



(Nonie Wilcox)

## Part Two 1851 - 1900

# St. Patrick's Catholic Church - 1856

**S**t. Patrick's Catholic Church's Dixie congregation was formed by Bishop Charbonnel in 1856 and they held their first services at the Mission Church on the Fifth Line at Elmbank. Down through the years, the Mission Church would have names such as St. Bernard's, St. Kevin's, Sacred Heart and Elmbank, but the favourite was "The Fifth Line Church." Father John McNulty handled the services. The first recorded marriage was on October 20th of Joseph Lamphire of Burnhamthorpe to Jane Doherty of Hanlan's Corners. The first baptism was of Thomas Hickey. The Fifth Line Church was torn down in the 1930s, but its cemetery remained until

2001, when the graves were exhumed and moved to the Roman Catholic Assumption Cemetery at the southeast corner of Dixie and Tomken Roads.



◀ *The First St. Patrick's Catholic Church* (Region of Peel Archives)



▲ *St. Patrick's Catholic Church Interior* (William A. Pinkney)

THE DIXIE CATHOLICS HAD BEEN SERVED SINCE 1829 BY the Wildfield Church in Toronto Gore Township when it got its first resident priest. Services and other church business were held in the home of Owen Hickey, one of the first toll-gatekeepers at the four corners of what would become Dixie in 1864. More Catholics had begun to settle here after Ireland's potato famine of 1847. So when St. Patrick's congregation was formed in 1856, the Fifth Line Church at Elmbank was already 27 years old. In the early days of this church, in the church's documents, it was referred to as Toronto Township Church, Fifth Line.

Father Patrick Conway took over the Catholic congregation in 1858, when the Dixie area was nicknamed Irishtown. The name suited the Catholic community. Father Conway only remained two years and

Father Jon Shea followed in 1860 and Father William Flannery in 1861. The Priests were housed at Owen Hickey's residence. Father Flannery managed to succeed in having a presbytery built in 1866 on Lot 6, Con.1, SDS, the southwest corner of Dundas Street and Third Line (Dixie Road). He had purchased ten acres (4 ha) in 1863 from a John Ryder for \$1,000. The priest had raised the money from lecturing in the United States. He, too, was transferred in 1867.

One priest fondly remembered is Father John McEntee, who penned upon his arrival, "Began my missionary labours in this Parish April 11, 1872, and hereby certify that the following children mentioned have been duly baptized by me." He was instrumental in the building of the Victorian Gothic red brick St. Patrick's Catholic Church in 1872. The church, with its stately steeple, was named for the patron saint, who had been born in Bannavem Taberniae, Britain, around 385 A.D. He recorded, "On Sunday, the 13th of October, 1872, the new church of St. Patrick's, near the presbytery, was dedicated to divine worship by His Grace Archbishop Lynch. The sermon was preached by Very Rev. Archdeacon Northgraves of St. Michael's Cathedral." Rev. McEntee sang the mass. The church served the Catholics of Dixie, Summerville, Burnhamthorpe, Cooksville, Malton and even Etobicoke and Islington.

The history of the church has been recorded in two precious volumes that are now treasures to behold. They contain the baptisms, marriages, names of ministers and other historical data about the church's growth down through the years. The first entries are from the hand of Father McNulty, a hard working, dedicated man, who was instrumental in the construction of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Streetsville in 1858.

The church was renovated in 1908 when the priest was Father David Tracey, who had been appointed in 1904, following the death of Father William Bergin. The church opened to services on November 8, 1908. Vicar General McCann delivered a moving lecture and the choir outdid itself with musical vespers. In 1922, a piece of the Church's property to the south was sold for the construction of the new Dixie Public School, which opened in 1923.

In 1940, serious restoration took place and St. Patrick's was reopened in October. Reverend John Moss was the priest (1938-1946) and he wrote a history of the church which appeared in the *Port Credit Weekly* on October 31st.

On May 8, 1946, a play called, "*Saved By The Belle*" with Frances Trachsler in the lead role as Rita, was performed and said to be, "something worth waiting for." She "played the difficult role splendidly." Rita was supported by Helen Pashak as Ginnie, Eileen Pashak as Mrs. Fish and Christine McPherson as Pudge. This performance started off the Forty Hours Devotional in honour of the Blessed Sacrament, which had its first service on May 19th. A Retreat for Young People concluded the Devotional celebration on May 26th.

The McCarthy family donated the land for the new St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, at 945 Flagship Drive, which was opened on June 16, 1971, by His Grace Most Rev. Philip Pocock. Father John Buckley was at the helm with 10,000 parishioners. The new St. Patrick's Church was built in two sections. It had a sacristy at the back, a room for sacred vessels and vestments and a vestry. The former St. Patrick's on Dixie Road was demolished in 1973 and a plaza now occupies that location.

In 1981, the congregation celebrated St. Patrick's 125th anniversary. Many events were organized by the Catholic Women's League and the Social Action Committee and a plaque was unveiled by Reverend M. Pearse Lacey, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop for the Western Region of the Archdiocese of Toronto. The new St. Patrick's Church's 25th anniversary was celebrated in 1996 and a commemorative historical booklet was produced.

On July 11, 1999, the congregation of St. Patrick's held a rededication of an historic bell that had been manufactured by McNeely Bell Company of Troy, New York. The bell had been installed in the bell tower of St. Patrick's Church in 1899. It had disappeared and was recovered by parishioners, Pat Gunning and Frank Walshe, in 1997. Frank had been going through some old papers and found a bill of sale for the bell and altar rail to Mr. and Mrs. John Parzych of Caledon. The Parzychs donated the bell back to the church.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church Offices, 2005  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



Volunteers cleaned the artifact and it was erected on a stand on the lawn of the church, where it sat for two years. Bishop John Knight, West Pastoral Region, dedicated the bell, while Reverend Fr. Rudy Volk and guests Carl DeFaria, MP Mississauga East, Ward 3 Councillor Maja Prentice and James McCarthy, looked on along with members of the church. The bell was installed in the tower in 2001. Jim passed away on January 1, 2003.

In 2006, St. Patrick's Church congregation will celebrate its 150th anniversary. For this auspicious occasion, Father Rudy Volk, who has been the Priest there since 1996, says they will celebrate all year long with a Gala Dinner and Dance, youth days, a picnic and a variety of ethnic dinners and dances. The major event will take place on Trinity Sunday, June 11, 2006, when Cardinal Aloysius Ambrozic will bless the new glass mural.



▲ St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 2005  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ The McCarthy family, Jim's mother third from the left  
(Peter McCarthy)



▲ Jim McCarthy  
(The Mississauga News)

### Memories

"My mother belonged to the Women's group at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. On the third Saturday in July, the church would hold its annual picnic and my mother and sister, Oghlyn, would bake 22 pies and they sat on the kitchen table ready to be transported to the church picnic that was held on the church grounds. One year, a rain storm came and the picnic was postponed for a week. So we ate pies every day that week. When the next Saturday came around, another 22 pies were baked and ready."

By Dixie born Jim McCarthy

# The Palletts - 1858

One of the most prominent families to make a name for themselves in Toronto Township was the Palletts, the agricultural specialists of the area. The Pallett family came to Upper Canada from Aston, Hertfordshire, England, in 1835. It was a 13 week ocean voyage.

William Pallett (b.1789, d.1862), son of Robert and Elizabeth, settled at Hoggs Hollow near Yonge Street, Toronto. William, his wife, Mary Godfrey (1801-1870), and their seven children, Robert (1828-1906), Henry (1832-1911), Thomas (1834-1909), Mary (married John Clarkson in 1882), Martha, Alfred (1844-1909) and Charles (1848-1926), stayed there for 23 years. They moved to Sydenham (Dixie) in 1858 and rented farmland.

Once settled, the Palletts began to acquire land. William died in 1862 and his sons, Robert and Thomas, purchased hundreds of acres (hectares) north and south of Dundas Street and they began to farm in earnest. In 1873, Robert sold 1.1 acres (0.5 ha) at \$70 an acre to the Credit Valley Railway for the proposed railroad.



