. May entered with a
 heavy storm lightning and rain. Karl and
 Mayne also the Naylor family were down.
 When going back Dr Naylor could not get
 over the river so they came back and
 staid all night. On the 10th I by requ-
 est went up to the High School and gave
 to a class a talk on Florida.
 In June I started on my summer trip. Went
 to Goderich by boat and visited the Glens
 and John Mc Neil. Then to London and vis-
 -ited all my friends there. Then to Toronto and
 visited all my friends there. From there

I went to Syracuse to see my son Jack and family also the Badger family and then home. When in London I got the Northern life to give me the oil painting which had been give me by the agents. It had hung in the board room for many years. In July Mrs Fallis went down to the beach for a week.

Millie and the 2 girls made me a visit.

I went to Windsor to be examined as a witness in the suit of the Purdy law firm against the Northern life. Ramer my old foreman in the lumber business came to see me.

In August 12 Mr and Mrs Pickles with Mr and Mrs Readhead drove up from London for a visit and staid all night. On the 22nd Karl and Mayme with their car came down and took a drive. In Sept I read the news of the tornado in Florida. I wired Adne and got the answer that the apartment was damaged but no one was hurt. I was very anxious about them.

On the 23rd I took quite sick with the Diarrhea and was in bed nearly a week. Gordon wigle made me a visit. After I got up I was busy typing "An old man's thoughts on religion" On Oct. 1st I got a letter from Millie telling all about the hurricane. They sure had an experience, Karl and Mayme brought her father down to see me. I had a nice visit with the old man. Later in the month I had another attack of Diarrhea and was bedfast for 4 days. On the 31st I fell coming down Mr Beamans steps and injured my knee.

Nov. The first half of this month I was laid up nursing my knee. Mrs Fallis put a new furnace in her basement. The United church is being decorated and anew Organ put in.

On the 25th we took our thanksgiving at karls. Dec. On the 17th I gave as a christmas present a silver tea set. I thought she deserved it for her many acts of kindness towards me.

CURRENT ITEMS

- Jan. F.S. Muncy of magazine fame died 74
 he began with \$40 and ended with
 \$40,000,000.
- Adam Brownold Hamilton man died 100
- Feb Elmer Lick of Oshawa died 64
- Mar. Mr Phipp wife and 3 children in an Au-
 to coming from Pelee Island broke thr-
 ough the ice and all lost. bodies found.
- Apr. Luther Burbank fruit wizard died 77
- May Nelson Wigle killed by train on crossing
 in town 67.
- Hector Urquhart an old scholar of mine
 Junkilled by taxi in Springfield Ohio
- June Fred Coles old London friend died 77
- July Two men flew round the world in 28 1/2
 days. Harry Smith Dayton's friend died
- Sept Germany had a member of League of Nations
 J.E. Stone of Essex died 73
- Hon C.S. Hyman of London died 72
- Dec 25 YASUITO Emperor of Japan died 47

1927

Jan The whole of this month I was busy
 typing a manuscript on Hubbard Little
 Journeys. On the 16th Mrs Fallis had a number
 of congratulations on the anniversary
 of her birth day 71. In Feb. I went up to
 Windsor to interview Mr Gordon Wicket of
 W.E. & L.S. Ry. about Mrs Fallis's claim

Mar 25 Mrs Fallis had a butterfly supper for la-
 dies and there were nearly 100 present.

In April I decided to go to Mundare to be
 present at Arthur's operation. Wm drove me
 to Windsor. I went to Toronto, and met Addie
 at Carlyle's. On the 19th we took train for
 Winnipeg and thence to Mundare arriv-
 ing there on the 23rd. Arthur was operated
 on at Lamont Hospital on the 27th. He men-
 ded up very quick. May 1 Carlyle went home.

May 13th Arthur came down from the Hospital, 17th Addie started for home. On the 20th I took the midnight train for Saskatoon where I staid with Billy and Barbara for two days. Then took train for Toronto and arrived there on the 27th at 7.30 A.M. Made some visits there and then to London to see old friends. Then to Holmesville to see the Glens. From there home to Essax on June 3rd. July 1st This was Diamond Jubilee year of confederation. It was celebrated all over the Dominion. Mrs Oliver and her daughter came down and told me all about Jane, s death which occurred when I was up at Arthur, s. Frank Barrie called and we had a nice visit. Aug. 1st I changed my trusses but after a month they were no good, and had to get another set.

