

Old-timers state that in pioneer days a much travelled road ran from Port Dover on Lake Ontario to Port Dover on Lake Erie. Why were those two points among the first to be connected by a road? The reason is not far to seek.

At first the settlements were made below the mountain, on the shores of Lake Ontario, in what is now Lincoln County. For example, a large number of Pennsylvania Dutch Mennonites founded the settlement at Jordan, near the mouth of the Twenty Mile Creek, as early as 1786 - 1800. At least 20 names of families are recorded. Others followed after 1800. In those days most families were large and so they soon spread out over a wide area. There came a time when the narrow strip of land below the ridge could not contain them all, for farming was the only occupation open to most of them and they wanted to control a holding of at least 200 acres.

So the ambitious members of the younger generation swarmed up over the mountain, southward, toward the Lake Erie shore. In that way the Mennonite settlement at South Cayuga was started, where church and school is an old frame church surrounded by a most historic burying ground. So there was set up a constant flow of traffic between the old and the new settlements. Home-sickness was a real ailment in those days. Roads were execrable, post-offices were non-existent and the telephone and radio were not known. When a girl married and went with her husband to live 50 miles away, she might only expect to see her family once or twice a year. But the settlers had ox-teams and carts, providing a slow but sure means of travel. What more natural than that the young folks up over the mountain should be so homesick that they just had to travel back over the trail to the old home at the mouth of the Twenty? The stream itself provided the route, for to this day the winding trail along the river is known as the Twenty Road. Or the old people, finding time hang on their hands during the winter, would make up a sleigh-load and climb the hill to find out how their children were faring in the new home that seemed so far away.

Thus was beaten out one of the first mountain roads at the Twenty, or Ball's Falls, as we call it to-day. Once on top of the mountain the trail followed the Twenty Creek to Smithville. It is now a beautiful, well-travelled river road, beloved of tourists. From Smithville, the place where James Griffin had set up mills and named the community after his wife's family instead of his own, the trail struck off across country to the south-west, heading for South

Parts Of The Pioneer Trail From St. Catharines To Port Dover Are Still Well Travelled Roads

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Cayuga, Rainham, Port Dover and the other settlements on the shore of Lake Erie. This old slant road is also in use to this day, crossing the Indian line at Warner and finally emerging at the village of Canboro.

Benjamin Canby, Quaker

Benjamin Canby, the Quaker, was the first settler of note in these parts. He founded the village of Canboro by building a mill on Oswego Creek. Said to be a bit of a grabber by nature, he belied the outstanding Quaker characteristic of honesty in that his word was not always as good as his bond. He came by a large tract of land in an easy way. He had great ambitions for Canboro, named after himself. His ambitions, expected to grow into a large town, are at the map will show roads running to the village from all directions. Canboro looks like the hub of a wheel. It is cut through by Number 3 Highway, by an old section of the Talbot Road, by the slant road from Smithville and by another crooked road from the north-west. All roads led to Canby's yet the place did not grow.

Gifford's Ferry

One of the most interesting parts of the St. Catharines-Port

Dover where the Darling Road came down to the Grand River, about halfway between the towns of Cayuga and Dunnville. There is no bridge over the river which at this point is quite wide; but in olden days this spot was the scene of activities of Gifford's ferry.

On the south side of the river at this ferry crossing stood the far-famed Windecker's Inn. Here a Pennsylvania Dutchman dispensed hospitality to fellow Pennsylvanians who were seeking the way to the Mennonite settlement at South Cayuga. The worst of the journey was over when the travelers got to Windecker's. Only about five miles of sandy trail lay between them and their destination. Windecker's cured most of the ills which the long journey by horse or ox-cart had imposed. Here was shelter and refreshment for man and beast. It had a great name for hospitality and one can imagine what a welcome sight it was at the turn of the road, to those who had laboriously travelled the slant road through the bush from Smithville. It was a commodious place. The main structure of the inn is still standing on the brow of the hill overlooking the river, remodelled and used as a farm house. With some lean-tos at the back torn down, and a freshly painted appearance, life still flows on very comfortably there. The visitor is still shown traces of the old bar in the front room where a partition has been taken out. Across the road were stables for many horses. On a little far-

HOT DOWN OVER HOLLAND BRANTFORD FLIER KILL

Sergt. James Miller Leaped From Flaming Bomber to Death

'NEUTRALITY VICTIM'

Brantford, April 1.—A flag will fly at half-mast all this week over the Brant-Norfolk Aero club here, to honor Sergt. Pilot James Miller, 26, first member of the club to give his life in the empire's service.

He died Thursday when he jumped from his flaming bomber over Holland, which had been shot down by a Dutch pursuit ship. His parachute failed to open in the short distance he fell.

When Mr. and Mrs. Emerson Miller, listening to their radio on the farm homestead Saturday afternoon, heard Winston Churchill tell of a British bomber being shot down by a Dutch plane "in the name of neutrality", they knew their son had been killed when it crashed.