◀ William and Annie Pallett



▲ Thomas Pallett



▲ William Pallett

(Photos courtesy of Region of Peel Archives)



▲ William Pallett's House



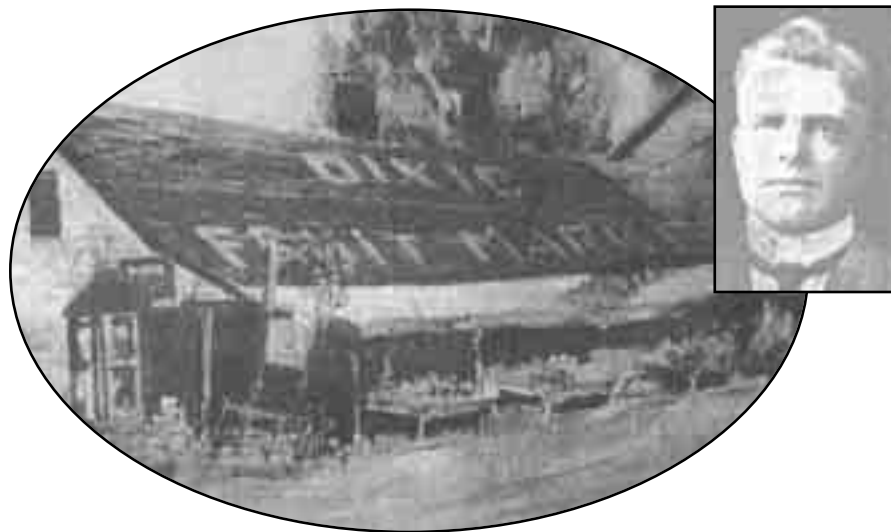
▲ Thomas Pallett's House

ROBERT MARRIED MARY ARMSTRONG AND THEY HAD FIVE children. Their son, William (1850-1917), married Annie Watson, and they had Viola (1881-1900), George (1882-1910), Ethel (1884-1892), Roy (1886-1931) and Leslie Howard (1888-1963), who became a prominent politician. Roy Pallett was a dapper showman, who always had the best horses and carriages. He was a poultry breeder, and had been the choir leader at the Bethesda Church. Because of his dedication a Roy E. Pallett Music Fund was set up to encourage young people to participate in music. It is still presented today.

The Palletts helped build the Bethesda Wesleyan Methodist Church in Summerville in 1864-1865. Robert and his son, William, hauled the bricks. William and Robert were also members of the Sons of Temperance, which promoted refraining from imbibing alcohol.

Much of the Pallett property stayed in the family for generations. They built up the Dixie farmlands on Lot 4, Con.1, SDS, which was east of Third Line (Dixie Road). They bought up other property along the Dundas and Third Line and their orchards were landmarks for decades. (Charles Pallett owned Lot 6, Con.2, SDS, where Dixie Outlet Mall is located.)

Leslie Howard Pallett, who took on the nickname of “Mr. Dixie,” had the Dixie Fruit Market on Lot 4, Con.1, NDS, which he opened in 1918. He was quite politically inclined and started his political career as a councillor in 1913. He became deputy reeve in 1914-1917 and was reeve, 1924-1925 and 1931-1937 and warden of Peel County in 1925. As he pursued his political ambitions, he rented out the market and at one point it was to the Indovina family. He also had a second market called the Highway Market in the 1950s and Steve Stavro of Knob Hill Farms got his start there. In 1950, he sold the Dixie Market to the Indovina family and they tore down the old building and put up a modern facility. They went bankrupt and the building sat empty until



▲ Dixie Fruit Market  
Inset: Leslie Pallett (Streetsville Review)



▲ Indovina Market, 1950 (Region of Peel Archives)

1963 when The Brick took it over and remodelled it. Leslie Pallett also bought part of Lot 7, Con.1, NDS, and on July 17, 1952, he put in a plan for a subdivision. He and Clarence Stanfield sold 4.3 acres (1.7 ha) to the Dixie Curling Club on July 19, 1956.

Les and his wife Gladys Grace Leslie (1892-1960), had George Leslie (1913-1979), Grace (1914-1979), Margaret (1917-2003), who married Newman Silverthorn in 1940, and John Cameron (1921-1985), who became a lawyer and member of Parliament. Their son, George Leslie, served in World War II (1939-1945) and was wounded in the battle of Ortona. He was a member and master of the Cooksville Orange Lodge L.O.L. 1181 and was president of the Credit Valley Golf and Country Club. He opened a law practice with his brother, John, called Pallett and Pallett in 1949. He was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 1959. He died October 14, 1979, in Florida. He was survived by his wife, Lavinia, and son, John Leslie, of Vancouver.



John Cameron was one of the movers and shakers behind the fund-raising and construction of the South Peel Hospital (opened in 1958, now the Trillium Health Centre), as well as solicitor for

▲ John Pallett (Region of Peel Archives)

the hospital for 32 years, 1953-1985. He graduated from the University of Toronto in 1941 and served in the Canadian Army during World War II. Upon his return he went to Osgoode Hall to receive his law degree and set up his practice in Port Credit in 1949 with his brother, Leslie. In 1954, John became a Member of Parliament following Gordon Graydon, who had just passed away. His career as MP for the Conservative Party included being parliamentary secretary to the minister of Trade and Commerce in 1959, and in 1960, parliamentary secretary for Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, which lasted until 1962 when he was defeated by Liberal Bruce Beer. The cancellation of the Avro Arrow project in 1959, sealed Pallett's electoral fate in the 1962 election. While he was a Member of Parliament, John wrote a column for the *Port Credit Weekly* called, "Keeping Peel Posted." He returned to his law practice, but never lost his love of politics. When his brother Les died in 1979, John became a partner in Pallett, Valo, Barsky and Hutcheson, with their offices at the Shipp's Mississauga Executive Centre in the Cooksville area. He died in 1985.

Thomas' son, William Thomas Pallett (1880-1968), who had married Isabella Sabiston of Summerville in 1908 and resided at 1286 Dundas Street East, started W .T. Pallett and Sons, a fruit growing and packing business. In the beginning of the wholesale operation, they sold their own apples, but as development encroached they ventured more into packing and buying their apples from the Georgian Bay area. They sold to the Dixie Fruit Market and other outlets in Toronto Township and Toronto. When W. T. passed away in 1968, sons,



▲ Dixie Men. L. to R.: Lindsay Death, Grant Clarkson, Ken Pallett, Oliver Pallett, Jack Goddard, Bruce Pallett, James McCarthy and Don Pallett (Grant Clarkson)



▲ Howard and Doris with Gayle, Keith, Marilyn and Elaine (Photo courtesy of Gayle Pallett Rutledge)

Howard (1914-2002) and Ken (1919-1999) continued with the business their father had founded. Howard married Doris Sherman (1912-2003) on November 16, 1940, and they had four children, Gayle, 1943, Elaine, 1944, who both married hockey players (Ron Rutledge and Bryan Lewis), and twins, Marilyn and Keith, 1951. They had seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Ken married Jeanne Mutter (b.1917) on November 27, 1943 and they had two children, Sandra, 1944, and Bill, 1951.

Les Sr. and Howard Pallett encouraged the formation of the Toronto Township Hockey League in 1946, which became The Mississauga Hockey League that is still functioning today. They were instrumental in the construction of Dixie Arena in 1949. Les was the first president of Dixie Arena and Howard was a director and ran the Dixie Beehives hockey team, which was founded in 1952. Howard owned the Dixie Beehives from 1954 to 1986, when the team disbanded. Howard was a dedicated volunteer at St. John's for 50 years. He retired in 1992, but he remained a director of the Dixie Growers Ltd. Cold Storage. Doris was very actively involved with the St. John's Ladies Auxiliary for years. In 1999, they moved to Guelph. That year, he was presented with the Paul Harris Fellowship award from the Mississauga-Dixie Rotary Club. He died in 2002 and Doris in 2003.



▲ Don Pallett and family, 1950 (David Pallett)

Roy and Lily Dooks' son, Don (1915-1991), started by selling fruit and vegetables at roadside outlets and markets in Toronto, and through his hard work put his brother and sisters through college. He wanted to join the armed forces during World War II, but was encouraged by Colonel T. L. Kennedy to provide food for the fighting men, so he created a camp for farm workers on his property and brought students from northern Ontario as farm labour, mostly girls who were called Farmerettes. As an alternative to the military, he joined the Lorne Scots Reserve, which lasted 22 years and he left with the rank of major and received a Canadian Forces decoration. He married Mary Turner (1910-1959), a South Peel public health



▲ The farmerettes

nurse, in 1940 and she blessed him with five children, Stephen, 1941, David, 1942, Susan, 1944, Nancy, 1948, and Joan, 1952. She had an operation and passed away on January 15, 1959, leaving Don to raise his family on his own.

In 1962, he married a widow, Pauline Barber, who had two children, William (Bill), 1946, who was the curator of the Peel Museum in Brampton from its opening in 1976 until 1995, and Sandra, 1948.

Don was instrumental in the formation of the Dixie Fruit and Vegetable Growers in 1949, a chairman of the Dixie Public School board of trustees, a charter member of the Dixie Curling Club in 1956, one of the first members of the Credit Valley Golf Club, a member and president (1964-1965) as well as a Paul Harris Fellow (1981) of the Dixie Rotary Club, and



president of the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers. He founded Pleasant View Farms on Lot 4 and moved to Lot 6, Con.1, SDS, west of Dixie Road in 1984. Don died April 13, 1991, of a heart attack at age 76 and was buried at St. John's Anglican Church Cemetery. He was survived by his children and 18 grandchildren.

Don's son, David, married Laurie Stewart in 1969. Laurie was the organist and choir leader at the Bethesda Church for 25 years. She and her father-in-law, Don, started the Bethesda Concert Series, which ran successfully for over 12 years. Laurie was the executive director of the Mississauga Arts Council from 1982 to 1999. She is now a Justice of the Peace.