Mrs Fallis had an old aunt who came to visit her from Halfway in Mich. Sept. During this month I was busy typing on "Kittoes Bible, s illustrations". On the 25th Dr Wismer and wife drove up from London to make us a visit. Oct. 8th my birth day I took dinner at Karls. I received about 70 birth day cards which took some time to answer. I had a call from Thomas Ferris of Colchester. He and I used to sit together in Council in Harrow. On the 17th we all went to the church anniversary supper.

Ramer my old foreman came to see me. My son Jack came down from Windsor and staid all night, Nov. 3rd had a visit from Arch and Ross Laing. Next day Wm Glen and Berth made me a visit. Later Karl came down and took us up to Detroit, there we met Carlile and wife and had a drive to the Museum. John an old Essex friend died at 70 Dec. The union church were having evangelistic meetings in the church by the Rev.

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Dr Benard. The ladies aid of the church had a Bazaar and sold \$100 worth of goods. We had our Christmas at Dr Naylor's and had a drive to the Rouge plant of Henry Ford's. This month ended with a regular Blizzard.

CURRENT ITEMS

Jan The C.M and St Paul RY was sold to a syndicate for 140 million dollars. It will be called the C.M. and Pacific Ry.
Feb Arthur Arnold Essex man died
Mar. 2 my old friend John McNiel died 80
heavy earthquake in Japan 5000 deaths
Apr. A tornado in Texas 150 deaths.
May, Linberg flew from N.York to Paris in 33 1/2 hours alone.
June Lord Lansdown Gov. Gen died 82
July Great earthquake in Palestine
Mrs Barber widow of C.L Barber died 71
Nov 45 fishermen lost on coast of Ireland
Tremendous flood in England 100 drowned
In China 8 million starving, a revolution
The standard Oil Co bought from Russia 50 million gallons of oil.
Dec Charles Linberg flew from Washington to Mexico alone 2100 miles nonstop 27 hours
Ontario's output of Minerals in 1927 was worth \$91,000,000
In U.S. 20,000 killed on R.R. crossings in 10 years

1928

Jan 1 Arthur and Lennie landed in Toronto after he had sold his hardware business stock buildings and lot.. My son Jack called and staid all night. Wm Holroyd drove Dr Brien's Auto to Windsor to meet Arthur and Lennie from Toronto and brought them down to Mrs Fallis's House. that was on Jan 17th. Arch Naylor and Addie drove down to see Arthur and Addie.

Jan. During this month I was busy typing Henry Ford's life.

Feb, Mrs Fallishad a ladies aid meeting, there were about 80 present. I took Arthur to the Father and son Banquet.

On the 16th Dr Naypor Addie and Arthur had a bad accident in Detroit. Their Auto was run into by another auto. Arthur had to be taken to the hospital. he was badly wounded in his head face and left hand..

March 4th went up to Detroit to the hospital to see Arthur. his head and hand were bandaged up. In another week Dr Naylor took Arthur home to his house and continued doctoring his wounds. On the 24th he was able to be up in his chair.

April This month was very cold and I caught a cold and was confined to the house. About the 15th Dr Naylor brought Arthur and Lennie home for a visit. On May 1st I went down for the first time in two weeks, my cold is getting better. During the next week I canvassed the citizens for signatures to a petition to the council to call a public meeting to get an expression of opinion on buying my old home "Maple Villa" for an Hospital. Then Arthur and I drove through all the townships to see the Reeves and feputy reeves on the question of Hospital. Then again We attended the councils to get their idea of giving some grant if the yearly finances might be short. I visited the hospitals in Windsor and got all the information possible. I got prices for Hospital furnishings, and also wrote to several Hospitals in small towns. All this took up time till about the middle of June. I took the doctor down to the building to show how easily it could be fitted up at little expense for an hospital.