"We are proud he died in the

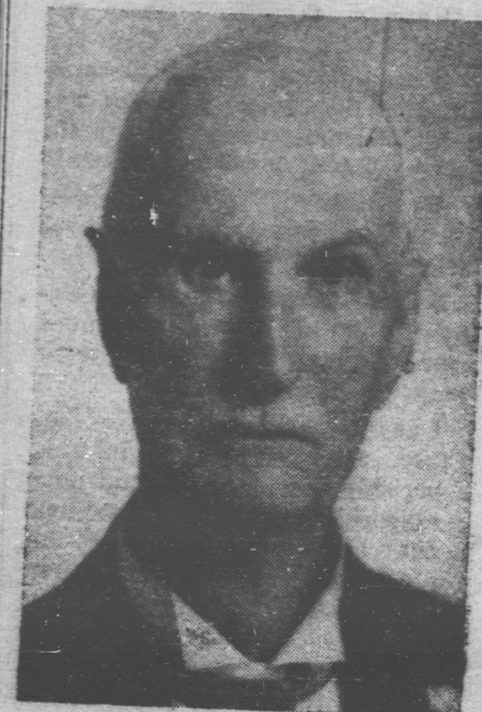


JAMES MILLER

cause," Mr. Miller, 70, said, "but it is a terrible blow. We'll miss him."

Veteran Clerk Plans To Retire This Year

J. J. Parsons, veteran Clerk of the Township of Walpole, has announced his intention to retire at the end of the current year. He will then have completed twenty-five years of service in this important office which has been only one of many fields of public endeavour throughout his lifetime.



J. J. PARSONS
Clerk of the Twp. of Walpole

Although he had announced his intentions earlier to the Walpole Township Council, it was made public at a pleasant function held at his home last Thursday afternoon.

Members of the Council, Township officials and all ex-reeves who served with Mr. Parsons, surprised the veteran Clerk when they gathered at his home.

Reeve Charles Cox, spokesman for the group, paid tribute to the man who has guided the destinies of so many councils and presented him with a cheque as tangible recognition of the valuable service he has rendered to the citizens of the Township. Reeve Cox was joined in this tribute by ex-reeves H. W. Parkinson, Roger Dennis, E. S. Pond and Earl Catherwood. The latter is presently Sheriff of Haldimand County.

Although the occasion came as a complete surprise to Mr. Parsons he rose to the occasion and delivered an eloquent address which covered the highlights of his career.

Few men have distinguished themselves in so many fields of endeavor as has J. J. Parsons. First as a teacher; then a manufacturer and a farmer. In addition he found time to give valued leadership in his Church and the Masonic Lodge. In civic affairs his association goes back more than fifty years during which time he served as Reeve of the Township of Walpole and Warden of the County of Haldimand.

The surprise function last Thursday was a heart-warming affair as the highlights of a great career were recalled. To conclude the happy event tea was served by Mrs. Charles Parsons, assisted by Mrs. J. W. Parsons, Mrs. Harold Hopper and Mrs. Charles Cox.

WILL BE "AT HOME"



— Photo by Jim Currie

MR. AND MRS. RALPH HIBBS

of R.R. 5, Hagersville, who will observe their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, November 23rd. They will celebrate this occasion by having a family dinner at noon, followed by a "At Home" for friends and relatives in the Jarvis Community Hall from 3:30 to 4:30 o'clock in the afternoon and from 7:30 to 9:30 o'clock in the evening. They have six sons: Keith Jack, Donald, Rex, William and Tom, all of the Hagersville and Jarvis district. Three daughters: Mrs. Fay Kindree (Olive) of Decewsville, Mrs. Ernest Craddock (Ruth) and Mrs. Roy Doughty (Eileen) of Jarvis. They have 26 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

J. Parsons Marks 93rd Birthday April 24

Tuesday, April 24th, marked the 93rd birthday of J. J. Parsons, native born resident of this community. Although he no longer possesses the vigorous health that once enabled him to pursue an unusually active life, he continues to enjoy reasonably good health and maintains interest in local and national affairs.

Throughout his lifetime Mr. Parsons has associated himself with the highest ideals of citizenship. He was a teacher, a manufacturer, a farmer and a public servant.

As a teacher he can count among his former pupils many of the leaders in industry and the arts. As a manufacturer he helped to lay the foundation for the great Dairy Industry in Canada today. As a public servant he served as Reeve of Walpole Township for a number of years and later as Warden of Haldimand County. He has served as a member of the Board of the Walpole Mutual Fire Insurance Co. since 1917. He retired last year after having served as Clerk of Walpole Township for 25 years. His devotion to ship for 25 years. His devotion to duty has also been further exemplified by his service to the Masonic Order and to his Church.

His wife, the former Bertha Howey passed away on Sept. 21, 1951, in her 83rd year. There are three sons, John, Charles and Lewis, and one daughter, Bertha.

We join his countless friends in wishing him many happy returns on the occasion of his 93rd birthday.