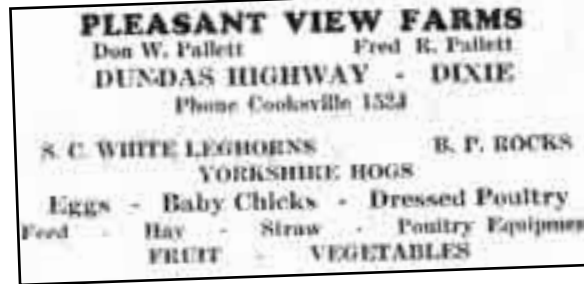
When his father passed away, David continued with the operation of Pleasant View Farms, located at 1409 Tonolli Road.

The joining of the Pallett and Stanfield names brought about Palstan Road in 1952, in remembrance of these two impressive families.

◀ Palstan Road sign  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ First Location (Dave Pallett)



▲ Pleasant View Farms Advertisements, 1948  
(Port Credit Weekly)



▲ Dave Pallett's Pleasant View Farms (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ John Cameron Pallett and Family (Port Credit Weekly)

## John Cameron Pallett

On October 3, 1985, the City of Mississauga lost a truly community minded citizen and great promoter of causes, lawyer/politician, John Cameron Pallett, a man who made a name for himself in Toronto Township.

He had been born in Dixie, coming from a pioneer background. His ancestors, who contributed to the Township's growth, took up Lot 4, Con.1, SDS, in 1868. Over the years, they became the agricultural specialists of the area.

John became a Federal Member of Parliament in 1954. His political life lasted until 1962. During this period, he accomplished many things, but the most prominent one was the founding of the South Peel Hospital (now the Trillium Centre, 100 Queensway West.) It was officially opened on May 3, 1958, with 115 beds.

In 1971, John founded "Friends of the Mississauga Hospital Foundation." He guided this project from the heart, taking on the position of director and president until his death.

From the mural in the Trillium Hospital's lobby called "Reflections."

It was donated by his family in May, 1992. It has a likeness of him done in acrylic and hand dyed wool by artist, Joanna Staniszkis.

## NEWS ITEM

### Dixie Youngsters Cheer as Coach Elected MP

There is no prouder or happier group in Peel County this week than the Dixie pee wee hockey team. Their popular coach, John Pallett, on Monday was elected as Peel County's new Member of Parliament.

Mr. Pallett, 33 year old Port Credit lawyer, retained the seat for the Progressive Conservatives with a landslide victory over Liberal and C.C.F. candidates. His 4,611 vote majority was one of the largest ever accorded a first run candidate, and was 458 votes greater than the majority given the late Gordon Graydon in the August 10 general election.

Although most veteran observers predicted Mr. Pallett's election, few, if any, expected such a large majority for the Dixie native.

A large crowd of South Peel residents was on hand at the *Weekly* office on Monday evening to learn the election results. Right up front were members of the Dixie hockey team, cheering loudly as their coach, Mr. Pallett, addressed the gathering.

*Port Credit Weekly*  
March 25, 1954



### Township Council Minutes, August 6, 1932

For dog owners unable to pay dog taxes, it was cited that 10 men out of 28 worked on Township construction to pay the tax. The remainder were told to get rid of their pets.

Deputy Reeve R. S. Whaley said he was not in favour of giving any man relief work to pay his dog tax when they had to give direct relief to feed them.

▲ Reeve Leslie Pallett



▲ Jeanne, Ken, Bill and Sandra, 1954 (Gayle Pallett Rutledge)



▲ Ken, Jeanne, Isabella, W. T., Sandra and Bill, 1958 (Gayle Pallett Rutledge)



▲ David and Laurie Pallett (David Pallett)



▲ Roy Pallett House (Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Pallett Gravestones (Kathleen A. Hicks)



Leslie Pallett House (Region of Peel Archives) ▶

# The Post Office - 1864

The Post Office at Fountain Hill (Sydenham-Irishtown) officially opened in William Kennedy's Atlantic Hotel on April 1, 1864. It had been made a sub-station on July 31, 1861, with William Kennedy as the first postmaster. It became the Dixie Post Office on July 1, 1864, after the area was named for Dr. Beaumont Dixie of Springfield (Erindale), who practiced throughout Toronto Township.

William retired in September, 1871, and his son, John, took over the position on October 1st. On March 12, 1882, John resigned, and the postmaster became Albert Tolman. He handled the duties until July 17, 1884, when John Kennedy again took over. He carried on until July 12, 1890.

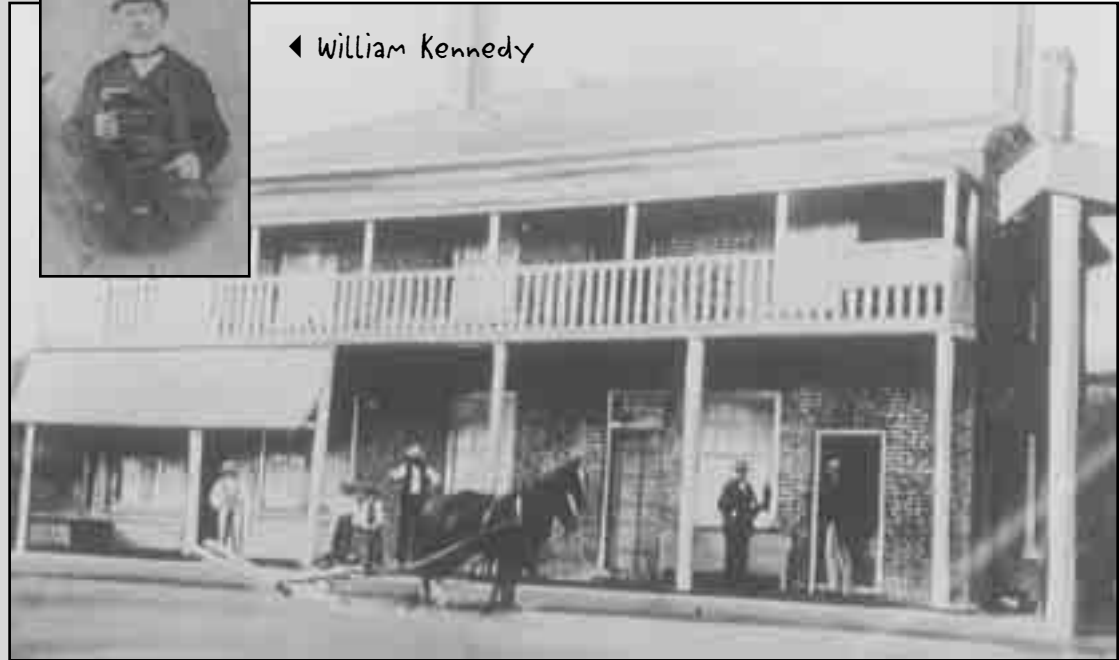
Charles Gill became postmaster on August 1, 1890, and the post office was moved across the street to the Gill store. Charles was born in 1861 in Kennelworth, England.



◀ John Kennedy  
(Photos courtesy of the Region of Peel Archives)



◀ William Kennedy



▲ The Atlantic Hotel and General Store

HE CAME TO CANADA AT AGE 16 AND RESIDED IN ERINDALE with his family. Then the family moved to Burnhamthorpe where they resided for the rest of their lives. His brother, Fred, operated a grocery store there. Charles was the Toronto Township clerk from 1898 to 1921. On February 12, 1906, he purchased the Kennedy hotel for \$1,800 and they moved into their new residence.

On November 9, 1922, Charles passed away, and his 55-year-old wife, Mary, continued running the family business and post office and was fondly called, "Ma Gill." She



Charles Gill ▶

was known to carry the key to the store on a leather belt around her waist and apparently it was a good sized key, over seven inches long, which amused the children as she hustled about her work and they watched it bounce around on her apron. It was quite a conversation piece. This key had been cast in 1850 by hand for William Kennedy. It was made of iron, 7.5 inches long, 2 inches wide and five-eighth of an inch thick (17.5 cm, 5 cm, 2 cm).

One of Ma Gill's popular customers was William Stanislaus Romain, the actor, who owned the Silverthorn's estate Cherry Hill. When he was home from his world travels, he would walk to Gill's store to get the mail.

Mrs. Mary Gill passed away on February 3, 1946, and the Gill's Dixie store and post office was handled by Mary's 48-year-old nephew,



▲ Gill Stores and Post Office

George Frederick Gill. He was the acting postmaster until he sold the old building to Mr. and Mrs. William J. Gilmore, who had resided for over 40 years in the stucco-covered house that was attached to the two storey structure, once the Atlantic Hotel. They opened for business on May 6th and Mrs. Gilmore was proud to carry the nearly hundred-year-old key. William became the official postmaster on December 20, 1946. He kept things going smoothly until August 29, 1954, when he resigned.