The public meeting was called for June 20th. When my son Arthur went down to the hall at the proper time ^{the door was locked} soon a man came and opened the door, but three, were not more than 12 or 15 came to the meeting. I was surprised. Of course the doctors were opposed to the scheme, and told their clients that we did not need an hospital here; I was convinced that fearing that a public ^{meeting} after hearing my presentation of the advantages of it might carry the idea, an under current was circulated among the people that to defeat the scheme it would be wise not to attend the meeting and that would prevent a public expression of the matter. I thought it was discourteous to me after all the work I had put in, not to come and hear what I had to say upon the subject. If the hall had been full and after hearing me and then voted against it I would have been satisfied. On the 29th Arthur drove up to Windsor and brought William Winterton, Barbara and little Billy down. They staid for tea. Then we all drove them down to the beach to let them see the country and the lake. Then drove them straight to Windsor, where we met Karl who took charge of them. We got home about 9.45 P.M. During the first week of July I spent some days at the beach with Dr Naylor and family. On July 7th Carlyle and family drove from Toronto to the beach to put in his holidays there with Arthur and Lennie. This month our minister Mr ^{medley} went on his vacation and the Baptist, ^{Mr} agreed to take our services by preaching in the morning in our church and in the evening in his own church.

and reversing it the next Sunday.

Aug. 21 Mrs Geo Fallis on her way home called on Mrs Fallis, and Arthur drove her up to Detroit to take the boat on her way to Vancouver. On the 29th we started on our eastern trip. We took Lennie and Barbara with us. We reached London and met Carlyle who drove up from Toronto. We had dinner at the Tecumseh Hotel. Carlyle took the women to Toronto and Arthur and I staid to make visits in London. We stopped at Mrs Pickles the first night, then at Dr Wismer, s I called on a number of my old friends. From there We drove up to the Glens near Goderich. On the way we stopped at Kitchner to see a Dr Browning who stated to Dr Wismer that he had gone to school to my father in Markham. From the Glen, s we drove to Toronto. I stopped at Millie McGuires. Arthur went to Carlyle, s as his wife was there. I visited all day with Millie Mc Guires. On Monday I went to see Charles Wismer and Susie widow of Elijah Wismer. My son Jack came and drove me to see some old friends, and Florence Milne my Sister-in law and landed me at Carlyles. Then Arthur drove me and Susie to Oshawa to see Mary and John Johnson and Ella Lick.

Sep 9 Arthur drove Mrs Fallis Lennie and Myself up to Barrie to see Judge Wismer. We had a nice visit and got back the same day. I visited two days with my son Jack who drove me to see Charles Wismer son of Eli Wismer. We spent Sunday with Carlyle, s family.

On the 13th at 7.3p in the Morning we started for home and arrived at Essex at 4.20 P.M.

On the 23rd I had a bad attack of Diarhea and had to call Dr Mc Donald because Dr Briⁿ was away. I was kept in bed for 5 days but all right at month end.

During the first two weeks in Sept. I had 2 bad attacks of Diarrhea and was bed-fast for days at a time. Mrs. ~~was~~ also very sick. On the night of Sept 18th Mrs Fallis, a drug store was completely destroyed by fire. Arthur had to put a new roof on his grocery store. He accidentally fell from the roof but was not seriously injured. My sister-in-law Florence Milne of Toronto fell and badly injured her arm. Oct. 7th Judge Wismer from Barrie called to see us. That night William Holroyd started for England to hunt up relations. Next day was my birth day 90 years old. Mrs Fallis gave me a dinner and had Rev Mr Hedley and lady, Dr J.W. Brien and Lady, also Mrs Wm Laing with us. There were a number of old friends called to see me. On Nov 10th Arthur and Lennie drove to Toronto to spend Thanksgiving day with Carlyle and family. When he came home he brought a new Radio called the "Mercury 10". On the 25th Dr Naylor and Jay Sisson called to see me and had tea. We had the U.S Thanksgiving day at Karls. On the 10th we went to church to hear the Cambrian Singers. Dr Naylor had bought a new house and Arthur was helping them to pack for moving. On the 25th Christmas day we had dinner at their new house. There was quite a gathering of 19 persons. We staid a couple of days and came home. Nothing special the balance of the month.

CURRENT ITEMS

Jan. E.J. Powell an old friend died in Los Angeles Calif. aged
The Metropolitan church in Toronto burned .