Charles Cromwell Martin, who had served overseas during World War II (1939-1945), became the acting postmaster on August 30th and it became official when he was appointed on December 20th. He put in his resignation on August 13, 1958.

On September 1, 1958, Oscar Shank became postmaster and the post office was operated out of his grocery store. In January, 1959, he announced that he was closing down his grocery business to become the full-time postmaster. A larger post office had become a necessity due to the new subdivisions put in by Gordon S. Shipp and Son and

other developers and would require his full attention. Shank was a 30-year resident of Dixie and attended St. John's the Baptist Anglican Church.

In 1961, when Miss Isobelle Ironside was postmistress, home postal service was initiated by Canada Post with mail delivery from the Cooksville Post Office, and the Dixie Post Office was closed down after 100 years of service. A Cooksville Substation #5 was put in at 3665 Cawthra Road and 3661 Dixie Road. It was changed to Mississauga Substation in 1968.

#### NEWS ITEM

#### Dixie Postmistress is Some Sprinter



▲ Mrs. Mary Gill

Four young lads who visited Dixie on Monday for the purpose of stealing vegetables and fruits, found to their surprise that there were still some sprinters in Dixie. When these men passed along the Dundas Highway earlier in the morning, Mrs. C. Gill, Postmistress, thought that they looked rather suspicious and were evidently up to mischief, and she telephoned Mrs. Pearson, who lives up the road a short distance and told her to be on the lookout as she considered they were out to steal.

Mrs. Gill certainly made no mistake as she had hardly communicated with the Pearson home when these young thieves deliberately went to the market stand in front of the house and started to fill their bags with corn etc. They ran away but later Mrs. Gill spotted them on the Gordon property just next to the Post Office where they were sailing into the pears. Mrs. Gill called to the boys to drop the stuff which they had taken, but they did not respond at first, so she decided to chase them; by the time the chase had started Mr. George Pearson had arrived and after he had followed them a short distance he was able to corral two of them on the Second Line. He brought them back to Dixie where after some questioning they gave their names and street addresses of all four members of the party. It is understood that their parents will be communicated with and advised to keep their children home in the future.

*Port Credit News*  
Thursday, August 30, 1929

## Dixie is Named For Doctor Beaumont Dixie - 1864

**D**octor Beaumont Wilson Bowen Dixie would have the honour of having the community of Fountain Hill (Sydenham) named for him in 1864, thanks to the suggestion of his good friend, the local butcher, John Wilson. John ran his butcher shop in the Cooksville Village and owned 148 acres (58.2 ha) of Lot 10, Con.1, NDS, in the newly named Dixie.

Doctor Dixie was a horse-and-buggy doctor, who had been born March 27, 1819, in Kidwelly, Carnarvonshire, South Wales. He came to Canada with his parents in 1831 and settled in Stamford Township, Niagara. He studied for his medical career at Upper Canada College in Toronto and in 1842, received his licence to practise “physics, surgery and midwifery.” That same year, he married Anna Skynner. He practised for awhile in Oakville and two years in Grahamsville before coming to Springfield (Erindale/Mississauga) in 1846. He purchased Sir John Beverley Robinson’s summer cottage (The Grange), but they found it a draughty abode and sold it to John Irvine and rented another house, said to have been located in Sydenham. In 1854, he inherited his Dundas Crescent home, built in the late 1820s, from Aunt Christina Wilson of Stamford.



▲ Dr. Beaumont Dixie  
(Region of Peel Archives)

HIS RESIDENCE WAS REFERRED TO AS A REGENCY COTTAGE. (The Dixie house was still around until 1983 and was more often referred to as the Demeter House. Peter Demeter, a Mississauga builder, had his wife, Christine, murdered in their garage on July 18, 1973. The arresting officer was Superintendent of Detectives, Bill Teggart, who says, “Demeter had a professional hit man kill his wife while he was 20 miles [32 km] away from the crime. He also tried to kill his cousin and kidnap his lawyer’s daughter. This was the longest single murder trial in Canadian history. Demeter is presently in prison serving five life sentences for murder conspiracies. On August 15, 1983, he had the house burned down by an arsonist so he could build houses on the property and sell them, which he did. He was charged with three counts of arson and one charge of conspiracy on October 19, 1983.” The only sign left of Doctor Dixie’s homestead, at 1437 Dundas Crescent, was an old cement curb, and even it has been replaced.)

During the diphtheria epidemic of 1853-1854, Doctor Dixie lost four of his children, Anna and Harriet Eleanor on July 15, 1854, eight-month-old Wolston on August 9th and five-year-old Richard, on August 13th. They were all buried at St. Peter's cemetery. They had Mary Amelia in 1857 and Christina Wilson in 1860.

Doctor Joseph Adamson, the incomparable physician of his time, died in July of 1865. He no longer would blaze the trails on horseback, his ever present hatchet prepared to cut the way. During his professional career in Toronto Township, he had witnessed the pioneer physicians' hardships, the constant travel, the demands made on

them for lack of doctors, to the point of each community having its own practitioner or two. He had pioneered the way. Now, Doctor Beaumont Dixie, who had been one of Doctor Adamson's consultants, would carry on in his place.

Mrs. Dixie passed away on May 15, 1867, at age 49. Within a year, Dr. Dixie married Elizabeth Blakely (b.1834, d.1913). A daughter, Bertha, was born to them on October 19, 1869. (Bertha would reside in the family homestead until her death on March 22, 1951.) The well liked Doctor died on his birthday, March 27, 1898, at the age of 79. He was "regarded as one of the leading physicians of the province."



◀ Christine Demeter



◀ Peter Demeter

▲ Dr. Dixie's House in Erindale (Photos courtesy of William J. Teggart)

## The Blacksmith Shop - 1867



IN 1867, JAMES VOKES CONSTRUCTED A blacksmith shop for 47-year-old Isaac Willcox in Summerville, on the north side of Dundas Street, west of Aaron Silverthorn's Mill Farm.

### ▲ The Willcox Blacksmith Shop (City of Mississauga)

Isaac, who had worked his trade as a blacksmith for some time, was the son of Amos Willcox, who owned Lot 16, Con.2, NDS, where Mississauga Civic Centre is located today. It was a one-storey structure made out of Etobicoke Creek stones, with two windows siding a smithy's door of vertical wood sheathing.





▲ The Willcox  
Blacksmith Shop  
and House  
(Mississauga Library  
System)

This property was the original land grant of John Vanzantee, Lot A, Con.1, NDS. The 200 acres (81 ha) were sold on April 22, 1817, to Samuel Lawrence and then to John Scarlett on April 15, 1829. George Silverthorn, Joseph's brother, bought it on that same day. (Following George Silverthorn's devastating experience with the 1837 Mackenzie Rebellion, on March 25, 1839,

he took out a mortgage on the 200 acres with the Bank of the People for £1,000 [\$2,500]. The Land Registry papers did not show any disclosure on this mortgage or George's name again other than the sale of two acres [0.8 ha], to Peter Collum for £50 (\$125) on July 13, 1842.)

To follow the ownership succession of the blacksmith property down through the years, the registration dates go like this: George sold one acre (0.4 ha) to George Smith on June 15, 1835, for £25 (\$63); to William Thompson, March 29, 1841, £125 (\$313); to Thomas Spotswood, March 24, 1843, £181 (\$453); to Robert Sargent, February 23, 1852, £125 (\$313); Sargent to Isaac Willcox, July 14, 1858, £250 (\$625). Aaron Silverthorn purchased the blacksmith shop on November 6, 1868, for \$1,400. When he passed away in 1872, his son, Newman, inherited the property. On December 7, 1888, Newman finalized a deal with John Craib for \$2,000. Mr. Craib died and on May 21, 1926, his widow, Mary Craib, sold to Robert P. Parton for \$2,000. (In past writeups on the blacksmith shop, it has always been written that Robert Parton purchased this property in 1907, but the Land Registry papers state otherwise. He bought the business from the Craibs in 1916 for \$200, leasing the shop and then purchased it along with nearly 8 acres [3.2 ha] that John had bought in 1906 from Patrick McCartney.)

Mr. Parton ran a successful business there for a number of years, turning from shoeing horses to repairing farm machinery and welding as the change in transportation came about. As business declined, he closed down in 1958. That same year, on June 18th, it was designated an heritage site. The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation



▲ Parton Shoeing Horses



▲ Blacksmith Robert  
Parton

Authority held a ceremony with Mrs. G. Klinch reading the history of the 91-year-old structure. Toronto Township Reeve Mary Fix was presented with a plaque by the reeve of Swansea Township, Dorothy Hague, which was affixed to the building. (Mrs. Fix was reeve in 1955; Thomas Jackson was reeve in 1956; then Mrs. Fix from 1957 to 1959.) Gideon and Nell Silverthorn and their son, Donald, attended this presentation. The plaque read:

## THE SUMMERVILLE SMITHY

ABOUT 1816, TEN YEARS AFTER THE OPENING OF DUNDAS STREET FOR SETTLEMENT, JOHN SILVERTHORNE BUILT A SAW AND GRIST MILL ON THE ETOBICOKE CREEK. FROM THIS BEGINNING THE COMMUNITY GREW AND BY 1857 WAS A POST VILLAGE WITH INDUSTRIES, INCLUDING A STEAM GRIST MILL, TWO CHURCHES, TWO TAVERNS AND A SCHOOL. IN 1867, THIS PRESENT BUILDING, RECONSTRUCTED WITH LOCAL STONE FOR ISAAC WILCOX, REPLACED ONE OF TWO OLDER BLACKSMITH SHOPS. IT HAS REMAINED CONTINUOUSLY IN USE, ONE OF THE OLDEST SMITHIES IN THE TORONTO REGION.

THE METROPOLITAN TORONTO & REGION  
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
1958



▲ The Smithy Plaque, 1958

Grace Chappell, wife of Member of Parliament Hyl Chappell (1968-1972), who was a member of the Mississauga Historical Society, wrote an article in the 1970s about the blacksmith shop and interviewed Robert Parton. In it, she said that over the front door of Parton's stone house, beside the smithy, was a stone plaque that stated, "In 1867, Isaac Willcox, had this house erected with the help of master builder, Mr. Vokes." This would be James Vokes, who owned Lot 1, Con.5, EHS. In Augusta Silverthorn's diary on October 4, 1880, she states, "Vokes the mason came and got 2 one horse waggon loads of gravel." The Silverthorn ladies had a gravel pit to the west of the house. Vokes' son, Miles, had the original deed for the Dixie Union Church, which has been in the hands of William Pinkney for many years.

Parton sold the 8 acres (3.2 ha) for \$7,000 in 1950 and the last mention of him in the Land Registry papers is August 8, 1969, when he sold the blacksmith shop to Radcliffe Investments.

The historical structure at 2199 Dundas Street East remained standing, unoccupied, until 1978, when the property was purchased by the La Castile Steak House & Tavern owners, Peter and Ted Traiforos. It was going to be moved to the Meadowvale Conservation area, but this did not come about. The City dismantled it and stored it in one of its warehouses. There was talk of it being taken to the Bradley Museum for reassembling, but it never was. Instead some of the stones went to Black Creek Pioneer Village and were used in the foundation of the Taylor Cooperage. A piece of our pioneer history was carelessly handled and no one has any answers as to why. The Traiforos still operate La Castile.



◀ Blacksmith Shop,  
1978  
(The Mississauga News)

# St. John The Baptist Anglican Church - 1870

By 1869, the Dixie Union Church's congregation was overcrowding the small stone chapel and it was decided to construct a larger church on property to the east. The property was generously donated by John Wilson that year. A large red brick church, 100 feet by 35 feet (30 m x 10.5 m), was built in 1870 at a cost of \$3,400 and became St. John the Baptist Anglican Church. The congregation organized working bees to carry out the building of the new church. Bricks, stone, lumber and lime were brought to the site by horse and wagon, much of it donated. Some of the local families involved in this labourious venture were the Silverthorns, Cooks, Goldthorpes, Palletts, Kennedys, Griffiths, Grahams and Haineses. When the church was opened, it was consecrated by Reverend A. Neil Bethune, Bishop of Toronto.



▲ Dixie Union Chapel and First St. John's Church



▲ St. John's the Baptist Anglican Church and Interior

THE DIXIE UNION CHURCH AND ST. JOHN'S Church were part of the St. Peter's Anglican Church of Erindale circuit from 1827 to 1951. The first incumbent in 1870 was Reverend William E. Cooper. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pallett were the first couple to be married in the new church. Rev. Cooper was replaced by Reverend John Carry in 1873 and during his three year stay, he had an organ installed.

From 1876 to 1885, Thaddeus Walker was in charge of the parish; 1885-1906, Ralph W. Hindes; 1907-1931, Hedley V. Thompson. Lorne Park was added to the parish in 1911 and Port Credit in 1914.

*The Dominion Churchman* newspaper reported on January 8, 1880, that a concert had been held by the choir of St. John's Anglican Church, Dundas Street, on December 19, 1879. The article applauded the Christmas decorations as being superior to other churches in the area, with a special tribute going to Miss Augusta Silverthorn, Mr. Griffith and others.



▲ Reverend Thaddeus Walker (St. John's the Baptist Anglican Church)

On October 5, 1881, Janet Silverthorn, who was 62, married a young man named Wilder, who was an artist, at St. John's Church. Augusta Silverthorn was a great organist and pianist and had carried out being organist for the church for many years. During the summer of 1908, St. John's held a garden party at Cherry Hill and Augusta hosted it. This was her last party for she died on December 18, 1908. Many picnics were held at Cherry Hill house, especially by the Junior Auxiliary Group. Mrs. Gussie Stewart Birket, Theodore Silverthorn's granddaughter, was the group leader and enjoyed showing off her Aunties' charming estate.



▲ *The Aftermath of fire, 1924*  
(Photos courtesy of the Region of Peel Archives)

In 1919, the church was enlarged at a cost of \$8,700. Then during an electrical storm on Saturday, June 21, 1924, at 1:30 a.m., the center of the roof of St. John's Church was struck by a bolt of lightning. It caught fire and within minutes was burning rapidly. The Port Credit Fire Department was soon on the scene, but the building was beyond help so they concentrated on saving the Dixie Union Church. Needless to say, the congregation was devastated. While a new

red brick edifice was being built, they returned to the stone Union Chapel to hold services. The present ornate church was constructed in 1924-1925 by contractor Andrew Robertson. Bricks were purchased from the Cooksville Brick Company and the cost of constructing the church was \$32,246. Jack Goldthorpe and Henry Belford built the steeple and Henry shingled the roof. Mrs. Charles Pallett was the first to be buried when the new church was completed. The first service was held on June 20, 1925, and the church was dedicated on December 20, 1925, by the Lord Bishop of the Toronto Diocese. In January, 1938, the congregation burned the church's mortgage papers in a delightful ceremony carried out by Reverend Derwyn T. Owen, Primate of Canada, and Reverend George Banks, who was the pastor from 1932 to 1951.

The carillon bells (Schulmerie Electronic Bells) were a gift from Colonel and Mrs. Thomas Kennedy. They always chimed out the noon



▲ *Building St. John's Steeple Jack Goldthorpe and Henry Belford*  
(Mildred Bellegham Collection)



▲ *The Kennedy Window, 2005* (Kathleen A. Hicks)

hour and 6 p.m. (They have been replaced now, but the bells of St. John's still chime twice a day.) The Kennedys also donated a large, stained glass chancel window in 1953, as a memorial to early pioneers of the district, Hugh and Jane Laird, William and Jane Kennedy and John and Mary Kennedy.

According to Mildred Bellegham's book, "*And the Mill Stone Still Turns*", "The altar was given in memory of John and Hannah Goldthorpe by their children. The communion gates in memory of Augusta Van Every Goldthorpe by her parents and family, John and Rachel Goldthorpe. The alms basin in memory of Fred Erington by Charlotte Goldthorpe R.N. The water pitcher at the front by Charles and Minnie Goldthorpe Shaw in memory of their infant son, John Charles Shaw. The collection plates for Sunday school in memory of William Edward, Ronald and Sharyn Belford by the Belford family. (The father and two children, who died tragically in a fire June 1, 1949. This author was their babysitter.) The stained glass window, depicting St. John the Baptist, in memory of Joseph and Martha Goldthorpe and their children, William and Matilda Belford and their children, donated by their grandchildren and great-grandchildren."

St. John's had a Willing Workers' Association that held dances and garden parties to raise money to maintain the church. The Ladies Auxiliary was also a busy group within the church.

In January, 1951, the 124-year-old parish that had been part of St. Peter's Church of Erindale was split, and for the first time in 19 years it was not handled by Reverend George Banks, who was retiring. Reverend Frank Lockwood was the new St. John's minister. In 1955, an auditorium was added on the east side of the church to accommodate the congregation's many activities.

According to a *Toronto Star* article in April, 1977, St. John's celebrated its 150th anniversary with Lieutenant Governor Pauline McGibbon and the Anglican Primate of Canada, the Most Rev. Edward Scott, attending the celebration. Mrs. McGibbon read the scripture lesson and the sermon was preached by Archbishop Scott. Fred Ketchen was chairman of the anniversary committee. This article stated that William Cody, Buffalo Bill, had been a member of St. John's, which is an inaccuracy. The Codys had already left Dixie before Bill Cody was born in 1846 in Iowa.



▲ Reverend Frank Lockwood  
(St. John's Church)



In 2006, St. John the Baptist Anglican Church, 719 Dundas Street East, has a congregation of over 200 families and the minister is Reverend Robert J. Payton.

### Heritage Prayer

Father God,  
 We keep forgetting all those who lived before us.  
 We keep forgetting those who lived and worked in our communities.  
 We keep forgetting those who prayed and sang hymns in our churches before we were born.  
 We keep forgetting what our fathers have done for us.  
 We commit the sin, Lord, of assuming that everything begins with us.  
 We drink from wells we did not find.  
 We eat food from farmlands we did not develop.  
 We enjoy freedoms which we have not earned.  
 We worship in churches we did not build.  
 We live in communities we did not establish.  
 This day, make us grateful for our heritage. Amen.

Adapted from a prayer in the Old Covenanters' Church, 1884, Grand Pre. Nova Scotia.

### NEWS ITEM

The summer vacation school at St. John's Church, Dixie, will commence on Monday, June 29, and continue until Friday, July 10, with the exception of Dominion Day, July 1.

In addition to worship and game periods there will be instruction in the following crafts: flower-making, weaving, clay modeling, leatherwork, construction of models and various group projects.

Transportation will be provided from the Cooksville Corners and from Applewood Acres, leaving at 9:15 each morning and returning at noon. On Sunday, July 12, there will be a special service at 11 a.m. for all the children of the Vacation School, their parents and friends.

*The Port Credit Weekly*  
 Thursday, June 25, 1953

◀ St. John the Baptist Anglican Church, 2005 (Kathleen A.

## Dixie Presbyterian Church - 1878

THOMAS ROBINET, SON OF ALLEN, who had Lot 12, Con.1, NDS, had established the Presbyterian congregation in Sydenham (Dixie) in the 1820s and held services in the Robinet homestead. With the Upper Canada government only recognizing the Church of England, other denominations such as the Methodists and Presbyterians did not receive land grants. Usually a local farmer would donate a piece of his property so a church could be constructed.

When the Robinets no longer resided in the area, others followed suit. Bi-weekly services were held in parishioners' homes and then weekly services. In 1878, Alex Robinson and Reuben Dunn, farmers from the Lake Shore Road area, discussed the opportunity of the Presbyterian congregation holding services in the stone Union Church with the church trustees. They were accepted and shared the building with the Baptists. Some of the other families connected to the church were the Allison, Johnsons, Millers, Rosses and Montgomerys.



▲ Dixie Presbyterian Church  
(The Mississauga News)

The inaugural celebration was held on June 16, 1878, with Reverend James Breckenridge from Streetsville conducting the service. Back then, services were held every second Sunday and the congregation numbered 21. Rev. Breckenbridge left in 1880, and until 1892, the church was part of the Toronto Junction Victoria - Royce Presbyterians. A travelling minister from the Toronto Junction, Reverend James Grant, provided his services when he was covering his district.



(Mississauga Library)



Dixie Presbyterian Church

(City of Mississauga Community Services)

In 1892, Dixie Presbyterian joined with two other congregations to form the Port Credit-Dixie-Malton pastoral circuit and a student, Reverend John Little, held services in Dixie and Malton. When the circuit became too large by 1947, Malton dropped out and Dixie was on its own.

In 1910, property was purchased north of the Dixie Union Chapel, Lot 10, Con.1, NDS, for \$300 and a church was built at a cost of \$10,000. The building committee was H. K. Bowden, treasurer, James Allison, secretary, and John Craib, R. Halliday, Charles Watson, William Pinkney and Walter Death. The architect was Herbert G. Paull of Toronto and the contractor was Edward C. Doole, also of Toronto.

The cornerstone for the Dixie Presbyterian Church was laid at 2:30 p.m. on July 23, 1910, by Lieutenant Governor John Morrison Gibson (b.1842, d.1929), while the devoted congregation looked on. Rev. George Duncan, pastor of the church, chaired the event. John Wanless, a prominent Presbyterian elder in Toronto, donated a 200-pound (80 kg) steel alloy bell with all the fittings for its bell tower. By September, the building was up and the interior work was being done.

Lieutenant Governor Gibson who laid the cornerstone, was a former resident of the area, having been raised at Hawkins Corners with James Allison. He was in office from 1908 to 1914 and was knighted in 1912.

The church was constructed of Milton red pressed brick. It has a corner tower, front entrance and two rear exits and seats 350 people. It has a 40 by 60 foot (12 m x 18 m) cement foundation with a nine foot (2.7 m) ceiling.

The first service was held on December 11, 1910. The congregation comprised mostly farmers from the area. There was a grass tennis court in the backyard that is now a parking lot. A Women's Association was founded in February 1910, and the first president was Mrs. George McClelland of Cooksville, the treasurer was Mrs. H. Bowden and Miss Allison was the secretary.

Reverend H. V. Thompson, who had come to Dixie in 1906, remained until August 18, 1931, when he was given a fond farewell at the home of Mr. Thomas Stewart with Colonel Thomas Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture, as chairman of the event.

In February 1922, the church's mortgage papers were burned by Mrs. James Sabiston and Mrs. William (Sarah Allison) Pinkney, who had been one of the church's organists. She retired in 1906 to marry William Pinkney of Lots 12 and 13 Con.1, NDS. In June, property was purchased to build a manse for the pastor, Reverend George Rowland, who got an annual salary of \$1,800. It was sold in December, 1940, and still stands to the north of the church. Anniversaries of the church's formation were celebrated, but the 50th on June 16, 1928, was more lavish and so was the 70th in 1948 when Reverend J. V. Mills was the new pastor.

Other churches have used the Dixie Presbyterian Church to get their congregation going, such as the Christian Reformed Church, which now has a lovely facility on the Lakeshore Road in the Clarkson area, and the Korean Christians.

The Dixie Presbyterian Church thrived through the years with devoted volunteers keeping its activities interesting and the membership grew. In 1963, the congregation decided on giving the church a major expansion, and a wing was added adjacent to the sanctuary, which included a modern kitchen. For the church's 98th anniversary

in 1976, the sanctuary was renovated and redecorated and stained glass windows were dedicated to the glory of God.

A centennial committee was formed in 1977 to plan the church's 100th celebration and when 1978 arrived, many special services were held throughout the year, an historical booklet was printed, a centennial plate was produced and a centennial garden was planted. Allison descendants, Allison and Jim Pinkney, unveiled two stained glass windows in the chancel and sanctuary in memory of one of the founding families.

As the congregation multiplied, another service was added in 1971 at 9:30 a.m. Attendance peaked in the 1980s and has now declined. In the past few years the congregation has become more integrated with the international flavour of multicultural people coming into Mississauga.

The Dixie Presbyterian Church at 3065 Cawthra Road celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2003. Reverend Harry Klassen has been the minister since February 2004, and the church's congregation now stands at 100 persons.



▲ *Drawing of Choir*  
(Port Credit Weekly, 1943)

### NEWS ITEM

"Uselessness is the rent we pay for room on earth," declared Leslie Pallett Jr., president of Table 18, K.R.T., in preaching the sermon at the annual church service of his group in Dixie Presbyterian Church Sunday Night.

"How much are you worth to your fellowman? What are you doing for him? How much better is society for you having lived?" asked the youthful speaker. "We should be helpers of our fellowman – not his oppressor."

"There is unrest today that cannot be solved in dollars. But when you hear young men get up and stress service and spiritual things: things with eternal values, it augurs well for the future of this country. I am one of those men who has a 100 per cent confidence in our youth," commented W. Earle Gordon, founder of the movement.

Don Pallett, vice president of K.R.T. and farm director, gave a concise outline of the development and aims and purposes of the order. Lindsay Death presided. Jim Sherman read the scriptures and Norman Clarke led the prayer.

The choir of Bethesda United Church, Dixie, under the direction of Mrs, Nellie Leuty, with Tony Brooks as organist, led the song service, with appropriate anthems and a male chorus. Mrs. Leuty was soloist of the occasion. A large congregation attended.

*Streetsville Review*  
March 18, 1937



# The Credit Valley Railway - 1879

The Credit Valley Railway (CVR) came into existence in 1871 when the City of Toronto was allotted a \$350,000 grant to construct a railway. The provincial government presented a charter to the Credit Valley Railway on February 15th to construct a rail line from Toronto to St. Thomas.



▲ George Laidlaw  
(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)

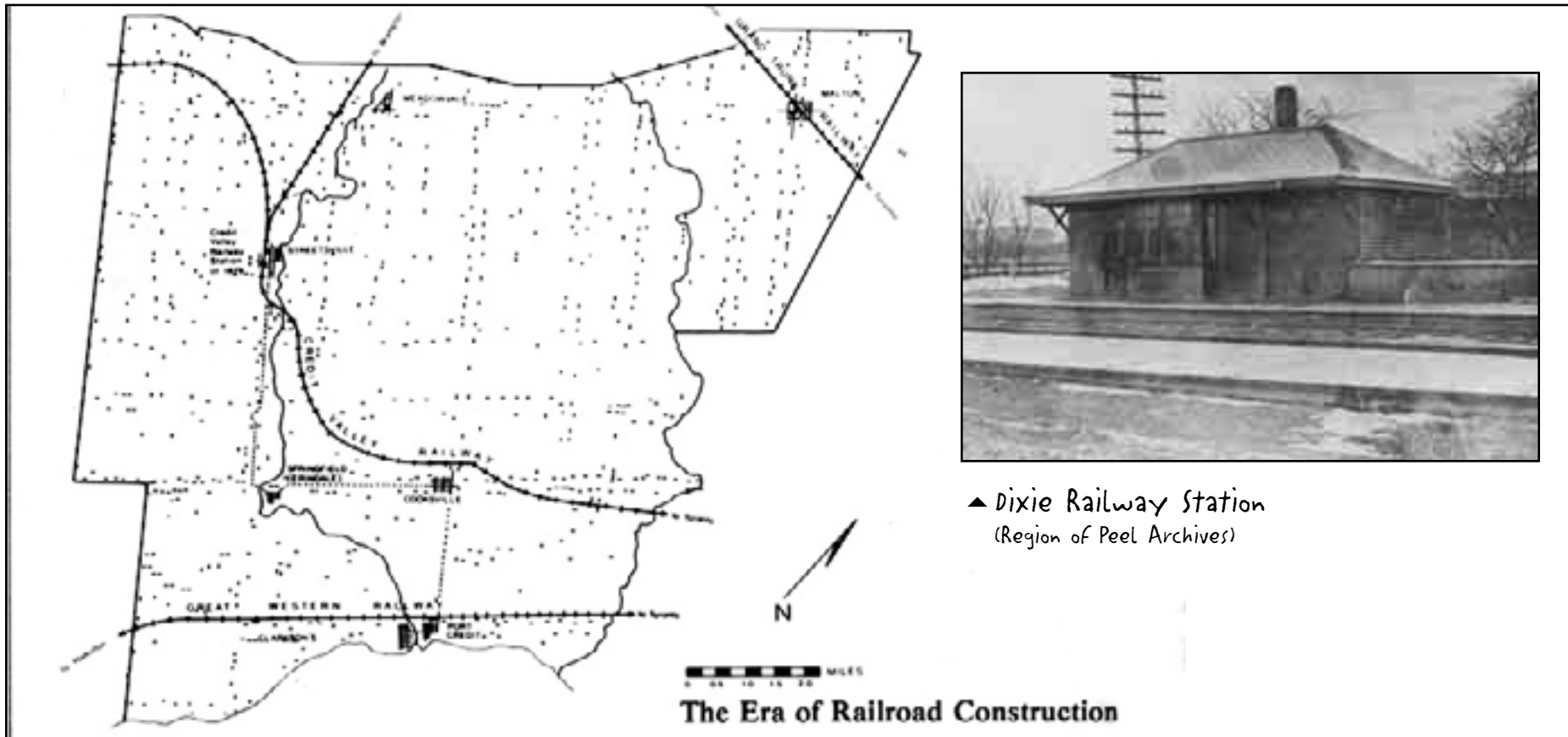
George Laidlaw, who had been the moving force behind the charter, became the first president. Farmers were paid \$70 an acre (0.4 ha) for land purchased for the right-of-way.

Surveying for the rail line commenced on March 13, 1873, which was supervised by C. J. Wheelock. The railroad employees blazed a path and laid the glinting tracks for the wood burning trains to travel upon. The first train passed through Toronto Township on December 6, 1878, but the official opening of the line was held in Milton, Ontario, on September 19, 1879, with the honours being carried out by the Governor General of Canada, John Douglas Sutherland Campbell, the Marquis of Lorne (1878-1883), who was married to Queen Victoria's daughter, Princess Louise.



▲ Governor General of Canada,  
Marquis of Lorne  
(Region of Peel Archives)

AT THE STREETSVILLE JUNCTION, WHERE THERE WAS A major train station, a line went to St. Thomas and one to Orangeville, 167 miles (264.5 km) of track that linked Toronto far afield. The Orangeville rail line ran along the west side of Meadowvale, but a station was not built until 1900 to accommodate the residents of the village.



▲ Railway Line Map

The farmers were now able to ship their produce and milk by train. Stores could have supplies shipped in from Toronto wholesalers, which made for more variety for their customers. The grist mills got more business with wheat being sent in by train and flour, barreled and loaded onto wagons, was returned to train depots to be transported to distant points of Ontario.

The CVR was taken over by the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) on January 4, 1884. By this time, the train went as far as Owen Sound and there were two passenger trains in the morning and two in the evening. This continued into the turn of the century. Then as cars and trucks came more into use, the service was dropped to two trains a day, then every other day.

On April 14, 1917, the Toronto-Guelph Radial Line was founded. Tracks were laid along the proposed route by Mann and Mackenzie. The Radial picked up local students and transported them to the Islington Continuation School on Canning Avenue and Etobicoke High School on Montgomery Avenue. A ticket for one month cost \$4. The Radial was discontinued in 1931, due to the number of accidents where seventy people had been killed, including Etobicoke Reeve Charles Silverthorn on August 25, 1917. The Ontario Hydro bought the Toronto-Guelph Radial Line, which had gone into receivership, and the tracks were torn up in 1935.

The Canadian Pacific Railway still owns and operates the old rail line and GO Transit, officially opened in 1967, also utilizes the route that travels through the former Toronto Township villages of Dixie, Cooksville, Erindale and Streetsville.

## NEWS ITEM

Broken axles and sheared off trucks were scattered throughout the wreckage along the CPR right-of-way when 27 freight cars of an eastbound freight were derailed about one-half mile (0.3 km) east of Dixie Road North yesterday. Marks on the railway ties just east of Dixie Road point to some breakdown in one of the freight car trucks and gradually deepened marks continued to the point of derailment. Cars were upset or accorded into rows of smashed steel frame and rails. No member of the train crew was injured, but damage will be high. Careening cars ripped up rails and completely blocked both the east and westbound lines. Wrecking crews, arriving quickly at the scene, pressed hard to clear the lines. Just 80 yards east of Dixie Road, part of a freight car's truck lay just off the railbed as indication of the breakdown.

*Port Credit Weekly*  
Thursday, April 9, 1959

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## Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gill - 1883

CHARLES GILL, THE SON OF CHARLES HENRY and Hannah Drury Gill, was born in 1861. Charlie came to Canada from Kennelworth, Warwickshire, England, with his family when he was 16 years of age. They settled in Erindale and then moved to Burnhamthorpe, where Charlie's brother Fred, who was born in 1868, arrived in 1882. Fred became a storekeeper and postmaster at Burnhamthorpe. He died in 1951.

In 1882, Charlie married 17-year-old Mary Watkins of Burnhamthorpe, the daughter of Mary and Richard Watkins. They had two children, Charles Henry and Mary Gertrude. They started up a grocery store in Dixie in 1883. It was a storey and a half stuccoed building that had a front porch and was located on the south side of Dundas Street across from the Kennedys' Atlantic Hotel. To the east of the Gills' Store was the MacDonald's Blacksmith Shop and the Pacific Hotel.

On August 1, 1890, Charlie became the postmaster, taking over from John Kennedy, who resigned. The post office was moved over to the Gill store on Lot 8, Con.1, SDS. He was also the Toronto Township clerk from 1898 to 1912.



◀ Charles H. Gill



▲ Gill's Store, MacDonald's Blacksmith Shop and the Pacific Hotel

On February 12, 1906, Charlie bought the Kennedys' former Atlantic Hotel for \$1,800. He moved his business, including the post office, across the street to the elegant two-storey structure with its wonderful verandas stretching across the front, the upper one trellised. The hotel had been discontinued in 1900, when a man named Henderson had been the last proprietor, and a substantial ballroom was put over the store, which was much enjoyed by the locals. In 1909, the Gills were the first people in Dixie to get a telephone. Charlie sold his old store that sat on 3.7 acres (1.4 ha) for \$3,000 in 1917 to Joseph Pickett.



▲ The former Atlantic Hotel

▲ Mary Gill

Mrs. Gill was so well liked that she was called “Ma Gill.” Charlie died on November 9, 1922. His obituary stated that he was an outstanding figure in all his associations, a big man, faithful in all his deeds and to his friends and his trust, a man whose life had been an exemplary one and an influence for good. His widow continued to run the store and handle the postal duties.

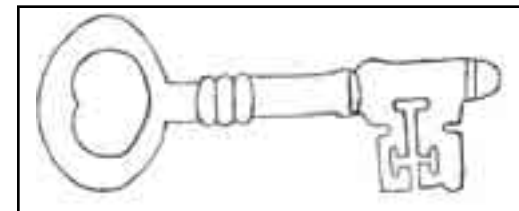
In 1928, while tearing out an old fireboard of the fireplace, Mrs. Gill discovered a pair of spectacles, the key to the front door and a pair of fancy scrolled iron fire dogs. The key to Atlantic Hotel was 7.5 inches long, 2 inches wide, five-eighths inches thick (17.5 cm, 5 cm, 2 cm), weighed 12 ounces (340 g) and was made of iron for William Kennedy in 1850. While discussing her discovery with a local paper, Mrs. Gill divulged that she also had a coin dated 1745 and a velvet vest that had belonged to John Wilson, the local butcher, who died in 1873.

His widow Sarah married Francis Silverthorn of Summerville.

Mrs. Gill ran the store and post office until February 3, 1946, when she passed away, which made for 63 years the Gills had served the community. Mary’s nephew, George Frederick Gill, was acting postmaster until May 6th, when Mr. and Mrs. William Gilmore took over the ownership and operation of the Dixie General Store and Post Office. Mary’s children had predeceased her.

Down through the years, the former Kennedy’s Atlantic Hotel had many interesting people work on the premises such as Charlie and Violet Martin, who handled the task from 1954 to 1958.

The Gills left many fond memories with those they served over the years. Grant Clarkson, who was born in Dixie, remembers coming into Gills’ store as a youngster for binder twine, which was used during the grain harvest. Mrs. Gill kept it in the living room. He would have to sidle past the men, Harold Pallett, Arnold Guthrie and Lloyd Stanfield, gathered around the potbellied stove and cracker barrel, discussing the events of the day.



▲ Drawing of Key, traced from actual key



▲ The Gill Grocery, 1905



▲ Potbellied Stove



▲ Barn



Pump ▶

**C. H. GILL**  
 Clerk of Township of Toronto.  
 Office—Dixie, Ont.  
 Will be at home every Monday for the  
 transaction of public business.  
 Agent for the York Mutual Fire Ins. Co.  
 A Commissioner in the H. J. C., &c.

**C. H. GILL**  
 Clerk of Toronto Township.  
 A Commissioner H. J. C.  
 Conveyancing, Deeds, Mortgages,  
 Leases, Wills, Typewriting a Specialty.  
 Agent for the York Mutual Fire Ins. Co  
 Township, Office days, each Monday  
 Office and residence—Dixie, Ont.

▲ C. H. Gill Advertisements,  
 1905 and 1910  
 (Streetsville Review)



▲ The Gill Store and Post Office, 1960  
 (Photos courtesy of the Region of Peel Archives)

## The Grice Family - 1889

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IN 1889, FREDERICK GRICE (b.1866, d.1942), who had been born in Toronto, came to Toronto Township and began working on Doctor Moses Aikens' farm on Burnhamthorpe Road. He got to know Sarah Cawthra Murray who had purchased a farm on Third Line (Dixie Road) from George Hornby in 1886. When she passed away in May, 1902, her executor, the Honourable William Mullock, sold Fred the farm, which was 100 acres (81 ha) of the north half of Lot 5, Con.2, NDS.

### ▲ The Grice farm

(Photos courtesy of The Grice Collection)

### ▲ Grice House, sideview

The Grice house was a one-and-a-half-storey brick surrounded by orchards and wheat fields. Fred and his wife, Sarah Tilson, had Toyne (1894-1974) and Jessie, who never married.

The first Grices to arrive in Canada were William and Mary Roadhouse Grice, who had ten children, Mathew, Albert, Fred, Wesley, Clarkson, Rachel, Emily, Charles, Leonard and Norton. They hailed from Yorkshire, England, and the family settled in York (Toronto) in 1832. Mathew married Hannah Clarkson and had nine children, Fred being the fourth son.



▲ Fred and Sarah Grice's Wedding

Although Fred's farm was on Third Line just above the village of Burnhamthorpe, their address was R.R. #2, Malton, and the phone number was Cooksville 34 ring 1-3 (one long ring and 3 short rings on their 12-family party-line). On January 18, 1937, Fred turned the farm over to his son, Toyne.

Toyne had married Ethel Steen (1904-1978) of the Meadowvale Steens. Their son, Glenn, was born in the Brampton Hospital on May 31, 1926, and daughter, Joan, on December 23, 1928. They were educated at the two-room Burnhamthorpe Public School that had nearly 80 students during their growing-up years. Port Credit High School followed, which Glenn left in 1941 to help on the farm when the hired hand, Lewis Wilson, was drafted into the Army during World War II (1939-1945). In 1943, Glenn was drafted, took his physical and was exempted as a farmer and told to "grow food."

Following the War, Toyne began to sell off his farm property. The first piece was to Daniel and Christine Bears on May 1, 1946, and another on May 19, 1947 to William Driedzic. Only the family house and a few acres were left. Toyne purchased 100 acres (40 ha) of Lot 2, Con.1, WHS, on March 29, 1950, from William Jackson for \$4,000 and called his new farm Hawthorne Valley, named for the many hawthorne trees that inhabited the acreage. The Grices moved to the Hurontario Street location and rented the house on Dixie Road, which was sold in 1954 along with the remaining property.

Through Junior Farmers and the 4 H Club, Glenn began to compete in agricultural exhibitions and competitions and did livestock judging around Ontario and the United States. He took many prizes for his cattle and sheep. This led to his taking cattle buyers to Pennsylvania,

New York and Ohio on buying excursions. In 1948, he was the president of the Cooksville Fair.

In 1949, he married Barbara Lightfoot (b.1929, divorced, 1976). They had Mary, 1951, Janet, 1954, Martha, 1957, Mark, 1959, and Elizabeth, 1963. In 1950, he and Barbara moved onto his father's new farm. Toyne sold 10 acres (4 ha) to Glenn on October 23,



▲ Grice family, 1950



1952, which had a stone house, barn and a chicken coop on it. Glenn did some major renovations before moving in and then added an addition, which gave him a six bedroom house. On December 8, 1954, Toyne sold another 60 acres (24 ha) to Glenn for \$35,000. That same year, his parents moved to Streetsville.

Glenn and his brother-in-law, Jack Williamson, built houses in Lakeview and Streetsville and then constructed houses for Robert Watson and Grant Clarkson. He took a course in Real Estate Law at the University of Toronto to help him in his land dealings. He and Barbara were leaders of the Cooksville United Church's Hi C Club and Glenn became chairman of the Board of Stewards. In 1954, Glenn became a charter member of the newly formed Cooksville Rotary Club (became the Rotary Club of Mississauga) and in 1996 received the coveted Paul Harris Award for his achievements in this service organization.

Glenn was impressed with his friends, Bob and Ross Watson, Grif Adamson and Ken Harmer, who with others, developed the Trafalgar Golf Course in Oakville in 1958. He thought that he could do the same with his property, and so the 2,500 yard (2,285 m) course, Hawthorne Golf and Country Club, was designed and shaped by Lakeshore Landscapers and construction started in 1959. The address was R.R. #6, Brampton, tel: 277-0848.

On opening day, Saturday, July 15, 1961, Reeve Robert Speck cut the ribbon with Glenn and Barbara's daughter, Mary. The course was well received and quite successful over the years.

In the 1960s, Glenn was elected to the South Peel Board of Education, which spanned a 20-year involvement, was co-chairman of the Red Cross financial campaign, chairman of the Christ Church Building Fund in Clarkson and served on the Heart and Stroke Fund for Peel County. He ran for councillor of Ward 4 in 1960, which he



▲ Hawthorne Golf Course with Glenn Grice and Staff

achieved and went through seven elections successfully. In September, 1973, Glenn declared he would not run for reelection on October 1st and his political contribution came to an end.

In 1984, Glenn sold the course and managed it until 1986 when it was closed down. He had purchased a farm at Kilmanagh, on Dixie Road, in 1979. He built a Royal Home and moved there in August 1990, with his new bride, Shirley Parkinson Clarkson. Glenn passed away on December 10, 2002.

At the location of the former golf course there are now townhouses and apartment buildings and a road has been named Glenn Hawthorne Boulevard, in remembrance of the owner and the golf course that once was located on the west side of Hurontario Street, just above Eglinton Avenue.

The Canada Post Gateway Postal facility at 4567 Dixie Road now occupies the former Grice farm, having been built in 1973 at a cost of \$63 million.



▲ Glenn Grice Campaigning



▲ Hawthorne Valley Golf Course

## Dixie - Spicy Neighbourhood News - 1894

**A** certain man, unknown in the village, while driving along the street a little east of the village, happened with an accident, which might have proved very serious. His horse took fright and preferred the ditch to the road, how he got in the ditch without upsetting is a conundrum. With the exception of breaking some pickets of a fence, and a platform in front of Mrs. Neil's house and the shafts of the buggy, no damage was done that was serious. The occupant was a little broke up, but no bones were broken.

A large load of folks drove through our village last Friday evening to attend the temperance lodge at Summerville.

A certain man, sometime ago, while the worse of liquor, put his wife out of doors and caused quite a commotion generally. This happened a short distance from our village.

I hear, and from good authority, that Henry H. Shaver has been appointed a J. P. Congratulations Mr. S. It is not before one was needed in our locality.

Mr. Wm. Pallett and wife entertained quite a number of guests one evening not long ago and I hear they were entertained right royally. I would have liked to be there.

*Streetsville Review*  
Dixie weekly column  
March 1, 1894



(James Cooper)